

EARTH ECLIPSED

Season 1

Episode 8: Memories

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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

I'm home! Maybe they went somewhere safer. We should go to the city.

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.

MAX

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

NICO

We're going to the resource monitor.

(a beat)

I need to see what happened.

BENEFACTOR PERUN

It has been decided.

VITR

Are those...

SILA

Benefactor ships.

VITR

They can put a stop to this madness.

SILA

That's not why they're here.

We hear shots being fired, echoing through space.

NICO

The chain of events The Abacus Project set in motion.

INTERVIEWER

It's been confirmed that the four people missing from the memory project are dead.

ALEX

I will find a way to save the Outer Worlds. To keep them in harmony with the Concord.

BENEFACTOR UNA

The Council is quite firm on this.

MAX

I've always had faith in you.

ALEX

I'm staying blind. Linus is the leaker!

SECURITY PERSON

I need backup!

ALEX

You shot him? I never knew space could be such an adventure.

Music fades into silence.

ALEX (CONT'D)

For me, the Concord was a beacon of hope.

A beat of quiet as her words settle.

INT. RESOURCE MONITOR - DAY

Several soft beeps, then a chirp.

The door slides open.

SECURITY OFFICER

Nobody move!
(shouting)
They're in here!

Footsteps as security officers come flooding in. One sends a transmission with a whirr and a beep.

SECURITY OFFICER (CONT'D)

Benefactor, we've found Dr. Prometh. She is safe.

A voice responds - a new voice, male, distorted by the communicator and chaos.

BENEFACTOR TREM (OVER COMMUNICATOR)
Excellent. Escort her to the ship.
Throw the rest in the brig.

Sounds as the officers grab the group. We hear the sounds of a scuffle. MAX and NOVA protest.

MAX
Hey! Let me go! Agh!

NOVA
Do not touch me!

ALEX and NICO say nothing.

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 - MOMENTS LATER

Chime, a bit like a phone ringing.

No answer.

Chime again.

ALEX
Come in.

The door slides open.

BENEFACTOR TREM
Dr. Prometh. I'm sorry to disturb you. May I enter?

ALEX
Yes.

Footsteps - but not just one. Two sets. The door closes.

BENEFACTOR TREM
I'm Benefactor Trem. May I say, it is truly an honor to meet you. Benefactor Una is with me.

BENEFACTOR UNA
Hello, Dr. Prometh.

ALEX
Hello.

BENEFACTOR TREM

I've been designated to assist the Benefactor in her duties. I wanted to assure you personally that she's not being reassigned, since I know you two have a rapport; however, the Council did feel it would be best if she reported to me for the time being. For security's sake.

BENEFACTOR UNA

I am...grateful to the Concord for the assistance.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Dr. Prometh, is everything in order? Are you comfortable? Has Emotea been offered to you?

ALEX

I'm fine.

BENEFACTOR TREM

I received the request to release Max from the brig; however, he did threaten a Concord Officer, with a weapon, no less. I've informed the Council that it was only because he was concerned for your life. I've been advised they'll take it into consideration.

BENEFACTOR UNA

Dr. Prometh, I promise you, I begged the Council for leniency. If it weren't for my mistakes, Max would never have been driven to do such a thing.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Now now. No need to rehash old problems, hey? Water under the bridge. Benefactor Una's plea was very persuasive. But we have to consider what's best for the Concord.

ALEX

(a hollow echo)
The Concord.

BENEFACTOR TREM

I do have some good news for you, however.

(MORE)

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)
Linus has been banished to the
outer worlds. An unusual step, but,
as his extreme actions showed, his
personal ethics were at odds with
our philosophy of peace and
harmony.

ALEX
Peace. Harmony.

BENEFACTOR TREM
Wonderful. Well, I thought it would
be good to introduce myself, and
let you know that I'm here if you
need me. Two whole Benefactors, at
your service. Lucky you.

ALEX
Lucky.

BENEFACTOR TREM
We'll leave you to your rest. Come,
Benefactor Una.

BENEFACTOR UNA
Yes sir.

Footsteps. But then they stop.

BENEFACTOR TREM
Oh, there is one...small matter.
Nothing too taxing, and then we'll
be on our way, I promise. Doctor,
when we were reviewing the logs in
the resource monitor, it looks like
you accessed a memory. We wanted to
know - is that accurate?

A long beat.

BENEFACTOR UNA
Dr. Prometh. Please.

ALEX
Yes.
(beat)
I saw everything.

A beat.

BENEFACTOR TREM
That is...unfortunate.

ALEX

I don't think so.

(beat)

If anything, it strengthened my
faith in the Concord.

A beat as they wait for more. When it doesn't come...

BENEFACTOR UNA

Doctor, can you elaborate? The
Council is...eager to hear your
response.

ALEX

The deaths of the Sogen people,
while tragic, were necessary. They
prevented a much greater loss of
life.

(a beat)

It was a small price to pay for the
greater good.

