

NO TRI NG

WRITTEN BY M.LATHROM

NOTHING

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FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

A vast starfield. The view spin clockwise. Frantic breathing pierces the silence.

A flailing astronaut comes into view. LT. BATIE (36).

Her voice trembles with panic.

BATIE

Divert power to 1--life support.
Disable visor hud and all non-vital
systems.

MARV (V.O.)

Might I suggest we stabilize
rotation using the suit thrusters?

MARV voice is a soothing baritone with a. Sympathetic for a computer.

BATIE

He's really gonna argue with me
now...

MARV (V.O.)

Are you addressing me, Lt. Batie?

BATIE

Never mind. Do what I say.

CLOSE ON BATIE

The internal lights go out. Moonlight from beside her dances on her face. The reflection of the stars spins in her visor.

MARV (V.O.)

Power diverted. Navigational
systems have been left active in
case of--

BATIE

Can you get a signal?

MARV (V.O.)

We are out of range.

BATIE

How far out of range?

MARV (V.O.)
Last transmission was eight minutes
twenty-three seconds ago. You are
currently traveling fifteen
kilometers per second and--

BATIE
(whispers)
No... No...

A look of helplessness comes over her.

She looks around as if there's something to find.

MARV (V.O.)
I'm sorry, Lt. Batie.

BATIE
No. There... there has to be
something. Something we can do.
Suit thrusters?

MARV (V.O.)
There is only enough fuel to
stabilize rotation. I'm sorry.

The light spins on her face. The stars a mesmerizing whirl.

BATIE
There has to be. You wouldn't
have... You diverted power. You
tried to contact. My speed, you
knew. Why did you try, if you knew
it was pointless?

Marv keeps silent for a moment.

MARV (V.O.)
What else is there to do?

Batie screams through tears.

MARV (V.O.)
What's wrong, Lt. Batie?

BATIE
(through sobs)
What do you mean what's wrong? I'm
going to...

Batie calms a bit. Screamed out.

BATIE
(helpless)
What do I do?

MARV (V.O.)
Would you like me to engage
thrusters and stabilize rotation?
To make you more comfortable.

Batie Nods.

We hear a short burst. The stars stop spinning, the light stops dancing on her face.

MARV (V.O.)
That's better. Would you like some
music?

Batie takes a deep breath.

BATIE
What's it going to be like?

MARV (V.O.)
Death? What are the properties of
nothingness?

BATIE
You know what I mean.

MARV (V.O.)
May I speak frankly, Lt. Batie.

BATIE
Yeah...

MARV (V.O.)
You are something and can only
conceive of something-ness. You
even have a name for nothing, as if
it were a something. But nothing
has no properties. It only has a
name. May I ask you, what it is
like being alive right now?

BATIE
I'm afraid.

MARV (V.O.)
Well, that's something?

Batie cracks a smile.

BATIE
Play me some music?

MARV (V.O.)
What would you like to hear.

BATIE
Surprise me.

FADE OUT.

THE END