

EARTH ECLIPSED

Season 1

Episode 6: Gravity

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PREVIOUSLY ON

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

NARRATOR

Previously on Earth Eclipsed.

NICO

Sai, did you get those coordinates?

SAI

Yes, boss!

NICO

Punch 'em in.

ALEX

Wait, aren't we going to the Capital?

NICO

Those planets don't destroy themselves.

(a beat)

The Concord does.

VOICE (INTERCOM)

This is the Concord Security Force. Prepare to be boarded.

BENEFACTOR UNA

Unfortunately, while Nico and Nova are in the brig, we've had to call off the search for the robot.

ALEX

Max and I were working on a way to project a subject's memories to a screen. There's no need to go back to the Capital. I'm staying blind. Max knows all the specifications. He'll work with HoloCorp to set up the prototype.

(with a sigh, a bit of a grumble)

Linus. Of course.

MAX

I went to give the updates to the equipment, per Dr. Prometh's specifications, but before I even had the chance, I found a serious defect.

BENEFACTOR UNA

Every person, and thing, on this ship has been through intense scrutiny.

MAX

Anyone who got hooked up to this would be electrocuted.

BENEFACTOR UNA

I would hate for that to mar the good news of your commendation. There are no mistakes.

NICO

Wha - what just happened?

NOVA

The energy field has gone down.

MAX

You go fix your ship.
(beat)
I'm getting Alex.

Music fades into silence.

INT. BENEFACTOR'S SHIP

Upbeat music, and the sound of exercise machines. The EXERCISE INSTRUCTOR has the energy of a thousand suns.

EXERCISE INSTRUCTOR

(in time with the music,
like some kind of demented
Soul Cycle trainer)
5, 4, 3, 2 sprint it out! And push!
And harder! And breathe! How we
doing today? Can you feel the BEAT?

CONCORD CRONIE #1

(panting)
How can she be so cheerful all the
time?

CONCORD CRONIE #2

(panting)
Emotea. Injected.

CONCORD CRONIE #1

(panting)

All the Emotea in the galaxy
couldn't make me that happy about
mandatory exercise.

EXERCISE INSTRUCTOR

Now get ready everybody, we're
about to cut the gravity in here,
'cause we're doing this next
section...upside down! Who's with
me?

Some halfhearted applause.

EXERCISE INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)

I can't hear you!

Forced cheering and a bit more applause.

EXERCISE INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)

Put your arms through the straps
and your legs through the hoops and
your head in the harness and let's.
Get. Crazy! 5, 4, 3...

An alarm cuts in. The music stops. The machines come to a
slow stop too.

VOICE

All personnel report to your
stations.

CONCORD CRONIE #1 lets out a relieved breath.

CONCORD CRONIE #1

Thank you, security breach.

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

INT. BENEFACTOR'S SHIP, ALEX'S QUARTERS

The door slides open. The chaos from the previous episode
suddenly floods in - a shrill alarm, people running around,
shouts and orders being barked.

MAX

Alex? Alex! Are you in here?

The door closes and the sound from outside muffles
dramatically.

MAX (CONT'D)

Lights!

A click as the lights go on. We hear MAX'S footsteps as he enters the room. He runs around the room, pausing occasionally as he looks for ALEX. He opens a closet door to check-

But he doesn't find her.

MAX (CONT'D)

Shit!

ALEX (FROM FAR AWAY)

Max? Is that you?

MAX

Yes! Where are you?

ALEX (FROM FAR AWAY)

In the vent.

Footsteps as he runs over, and we hear the sound of the grate being removed and dropped with a creak.

MAX

Take my hand!

MAX helps ALEX climb out of the vent.

ALEX

Max, what's going on?

MAX

Someone's trying to kill you. We have to get you off this ship. Come on, we're going to the Gungnir.

Footsteps as they approach the door. As it slides open, the sound of the chaos increases again.