BENEFACTOR UNA lets out a sigh of relief.

BENEFACTOR UNA

Doctor, I can't tell you how
wonderful that is to hear.

ALEX

Humanity should thrive over
generations.

The BENEFACTORS repeat the mantra in unison.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Humanity should thrive over
generations.

BENEFACTOR UNA

Humanity should thrive over
generations.

BENEFACTOR UNA (CONT'D)

The Council will be so pleased.
Won't they, Benefactor Trem.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Indeed.

ALEX

It did get me thinking, however.
Now that the Abacus Project is
complete, we may have another way
to save the outer worlds. Take
Sogen, for instance. That man, the
one pushing so hard for the law to
be changed.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

He was only doing so because of the death of his daughter. What if he just...forgot that it happened?

A beat.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Forgot.

ALEX

Yes. Now that we've found a way to read brainwaves, what if the next step is to go into the mind of a living subject, discover any memory that had the potential to cause dissent and just...delete it?

A beat.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm sorry. Am I being too extreme?

A beat.

BENEFACTOR UNA

(quietly, to Trem)

We should tell her.

BENEFACTOR TREM

(quietly, to Una)

That hasn't been authorized.

BENEFACTOR UNA

(quietly, to Trem)

But we could use Dr. Prometh's expertise.

A beat.

BENEFACTOR TREM

(quietly)

I'll allow it.

BENEFACTOR UNA

That was always the plan. The Abacus Project was simply phase one.

A beat.

ALEX

I see.

BENEFACTOR UNA

Doctor, there was some concern you wouldn't want to be involved. While some of us thought your support of the Concord was unconditional, there were those who doubted.

ALEX

I'm insulted you would even think of asking someone else. I am the best candidate.

BENEFACTOR UNA

Which I've always maintained.

BENEFACTOR TREM

There are times when you can be a bit...idealistic.

ALEX

My idealism has always been in support of the Concord.

BENEFACTOR UNA

Exactly what I said. You've always been a staunch supporter of the Concord. You even moved to the Capital to make sure you'd always be a part of it.

ALEX lets out a soft, surprised breath. A beat.

ALEX

How do you know that?

A beat.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(beginning to sound upset)
I've never spoken about that publicly. How do you know that?

BENEFACTOR UNA

Dr. Prometh, let me assure you, the only reason I know anything is because of your great talent.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Benefactor, please. Don't insult the good Doctor, especially when she's been so generous with us. Dr. Prometh, the Concord has been paying close attention to you since before your rise to prominence.

(MORE)

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)

It's why we had some concern about your having retrieved the memory. Our data showed there was a chance you wouldn't support us.

ALEX

Your data?

BENEFACTOR TREM

We've been tracking your decision making, predicting potential outcomes.

BENEFACTOR UNA

But only to ensure that you had what you needed to achieve your full potential.

ALEX

You've been tracking me? For how long?

BENEFACTOR TREM

Since aptitude tests suggested you might be likely to solve the memory problem.

ALEX

(with a scoff)

I haven't taken an aptitude test since I was a child.

(a beat)

You've been watching me since I was a child?

BENEFACTOR TREM

'Watching' is a strong word. We identified you, along with some other promising candidates.

ALEX

I don't understand. I chose to study memory data. I founded PromethTech. I partnered with HoloCorp. The Concord wasn't involved in any of those decisions.

BENEFACTOR TREM

We may have created some...favorable conditions. Along the way.

ALEX

If there were other candidates, why me?

BENEFACTOR TREM

The Council has been conducting memory research for generations, with no success. We needed someone who would take greater risks.

BENEFACTOR UNA

Morally, you can be a bit...flexible.

ALEX

(realizing)

My test subjects. You knew they would die. You knew retrieving memories was impossible without it.

(a beat)

And you knew I would do it.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Again, 'knew' is a strong word. We weren't certain. We merely had...an indication. And as you said yourself, Doctor: it's a small price to pay for the greater good.

BENEFACTOR UNA

You should be proud you were selected, Alex.

(a beat. Proudly)

You are truly exceptional.

Footsteps. The door slides open.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Oh, and Doctor, when you get back, get your eyes repaired, will you? We've completed the stim. No need to walk around like...that.

Footsteps. Door slides closed.

INT. BENEFACTOR'S SHIP - COCKPIT

The door slides open Footsteps. The door closes.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Benefactor Una, before I send a holo transmission to the Council, you should wipe that smirk off your face.

BENEFACTOR UNA

Smirk? Benefactor Trem, there is no smirk. That's purely your imagination.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Please. You're gloating so openly even a blind woman could see it.

BENEFACTOR UNA

(absolutely gloating)

I'm not gloating. I'm simply pleased that Dr. Prometh's support is unwavering. As I predicted.

BENEFACTOR TREM

If only your decisions were as reliable as your predictions. I wouldn't even be here.

(a beat)

Oh, that smirk you were saying wasn't there? Seems to be gone now.

