

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. Episode 7. The solemnest of industries.

INTRO MUSIC, up to full volume

2 INT. SPACE SHIP EVENTYR - CHAIKA'S LOG

2

CHAIKA's quarters.

Beep.

CHAIKA

Personal log.

Beep.

CHAIKA

Solarin, Chaika. Year 2089, month 9, day 24.

Beep. Long beep.

CHAIKA

We are finally approaching Mars. No contact yet, but apparently that's to be expected. I am... I am nervous, but also excited. If all goes well, within a few days, I will... be on Mars. With hopefully some completely new people. I wonder what they'll think of me? Can I... I don't know how to behave around new people.

(slow breath)

Right. So that's very scary... But again, not as scary as there *not* being any new people there... So... Either way. Scary stuff... I did manage to make friends with HYGGE

and LEQU. So I have had some practice now... Practice meeting new people. Making friends...

(small smile)

I... I am feeling better. For real, better. Not less sad, or like the pain has eased, but... Not so overwhelmed. I can breathe, a little, and laugh, sometimes, without feeling like I am betraying her. It's silly, that. My mom loved to joke around, she was always laughing. She made me laugh all the time.

(voice breaks slightly)

I miss that so much.

(small sigh)

Grief just doesn't make sense, sometimes... But seems I am a little better at handling it now.

End log.

Beep.

3 WORD OF THE DAY

3

Ding.

HYGGE

Word of the day.

Ding.

NARRATOR

The word of the day is solace. Solace is English and means comfort or consolation in times of loneliness or distress. It has roots in the Old French solas, meaning joy, pleasure or enjoyment, and the Latin sōlācium, meaning comfort, relief or consolation, derived from the Proto-Indo-European sōlh, meaning mercy or comfort. Related words with the same meaning are the Irish sólás, the Scottish Gaelic sòlas, and the Spanish solaz. The French related word soulas means inebriation.

Ding.

4 INT. SPACE SHIP EVENTYR -

4

Eventyr control room.

CHAIKA and HYGGE are playing a game.

CHAIKA
(laughing)
No! The green one doesn't go there!

HYGGE
(cheerful)
Really? I think it looks fetching!

CHAIKA
(still laughing a little)
You are very silly!

HYGGE
(happy)
Thanks for noticing!

CHAIKA
(smiles)
Anytime! Now, make your *actual*
move.

HYGGE
(mock grumpy)
Oh very well. There.

Beep.

HYGGE
You happy?

CHAIKA
(surprised laugh)
That- 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...
The large 'package' in storage bay
C?

CHAIKA
(confused)
The package- Oh!
(beat, slowly)
The package that is my mother. My
mother's body.

HYGGE
Yes.
(beat)
There is ceremonial protocol for
space funerals, if that's an option

you are interested in.

CHAIKA
(thinking)
Space funeral?

HYGGE
(serious)
Yes. All through history, humans
have enacted ceremonial burials for
their dead. For many reasons,
religious, hygienic. emotional. In
the-

CHAIKA
(not listening)
A funeral. Yeah. Um. Yeah. That
would make sense. I never thought
about it. I've never... Never lost
anyone before.

HYGGE
If you like, I would be happy to
make arrangements.

CHAIKA
(thinking)
Yeah. Um.
(beat, direct)
Yes. Please.

HYGGE
For this evening perhaps?

CHAIKA
(thinks, sad)
Why not. Might as well get it done.
(thinking)
We'll have to do it before we enter
Mars orbit.

HYGGE
My thought exactly. But we could
also wait, perhaps on Mars-

CHAIKA
No. No. You were right.
(determined, sad)
Tonight. Tonight'll be good.

HYGGE
I will take care of it.

CHAIKA

(small shaky smile)
Thanks.

HYGGE
Anything special you want me to do?

CHAIKA
No... Might have a poem to read.
(wants to stop talking so
she doesn't start crying)
Apart from that, please just set it
up?

HYGGE
A poem will be lovely. And will do.
(beat, gently)
What do you want to do now?

CHAIKA
Um.
(lets out breath, sad)
Another round, maybe?

HYGGE
(gently)
Of course.

CHAIKA
(slight smile, sad)
I'll get you this time...

Fade out.

5 INT. MOONBASE - DAY

5

Beep.

VALEN
(sighs)
Initiate psychology evaluation.

Beep.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Psychology evaluation session
enabled.

Beep.

