

EARTH ECLIPSED

Season 1

Episode 7: Sogen

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.

ALEX

When you said we have to get to the Gungnir, I thought you meant you and I were stealing it!

NOVA

We've cleared the Concord cruiser.

NICO

Engage hyperflight.

MAX

Alex, someone was trying to kill you and the Benefactor was hellbent on ignoring it.

ALEX

The Benefactor would never put me in danger.

NICO

You have no idea what the Concord is capable of.

MAX

Linus was the leaker.

SAI (INTERCOM)

Uh guys? We have a problem.

NICO

You're way out of your depth here.

ALEX

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

NICO

Neuroscientist!

SAI (INTERCOM)

Detonators loaded.

NICO

Everybody ready?

Everyone answers "yes".

NICO (CONT'D)
When I say go!

An explosion. Triumphant cheers.

ALEX
We're a team.

NICO
I had a world that I grew up in. It was even a Concord planet. Until it wasn't.

ALEX
There's no point going to Sogen!
There's no one left!

SILA [RECORDING]
You are my sun and moon.

NICO
Those planets don't destroy themselves.
(a beat)
The Concord does.

ALEX
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.

Music fades into silence.

EXT. SOGEN - DAWN

A cacophony of bullfrogs and crickets.

Ship's engines cut through the din. We hear the Gungnir land, crashing through the greenery. A hatch opens with a hiss.

NOVA
Is this the one?

NICO
I'm not sure.

ALEX
(sighing in frustration)
This is the third farmhouse we've been to.

NICO

It's been a long time. I know we're in the right neighborhood, I just can't remember exactly where my house is.

MAX

Now that the sun's coming up, that should make things easier.

ALEX

Or, if there's still a civil war going on, we'll be much easier targets to shoot out of the sky.

NICO

We haven't seen a single patrol ship. No one's going to shoot us.

NOVA scoffs.

NOVA

I would be much more confident if someone answered our transmissions.

NICO

Sogen's always been a bit old fashioned. I'm sure the minute the Concord was gone, they got rid of a lot of fancy equipment.

(a beat)

Let's go have a look. We're too far away.

ALEX

You mean actually walk down there? Are you sure it's safe?

NICO

Nova, gangplank.

We hear the whirring sound of the gangplank being lowered. The group's footsteps pound on the metal as they walk down. The frogs and crickets are as persistent as ever.

ALEX

Those atmospheric sounds certainly are...loud.

NICO laughs.

NICO

Those aren't synthetic.

MAX
There are actual animals here?
(a beat)
Should we be worried? They sound...

The footsteps meet the ground, crunching in the leaves and dirt. A nearby bullfrog lets out an especially loud croak.

MAX (CONT'D)
Big.

NICO laughs again, even heartier.

NICO
They can't hurt you, Max.
(he laughs a little again)
Wow. I've never heard so many.
It's...incredible.

MAX
Ugh. Is that...dirt?

NICO
Yep.

MAX
(whispering, to Alex)
You're lucky you can't see. This planet is a dump.

ALEX
(whispering)
I may not be able to see it, but I can definitely smell it.

MAX groans. NICO takes a huge breath in.

NICO
Ah, that's the stuff. Feel that?
That's real, unfiltered air.

He takes another deep breath and sighs happily. They walk. NICO stops.

NICO (CONT'D)
(quietly)
Oh, my stars.

ALEX
What? What is it?

NICO
(shouting)
Mom? Dad? I'm home!

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

INT. NICO'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

An oldschool door flies open with the sound of a latch and a creaking hinge. NICO runs in, his footsteps and voice echoing slightly.

NICO
I'm here! It's Nico! I'm here!

No response. NICO runs to another room, his voice fading as he moves away.

NICO (CONT'D)
Hello?

NICO continues to search the house while the others look around.

NOVA
That is a lot of dust.

Footsteps as they walk around. The creak of a door.

MAX
Yeah, it doesn't look like anyone's been here for...a while.

Soft string music fades in, playing quietly under the dialogue.

NICO
(as he moves through the house)
Mom? Dad?

ALEX
(gently)
I don't think there's anyone home.

NICO
They probably moved. It's been decades.