(to the ship)

Concord Cruiser 357, open a transmission to the Council.

A transmission opens with a whirring sound and several soft beeps.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)

Council, we have an update on the status of Dr. Prometh. She-

BENEFACTOR UNA

(interrupting)

Dr. Prometh is eager to assist us with the next phase of the memory projects.

A beat.

VOICE OF THE COUNCIL

(distorted over the communicator)

Acceptable.

BENEFACTOR TREM

I have some trepidation. We don't know what happened during her absence. She may have formed a bond with her captors.

BENEFACTOR UNA

She would never-

BENEFACTOR TREM

I suggest the Concord monitor for any signs. Attempts to visit or contact the prisoners.

VOICE OF THE COUNCIL

Agreed.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Regarding the prisoners, how would you like us to proceed?

BENEFACTOR UNA

Have you made a decision about Max?

BENEFACTOR TREM

I still think he has the potential to be a threat.

VOICE OF THE COUNCIL

Disagree.

BENEFACTOR UNA

Thank you, Council. With regards to the other prisoners, I have a suggestion. Perhaps it would be best if they met with an 'accident.'

VOICE OF THE COUNCIL

Please hold.

A beat.

VOICE OF THE COUNCIL (CONT'D)

Unacceptable.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Agreed. Citizens are too aware of the prisoners. Such an action has the potential to be seen as suspicious. Unfortunately, Benefactor Una, your failures were very public.

VOICE OF THE COUNCIL

Agreed.

BENEFACTOR UNA

My...deepest apologies.

BENEFACTOR TREM

No need to apologize. Again. But we do have to take it into consideration. Council, is there any concern, given the visibility of these incidents, that they might encourage similar actors? We've never had this level of disruption. I worry that some might take it as...inspiration.

VOICE OF THE COUNCIL

Please hold.

A beat.

VOICE

Agreed.

BENEFACTOR TREM

If we need to discourage such actions, might I suggest a trial?

BENEFACTOR UNA

That archaic device? It wasn't a deterrent when it existed.

BENEFACTOR TREM

I wasn't finished. Hold it publicly. And, on conviction, make their punishment public as well.

Soft beeping and whirring under his words.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)

Show Citizens that such actions will not be tolerated.

VOICE OF THE COUNCIL

Please hold.

A beat.

VOICE OF THE COUNCIL (CONT'D)

Agreed.

BENEFACTOR TREM

The trial will also give Dr. Prometh an opportunity to testify against the prisoners. If she is loyal to the Concord, that shouldn't be an issue.

BENEFACTOR UNA

It won't.

BENEFACTOR TREM

And one last thing. I suggest that punishment for the prisoners should be...severe.

VOICE

Please hold.

A beat.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Agreed.

Transition music, a soft, humming beat that fades out.

INT. BENEFACTOR'S SHIP, BRIG - MOMENTS LATER

The sound of an energy field, crackling electricity and a hum.

NOVA

Two energy fields.

NOVA clangs twice against the bars, which reverberate metallicly.

NOVA (CONT'D)

Reinforced titanium bars. Looks like the Concord learned their lesson.

Footsteps as NOVA walks over and sits down.

NOVA (CONT'D)

I...I'm so sorry, Nico.

NICO

Sorry for what? It's what I've been saying for years. The Concord destroys the outer worlds.

NOVA

I know. But to actually see it...

A beat.

NICO
So, Nova. Do you still think the
prison they build for us will be a
cushy ride?

A beat.

NOVA
Definitely not.

The humming fades.

INT. BENEFACTOR'S SHIP, ALEX'S QUARTERS - LATER

The door slides open.

MAX
Alex!

Footsteps. The door closes.

ALEX
Max. They let you out.

MAX
(disgusted, sharp)
I can barely look at them. Every
single security officer. Their
faces, their uniforms. Makes me
sick.

(a beat)
The Concord must be stopped.

ALEX
I'm glad you're here.

MAX
Me too. What's the plan?

A beat.

ALEX
I wanted to inform you: your
services are no longer required.

MAX
My services?

ALEX
As my assistant.

MAX

Your assistant? What the hell are you talking about?

ALEX

I'll be continuing my research.

MAX

You're...kidding, right?

ALEX

I lied to the Benefactors. Told them that the projector screen didn't work, and that no one saw the memory aside from myself.

(beat)

It's as if it never happened.

MAX

You're going to ignore what you saw?

ALEX

I'll tell them that the ordeal was too much for you. That you require leave. That way, you can find other work on your own. I'll even provide a reference.

MAX steps closer.

MAX

Have you lost your mind? We have a responsibility, Alex. To start a revolution!

ALEX

The only thing I saw in that memory, Max, was a peaceful organization, maintaining the peace.

A beat. MAX steps back.

MAX

You're...a monster. I'm going to tell everyone the truth!

ALEX

You have no proof.

MAX

I'll...I'll find it!

