

EARTH ECLIPSED

Season 1

Episode 2: Escape

Created by

Nicholas Prufer, Victor Lee & AJ Churchill

Written by

Alexa Polivka

Transcript Prepared by

Caroline Mincks



PREVIOUSLY ON

Atmospheric music plays behind the narrator, simple humming tones that gradually build in intensity.

NARRATOR

Previously on Earth Eclipsed. The chain of events The Abacus Project set in motion.

PARAIS

Good evening, Human Concord. With me, the brilliant scientist and visionary inventor, Doctor Alex Prometh.

ALEX

My life's mission has always been to make a mark on humanity by changing it for the better.

PARAIS

The source says there is a connection between these recorded memories and the resource monitors.

ALEX

I—and HoloCorp—simply analyze data that is already present on the Monitors.

LINUS

Any idiot in the Human Concord— in the inhabited universe— knows we are hiding something.

KANDO

Alexine, you have one month.

NICO

(on recording)

I know information about the The Abacus Project leaker. Meet me on the abandoned mining station in sector D549.

MAX

But what if we're flying into danger, or—

NICO

We're going to get into a resource monitor and then you are going to find and interpret a specific memory encoding for me.

ALEX

Why would I go anywhere with you?

NICO

You don't have a choice.

Sound of NICO'S high frequency pressure gun charging, then the sound of the explosives going off. Music fades out as the current episode begins.

INT. THE GUNGNIR, WASTE RECLAMATION ROOM - DAY

Deep, heavy snoring.

ALEX

(voice echoing, as though from a distance)

Wake up.

MAX stirs, but doesn't awaken. More snoring.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(voice becoming clearer)

Wake up. Max! Wake up!

Sound of the environment fades in, humming and slight clanging of ship mechanics.

MAX

(groggy)

Wha...what happened?

ALEX

He must have knocked us out with sleep Emotea so he could take us prisoner aboard his ship.

MAX is fully awake now.

MAX

(panicked)

Are you okay? Are you hurt? Did he hurt you?

ALEX

I'm fine.

MAX

But you could have been seriously injured! Or...Or...

He can't bring himself to say it.

MAX (CONT'D)

Weapons? Actual weapons?
It's...it's unthinkable! And what
if he...And what if you...

(beat)

Thank the Concord you're all right.

ALEX

We need to find a way to escape. I
was trying to jam the door lock
mechanism while you were asleep,
but it didn't work. Maybe you'll
have better luck.

MAX

No! No, no. Concord knows what that
madman is capable of. No. No, the
safest thing for us to do is to sit
tight, and wait for security to
rescue us.

ALEX

If they knew where we were, they
would have done it already.

Music begins to play quietly under, a subtle, synth staccato
melody.

MAX

They saw the explosion! They know
we're in danger.

ALEX

The only tracker was on our ship,
which I'm sure is long behind us by
now.

MAX

They'll be doing mass sweeps!
They'll find us!

ALEX

But what if they don't?

MAX

They will! They will. "Every citizen in the Human Concord has a right to live in peace, comfort, and safety." Article 6. Peace and safety. It's their duty! They will find us!

ALEX

We need to send them a message, let them know where we are. And that starts with finding a way out of this room.

MAX

(to himself, panicking)
Peace and safety. Peace and safety. They'll find us. They will find us. They'll find us!

MAX'S breath catches.

ALEX

Max. Max, are you all right?

MAX starts to hyperventilate.

MAX

(stammering)
I don't - I d-didn't know...violence would be so...so...

ALEX

Breathe. Breathe, breathe. Breathe with me, Max. Breathe in...

She takes a big breath in. MAX follows her lead, his breath hissing as he tries to calm down.

ALEX (CONT'D)

...and out.

She exhales deeply. So does Max.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Again. Again, in...and out.

They repeat the slower breaths. MAX calms.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Listen to me. I have no doubt that the minute the Concord knows where we are, they'll send every cruiser in the galaxy.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

But the only way they'll have even a chance at locating us is if we somehow manage to send them a transmission. And that starts with you unlocking that door.

It isn't a request - it's an order.

A beat. MAX braces himself, taking a deep breath in, then out.

MAX

All right.

