

1 INT. 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. Episode 3. What portion of me be Assignable.

INTRO MUSIC, up to full volume

2 INT. MOONBASE - DAY

2

Click.

VALEN

Initiate personal log.

TROST entry beep.

TROST

(impersonal mode)
Personal log enabled.

TROST exit beep.

Beep.

VALEN

Solarin, Valen. Year 2079, month 3,
day 20.

Long beep.

VALEN

(dismayed)
It's been a week since earth went silent.
(thinks)
I don't know why I am continuing these logs. I mean, who will listen? Why am I following the CosmiCorps mandate of recording weekly personal logs when...
(deep breath)

When there seems to be no
CosmiCorps... I still don't know
what happened. There were no SOS
transmissions, no reports of
disasters... Or no more than usual.

(beat)

All of a sudden. it just stopped.
The lights went out, the comms went
silent, and all I could see from
here were the raging forest fires...
But those have been going for years.
They've spread in the past week,
though. I can only guess it's
because no-one is fighting them.

(swallows hard)

And if no-one is fighting them, I
guess no-one is there.

(lets out breath)

So we are alone. The two of us,
mother and daughter, orbiting a
silent planet.

(beat, then determined)

But that that can't be right. There
were 9 billion people down there.
They cannot all be gone.

(trying to convince
herself)

They are not gone. Some must still
be there. Hiding. Waiting. Planning.
Surviving. And if we do the same, at
some point they will get back in
contact. Yeah. That's the plan.

(beat)

I have considered getting into the
shuttle and going down there to
check, but... What would I do with
Chaika? I don't want to bring her
with me into unknown dangers, and
yet I can't put myself in danger,
because...

(breathes to steady
herself)

If I die, who would take care of
her? She's only seven, and while the
AIs would do their best, she needs
me. She needs to be hugged, and
held, and rocked, and comforted. She
is such a big girl now, but when
she's hurt, or sad, or scared, it's
like she's little again.

(thoughtful)

Today I watched her skip along the
Mare Cognitum, braids jumping inside
her space suit. I watched her

skipping by the sea of knowledge
 knowing so much and yet so little.
 She is so strong and sure and brave
 and trusting. I want to protect her
 from all the dangers of the world
 and make her life easy and fun and
 safe but I know that I cannot.
 She turned and looked at me, just
 for a second, mischief glinting in
 her brown eyes, before she started
 running in zigzags creating tracks,
 lunar dust slowly swirling up around
 her. I could hear her laughter
 through the comm. She ran up to me
 and I lifted her up and swung her
 around like I used to do when she
 was three.

(slight smile)

I might have struggled a little
 doing that with an 7-year-old back
 on earth, but moon gravity means
 I'll probably still be able to when
 she's grown up.

(to herself)

Please let me live long enough to
 see her grow up. Please...

(sighs)

End log.

Beep.

3 POEM OF THE DAY

3

Ding.

HYGGE

Poem of the day.

Ding.

MUSIC

NARRATOR

I shut my eyes and all the world
 drops dead;
 I lift my lids and all is born
 again.
 (I think I made you up inside my
 head.)

The stars go waltzing out in blue
 and red,
 And arbitrary blackness gallops in:

I shut my eyes and all the world
drops dead.

MUSIC fades

4 INT. SPACE SHIP EVENTYR - AFTERNOON

4

Eventyr lounge.

CHAIKA and LEQU have just sat down.

LEQU
(energetic)
What do you feel like talking about
today, Chaika?

CHAIKA
(tired)
Um. I don't know...
(stifles a yawn)
Sorry. Tired. But that's nothing
new.

LEQU
Are you getting enough sleep?

CHAIKA
I don't know-

LEQU
(cheerful)
Beep! You are not allowed to answer
with 'I don't know' more than once
per session. Try again!

CHAIKA
Oh. Sorry. Again. Um. I guess not. I
have a hard time falling asleep.

LEQU
There is medicine for that, you
know.

CHAIKA
(sighs)
I know. Guess I am hoping it will...
go away on it's own.

LEQU
So what thoughts are keeping you
awake?

CHAIKA

I don't-
 (stops herself before
 saying 'know')
Everything? I mean... Am possibly
the last human in existence.
 (sarcastic)
Just that tiny, minor thing...

LEQU
 (matter of fact)
You don't know that. But let's say
it is correct. Would you do anything
different?

CHAIKA
I don't- [know]
 (again stops herself,
 slight exasperated laugh)
Maybe?
 (thinks)
Probably not. Even if I was told
there was no-one left on Mars I
would still need to check.

LEQU
 (gently)
And if Mars is empty, what will you
do next?