MAX (CONT'D)

Hang on. I'll lead you.

Footsteps as they walk out into the commotion.

INT. BENEFACTOR'S SHIP - HALLWAY, MOMENTS LATER

Footsteps as MAX and ALEX walk quickly through the noisy hallway.

SECURITY PERSON #1
Citizen! Stop! By order of the
Benefactor!

MAX and ALEX keep moving.

ALEX
Shouldn't we stop?

MAX
No. We can't trust anyone.

ALEX
Why - why - why not?

SECURITY PERSON #1
I said, stop!

We hear a blaster being powered up. MAX and ALEX stop.

SECURITY PERSON #1 (CONT'D)
Turn around! Slowly.

They do.

SECURITY PERSON #1 (CONT'D)
Dr. Prometh! My deepest apologies.

We hear the blaster power down.

SECURITY PERSON #1 (CONT'D)
I was looking for the escapees from
the brig. I will lead you to the
Benefactor.

MAX
That's all right. I'll take her.

SECURITY PERSON #1
Thank you, Citizen, but I would be
lax in my duties to not provide her
with proper security personnel.

A sound as MAX takes something out, brandishing it with a
small clattering sound.

MAX
You're not taking her anywhere.

SECURITY PERSON #1
Is that...a nail gun?

ALEX
Max, you have a weapon?

MAX

It will kill you just as dead as your blaster.

SECURITY PERSON #1

Please, Citizen. Put it down.

MAX

Do not take a step further.

ALEX

Max, what are you doing?

SECURITY PERSON #1

Do not hurt Dr. Prometh!

Tense music fades in. A beat. We hear a step.

MAX

I said don't!

POW. The nail gun goes off, followed by a CLANG. The SECURITY PERSON screams. We hear MAX ushering ALEX quickly away. We faintly hear the SECURITY PERSON calling for backup.

ALEX

(horrified)

You shot him?

MAX

No! I shot the ceiling to scare him. Which means more security are definitely on their way. Come on!

ALEX

Why can't we go to the Benefactor?

They make a turn down a hallway. They're running now. There's a lot of shouting behind them.

ALEX (CONT'D)

We're going the wrong way!

MAX

No we're not!

ALEX

But we took a right. We should have taken a left!

MAX

What - how do you know?

ALEX

An Attendant helped me memorize the schematics so I could find my way through the ship blind. The hold is the other way!

MAX

Are you sure?

ALEX

(as if to say, 'are you serious'?)

Max. Please.

They stop. A beat. They run the other direction.

Tense music fades out.

INT. THE GUNGNIR - MOMENTS LATER

A door slides shut. It's completely quiet here.

A beat.

MAX

(impressed)

You were right.

ALEX

(catching her breath)

Why are we on the Gungnir? Why couldn't we go to the Benefactor?

NICO'S voice crackles over the intercom.

NICO (OVER THE INTERCOM)

Glad you made it aboard. Now we can get the hell out of here.

ALEX

What the hell is he doing here?

MAX

It's his ship.

ALEX

When you said we have to get to the Gungnir, I thought you meant you and I were stealing it! I didn't realize we were sharing it with the whole ragtag bunch of space pirates-

She's interrupted by the sound of metal dragging and several beeps.

INT. THE GUNGNIR, COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

NOVA
The laser drill has been lowered.

NICO
Now we're talking. Slice away.

Beeps and levers being thrown. The sound of the laser drill powering up, and the roaring sound of it slicing through the hull.

NICO (CONT'D)
How long will it take to cut through the hull?

NOVA
One minute.

NICO presses something on the panel.

NICO
Sai, we got engines yet?

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)
Almost.

NICO
You have less than a minute.

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)
Man, I got so much done after I filled this place with radiation. It was so quiet and peaceful. If only I'd had a little longer.

NICO
Sorry, Sai. You got the meatbags on board now.

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)
That's okay. I missed you guys.

We hear the muffled sound of shots being fired outside the ship.

