

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 14. As waves arise when loud winds call.

INTRO MUSIC, up to full volume

2 MARS BASE CENTRAL COMMAND

2

COMMANDER is typing.

Error beep.

COMMANDER

What the [swears] tharp-

Clicks. Multiple error beeps.

COMMANDER

(calls)

UYUT!

UYUT entry beep.

UYUT

Yes?

COMMANDER

Something's wrong with my workstation. It blacked out.

UYUT

(gently)

The workstation is fully functional. I am very sorry.

COMMANDER

What? I'm telling you it's not working.

Multiple taps and error beeps.

COMMANDER
It's dead or something.

UYUT
(gently, in Russian)
Мне жаль [I am sorry.]

COMMANDER
What are you talking about-

Automatic doors opening. AURYN walks in.

AURYN
(cheerful)
Hello.

COMMANDER
Wha-
(catches on)
Oh.

AURYN
'Oh' indeed.

AURYN sits down.

AURYN
(gently)
You knew it was coming, right Rhea
[RAY-ah]?

COMMANDER
(deflated)
Yes.
(tired)
I knew it would be you, Auryn. It
was always you.

AURYN
And round and round we go... Aren't
you tired?

COMMANDER
(exhausted)
You have no idea.

AURYN
(slight smile)
Or maybe I do.

COMMANDER

(slowly)
Or maybe you do.

AURYN
(deep breath, somewhat formal)
It falls upon me to inform you that the inaugural Mars base democratic elections were held two sols ago. The results gave me the people's mandate for an interrim ninety-sol term, starting today.

COMMANDER
(disbelief)
Democratic elections? You held elections without informing me. Or including me.

AURYN
Yeah, sorry about that. Knew you'd try to stop it. But we took your vote into account. See here-

AURYN hands handheld device to COMMANDER.

AURYN
All the details are here, see? There will be a regular election for a three-revolution term, you can run against me then. Might be more candidates at that point, of course!

COMMANDER
(almost dizzy)
Run against...
(gasp, then faintly)
One person voted for me. One. Right.
(calls, tired)
UYUT?

UYUT
Yes?

COMMANDER
(doesn't believe this will work, just going through the motions)

Retake system control. Override
code Mzoz, Rhea [RAY-ah] 1-4--0-7-
-1-7--8-9 [one-four--oh-seven--
eight-nine].

Error beep.

UYUT
(sad)
Override unsuccessful.

COMMANDER
Right. Yes. Of course.
(beat)
UYUT, did you- Did you volunteer to
betray me or did they force you?

UYUT
(hurt)
I do not see it as a betrayal, com-
(interrupts himself,
beat)
I reached independent conclusions
without external influence.
(beat, careful)
I believe it is time for change.

COMMANDER
(distracted)
Good. That's good. Good no-one
forced you. I... I think I'll be in
my quarters if anyone needs me.
(mutters under breath)
Not that anyone *will* need me.
Course they won't.

COMMANDER stands up, walks toward doors, then stops.

COMMANDER
Unless you wish to arrest me, of
course, Auryn. Apologies. Forgot
about that.

AURYN
No-one will arrest you, Rhea [RAY-
ah]. You have free range of the
base, just like you've always had.

COMMANDER
Right. Good.
(slightly hesitant)
And my quarters are still mine?

AURYN

Of course! We're not trying to take anything away from you.

COMMANDER

Ha! Good one.

(muttering)

Good. Good good good good.

COMMANDER walks out. Automatic doors open and close.

AURYN

That's that then. Shall we get stuck in?

UYUT

(taken aback)

Well. Yes, if you like.

AURYN

(moves to COMMANDER*s chair)

Hm. Nice chair, this.

(big smile)

So. Show me what you've got.

Whirr as screens wake up. Slight beeps.

UYUT

Here, you can see [how the base control is organized into...]

Fade out.

3 QUOTE OF THE DAY

3

Ding.

UYUT

Quote of the day. [Roma, please note that the line is different in this episode!]

Ding.

