

INSANE ON MARS

by

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## EXT. MARTIAN LANDSCAPE - DAY

Two astronauts, in spacesuits and helmets, walking away from the wreckage of their damaged Mars lander.

The Mission Commander, JANE, stops and turns around to look at the wreckage.  
The Second-In-Command, DAVE, turns to speak to Jane.

They communicate through the microphones in their helmets.

JANE

We can't get off this planet. We'll have to wait for them to..rescue us.

DAVE

Rescue ?! No-one's gonna come and rescue us. We were the first to attempt a landing on Mars. If we failed, why should a rescue ship land successfully ?

JANE

They should attempt a rescue.

DAVE

They don't want another set of astronauts stranded on Mars.

JANE

They will attempt to rescue us.

DAVE

I'm not so sure of that. We're doomed.

JANE

No, we are not.

DAVE

The system's broken. The engine won't fire up. We're gonna die here.

JANE

No; I will not allow that to happen.

DAVE

You won't allow that to happen ! What can you do to prevent it ?

JANE

I'll do whatever it takes, to keep us alive.

DAVE

There's nothing you can do ! Our comms are out, the cabin can't be pressurized, and we will run out of oxygen.

JANE

There's always hope.

DAVE

Not in this case. Not in these circumstances.

She turns away from him.

JANE

I gotta believe, there's something I can do.

DAVE

You can't do nothing. This mission is gonna fail. I know, you're the Mission Commander, so you don't want us to fail; but that is what's gonna happen.

JANE

You angry with me ?

DAVE

I'm angry with the whole situation. All we can do, is replace the oxygen in our backpacks until we've exhausted our supplies. We can't eat, we can't drink. We're gonna die from dehydration before we run out of oxygen. This isn't what I was thinking of, when I signed up to be an astronaut.

JANE

You knew there was always the possibility you might die in space. You knew it was dangerous.

DAVE

I didn't expect it to happen to me ! I would've preferred a sudden death, so's I didn't have time to think about it.

Jane sighs.

Dave looks around and sees a nearby rock. He goes over to the rock and sits down.

DAVE

I really don't wanna die here.

Jane goes over to him.

JANE

I'm sorry.

DAVE

Well, if I'm gonna die here, I wanna know who to blame for my predicament.

JANE

You think it was my fault ?

DAVE

You were the pilot.

JANE

It was always gonna be hard to land on Mars. You knew that.

DAVE

We needed Neil Armstrong, and we got you !

JANE

Half the attempted landings on Mars result in failure. Maybe, it was too dangerous to even attempt a landing.

A beat.

DAVE

I just hope I go mad before I die.

JANE

Why ?

DAVE

So, I don't realize what's happening to me.

JANE

I can't sedate you.

DAVE

I know.

Jane spots a rock a little distance from Dave. She goes over to the rock and picks it up. She carries it over to where Dave is and puts it down. She sits on the rock.

JANE

We could watch the sun going down.

DAVE

- For the last time...

JANE

For the last time. The last time for us.

DAVE

If I did go mad, what would you do ?

JANE

I'd have to run away from you.

DAVE

You could smash my helmet with a stone.

JANE

I hope I won't have to do anything like that.

DAVE

When the oxygen runs out, I might go mad.  
You might have to kill me.

JANE

It can't just be about survival. If I have to  
die here, I wanna die with dignity...

Dave half laughs.

DAVE

"Die with dignity !?" From oxygen starvation  
on Mars !

JANE

I don't wanna die like an animal. I wanna die  
like a human being.

Dave shakes his head.

DAVE

That..is just not possible.

A beat.

DAVE

You know, I'm beginning to get a dry mouth.  
I need to get out of the sun. I'm sweating too  
much.

JANE

We'll have to find a large rock, to shelter us

JANE (cont'd)  
from the sun.

Dave stands and looks around to see some rocks in the distance.

He points to the rocks.

DAVE  
Over there.

Jane sees where he's pointing and stands.

JANE  
Okay. Let's head for them rocks.

Dave leads as they walk towards the rocks.

They reach the rocks.

DAVE  
We'll survive longer in the shade.

Dave lies down in the shade of a large rock.

Jane lies down near him.

DAVE  
That's better. I reckon dehydration might  
set in before the oxygen runs out.

JANE  
I would like to die with dignity.

DAVE  
Does it matter ? Out here ? No-one will  
see us die. No-one will know how we died.

Jane sighs.

JANE  
I don't like this at all. We're gonna die  
without any say in the matter.

DAVE  
You ever make any plans for your funeral ?

JANE  
No.

Dave lifts his head a little to look at Jane.

DAVE

They might hold your funeral back on Earth without you.