NICO
(to Nova)
Looks like those Concord cronies finally armed themselves.

More shots.

NICO (CONT'D)
How much damage can a Concord
blaster do?

A muffled, small explosion as a shot hits something on the
ship. A beat.

NOVA
Some.

The sounds of the drill cutting through the hold turn into a
large chunk of metal giving way. The drilling stops and the
laser powers down.

NOVA (CONT'D)
Drilling complete.

NICO hits the panel.

NICO
Sai. Status!

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)
We have hyperflight, but-

NICO
Let's go!

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)
But the repairs aren't done!

NICO
No choice. Nova, punch it!

NOVA
Yessir.

Thrusters engage, the burning sound of the ship taking off
fills the air. The ship flies out of the Concord cruiser, and
into space.

Chirp of an alert on the panel.

NOVA (CONT'D)
We've cleared the Concord cruiser.

NICO
Engage hyperflight.

We hear the hyperflight engines engage, ramping up the
intensity of the ship's movements until it builds to a fever
pitch.

And then - quiet. No shooting. All we can hear are the gentle sounds of the hyperflight engine humming along and the occasional beeps from the controls.

NICO exhales with relief.

NICO (CONT'D)

Guess we can just relax now, huh?

The door to the cockpit opens with a series of beeps and a creak.

ALEX

Let me off this ship!

NOVA

Not yet.

Footsteps as ALEX and MAX come in. The door closes.

MAX

I'm sorry. I tried to explain to her, but she isn't having it.

ALEX

Please. The Benefactor would never put me in danger.

NICO

You have no idea what the Concord is capable of.

ALEX

You didn't even grow up in the Concord. What the hell do you know? Turn this ship around.

NOVA

Should I lock them away?

MAX

No! We're on your side. Alex, someone was trying to kill you and the Benefactor was hellbent on ignoring it. And whose idea was it to construct the lab? The Benefactor. Who was overseeing it? The Benefactor.

NICO

Exactly.

ALEX

The Benefactor would never risk losing the knowledge of how to retrieve memories.

MAX

Maybe her plan was to get you to train people, and then kill you.

NICO

The Benefactors are the Concord's secret police. You see, they sacrifice dissidents at an altar in a bunker under the Capital.

ALEX

Oh my stars. That is ridiculous! The Benefactor may have been the lead on the lab, but she would have had no clue how to design it. That would have been Linus. Take me back to the Concord. Now.

NICO

Linus?

MAX

I don't know, Alex. I've never seen a Benefactor act like that.

NICO

(quietly, to himself)
Linus.

MAX

It made me question a lot of things.

(a beat)

I'm not sure the Concord is safe.

NICO realizes something, gasps, and jumps up.

NICO

(shouting)
Stupid black-hole sucking, Concord-fucking, no good piece of space dust on a nebula's asshole!

ALEX

What are you on about?

NICO
(through gritted teeth)
It wasn't the Benefactor. It was
Linus.

He slams his hands down on the panel in frustration.

ALEX
How do you know Linus?

NICO
I don't. We were mining an asteroid
belt past the Capital when one of
our instruments went off. The
Gungnir is an old ship, lots of
obsolete equipment. This doohickey
I'd never even noticed started
blinking, and when I flicked it on,
it was picking up a signal. Some
kind of broadcast using ancient
technology. It was a message. For
Parais, outlining everything about
the Abacus Project.
(a beat)
From Linus.

MAX
Linus was the leaker.

NICO
He and Parais were trading info
using old radio signals, thinking
no one would ever hear it. They
didn't factor in this old rust
bucket.

NICO pats the panel lovingly. ALEX laughs.

ALEX
Oh this is too perfect. Linus is
the leaker? Finally. I can be rid
of HoloCorp once and for all.

MAX
So the Benefactor had nothing to do
with it?

ALEX
Linus. I knew he hated my
notoriety, but enough to kill me?