ALEX

The locking mechanism is over there, on the wall.

Footsteps as MAX makes his way to the door. He sniffs the air, and gags.

MAX

Ugh. What is that smell?

ALEX

He locked us inside the ship's waste reclamator.

MAX

Uncivilized *outer worlder*.

'Outer worlder' drips with disdain as he says it.

MAX tries the lock mechanism - several high beeps sound, then a buzzer goes off to indicate an incorrect code. He tries again and again, a final buzz taking us to the title sequence.

Opening music plays, with its strong drums and tense, dissonant melody taking us to the next scene as it fades out.

INT. GUNGNIR COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

Several beeps, then music plays, dramatic strings clearly meant to sound inspiring and stirring. As it plays under the recording, the music becomes cheerful and upbeat.

PLEASANT VOICE

(automated recording)

Welcome, Citizens of the Concord,
to the Museum of Galactic History,
the most inspiring place in the
galaxy. Prepare to be dazzled.

(MORE)

PLEASANT VOICE (CONT'D)

Prepare to be awed. Prepare to learn about the pillars of galactic society.

NICO

Sai, would you shut her up?

SAI

I can't. It's an automatic transmission.

PLEASANT VOICE

Journey through time as you explore humanity's darkest era, the Days of Distance, a seemingly hopeless period. Experience the years of struggle - and then rejoice in the triumph of our recovery. As you walk this path from desperation to glory, we have three varieties of happy Emotea to keep you cheery - contentedness, joy, and bliss! Now available in blueberry!

NICO

I can't - unbelievable.

PLEASANT VOICE

After visiting our many galleries and interactive exhibits, take a break at our galaxy famous snack stand. And don't forget to commemorate your visit with your very own holo recording, available for purchase at our gift shop! Enjoy your stay, and happiness and prosperity to all!

A soft buzz as the recording ends.

NICO

What a load of crap. Ignorance and complacency to all is more like it.

SAI

Bet you that gift shop is nice.

NICO

Don't start with me, Sai.

NOVA

We'll be docking soon.

Sounds of levers being thrown and buttons being pressed as they prepare to land.

NICO
Sai, you handle the docking. Nova,
you're with me.

Footsteps as they go to leave the cockpit. The cockpit door opens with a high beep and the sound of a sliding door.

NICO (CONT'D)
Let's retrieve our 'guests.'

Synth music plays as the scene transitions.

INT. GUNGNIR HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Footsteps as they approach the waste reclamator. NICO knocks hard on the door.

NICO
(loudly, through the door)
Hey! Hope you two got some beauty
sleep. We've got work to do.

NOVA
I'll get the door.

Beeping as NOVA operates the lockpad. There is a hiss and the sound of metal sliding as the door opens.

A beat of silence.

NICO
(shouting)
Where the hell are they?

NOVA
They couldn't have escaped. It's
impossible! The only way out is the
door.

Beeping as NOVA checks something.

NOVA (CONT'D)
And the log says it has not been
opened!

NICO
You take starboard and I'll take
port. Get Sai to do a sweep of the
ship, look for their heartbeats.
We'll find them.

Their footsteps get farther and farther away as they run off to search the ship.

A beat of silence.

ALEX
(whispering)
I think they're gone.

MAX
(whispering)
Thank the Concord you noticed the bolt in that wall panel was loose.

ALEX
(whispering)
Thank the Concord we both fit behind it.

We hear metal sliding as ALEX and MAX move the wall panel they were hiding behind.

ALEX (CONT'D)
They left the door open! We have to get to the cockpit.

Footsteps as they run. Sound fades out for a few beats.

INT. GUNGNIR COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

The whirring sound of the cockpit.

ALEX
(whispering)
Max! I found it! In here!

Beeps as ALEX unlocks the door, metal sliding as it opens. Footsteps as she and MAX make her way in. Quiet buzzing and a soft clang as the door closes.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Max, do you remember the name of the ship? I'm sure he said it but I can't recall.

MAX
I think it's the Gungnir.

ALEX
(clears throat)
Gungnir, send a broadband transmission to all surrounding ships.

Silence.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Are you sure it was the Gungnir?

