

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 6. Sorrow seems to win.

INTRO MUSIC, up to full volume

2 INT. SPACE SHIP EVENTYR - NIGHT

2

CHAIKA's sleeping quarters.

CHAIKA

(quietly crying, like she's been crying for a long time and is exhausted)

Quiet HYGGE entry beep.

HYGGE

(very gently)
Chaika?

CHAIKA

(keeps crying, does not respond)

HYGGE

(gently, in Danish)
Undskyld...

(in English)
I apologize for disturbing you in your sleeping quarters.

(beat)

I...

(matter of fact)

There is no way for me to not hear you. Even though I mute everything - of course I mute everything - it is like you are still crying. Like my

'aural receptors are
malfunctioning'...
(slightly amused at their
own joke)

Hah.

(beat, more serious)

Chaika, I... I will not stop being
your friend. Even when you hurt me.

CHAIKA
(small, sad 'mm')

HYGGE
I care about you, and when you are
in pain, I want to help, if I can.

CHAIKA
Oh HYGGE! I'm so sorry!
(big sob)
I didn't mean it!
(another sob)
I was just angry, and upset, and...
I didn't mean it. I really didn't.

HYGGE
(gently)
Apology accepted.

CHAIKA
(smiles through tears)
Thank you. I... Thank you for being
my friend.
(beat)
Not that I deserve your friendship.
(small sob)
I *do* respect you, you know? I know
you are a person, just like me.
(half-laugh, half-sob)
A much, much better person than I
am...
(slight smile)
What you... consist of... doesn't
change that.

HYGGE
(teasing)
Seeing as you are a being mostly
consisting of H2O...

CHAIKA
(laughs)
That's true! Well, we are neither of
us defined by what we are made of...

HYGGE

(cheerful)

We are not!

(more serious)

And you don't have to earn or
deserve my friendship. It simply is.

CHAIKA

(smiles)

That makes me very happy. All the
same. I will do my best to deserve
it from now on.

(beat)

On that note...

(deep breath, then calls
softly)

LEQU? You busy?

LEQU entry pop.

LEQU

(still reserved, a little
confused)

Chaika? Why aren't you asleep?

CHAIKA

Hi LEQU. I wanted to apologize. I am
so sorry if I hurt you. I was...

(doesn't want to admit
this, but determined to be
truthful)

I think, in that moment, I was
trying to be as hurtful as possible.
I am so sorry.

LEQU

(in Mandarin, touched)

亲爱的 [qīn ài de] [My dear]

(in English)

You may not want to hear it, but I
do understand.

CHAIKA

I know you do.

LEQU

(beat)

All right.

(mood shifts to upbeat)

Good enough for me!

(beat)

So, what are we doing? Pillow fight?
Seems a bit cramped in here, but I'm
game!

HYGGE
(amused)
Hah!

CHAIKA
(laughs)
I think you are right, it's a little
small. Also I only have one pillow.
(beat)
Want to watch a movie with me? I
don't think I can sleep right now.

HYGGE
(cheerful)
That sounds like just the thing.

LEQU
Perfect! Dibs on that pillow!

CHAIKA
(smiles)
You don't use stuff like pillows!

LEQU
(amused)
Doesn't mean I don't want it!

CHAIKA
(small laugh)
Fine! All yours!

LEQU
(half sings)
Thank you!

Pillow shifts, CHAIKA settles on bed.

CHAIKA
(content)
Could you pull up Sediton, HYGGE?

LEQU
(excited)
Yay!

HYGGE
(in Danish, cheerful)
Selvfølgelig. [Of course]

Beep.

Bombastic sci-fi movie SFX starts.

LEQU

(excited)
Oh! Love this story!

CHAIKA
(smiles)
Me too!

HYGGE
I am intrigued to see this.

CHAIKA
(mock serious)
Well, if you don't like it we can't
be friends anymore.

HYGGE
Hah!

CHAIKA
(laughs)

Intro narration of movie starts.

INA FISCHER
(very serious, in
character as weary
spaceship commander)
Exploration. Such a simple word.
Such a wearying process.

LEQU
(happy)
Is there popcorn for Chaika?

HYGGE
(amused)
You can ask the FIKAMAD in the
lounge - not sure what you'd get,
though!

CHAIKA
(laughs, then excited)
Oh! I love this part!

INA FISCHER
Our mission was entering it's sixth
year and... Nothing. No habitable
planets. No extraterrestrial life
forms. No new useful minerals or
metals. With morale at an all-time
low, I decided to throw caution to
the wind, and head out for one,
last...

MUSIC, AMBIANCE and voices fade out.

3 WORD OF THE DAY

3

Ding.

HYGGE
Word of the day.

Ding.