MAX

So the only reason you ever found out about Alex and the memories in the first place is because Linus is trying to ruin her?

ALEX

I actually respect him more now. Oh well. Too bad.

MAX

Take us back to the Concord. Now.

NICO

Sorry Max. I have business elsewhere.

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)

Uh guys? We have a problem.

A beat. NOVA operates some things on the panel.

NOVA

All the instruments here report the flight is fine.

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)

The flight is perfect. The problem is we can't get out of it.

(a beat)

We're stuck in hyperflight.

NICO

Guess those Concord bastards managed to hit something.

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)

It wasn't them...

A beat.

NICO

(to Max)

You!

(shouting)

What did you do to my ship?

MAX

On top of the stuff I told you about I may have also done some...other things.

NICO

Like what?

MAX

Pulled out some parts?
Indiscriminately?

NICO

Sai, can you put the parts back?

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)

Well...

MAX

And smashed them? With a graviton
wrench.

NICO

I'm going to kill you!

He lunges at MAX. NOVA grabs him.

NOVA

No! Do not hurt yourself! He is not
worth the bruises.

MAX

I'm sorry! I was trying to stop the
Gungnir however I could!

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)

Hey, I've managed to patch it up
just fine so far. The only thing I
need is a fluctuating valve
cylinder.

NOVA

We have a spare, yes?

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)

We used it to repair the hull.
After that asteroid dinged us,
remember? If we remove it, the hull
will collapse.

NICO

Can you repair the broken one?

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)

I'd be happy to! If we had a laser
welder that can reach 2,000 degrees
celsius and three hundred pounds of
high grade titanium lying around.

ALEX

Why don't you cut off all the power
in the ship?

NICO laughs.

NICO

Turning off the lights isn't gonna stop a graviton generator from creating as much gravity as a small planet.

ALEX

I was only trying to help.

NICO

You're way out of your depth here.

ALEX

I'm one of the top scientists on the Concord!

NICO

Neuroscientist! You wouldn't know a ship's engine from a vitality blender!

MAX

(jumping in)

Hey. Hey. All we need is a way to flatten spacetime.

NICO

Right. Flatten spacetime. Pardon me while I grab an iron and get right to it.

ALEX

I may be 'just' a neuroscientist but if you explain to me how the engine works, maybe I'll be able to help.

MAX

Hyperflight bends spacetime using artificial gravity, well, it folds it, actually. Imagine space is a piece of cloth, and the ship is sitting on top of it. If you fold the cloth, you get from one end to the other faster. The ship isn't moving so much as it's...folding the cloth. Once it's flat again, the ship essentially stops.

NICO

Except you skipped the part where the engines that are creating those folds generate as much power as a small star and the 'brakes' need more power than that. Without that cylinder, we can't generate enough juice to stop.

MAX

Then what we need is to find an object generating enough gravity to counteract the folds. A big enough star might do it.

NICO

Huh.

MAX

A supergiant, maybe?

NICO

That might just work.

(a beat)

Nova, let's check the charts. See if we can't find ourselves a supergiant.

NOVA

Yes, boss.

Sounds as they operate the panel.

NICO

Supergiant...supergiant...

NICO and NOVA confer in the background, deciding where to go.

ALEX

Max, how did you know all that?

MAX

I was a competitive asteroid drifter. You learn a thing or two about engines.

ALEX

I...I didn't know that about you.

MAX

There's a lot about me you don't know.

A chime sounds from the panel.

NICO

Got it! Velorum. A blue supergiant.

NOVA

Except we cannot chart a course.

A beat.

ALEX

Um, hello? I don't understand. It's a star, right? Presumably, it stays in the same place? Why can't we chart a course?

MAX

Because we're stuck in folded space, we have no idea where we are right now. So we can put in the destination, but we can't chart how we get there.

ALEX

And?

NOVA

We cannot avoid hitting planets or stars.

