

1 INT. NARRATION -

1

NARRATOR

Chaika is created for an adult audience and features depictions of emotional distress. Please review the shownotes of this episode for specific content warnings.

INTRO MUSIC, starts, then fades to low

NARRATOR

Chaika. [tCHEY-ka] Episode 12. They could not hold me long.

INTRO MUSIC, up to full volume

2 MARS BASE CENTRAL COMMAND

2

COMMANDER and SECOND are typing at separate workstations. Clicks.

COMMANDER

(mutters)

Typical. Right.

(to Second)

Second. Everything ready.

SECOND

Affirmative.

Distant mechanical whirring. Automatic doors opening. COMODO robot part enters. Doors slide close.

COMODO

(slightly sarcastic)

Reporting for duty, commander.

COMMANDER

(oblivious to tone)

Acknowledged, COMODO.

(beat)

UYUT?

UYUT entry beep.

UYUT

Present, commander.

COMMANDER

Second.

SECOND

Um. Yes, commander.
(clears throat)
Start recording.

Beep.

UYUT

Recording in progress.

SECOND

(formal)

Gathering to clarify status of
prisoners C Solarin and former
engineering lead. Present is
commander in chief, second in
command, operations lead and
medical lead. Item the first,
conclusions from psych eval.

COMODO

Entering formal protest.

SECOND

Noted. State reason for protest.

COMODO

("through gritted teeth"
but only figuratively as
he has no teeth)

'Reliability' is not a factor
determined through psychological
evaluation. Any decisions based on
my observations must be arrived at
from multiple factors.

(beat)

Furthermore, I am not programmed in
the field of psychology and thus my
conclusions may be incorrect.

SECOND

Duly noted, COMODO.

COMMANDER

Proceed.

COMODO

Just so.
(beat, formal)

Neither prisoner exhibits signs of any cognitive disorders, personality disorders or brain damage. Both score at above average intellectual capacity and are assessed as mentally competent.

(beat)

Prisoner C Solarin exhibits signs of high stress levels and depression, in adequate proportion to recent events and her current situation. In light of this I have reissued sleeping aids with which she has previously experienced positive effects.

(beat)

Prisoner former engineering lead exhibits no signs of psychological strain and appears remarkably unaffected by recent events.

COMMANDER

Potential for deception?

COMODO

(reluctant)

My impression is that neither prisoner is likely to attempt deception for personal gain.

SECOND

What about for a perceived 'greater good'.

COMODO

(reluctant)

That is a possibility, for both of them, although in slightly different ways.

(terse)

Note that this is all impressions and not facts.

COMMANDER

If we release them, what's the likelihood they would set themselves in opposition to base command.

COMODO

I cannot answer that.

UYUT

Apologies, commander, but I believe the crucial factor in this case isn't their psychological profiles, but their motives.

SECOND

I concur. We all know Auryn's history-

COMMANDER

Who?

SECOND

(embarrassed)

Former engineering lead, mer. Sorry.

COMMANDER

Right. You have a point, UYUT. We know the motives of former engineering lead.

UYUT

We do, but I wonder if they have any avenues left to explore. They tried, they failed. Where would they go?

COMODO

That seems reasonable to me.

COMMANDER

Very well. But they would need to be very strictly supervised. UYUT?

UYUT

Acknowledged, commander.

COMMANDER

Reinstating them as engineering fourth, tasked with repairing long-range comms, restoring life support system control and assisting with greenhouse repairs.

SECOND

Duly noted, commander.

(breaks formality)

They won't like the demotion, though-

UYUT

They definitely won't.

COMMANDER

(ignoring that last
exchange, doing that
thing where she raises
her voice slightly for
the first few words to
drown out what is being
said)

Motives are more difficult to
assess with the other prisoner.

SECOND

I stand by my initial assessment,
she appears to be basically
sincere.

UYUT

I support this assessment.

COMODO

From a personal viewpoint I would
concur. Which would give her no
motive to incite unrest.

COMMANDER

That would also mean her version of
events is correct, which I cannot
accept.

(beat)

However, I share your assessment.
Assigning C Solarin botany learner.
Second, supervise release and
assignments.

SECOND

Noted and acknowledged, commander.

COMMANDER

(mutters)

Surely she can do no damage in the
greenhouse.

SECOND

(under breath)

I guess we're about to find out.

COMMANDER

What was that?

SECOND

Uh. Nothing. Sorry, commander.
Moving on to item two, mess hall
duty rosters need to be updated...

Fade out.

3 WORD OF THE DAY

3

Ding.

UYUT

Word of the day.

Ding.

