

## Adrift

*Click.*

It was dead silent in the room. Too silent. I wondered if this is what Neil felt.

“Wussup?” Deke said as he walked into the Eirene Mission preparation room.

Deke was a little too talkative sometimes. But he was the best of us. Deke sat there for a few seconds after noticing the quiet tenor in the room.

“What is with you all today? Shouldn’t this be exciting?” Deke asked.

“I don’t know. Maybe just thinking about leaving our family for this insane mission!” Gordan butted in. “I can’t leave my family like that!”

“Hey! Calm down. Do you know why we named this mission Eirene?” John stated.

“I could care less!” Gordan remarked lackadaisically.

The silence grew and overflowed the room after that. Nothing can change what he said. 5 minutes later, an IT man came into the room.

“We are ready for transport.”

Those are the last words I heard before we were taken straight to a dark, red rocket.

“Please enter the capsule.” A loud, familiar voice in my space helmet said. I realized that I had a microphone in my spacesuit.

My 4 patriotic peers and I entered the spaceship.

“This ship is ugly.” Deke said loudly so that everyone could hear.

“Well good luck because you will be staying here for the next 50 days (about 1 and a half months) or so.” The spacecraft communicator in my head stated.

“Hello, my name is Carl, and I will be communicating with you during your trip to the Red Planet.”

“I knew it was you, Carl!” I said with a convicting tone. “I knew it was your voice!”

Carl was an exceptionally good friend of mine, and he was always there for me when I needed him. Therefore, it was comforting to know that he would be there for me during the trip even though he does not really listen to my questions.

“Mr. Galileo is the team leader for this mission,” Carl said with a confirming tone. “Mark oversees everything on board.”

I realized that Walter did not speak at all. Maybe was thinking; maybe he was shy. I never found out. I panicked for a second.

“Liftoff in 3 minutes,” the spaceship said.

All five of us immediately went to the primary room and turned on the main power.

“This button system is way different than I’m used to,” Walter complained.

“Well, this spaceship is going to a planet that no one has been to,” Gordan remarked.

2 minutes passed, and things were getting loud. The engine was screaming, and the white noise was terrifying. There was lots of background noise in my microphone. All I heard were voices in my head but, Carl

spoke with guidance and dulled all the noises. *Bam!* A huge noise startled everyone. Nobody knew what that noise was.

Nevertheless, Carl stated that “everything was fine.”

Anyways, an announcer had started a countdown. “15...14...13!”

I froze. Finally, a familiar voice woke me up and a pulled the switch. Everyone was in position to start the mission.

“Let’s ride” Deke said enthusiastically.

A huge boom sounded the engines.

### **DAY 1**

“Hello. My name is Mark Galileo, and I am the captain of Mission Eirene. I fear nothing. We fear nothing.”

Some of what I said was not true. Everyone in this ship is afraid. I do not have a fear really because nothing scares me. I soon realized that what I thought at the time was not true.

“Hey.” Deke said while patching up some tears on the ship.

Apparently, that big boom caused a multifarious number of tears on the ship.

“What’s good” Gordan said with a little bit of sluggishness.

Gordan was our fuel manager. On the other hand, Walter was our rations manager.

### **DAY 3**

I could not really tell if the tears were getting larger or smaller. Deke has not really given many updates. I looked out the window out to Earth. I lost something for sure. Something grand.... something gallant.

“Food is ready. Time to eat.” Walter reminded me.

### **DAY 15**

“Fix them tears yet?” Carl asked in a fun tone.

“Not yet man” I said with an annoyed tone.

I felt a little bit of anger in me. Probably because I get bombarded with things so quickly. I was always so busy... something is up. An opaque noise rings through the air.

“That’s weird.” Gordan said on his comms. “What’s going on Deke...Deke?”

### **DAY 20**

Deke was a good man. The tears got to him. An unrepairable hole has been made from the bottom left of the ship.

Carl has stated to “keep focusing on the mission”.

How can I focus if everyone on this mission dies!

## **DAY 35**

“Ya’ll are getting close. Stay put.” Carl remarked for the 1 millionth time.

Repeatedly I have the same schedule. Wake up, check up on what is left of our team, sleep. I feel as if every mile we get closer to Mars. Is every ounce of my sanity being taken away. I wonder how John has been because he has been quiet this whole time.

“John what’s the sitrep... John?”

Not this again. I rush down to his living quarters in breakneck speeds and I finally catch him laying down.

“I can’t do this anymore.” John stated with hopelessness. “It doesn’t matter anymore.”

He quickly revealed a knife in his hand which he pointed at the wall.

“Let’s calm down here.” I said with anger.

“I’ve already tried that.”

*Bam!* The knife was inserted into the loose wall and space started to consume the environment. The blast from the impact quickly casted me adrift.

## **DAY 42**

A threatening gaze woke me.

“Oh my. You’re finally awake.” Gordan stated with relief.

“Wh-what? Where am I?” Mark questioned.

“Here. Take some rest.” Gordan replied.

After that, I heard some quiet mumbling. Finally, I fell into a deep drowse.

## **DAY 43**

“So, let’s reinstate your memory.” Walter went.

He asked a couple of questions and I answered truthfully.

“The last thing I could remember was John holding that knife.” Mark said.

“John- he’s dead.” Walter stated softly.

I went silent.

## **DAY 47**

“So close but so far.” Carl imputed. “Most of our ship is cornered off and destroyed.”

“We will make it.” Mark frustratingly said.

“How? The air conditioning barely even works.” Carl also frustratingly stating.

“We got this, guys.” Walter joined in at the wrong time.

Suddenly, Walter fainted and had a heart attack.

## **DAY 50 (Final Day)**

"I don't even think 2 people can land on Mars. Especially if the ship overheats." Carl insisted.

"Shut your trap." Mark replied. "Failure is not an option."

"I don't know man." Gordon stupidly said.

"1000 miles until impact." Carl said nervously

The ship started to get hotter and hotter and hotter and finally, it felt like a million degrees here!

"I-it's too hot-." Gordon proceeded to lose his breath and faint.

Gordan controlled the parachute.... Oh no. It was already too late.

### **DAY ???**

I met a man. I believe he was the first on this planet. I felt an unwavering pressure and anger flow away from my mind. I was at peace. Was I adrift? Is this what Neil was feeling?

"Where am I?" I inquired.

The familiar man approached, and I felt an unwavering amount of comforting energy the closer he got. He seemed unfazed and ignored my question.

"Hello." The man uttered. "How did you get here?"

Do I have a story to tell. The story started like this,

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