

## **A Glint Against The Black**

*We are hearing what the astronaut is broadcasting back to the people on the ship. Sometimes we switch to her own internal voice. We need to have the sense that every breath is difficult, that air is limited and that this is a life and death battle*

*SFX: Astronaut comms EQ on voice throughout, unless otherwise indicated. Slight phasing – as if the comms are malfunctioning slightly. This could get worse as the piece unfolds.*

*SFX: Comms ‘beeps’ throughout, intermittently*

*SFX: Breathing, throughout*

*SFX: Periods of near-silence as she travels.*

Here I am guys. In the great unknown. Woo-hooo! On my ‘neat little mission.’ Man, the Ark looks small. Just a glint against the black now. I’m some way away – I can’t tell how far because my instruments aren’t working properly but I guess you know that, right? Have you set me up? Whatever. I hope you can still hear me. Even though I’m probably talking to absolutely nobody now. Man, we’re in a dark, dark place. Literally. Hhahaa.

I’ll level with ya, I’m grateful to be outta that Ark but hey, I’m an adventurer, right? It was a floating hell on earth...but not earth, right? Haaa. I’m a brave soldier, a precious envoy - that’s what you told me when you got me suited up and pushed me outta the door, right? I’m doing my bit for humanity and one day they’ll put a statue of me in some park or someplace. That’s it, right? If parks will ever exist again.

While I’m gone, don’t rip each other apart now, you hear me? No more fighting on the ship!! Haven’t you guys learned anything in all the time we’ve been floating around hoping for a miracle? Hey – can’t we all just get along. Haaa. Right. It’s that kind of behaviour that got us into this mess.

Anyways, while I’m gone, I donate my water and food supplies – such as they are - to whoever wins the fight at the nourishment station. I wish you all nothing but the best.

Like the science guys said, once I hit the atmosphere I’ll only have seven minutes before I run out of air so I’m gonna have to be quick and hope I’ve landed in a convenient place. Right? I’ve just gotta hope you got the co-ordinates correct. Because I have absolutely no clue where I’m gonna end up. But that’s the fun part, right? Isn’t that what you guys told me?

*SFX: Slight ‘thrumming’*

So to tell you a bit about what I can see if anyone is still able to hear this, and if anyone even cares, it’s dark. Really dark. I’m descending towards the new planet and I can feel the solar winds hitting me. I can sort of hear it in my blood. It’s like a thrumming sound and I can taste metal. I can see I’m above the atmosphere but I have no idea if I’ll be able to land. If I’ll be able to get through it without being burnt up. But you knew that, right? Desperate times, desperate measures, right? That’s what you all said, isn’t it?

SFX: Descent begins – this could be thunder/wind SFX mixed to get a sense of rush, energy and speed. And risk. We need to feel she’s at the mercy of huge forces.

I’m going down, down, down. Woo-hoooo!

This is some crazy ride. Now these here, these are the last moments before I reach the atmosphere so if by some remote offchance you can actually hear me, you might lose me completely when I’m down there. If I survive. If I make it, I’ll keep on recording though, just for the hell of it. You can rely on me!!

I’m going in. I’m going in. See ya on the other side!!

SFX: Massive rush of energy, speed and danger – she’s hurtling through space. There’s radiation, dizziness – panning from left to right and all around. She’s being thrown about.

SFX: Suggesting light, somehow – like audio lasers (if that makes any sense at all)

Man, the colours. The colours! It’s like a crazy rainbow with colours I don’t even know how to describe. This is wild.

## **Breathing**

### **near silence**

SFX: A weird sense of being in another world, almost underwater. So in this section, we hear her voice as though it’s coming through a veil of time, of energy we don’t understand

SFX: Beep number 1

And I’m in! I’m floating down and I can see what I think are fields but I can’t tell if they’re green or not. It’s totally wild, man. Like I’m bungee-jumping into a whole new world. Which I actually am! Don’t mind me if I take a bow and relish the fact I’m apparently still alive.

There are what look like houses and roads and buildings and stuff. Just like there was back there. Before it all happened.

SFX: We hear space wind, metallic-sounding leaves being blown on trees

Man, it looks so *normal*. Like a place I totally know. This is so weird. I wish you could see this. Oh my God - there are cars – actual cars! - and there are what I think are trees. It’s just like home! It’s just like home was!

SFX: We get the sense she’s descending, slowly sinking downwards, being pulled to the ground. Maybe a pitch-shifted deep drone-type sound going deeper underneath the following?

I CAN SEE PEOPLE! This is wild! There are people...that look human - walking. I think this is going to work. I think we’ll be able to live here!

SFX: Beep number 2

They have legs and arms and hair and faces and they look human. They're wearing clothes, like actual clothes. I'm coming down and surely they're gonna see me and start waving or something. But they haven't noticed me. I'm coming down in what I think looks like a regular street. Wow. Like a street with houses. I'm coming down, down, down....

