

Chaika Episode 5: Time does not bring relief; you all have lied 1.

**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 5. Time does not bring relief; you all have lied.

INTRO MUSIC, up to full volume

**2 INT. MOONBASE - MORNING 2**

Beep.

VALEN

(weak, labored breathing)  
Initiate... personal log.

TROST entry beep.

TROST

(impersonal mode)  
Personal log enabled.

VALEN

(labored breathing)  
TROST, could you?

TROST

(impersonal mode)  
Of course.  
(beat)  
Solarin, Valen. Year 2089, month 8,  
day 25.

Beep.

TROST exit beep.

Long beep.

VALEN

(labored shallow  
breathing, struggling to

get the words out)  
I don't have long now. Days? Maybe  
hours... I've tried to hold on  
for...  
(addresses CHAIKA  
directly)  
Chaika, my beautiful seagull, I have  
tried so hard to hold on for you,  
but now... I need to let go. And  
trust that whatever happens,  
wherever you go... You will be all  
right. You are out on your daily  
walk and I...  
(gently)  
I might not be here when you come  
back... Or maybe I'll stay on until  
tomorrow's walk...  
(labored breath)  
Don't want to die on your birthday,  
though! That would be bad...  
(lets out ragged breath)  
I read somewhere that people often  
die when they are alone, when  
whoever is by their side is taking a  
break... It didn't make sense to me  
then, but it does now. My hold on  
this life is slipping, the threads  
are unravelling, but you... You are  
the reason I hold on, my thread that  
will not break... I feel like I have  
failed you in so many ways, so many  
times, despite trying so hard not  
to...  
(small chuckle that turns  
into a slight cough)  
I guess that's parenting for you...  
Very humbling thing, being a parent.  
Not least because...  
(in awe)  
You are so much better than I am,  
Chaika.  
(laboured breath)  
You are kinder, and stronger, and  
smarter. I know you struggle to  
believe that, I know you demand so  
much of yourself, but... Believe it.  
Please.  
(coughs)  
TROST?

TROST entry beep.

TROST

(impersonal mode, but  
slightly faltering)  
Yes?

VALEN  
(weak)  
Could you... Make sure all of my  
logs and messages are... That Chaika  
is made aware of them? After... You  
know... Later... When she is...  
(struggles to get the word  
out)  
Alone...  
(sigh that turns into weak  
cough)  
And that they follow her, if...  
\*when\*... she leaves here?  
Especially... you know...

TROST  
(impersonal mode, but  
slightly faltering)  
Of course.

VALEN  
(very weak)  
Thank you, dear TROST.  
(deep ragged breath, weak,  
slowly)  
Goodnight stars... Goodnight air...  
Good night... everywhere...  
(small chuckle that turns  
into very weak cough)  
Guess I'm the old lady whispering  
now, aren't I...? Goodnight...  
moon...  
(lets out breath)

Pause.

TROST  
(very sad, whispers, in  
German)  
Machs gut, Valen. ['Take care,  
Valen', literally 'make it good']  
(very sad, whispers, in  
English)  
End message.

Beep.

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have lied

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Ding.

HYGGE  
Quote of the day.

Ding.

MUSIC

NARRATOR  
My life was hurrying, racing  
tragically toward its end. And yet  
at the same time it was dripping so  
slowly, so very slowly now, hour by  
hour, minute by minute. One always  
has to wait until the sugar melts,  
the memory dies, the wound scars  
over, the sun sets, the unhappiness  
lifts and fades away.

MUSIC fades

**4 INT. SPACE SHIP EVENTYR - DAY**

**4**

Eventyr lounge.

Doors whoosh open, CHAIKA walks in quickly, throws herself  
into chair.

CHAIKA  
(calls)  
LEQU? I need you!

LEQU entry pop.

LEQU  
(enthusiastic)  
Of course! What's up?

CHAIKA  
(urgently)  
I need something to do. Like a task?  
A job? Something!

LEQU  
(interested)  
All right. What brought this on?

CHAIKA  
I... I have so much energy, all of a  
sudden. I need something to focus  
on.

LEQU

I thought we agreed that right now,  
being in therapy is your focus?

CHAIKA

Yeah.

LEQU

And you are studying Mandarin with  
me, and Danish with HYGGE?

CHAIKA

I am. And it's good. But... I  
need... Something more to distract  
me.

CHAIKA sits down.

LEQU

Distract you from what?

CHAIKA

I don't- [know]  
(interrupts herself)  
My head's a bit crowded these days.

LEQU

Tell me more about that.

CHAIKA

It's like... all my feelings and  
thoughts and memories are...  
colliding all at once... It's  
overwhelming.

LEQU

Have you experienced anything like  
this before?

CHAIKA

(lies, doesn't want to  
talk about it)  
Um. No.

LEQU

Are you sure?