MAX

The odds of us hitting something are...one in ten to the twenty-four quintillion. Space is very empty.

(a beat)

Mostly.

NOVA

There is still a chance.

NICO

Given that we're stuck in folded space, at some point we're going to overshoot the course we'd laid in anyway and end up with the same problem. Potato, potahto. Might as well pick the way that has a chance of us stopping. Nova, put in the co-ordinates.

NOVA types in the co-ordinates on the panel.

ALEX

But if we hit a planet or a star...

NOVA

Do not worry, Doctor. We will be pulverized to dust so quickly we will not feel a thing.

ALEX

(flatly)
Oh, how reassuring.

NOVA

Co-ordinates entered.

The machinery begins to whirr in anticipation.

NICO

On my mark. Here goes nothing.
(beat)
Mark.

NOVA sets them onto their course.

The Gungnir groans under the strain as she changes direction. The sound of the engines builds, roaring under the electronic sounds from the controls. Tense music combines with the sound of the ship. Just as it builds to a pitch-

It cuts out entirely, and there is a beat of complete silence before everyone breaks out into cheers.

ALEX

We're alive!

The cheers go on for another moment before dying down.

NICO

Good work, kid.

MAX

You found the supergiant.

NOVA

I found the supergiant.

MAX

Oh, sorry. Thanks.

NOVA

Is no problem.

NICO

One in ten to the twenty-four quintillion, huh?

MAX
(trying to brush it off
like it's no big deal)
Had to actually calculate that
once. For a class.

Suddenly, an alarm goes off.

NICO
Nova.

NOVA
On it.

A beat. NOVA presses something. The louder alarm dies down,
but a quieter alert continues to sound.

NOVA (CONT'D)
Max, a question for you. When you
were doing this class, did you ever
calculate how much force you need
to escape the gravity of a
supergiant?

SHIP'S ALARM
Hull temperature rising.

ALEX
Are we getting pulled into the
star?

NICO
Nova, thrusters! Full power!

NOVA operates the panel, pressing buttons and flipping
switches. A chime sounds endlessly. The thrusters fire - and
struggle.

NOVA
The gravity is too strong.

SHIP'S ALARM
Hull temperature at four thousand
degrees Celsius.

MAX
I thought the graviton generator
and the star's gravity would
nullify each other and put us at a
dead stop!

NICO
It did.

NICO hits something on the panel. The music becomes tenser.

NICO (CONT'D)

We were so damned busy patting ourselves on the back, we got sucked in.

(jumping into action)

Sai, can we put the hyperflight engines back on, do a quick jump out, and then come back, use the thruster to get us out before the star's gravity gets us?

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)

Negative. The patch job I did didn't hold. Hyperflight engines are out.

NICO

Anyone else got any bright ideas?

SHIP'S ALARM

Hull temperature at 4,100 degrees and rising. Hull will become unstable at 4,600 degrees.

NOVA

Create an explosion, on the surface of the star. Maybe the shockwave will knock us all clear.

MAX

Yes! Great idea.

NOVA

We can use the remote detonators.

NICO

They're the babies of explosives. Might as well try and fart our way out.

MAX

But it's a good thought. We just need a bigger explosion. What if we release the runner from the hold, fire the remote detonators at it? Its engines blowing up will have more force.

NICO

Still wouldn't be enough.

Footsteps.

NOVA
Where are you going?

A drawer opens.

NICO
I have just the thing for this type
of emergency.

We hear glass bottles being shuffled. NICO grabs one.

NOVA
Whiskey.

NICO opens the bottle and pours himself a glass.

ALEX
(incredulous)
Alcohol? Really.

NICO
Want some? I don't have another
glass, but you can have this one. I
don't mind drinking from the
bottle.

ALEX
Max, can you lead me to Nico,
please? Right in front of him.

Footsteps as MAX walks over to ALEX, then footsteps as he
leads her to NICO. ALEX starts patting NICO.

NICO
Why are you patting me?