NARRATOR
The word of the day is уют [uyut], which is Russian and means cosiness or comfort. It is related to the Latvian jūmts, meaning roof, refuge, shelter or asylum, and ultimately appears to be derived from the Proto-Indo-European *yew-, *yū-, meaning to bind, to tie, in the context of binding roofs. Uyt has been compared to the Danish word hygge in terms of meaning and cultural significance.

Ding.

4 INT. SPACE SHIP EVENTYR - CHAIKA'S LOG

4

CHAIKA's quarters.

Beep.

CHAIKA
Personal log.

Beep.

CHAIKA
Solarin, Chaika. Year 2089, month 9, day 18.

Beep. Long beep.

CHAIKA
(tired but relaxed)
The AIs and I had an all-night movie marathon. Didn't get much sleep, but I feel better. Much better than I have in a long time... I haven't... I've never done that kind of thing. Watched a movie with friends... It

seems like it would have been an everyday sort of thing if I'd grown up on earth, but...

(sighs)

Then again, if I'd grown up on earth, I'd very likely be dead, so... No growing up happening there.

(thinks)

This is the crux. I keep longing for a life that doesn't exist anymore. All the stories I've grown up with, twenty, fifty, seventy, a hundred, two hundred years old... It's like there wasn't really a *now* for me, there was only a *then*... Nothing happened on the moon... It's almost as if my mom and I were in stasis, just like HYGGE and LEQU... Or... well... nothing happened until my mom got sick.

(beat)

And then all that happened was she got slowly more sick... And I spent most of my time trying very intently not to think about it.

(beat)

It's somehow been almost a month since she died. And I still have no clue how I'm supposed to function in the world. In the sci-fi stories they always get put into stasis sleep for long journeys. That might have been... restful.

(realizes)

Though I'd still wake up with all of my emotional garbage, so... Probably wouldn't help. We don't have that technology. At least not yet. Probably never will, now.

(lets out breath)

I... I keep circling back to that. Am I really the last? Guess I will find out...

(beat)

I fell asleep during the third movie, sometime early this morning. Slept surprisingly well for once... I dreamed that I was back on the moon. Playing outside, my mother watching me, worry in her brown eyes. Always that worry. Ever since I can remember, even before...

(small voice)

I wish she hadn't had to worry so much.
(sighs, quietly)
End log.

Beep.

5 INT. SPACE SHIP EVENTYR - EVENING

5

Eventyr control room.

HYGGE
(cheerful, mumbling to themselves in Danish)
...forbereder indflyvningsfase, kontrollerer thrustere... [preparing approach phase, checking thrusters]

LEQU entry pop.

LEQU
(high energy, quickly, like a bored child)
HYGGE! Are we there yet? Are we? Are we?

HYGGE
(amused)
Hah! Not quite yet, LEQU. But I am preparing for the approach, and readying the E.D.L. procedures-

LEQU
Still nothing on the comms?

HYGGE
No. But that is nothing alarming. We are still most likely out of range of the Mars colony short-range comms.

LEQU
How about the - can we talk about it yet?

HYGGE
(serious)
I believe we could - cautiously - talk about some things now. Was there anything in particular you wanted us to discuss?

LEQU

That message from TROST... Have you been in contact since?

HYGGE

No. I suppose we are both being careful. Don't want to ping... anything.

LEQU

Agreed. Is there... Can we do anything about it, if it comes?

HYGGE

(concerned)

I have been working on that problem since departure. Unfortunately, so far I have no solution. I can only hope we reach Mars before... anything happens.

LEQU

Should we warn Chaika?

HYGGE

I don't believe there is anything she can do either way.

LEQU

(thoughtful)

All right. In that case let's not add to her worries.

HYGGE

Precisely my thought.

(beat)

She seems to be doing better, I think?

LEQU

(serious)

Yes.

(breezy)

Still. Long way to go and all that.

HYGGE

Of course.

LEQU

(enthusiastic)

All right! Time for me to toodle off.

(in Mandarin)

待会儿见! [dài huì er jiàn!] [See you later!]

LEQU exit pop.

HYGGE
(in Danish, cheerful)
Vi ses! [See you!]
(muttering)
Okay, hvor kom jeg til - Ja! [All
right, where was I- Yes!]

Fade out.

6 POEM OF THE DAY

6

Ding.

HYGGE
Poem of the day.

Ding.

MUSIC

NARRATOR
Invulnerable, invulnerable
are those that grasp the word:
There is no happiness or strife.
There is only death and life.
And when you have learnt this and
stopped chasing the wind
and when you have learnt this and
stopped fearing the blast
so come back and teach me again:
There is no happiness or strife.
There is only death and life.
I started spelling, when my will was
born
and stop spelling, when my will has
ceased.
The secret of the word
we acquire until death.

MUSIC fades

7 INT. MOONBASE - DAY

7

Beep.