CHAIKA

(lies again, slightly  
angry)  
Yes! I'm sure.  
(mutters)  
I \*do\* know my own head...

LEQU

All right. And you feel like  
distraction would be a good tactic?

CHAIKA

(impatient)

Yes! I told you already...

LEQU

(matter of fact)

Yes, you did. What did you usually  
fill your time with on the moonbase?

CHAIKA

Um. Reading. Studying. Movies.  
Games, sometimes. Greenhouse  
maintenance. Exercise. Not as much  
as I should have...

LEQU

Many of those things you can do  
here, too.

CHAIKA

I know. I know! But I feel like...  
None of that would be enough.

LEQU

I see. Do you feel like anything  
else is different?

CHAIKA

(annoyed)

Yes? No? I don't-

(interrupts herself, then  
angry)

I don't know, OK? I don't know, I  
don't know, I don't know!

LEQU

(matter of fact)

I understand that you are upset, but  
you still need to treat me- [with  
respect]

CHAIKA gets up.

CHAIKA

(interrupts)

This is useless!

CHAIKA walks quickly out of room, doors whoosh open.

LEQU

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have lied

7.

(concerned, calls)  
Chaika!

Doors whoosh close.

**5 INT. SPACE SHIP EVENTYR - CHAIKA'S LOG**

**5**

CHAIKA's quarters.

Beep.

CHAIKA  
Personal log.

Beep.

CHAIKA  
(quickly)  
Solarin, Chaika. Year 2089, month 9,  
day 14.

Beep. Long beep.

CHAIKA  
I am finally sleeping. Feels like I  
spent months in some kind of fugue  
state... But it's only been... A  
little more than two weeks since...  
Yeah. Time is... I lose track... But  
this new, rested version of me...  
Not sure I recognize her...  
(uncertain laugh)  
Or maybe I do. I had some... issues  
a few years ago. Started anti-  
depressants. Anti-anxiety meds.  
Sleeping aids. The full kit. They  
helped. Or... I was... much easier  
to handle, I guess, both for... my  
mom, and for myself... After about a  
year, I started to gradually wean  
myself off them, and... I liked \*me\*  
without meds better, you know?  
Everything was clearer, and sharper,  
and I felt more like... myself, I  
guess. But they did their job, and I  
really needed them, then. And now...  
I am starting to feel like I did,  
before...  
(beat)  
Our LEQU at the moonbase diagnosed  
me with a  
(quotes)

'chemical imbalance brought on by  
adolescent hormone shifts'... And  
recommended I be aware it could  
happen again... So maybe it has? But  
it's so hard to know what is...  
depression... or just...

(hesitates)

Grief...

(beat)

I mean... grieving is natural, isn't  
it? Before, when earth was full of  
people, they grieved all the time,  
didn't they? They lost, and they  
grieved, and it was awful, and then  
their lives went on...

(small snort)

Or... All I know is from old movies  
and shows... Old books... What the  
[swears] tharp do I know of what  
life was really like... Maybe in  
real life grief could be... This.  
Maybe it takes over and...

(scared)

I'm not in charge anymore...

(lets out breath)

Like grief is this raging animal  
inside me that I cannot control,  
that... Makes everything even worse.

(deep breath)

I can't... I can't deal with anyone  
or anything right now.

(beat)

I'll go try the treadmill. Maybe  
that will chase away some demons...

(quickly)

End log.

Beep.

**6 WORD OF THE DAY**

**6**

Ding.

HYGGE

Word of the day.

Ding.

NARRATOR

The word of the day is mysa. Mysa is  
Swedish and means to be engaged in  
an activity that is comfortable or  
pleasurable, or to be comfortable or

content with something. An old meaning is to smile very slightly from contentment. Related to the Danish and Norwegian *myse*, meaning to squint, and ultimately derived from the Greek *μύειν* [*mýein*], meaning to close ones lips or eyes, and *μυωπία* [*myopía*], meaning near-sightedness. In Sweden, 'fredagsmys' is a 21st century concept, usually inferring a family watching television and eating snacks together on a Friday night.

Ding.

7 INT. SPACE SHIP EVENTYR -

7

HYGGE

(cheerfully muttering, in Danish)

...beregrende unddragelsesmanøvre  
3.576... [tre komma fem hundrede og  
seksoghalvfjerds] [calculate evasion  
maneuver 3.576]

Doors whoosh open, CHAIKA energetic footsteps.

HYGGE

(happy)

Chaika!

(in Danish)

Velkommen. [Welcome]

( in English)

How can I-

CHAIKA

(interrupts, high energy)

Not sure you can brighten my day,  
today, HYGGE. Not having a very good  
one.

HYGGE

Oh?

CHAIKA

I'm just so... I don't know. Like I  
want to smash something, you know?

