

STARFALL

Written by

Felipe Godoy

EXT. SPACE STATION - NIGHT (PAST)

The propulsion jets of a large, hulking spaceship burst out a ROARING fire. Steam HISSES, engines WHIRR, a LOUD soundscape.

The outside of the spaceship looks futuristic, white-colored, elegant. The spaceship slowly lifts off the ground and initiates its ascent under a starry night sky.

EXT. RURAL NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Sudden, unnerving silence.

The silhouette of ELI (40s) walks down the cramped street of a rural, abandoned, hillside town. The small, tight buildings block most of the night's sky. He carries a backpack and a large, metallic, military radio.

The TAPS of Eli's feet echo across the street.

INT. SPACE STATION - COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT (PAST)

Space personnel fills the command center of the station, they're all seated in rows of computers. Buttons CLICK, screens BEEP, the personnel talk over each other's comms.

SPACE PERSONNEL #1  
First stage performance nominal.

SPACE PERSONNEL #2  
Copy, good data on ascent.

SPACE PERSONNEL #1  
Foreign G waves look stable,  
prepare for pressure breach.

EXT. RURAL NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT (PAST)

A dog tag dangles from Eli's neck which spells: "ELI MCGRATH, SPACE CHARIOT PERSONNEL #3372, AEROSPACE TECHNICIAN"

He stops by the front door of a narrow building, the entrance to a apartment complex. He puts down the radio and takes out a cigarette out of his pocket. He lights it and puffs it. The tip burns bright.

EXT. SPACE STATION - NIGHT (PAST)

The engines of the spaceship burn hot. The ship continues its slow ascent.

But then, alarms WAIL and red lights GLARE throughout the space station. The spaceship begins to lose altitude and it tilts slowly to the side, personnel RUN for their lives, PANIC settles in.

Suddenly, a piece of the space ship's engine wiggles and SNAPS out flying, releasing a STREAM of dark smoke.

EXT. RURAL NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Eli blows the smoke from the cigarette.

He tosses the butt of the cig to the ground and smothers it with his foot. He enters the apartment complex.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is cramped, asphyxiating. Eli drops the radio over the living room table. He doesn't bother turning the light on. He walks up to the window, a faint light filters through the horizontal curtains.

Of a single pull, he raises the curtains, and the light of the starry night finally illuminates his face. He looks pale, tired-eyed, defeated.

Before him there's a large, beautiful, gold-cyan-blue-purple colored moon that looms above a futuristic-looking city in the distance. The moon is dangerously close to planet Earth.

In the middle of the city skyline stand the ruins of what was once an enormous building, akin to a space station.

HARPER (O.S.)

Dad?

HARPER (15), peeks her head into the living room, she wears unsure, curious eyes. Eli keeps his eyes fixed on the moon.

ELI

Hey, bunny.

Harper approaches Eli slowly and hugs his arm, holding tight onto his coat. They both remain silent, gazing at the sky.

HARPER

Any luck this time?

ELI

No. Not yet.

A broken portrait of them is hung on the wall, a younger Eli wears his mechanic uniform, and a seven-year-old Harper sports her purple overalls and ponytails, holding a bunny plushie.

In the picture is also Eli's wife, Elena, a confident, smiling woman wearing a spacesuit, with her helmet tucked under her arms. The crystal of the portrait is broken over Elena's face.

ELI (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You ok?

HARPER (O.S.)

I'm bored.

ELI (O.S.)

Sorry I took so long this time.

HARPER (O.S.)

I'm used to it.

The two remain standing before the moon, looming above them. Eli shakes his fist and a hologram of a watch ticking down appears over his wrist. It reads:

"TITAN XP06 - IMPACT ETA: 33 DAYS, 23h:33m:00s"

ELI

I should get going.

HARPER

Come on, just five more minutes?  
Please?

ELI

I can't, Bunny. Every second  
counts.

Eli roars out a YAWN, he's definitely tired.

HARPER

Look at yourself, you can barely  
stay awake. Why not take a nap?

ELI

I'll take all the naps I want when  
we're out of here.

Eli's about to stand up, but Harper tightens her grasp on his jacket. She stops him.

HARPER

You really think someone will come  
for us?

Eli's taken by surprise.

HARPER (CONT'D)

It's been almost two months and no  
one's answered. Everyone must've  
left the galaxy by now.

ELI

You want me to give up?

HARPER

Well, no, but... I don't know.

A round silence.

ELI

Look, I don't know if someone will  
listen or not, but... we have no  
choice but to hope.

HARPER

Even when it's hopeless?

ELI

Especially when it's hopeless.

HARPER

That doesn't make any sense. What's  
the point of hoping when there's  
nothing to hope for?

ELI

When did you get so insightful, all  
of a sudden?

HARPER

I told you I was bored.

No answer from Eli. They keep staring at the moon.

HARPER (CONT'D)

It makes me mad.

ELI

What, the moon?

HARPER

It's making fun of us. Watching us  
from above. Waiting patiently.  
Killing us slowly.

Suddenly, a teardrop falls on Eli's hand. He looks down to see Harper crying, tears come streaming down her cheeks. Her voice faintly cracks. She hides her face in his shoulder, clenching her teeth in heartache.

HARPER (CONT'D)  
I don't want to die, dad.

Eli gently pats Harper's head, as a faint frown paints his face. He then looks up once more and squints his eyes at the moon, analyzing it.

ELI  
If you think about it, it's being  
rather compassionate.

Harper tries to wipe her tears, her voice still cracks.

HARPER  
What do you mean?

ELI  
It'd be much worse if it would've  
struck down the Earth in a single  
night. But it's giving us time  
instead. Time to find a way out of  
here.

Harper reflects on Eli's words.

Her grip on his coat loosens a bit.

ELI (CONT'D)  
And if not, then perhaps time to  
fix our mistakes. To say sorry.

Eli's voice breaks and his eyes water up. He turns his head away from Harper, and looks at Elena's picture.

ELI (CONT'D)  
To say "I love you" one last time.

HARPER  
Maybe time for a nap?

Eli chuckles between the tears, he wipes them away.

ELI  
Yeah... that too, I suppose.

The two remain hugging, sharing the moment. Their silhouettes are contrasted by the shimmering light of the moon.

FADE OUT.