SFX: She descends some more – more pitch-shifted drone

SFX: We begin to get a sense of what it's like to live in this new world. We hear what sounds like cars, but aren't cars. Sort of recognisable, but not quite. Cars in a dream-world.

I can see it clearly now and there's what looks like a cluster of buildings where there are vehicles. No waaaay. No waaay! It can't be – this is crazy! Now I know this is gonna sound totally loony tunes but I'm not kidding when I tell you I've been here before. I know this place. It's – man, it can't be – it's the place I grew up. This makes no sense. There's my school. There's the playing field. There's the river. It's the little town where I grew up. Woo-hooooo!

SFX: Beep number 3

I'm coming down. I'm gonna land soon. And there's my street! There's my house!! It's my house!! I can't believe this!

SFX: a thud as she lands. Heavy and hollow, as if she's in a different kind of gravity

And I'm down. The ground feels like a marshmallow. I'm on this street that looks like my street and nobody has noticed me but there are people all around.

SFX: A sense of angelic light. Pure love, radiating under the following bit

And this is crazy but I can see that there's light all around the people. Like shining, right out of them. I've never seen anything like it. And they have jewels in their chests, in their hearts. They're sort of glowing. And it's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen.

SFX: heavy, distorting sound of feet jumping on hard ground – as if in slow motion

Hello! Helloooo! I'm waving like crazy and I'm jumping up and down but nobody's paying me any attention. They can't see me.

SFX: Heavy, dark footsteps, as if she's walking through treacle, on a marshmallow floor

I'm going to walk down the street to get to what looks like my house. I can't tell you how weird this is. But this is insane because everything looks like it did when I was a kid. Like twenty years ago. Like I'm back there.

I'm at my house. It's my house!

SFX: Metallic leaves in trees

There's the rose bushes in the garden and the number outside our front door and I wish I could take this suit off and smell it. I'm going in.

SFX: Beep number 4

SFX: A sense of being inside a building. It sounds boxy.

Man, it's our hallway but the stairs are on the wrong side. It's our carpet. It's our pictures on the walls. But they're in the wrong place. This is crazy.

SFX: A glooping sound as she tries to touch objects. She can't because they're in another dimension

I'm trying to touch the furniture, touch the pictures and I can't. This is so weird.

SFX: A far-off sound of what sounds like a transistor radio, being heard underwater, a hundred years ago

And now I'm in our living room. Oh! And there's my mother with her hair up and her nails painted, polishing the table.

Mom?

Mom! Mommy?!

SFX: Glooping sounds as she's trying to touch her mother

SFX: Beep number 5

She can't hear me. I'm trying to touch her arm, touch her face. She's ignoring me. She doesn't know I'm here. Oh mommy, I'm here.

SFX: A faraway echo of a child reciting a nursery-rhyme – audio on Trello

And there's me, I'm aged about three. I've got my favourite dress and shoes on and I've got a colouring book. And it's me. My God. It's me. Hello, sweetheart...

SFX: Angelic love, radiating

And I have a beautiful jewel in my heart that's shining out in colours that I can't describe and my mother has one too. They can't see me. They can't hear me. I'm standing right in front of them...and when I try to touch them it's as if I'm touching nothing. I can't touch them because I'm not solid. And it's as if I'm not here. It's as if I don't exist.

SFX: As if she's jumping up and down, knocking objects she can't properly reach

Please! I'm here! I'm right here!! Can you hear me!! I love you!!! I love you...

Nothing. Nothing.

I wish I could tell them. I wish I could tell them what's going to happen. What they must make sure not to do. What they've got to do to save themselves. To stop it all from happening like it did to us. But they can't hear me. I can't get through to them.

SFX: Beep number 6

I can feel the pull from the Ark and I've got to leave. My air is nearly done.

Oh my God. Oh my God. Save me.

I've found a new world but it isn't somewhere we can settle. It isn't somewhere we can live. We can't exist here – we're nothing here. It's like this place doesn't recognise us as living things. We're off-kilter somehow. We don't connect with it, with this reality. I don't know why but we can't. Physics is different here.

And now I'm pushing up. Out. Through.

SFX: Rushing up, wind, thunder, radiation, speed and force

SFX: The 'underwater' other-worldly fx are now gone – we're back in space

SFX: Beep number 7

I'm in the dark again. And it's all laid out underneath me like a carpet. It's getting further away. I can't see the colours any more. They're down there but they can't see me and I can't see them any more.

There's the Ark.

SFX: A dark, low, sustained sound

It's getting bigger. I'm getting closer. It looks like the lights are all off.

SFX: The dark sound gets deeper and more intense

How long have I been gone? I was only down there for seven minutes.

I'm docking. I'm docking.

SFX: Heavy, deep, forceful, metallic clunk

Hello? Anyone at home? Anyone at home?

Can anybody hear me?

SFX: Breathing