ALEX

Given what we've seen the Concord is capable of, that would be inadvisable.

A beat.

MAX

I can't believe I dedicated so much of my life to you.

He makes his way out. The door slides open, then shuts as he leaves ALEX behind.

EXT. THE CAPITAL PLANET - DAY

Muffled chants of a crowd. The sound of whirring machinery, and suddenly a door is opened and the raucous cheers become clear.

There are fireworks. Triumphant music plays.

A hissing sound of a door closing, and the sound is muffled once again. Digital beeps and whirrs sound as someone works a panel.

The introduction music for a news broadcast plays under.

REPORTER EIREK

Salutations, Citizens. This is Eirek Zemi, from The Concord Herald, reporting to you live from the main square in the Capital. The day we've all been anticipating for eight months is finally here: the trial of Nico Dunn and Nova Neran. For those of you who aren't watching the live holo stream, listening in, the stage that has been built for the trial is still empty. We're set to get started in just a few moments. There is already quite the crowd, and experts predict this is going to be both the highest attended and most-watched event in Concord history. The big question on everyone's mind is: Will Dr. Prometh testify? She's been uncharacteristically out of the public eye since her return to the Concord. She hasn't granted a single interview as she's recovered from her experience.

(MORE)

REPORTER EIREK (CONT'D)
Will she be well enough to take the stand? Or, will the recounting of the events be too traumatic to face? If she can't testify, experts have suggested that Citizens will not support a conviction.

The crowd continues to chant. The hiss of a door opening. The crowd cheers wildly.

REPORTER EIREK (CONT'D)
Oh, it looks like someone is coming out...
(a beat)
Concord security have taken the stage. They have been a conspicuous presence here, with uniformed officers throughout the crowd.

Cheering grows.

REPORTER EIREK (CONT'D)
Here come the Benefactors, led by Benefactor Trem.

A beat.

REPORTER EIREK (CONT'D)
There are the witnesses. No sign of Dr. Prometh, but she still could show up later.

Booing mixes with the whistles and applause.

REPORTER EIREK (CONT'D)
And there are the prisoners.

Gasps from the crowd. The volume drops significantly as people take in the sight of SAI.

REPORTER EIREK (CONT'D)
Among the prisoners is the robot, now being seen for the first time. As robots have been banned since the Days of Distance, there has been speculation that, regardless of the outcome, it will be disassembled at conclusion of the trial.
(beat)
Everyone is taking their seats.

The crowd gets very quiet. Only whispers at most are heard.

REPORTER EIREK (CONT'D)
(quietly)
Benefactor Trem is approaching the
podium.

BENEFACTOR TREM steps up and addresses the audience from a
microphone that echoes.

BENEFACTOR TREM
Citizens. We are here today to
witness. The Concord has long been
a place of peace, but there are
those who have taken that for
granted, who have taken advantage
of the freedoms that provides. We
hope this trial, whatever its
outcome, serves as a reminder to
all that peace is fragile. Peace is
a privilege. It needs to be
protected. And the Concord will
protect it.

Clapping from the audience.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)
Nico Dunn. Nova Neran. The charges
against you are: kidnapping,
assault, harboring weapons with
intent to cause harm, and
conspiracy against the Concord.

A silence.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)
Let the evidence review begin.
First witness.

A beat. Footsteps.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)
Please state your name.

MAX
Max-

Some feedback from the microphone.

MAX (CONT'D)
Maximus Marxi.

BENEFACTOR TREM
You are Dr. Prometh's former
assistant, correct?

MAX

Correct.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Mr. Marxi, please state how you first came to make the acquaintance of Nico Dunn and Nova Neran.

MAX

Can...can everyone hear me?

Claps from the audience.

MAX (CONT'D)

Dr. Prometh and I were engaged in research involving the resource monitors. Its purpose was to save the outer worlds.

Clapping.

MAX (CONT'D)

No, no. Don't clap. We thought we were doing it for the good of humanity. That by extending the Concord's reach, we were providing peace and prosperity for all.

(a beat)

We were wrong.

Music fades in - drumbeats accompanying MAX'S passionate speech.

MAX (CONT'D)

The Concord is responsible for the destruction of the outer worlds.

Boos from the audience.

MAX (CONT'D)

The Concord prevents dissent by committing genocide!

The booing gets louder.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Security.

Security officers seize MAX, who struggles against them for a moment.

MAX

(shouting)

I - I have proof! I have proof!

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)
I've spent the last eight months
traveling the outer worlds! No. Let
me go!

MAX continues to struggle against security and shout into the
microphone.

MAX (CONT'D)
There are blast - there are blast
patterns! Made by Concord weapons!

BENEFACTOR TREM
Security, hold.

A complete silence falls for a moment as they still.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)
Mr. Marxi, our apologies. The
trauma you've been through affected
you more than we realized. We
shouldn't have forced you to relive
it.

MAX
This isn't trauma! It's the truth!