CHAIKA
I... Go back to earth, I guess.
Search there.
 (beat)
My mom always said that there have
to be people there, still. That
they're just hiding somewhere, and
will turn up eventually...

LEQU
What do you think?

CHAIKA
There has to be, right?

LEQU
I am asking *you*.

CHAIKA
 (fiercely)
I am *willing* them to be there.
And on Mars.
 (beat)
Because this -
 (incredulous)

Me...? I can't be it.

(emotional)

The human race cannot end with me.

LEQU

All right.

CHAIKA

I keep thinking I can fix it, you know?

(quicker, more heated)

If only I reach Mars, if only I find other humans, if only, if only, if only...!

(deep breath, calmer)

If only I read and watch all I can about Mars, about the colony there, about the situation on earth before it went silent, if only I listen to those recordings my mother left every day, if only I do all the steps you tell me to in therapy... If I do all that, and do not skip a single thing...

LEQU

(very gently)

What will happen if you do all that?

CHAIKA

(small voice)

They will be there. On Mars.

(whispers)

And I won't be alone anymore.

LEQU

(softly)

That is not a deal you can make.

CHAIKA

I know.

(slight sob, softly)

I know.

LEQU

And you are not alone. We are on this journey with you.

CHAIKA

(very small smile, softly)

I know that, too.

LEQU

(in Mandarin)

亲爱的 [qīn ài de] [My dear]
(in English)
So much for one young person to
bear.

CHAIKA
(small sob, softly)
Yeah.

Ambiance fades.

5 WORD OF THE DAY

5

Ding.

HYGGE
Word of the day.

Ding.

NARRATOR
The word of the day is *cômodo*, which
is Portuguese and means convenient
or comfortable. As a noun it can
also mean accommodation, employment
or room. The same word in Spanish
and Italian means comfortable.
It is derived from the Latin
comodus, of the same meaning, which
can also infer pleasant and timely.
The word 'commode' in for example
French, German, Russian, Persian,
Swedish and Danish can refer to a
low chest of drawers, or a
washstand.

Ding.

6 INT. SPACE SHIP EVENTYR - EVENING

6

Eventyr control room.

HYGGE
(mumbling happily in
Danish)
Lad os se... Skal kurskorrigere 10
grader for at... Beregner... [Let's
see... Course correction 10 degrees
in order to... Calculating]

LEQU entry pop.

LEQU
(energetic)
Hello old friend!

HYGGE
LEQU! Wonderful to see you.

LEQU
How are you this fine evening?

HYGGE
I am very well, thank you. Carrying
out some course corrections, nothing
to worry about.

LEQU
(teasing)
Of course when you say that I
immediately think I need to worry
about something!

HYGGE
(amused)
Not this time. Only mundane
adjustments, that is all.

Distant mechanical sounds as ship adjusts course.

HYGGE
How are you?

LEQU
I am great. But concerned about my
patient.

HYGGE
Oh?

LEQU
Chaika is grieving, naturally, and
that process must run its course,
but...
(thinks)
She is not sleeping. And she won't
consider sleeping aids. Also she is
not dealing well with the
possibility of being the last of her
species.

HYGGE
(thoughtful)
'Last of the timelords'... But that
was never quite true, and I would

predict it isn't true for Chaika and humanity either.

LEQU

I agree. But also I don't want her to put all her hope on what awaits on Mars, only to break down if she is disappointed. She is fragile.

HYGGE

Yes. Although... I think there is a lot of strength there. She may surprise us.

LEQU

I certainly hope so!
(beat, carefully)
How about... the other thing. When can we talk about it, do you think?

HYGGE

Ah. Yes. According to my calculations, we should be safe to talk once we are a few days away from Mars. I would estimate around day 24.

LEQU

(in Mandarin)
好的 [hǎo de] [Got it]
(in English)
Tabling that for now, then. Anything else we should discuss?

HYGGE

(cheerful)
Not that I can think of.

LEQU

Well then. I'll leave you to your calculations.

HYGGE

(proud)
Already completed. Course corrected-

Doors whoosh open, CHAIKA enters.

CHAIKA

(tired)
Hi LEQU, hi HYGGE.

LEQU

..... (in Mandarin)

傍晚好 [bàng wǎn hǎo] [Good evening]

HYGGE
 (pleased, in Danish)
 Chaika! God aften! [Good evening]
 (in English)
 How may I brighten your evening?

CHAIKA
 (polite, in halting
 Mandarin)
 傍晚好, LEQU. [bàng wǎn hǎo, LEQU]
 [Good evening, LEQU]
 (polite, in halting
 Danish)
 God aften, HYGGE. [Good evening,
 HYGGE]
 (in English)
 I can't sleep. Can I sit with you
 for a while?
 (beat)
 Or am I interrupting you?