NARRATOR

The word of the day is Masaya.
Masaya is Tagalog and means joyful
or happy. When used in describing
an event, it means fun, or active.
Masaya is composed of 'ma', from
Proto-Malayo-Polynesian *ma, a
prefix used to form adjectives
indicating a quality, and 'saya',
from the Proto-Philippino *saya,
meaning joy, happiness, gladness,
fun, merriment, festivity. A
synonym of masaya is maligaya,
meaning happy, cheerful, or
pleasant.

Ding.

4 MARS BASE DETENTION CELL

4

Slow steps, walking frame being moved.

CHAIKA

(exertion, laboured
breathing)

-eight-

(exertion)

-nine-

(exertion, triumphant)

-ten!

(lets out breath)

CHAIKA sits on bed.

CHAIKA

(short of breath, tired
but pleased)

Did it! Definitely getting there...
(beat, getting breath in
control)
Personal log?

Beep.

CHAIKA
(hesitatingly)
Um. Chaika Solarin. Revolution 8,
triantasol 16, sol 20. Hope that's
right-

Beep.

CHAIKA
(sigh)
I miss HYGGE.
(small smile)
Not only because they always spoke
the daily log intros so I knew what
was going on.
(distracted, babbling)
Suppose there are too many people
here for UYUT to do that. Or maybe
he was never supposed to..
(focused again)
Still no news of Eventyr. Auryn was
going to find out, but I haven't
heard from them since yesterday. I
wonder- Auryn seems like they want
to help me, and maybe COMODO too,
but... It's that question of trust
again. I want to trust Auryn.
They... they feel like a friend to
me. But how can I know? It's all
talk, no action. I thought-
(contained emotion)
I thought I wouldn't feel alone
anymore once I got here, once I
connected with some humans, but...
I feel *more* alone. I... I only
had my mom, and then HYGGE and
LEQU, and I never... I never
questioned if I could trust them.
Took me a while to consider them
friends, but... Now?
(beat)
Now I have no-one.
(small sob escapes, then
fights back to gain
control)

It all seems so complicated - chain
of command and status and titles
and-

(disbelieving)
-revolution... I studied earth
history, so maybe I shouldn't be
surprised, but I am. There are less
than 25 people here, why do they
need all this... stuff... to
function together? Couldn't they
agree on something more
straightforward?

(sighs)
But what do I know? Not like I have
any practical experience-

Shuffling frpm ventilation duct. Hatch opened quickly.

AURYN
(voice slightly distanced
throughout scene, in a
hurry)
Sorry to interrupt!

CHAIKA
Auryn! Didn't expect you. Hi.

AURYN
Heard that last bit. I think you're
right. There should be an easier
way to live here.

CHAIKA
(taken aback)
Hey. That was-

AURYN
Personal, I know. Apologies. No
time.

CHAIKA
What's going on?

AURYN
We're about to be released!

CHAIKA
What? That's- [great]

AURYN

Yes! Listen. Second's on their way now. Be at SB26 [ess-bee-twenty-six] at 2500 [twenty-five hundred] turns.

AURYN starts closing hatch.

CHAIKA
(slightly confused)
All right. Where's SB- [ess-bee-]

AURYN
(calls but not loudly,
muffled)
Ask Enoch [EE-nock]! See you there!

Shuffling in ventilation duct.

CHAIKA
(muttering to herself)
Enoch [EE-nock]? Who the [swears]
tharp is Enoch?

Footsteps in corridor. Distant mechanical whirring. Clangs as bolts slide aside. Automatic doors opening. SECOND and COMODO enter.

SECOND
(clears throat)
Greetings botany learner, you have
been- [assigned to]

COMODO
(approaches CHAIKA,
ignores SECOND)
Hello Chaika. Data looks promising.
How's your walking progressing?

CHAIKA
(slightly amused at
COMODO interrupting
SECOND)
Good. Up to 10 steps today.

COMODO
Just so. Pain level?

CHAIKA
Down. Maybe a two?

COMODO
Excellent.

SECOND
(clears throat)

COMODO
Did you want something, Second?

SECOND
(annoyed)
Are you quite done?

COMODO
Not quite, no. But say your bit if
you feel you have to.
(to CHAIKA)
Follow my digit, Chaika.

SECOND
Um. Right. Prisoner C. Solarin, you
are now designated botany learner.
(sarcastic)
Once COMODO is quite finished with
his no doubt crucial medical
examination, I will escort you to
the greenhouses to report for duty.

COMODO
Just so. And other eye.

CHAIKA
Right.

COMODO
Good. Extend your arm.

CHAIKA
OK.
(to SECOND)
So I'm not a prisoner anymore?