JANE

They might.

DAVE

Whichever of us dies first, there won't be no funeral, not here, on Mars. The other won't have enough oxygen to bury you, or me. One day, maybe, ten years or so in the future, they might successfully land on Mars, and find our two bodies, together, behind this rock. We don't have the equipment, to record a final message.

JANE

I got no control over my destiny.

DAVE

You don't like that, do you ?

JANE

No, I don't.

DAVE

You like to be in control...

JANE

This is the worst situation I have ever been in...

She looks towards the horizon but sees nothing.

JANE

Maybe they will send someone, to rescue us.

DAVE

That is a forlorn hope.

JANE

There's nothing wrong with hope.

DAVE

There is, when you're in a totally hopeless situation. Such hope is, insane.

JANE

Maybe, we just need to rest. Maybe, when we're rested, we might think of something.

DAVE

Maybe...

Dave reclines his head against the rock and closes his eyes. He sleeps.

Jane reclines and falls asleep.

EXT. MARTIAN LANDSCAPE – NIGHT

Jane wakes up during the Martian night.

She looks around, a little disoriented.

JANE

Is someone there ?

She sits up.

She looks puzzled.

She stands up and walks a little way around the rock.

Dave hears her and wakes up.

He stands and follows her footsteps around the rock.

Dave sees Jane walking away from the rock.

JANE

You come to rescue us ?

Dave hears her on his helmet microphone.

DAVE

There's nobody there. Jane !

Jane keeps walking towards the illusion of an ASTRONAUT in front of her.

JANE

There is..someone there.

DAVE

Jane ! You're hallucinating. Your oxygen must be low. Jane !



He starts to run towards her as she is drawn to the illusion.

JANE

I knew someone would come to rescue  
us; I knew it.

DAVE

Jane !

JANE

Can't you see him ?

DAVE

No.

JANE

He's come to rescue us.

Dave manages to get to Jane and tries to stop her.

She struggles, so he forces her to the ground.

DAVE

Jane, you've gone insane.

JANE

What ?

DAVE

You're nuts !

She struggles to stand. Dave tries to hold onto her, but she manages to escape from his hands.

Jane holds out her hands to the illusion of the astronaut, who is bathed in gleaming silver-white light.

JANE

Take me home.

Dave gets to his feet and sees a stone in front of him. He picks it up and throws it towards Jane's legs.

Jane gets hit on her right leg and falls to the ground.

Dave runs over to her.

DAVE

You've gone mad.

Jane fumbles for the stone and gets it into her hand.

She hits Dave's leg with the stone a few times, until he hobbles and falls down near her.

Jane bends down and hits Dave in the helmet smashing the glass.

Dave begins to asphyxiate to death.

Jane watches him as he dies.

She then stands and walks towards the illusion of the astronaut.

When she gets there, she holds out her hands to touch the illusion, but it disappears.

She is left, standing there, and breathes heavily.

She ponders the situation, then turns back to see Dave's body on the ground.

She goes to his body and lugs it towards the rock.

She manages to drag Dave's body behind the rock.

She reclines against the rock.

EXT. MARTIAN LANDSCAPE – DAY

Jane wakes up to find Dave's body near her, with his helmet glass smashed in.

She sighs.

Jane stands and leans her hand against the rock.

She regains her composure, and walks out towards the wreckage of the lander.

She approaches the lander and then sees the illusion of two ASTRONAUTS, near the wreckage.

She waves her hands.

JANE

I'm here ! Can you hear me ? Can you  
hear me ?

She moves closer to the two astronauts.

JANE

Here ! I'm here !

The two astronauts appear to have heard and turn around to face Jane.

She gets closer to them, and shakes her head in disbelief.

One of the astronauts is her.

The other one is Dave.

Jane shakes her head.

JANE

No ! That's impossible ! You can't be  
me ! You can't be him ! He's dead.

She gets closer and falls to the ground in despair.

The two astronauts disappear.

Jane stands up and starts to wander, almost without purpose, as if she has got some sun  
stroke from the sun shining in the Martian sky.

She wanders back to the rock.

She looks at Dave's body.

She looks around and picks up a stone.

She sits down in the shade of the large rock.

JANE

I am, insane.

She picks up the stone and starts to hit her own helmet, but is not able to use enough force  
to smash the glass.

She lets the stone drop from exhaustion and despair.

She ponders her situation for a moment.

She starts to fumble with her helmet lock.

She loosens the lock and then begins some heavy breaths.

She unlocks the helmet with a click.

She slowly takes her helmet off, takes one full breath and then collapses, dead.

The two bodies lie behind the rock.

THE END

