

RED COLONIZATION

"DUST TO DUST"

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. MARS - DAY

The ISS Mann dominates the shot as eddies of dust swirl around it.

INT. ISS MANN BARRACKS - DAY

The austere hallways of the ISS Mann barracks stretch down the hall. Small whirls of red dust sift through the air. Some surfaces have a red tint from collected dust.

COUGHING splits the relative quiet and SPORK turns a corner, stumbling and clutching his chest.

BETH leans her head out of the doorway.

BETH

Hey! Monster man! What's with the racket!?

Spork steps away from Beth and eyes her warily as he coughs. He takes a huge breath and tries to speak through the coughs.

SPORK

It's just a dust that got through the filters. It's pretty dangerous, though humans seem immune.

Beth perks up at the mention of the dust. She steps the rest of the way into the hall. She holds a hand of cards.

BETH

Wait, so you're coughing up a fit because of some dust? That's floating through the air?

Beth breathes in, fist a small sniff then a huge inhale.

BETH (CONT'D)

And we're immune?

Spork nods and starts to walk away.

SPORK

Don't worry, Nyeleti is already
taking care of it.

Beth watches Spork walk away and murmurs to herself.

BETH

Oh, believe me, monster man, I'm
not worrying.

Beth leans back into the room she came out from.

BETH (CONT'D)

Parson! Get gear bags together!
Assault armor! Lerrins! Requisition
vehicles! I want at least two
rovers ready to rock in an hour!

Beth wipes her finger on the door frame. It comes away red.
She rubs the finger against her thumb and stares at it.

BETH (CONT'D)

We're gonna kill these squatters
once and for all.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. ISS MANN ENGINEERING BAY - DAY

A low ALARM sounds through the engineering bay and a control panel flashes red. NYELETI stands in front of the panel and yells into a communicator. ROSTON, Nyeleti's boss, sits at his desk and picks his teeth as the cacophony continues.

Behind Nyeleti is her desk with a few files on it.

NYELETI

Get the filter casings clamped back down! The filters will be ruined if you let them shake loose!

UNINTELLIGIBLE SQUAWKS come from the radio.

NYELETI (CONT'D)

And fix your radio!

Beth enters the bay and approaches Nyeleti from behind.

NYELETI (CONT'D)

There! Like that!

The panel flashes from red to green. Nyeleti smiles and punches two buttons on the panel. She turns and her smile sours when she sees Beth.

NYELETI (CONT'D)

Beth. What can -- Why are you here?

BETH

I have a question about sabotage.

Nyeleti knits her eyebrows together and frowns.

BETH (CONT'D)

Preventing! Preventing sabotage!
It's important for the security of the crew and I need to make sure the ship is protected from Alien sabotage.

Beth looks at Roston.

BETH (CONT'D)

My report will be going to the captain. I'll be sure to mention that you took a special interest in helping me....

Nyeleti's face relaxes.

NYELETI

What do you need to know?

Nyeleti grabs a tube from beneath her desk and unrolls it.

NYELETI (CONT'D)

The ships systems aren't well protected. The water circulation is especially --

BETH

I'm more worried about the air. Specifically, how are the air systems protected? And are there any lessons we can learn from others? Like, I don't know, the Aliens?

Nyeleti shakes her head and grabs a file off her desk. She opens it for Beth to look at.

NYELETI

No, the Alien systems are very different. See? They are trying to provide air to an underground city so they use above ground circulation systems. We are just --

BETH

Can I keep this?

Beth starts to turn away with the file.

Nyeleti snatches it back.

NYELETI

No. That belongs to the engineers. If you want to develop an anti-sabotage plan, you should look at our systems.

Nyeleti snatches the ship schematic from her desk, quickly rolls it up, and shoves it into Beth's hands.

NYELETI (CONT'D)

There. That should be what you need.

Beth glares at Nyeleti. She takes a deep breath and forces a smile. Without looking from Nyeleti, Beth addresses Roston.

BETH
Thank you. Roston?

ROSTON
HMMMM? Yeah?

BETH
The commander was just looking for
you.

Beth maintains eye contact with Nyeleti as Roston gets up,
stretches, and walks to the door. He pauses at the exit.

BETH (CONT'D)
The bridge.

Roston exits and Beth shoves Nyeleti into the desk so hard it
tips over. Nyeleti drops her arms to brace herself and drops
the file with the map of Alien stations. Beth snatches it.

BETH (CONT'D)
Funny that I've never seen this map
in the database. Seems odd since
any information on the Alien colony
is supposed to be in the sensitive
network and I've read everything
there about the Alien colony.
There's no chance you hid
information from your boss and, in
doing so, the rest of the crew,
just to get ahead?