ALEX
I'm looking for your shoulders. Ah.
There they are.

ALEX grabs NICO by the shoulders and shakes him, making him
spill his drink.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Pull yourself together, man!

NICO
Stop shaking me! You're spilling my
whiskey!
(a beat)
It's over. You need to accept it.

SHIP'S ALARM

Hull temperature at 4,200 degrees.

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)

Hey guys? What if we used our laser drills, fired at the surface? Create a solar flare?

NICO takes a sip of his whiskey.

NICO

Ah. That's got a kick.

(a beat)

Still not enough.

(a beat)

So long, everybody. Nova, Sai, you've been the best crew a man could ask for.

(quietly, to the ship)

And Gungnir...No need to say it, huh? You know.

A beat. Nobody knows what to say.

NICO (CONT'D)

Is that what you all want to be doing when you bite it? Standing around, looking dumbstruck?

He takes a sip and sets his drink down.

NICO (CONT'D)

Eh, guess there aren't many options.

A beat of silence as everyone contemplates their mortality.

MAX

Anyone care if I sit down?

No answer.

MAX (CONT'D)

Great.

MAX sits.

NOVA

I will join.

NOVA sits too.

SHIP'S ALARM

Hull temperature at 4,300 degrees.
Please move the ship away from the
heat source.

ALEX begins to pray to herself.

ALEX

(whispering)

I pledge myself as a Concord
Citizen, to uphold the Charter, and
live its ideals, to the best of my
ability. Article 0. Humanity is
great. Article 1-

NICO

Oh please no. Don't ruin our last
moments with that Concord garbage.

ALEX

You have your whiskey. I have the
Charter.

NICO

Except my whiskey isn't bothering
anyone.

ALEX

I wouldn't even be here in the
first place if it weren't for you,
so looks like we're both going to
die unhappy.

(whispering)

Article 1, Humanity should thrive
over generations.

NICO

Nova. Music.

NOVA flips a switch, and music turns on - "Twinkle Twinkle
Little Star". ALEX keeps going.

ALEX

(quietly, to herself)

Article 2. To thrive, we need peace
and prosperity.

SHIP'S ALARM

Hull temperature at 4,400 degrees.

MAX

Well, Nova. This front window
has...quite the view of that star.

NOVA

Yes.

MAX

That's all? These could be your last words. You have nothing more to say?

A beat, while she thinks about it.

NOVA

No.

NICO takes a swig.

NICO

(singing)

Twinkle, twinkle little star. How I wonder what you are.

ALEX

(quietly, to herself)

Article 3. By working together, we can all exist in peace and-

She stops. In the background, NICO keeps singing.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(louder)

By working together, we can all exist in peace and harmony.

(shouting)

Max, turn the music off!

MAX does.

NICO

Hey!

ALEX

Working together! Like neurons! Nico! What if we did everything at the same time? Created a solar flare, and an explosion? Combined, would that create enough force?

Silence as they consider it. Music comes in, exciting and determined.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Well?

A beat.

NICO
(shouting)
What is everyone standing around
for? Take a station!

Footsteps as everyone scrambles to their stations. The sound of buttons being pressed, levers being thrown, and equipment being set up.

NICO (CONT'D)
Nova, you're on the laser drill.
Max, set everything up so Dr.
Prometh can eject the runner. You
fire the detonators, aim right for
the engines. Sai, you there?

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)
Always!

NICO
Load the detonators into the
chamber. As many as we got. Let me
know when you're ready!

We hear the sounds of MAX operating the panel.

MAX
(to ALEX)
Alex, give me your hand.
(a beat)
Feel that?

ALEX
Yes.
(a beat)
Your hand is so...warm.

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)
Detonators loaded!

NICO
Everybody ready?

Everyone answers "yes".

NICO (CONT'D)
When I say go! 3...2...

SHIP'S ALARM
Hull temperature at 4,500 degrees.