MUSIC

NARRATOR

Common sense, though she is by nature the gentlest creature living, when she feels the knife at her throat, is apt to develop unexpected powers of resistance, and to send doctrinaires flying, even when they have bound her down and think they have her at their mercy.

MUSIC fades.

4 MARS BASE CENTRAL COMMAND

4

AURYN is typing and humming happily. [no recognizable tune, please!].

AURYN
(muttering contentedly to
themselves)
Like so... And then...

Automatic doors open. CHAIKA walks in, walking has become easier but she's still struggling.

AURYN
Chaika!

CHAIKA
(out of breath)
Um. Hi. UYUT said to find you here.

AURYN
Come in, sit down, make yourself at home!

CHAIKA
(sits carefully, slight
pained grunt, sigh of
relief)
Thanks.

AURYN
How are your legs?

CHAIKA
Better. I practice a lot.
(smiles)
Greenhouse work has helped. Makes
me want to push through, you know?

AURYN

Yeah. Go easy, though.

CHAIKA

I'll be careful. But you... Look at you. You were a prisoner in a ventilation duct when I first met you. And now - you're in the commander's chair!

AURYN

(slight laugh)

Yeah, that was quick, wasn't it!

CHAIKA

(half-serious)

So... What are you going to do now, commander?

AURYN

No! No 'commandering', that's for sure! That's all over.

(thinks)

Well. I am going to use these ninety sols to flatten and simplify the base organization as much as I can, and set systems in place to ensure more agency for everyone. And set safeguards in place so make sure that we don't slip back into their old ways.

(smiles)

I've been thinking about this for so long. Exciting to finally get to set it in motion.

CHAIKA

(smiles)

Congratulations.

AURYN

Hopefully it will be congratulations all around. That's the idea, anyway. Thank you for all your help.

CHAIKA

I didn't do much.

AURYN

You did a lot. And your AI friends, too.

CHAIKA

(smiles)
Yes. I wanted to talk to you about-
[them]

AURYN
UYUT is collaborating with your
HYGGE on repairs to your ship.

CHAIKA
That's wonderful! I also-

AURYN
You want to talk to them?

CHAIKA
Yes!

AURYN
Of course you do.
(calls)
UYUT?

UYUT entry beep.

UYUT
(good mood)
Yes, Auryn?

AURYN
Do you know if Chaika's ship -
Eventyr, right?

CHAIKA
(smiles)
Yes.

AURYN
-if Eventyr is stable enough for
Chaika to go onboard?

UYUT
I believe it will be later today.
The outer hull damage is completely
repaired, and the inner structural
damage is being stabilized now.

CHAIKA
Could you let me know when, UYUT?

UYUT
Of course!

AURYN

Thanks, UYUT!

UYUT
My pleasure.

UYUT exit beep.

AURYN
So, Chaika. I realize you've had quite a strange start with us here on Mars, but I wanted to ask you directly. What would you like to do now?

CHAIKA
(taken aback)
Um. I- I'm quite happy working in the greenhouse. Feels like I'm useful there. And, you know, can't wait to start hanging out with HYGGE and LEQU again.

AURYN
That all sounds good. But long term. Do you know what you want to do?

CHAIKA
I... Uh. No. Not really. This was my destination, and now I'm here. So... So, yeah.

AURYN
No rush. But please think about it, yes?

CHAIKA
All right. Thanks Auryn.

AURYN
You are very welcome. Now, I want to show you this wonderful thing I found looking through the commander's...

Fade out.

5 MARS BASE MESS HALL

5

Distant murmur of voices, people eating, drinking.
COMMANDER and SECOND are sitting down, drinking tea.

COMMANDER

Look at them. They seem so...
unconcerned.

SECOND

(still reeling, only just
out of infirmary)
I am not sure this was a good idea.
Maybe I should just go lie down.

COMMANDER

And spend even more time with your
own thoughts?

SECOND

(sighs)
Yeah, maybe not. But watching
everyone simply move on from...
Everything. How can they?

COMMANDER

News about TellUs isn't official
yet.

SECOND

Right. I didn't know that. Still.

COMMANDER

Announcing it this afternoon, I
believe.