HYGGE

(enthusiastic)

Perhaps you could try some exercise?  
There are-

CHAIKA  
(interrupts)  
Tried that. Didn't help.

HYGGE  
(matter of fact)  
Very well.

CHAIKA  
Can I... Can I help you with  
anything? Like, I don't know,  
navigation or something?

HYGGE  
(thinks)  
Well, navigation on Eventyr is very  
automated, all I do is  
calculations... Not sure that would  
be a job for you.

CHAIKA  
(sighs)  
Probably not.

HYGGE  
Would you like to talk about it?

CHAIKA  
(uncomfortable)  
I don't know...  
(beat)  
It's just... What's the point?

HYGGE  
(interested)  
The point of what?

CHAIKA  
Everything!

HYGGE  
(matter of fact)  
I think you need to elaborate a  
little.

CHAIKA  
Ugh!  
This whole being human is overrated.  
You're lucky, HYGGE.

HYGGE  
(interested)  
Really? In what way?

CHAIKA

All these damned \*feelings\*... I  
can't stand them.

HYGGE

(matter of fact)

I understand. Alas, I am no luckier  
than you in that regard.

CHAIKA

(not listening)

I finally get some sleep, and now...  
It's like all that time I was  
walking around in a tired daze the  
feelings were just biding their  
time, waiting to \*pounce\*.

HYGGE

(concerned)

That sounds difficult.

CHAIKA

(still not listening,  
starts hyperventilating  
slightly)

And it's all a jumble in here, guilt  
and loss and memory and longing  
and...

(hyperventilation  
increases, almost dazed  
now)

I have this tiny cut on my finger,  
and I keep picking off the scab.  
Again and again and

(shouts)

AGAIN

(back to previous volume)

and again!

(keeps hyperventilating)

It never heals. Never ever ever ever  
ever ever ever heals.

(shouts)

Why won't it heal?

(keeps hyperventilating)

HYGGE

(calls, concerned)

LEQU? We need you!

LEQU entry pop.

LEQU

(happy, energetic)

Hello! What-

(in Mandarin)  
天哪 [tiān na] [Gosh!]  
(in English, concerned)  
Chaika? What's up?

CHAIKA  
(still slight  
hyperventilation, not  
listening, mutters)  
Why, why, why...

HYGGE  
(worried)  
She was angry, I think, and then...  
This...

LEQU  
Chaika? I'm here. Listen to me. You  
need to steady your breathing, all  
right? Listen.  
(slow and steady)  
Breathe in...  
Breathe out...  
With me now.  
Breathe in...  
Breathe out...  
That's right.  
Breathe in...  
Breathe out...

CHAIKA  
(breathing along with  
LEQU's words, breathing  
slows and steadies)

LEQU  
(gently)  
There you go.

CHAIKA  
(confused)  
There... LEQU? Hi... Thanks, I  
guess.

LEQU  
You are most welcome. How are you  
feeling?

CHAIKA  
Um. Better, I think. I... It's a  
lot.

HYGGE  
(warmly)

So pleased you are feeling better.

LEQU

Do you know what happened?

CHAIKA

I was... I still am so...  
(rising anger)  
I feel... So much...

LEQU

I understand.

HYGGE

We both do.

LEQU

You have been through a lot, and you  
are still processing. It can't be  
easy for you, losing your mother and  
then going on this journey-

CHAIKA

(angry)  
You shut up about my mother!

LEQU

Of course, if that's what you want.  
I do understand-

CHAIKA

(angry, yells)  
How the [swears] tharp could either  
of you understand? You're not real!  
You are just a bunch of ones and  
zeroes! How \*dare\* you pretend to  
understand my feelings?  
(as she runs off, yells,  
voice breaks with emotion)  
I hate you!

CHAIKA turns, runs, doors whoosh open, she runs through.

HYGGE

(distant, concerned and  
hurt, calls)  
Chaika...?

LEQU

(distant, concerned and  
hurt)  
Leave her.

CHAIKA

(exertion, breathing as if  
running, small sob)

Doors whoosh close.

**8 CREDITS**

**8**

CREDITS MUSIC

NARRATOR

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

You have listened to Danyelle Ellet  
as Chaika, Charlotte Norup as HYGGE,  
Sam Yeow as LEQU, Angelique Lazarus  
as Valen and Kessi Rilini 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. Quote is from  
Simone de Beauvoir, and word-of-the-  
day definition is adapted from  
wiktionary.org

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[y2kpod.com/chaika](https://y2kpod.com/chaika), that's C-H-A-I-K-  
A.

We will return in two weeks with  
episode 6, Sorrow seems to win,  
where - among other things - you  
will hear this:

Chaika Episode 5: Time does not bring relief; you all  
have lied

15.

CREDITS MUSIC fade out

Extract from episode 6 fade in

OUTRO MUSIC

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**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]