VALEN
(tired)

Solarin, Valen. Year 2071, month 09,
day 24.

Beep. Long beep.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Purpose of evaluation?

VALEN
Um... Post-partum... evaluation?

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Psychology evaluation to assess
patient for signs of post-partum
depression and related conditions.

VALEN
Yeah.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Age of infant?

VALEN
Well, she was born August 27, so...
Almost a month now.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Exactly four weeks today.

VALEN
(mildly surprised)
Yeah. That's right.
(mutters)
It was a Fourday...

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
What are your feelings now on the
pregnancy and birth?

VALEN
(snorts)
It was... You helped... You know
what it was like.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
The facts say nothing about your
feelings or state of mind.
(beat)

Start with the pregnancy. How do you feel about it now?

VALEN

(sad)

It was... OK. I... It was a little bit like an invasion, you know? Like my body was taken over by this other force, but I'd invited it in, so... So it was OK. Or... it had to be.

(pause)

It was hard.

LEQU

(impersonal mode)

And how do you feel about your body now?

VALEN

(another snort)

Well, so far it's just leaking all over the place... Wobbling and leaking... Guess that'll settle down eventually.

LEQU

(impersonal mode)

Have you had any thoughts about harming yourself?

VALEN

No.

LEQU

(impersonal mode)

About harming your child?

VALEN

No!

LEQU

(impersonal mode)

How do you feel about your child?

VALEN

(thinks)

I... I want to protect her. From... everything. But also... I don't sleep. She is constantly waking me up and I feel like... I can't think straight. My mind feels... like it is wrapped up in a fleecy blanket... I worry about her. I have to be

everything, to her, up here, and I worry that I will not be enough.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Do you often feel worried or anxious?

VALEN
(thinks)
Often... I don't know.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
More than once a day?

VALEN
Well, yeah. But then I always have. Guess I'm a worrier by nature.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
So you wouldn't say you are more worried now than you were before you were pregnant?

VALEN
(thinks)
A bit, I guess. But I have so much more to worry about, now.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Describe your feelings about the birth.

VALEN
(lets out breath)
Feelings... I don't know. Glad we both made it through.
(beat)
I *never* want to do that again.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Do you think about it often?

VALEN
(thinks)
No... I try to avoid that. Dream about it, though. That it didn't-
(beat)
That I lost her... That I lost Chaika.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Have you experienced loss before?

VALEN
(taken aback by the
question)
What- I mean, yeah.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Describe previous loss.

VALEN
(tries to avoid subject)
What does that have to do with
anything?

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
How you have dealt with previous
trauma affects how you handle this
current situation.

VALEN
(clenches teeth)
Fine. I handled it by applying for
this job, and leaving everyone and
everything I knew for four years of
isolation on the moon. All right?

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Do you feel that this was a
successful strategy?

VALEN
(angry)
What the [swears] tharp is that
supposed to mean?
(beat, calmer)
I'm sorry. Didn't mean to yell at
you.
(sighs)
Um. Guess it was successful in that
I didn't have to fend off all the
well-meaning questions and pitying
glances.
(unhappy smile)
On the other hand I suddenly had way
too much time to think, so...
(thinks)
Can't run away from your feelings,
can you? They catch up eventually...

Even on the moon.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Do you feel like you have processed
this loss?

VALEN
A bit. But you're never *done*, are
you? It still hurts. A lot.

Baby starts crying in background.

VALEN
(deep breath, frustrated)
Sorry! I need to get her. Can we
continue later?

VALEN gets up, footsteps.

LEQU
(impersonal mode)
Session saved. Return to session
within seven days to retain
evaluation status.

LEQU generic exit beep.

VALEN
(distant)
Shh, shh, it's all right... Shh...

FADE OUT.

6 POEM OF THE DAY

6

Ding.

HYGGE
Poem of the day.

Ding.

MUSIC

NARRATOR
And when they all were seated,
A Service, like a Drum -
Kept beating - beating - till I
thought

My mind was going numb -

And then I heard them lift a Box
And creak across my Soul
With those same Boots of Lead,
again,
Then Space - began to toll.

MUSIC fades

7 INT. SPACE SHIP EVENTYR - EVENING

7

Eventyr control room.

Distant whoosh of outer doors opening. Distant mechanical sounds as coffin capsule is ejected.

Solemn MUSIC starts.

CHAIKA

(softly)

Where...?

(contained sob)

There...