MAX
If they did, they sure left a lot of stuff behind.

NICO
If there was a war, maybe they went somewhere safer.
(MORE)

NICO (CONT'D)

We should go to the city. Hopefully there'll be records there.

ALEX

How far is the city?

NICO

About five kilometers.

ALEX

I think we should walk.

NICO

Doctor, don't be such a pessimist. We haven't heard a single shot since we've been here.

ALEX

If there is fighting, we're a much easier target in the sky than on the ground.

NOVA

She is right. The ground is a tactical advantage.

NICO

(with a sigh)

All right, then. We'll walk.

NOVA

Should we get the equipment from the ship? The planetary resource monitor is in the city.

NICO

Good idea. After we track down my parents, we can retrieve memories without having to walk back to the ship.

NOVA

I will get it.

MAX

Need any help?

NOVA

I am stronger. I will carry it.

MAX

Fair enough.

The music shifts to sound sweet and more meditative as time passes.

The sun's come up. We've traded the bullfrogs and crickets for birds chirping.

The group walks, their footsteps soft on the dirt ground.

MAX (CONT'D)

I had no idea trees could be so disorganized.

NICO

(exasperated)

It's a forest, Max. Not some bullshit manicured Concord excuse for one.

NICO sighs.

NICO (CONT'D)

(jollier now)

We're here! Nova, can you believe it? We made it. We're actually on Sogen!

NICO laughs.

NOVA

I am happy for you.

(beat)

But Nico, about your parents...

NICO

I know, I know. It's been a long time, and anything could have happened. I'm just excited to see anybody from Sogen. The first person I see in the city, doesn't matter who, I'm going to grab them in a big old bear hug.

ALEX

And hope they don't mistake you for an enemy combatant.

NICO

Doctor, if there is a war going on, it sure is a hell of a quiet one.

(a beat)

Up there! A clearing! Can you see it?

ALEX

No.

NICO

(with a fake gasp)

Funny. Come on, hurry up!

NICO speeds up.

ALEX

I can only go so fast. I am being
lead, you know.

NOVA

Would you like me to carry you?

ALEX

Absolutely not.

NICO runs ahead.

NICO (FAR AHEAD)

Hello? Anybody there?

ALEX

(calling out)

Nico! Nico, don't draw attention to
us!

(she scoffs when NICO
ignores her. regular
volume)

Nova, why do you put up with him?

NOVA

He is not as bad as you think.

ALEX

But surely as ex-security, you must
know that what he's suggesting
about the Concord is completely
insane. You've done patrols around
the outer worlds. You must know
he's mistaken.

NOVA

My memory is...not what it should
be.

(a beat)

And there are...nightmares.
Sometimes, I am not sure...

She trails off.

NICO (FAR AHEAD)
Hello? Hello!

NOVA
I should go protect him.

ALEX
What about us?

NOVA
(ignoring the question)
Max, you take equipment.

MAX
I thought you said I couldn't carry
it?

NOVA
I never said couldn't.

NOVA hands MAX the bag. We hear him grunt as he struggles under the weight of it.

She takes off after Nico. We hear her footsteps pounding.

ALEX
(shouting)
I'll remember you abandoned us!
(quietly)
Is she gone?

MAX
(quietly)
Yes.

ALEX
(quietly)
And? Did it work?

MAX
(quietly)
I can't know for sure, but when I repaired the engines, I implemented the defect. The Concord should detect the irregularities in spacetime and send a repair crew.

ALEX
(quietly)
You sounded so convincing when you said you wanted to undo the damage you'd done. I never knew you were such a good actor.

MAX is uncomfortable and tries to change the subject.

MAX

(quietly)

Yeah, um. We're just lucky they let me help with the repairs. And that there was so much to do they couldn't watch me too closely.

ALEX

(quietly)

How long do you think until the Concord shows up?

MAX

(quietly)

I have no idea how far out Sogen is from Concord territory. But in my drifting days, that kind of defect made a repair crew come running. And as soon as they see the Gungnir, you can bet they'll call every cruiser in the sector.

ALEX

(quietly)

So all we have to do is...wait.

