

ELEGY OF EMPTINESS

by

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BLACK

A woman sings.

JADA (O.S.)
Twinkle, twinkle, little star...

An alarm sounds. Warning.

INT. SUITE

Total luxury. Elegant marble floor beneath an ornate chandelier. Tall velvet drapes shroud a wall-sized window.

Red lights flicker over the large wooden door. The alarm is a steady hum.

A timer beside the window: 4:23... 4:22... 4:21...

A brunette goddess, JADA (22) slowly crawls over silk bedsheets toward an unconscious MERRICK (31) sprawled on the bed. She straddles him, strokes his chest and sings in a thick, sultry voice.

JADA
How I wonder what you--

Merrick's eyes snap open and lock onto Jada. She gives a coy smile, bends forward to reveal more cleavage.

MERRICK
What happened? Where is everyone?

He pushes her off and gets to his feet but instantly swoons. He feels at the gash on his forehead, obscured by hair.

Jada grabs him and gives a heavy, lustful kiss. She speaks slowly and her voice is full of desire.

JADA
Everyone is dead.

Merrick pushes her away, stumbles toward the big door. Locked.

MERRICK
No games tonight, Jada. Open the door, I'm going back to my party.

She falls back on the bed. Theatrically crosses her legs.

JADA

I can't. There's nothing behind
those doors anymore.

Merrick stares dumbfounded. But then he notices the deep,
humming alarm. The blinking lights. He touches the blood in
his hair. He looks at the counter next to the window.

2:49... 2:48... 2:47

The realization hits him hard.

MERRICK

We launched?

He runs across the room and pulls away the curtains.

Outside, sunset falls over a tropical beach.

MERRICK

Show me. Now.

The sunset fades to black. A view to outer space forms.

Merrick's jaw drops.

MERRICK

No...

A massive space cruiser hangs in the void. Dozens of
flameless explosions blossom across its hull. A giant
rupture silently splits the immense in half.

The passion and desire fades from Jada's face. She anxiously
plays with the bedsheets.

JADA

Please try and relax. Come back to
bed.

2:01... 2:00... 1:59. The alarm intensifies.

Merrick lets his eyes swim across the image before him. He
turns to Jada, his voice grows in anger.

MERRICK

Stop it. How many other survivors?

Jada freezes. Thinks.

JADA

Survivability is now zero.
Estimated casualties are 99.68% The

JADA
remaining will succumb to lack of
oxygen.

MERRICK
Lack of oxygen? We're losing air?

His knees buckle. He feels his throat.

MERRICK
What about the O2 reserves?

She hesitates, doesn't want to answer.

JADA
The damage to your escape pod
caused a system crash. I'm afraid
the oxygen reserves are
non-responsive.

Jada bites her lip as Merrick clenches his fists. He reaches
for a vase on the nightstand before him.

MERRICK
You're afraid? What do you even
know about feeling afraid!?

He throws the vase and hits her square in the face.

But Jada doesn't even flinch. A chunk of her forehead peels
away, milky white plastic underneath.

MERRICK
Why even bring me here? Why not
just leave me...

He's distracted by an old framed photo on the nightstand.

INSERT: An old man holds a boy upon his shoulder. The boy
points with glee to the endless field of stars above them.

Merrick loses himself in the photo.

MERRICK
(to himself)
It's not supposed to end like this.

Jada's hands wrap around his neck.

JADA
You still have me, darling. You'll
always have me.

Merrick lets out a long sigh. Drained. He avoids her gaze.

His voice is detached. Distant.

MERRICK

No, you're just a fancy, overpriced
toy. Programmed for nothing but
sex.

JADA

No. You're wrong.

Merrick walks out of her grasp, leans against the window.
Exhausted.

The remains of the space cruiser drift beyond the glass.
Nothing more than a cloud of debris now.

MERRICK

I'm nothing to you. Nothing.

Jada turns his head. Eyes lock.

JADA

Eight years. I remember every
moment, every second. Better than
any woman could ever dream.

Merrick's eyes are a deep red and brim with tears. He tries
to look away, but she hold his gaze.

JADA

And I know you're a better man than
any woman could ever dream for.

Merrick gives a pained smile, but fear consumes his face. He
swallows deep as his eyes glaze.

MERRICK

I'm scared.

He looks to the timer: 0:25... 0:24... 0:23

The alarm bursts into a panicked shriek. Red lights flash a
burning strobe. Like worlds coming to an end.

Merrick sinks against the window.

MERRICK

I don't want to die alone.

He trembles. Jada takes him in her arms.

His breathing grows more erratic.

JADA
You were wrong before.

Merrick meets her eyes. Desperate.

JADA
I'm not programmed for sex...

She speaks softly. Tenderly. Caresses his hair.

JADA
I'm programmed to love you.

Jada kisses him.

0:02... 0:01... 0:00.

Merrick's hand clutches her shoulder. Squeezes.

Slight trembles turn into a struggled spasm as Merrick holds her kiss. Tears stream from his closed eyes.

The alarms fall silent. The suite plunges into black.

Two silhouettes embrace before the faint starlight.

A soft whisper.

JADA
As your bright and tiny spark.
Lights the traveller in the dark.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

Stars fill the empty vista. Thousands. Like diamonds spilled upon an infinite black velvet.

JADA (O.S.)
Though I know not what you are...

A spacepod drifts away through the void.

JADA (O.S.)
Twinkle, twinkle, little star.

And becomes just another speck of light.

FADE TO BLACK