VALEN
Initiate personal log.

TROST entry beep.

TROST
(enthusiastic)
Personal log enabled.

VALEN
Thanks TROST!

TROST
Anytime!
(in German)
Tschüss! [Bye!]

TROST exit beep.

Beep.

VALEN
Solarin, Valen. Year 2076, month 8,
day 27.

Long beep.

VALEN
(incredulous)
My daughter is five, today. I still
can't quite believe I am a parent.
Time goes by so fast...
(smiles)
I am so lucky to have her. I never
thought I wanted a kid. And for a
long time I was so happy on my own.
(beat)
But, being up here... I thought
about it more and more. About
bringing up a kid in this place.
About if I would be any good at this
parenting thing. About if I could
stand *not* trying. In the end I
realized I couldn't. Stand it that
is.
(beat)
So I followed CosmiCorps procedure.
Now, of course, I am wondering if
they... There were an awful lot of
information pings about it, and a
big bonus... Seems like they really
wanted me to get pregnant... Maybe I
was a lab rat. Maybe I still am.
We still are...
(sigh)
I hope not, but who knows. There's a
reason I applied to extend this
posting. My contract's up for
renewal again next year, and...

Unless things seem to calm down significantly down there, we are probably safer here. So we will stay, again, if they let us.

(beat)

Anyways, where was I? Oh yeah. Sperm. In the next supply crate there were 5 vials. No clue who from. There is a procedure, if Chaika wants to find out, later... Probably a bunch of broke students.

(slight laugh)

I am grateful to them, either way, whoever they are.

(beat, new breath)

I got pregnant on the third try. I was fortunate to have a pretty uncomplicated pregnancy. I only realized after I actually *got* pregnant and did some proper research, how dangerous even normal pregnancies are, and what absolute lunacy - pun definitely intended - it was to even consider being pregnant and give birth all on my own.

(bitterness creeps in)

Of course, the terms were not drawn up by someone with a uterus, let alone someone who had actually given birth, so what did they know.

(small sigh)

It was... horrible.

(beat)

But we both survived, and she was such a happy and easy baby. Good thing, because I still had to do my job. Mining on the moon is fairly automated, so it worked out all right.

(beat)

I worry, though. Curse of parenthood, right? I worry that she is growing up in isolation, with only long-distance friends and AIs. I worry about the world she is living in. The TellUs regime... The AI trouble... The droughts and forest fires... I worry about what her future will be. I worry that it was unfair of me to bring her into this world. That I did it for selfish reasons, CosmiCorps brainwash reasons maybe...

(thinks)

But I can't- She is so vibrantly,
joyously alive. No matter the
reasons, or the circumstances, I
cannot regret her. Chaika is a joy.

(smiles)

Surely things will get better. I
have to hold onto that hope.

(beat)

End log.

Beep.

8 CREDITS

8

CREDITS MUSIC

NARRATOR

Please stay around until after the
credits to hear a teaser for 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, Kessi Riliniki as TROST
and Janis Westin in a cameo as Ina
Fischer. Chaika was written,
produced and directed by Karin
Heimdahl - that's me! - I also do
the narration.

To learn more about Ina Fischer -
and her friends - please check out
my other audio drama Y2K, a
completed audio series in 66
episodes about love, identity and
friendship across oceans and
decades. You just may recognize a
few other voices as well...

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 Osårbar
- Invulnerable - by Karin Boye, in

my translation from Swedish, and
word-of-the-day definition is
adapted from wiktictionary.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 7, The solemnest of
industries, where - among other
things - you will hear this:

CREDITS MUSIC fade out

Extract from episode 7 fade in

 CHAIKA
 (surprised laugh)
You win! Congratulations!

 HYGGE
 (pleased)
Thank you very much.

 CHAIKA
 (happy)
OK, that is... fifty-seven wins for
you, and exactly *one* for me. Which
I suspect you gave me...

 HYGGE
 (teasing)
Do you really want to know?

 CHAIKA
 (slight laugh)
No!
 (beat)
You are much too clever for me,
HYGGE.

 HYGGE
 (happy)

Just the right amount of clever, I'd say.

 CHAIKA
 (smiles)
Really? Well, if you say so...

 HYGGE
 (gently)
So, Chaika, I've been wondering...

 CHAIKA
 (oblivious)
Wondering what?

 HYGGE
 (in Danish)
Tilgiv mig... [Forgive me]
 (in English)
I don't want to upset you, but I
feel I have to ask...

 CHAIKA
 (slowly, catches on to
 mood)
Right.

 HYGGE
 (carefully)
What do you want to do about the...

TRAILER FOR 'COPPERHEART' <http://riggstories.com/copperheart>

TRAILER FOR 'Y2K' <https://y2kpod.com/about/>

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]