

1 NARRATION

1

NARRATOR

Chaika is created for an adult audience and features depictions of emotional distress. Please review the shownotes of this episode for specific content warnings.

INTRO MUSIC, starts, then fades to low

NARRATOR

Chaika. Prologue. We breathe, briefly.

INTRO MUSIC, up to full volume

2 INT. MOONBASE - DAY

2

Click.

Beep.

VALEN

(formal, small sigh, resigned, this is the 23rd week she is trying this with no response)

CosmiCorps moonbase 1-2--2-1--1-4
[one-two--two-one--one-four]
requesting communication CosmiCorps
central command, comm code 0-3--1-5-
-1-9 [oh-three--one-five--one-nine].

(pause, no response)

Repeat requesting communication
CosmiCorps central, comm code 0-3-
-1-5--1-9 [oh-three--one-five--one-
nine], do you copy?

(pause, no response,
mutters to herself)

Suppose it's time.

(small sigh, louder)

TROST?

TROST entry beep.

VALEN

You recording?

TROST
(impersonal mode)
Affirmative.

VALEN
(clears throat)
Year 2079, month 8, day 21. Solarin,
Valen, engineering lead lunar
mining, CosmiCorps moonbase 1-2--2-
1--1-4 [one-two--two-one--one-four].
Open message.

(deep breath)
I was the first woman on the moon. I
took my first step here on August
27, 2069. And I never left.

(pause)
One giant leap for womankind, right?
Though there was no broadcast, no
media attention, no pithy well-
chosen words. One hundred years
after Neil Armstrong planted his
flag and here I was, just an
engineer sent to man - to woman, in
fact - a one-person mining base.
Everyone lost interest in the moon
once Mars became a viable option
with the successful Mars
surveillance mission in 2058.

(beat)
I- I have been debating whether to
send a message out into the void.
(small smile)
I guess today's the day. I am hoping
it reaches someone. Hoping it
reaches the Mars colony, really, but
if not, just someone.

(beat)
Somewhere... My daughter, Chaika,
and I are... alone on the moon.
That's nothing new, really, we are
used to that, but earth is
(beat)
silent.

(sigh)
It has been 182 days since our final
supply crate and 164 days since our
last communication with earth.

(beat)
What I see from here is... terrifying.
(deep breath)
There must be survivors, right?
They're probably in bunkers, hiding

out until it's safe to go to the surface. Yeah. That must be it. Maybe you - who are hearing this - are hunkering down in a bunker... Have to believe there are humans somewhere. That we are not completely a-

Sound of interior doors sliding open and then closed.

VALEN

Hang on.
(turned away from recorder)
What was that sweetie?

We can't hear Chaika, but Valen clearly can.

VALEN

Yes, go out and play if you want, just stay in the protected zone.
(pause)
No, mommy has to finish this.
(pause)
Yes, you go. Don't forget to pee before you get into your suit!
(pause, smiles)
Love you too sweetheart.

Sound of interior doors sliding open and then closed.

We're... OK. We can manage with the greenhouse and the animals. The supply crates were mostly for things like medicine and clothes and entertainment and mining equipment. I have a stockpile of medicine and clothing that should last us at least ten years, if we're careful. Entertainment we can do without. Mining equipment is redundant now, of course. Why mine for titanium when no-one is there to buy it? I have better things to do with my time. But it would be nice to know... to know we are not alone. To know there is a possibility we could meet someone else at some point.

(voice wavers)

She's only eight, you know? Chaika.
(half laugh, half sob)

Not even that - she turns eight this week. She is seven years old and she needs other people. Not just...

(very scared)
Me...
(swallows hard)
So if you hear this, let us know,
all right? Thanks.
(beat)
End recording.

Beep.

TROST
(impersonal mode)
Recording completed. Broadcasting on
all channels.

VALEN
Thank you, TROST. I-
(stops herself, takes a
deep breath, beat)

Click.

VALEN
(weak smile)
Chaika! Wait right there - I'm
coming out to play.

VALEN's footsteps. Doors slide open, then closed.

3 QUOTE OF THE DAY

3

Ding.

TROST entry beep.

TROST
(impersonal mode)
Quote of the day.

TROST exit beep.

MUSIC

NARRATOR
"I wish it need not have happened in
my time," said one.
"So do I," said the other, "and so
do all who live to see such times.
But that is not for them to decide.
All we have to decide is what to do
with the time that is given us."