MAX

(quietly)

Exactly. Don't worry, Alex. They'll stop Nico before he can do any real damage.

(beat)

Maybe we should catch up to them? It might seem suspicious if we're talking too long.

ALEX

Good idea.

MAX picks up the equipment. He and ALEX walk for a few beats until they catch up and reach the clearing. The sounds of birds/nature fade into the background. Wind blows - the place sounds empty, abandoned, dead. The footsteps come to a stop.

MAX

Wow. The forest was one thing. But I wasn't expecting the city to look so shoddy.

A long pause.

NICO
(dully)
Nobody. Nobody's here.
(beat)
The city. Destroyed.
(beat)
Everybody. Dead.

A long beat as everyone takes that in. The wind whistles.

NICO (CONT'D)
I was ready for the place to be in
tatters. I was ready for them to be
rebuilding. Struggling. But I
wasn't expecting there to
be...nobody.

Beat.

ALEX
(genuine)
I'm...so sorry, Nico.

Silence. Then, NICO jumps up.

NICO
(shouting)
Bastards! You killed them! How
could you?

A long pause as NICO fights tears, his breathing shaky.

NOVA
Maybe we should leave.

NICO
No.
(a beat)
We're going to the resource
monitor.
(a beat)
I need to see what happened.

The sound of the wind fades out.

INT. RESOURCE MONITOR - MOMENTS LATER

The sound of an empty, hollow, unused place. A door opens,
clanking and echoing, a quiet alarm-type sound as it moves.
Footsteps as the group comes in. Quiet music plays under.

Echoing sound of rows and rows of lights turning on, giving us a sense of just how big this place is. A florescent hum softly buzzes.

NOVA

Where should I put the equipment?

NICO

Over there.

NOVA walks over and puts the equipment down. NICO paces back and forth.

ALEX

Nico, maybe we should wait before we do this. Give yourself some time to handle what-

NICO

No.

MAX

I'll put everything together. Nova, will you help me?

NOVA

Of course.

Rattling of metal and whirring of tools as they start building. MAX powers up the equipment with the sound of small chirps and beeps.

ALEX

(gently)

I'm not sure the projector screen will work, but if it doesn't, I'll call out what I'm seeing.

NICO

Fine.

ALEX

What...memory should we go into?

NICO stops pacing. A beat.

NICO

My mother's.

ALEX

(this is not a good idea)

Nico, that-

NICO

I'm not being sentimental. She was a politician. An important one.

(beat)

She saw what happened.

A beat. ALEX realizes she's not going to win this one.

ALEX

All right. Do you have an idea of what the date might be?

NICO

I know the day. Exactly.

ALEX

Let's find her in the directory, then.

We change perspectives to MAX and NOVA and hear them working again.

MAX

Hand me the feloris capacitor.

NOVA does.

MAX (CONT'D)

Thanks.

We hear MAX getting something connected.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'm surprised you were able to get everything on my list when you were on Regor.

NOVA

Nico has many friends on the outer worlds.

MAX

What are the outer worlds like?

A beat.

NOVA

Not like this.

The two finish their work in silence. More whirring sounds, more connections, more beeps as it all powers up.

MAX

Alex, I'm ready if you are.

ALEX

Ready.

MAX moves to ALEX, and guides her somewhere to sit. He hooks her up.

We hear the equipment power up with a pulsing whirr.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Here we go.

The machinery's power builds to a fever pitch, a pulsing sound mixing with intense static, echoing as it sends ALEX into the memory.

EXT. SOGEN (THE PAST) - DAY

We hear a raucous festival at a slight distance, as though in a dream. Folk music plays, a crowd laughs and cheers.

ALEX (TUNNEL)

Is the projector screen working?
Are you seeing what I'm seeing?

NOVA (TUNNEL)

Yes!

MAX (TUNNEL)

It's working perfectly!

NICO (TUNNEL)

It's...I can't believe it. It's the
harvest festival.

A moment as ALEX looks around.

ALEX (TUNNEL)

Who is that?

NICO (TUNNEL)

(emotional)
My father.

ALEX (TUNNEL)

Nico, are you sure you want to do
this?

Too late.

VITR

Here's your popcorn.

