

KUIPER EPISODE 1

SCENE I - NO SETTING

PAYA (voiceover)

In 2250, the great Quarter Conflicts began.

Short clips of the Quarter Conflicts flash across the screen like a montage with a whirring noise in the background growing more intense. Then cut to black and silence.

PAYA (voiceover)

So people left, seeking shelter in the Kuiper Belt.

Short clips of the Hudson ships departing and arriving at Pluto play in a montage with the whirring noise growing in intensity. Then cut to black and silence.

PAYA (voiceover)

They were left alone for decades.

Short clips of New Guardia being constructed in a timelapse play, then clips of social interactions between the people with markets and friends, then to war and treaties. The whirring noise grows. Then cut to black and silence.

PAYA (voiceover)

Until we saw the lights appear.

Whirring culminates into dramatic classical music as 12 star-like dots appear in the sky of New Guardia, flashing on simultaneously. Cut to black and silence.

PAYA (voiceover)

The Inners were finally ready to take Pluto.

SCENE II - EXT. GSS ECLIPSE

Dramatic classical music plays as the camera shows off the GSS Eclipse and its supporting ships. It shows the docks, engines, thrusters, bridge, etc. Cut to a wide view of them performing their deceleration burn, gradually approaching the Pluto system. Cut to LORAN standing on the bridge with several dozen pilots and engineers at their stations.

ENGINEER

They still refuse to accept contact. We've sent warnings
in every wavelength we can.

LORAN

(scoffs) So be it. Wake CARMIN into the diplomacy pod.

ENGINEER

And if they fire at it?

LORAN

Do another tech scan. I don't think they even have the capabilities to shoot it down.

ENGINEER

Even so, there's still a chance-

LORAN

Just run the scan. Don't be too worried about CARMIN, we can spare a few dozen of him anyways.

ENGINEER turns back to his holographic screen.

ENGINEER

(mutters sarcastically) Aye aye, captain...

Cut to outside the GSS Eclipse, now very close to Pluto, firing a diplomacy pod towards New Guardia. Cut to the pod descending and firing thrusters to keep it balanced. It slows down as it approaches the docks of the city, where it fails to properly dock with the Plutonian locks and scrapes against neighboring ships because of its size. Cut to CARMIN inside with 2 other androids.

SCENE III - INT. NEW GUARDIA NIGHT

ANDROID 1

Their locks are outdated by decades. We can't properly
connect.

CARMIN

Deploy the vac-tent. Don't worry about damaging this pod,
it's unlikely we'll actually return.

Cut to the exterior where the pod silently shoots out
several wires that connect to the wall of the city, then
inflate into a tent-like structure that lets them pass
through space. Cut to CARMIN and the two androids stepping
through the airlock and into the docking bay where
hundreds of Plutonians shout profanities in their
language.

CARMIN

Quite the greeting crowd.

ANDROID 1 and 2 stand on CARMIN's sides and place down a
ring around the trio, which expands into a bubble shield.

The shouting is now muffled and it follows them as they walk down the streets.

ANDROID 2

It's like they're stuck in the past.

CARMIN

These hexing Space Amish. How are people this inept taking over our ice trade? Maybe Gaia ought to go back to doing violence before diplomacy. There's-

CARMIN is cut off as objects begin to bounce off of the shield, which are then electrified and drop to the ground in low-G, charred.

ANDROID 2

I'm slightly inclined to say that they don't want us here.

CARMIN

If they wanted to stay off the chart, they shouldn't have gotten involved in our ice!

Cut an exterior shot of the trio walking up to the capital's stairs, where the 8 QUEENS stand in full robes. They open the doors and lead them into the capital.

SCENE IV - INT. CAPITAL NIGHT

They walk inside the grand hall made of 21st century furniture and decor, in a modern style.

CARMIN

I can't believe they choose to live in such ancient conditions.

As they approach the central floor, the bubble deactivates. A shadowy figure dashes across the camera. The QUEENS stand around them in a circle. The QUEENS are composed of both men and women despite the name.

QUEEN 1

Dur not welcome here.

CARMIN

I don't give any cremates. You shouldn't have started selling ice to the Outers.

QUEEN 4

The ice is our people's. We have the right to choose where it is dispersed.

CARMIN

Shut it. We've come with a list of conditions.

ANDROID 1 pulls out a futuristic tablet and taps on it,
which displays a cylindrical hologram around the trio with
various rules on it.

QUEEN 3

We are not following any rule du Inners give us.

QUEEN 8

Du refused our negotiations decades past. Now du come,
what does Earth expect?

CARMIN snatches the tablet and shoves it into the hands of
QUEEN 1.

CARMIN

We can break the entirety of your traitorous city in a
matter of seconds. Our visit is a chance for you. We don't
have to, but here we are giving you an opportunity to
coexist with us.

QUEEN 6

What will the homelanders think?

CARMIN

It doesn't matter. They won't give a cremate as long as
they get their water.

As soon as CARMIN says this, the eight QUEENS begin to walk away towards the back of the capital.