Nyeleti's eyes go wide with surprise.

BETH (CONT'D)
No, not you. Because you're smart.
Smart enough that you'd never risk
your career by improperly handling
a file of information like that,
right?

Nyeleti nods.

BETH (CONT'D)
I thought so. So the file must have
never existed. And it was never
taken from you. Are we clear?

Nyeleti nods.

BETH (CONT'D)
Good.

Beth turns and walks out of the room.

INT. ISS MANN MOTORPOOL - DAY

The motorpool is comprised of four linked pods facing four sets of double doors. Each pod is linked by large openings. Each pod contains a rover. The first two are large, like tanks. The others are small, like snowmobiles.

WAYLON argues with LERRINS, a young Ranger under Beth's command, next to one of the larger rovers.

LERRINS
It's for a mission!

WAYLON
Then get a requisition order from
the commander! I can't just hand
these out!

Beth enters the bay at a brisk stride with the ship schematics rolled up in her hand. She sees the arguing men and heads straight for them.

Waylon sees her approaching and starts to address her.

WAYLON (CONT'D)
See!? Ask your sergeant! She'll
tell you --

Beth gets to Waylon and slams the rolled up schematics into his gut.

Waylon doubles over and clutches his stomach. Beth pulls his head up by his hair while fishing in his chest pocket. She pulls a family photo out of the pocket and holds it up.

BETH
You want to see them again, right?

Waylon nods through tears.

BETH (CONT'D)
Then I recommend you act like it.
On that note, there are two large
groups of armed... organisms on
this planet. One group is filled
with demonic monsters who would
grin as they cut you into pieces.
The other group wants to take your
pretty rovers and stop the first
group. Would that be alright?

Waylon nods as much as he can with his hair in Beth's grip.

BETH (CONT'D)

Good. Because I'm done negotiating for today. We'll take the two smaller ones.

(to Lerrins)

Get Parson up here and warm up both mobiles. I want to be ready to leave in ten mikes.

(to Waylon)

Get your suit on as well. You're going to help us collect dirt.

WIPE TO:

INT. ISS MANN ENGINEERING BAY - CONTINUOUS

Nyeleti sets her desk back upright and rubs her thighs where they struck the desk as Beth shoved her. As she places folders back on the desk, Spork enters.

Spork has a cup of frozen insects that he slurps up happily. He sees the last of the folders on the ground and frowns.

SPORK

What happened to you, Ms. Nyeleti?

Nyeleti sighs and grabs the last of the folders.

NYELETI

Beth. She's in some mood, I guess.

SPORK

Oh, yeah? I'll never get humans right. She seemed happy earlier.

Nyeleti puts the last folders back on the desk.

NYELETI

I don't think Beth could be happy if someone wasn't dying.

SPORK

Well, it was before you fixed the filters so I was coughing. She didn't smile until I told her how bad the dust was for me.

Nyeleti freezes before slowly turning and staring at Spork.

NYELETI

The dust.... She was just asking me about the Alien air systems.

(MORE)

NYELETI (CONT'D)

You don't think she'd try to put
weaponize the dust?

Spork laughs hard enough that he spills his insects.

SPORK

Ha! The things you humans think of!
I'd love to see Beth make more
weapons against those bastards!
But, no, the dust wouldn't work
anyway. Only a few of us are
affected by it. Most of the Aliens
would just launch a counterattack.

NYELETI

But Beth doesn't know that. She
just knows you are sensitive to the
dust so she probably thinks all
aliens are sensitive to the dust.

SPORK

And is finally attacking! This is
great!

Spork kicks his feet excitedly.

NYELETI

No! It's horrible! She won't win!
And the Aliens will assume we sent
the attack! They'll send an Army
and wipe us out.

Spork suddenly gets a serious expression.

SPORK

They would send hundreds....

Nyeleti opens her desk and pulls out a transmitter.

NYELETI

(into transmitter)
Nolan! Nolan, come in!

NOLAN (V.O.)

This is Nolan.

NYELETI

We need a ride! Now!

EXT. MARTIAN SURFACE OUTSIDE ISS MANN - DAY

Wide shot dominated by the ship. Two specks come out of the
bays and kick clouds of dust as the rocket at the camera.

As the two specks get closer, it becomes apparent they are the rovers with Beth, Waylon, Lerrins, and another Ranger, PARSON. Beth drives a rover with Lerrins as a passenger while Parson drives the other rover with Waylon.

BETH
(to Waylon)
How are you getting my dust!?

Waylon gulps at the ground that flies past the speeding rovers. He clutches tight to Parson and hits a button on the side of the rover.