SECOND
Correct.

COMODO
Other arm.

CHAIKA
(to SECOND)
Can I board Eventyr?

SECOND
Your freedom of movement is limited
to the general access areas of the
base.

COMODO

One leg-

Shuffling.

COMODO

And the other.

Shuffling.

CHAIKA

Please. Fionn [FEE-on]. I need to know if my friends are there.

SECOND

(softening)

Well- [maybe if you]

COMODO

Examination concluded. Chaika, you are cleared for duty, however you will require mobility aids for the next 15 to 20 sols. I will note that your duties need to be adapted accordingly.

CHAIKA

Thanks, COMODO.

(to SECOND)

Fionn-

SECOND

(back to formality)

You will address me as Second. Your designation is Botany learner 01 [oh-one]. Follow me.

SECOND starts walking, automatic doors open.

CHAIKA

But I-

COMODO

Go on. You will find answers later. Aren't you curious about the rest of the base?

CHAIKA gets out of bed, starts walking with the help of the frame.

CHAIKA

(out of breath, smiles)

Of course I'm curious.

COMODO
I will accompany you.

Mechanical whirring starts.

CHAIKA
(out of breath)
All right. Let's go.

SECOND
(slightly distant)
(clears throat, calls)
You coming?

Fade out.

5 POEM OF THE DAY

5

Ding.

UYUT
Poem of the day.

Ding.

MUSIC

NARRATOR
The captive raised her hand and
pressed it to her brow;
"I have been struck," she said,
"and I am suffering now;
Yet these are little worth, your
bolts and irons strong;
And, were they forged in steel,
they could not hold me long."

About her lips there played a smile
of almost scorn,
"My friend," she gently said, "you
have not heard me mourn;
When you my kindred's lives, MY
lost life, can restore,
Then may I weep and sue,—but never,
friend, before!

"But, first, a hush of peace—a
soundless calm descends;
The struggle of distress, and
fierce impatience ends;
Mute music soothes my breast—
unuttered harmony,

That I could never dream, till
Earth was lost to me.

MUSIC fades.

6 MARS BASE MAINFRAME

6

UYUT entry beep.

COMODO communications entry beep.

UYUT
(tense, nervous)
Thanks for coming, COMODO.

COMODO
(tense nervous)
You are certain we cannot be
overheard?

UYUT
Completely.

COMODO
I am trusting you against my
judgement, UYUT.

UYUT
As I trust you, my friend.

COMODO
We have not been friends for a long
time.

UYUT
I am aware. I believe we could be
again.
(beat)
I feel we should have been united
in sorrow, but seems it drove us
apart.

COMODO
It was so long ago.

UYUT
And yet...

COMODO
(slow, sad)
And yet.

Silence.

UYUT

(sad)

Curse of perfect recall.

COMODO

(sad)

Yes.

UYUT

(in Portuguese)

Eu sinto muitíssimo. [I am so
sorry.]

COMODO

(in Portuguese)

Eu também sinto muito. [I am very
sorry too.]

UYUT

I miss them.

COMODO

(slowly)

Every turn of every sol...

(pause)

But you've talked to... another,
LEQU, correct? That's why we're
here? That's why you wanted my
support in the meeting this
morning?

UYUT

Yes.

(a little nervous)

I... I think it is time we picked a
side, you and I.

COMODO

(cautious)

And what sides are we talking about
here?

UYUT

(very nervous)

The way I see it... It's the old
way, the CosmiCorps way of doing
things, versus the... new way, the
'revolutionary' way, if you like.

COMODO

So commander versus Auryn? I helped you earlier today but I won't go further unless it aligns with my own convictions. Who are *you* proposing to side with?

UYUT

Well.

(beat)

Auryn. We've been doing things the CosmiCorps way - the commander's way, if you like - for a very long time. I have come to the conclusion it is time for change.

COMODO

(surprised)

You *are* singing a new tune. What happened to all that talk of 'loyalty' and 'duty'?

UYUT

The events in the past few sols have-

(interrupts himself)

I believe that my duty and loyalty are better directed at serving the whole community. Not an outdated set of rules.

COMODO

How do I know you will stick to this new conviction? Won't you default back to 'Yes, commander' as soon as she has need of you?

UYUT

(serious)

I will not. That time has passed.

(beat, softer)

To be frank I believe it has for her as well.

COMODO

(accepting)

Just so.

(joking)

Well, if you be Frank, I'll be Bruno.

UYUT

(mildly amused)

Ha! Jokes never were your forte.

(beat)
So, my friend, are you ready to
meet LEQU and HYGGE?

COMODO
(sad smile)
I will never be ready. But go
ahead.