SILA
Thank you, my darling.

A beat.

VITR
I'm so glad you made it.

SILA
I would never miss one of Nico's performances.

VITR
How did we get so lucky with such a great son?

SILA
It's not luck. He's got a wonderful father. And a pretty good mother. Shhh, he's about to start!

Applause from the crowd, then we hear the sound of a violin being played, clearly a traditional tune. It is joined by a guitar and tambourine. For a moment, the music is all we hear, happy and beautiful.

ALEX (TUNNEL)
Nico, are you all right?

NICO (TUNNEL)
(choking up, trying to keep it together)
I'm...I'm fine.

ALEX (TUNNEL)
If you want to stop at any point...

NICO (TUNNEL)
No. Keep going.

NOVA (TUNNEL)
Are you sure?

NICO (TUNNEL)
Yes.

NOVA (TUNNEL)
(trying to change the subject)
You look so young. And I did not know you played an instrument.

MAX (TUNNEL)
Nico...you're so good at it.

ALEX (TUNNEL)

Please, everyone. I need to concentrate. It's a lot of work to interpret the data into images.

A beat as we hear the music play.

SILA

Nico really does play beautifully, doesn't he.

VITR

The best.

The song ends with a sustained note from the violin. Applause from the audience, especially NICO'S parents. A beat as YOUNG NICO walks up.

YOUNG NICO

So, what'd you think?

SILA

I can't believe how much better you've gotten!

YOUNG NICO

(uncertain)

I guess...

VITR

Your mother's right. I didn't think it was possible, but you're even more fantastic than you were before. You don't think so?

YOUNG NICO

I just...hate going away for school.

SILA

Well, now you're on break, and we have two whole months together.

YOUNG NICO

Yeah. Sure.

SILA

You don't seem very excited.

YOUNG NICO

You're barely even around. You spend all your time in Chambers.

VITR

Your mother's doing very important work, Nico.

YOUNG NICO

Uh-huh.

SILA

Please, Nico. I've spent every minute I'm not in Chambers with you. I came to see you play, didn't I?

YOUNG NICO

(begrudging)

Yes.

SILA

And I'm very sorry but...I do have to get back. We have another meeting this afternoon.

YOUNG NICO

See? It's like you can't wait to leave. Well, I'm gonna beat you to it.

He stomps off.

SILA

(calling after him)

Nico, please...

VITR

Let him go. It's all right. Get to Chambers. I'll talk to him.

The festival sounds fade away.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS - LATER

The sound of a crowd inside Chambers. It is a busy, bustling place.

BENEFACTOR PERUN

Have you reviewed the revised draft of Althea's Law?

KAELI

We have, Benefactor.

(a beat)

And we reject it.

Claps and hearty cheers from half the audience, jeers from the other side.

SILA

I don't understand. We agreed to the compromise.

KAELI

On further discussion, we found the compromise unacceptable.

Applause and jeers.

SILA

Benefactor, please. They agreed to the revisions in Chambers yesterday. Can't the Council pass it based on the verbal agreement?

Crowd chatters.

BENEFACTOR PERUN

Without signatures from the heads of both parties, I'm afraid the Council can't intervene.

A beat.

SILA

Kaeli, please. Why are you going back on your word?

KAELI

Our children are falling behind. Compared to other planets in the Concord, they score an average of 2% lower in sciences, 4.5% lower in mathematics, and 6% lower in reading comprehension. Without the genetic modifications Althea's Law allows, these gaps will only increase over generations.

Claps from the audience.

SILA

We've been over this. Those gaps aren't because of our lack of genetic modification, but from deficiencies in our education system.

A bit of applause.

SILA (CONT'D)

Which the new bill seeks to address.

SILA'S supporters clap a bit harder.

KAELI

We disagree.

SILA

But you agreed yesterday!

KAELI

With some time to think about it, our original position stands. We want the full range of genetic modifications to be allowed. No restrictions.

Applause, cheers, and jeers mix from the audience.

BENEFACTOR PERUN

Kaeli, those revisions were the first real progress we've made in months. We've allowed for some genetic modifications, with the ability to revisit others if the improvements to the education system don't work.