MUSIC fades.

4 INT. MOONBASE - EVENING

4

CHAIKA's quarters. 10 years later.

CHAIKA
(in shock, rapid
breathing, mutters to
herself)
I can't... I have to... Can't stay
here anymore.
(calmer, slowly)
I cannot stay.
(beat)
TROST?

TROST entry beep.

TROST
(impersonal mode)
Chaika.
(beat)
Standing by.

CHAIKA
Could you... Could you prepare the
shuttle?

TROST
(impersonal mode)
Affirmative. Initializing HYGGE
activation protocol.
(beat)
Long or short range journey?

CHAIKA
(breath catches)
Oh. Long. Very long.

TROST
(impersonal mode)
Relaying to Eventyr.

CHAIKA
Oh! And could you- I need to...
bring-
(cannot finish this
sentence)

TROST
(impersonal mode)
I will make arrangements.

CHAIKA
(deep shaky breath)

Thank you, TROST.

TROST exit beep, slightly different from other exit beeps.

CHAIKA

There is no other way. I'll 'boldly
go'... Or whatever.

(new breath, calm)

Goodbye, moon.

(small smile)

Goodnight. Goodnight...

(voice catches)

nobody.

(whispers)

Hush...!

(small sob escapes)

CHAIKA's footsteps fade.

TROST

(whispers, sad and
worried)

Be safe, child. Goodnight...

(in German)

Und viel Glück. [And good luck]

TROST exit beep.

5 CREDITS

5

CREDITS MUSIC

NARRATOR

Please stay around until after the
credits to hear a teaser for episode
one.

You have listened to Angeline
Lazarus as Valen, Kessi Rilini as
TROST and Danyelle Ellet as Chaika.
Chaika was written, produced and
directed by Karin Heimdahl - that's
me! - I also do the narration.

Chaika's theme is by Chris Gregory,
please check out his audio fiction
anthology podcast, Alternative
Stories and Fake Realities as well
as his sci-fi podcast, The Dex
Legacy. Additional music by
ArchesAudio.com and Kevin McCleoud,
please see the shownotes for a
complete music list. The quote of

the day is from 'The Fellowship of the Ring' by JRR Tolkien.

Chaika is a Y2K production. For more information, please visit y2kpod.com/chaika, that's C-H-A-I-K-A.

We will return in two weeks with episode 1, My mind was going numb, where - among other things - you will hear this:

CREDITS MUSIC fades out

Extract from episode 1 fades in

HYGGE

(tries to imitate a human clearing their throat)

Um-hum.

(beat, a little louder)

Hum-hum.

CHAIKA

(through her grief-haze)

Wha- what is it?

HYGGE

How may I have the pleasure of addressing you?

CHAIKA

(still dazed, softly)

What?

HYGGE

What is your name?

CHAIKA

(sadly)

It's Chaika.

HYGGE

Chaika.

(beat)

Beep.

HYGGE

Chaika. Russian for 'seagull'. Call sign of Russian cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova, the first earth woman-

CHAIKA
 (interrupts)
in- in space. Yes. My...
 (voice wavers)
my mother gave me that name.
 (small sob escapes)

 HYGGE
I do not wish to be intrusive, but
you do not seem well.

 CHAIKA
Well?
 (unhappy laugh that gives
 way to more tears)
No. No... I am not... well.

 HYGGE
If you require assistance, LEQU can-
On hearing her name, LEQU materializes next to CHAIKA.
LEQU entry pop.

 CHAIKA
 (starts and yells out in
 shock, exclaims)
Wha- [What]

 LEQU
You rang?

OUTRO MUSIC

Pronunciations

Carson [CAR-sun]

Curie [q-REE]

Chaika [tCHEY-ka]

CosmiCorps [COS-me-CORE]

EVENTYR [EH-ven-tier]

FIKAMAD [FEE-kuh-mat]

HYGGE [HIG-eh]

LEQU [luh-CHU]

Lone Møller [LOAN-eh MEL-er]

Solarin [suh-LA-rin]

Tharp [thARp]

TellUs [TELL-us]

TROST [tRAWSt]

Valen [VALE-un]

Valentina Tereshkova [vall-en-TEE-na tuh-RESH-co-vah]