

# **Earthrise, Earthset**

"Journey of the Night"

Written by

Zac Kostyrka

(646) 245-7344  
zackostyrka@gmail.com

COLD OPEN

INT. OBSERVATION HUB. ISRA 2 - SPACE

**CHYRON: ISRA 2. MOON ORBITING SPACE STATION. 2198.**

'CAPTAIN' CHEDD MILO, (31) he's got the bone structure of a space captain but he's more 'kid in a candy store' than 'man behind the wheel'. Hands on hips, he admires the view from a wide observation window:

The curvature of the moon, its grey surface peppered with craters. As the space station orbits, another celestial body emerges from the black ink of space to give us a purely man-made oddity--

An earthrise.

**UMA IZAWA** (26), pokes her head in the doorway. She's the smartest person on the ship, and she doesn't want to be here.

UMA

Yeah?

'Captain' Milo beckons without turning around.

MILO

I want you to see this.

Uma joins him and stares blankly out the same observation window. The ship's design is made for function, not aesthetics.

UMA

An Earthrise? Wow. You know that happens every 'bit', right? In forty-eight minutes we're gonna whip right back around and see it all over again.

MILO

You, me, and three hundred and thirty-two other people will.

A MESSAGE CHIME. Uma check's her COMMUNICATOR/space iPhone.

UMA

Cool.

ON THE COMMUNICATOR SCREEN:

**COMMAND: MAKE ACTING CAPTAIN MILO TOUCH THE WINDOW TEN TIMES.**

**YOU MAY NOT TOUCH THE GLASS.**

'Captain' Milo realizes he doesn't have Uma's full attention.

MILO

(trying to flirt)

You know Uma, certain protocol dictates that when your captain speaks, you pay attention.

UMA

(not flirting)

Acting captain.

(looking up)

Navigation update. Lucky, 'cause without these, I'd be all 'where do I steer this thing?'--

Uma turns an imaginary steering wheel and... 'explosion'.

MILO

You couldn't really do that. Could you?

UMA

No.

MILO

Phew! Imagine it, a hundred years from now, some kid looks up 'Captain Chedd Milo' in the history files: 'Crashed ISRA TWO into the moon'.

UMA

I'd like to think *I'd* get a mention.

MILO

We're pioneers! We're establishing the framework for interstellar travel. Every thing we do on this ship moves all life on our planet closer or further away from being able to leave the solar system.

UMA

We're lab rats who have no say in any part of our own lives.

That idea troubles Milo.

MILO

Do too.

Uma didn't mean to crush his spirit, she leans to the glass and fogs it up with her breath. There's a hint of flirtation but there is definitely a challenge.

UMA

I'll play you for it. You win, we are saviours of every earthbound species. I win, we're trapped inside a piece of future space debris, trying not to die.

EXT. OBSERVATION HUB. ISRA 2 - CONTINUOUS

'Captain' Milo's finger slides against the fogged up glass. No matter how hard he presses, he'll never be on the other side. He draws a grid for a game of TIC-TAC-TOE. FOUR TOUCHES.

INT. OBSERVATION HUB. ISRA 2 - CONTINUOUS

Uma bows, gesturing for 'Captain' Milo to go first. He puts an "X" in the top left corner. SIX TOUCHES.

MILO

If you really think we have no say over our lives, why are you going on a date with Troy Tucker?

Uma points. Center square. He draws her "O". SEVEN TOUCHES.

UMA

Been talking to Ox in Comms again?

MILO

People talk. Especially when our lead navigator is meeting up with a hortie.

Milo puts his "X" in the bottom right. NINE TOUCHES.

UMA

Acting lead navigator. Top center.

Milo draws "O". TEN! Uma stops him before he plays his next move.

UMA (CONT'D)

Stalemate. I guess we're both just a couple of losers.

It takes 'Captain' Milo longer to work it out. She's right.

UMA (CONT'D)

And this loser should jet. Date-o-rama is on in one bit.

MILO

Still haven't told me why...

She has to give him something.

UMA

Since you're 'captain', I'm allowed to tell you. It's a Command.

(off Milo's look)

See? Lab rats. Trust me, I do not want go on a date with Troy Tucker.

MILO

Then what do you want?

There are so many things, it's hard to boil it down.

UMA

Have you ever wondered what it's like to drive a car? Have a dog? Know what rain feels like? Stuff, like in the movies?

MILO

Take a cool shower. How different can it be?

Uma looks at him. He just doesn't get it. He loves space.

ANNOUNCEMENT CHIME.

FEMALE ANNOUNCEMENT VOICE (O.C.)

Containment doors Twenty-Four G and Sixteen L will open in thirty seconds.

What the what? They check their COMMUNICATORS. Uma's COMMAND now has a BIG GREEN CHECK MARK next to it. Milo is nervous AF.

UMA

They're opening both doors?!

MILO

I'm captain. I should be there to greet them. Welcome them back. Uma!

UMA

No way, she's--

MILO

That's an order!

Milo doesn't wait. He runs out the door and to the left.

Eyes wide, Uma follows. At the door, she takes a deep breath. To hell with his order. She runs out and to the right.

**END COLD OPEN**