KAELI

Benefactor Perun, you yourself are genetically modified. Surely, you must see how antiquated it is to not allow as many as are possible.

BENEFACTOR PERUN

It's not my job to comment on the nature of the law, but to find a solution that's acceptable to both sides.

SILA

I'm sure Benefactor Perun sees the necessity of maintaining a planet without genetic modifications. Scientists regularly require unmodified DNA. The Concord relies on us as one the few planets who have it. We play a vital role in humanity's future.

Cheers take over, with some angry shouts throughout.

CROWD MEMBER #1
Backwards!

CROWD MEMBER #2
Traditionalist!

KAELI
Let the other unmodified planets
play that role. We shouldn't have
to fall behind.

Clapping. Some cheers of 'hear hear!'

SILA
But we're not behind! We're one of
the lead producers of agriculture
in the Concord.

KAELI
Yes, we have many of the Concord's
top farmers. But none of its top
scientists. Where's our ambition?

Cheers and whistles.

SILA
Ambition doesn't matter if you
can't eat.

Moderate applause.

SILA (CONT'D)
Yield management is highly skilled
work.

Boos from the the other side. Other members in the crowd yell
at the boo-ers.

SILA (CONT'D)
(shouting over the din)
And what about our ties to our
Earth heritage?

CROWD MEMBER #1
Earth is a myth!

KAELI
Those are exactly the kinds of
backwards beliefs keeping our
planet from reaching its full
potential!

The crowd descends into loud arguments. It's chaotic and
emotionally charged, going on for a while and only building.

BENEFACTOR PERUN
(shouting)
That's enough!

The crowd hushes instantly.

BENEFACTOR PERUN (CONT'D)
That's enough for today.

A beat.

SILA
Benefactor Perun, please. We were
so close yesterday.

BENEFACTOR PERUN
Things have obviously changed.
We're not going to solve this
today. Let's adjourn.

Murmurs and shuffles as people get up and leave. Footsteps as
SILA approaches KAELI.

SILA
Kaeli, do you have a moment?

KAELI
Yes?

SILA
We don't really need the Benefactor
to babysit us, do we? No one knows
these issues better than you and I.
(a beat)
Maybe if we sat down together,
somewhere more relaxed, we could
come to a more acceptable
compromise. We could grab an ale?
I've heard Badur's hops are
excellent this season. What do you
say?

KAELI
I say you're trying to get me away
from Benefactor Perun. Because you
know that, while he's maintained
the appearance of neutrality, he's
on my side.
(a beat)
If you want to talk to me, do it in
Chambers.

KAELI walks away.

SILA
(calling out)
Benefactor Perun!

She walks over to BENEFACTOR PERUN.

SILA (CONT'D)
We worked so hard to draft that
revision, and the Benefactors'
suggestions were excellent. Perhaps
you and I could try to write
another draft?

BENEFACTOR PERUN
You heard what Kaeli said. They're
not interested in a compromise.

SILA
Yes, but maybe if we tried to find
a solution, we can-

BENEFACTOR PERUN
Go home, Sila. It's over.

PERUN walks away. The sound of the Chambers fades out.

INT. NICO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Soft violin music plays from another room, barely audible.
The door to the house opens and closes as SILA walks in.

VITR
You're home!

We hear footsteps, and a kiss.

SILA
Hello, my darling. Where's Nico?

VITR
Practicing. How did it go today?

SILA sighs, and sits down. VITR sits with her.

VITR (CONT'D)
That well?

SILA
Vitr, I think the Benefactors are
running low on patience.
(a beat, then quietly)
(MORE)

SILA (CONT'D)

I think they're going to hold a
vote on whether or not to keep
Sogen in the Concord.

VITR

No!

SILA

Shhh!

VITR

(quieter)
It's that bad?

SILA

(quietly)
It's been months, and it's not
getting any better. If anything,
it's getting worse.

VITR

(quietly)
How soon do you think the vote will
happen?

SILA

I don't know.
(even quieter)
I looked into getting Nico off the
planet.

A beat.

VITR

So it's close.

SILA

There aren't as many flights as
there were before. The ones that
are left are all full.

(a beat)

I think the Modernists are rounding
up ships.