MAX

Pretty sure. I think this is another machine that isn't voice activated. From the look of it, I'd guess it's an old mining ship.

ALEX

Do you know how to operate these controls?

MAX

(to himself as he tries to remember)

Mining ship, mining ship. Communications...I think it's a small yellow button? Yes, and the panel right above it will have some squiggly lines, meant to indicate soundwaves.

ALEX

You take that side of the panel. I'll search this one.

Footsteps and whirs as they move and begin to search.

MAX gasps.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Did you find it?

MAX

No.
(whispering in awe)
It's a robot!

ALEX

(disregarding him as she continues to search)
Yellow button...yellow, yellow, yellow...

MAX

I've read about them. I've seen them in holo history books. But...they've been banned for centuries. I never thought I'd see an actual-

A stammering whirr as SAI powers up.

SAI

Thank the stars you're here!

MAX

Holy black holes! It can talk!

SAI

We've been looking all over for you! Pardon my rudeness for not saying hello, but I'm in the middle of so much right now, what with docking the ship and sending a message to the Captain to let him know I found you. He'll be so pleased!

ALEX

Max. Transmission. Now.

MAX

I'm on it.

A beat.

MAX (CONT'D)

Found it!

Beeping as MAX opens a transmission.

MAX (CONT'D)

We're broadcasting.

ALEX

This is Dr. Alexine Prometh. We've been taken prisoner aboard a hostile vessel, the Gungnir. Our captors are armed and should be considered extremely dangerous-

She's interrupted by the door opening.

NICO

Shut it off, Sai.

A beep as Sai shuts the transmission off.

NICO (CONT'D)

You wouldn't know this since we just met, but I hate it when anyone other than my crew touches my ship.

ALEX

Pardon me if I don't much care how you feel.

NICO

(with a humorless laugh)
Aren't you brave? Nova, tie them up so they don't cause any more trouble.

NOVA

I will blindfold them as well. We cannot be too careful, yes?

NICO

Sounds good to me.

MAX

Don't you dare touch her!

NICO

And while you're at it, gag 'em.

ALEX

Concord Security forces will track that transmission. If you know what's good for you, you'll-

She gets cut off as NOVA gags her, though she continues to try and talk.

NICO

Doctor, you're making this much more difficult than it needs to be. I'm not asking for a lot, here. Help me retrieve a memory. Hell, I even know which memory you're looking for, and where to find it. It's not like I'm asking you to spend standard days of your time scouring for some obscure needle in a galaxy. So, whaddaya say? Tell me you'll help me, and I'll take off the restraints.

We can't hear ALEX'S answer through the gag, but from the tone of her muffled voice, it's clear it's a firm no.

NICO (CONT'D)

(sighing)

I tried to be nice, Doctor.
Remember that.

Transition music, tense and dramatic. It comes to an abrupt stop.

INT. MUSEUM OF GALACTIC SOCIETY - MOMENTS LATER

The faint sounds of the cheerful museum music in the background. Several beeps sound, and ALEX can be heard still protesting from behind her gag.

SECURITY PAD

Please hold up your palm so your Personal Identification Chip can be scanned.

NOVA

Hold her still. I will grab her palm.

Muffled protests from ALEX. A scanning sound and a digital chirp.

SECURITY PAD

Chip scan complete. Welcome, Dr. Alexine Prometh.

We hear a door slide open, as well as the sound of a repetitive alert. The door clangs as it finishes opening. The echoing sound of several rows of lights turning on sounds through a large room. Footsteps as they walk in.

NICO

(with a chuckle)

Like a charm. Thank you, Doctor.

INT. MUSEUM OF GALACTIC SOCIETY, DATA CENTER - CONTINUOUS

NICO

Data vault is over there. How long will it take to set everything up?

NOVA

A few minutes.

NICO

No rush. No one's going anywhere.

ALEX screams and struggles behind her gag. The sound of beeps as NOVA works.

NOVA

What about Concord Security?

NICO

I don't think that transmission was long enough for them to be able to track it, but you're the expert.

NOVA

I don't think so, but...it has been a while since I've had access to their operations. I will move as fast as I can.

Continued muffled screams from ALEX.

NICO

(impatient, with a sigh)
What? What, what, what, what, what, what do you want?