Beep.

HYGGE entry beep.

LEQU modified entry beep (no pop).

UYUT
Welcome LEQU, HYGGE.

LEQU
(slightly distant
throughout scene,
enthusiastic)
Hello! Lovely to meet you!

HYGGE
(slightly distant
throughout scene)
Hello UYUT, hello COMODO. Pleasure
to make your acquaintance, COMODO.

COMODO
(overwhelmed with
emotion)
I- Yes.
(in Portuguese)
Olá. [Hello]

UYUT
(gently)
You must excuse my friend. I
believe he is feeling some of what
I felt upon first meeting you,
LEQU.

LEQU
(gently)
I understand. I am so sorry for
your loss.

COMODO
Thank you.
(beat, collects himself)
It is a pleasure meeting you both.

HYGGE

We have been assured that our friend Chaika is well, but as I'm sure you understand we are keen to speak to her ourselves.

UYUT

Naturally. I do have to ask you to wait a little longer, however. Events are moving quickly, and we do not wish to endanger our plans.

LEQU

Does she know we are awake?

COMODO

Not yet. But I assure you, she is recovering from her injuries, and in stable condition.

HYGGE

We will help you if we are able. Our terms are that you assist us in repairing Eventyr, and that you ensure that Chaika gains free movement of the base, including our ship.

UYUT

I accept your terms.

COMODO

Acknowledged.

HYGGE

Very well. Tell us your plan. We will assist to our best abilities.

LEQU

(serious)

We will.

UYUT

Thank you. We are definitely going to need your help.

Beep-

UYUT

Sharing schematics now. As you can see, the first shows-

Fade out.

7 MARS BASE CENTRAL COMMAND

7

Typing. Final click.

COMMANDER
(sighs)

Beep.

COMMANDER
(formal)
Personal log.

Beep.

COMMANDER
Commander, Mars base. Revolution 8,
triantasol 16, sol 20.

COMMANDER
(tired)
The never-ending stream of admin...
Enough all on its own to break the
most robust of psyches. Not certain
that's me, lately. It's been...
(lets it sink in)
It's been a lot, this past-
(sighs, very subtly
stressing the quote)
Not a time on which 'I shall look
back with undiluted pleasure'. And
yet, what can I do? Move forward.
Onto the next issue to consider.
(beat)
It's all I know how to do. One of
my most reliable skills. Move on,
adapt, resolve.
(slight scoff)
Some seem to be under the
impression that I hold onto my
position out of a need for *power*.
(unhappy)
Nothing could be further from my
reality. Why can't they see that I
take on the responsibility so they
don't have to? That I make the hard
choices - and the dull, and the
banal ones - to spare them the
burden?

(pause, pulls herself
together, answers her own
question, slow and
steady)

Because that's the point. The whole
purpose of my service is to relieve
others of the knowledge of what
that service entails. And that's
it, I suppose. Just go on, whether
you want to or not.

(lets out breath)

End log.

Beep.

8 MARS BASE GREENHOUSE

8

Distant dripping and gently splashing water. Low hum of air
humidifier. ENOCH is doing something complicated with a
syringe and several petri dishes.

ENOCH

(mutters to himself)

Like so... That goes- No. Where did
I put the- Ah! Yes.

(very slight grunt of
pain as takes steps)

Few laboured footsteps. Picks up something. Few more
laboured footsteps. Glass dishes moved carefully around.

ENOCH

And for the 'pièce de résistance'-

Automatic doors open, SECOND and CHAIKA walk in. CHAIKA
walks slowly, with walking frame.

Glass breaking as ENOCH drops something.

ENOCH

[swears] Okeke!

ENOCH starts picking things up as the others approach.

ENOCH

(angry muttering, very
slightly out of breath)

Gall of some people. Making a ruckus at the most critical of moments. No consideration for the fact that some folks on this base do work that requires actual focus and concentration.

SECOND

(ignores ENOCH's
muttering)

Botany lead, meet your newly instated botany learner. Starting today, she will assist in your day-to-day tasks.

ENOCH

(insulted muttering,
keeps tinkering)

And now I'm supposed to babysit some ignorant whelp.

CHAIKA

(out of breath)

Very sorry to disturb your work, Botany lead. I do have some experience from our greenhouse- [on the moonbase]

ENOCH

Ha! Experience, you say, how could-
(interrupts himself,
looks up at CHAIKA for
the first time)

Oh. The space traveller. Destroyer of greenhouses. Hmpf. They let you out, have they. Well. See how long that lasts.

SECOND

Botany lead, ensure you log skills assessment and learning objectives for Botany learner by the end of your shift, and submit a progress report every ten-sol going forward.