VITR

Rounding up ships? For what?

SILA

In case there's a conflict.

A beat. The flute music continues as dissonant sounds fade in
underneath.

VITR

You think they're going to try to leave the planet?

SILA

No. I think they're going to use the ships.

VITR

You mean...arm them?

SILA

I don't know. Maybe.

VITR

Where would they acquire weaponry? You can't really think they're capable of that.

SILA

I don't know anymore.

Beat. VITR takes a breath.

VITR

If worst comes to worst, we have our rickety runner. It's not much, but it can at least get us to the next planet.

SILA

Not if people start shooting.
(a beat)
We need to get Nico off the planet. Tonight.

EXT. KAELI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The sound of bullfrogs and crickets fades in. Footsteps on the ground.

YOUNG NICO

(frustrated)

Where are we going?

SILA

I told you, I need your help.

YOUNG NICO

Why did you make me bring my violin?

SILA
You'll see.

Footsteps.

SILA (CONT'D)
I thought you'd be happy we're
spending time together.

YOUNG NICO
Doing something for you.

SILA
Nico-

YOUNG NICO
Let's just get this over with.

Footsteps. They get to the house and stop. SILA knocks on the door. It opens.

KAELI
What are you doing here? I told you
I only wanted to speak in Chambers.

SILA
Hello, Kaeli. You know my son,
Nico.

KAELI
Hello, Nico.

YOUNG NICO
(flatly)
Hey.

SILA
Can we show you something?
(a beat)
Please?

A beat as KAELI considers. He decides to let them in, and we hear their footsteps as they enter the house.

INT. KAELI'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

NICO and SILA step inside. The door closes. We hear a fire crackling.

SILA
Thank you for letting us in.

KAELI

What is it you wanted to show me?

SILA

Nico, will you play something for Kaeli? Please?

A beat. NICO opens the violin case, takes out the violin, and begins to play. The tune is beautiful, haunting, and shows just how gifted a musician NICO is. They listen silently for a while, letting the music flow through the room. As the last notes sound, SILA speaks.

SILA (CONT'D)

Nico is at the top of his class. Even though he's not genetically modified.

YOUNG NICO

Yeah, but I have to work twice as hard as the kids who are! They're taller, so they have longer fingers. It's so much easier for them to play!

SILA

Nico, the reason you're at the top of your class is because you play with feeling. Genetic modifications aren't everything.

KAELI

Did you really think this is all it would take? That I'd change my mind because of a song?

SILA

Of course not. This is just one example. But the point still stands - genetic modifications aren't a panacea. They might make people taller. Stronger. Smarter. But that won't guarantee success.

(beat)

I know how much you loved your daughter. And I think you're very brave to propose this law in her honor. But genetic modifications wouldn't have saved her.

KAELI

That's not true! If only she'd been a little stronger, or, or a little faster...

He chokes up, and can't finish the thought.

SILA

(gently)

It was a rockslide, Kaeli.

(beat)

If there were something I could do to make sure it never happened again, I would. But there are some problems genetic modifications can't solve. And there are things they're not even attempting to achieve. They don't make people nicer. They don't make people happier. They don't make anyone love more.

(beat)

They can't make you hurt less.

(beat)

Even if they could, would you want them to? Your pain is Althea's memory, yearning to live through you. But genetic modifications don't care about your emotional state, only your skills. And I think that's a terrible miss. If humanity wants to be at its best, it should seek it not only by being smarter, or stronger, or faster, but by honoring its feelings. Because throughout history, love and pain and joy have gotten more done than strength or smarts alone ever could. Look at the law you're proposing. It's from a place of tremendous love. Don't you want to build a society that values that?

A beat.

KAELI

(quiet)

I don't...I don't want her death to be meaningless.

SILA

Support the revised law. Sign it with me. It's a tribute to your love that will forever bear her name.

A beat.

KAELI

I...I'm sorry I've been pushing so hard.

SILA

Don't be.

KAELI

But I've created a lot of discord.

SILA

I'm sure we can work together to put it aside.

Beat.

KAELI

I am too.

(beat)

I'll sign the law.

SILA

That's wonderful, but what about your followers? Do you think they can accept that?