A soft sound as he removes ALEX'S gag.

ALEX

Please. Please don't kill me. It isn't only my life at stake, here.

NICO laughs.

ALEX (CONT'D)

If I can't complete my research, you'll be risking the lives of millions, possibly billions-

NICO

(still laughing)
Nova, do you - kill you? Where'd you get a crazy idea like that? What, just because I have a few pistols, some charges? What're a few explosions between friends?

ALEX

You're lunar.

MAX shouts behind his gag.

NICO

Ugh, not you too.

NOVA

Are you going to take off his gag?

NICO

Nah. He wasn't even supposed to be here in the first place.

MAX continues to shout.

NOVA

I still say we should have left him on the ship.

NICO

We never did manage to figure out how they escaped and I don't want to risk leaving him with Sai. You know how Sai is. He'd befriend a revolver if it could talk.

MAX continues to shout and struggle.

NICO (CONT'D)

All right, all right. What is so damned important?

Ripping sound of MAX'S gag being removed.

MAX

If you kill her, the blood of millions will be on your hands!

NICO

What is everybody, deaf? I told you all I want is to retrieve a memory!

ALEX

And I told you it's impossible.

NICO

Doctor, are you saying I have more faith in your research than you do? I find that hard to believe. From the interviews I've heard, your problem definitely isn't that you're unsure of yourself.

Footsteps as they walk through the room.

ALEX

Oh, I have absolute faith that I will be able to retrieve a memory eventually, but I also have absolute knowledge that I am utterly incapable of doing so right now.

NICO

And that is where we have a difference of opinion.

(MORE)

NICO (CONT'D)

So far as I understand your research, and pardon me if I don't have it perfect, because I'm no scientist, but brainwave data is like a language, albeit an unintelligible one. That is, to anyone but to you. You can read it.

ALEX

Hardly. All I'm able to do is re-interpret brainwave data into another form of data. That's a long way from being able to see an actual memory. It's like...it's like...how do I explain this?

MAX

Just because she's able to translate one programming language into another does not make her a computer!

ALEX

Exactly. Thank you, Max. So without my equipment and a human subject, I'm useless to you, I'm afraid. Unless you managed to steal my equipment from the Capital?

NICO

I did not.

ALEX

(with a sarcastic laugh)
Then I really don't see why we're here. Wherever 'here' is.

NICO

You will. How's it going, Nova?

NOVA

Almost done.

We hear rattling and digital sounds as NOVA works, hooking things up to the resource monitor's data vault. The sound of the museum's music becomes clearer without people talking over it, for long enough for MAX to take notice.

MAX

Wait...I recognize that music. From when I was in school. Is that...are we in the Museum of Galactic History?

NICO

Good ear, Max. The Museum is a decommissioned Resource Monitor. So not only does the Concord have the gall to record people's brainwaves from their Personal Identification Chips, but when they retire the monitors and repurpose them, they don't even have the decency to delete that data.

ALEX

(with an offended huff,
frustrated)

You make it sound as if the Concord is purposely recording people's thoughts for some nefarious end, which is ridiculous. They track health information for the purpose of sharing food and medical supplies. They do longevity studies to see if something in a planet's environment needs to be changed to grant its population longer lives. That's it. And brainwaves just happen to be a part of that bundle of data. The Concord can't even read them.

NICO

But it's trying to. How do you think citizens would feel if they knew that every private memory, every personal thought they'd ever had is just floating around for some motivated person - such as myself - to access?

MAX

Most citizens don't have the kinds of dangerous thoughts you do.

NICO

(laughing)

Come on, Max. You've never had an untoward thought about anybody? Doesn't have to be dangerous. Could just be...indecent.

MAX

(sputtering, equal parts
offended and panicked)

I...that's...how dare you?

The sound of cranks, a whirring, and something turning as NOVA finishes.

NOVA

I'm ready.

NICO

Good. Get Dr. Prometh hooked up.

MAX

Don't touch her! What are you doing?

NICO

All that fancy equipment back on the Capital? Its only purpose is to send your translation into a test subject. Well, I'm removing the intermediary.

MAX

You're hooking her up to the resource monitor directly? You'll kill her!

ALEX

Get away from me!