NICO
One...Go!

Several beeps. NOVA fires the lasers at the star. A huge solar flare bursts up. ALEX ejects the runner. MAX fires the detonators, which hit the runner, and it EXPLODES with a massive sound that envelops everything for a long moment.

The shockwave hits the Gungnir, and it creaks from the strain. It sounds like it's going to break into a million pieces, and as it gets tossed about, things inside are flying around. Objects are falling. People get knocked over. It's chaos, it's terrifying-

But then it comes to a stop. Everything settles.

SHIP'S ALARM

Hull temperature returning to normal. Thank you. Goodbye.

NOVA

We are....alive.

NICO

Ha! Gungnir, you cantankerous old prune! I knew you wouldn't let me down.

MAX

Alex! Let me help you up.

MAX helps ALEX up.

ALEX

Are you actually thanking the ship? Hello? What about us? The people who actually did the work?

NICO

Yeah. Guess we made a pretty good team.

ALEX

I wouldn't call us a team. We were a group of people who collectively didn't want to die.

NICO

Oh, okay. A group of people collectively working together. What do you call that?

ALEX tries to ignore him, but NICO continues, and we can almost hear his grin.

NICO (CONT'D)
(urging her)
Eh? Eh?

ALEX sighs.

ALEX
We're a team.

NICO
(teasingly)
Is that...Is that a smile I see?

ALEX
(yes)
No.

NICO
Could it be that you're actually
having fun?

ALEX
(lying a little)
Absolutely not. It's just...I never
knew space could be such an
adventure.

NICO
Ha! That's the Gungnir for you. She
has her charms.

NICO clicks some buttons on the panel.

NICO (CONT'D)
Seems the closest occupied planet
is...Regor. Finally, a bit of luck.

NOVA
Why is it familiar?

NICO
Outer world. Been there before.
Friendly people. Mostly winemakers,
but let's not hold that against
them.

He hits another button. A beep.

NICO (CONT'D)
Sai, how're our thrusters looking?
We got enough to get to Regor,
pick up supplies for a proper
repair?

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)
Ehhh. I could use some help down here.

NICO
Nova will join you.

SAI
...A lot of help.

A beat.

NICO
(with a sigh)
Sai, disable cockpit controls.

SAI (OVER THE INTERCOM)
You got it, boss.

Footsteps.

NICO
As soon as Nova and I are out this door, I'm locking it and cutting off power to the cockpit.

ALEX
What happened to being a team?

NICO
Ah, Doctor, I know that was only out of necessity. The second my back is turned you're going to be full of ideas, and I don't need that. You're not afraid of the dark, are you Max?

MAX
No.

NICO
Good. Not to be impolite Doctor, but since you can't see, I assumed the dark wouldn't bother you.

Footsteps as NICO and NOVA leave. The doors open and close. We hear it lock. A few seconds later, we hear everything power down with a descending whirr.

It's eerily silent.

A beat.

ALEX
Thank you, Max.

A beat as MAX takes that in.

MAX
(gently)
Should I try the door lock
mechanism? Look for a wall panel to
hide behind?

ALEX chuckles.

ALEX
No. It doesn't matter. He's
hellbent on taking me to his home
planet, Sogen. No matter what we
do, he'll find a way to get me
there.

MAX
Why does he want you to go to his
home planet?

ALEX
He thinks it was destroyed by the
Concord. He wants me to retrieve a
memory that proves it.

MAX
That's insane.

ALEX
(with a scoff)
I know.

MAX
So there's no harm in going, then.
Retrieve the memory, prove him
wrong. Then he'll let us go back to
the Concord.

ALEX
It's not going to be that simple.
(beat)
Max, I know you're familiar with my
academic history. You've always
been a thorough researcher, knowing
what I need before I ask. But there
are things I haven't talked about,
kept out of interviews.

(beat)
(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

When I was doing my PhD at the University of Calfoulis on Kraaken, the Concord discovered rich deposits of ilmenite on the planet.