BENEFACTOR TREM
Thank you for your time.

Security seizes MAX and starts to lead him away once more.

MAX
Coward! What are you afraid of,
Trem?

BENEFACTOR TREM
Security, hold.

Security and MAX stop.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)
(a beat)
The Concord has nothing to hide.
Mr. Marxi, please. If you insist on
discussing this, step up to the
microphone. So that everyone can
hear.

A beat, some footsteps as MAX steps up to the microphone.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)
So. You say you have evidence of
blast patterns caused by Concord
ships on the outer worlds?

MAX

I've collected holo recordings.
I've sent packages to every major
news outlet. You should all be
receiving them now.

Murmuring from the crowd.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Hm. But these outer planets you
visited, aren't they known enemies
of the Concord?

MAX

(not into the microphone)
Wouldn't you be if your entire-

BENEFACTOR TREM

Please. A little louder.

MAX gets closer to the microphone.

MAX

Wouldn't you be if they committed
genocide on your planet?

Whispers from the crowd.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Genocide, that's a very serious
accusation. Isn't it possible the
outer worlds faked this so-called
proof? As a way to discredit the
Concord?

MAX

They didn't!

BENEFACTOR TREM

But if they are enemies of the
Concord, wouldn't they have an
interest in doing so?

MAX

Yes, but that's not what happened,
they-

BENEFACTOR TREM

Prove that they didn't.

Silence.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)

Mr. Marxi?

MAX

I can't prove a negative.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Then your proof isn't exactly ironclad, is it? So we have two options. Either the Concord is callously destroying the outer worlds, brutally murdering billions of former Citizens, Citizens it previously protected for generations. Or, the outer worlds, displeased with being kicked out of the Concord, are trying to discredit us. Well, Citizens? What do you think? Should we believe Mr. Marxi's wild allegations?

Loud booing. There are shouts of 'Traitor!' 'Enemy of the Concord!' 'Put him on trial!'

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)

Please, don't judge him too harshly. He's been through something...unimaginable.

(a beat)

We'll make sure he gets the rest he needs. Security.

MAX is seized once more and shouts as he's dragged away.

MAX

(voice fading)

No, let me go - I'm telling the truth! I'm telling the truth!

A beat.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Second witness, please.

Nothing happens.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)

I said, second witness.

Nothing.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)

(impatient)

Can someone please locate Dr. Prometh?

A long beat. Footsteps. Then gasps. Whispers from the crowd.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)

Ah. Dr. Prometh, thank you for being with us today. Since your appearance seems to have caused some concern, would you please explain, put everyone's mind at ease?

ALEX

I'm blind.

Concerned murmurs from the crowd.

ALEX (CONT'D)

The device I'm using allows me to walk safely.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Thank you. Are you in pain, discomfort, because of your blindness?

ALEX

No.

BENEFACTOR TREM

And you chose this, to conduct your research, even though you could reverse it at any time.

ALEX

Yes.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Is it...contagious?

ALEX

(clearly annoyed)

No.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Wonderful, thank you for assuring us all. And, of course, if you need a break at any time during your testimony, do not hesitate to say so.

ALEX

My legs work just fine, Benefactor Trem.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Of course. Dr. Prometh, how did you come to meet the accused?

A beat.

ALEX
They kidnapped me.

BENEFACTOR TREM
Not once, but twice, correct?

ALEX
Yes.

BENEFACTOR TREM
And they restrained you?

ALEX
Yes.

BENEFACTOR TREM
Threatened you with weapons?

ALEX
Yes.

BENEFACTOR TREM
Threatened your life by forcing you
to complete a highly experimental
and potentially deadly procedure?

ALEX
Yes.

BENEFACTOR TREM
And through all of this, did you
ever learn what their intention
was?

ALEX
To prove the Concord was
responsible for genocide.

BENEFACTOR TREM
Why did they do that?

ALEX leans in closer to the microphone.

ALEX
Because they are enemies of the
Concord.

The audiences bursts into wild applause, cheering and
whistling.

NICO

This is bullshit! You know what you saw!

BENEFACTOR TREM

Quiet!

There's a whirring sound as SAI starts up his circuits. He plays a recording.

ALEX [RECORDING]

We're a team.

NICO [RECORDING]

Is that...Is that a smile I see?

ALEX [RECORDING]

(yes)

No.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Turn it off!

NICO [RECORDING]

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

ALEX [RECORDING]

Absolutely not.

(a beat)

It's just...I never knew space could be such an adventure.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Security!

NOVA

(shouting)

Do not touch him!

SAI

It's okay. I'll stop.

(a beat)

Alex, I thought you were our friend.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Citizens, you have heard it for yourselves. These prisoners are responsible for atrocities unexperienced in the Concord for generations. They have threatened the balance of peace and safety.

(MORE)

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)

By attacking one of our Citizens,
they have attacked us all.

(a beat)

However, the Concord is not without
mercy. Not without compassion. We
have an offer for the prisoners.