KAELI

I'll convince them. And if at first they don't agree with me, I'll push them with the same zeal I pushed you.

A knowing chuckle escapes from SILA.

SILA

I know you will.

(beat)

It's been a long day. I'm sure you could use some rest. Come on, Nico.

NICO gets up. Footsteps as the two head for the door.

SILA (CONT'D)

Good night, Kaeli.

KAELI

Good night.

SILA

And thank you.

The door opens, and SILA and NICO leave. Door closes.

EXT. SOGEN - NIGHT

Footsteps on the ground. The sound of bullfrogs and crickets.

 YOUNG NICO
Hey...Mom?

 SILA
Yes Nico?

 YOUNG NICO
What you just did...it's going to
make a huge difference, isn't it?

 SILA
My job, Nico, is to make the planet
you grow up on slightly better than
the one I did. That's why I'm so
dedicated.
 (a beat)
Because you're my sun and moon.

 YOUNG NICO
 (annoyed, but lovingly)
Ugh. Mom...

 SILA
Okay, okay. I'll stop being mushy.

A beat as they walk.

 YOUNG NICO
I'm...sorry. That I've been such a
pain.

 SILA
It's okay. You were only a pain
because you missed me.

Footsteps for a few beats.

 YOUNG NICO
Wait, where are we going? The house
is that way.

 SILA
Kaeli means well. I have no doubt
about his intentions.
 (a beat)
But I'm not sure he can undo the
damage he's done.

Transition music, a brief slow chord that fades out.

INT. HANGAR - NIGHT

Footsteps against a metallic floor.

YOUNG NICO

Why are we at the docking bay?

(beat)

Dad? What are you doing here?

VITR

Nico, this is Gora. She's going to be giving you a ride back to school. Tonight.

GORA

(slightly uncomfortable
with Nico)

Hey. Kid.

YOUNG NICO

What? Why? I'm not supposed to go back for another six weeks. This isn't fair!

SILA

We're not sending you away for the whole break. It's probably just your silly mother, being too careful. Most likely you'll be able to come home in a few days.

YOUNG NICO

Why do I have to go at all, then? The flight back is eighteen hours! That's a long damned flight to come back in a couple of days.

VITR

Nico! Language.

SILA

Please, Nico. Can you do this? For me?

YOUNG NICO

If I were your sun and moon, you wouldn't send me away.

(beat)

You want me gone so bad? Fine!

Footsteps as he stomps up the gangplank.

VITR

Nico, wait! Can't your mother and I say goodbye first?

NICO sighs. Footsteps as he walks back down.

YOUNG NICO

Whatever.

VITR

I want you to behave yourself on Gora's ship. It doesn't cost you anything to be kind. Don't forget to practice your music. It's not just a part of you, it's a connection to where you came from. So even when you're far away, remember - you can always feel close to us with a song. And above all, we...we...

He chokes up, and can't go on. He gathers himself and takes a breath.

VITR (CONT'D)

Stay out of trouble. Don't borrow money.

SILA

We love you, Nico.

YOUNG NICO

I know.

A beat. Some sniffles.

YOUNG NICO (CONT'D)

(embarrassed)

Oh geez, Mom. Please don't cry.

SILA tries to stop. NICO sighs.

YOUNG NICO (CONT'D)

I'll be back in a few days, right?

SILA

Exactly.

YOUNG NICO

So, um. Gora, was it? Should we get going?

GORA

Just to warn you, kid, it's not a comfortable ride. She's not a fancy ship.

YOUNG NICO

That's okay.

GORA

But, you get used to this grouchy pile of gears. The Gungnir has her charms.

Footsteps as NICO and GORA walk up the gangplank.

YOUNG NICO

Wait.

They stop.

YOUNG NICO (CONT'D)

(calling out)

Bye Mom. Bye Dad!

VITR

(choked up)

Bye Nico!

The gangplank is raised. VITR cries quietly.

SILA

It's all right. He'll be all right.

The hatch closes, the sound echoing.

SILA (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Goodbye, Nico.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS - DAY

Murmurs from people milling about in the bustling Chambers.

BENEFACTOR PERUN

Everyone take your seats, please.
It's time to get started.