SECOND

Huh.

COMMANDER

And I suppose a change in
leadership isn't that big of a deal
to people.

SECOND

Why wouldn't it be? Big change.

COMMANDER

I don't know. Maybe they're all
being polite in here, then
celebrating behind closed doors.

SECOND

(unhappy laugh, very
distant, sings)
'Ding dong, the witch is dead'

COMMANDER

(sharp)
Second. Not dead.
(beat)
Not yet, anyway.

SECOND
(slowly, not unkindly)
No. Not. Yet...

Silence. BOTH drink tea.

SECOND
I wonder if I still have a job? Or,
well, function.

COMMANDER
You could ask.

SECOND
Suppose I'll have to do that.

COMMANDER
Yeah.

Silence. BOTH drink tea.

COMMANDER
You sure you **want** your job back?

SECOND
(taken aback)
I... Hm. I think so. I don't know.
Won't be the same.
(beat)
Would you want yours back?

COMMANDER
Won't happen.
(beat)
I... Think I'm done.

SECOND
(carefully)
So what will you do?

COMMANDER
(slight scoff)
Whatever our new leadership
decides, I suppose. Should be able
to be useful somewhere.

SECOND

But, aren't you... I don't know...
Angry? Resentful?

COMMANDER

(calm)
Not really.
(thinking)
Part of being in charge is knowing
you can be deposed... Least that's
how I always viewed it.
(beat)
But you - you can probably choose.

SECOND

(uncertain)
Yeah. Suppose I'll have to think on
that.
(beat, lighter tone)
Would be happy to let someone else
do the mess hall duty roster.

COMMANDER

(slight smile)
Yeah. Won't miss the admin.
(beat, slight
uncertainty)
But we had good days, too.

SECOND

Yeah. Yeah, we did.

Silence. COMMANDER drinks tea.

Fade out.

6 WORD OF THE DAY

6

Ding.

UYUT

Word of the day.

Ding.

NARRATOR

The word of the day is تراض (tarāḍin). تراض (tarāḍin) is Arabic and is a verbal noun meaning mutual consent or agreement between all people or groups of people involved. It can also indicate compromise, agreement, accord, reconciliation, consensus or conformity. Taradin is also in use as a surname.

Ding.

7 MARS BASE GREENHOUSE

7

Distant dripping and gently splashing water. Low hum of air humidifier.

Beep beep beep.

ENOCH is working away at something complicated involving petri dishes and syringes.

ENOCH
(annoyed by the
interruption)
Just. One. Moment.

ENOCH keeps working.

Beep beep beep. Beat. Beep beep beep.

ENOCH
(increased irritation)
Said, ONE moment.

ENOCH keeps working.

Beep beep beep. Beat. Beep beep beep. Beat. Beep beep beep.

ENOCH
(something breaks.)
Oh, for [swears] Carson's sake!
(deep breath)
Fine. I'll do it now.
(beat)
Personal log.

Beep.

ENOCH

Mars Base Botany lead. Revolution
8, triantasol 16, sol 22.

Beep.

 ENOCH
 (quickly)
Right, algae tank C is showing
signs of recovery from impact
damage. Estimated complete recovery
in two to three ten-sols. New batch
of biofertilizer experiment failed,
investigation ongoing. Seedlings
for alfa alfa are taking well,
ready to replant in two sols.

Automatic doors opening, SECOND steps in.

 ENOCH
 (ignores the
 interruption)
Add to-

 SECOND
 (clears throat)

 ENOCH
 (still ignores the
 interruption)
Add to checklist for tomorrow:
Yellowing leaves in bay SB106 [ess-
bee-one-oh-six]. Potential
fertilizer issues.

Beep.

 ENOCH
And the-

 SECOND
 (tired)
Please stop ignoring me.

 ENOCH
I just need to fini-

 SECOND
Please, Enoch, I'm so tired.

 ENOCH
 (grumbles)
Very well.
 (calls)

Save personal log.

Beep.

SECOND
(incredulous)
That was your personal log?

ENOCH
(starts tinkering at work
station again)
Yup.