Soft music fades in.

MAX

I've read about that. The deposits were under the planet's largest supply of fresh water, and mining it meant poisoning it. So the planet took it to a vote whether to allow the Concord to do it.

ALEX

Exactly. Of course the Concord was going to provide water from other planets, but some of the people on Kraaken felt uncomfortable with that. They'd never been reliant on another planet for water before. A faction formed, and they insisted that the Concord would destroy the water, and then hold the planet ransom. There was no evidence to support that. To the contrary - every Concord planet wanted for nothing, Kraaken included. But this didn't stop that faction. They started spreading lies. Like the Concord had poisoned water supplies in the past. That the Concord had left entire planets to die of thirst. And this faction gained momentum. It became clear - if we didn't stop this from escalating, it was going to lead to a civil war. We would no longer be a Concord planet.

MAX

I had no idea it was that bad.

ALEX

Official records mention the dispute, but downplay it. With good reason. The stress of that time was immense, for everyone. Every day I went to school, I wondered - will this be my last day here? If fighting breaks out, will I be able to leave, get to another Concord planet in time?

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

Or will it just spill into the streets one day? Will I even survive? If I do, will all the work I've been doing even matter? While the population was trapped under the weight of all those questions, there was one group working tirelessly to end the conflict - the Benefactors. I've never seen an organization work so hard to bring a positive outcome.

MAX

If you were on a planet when it almost became an outer planet, and you know personally what's at stake, that's all the more reason for people to support you. Why don't you ever talk about this?

A beat.

ALEX

(struggling at first)

It's...too painful. But that's what made me decide that no one should ever have to live through that. That's when I decided to dedicate my life, my work, to supporting the Concord.

MAX

I...I didn't know any of this.

ALEX

(gently)

There are things you don't know about me too, Max.

(a beat)

The Benefactors managed to turn it around. The planet ultimately voted to give the Concord mining rights. I finished my PhD and moved to the Capital, since I figured it was the planet that had the absolute least chance of becoming an outer planet. I never wanted to relive that again. But there's something else that happened, and you won't find this in any record. Even after the Concord started supplying fresh water, there was a small group who refused to believe it was safe. Even though the water was tested.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

Even though those test results were published.

(a beat)

They poisoned a water shipment. And drank it.

A beat as MAX absorbs this.

MAX

They committed suicide? Why? What good could that possibly do?

ALEX

They were hoping their deaths would start a revolution. Luckily, it didn't. But the point is this: they believed so strongly in their cause, the truth didn't matter.

(a beat)

Nico reminds me of them.

(a longer beat)

It doesn't matter what we find in those memories, Max. Nico wants to destroy the Concord.

ALEX finally breaks, emotion overcoming her as she nearly starts to cry.

MAX

Shh. It's okay.

ALEX

No, Max - Max, you don't understand. I am trying so, so hard to be the same on-the-ball, in-control, shit-together Alexine Prometh. But because I'm blind, everyone feels like they can just scoop me up and drag me away against my will. And when I'm not being dragged around, I have to be helped or lead. And for the first time, since that time, I feel exactly the way I did back then - completely helpless.

MAX

Of all the words I'd use to describe you, helpless isn't one of them.

ALEX

But I am. Because no matter what we find in that memory, Nico is going to find a way to twist my participation, to use it to support his false claims. That fear, that uncertainty that I felt back then - he wants to force that on everyone. But with one exception. For me, the Concord was a beacon of hope. If Nico destroys it, there will be no place of peace, no place of safety, no escape. For anyone.

(a beat)

By bringing me here, you've made me a part of his cause. I'm going to become a tool to dismantle the thing I value the most.

A beat. The music builds, then stops for ALEX'S final blow:

ALEX (CONT'D)

I wish you'd left me to die.

Ending credits music plays.

CREDITS

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

Created and produced by Nicholas
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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.