NICO

Nova's ex-security, Doctor. Genetically engineered to be four times as strong as a regular person. I wouldn't bother fighting her. You're only going to hurt yourself.

NOVA

I will not hurt you. I promise.

(a beat as ALEX struggles)

Dr. Prometh, please. Stop thrashing.

(to NICO)

Maybe we should we give her some calming Emotea.

NICO

No. I don't know if it's going to affect her ability.

ALEX struggles harder.

NOVA

I apologize, Doctor, but I'm going to have to tighten your restraints.

ALEX cries out in pain.

MAX

Alex!

NOVA

I'm so sorry. But I cannot have you fighting me while I'm getting you connected. It is easier this way.

Sounds of NOVA hooking ALEX up to the Resource Monitor.

MAX

Please. Let Alex go back to the Capital, finish her research, and when she knows it's safe, she'll access any memory you want!

ALEX

Oh, Max! I will do no such thing. My research wasn't meant for...whatever this is. It has a higher purpose!

Rattling as NOVA finishes.

NOVA

She's ready.

NICO

I'm going to boot up the data vault now.

Sound of a digital device turning on with a chirp.

NICO (CONT'D)

When you get into the memory, Doctor, I need you to call out what you're seeing.

ALEX

It's not going to work. I'm not going to be able to see a thing.

MAX

The data is too much for a human brain to process! She'll die!

ALEX

I will not. It will do precisely nothing.

MAX
(shouting)
Killers! Murderers!

NICO
Hmm...how do you turn this thing
on?

A soft, building hum as it starts up.

NICO (CONT'D)
There we go.

The device grows louder.

MAX
Alex!

ALEX
Max, don't worry. Nothing's going
to happen.

NICO
I think you're wrong, Doctor. Guess
we're about to find out.

MAX
(screaming desperately)
Let her go!

MAX struggles.

MAX (CONT'D)
Alex! I'm coming for you!

MAX falls over.

NICO
Nova, pick him up. Hang on to him
so he doesn't hurt himself.

MAX
(starting to sob)
Alex! No! Don't touch me! Alex!

The sound of electricity crackling as the device does its
work. A loud buzz-

And then silence.

Beat.

MAX (CONT'D)
Alex?

No answer.

MAX (CONT'D)

Alex!

A beat.

MAX (CONT'D)

What have you done?!

MAX sobs.

But then...it's interrupted by laughter.

ALEX'S laughter.

She laughs and laughs, wildly.

ALEX

(still laughing)

I told you it wouldn't work.

MAX

Oh, thank the Concord!

NICO

What the hell happened?

NOVA

The data vault shut down...

NICO

Re-start it!

SAI (OVER AN INTERCOM)

Sir, a Concord cruiser has docked.
Sorry I didn't warn you sooner, but
it was in stealth mode.

Muffled shouting and footsteps. "Dr. Prometh! Dr. Prometh,
are you here?"

MAX

(shouting)
We're here! We're in here!

ALEX

(shouting)
I'm here!

The people searching for ALEX continue to call out and run,
their movements and voices muffled.

NOVA

We have to get out of here. Now.

NICO

No. I need that memory! Grab Alex!

NOVA

I can't! She's still hooked up!
Come on!

NICO

Rip her away!

NOVA

There's no time! They're coming!

MAX

(shouting)
We're here! We're in here!

ALEX

(shouting)
Help! Help!

A sudden silence as the episode ends just as the tension of the scene reaches a peak.

Ending credits music plays, cinematic and exciting.

CREDITS

Earth Eclipsed: Episode Two,
Escape. Starring Allegra Rodriguez
Shivers, Reginald West, Christian
T. Chan, Amy Lyndon, and Michael
Malconian.

With Ginger Sue.

Created and produced by Nicholas
Prufer, AJ Churchill, and Victor
Lee.

Directed by Nicholas Prufer.

Written by Alexa Polivka.

Music by AJ Churchill, Shane
Rutherford-Jones, and Alessandro
Apolloni.

Sound design by AJ Churchill and
Shane Rutherford-Jones.

Our production interns are Eamon
McKeon and So Asiddao.

Earth Eclipsed is a production of
The Lunar Company.

Music ends.