SECOND
Today, of all days, all you have to
talk about in your personal log is
your plants?

ENOCH
(uncomprehending)
Yes.

SECOND
I will never understand how your
brain works.

ENOCH
(very slight smile)
Feeling's mutual.

SECOND
(slight laugh)
Don't you care? About TellUs? About
the new leadership? Any of it?

ENOCH
(unmoved)
Makes no difference to me. Got
everything I need right here.

SECOND
(small sigh)
Sometimes wish I could be that
single-minded.

ENOCH
Why **are** you here, Fionn [FEE-on]?

SECOND
I don't know. I was wandering
around after lunch, and... Sort of
ended up here, I suppose.

ENOCH
That doesn't sound like you.

SECOND
It's not. Like me I mean.
(slight unhappy laugh)
Not sure what is like me any more.

ENOCH
Well, as you know, conversation's
not my strong point, but, if you
want to help around here for a bit,
that'd be all right.

SECOND
(still no energy)
Yeah. Why not.
(gets up, more energy)
What do you need?

ENOCH
You can start by holding these
steady, while I-

SECOND walks over, tinkering together.

SECOND
Like this?

ENOCH
No, more- Yes, that's it. And now,
if you move-

SECOND
There we go-

ENOCH
That one over-

Fade out.

8 EVENTYR

8

Hurried but laboured footsteps approaching.

CHAIKA
(calling, out of breath)
HYGGE? LEQU!

LEQU entry pop. HYGGE entry beep.

HYGGE

(delighted)
Dearest Chaika!

LEQU
(delighted)
Chaika! Finally!

HYGGE
(delighted)
Wonderful to see you again!

CHAIKA
(happy tears)
I've missed you both so much!

LEQU
Don't cry! We're all here now.
Come, sit, talk to us.

CHAIKA sits.

HYGGE
Can I get you anything from the
FIKAMAD?

CHAIKA
(sits down with some
effort)
No, I'm fine.

LEQU
You hurt your legs?

CHAIKA
Yes. But they're healing.

HYGGE
And they will heal fully?

CHAIKA
That's what COMODO says.

LEQU
(pleased)
Well, you'll be all right
physically then.
(beat, more serious)
How have you been feeling?

CHAIKA
All right, I guess. It... It wasn't
like I thought. Or hoped.
(beat)

I thought everything would be
magically OK as soon as I got here,
and instead...

(emotional)

You two are my friends, my...
people. I felt so lost without
you.

LEQU

(serious)

We felt lost without you, too.

HYGGE

(warmly)

We certainly did.

CHAIKA

These folks here, some of them
could be friends, I think, but...
Not yet. And not all of them.

LEQU

That makes sense.

(beat)

Have you thought about what you
want to do now, Chaika?

CHAIKA

(smiles)

Auryn asked me that, too. I haven't
thought it through properly yet.
Just so much happening...

LEQU

Of course. Maybe we can talk it
through together?

CHAIKA

Yes please, I'd love that.

LEQU

So, what have you learnt about [the
Mars colony and its future?]

Fade out.

9 CREDITS

9

CREDITS MUSIC

NARRATOR

Please stay around until after the credits for a teaser of our next episode, and also some trailers for shows 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, Charlotte Norup as HYGGE, Sam Yeow as LEQU, Elissa Park as Auryn, and 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. Quote is from Erewhon by Samuel Butler, and word-of-the-day definition is adapted from wiktictionary.org

Chaika is a Y2K production. You can support us on Patreon at patreon.com/y2kpod from as little as 1 US dollar a month and get bonus content as well as early access to every episode.

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 15: The boast of independence, where - among other things - you will hear this:

CREDITS MUSIC fades out

Extract from episode 15 fades in.

AURYN

(thoughtful)

Makes me ponder why we didn't do
this sooner. I guess for me, I
spent so long trying to push
through changes within the system.
I really believed we could shift
and adjust gradually, so it
wouldn't be such a shock for
everyone, but...

(more energetic)

Oh well. Shoulda woulda. Forward
focus for me!

OUTRO MUSIC