CARMIN

Hey- We aren't done here!

An EMP grenade is then dropped from above. The trio look at it for a moment before staggering backwards. When it detonates, a blue charge fills the room and the trio fall to the ground.

SCENE V - INT. GSS ECLIPSE

LORAN is standing at the bridge, looking over an engineer's shoulder before CARMIN's face comes on the main screen.

CARMIN

They fucking impeded me!

LORAN turns to the screen and steps away from the engineer.

LORAN

Boo hoo. It means they attacked first. Under Gaia rules of engagement, we can take out the city. Prepare the H's.

CARMIN

And about the Charonites?

LORAN

What?

CARMIN

The dumbasses on Charon. Tech scans show nukes in their arsenal, they'll fire a barrage that we can't dodge.

LORAN

We'll deploy flares.

ENGINEER

They're not AI controlled, they're purely analog.

LORAN

Meaning?

CARMIN

Meaning that regardless of our typical defenses for the more modern bombs, they'll get through.

LORAN

(sighs) The medieval sword can penetrate the bulletproof vest. What are our other options?

CARMIN

We target Charon first?

LORAN

They're going to notice our shift in orbit.

CARMIN

Then just send the armory pods.

LORAN smirks and turns to the engineer.

LORAN

Get to it.

SCENE VI - INT. RED VELVET

PAYA is in the airlock, suiting up into a Hades Syndicate suit covered in art and designs. She gets a message through the com.

PRONE (through com)

You ready PAYA?

PAYA

Calm down, I'm almost suited.

PAYA zips up her suit and grabs a rifle. She aims it and inspects it.

PAYA

You sure these will work in a vacuum? We've never tried void combat before.

PRONE (through com)

They've altered the ignition chamber, it'll use pressurized gas from your suit rather than the atmosphere, or lack thereof. (beat) Plug your spare O₂ tube into it.

PAYA reaches around her back and grabs the tube then twists it onto a nozzle on the gun.

PAYA

Alright, all set.

PRONE

Get to the transit pod, blow it up, get out.

PAYA

I know what I'm doing.

PAYA sits down and grips handlebars as the airlock opens to reveal the icy depths of space. She presses a button on

her suit that turns it completely black, nearly blending into the stars. She jumps out in zero-G to float towards the GSS Prestige that sits several kilometers away.

PRONE (through com)

ETA?

PAYA

8 hours, 16 minutes.

PRONE (through com)

Huh. I thought we were farther.

PAYA

You'd better be far enough so they can't scan your ass.

PRONE (through com)

I'm aware, PAYA. But it's also a flankship, it's not exactly up-to-date. I don't know why it's so far out from the rest of the fleet, but its trajectory to Hydra means that the Syndicate has to get involved. (beat) I'll do a passive burn and get out of here for now. Will cut off any transmission to you outside the SOS band, okay?

PAYA

See you soon, PRONE.

The radio clicks off and PAYA's left alone, floating in darkness and silence. After a moment, she taps a few buttons on her wrist and the wrist pad displays the text "DEPLOYING LUCID GAS". The visuals begin to get wobbly and colorful as PAYA inhales the gas. Random shapes and creatures appear in the void, until it suddenly stops. The GSS Prestige is now very close, and PAYA uses RCS to rotate herself so that her feet face the battleship.

PAYA

Display elevation.

Numbers appear on her faceplate and she uses RCS to slow her descent until she gently lands on the hull. Her mag-boots clip on and she turns around to see a pod sticking out from the wall. She trots towards it and begins fiddling with a wirepad that sits on the connector.

PAYA

The hell is all this? No Gaian ship has had this kinda stuff before.

She continues digging through the mess of wires until she pulls out a cylindrical object.

PAYA

Why would you need a U-tope on this? Where are the
actuators!

PAYA frantically shuffles through before stepping back.

PAYA

Screw it.

PAYA pulls out several explosive charges from her bag and
slams them onto the hull, then jumping away as a silent
explosion erupts from the pod. Air is visibly sucked
outward and the pod disengages from the Prestige. PAYA
cheers and flicks back on her radio.

PAYA

Payload dispatched!

PRONE (over coms)

Nice one. Surprised you did this side alone. The rest of
the syndicate have detonated theirs, the ship should be
stalled for now.

PAYA

Is there confirmation on the reactor?

PRONE (over coms)

Yes ma'am.

PAYA turns curiously to a large railgun that sits a few hundred meters away.

PAYA

I'm gonna try to rip off one of these turrets.

PRONE (over coms)

Don't. I'm coming over now, just stay put.

PAYA

Don't you want one?

PRONE (over coms)

It probably has a tracker, don't risk it PAYA. The Eclipse has been notified by now, they'll be sending recon drones.

PAYA

Fine.

PAYA deactivates her mag-boots and begins to float up, then uses RCS to push herself away from the ship. Cut to a wide shot of several dozen others doing the same on other

sides of the GSS Prestige, which is now dark and without power. Cut back to a close shot of her, where a drone suddenly appears behind her and grabs PAYA's leg with robotic arms.