(beat)

Nico Dunn. Nova Neran. You are
being given a choice. Pledge
allegiance to the Concord. Recite
the Charter as a show of faith.
Promise to abide by its articles,
and we will let you live as
Citizens, in peace. You will be
cleared of all charges.

(a beat)

Or refuse. You'll be found guilty
on all counts.

(a beat)

And executed.

Gasps from the crowd, followed by murmurs of disbelief.

BENEFACTOR TREM (CONT'D)

What say you?

A long beat.

NICO

I'd rather die.

NOVA

Same.

Angry shouts from the audience.

BENEFACTOR TREM

You see, Citizens? They'd rather
die than join the most peaceful
organization in history. They're
nothing but terrorists.

(beat)

Security, prepare the prisoners.

Music begins. The Concord anthem starts up - a rousing,
majestic song. The song of an empire. It should be inspiring,
but here, as the people sing along in harmony and cheer under
the music, it's chilling.

CITIZENS

Hail to the Concord!
Long live its Citizens!
Peace and prosperity.
Humanity is great.

(MORE)

CITIZENS (CONT'D)

Working together,
We'll all live in harmony,
Citizens united
Through the generations.
In the Concord, we shall thrive!
In the Concord, we shall thrive!
In the Concord, we shall thrive!
In the Concord, we shall thrive!

The anthem ends with a spectacular high note. Everyone cheers wildly.

Then, silence falls among the crowd. Music plays under, tense strings scoring the moment.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Nico Dunn. Nova Neran. You have
been found guilty on all counts.
Though granted leniency, let the
record show, you have chosen death.
May the Concord's mercy shine on
all. Security?

We hear the marching of a group of footsteps.

When they stop, we hear an engine sound - a ship flying in.

We cut to REPORTER EIREK, and the sound is muffled from his perspective.

REPORTER EIREK

A ship has just appeared. Uh - uh,
it's possible that after the
execution, we will be treated to an
aerial fireworks show.

We cut back to the stage.

BENEFACTOR TREM

Prepare your blasters.

We hear a bunch of blasters power up.

But then - we hear the engine descend.

We cut back to REPORTER EIREK.

REPORTER EIREK

What's this?...The
ship....it's...it's descending on
the stage.

The sound of the audience shouting in confusion fades in. The music builds in intensity.

REPORTER EIREK (CONT'D)
It...it isn't a Concord ship!

We hear blasters firing. The audience shouts in a panic.

REPORTER EIREK (CONT'D)
Security is firing their blasters
at the ship!
(horrified whisper)
They're having no effect!
(panicked)
How could this have happened? Where
are the Concord cruisers?

More blasters firing. The audience is now in complete
pandemonium. We hear the events as REPORTER EIREK narrates.

REPORTER EIREK (CONT'D)
(shouting)
One of the prisoners has gotten
hold of a blaster!
(a beat)
Wait...is that? It is! A ladder is
being dropped from the ship!
(a beat)
The prisoners are escaping! The
prisoners are escaping!

It's absolute chaos.

REPORTER EIREK (CONT'D)
(voice pitch rising as he
narrates)
Hold on! Some brave security
officer is climbing the ladder!
Hopefully he can put a stop to
this! No, wait...that isn't...It's
Maximus Marxi! They're getting
away! Somebody, stop them!
Somebody!
(a beat)
This is, without a doubt, the most
tragic day in Concord history! The
prisoners are lost! I repeat, the
prisoners are lost!

The engines lift off.

The shouting of the crowd fades into the distance.

Music fades.

INT. THE GUNGNIR - MOMENTS LATER

The familiar hum of the Gungnir. The door slides open with a digital whirr. Footsteps.

NICO
Everybody in one piece?

SAI
Yes. I am fine. NOVA

MAX
Me too.

NICO
Good. Now who - who the hell is driving my ship!

NICO makes his way to the cockpit. The others follow.

INT. THE GUNGNIR COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

The door opens.

ALEX
(cheerfully)
Welcome aboard.

A beat.

ALEX (CONT'D)
What, you're not happy to see me?
Pity. I went through a lot of trouble to pull this off.

Giant, lumbering mechanical footsteps.

SAI (FAR AWAY)
You guys, that's not fair. You know I can't run.

SAI makes his way in.

SAI (CONT'D)
Alex?

ALEX
Hello, Sai. I'm sorry I didn't give any of you advance warning, but ugh those security officers. They seemed hellbent on proving that we were all in cahoots.

SAI

I knew it! I knew you were our friend!

ALEX

Do you think I could support the Concord after what we saw? Ridiculous. I mean, it wasn't easy, pretending. Did you know they would talk about their suspicions I was a traitor, in front of me, as if I weren't even there? I wanted to shout, "just because I can't see, doesn't mean I can't hear you, idiots." But that's the Concord for you. They don't know how to deal with difference. They only eliminate it. They would have held me down in a stem vat themselves if they could. In any case, testifying against you was the only way to get them off my back. Everyone was so busy watching that garish spectacle of an execution, no one followed me when I went to get the Gungnir. And luckily, most of the officers that would normally have been watching her were busy patrolling the crowd.

