

Stranded

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FADE IN:

INT. SPACESHIP - SECTOR 1 - NIGHT

Shattered computer screens line the wall of the control center. SPARKS and SMOKES come out of the panel.

On one wall is a big monitor that shows the layout of the spaceship. A red light flashes on Sector 2.

A few bodies litter on the floor. One of them, HENRY (35), gets up as he recovers from his headache. He kneels beside the other bodies and check their pulse.

A cough from behind, and a weak voice:

KATE (O.S.)

Henry?

KATE (30) lies on her side, coughs a bit more. Her forehead and cheeks suffer from minor cuts. Henry hurries to her.

HENRY

Kate, you okay?

She manages a smile.

KATE

Still living. What happened?

HENRY

Meteor storms. We probably miscalculated our speed.

The blinking red light shines on Henry's face. He turns to the screen.

HENRY

Sector Two is severely damaged.

He speaks directly to the monitor.

HENRY

Sector Two, come in.

No response.

HENRY

Command center. Command center, do you copy?

No response. The monitor still shows the spaceship layout.

HENRY  
Daily readings.

The screen changes to readings that indicate the oxygen, pressure, temperature and fuel level. The latter is empty.

A look of worry on his face.

KATE  
Not a surprise. The fuel tank's in Sector 2.

HENRY  
Time to Earth.

A digital ticking clock appears on the screen: 21 days, 15 hours, 07 minutes.

He turns to Kate.

KATE  
That's less than what I expected.  
Never knew our ship can drift that fast without fuel.

HENRY  
Can you walk?

Kate pushes herself up unsteadily, but manages to walk a few steps. Henry scans around the area.

HENRY  
We need to look for survivors.

KATE  
Where?

HENRY  
Sector Two.

Kate shakes her head no.

KATE  
It's more damaged than here.  
(beat)  
They're probably all dead.

HENRY  
But you don't know that.

KATE  
Henry...

HENRY

Not right now, Kate. Listen to me-

KATE

No, you listen. Think about it. We need more than twenty days to get back. Do we even have enough oxygen? How about food? One less living body means more food for us.

Henry gives a vacant stare.

KATE

I'm just being logical.

HENRY

You're glad that you weren't in Sector Two.

He walks away and exits through the sliding door.

KATE

For God's sake.

Kate follows.

INT. SPACESHIP - SECTOR 2 - NIGHT

It's a wreckage. Wires dangle from the ceiling. The floor plates crumble. Tables and chairs pile up, disoriented.

Henry and Kate emerge from a half-opened sliding door.

HENRY

Hello?

KATE

You think they're gonna live through this?

HENRY

No, I don't. But if I were here, I wish someone, like my teammates, would at least come looking for my corpse.

He ducks under some wires and continues. Kate sees a dim light illuminating a room in the distance.

KATE

The storage!

She rushes past Henry and dashes towards the room.

HENRY  
 Hey, be careful. I'll be right  
 here.

INT. SPACESHIP - STORAGE - NIGHT

The light dims and brightens intermittently. Wires and pipes protrude out of the walls. Shelves tumble onto each other.

Kate scans the shelves. Only four cans left. She reaches for the cans and-

SAM (O.S.)  
 (weakly)  
 Aaaggg.....

Kate jumps back, notices an arm sticks out from under the shelf. She gets down on all fours, tries to make out who the arm belongs to.

KATE  
 Sam!

SAM (30s), all bloodied and bruised, lies impaled by a pipe.

SAM  
 Help me...please.

KATE  
 Okay, don't move.

Then she stops. She stares at the four cans of food, then back to Sam.

HENRY (O.S.)  
 You okay back there?

A pause.

HENRY (O.S.)  
 Kate?

Sam's pleading eyes swell up. Kate pulls herself away, grabs the four cans of food, and calls out to Henry.

KATE  
 Yeah.

She gives one last look at Sam's arm, steps over it, and exits the room-

SMACK!

The ceiling gives way. Everything crumbles, the shelves slide down and knock Kate out.

FADE TO BLACK

HENRY (O.S.)

Kate, wake up.

(beat)

Command center, do you read me?

Command center. Damnit!

(beat)

Kate, com'on!

A blurred face appears. Then returns to blackness.

HENRY (O.S.)

Oh God! You're okay. You're okay.

KATE (O.S.)