Everyone sits and quiets.

SILA

Benefactor Perun, I have wonderful news.

BENEFACTOR PERUN

It will have to wait. I have an announcement. The Council of Benefactors has decided to take a vote on whether or not Sogen should be allowed to remain a Concord planet.

Shocked and displeased murmurs from the crowd. Mandolin music fades in.

KAELI

But Benefactor, the news was that we've come to an agreement. It's been resolved. There's no need for the vote.

BENEFACTOR PERUN

Unfortunately, the past few months have proven otherwise. Despite our decided efforts, there is no end to the issue in sight.

SILA

But surely our willingness to sign the agreement proves otherwise.

BENEFACTOR PERUN

We've gotten word that certain people have armed themselves.

Murmurs from the audience.

BENEFACTOR PERUN (CONT'D)

Even with the agreement, we fear the divide is too great.

KAELI

We'll surrender our weapons! And accept the consequences for our transgression.

The mandolin music flourishes, becoming more complicated.

BENEFACTOR PERUN

You've shown that an argument between a traditional and modern approach has the potential to be a breeding ground for fanaticism. We must evaluate its risk for spread.

(a beat)

We're about to take the vote. I will return shortly to inform you of the decision.

KAELI
But Benefactor-

Footsteps. The crowd's concerned talking grows louder. A door opens, and closes.

KAELI (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. Sila, I'm so sorry.

No response.

Silence.

The door opens. The crowd falls silent. Footsteps.

BENEFACTOR PERUN
It has been decided.

Outside, we hear an explosion.

Inside, people shout in confusion and fear.

INT. NICO'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

A door flies open.

SILA
(shouting)
Vitr! Vitr! Where are you?

VITR (FAR AWAY)
I'm here!

Footsteps as VITR comes running.

VITR (CONT'D)
I'm here. What's wrong?

SILA
We have to get to the runner! Now!

INT. THE RUNNER - MOMENTS LATER

Music plays, tense and dramatic. The hatch closes. Beeping as SILA operates the controls.

SILA
Get ready to lift off.

VITR buckles his seatbelt.

VITR
What's happening?

The crank of a lever. We hear the engines start. The ship lifts off and flies.

SILA
The Benefactors voted us out.

VITR
What? Why?
(a beat)
Out the window! Look! Someone's shooting! At the city!

We can hear the muffled sounds of shooting and explosions.

SILA
Hang on.

The ship banks hard. We hear a shot pass close by them.

VITR
I can't believe our own people are shooting at us!

SILA
We're about to clear the atmosphere.

The ship flies higher, engines roaring as they escape, the sound building until they clear the atmosphere-

And it's quiet. No explosions as they hit the emptiness of space. Only the sound of the ship and its controls can be heard.

VITR
I can't believe it. I can't believe they would do this to us.

SILA
It wasn't our people.

VITR
Wait, what's that?
(a beat)
Are those...

SILA
Benefactor ships.

VITR

Thank the stars they're here. They
can put a stop to this madness.

SILA

That's not why they're here.

We hear shots being fired, echoing through space.

VITR

Are they...shooting? At the
planet?

SILA (CONT'D)

Yes.

VITR (CONT'D)

I don't...I don't understand?!

A fast beeping sounds - an alert.

SILA

I love you, my darli-

Explosion. She gets cut off.

Silence.

INT. THE RESOURCE MONITOR - MOMENTS LATER

ALEX comes out of the memory.

They all stay in silence for a long moment, absorbing what
they just witnessed.

NOVA

(whispers)

Nobody.

Another long silence.

Ending credits music fades in - a woman's echoing voice
humming *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*.

CREDITS

Earth Eclipsed: Episode Seven,
Sogen. Starring Allegra Rodriguez
Shivers, Reginald West, Christian
T. Chan, and Amy Lyndon.

With Angelique Francis, Josh
Portillo, Mike Pollock, Kato
Alexander, Holden Harris, and Diane
Wasnak.

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.

Violin performed by Kate Agostino.

Our production interns are Eamon McKeon and So Asiddao.

Earth Eclipsed is a production of The Lunar Company.

Music ends.