PAYA

Fuck!

PAYA squirms and then reaches for her rifle, which she fires at the drone in the silence of space. They only ricochet off and one penetrates PAYA's suit, which she holds with her left hand as she panics.

PAYA

Sose! There's a damn drone!

PRONE

Shit, okay. Is it armed?

PAYA looks down at the drone as the camera zooms in on the robotic arms cutting into her leg by their tight grasp.

PAYA

No, it's a harvester, but it's- (groans) it's cutting into my leg and I've shot myself.

PRONE

You shot yourself?

PAYA

Just get over here asshole!

PRONE

ETA 1 min. Going spectrum, you should see me.

PAYA is still kicking frantically at the drone with her rifle floating by her side, still connected by the O₂ line. Not too far away, the Red Velvet shines brightly and approaches her. The airlock of the ship begins to open, and PRONE stands there fully suited with a harpoon-like machine. He fires it at PAYA, which then quickly clamps onto her and reels her back in. PRONE then grabs a saw-gun and aims it at the drone's arms.

PRONE

Stop squirming, I need to cut it!

PAYA goes still and PRONE fires a single sawblade that slices clean through the drone's arms that are latched onto PAYA. The rest of the drone falls back as the hands remain stuck in her leg. PRONE throws the gun to the side and helps PAYA back into the airlock. Cut to a wide shot with the airlock slowly closing, then into the airlock

where PRONE injects PAYA with a syringe that calms her squirming. He then rushes her to the infirmary in zero-G and straps her to a table.

PRONE

EXE, go!

SHIP AI

Returning to Hydra Port.

PRONE wobbles about as the ship accelerates and he collects the surgical tools from various shelves. He then inspects PAYA's leg and begins to pry the robotic hand out to which he sees a vial built into the hand that has collected some of PAYA's blood.

PRONE (in disbelief)

You're kidding.

SCENE VII - INT. NEW GUARDIA ALLEY NIGHT

MEI rushes down the alley with 3 other inorganics. Without speaking, they lift each other up in an organized manner to the rooftop of a building, and continue running until they see the docked diplomacy pod over some way. They hop from rooftop to rooftop in the low-G, eventually arriving

at the dome wall. They slip into an airlock without anyone noticing and exit the city to Pluto's surface without suits. They hastily pry at the exterior of the pod and rip out various machinery and wires, then stuff them into a duffle bag. After the bag is full, floodlights shine on them and they bolt away, running around the city until they see another airlock. They rush in and hurry around the streets in a manner that shows their knowledge of the layout. They eventually arrive at a run-down laboratory and enter, sealing the door. Inside is a makeshift camp, evidence of them living there for years. MEI drops the duffle down in the center of the room.

INORGANIC 1

Haul?

MEI searches through the duffle.

MEI

I don't know what these are. These are the same breed of techs that caused the conflicts.

INORGANIC 2

Banned?

MEI

If none of us have seen it before, then presumably, yes.

INORGANIC 2

Feeds us for a dozen rotations.

MEI

If we can find anyone to buy. The stigmas of this tech runs so deep through our world, people will be afraid of this.

MEI pulls out a CPU with a screen which flashes on to display a speech-to-text AI.

MEI

This is an AI. The actual cause of the conflicts.

The other three slightly back away and act weary of the device.

INORGANIC 3

Turn it off.

MEI does so, then places it back in the bag and zips it closed. She stands up and brushes her pants, then notices a growing purple bruise along her arm. She turns to a drawer and fishes out a syringe, which she injects into the arm and immediately the purple fades away.

INORGANIC 1

So du rot like the rest of us.

MEI shrugs.

MEI

I'm dead now. My body falls apart while my mind lives.

Such a shame.

MEI sits down in a collapsible chair as she takes a handful of pills being passed around the group. As she does so, the device rings in the bag. The group looks around for a moment before MEI goes up to look at it once more. On the screen is now a compilation of genetic code and reports on the side.

MEI

Someone tried to attack one of the ships.

INORGANIC 1

And?

MEI

They succeeded. It's fully offline now.

INORGANIC

Probably the Hades Syndicate. Only those on Hydra have the
tech to take on a Gaian ship.

MEI

Which means that both Pluto and Hydra have declared war.

INORGANIC 2

Pluto?

MEI

They impeded the android diplomats. I was caravanning with
the group in the capital at the time.

INORGANIC 3

So it's only a matter of time before Charon gets their
say.

INORGANIC 2

Charon will side with us, so Gaia has to worry about their
nuclear supply.

MEI

Which means they won't attack until they take down
Charon's city of Blaze. We have time to get out of here.
New Guardia doesn't stand a chance against any weaponry of
the Inners.

INORGANIC 2

But for now, we rest. It's a 14 hour transmission delay between Gaia and them. Their bureaucratic tyranny means they need approval before.

Everyone falls silent as they sit around in a circle. The camera begins to pan out and zooms out of the building and then out of New Guardia, panning to the GSS Eclipse sitting ominously in the sky. The music grows intense, then cut to black with credits.