Where are you?

INT. SPACESHIP - SECTOR 1 - NIGHT

Henry waves in front of Kate. She looks unfazed.

HENRY

I'm right here.

Kate sits up, reaches out, and feels the features of Henry's face.

KATE

I can't see anything. What happened?

HENRY

You hit the back of your head in the storage. Hopefully it'll just be temporary.

KATE

Where am I?

HENRY

Safe. Sector One.

KATE

When are we getting back to Earth?

Henry turns to the screen: 16 days, 10 hours, 34 minutes.

HENRY

Soon.

KATE

How soon?

HENRY

A few more days.

Kate chuckles.

KATE

You know, Henry, you're never a good liar.

HENRY

I'm just being optimistic.

Henry holds a mug into Kate's hands.

KATE

What's that?

HENRY

Good stuff. Better than the processed food. Finish it up and take a rest.

INT. SPACESHIP - SECTOR 1 - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Back against the wall, Kate sleeps soundly as she rests her head on a shoulder. She stirs a little, opens her eyes.

She looks up. Sam, with blood flowing through his eyes, nose, and mouth, glares at her. A pipe impales his body.

Kate, startled, doubles back.

SAM

You're glad you weren't in Sector Two.

Kate...

INT. SPACESHIP - SECTOR 1 - LATER

...screams. Henry puts a comforting hand on her shoulder.

HENRY

Bad dream?

Kate nods.

HENRY  
It's Sam, isn't it?

All colors drain away from Kate's face. She doesn't react.

HENRY  
I saw him under the shelves when I  
got you out.

KATE  
I should've gotten him out.

HENRY  
No. You did the right thing,  
leaving him there.

KATE  
Not playing savior anymore?

HENRY  
We couldn't saved him anyway. I  
know I sound like a hypocrite now,  
but- I think what you did was  
right.  
(beat)  
You hungry?

Henry produces a small knife and strides off to a corner.

KATE  
What was that I ate last time?

HENRY (O.S.)  
You know, when it comes to  
survival, you gotta eat what you  
can find.

Kate thinks for a moment, then covers her mouth.

KATE  
Oh God, don't tell me it's...

HENRY (O.S.)  
Don't think about it like that.

KATE  
First I wasn't gonna look for them,  
then I left them to die, and now  
I'm... And you tell me not to think  
about it?!

Henry comes back with a mug. His arms bandaged, blood seeps through it.

HENRY

Here.

KATE

I'd rather die than having to think  
about what I've done for the rest  
of my life.

Henry sits beside Kate, forces Kate to hold the mug.

HENRY

Where's the Kate I knew? Who's  
gonna take care of Bobby if you  
die? You want him without a mother?

KATE

He still have you.

HENRY

You're always a better mother than  
I am a father.

Kate shakes her head.

KATE

You know how many times I didn't  
let him see you?

HENRY

Many times. But he's always happier  
with you.

Henry tilts the mug up to Kate's lips.

HENRY

Just think about Bobby. And forget  
about everything else.

Kate reluctantly drinks from the mug.

INT. SPACESHIP - SECTOR 1 - LATER

A trail of blood stains across the floor. The trail leads to  
Henry, who sits motionless against the wall. His limbs  
bloodied, almost meatless.

Kate caresses his hair with her bony fingers. Her weak voice  
becomes almost a whisper.

KATE

I can see some colors now.

(beat)

(MORE)

KATE (cont'd)  
How long more?

No response from Henry. The screen reads: 5 days, 6 hours, 48 minutes.

KATE  
Soon, right, Henry? You never  
change, always the optimist.

Kate begins to sob. Her stomach growls. She falls flat on her side, stares blankly into space. Then, her eyelids slowly close up.

STATIC suddenly chimes in. More STATIC.

VOICE (O.S.)  
XVI8596, come in. XVI8596, come in.

Kate opens her eyes. Blurry vision of the screen shows a man in commander suit.

VOICE (O.S.)  
XVI8596, do you read me?

KATE  
Yes!

VOICE (O.S.)  
Kate! Thank God. Are there anyone  
with you?

Kate contemplates for a moment.

KATE  
Yes, Henry. He's always with me.  
Always.

VOICE (O.S.)  
Good, we are sending a rescue ship  
right now...

The voice fades away as Kate closes up her eyes again.

FADE OUT.