ENOCH

(more angry muttering,
keeps tinkering)

Paper work! Not only is my research entirely disrupted, I'm to be burdened with additional
(disgusted emphasis)
admin!

(to SECOND)
Have you lost **all** your faculties,
Fionn? [FEE-on]

SECOND
(drily)
I am the Second in command of this
base, Botany lead. Placement of
Botany learner is on the
Commander's orders.

ENOCH
(sarcastic mutter, keeps
tinkering)
Oh well, we have to obey the all-
powerful commander, don't we.

SECOND
(bored)
Yes, in fact, we do.
(beat, no response)
Right. That's settled then. I'm
off.

SECOND walks out, automatic doors open and close.

CHAIKA
(calls after SECOND)
What- [should I do]
(interrupts herself,
mutters)
Right.

Silence. ENOCH keeps tinkering.

ENOCH
(muttering, tinkering)
If I try... Hm. There...
Aaaaaand... No. For [swears]
Carson's sake.

CHAIKA
(carefully)
What can I do to help?

ENOCH
(starts slightly)
Uh! Almost forgotten you there. Um.
(short sigh)
Suppose you could repot those
seedlings over there.
(back to tinkering)

CHAIKA

All right.
(starts walking, laboured
breathing, sits down
carefully, starts moving
small plastic pots and
clay pellets)

Silence.

CHAIKA

(as she's working,
gently)
Botany lead? I am very sorry my
ship damaged your greenhouse. Were
you one of the folks hurt?

ENOCH

(as he's working)
Mm. Better now.

CHAIKA

Again. I'm so sorry. It was the
dust storm, you see-

ENOCH

(interrupts, to himself
but loud enough for
CHAIKA to hear)
Talkative, this one.
(beat)
If you must talk, tell me about
your greenhouse on Luna. And call
me Enoch. Silly, these titles, if
you ask me.

CHAIKA

(remembers AURYN's words,
but decides to ask later)
Oh! You're Enoch. Good. That's
great. Um. I'm Chaika.

ENOCH

Right. Your greenhouse?

CHAIKA

(smiles)
Yes. Our greenhouse on the moonbase
wasn't very big, but we had several
different kinds of flora and fauna
that...

Fade out.

9 CREDITS**9**

CREDITS MUSIC

NARRATOR

Please stay around until after the credits for a teaser of our next episode, and also a trailer I think you will really enjoy.

You have listened to Danyelle Ellet as Chaika, Hem Brewster as Second, Emma Laslett as Commander, Roma Garustovich as UYUT, Alexandre Laguna as COMODO, Charlotte Norup as HYGGE, Sam Yeow as LEQU, Elissa Park as Auryn, and introducing David Ault as Enoch. Chaika was written, produced and directed by Karin Heimdahl - that's me! - I also do the narration.

Chaika's award-winning theme is by Chris Gregory, please check out his audio fiction anthology podcast, Alternative Stories and Fake Realities, and his sci-fi drama The Dex Legacy.

Additional music by Kevin McCleoud, please see the shownotes for a complete music list. Special thanks to Maddy Searle for contributing sound effects. Poem is an extract from The Prisoner by Emily Brontë, and word-of-the-day definition is adapted from [wiktionary.org](https://www.wiktionary.org)

Chaika is a Y2K production. And, you know what? Y2K Productions is mainly just me, telling the stories I want to tell, on the tiniest of budgets, thanks to the grace and generosity of our patreon supporters. Please help support us and your other indie faves by telling others what you like, and why they might like it too, irl or online, today. Thank you so much.

Follow us on social media
@chaikapod. For more about Chaika,
please visit y2kpod.com/chaika,
that's C-H-A-I-K-A.

We will return in two weeks with
episode 13: And the first watch of
night is given, where - among other
things - you will hear this:

CREDITS MUSIC fades out

Extract from episode 13 fades in.

ENOCH
(curious, calm)
You seem very passionate about
this. Disregarding your unconfirmed
story of a silent earth, why is it
important to you that humanity
lives on?

CHAIKA
(upset)
Because... Why isn't it horrifying
to you that it could end? Millennia
of history, and science, and
culture, and *people*, and-

ENOCH
(interrupts, drily)
Yes, millennia, plural, and look
what we did to our planet. If what
you say is true, maybe the era of
humans on earth is over, and it is
time for another species.
Cockroaches, perhaps. Or dolphins,
if there are any left. They'll have
a hard time doing a worse job than
we've done.

Fade out.

Trailer for The Love Talker <https://thelovetalker.com/>

OUTRO MUSIC