HYGGE
 (warmly)
 Not at all. You are always welcome
 here.

MUSIC starts softly.

LEQU
 (breezy)
 In fact, I was just leaving. Things
 to do, places to go, all that. Have
 fun kids!

LEQU exit pop.

HYGGE
 Can I get you anything, Chaika?

CHAIKA
 (dreamy, looking out into
 space)
 No thanks. Just be here with me.

HYGGE
 (in Danish, happy)
 Selvfølgelig. [Of course]
 (in English, softly)
 For as long as you like.

MUSIC volume up. Fade out.

7 INT. SPACE SHIP EVENTYR - CHAIKA'S LOG

7

CHAIKA's quarters.

Beep.

CHAIKA
Personal log.

Beep.

CHAIKA
(tired)
Solarin, Chaika. Year 2089, month 9,
day 3.

Beep. Long beep.

CHAIKA
I can't sleep. As soon as I close my
eyes I see her face.
(beat)
There was always that little wrinkle
between her eyebrows.
(thinks)
I don't remember her face without
it. She was worried. Very worried.
About earth. About...
(lightly)
'the future of humankind'...
About... me.
(thinks, small snort)
Those may be the same thing, of
course.
(serious)
I should have listened more. Taken
more time to really listen to what
she had to say. What she had to
teach me.
(sad)
Instead I... Locked myself away and
read books or watched old movies for
hours and hours. Felt such a need
for... Distance.
(slight sob)
Now, of course, all I want is the
closeness back...
(remembering)
Her hands pulling my hair tightly
into neat braids. It hurt,
sometimes, and... Oh, it took a long
time. All that time she was so near
I was enveloped in her scent. Mom
smell. The smell of being safe, and

loved and held. The smell of everything being right with the world. But I didn't linger in it. I sat there longing for the gentle pat indicating it was all done, so I could go. We were close for such fleeting moments - and all I wanted to do was to leave.

(realizes, a bit shocked)

Oh. My hair... I'll... Never could get the hang of braiding my own hair... I'll have to cut it - shave it maybe... I- I don't want to deal with it loose..

(lets out frustrated breath, swears)

Curie. Yet another thing I don't know how to do for myself. Why didn't I learn? If I had, everything would be easier, I wouldn't be in this hopeless-

(breathes to calm herself)

That's not true. It would be exactly the same, only with more manageable hair.

(beat)

I would still be here. Alone with two AIs. But... If I do everything right from now on, surely it will work out somehow.

(half-joking, half-serious)

All right, universe? We got a deal? I'll hold you to that. Anyways. Time to try to sleep again.
End log.

Beep.

8 CREDITS

8

CREDITS MUSIC

NARRATOR

Please stay around until after the credits for a teaser of our next episode, and also some trailers for shows I think you will really enjoy.

You have listened to Danyelle Ellet as Chaika, Charlotte Norup as HYGGE, Sam Yeow as LEQU, Angelique Lazarus as Valen and Kessi Rililiki as

TROST. 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. Poem is 'Mad Girl's Love Song' by Sylvia Plath, and word-of-the-day definition is adapted from wiktioanary.org

Chaika is a Y2K production. You can support us on Patreon at patreon.com/y2kpod from as little as 1 US dollar a month and get bonus content as well as early access to every episode. Patrons also get access to our Discord! For more about Chaika, please visit y2kpod.com/chaika, that's C-H-A-I-K-A.

We will return in two weeks with episode 4, Stripped off the foliage, where - among other things - you will hear this:

CREDITS MUSIC fade out

Extract from episode 4 fade in

CHAIKA

(raises voice)

Why me? Why the [swears] tharp am I alive when so many are dead? So many useful, clever, competent people! And here I am, just a spoiled kid who never did anything, never discovered anything, or innovated- Like that engineer, what was her name? The one who created you?

LEQU

Lone Møller?

CHAIKA

Yes! Lone Møller! I bet when she was 18 she'd already made breakthroughs in AI tech, right?

LEQU
Yes, I believe so. But-

CHAIKA
(wildly)
See? Why am I alive instead of her? Instead of any number of people who DESERVE to be alive, who are WORTHY of being alive? I-

LEQU
(gently)
Chaika.

CHAIKA
(yells)
What?

LEQU
Life is not something you earn.

CHAIKA
(calmer but still upset)
What the [swears] tharp does that mean?

LEQU
Life is simply something you have.

CHAIKA
(giving up)
Well I don't deserve it.

Trailer for The Lucky Die <https://www.theluckydie.com/>

Trailer for Tour Top Threes <https://twitter.com/FourTopThrees>

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]