A hook POPS from the side of Parson's rover and is drawn to a magnetic port on Beth's rover. When the line stretches across, net-like sieves drop from it and begin trailing in the Martian sand.

Waylon closes his eyes and hugs tight to Parson.

WAYLON
The sieves will filter out the dust
you want. By the time we get
anywhere, you'll have hundreds of
pounds worth.

Beth grins widely and looks down at her map.

ECU of a map on the bike. A large "X" is marked.

BETH
Soon....

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. ALIEN ENGINEERING - DAY

Wide shot of a small building with large air ducts and fans. Large pipes come from the building and shoot into the ground.

Six ALIENS in orange uniforms stand guard with laser rifles.

Medium shot of a ridge from below. A steady WHINE builds into a large ROAR. The two rovers suddenly appear as the Parson and Beth jump with their passengers off the ridge.

Close up of Beth's rover as it strikes the ground and Beth skids it sideways as Lerrins fires at the Aliens.

Wide shot of Beth and Lerrins as Parson pulls up nearby and begins to fire. Both junior Rangers take positions behind the rovers as Alien lasers begin raining near them. Waylon curls into a fetal position behind a rover.

Beth grabs her rifle and sprints to the side of the battle.

An Alien is struck in the chest as the other five continue to shoot lasers at Parson and Lerrins.

Beth sprints down the side of the battlefield and looks at the Aliens.

Parson and Lerrins are forced behind their rovers by the Alien fire. They have to shoot their rifles over their shoulders without looking for fear of the laser fire.

Beth turns and sprints at the Aliens, firing her rifle on full automatic. Bullets split open the Aliens and they are forced to turn towards Beth.

The laser fire relents on Parson and Lerrins who immediately leap back up and walk, firing quickly, toward the Aliens.

The Aliens, taking fire from two sides, are quickly cut down.

The Rangers meet up over the dying Aliens.

BETH

Now! Lerrins! Get the satchel
planted!

Lerrins runs back to the rovers, grabs a satchel bomb and sprints back.

He puts it against one of the pipes and sets the timer for ten seconds. He hits a button and the timer starts.

A WHIRRING echoes over the site as Beth and the Rangers sprint to the rovers and jump behind them for cover.

Nyeleti and Nolan crest the ridge in a large flyer. Nyeleti looks through the windshield at the Rangers and radios down.

NYELETI

Beth! No! The dust won't --

Nyeleti is cut off by a MASSIVE EXPLOSION. The bomb tears apart the pipes at the engineering station and leaves gaping holes leading into the planet.

The flyer lands as Beth yells through her transmitter.

BETH

Frak! Nyeleti, what are you doing here!? We're about to drop dust and wipe these ants out --

Nyeleti runs off the flyer as it touches down.

NYELETI

No! That's what I'm trying to tell you! The dust won't do anything but make them mad!

BETH

What!? No! It cripples them! Could kill them! I saw Spork --

Spork, wearing a mask exits from the back of the flyer.

SPORK

The dust only affects a few of us but if you brought enough Rangers you could still kill --

BETH

What!? No, I have two Rangers and... Frak! Rangers, stage!

Parson and Lerrins sprint to the rovers and pull out scraps of red Alien uniforms. They drop the red uniforms near the orange dead. RUNNING FOOTSTEPS sound across the scene.

Parson looks at the engineering station in alarm.

PARSON

Ma'am! Aliens! Incoming!

Beth grabs another satchel from the rover.

BETH

Everyone, cover your faces!

Nyeleti and Nolan shield themselves.

Beth hits a button and tosses the satchel under the sieves with all the dust. She jumps to the dirt and covers herself.

Another MASSIVE EXPLOSION rips through the scene. This time, a massive cloud of dust is propelled by the bomb.

The Aliens start coughing as they try to establish where the attack came from. They can't see and look around wildly.

Spork and the humans, still surrounded by dust, fall back to their vehicles. They race away from the site.

When they get clear of the dust cloud, the flyer stays just over the rovers.

PARSON

Ma'am, what are we going to do now?

Beth, with Waylon behind her, glances at Parson. She speaks into her transmitter.

BETH

Listen Nyeleti, you get your file back and we won't discuss it again if this stays our little secret.

INT. FLYER - DAY

Nyeleti and Nolan are in the cockpit. Spork is visible in the back. Nyeleti takes a deep breath and keys the microphone.

NYELETI

I also want to see whatever Alien items you have, starting with those uniform scraps.

MARTIAN SURFACE

Beth glances at the flyer in disgust.

BETH

Fine.

(To Parson)

Mars is for humans. We'll still get rid of these squatters... somehow.

FADE OUT.

THE END