NICO

So all that, down there was...

ALEX

Part of an elaborate ruse. Sorry if I hurt anyone's feelings. Speaking of which, can someone take the controls? You'll need to drop me off on the planet, so I can go back and get Max. We'll set a rendezvous point at the south side of the city, there's a-

MAX

I'm right here.

ALEX

Max? How did you-

MAX

You sure created one hell of a diversion.

NICO

Doctor.

Footsteps as NICO walks in.

NICO (CONT'D)
You saved us.

The group walks in.

NOVA
Dr. Prometh. For such a small
woman, you are very brave.
(a beat)
Thank you.

MAX
Alex.

Footsteps as he comes close to her.

MAX (CONT'D)
You were going to take the risk of
going back...for me?

A beat.

ALEX
How could I not rescue my only true
friend?

A beat as they have a moment. NICO laughs.

NICO
Well, Doctor. Looks like the
Concord finally got to see what a
gigantic pain in the ass you truly
are.

ALEX
(laughing)
You have no idea. When they figure
it out, they will be furious.

MAX
(laughing)
How...how did you do all this?

ALEX
I've spent the last eight months,
lying to the Concord. They made
this stim, the one to replicate
blindness? I kept telling them it
didn't work, but really I was
training their recruits so poorly,
they'd never be able to retrieve a
memory.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

I kept telling them how incompetent they were, and they'd trip over themselves running in circles trying to fix it. In the meantime, I've been retrieving memories to learn everything about Concord operations. Scouring for classified information. Covering my tracks. Learning all of their protocols. Stealing security access codes. It's been quite a bit of work.

MAX

Why...why didn't you tell me? I could have helped you, I - I could-

ALEX

If I got caught, I was still valuable to them. They needed me too much. But I wasn't sure I could protect you.

(a beat, then softly)

If something happened to you, Max...

A beat.

MAX

Alex, I...

NICO

(shouting)

What the hell did you do to my ship?

ALEX

I am still blind, you know. I had to make adjustments, so I could fly the damned thing.

Some thuds and clangs as NICO pokes around.

NOVA

How long until the Cruisers come for us?

ALEX

I've disabled them, temporarily. By the time they fix it, we'll be somewhere safe.

(a beat)

But I found something. In the memories.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

(a beat)

I know how to destroy the Concord.

A long beat.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Hello?

(beat)

I can't see your faces so I don't know your reaction. Are you too afraid of them now?

(beat)

They'll do everything in their considerable power to kill us.

(beat)

I'm sure we could find some cozy planet somewhere, hide out for the rest of our days.

(beat)

Or, separate planets, if we simply want to go our own way, never speak of this again.

A beat. Music fades in, low and brave brass horns and a ticking beat.

MAX

I want to stop the Concord.
Whatever the cost.

NOVA

I am not afraid to die.

SAI

I'm in.

Footsteps. A beat.

NICO

(determined)

Let's take the bastards out.

SCENE NINE - INT. THE GUNGNIR COCKPIT

Silence. Then, BOOM - an explosion.

NOVA

Direct hit!

NICO

Sai, armor damage?

SAI

Twenty percent.

NICO

Keep an eye on it. Nova, can we make it to the node with the Cruiser on our tail?

NOVA

I will do my best to evade.

NICO

Sai, open a transmission. All channels.

SAI

Yes boss.

Clicks and beeps as SAI opens a transmission. Another hit from outside the hull. The transmission begins, but is garbled.

NICO

(unintelligible)

Is this garbage turned on? Hello?

The static clears up and we hear a voice:

NICO (CONT'D)

Hello? There we go.

Static scratch.

NICO (CONT'D)

Listen up. We don't have much time. The Human Concord is collapsing. The whole damn thing.

The Gungnir takes another hit and shifts, the hum of the engine continuing. Two chirps as SAI takes a measurement.

SAI

(background)

The Gungnir is at twenty-three percent armor damage.

NICO

The Concord Network, and everything connected to it, will cease functioning. Space stations, vessels: listen close. You need to get back to a planet now. Every system on your ship relies on the network. When that goes, you go. If you have to, use emergency pods. They're not hooked up so they're safe.

SAI
(background)
Armor damage at twenty-four
percent.

NOVA
(background)
Shut it, SAI.

NICO
Things are gonna get... messy. But
those of you on planets, you have
everything you need to survive.
Trust me. It may not feel like it
because you've never been on your
own before, and you're going to
have to figure out some things for
yourselves for the first time. But
you will get through this chaos.

SAI
(background)
Armor damage at twenty-five
percent.

NOVA
(background)
Not helping!