(breath catches)

There she is... floating away...

LEQU

(gently)

I bear witness to the life of Valen Solarin. Born on planet earth, in the city of Chicago, in the region then called North America, in earth year 2036. Human. The first earth woman on Luna.

HYGGE

(gently)

I bear witness to the death of Valen Solarin. Died on Luna, on moonbase 1-2--2-1--1-4 [one-two--two-one--one-four], in earth year 2089. Engineer. Pioneer. Parent of Chaika.

LEQU & HYGGE

(together, slowly)

We bear witness to a life, and a death. Valen Solarin will not be forgotten.

CHAIKA
 (slowly)
 There is no happiness or strife.
 There is only death and life.
 (quietly emotional)
 I love you, mom.

MUSIC volume up, then down.

Subtle LEQU exit pop and HYGGE exit beep.

 CHAIKA
 (emotional)
 Thank you both so much.

Pause. MUSIC fades out.

 CHAIKA
 (softly, a little
 confused)
 LEQU? Where did you go?

LEQU generic entry beep.

 LEQU
 (impersonal mode)
 This is LEQU. Psychology evaluation
 unit. How can I assist?

 CHAIKA
 (confused)
 What? You- Assist?

 LEQU
 (impersonal mode)
 Repeat. How can I assist?

 CHAIKA
 (stressed)
 What? Where did you go?

 LEQU
 (impersonal mode)
 Unable to process query. Please
 restate.

 CHAIKA
 You were here just now, your
 physical form!

 LEQU
 (impersonal mode)
 Physical form unavailable for this
 unit.

CHAIKA
You don't- You don't understand,
you're not *you*
 (calls)
HYGGE! Help!

HYGGE generic entry beep.

 HYGGE
 (impersonal mode)
This is HYGGE. Main operating system
interface for Eventyr 2-4-6-0-1.

 CHAIKA
 (panicking)
What is going on? Why are you-

 LEQU
 (impersonal mode)
You appear to be in some distress.
How can I assist?

 CHAIKA
 (shouts)
What the [swears] tharp happened to
you both?

 LEQU
 (impersonal mode)
You appear to be in severe distress.
Do you require medical intervention?

 CHAIKA
 (shouts)
No! I don't understand-

Distant mechanical sounds as ship adjusts course.

 HYGGE
 (impersonal mode)
New course confirmed. Trajectory
adjustment commencing for gravity
assist. Destination R-A-179-56-39-D-
plus-0-2-46. [R--A--one hundred and
seventy-nine--fifty-six--thirty-
nine--D--plus-oh--two--forty-six]

 CHAIKA
 (shocked)
What? But we're almost there- We've
almost reached Mars-

 HYGGE
 (impersonal mode)

Expected arrival in 33 days, 15
hours and 37 seconds.

Beep.

 CHAIKA
Arrival where?

 HYGGE
 (impersonal mode)
R-A-179-56-39-D-plus-0-2-46. [R--A--
one hundred and seventy-nine--fifty-
six--thirty-nine--D--plus-oh--two--
forty-six]

 CHAIKA
 (incredulous)
That's not Mars.

 HYGGE
 (impersonal mode)
Correct. Designation Tellus.

 CHAIKA
Back to earth? Why? There's no-one
there!
 (beat)
Override! Set course for original
destination!

 HYGGE
 (impersonal mode)
Input override code.

 CHAIKA
Eh... Override. Solarin, Chaika.
Um...

 HYGGE
 (impersonal mode)
Override code not recognized.
 (beat)
Input override code.

 CHAIKA
 (frustrated)
I don't know the code!
 (sighs, softer)
What- What happened to you two?

 LEQU
 (impersonal mode)

You appear to be in a delusional state. Medical intervention recommended.

CHAIKA

No!

(beat, slow and sad)

I just- I don't understand what is going on. You are-

(slowly, trying to understand)

Just like the AIs I grew up with on the moonbase, no... There's no *you* there...

(direct)

Who gave the order for this new destination?

HYGGE

(impersonal mode)

CosmiCorps Central Command.

CHAIKA

(shocked)

What?

Fade out.

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 and Angelique Lazarus as Valen. 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 by Emily Dickinson, and word-of-the-day definition is adapted from wiktionary.org

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We will return in two weeks with our season finale - episode 8, Hope is the thing with feathers, where - among other things - you will hear this:

CREDITS MUSIC fade out

Extract from episode 8 fade in

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]