NICO
You will long for your comforts and
dependencies. You will loathe the
choice we have made and curse the
changes we have brought. The chain
of events The Abacus Project set in
motion. Seven-thousand six-hundred
and four standard years. That's the
record for the longest lie. You
lived your whole life in a prison
and it became your home. I can only
hope that, in time, you will come
to see these bindings as they truly
are.

SAI
(background)
Armor damage at-

NICO
(finally snapping)
I swear I'm going to throw you out
of the god damn airlock.

SAI
(background)
But Chief, you told me-

NICO
(background)
To keep an eye on it, SAI. Not to
yell out the exact number every
second.
(background)
Forget it.

Music accompanies NICO now, slowly swelling with hope under
his words.

NICO (CONT'D)
(sigh. He turns back to the
transmission)
Alright, listen. A lifetime's use
of Emotea and Nociceptor Splicing
have surely numbed your senses but
now, you will feel. You're not used
to it, but it's human. And, as a
wise person once said, if humanity
wants to be at its best, it will be
through its feelings. Because love
and pain and joy have gotten more
done throughout history than
strength or smarts alone ever did.
So that pain you're about to feel
may be hard...but it's necessary.

Survive. Stay safe. And,
eventually, rebuild. Humanity
depends on what Alex has done.

Long beat. Music fades out.

NICO (CONT'D)
(background)
Any of you idiots care to tell me
how many listeners we got?

NOVA
(background)
Can't this wait?!

SAI
(background)
Wait, I got it.

Beat. Beeps as SAI checks.

SAI (CONT'D)
(background)

Two.

Beat. The ship takes another hit.

SAI (CONT'D)
And armor damage at thirty-one percent.

NICO
(groans)
Well, fuck.

The door opens. Footsteps.

MAX
The modified sonic detonators are loaded and ready to go!

NICO
No one was listening.

ALEX
Oh well. They'll have to figure it out on their own.

Another blast hits the Gungnir, much harder this time.

SAI
Uh-oh. That last blast got us dead on. Armor damage now at sixty-two percent!

NOVA
The Gungnir. She cannot take much more.

ALEX
Once the network goes down, they won't be able to fire.

NOVA
We are in range of the node!

NICO
On my count!
Three...two...one...fire!

There is a massive blast fired from the ship, which roars through space.

The music is tense and fast as a pulse.

NICO (CONT'D)

Status!

NOVA

Hold on!

(a beat)

The node is still working!

MAX

How is that possible?

ALEX

That should have taken out the backup! The whole network should be down.

NOVA

Well, it isn't!

A shot is fired.

NICO

Evade!

The ship banks. The shot misses - barely - and the ship rattles dangerously.

SAI

Guys, the armor can't take another hit.

NOVA

We must go!

ALEX

But the Concord Network...

NICO

No point in dying for nothing. Nova! Punch it!

ALEX

We can't just leave!

Another shot. They try to get away -

But this one hits the ship. It shakes, hard.

SAI

Ah!

MAX

Sai!

SAI is damaged. His voice comes out distorted, patchy, mechanical for the first time.

SAI
Armor is down! I repeat, armor is down! One more shot, and we'll be blown to biiiiits...

SAI shuts down.

NOVA
Hyperflight engines are out!

NICO
Thrusters!

NOVA
Thrusters won't fire!

MAX
I'm going down to the engine room!

MAX runs out. The door opens and closes.

NOVA
The Concord cruiser has stopped firing.

ALEX
They're out of ammunition!

NICO
How long until another cruiser shows up?

ALEX
Two minutes. Maybe three. But we need to get out of here. Now.

NICO
Why? They don't have anything left.

NOVA
They've turned the ship around.

ALEX
Because after they run out of ammo, there's only one option.

NOVA
They are on a collision course.

NICO
Sneaky fuckers.

ALEX

Nova, open a transmission.

NOVA does. Chirping sound indicates transmission is ready.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Concord cruiser, stop! Our engines are down. We are no longer a threat. You'll be killing yourselves for no reason!

BENEFACTOR UNA (TRANSMISSION)

(distorted)

My life is a small price to pay.

NOVA

Collision in 5...4...3...

We hear ominous engines, zooming through space. The sound grows and grows, the music builds, and then -

Silence.

Will our intrepid crew escape?

Or will they get blown to smithereens?

We'll have to wait until next season to find out.

Ending credits music plays.

CREDITS

Earth Eclipsed: Episode Eight,
Memories. Starring Allegra
Rodriguez Shivers, Reginald West,
Christian T. Chan, Amy Lyndon,
Michael Malconian, and Tali de
Assis.

With Shogo Miyakita and Andrew
Oakes.

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.

(MORE)

CREDITS (CONT'D)

Sound design by AJ Churchill and
Shane Rutherford-Jones.

Choir performance by Fame's Pro ARS
Choir.

Choir direction by Sasho
Tatarchevski.

Our production interns are Eamon
McKeon and So Asiddao.

Earth Eclipsed is a production of
The Lunar Company.

Music ends.