

## ASTRONOMICAL IRONY

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SURFACE OF MARS - DAY

COMMANDER ALTAIR (48. He wears a full spacesuit. His face is not visible through the suit helmet.) nails a stake deep into the dirt. He GRUNTS with each strike.

Commander Altair finishes with the stake. He presses a button and turns on the radio.

COMMANDER ALTAIR

Dr. Holloway, how's the weather  
looking from the Insight Probe?

DR. HOLLOWAY (O.S.)

(Over the radio)

Eh... you know-

EXT. SURFACE OF MARS - DAY

TEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL MARS STATION

DR. HOLLOWAY (34, a renowned professor. She wears a full spacesuit.) holds an ELECTRONIC PAD that connects by a wire to a MARS ROVER.

DR. HOLLOWAY

-As best as Mars could be.

COMMANDER ALTAIR (O.S.)

(Over the radio)

You still thinkin' about that fair  
back at your school?

INTERCUT DR. HOLLOWAY AND COMMANDER ALTAIR

DR. HOLLOWAY

How could I not? A once in a lifetime chance to meet some of the most famous astrophysicists in the world! And I'm not even in that world.

COMMANDER ALTAIR

Well, not everyone gets the chance to travel to Mars on a last minute mission to secure an offline rover, huh?

Dr. Holloway presses a button on the electronic pad. The Mars rover unfolds and drives off. She SIGHS.

DR. HOLLOWAY

There's always some level of loneliness that I feel when off planet. The fact that we're the only living things for 140 million miles. Not very fun when it starts to get to you.

Dr. Holloway looks up into the red Martian sky. A faint blue dot- Earth- reflects on her helmet.

END INTERCUT

COMMANDER ALTAIR (O.S.)

(Over the radio)

But.. think about-

He is cut off.

DR. HOLLOWAY

Commander?

She turns the radio off. She turns it back on.

No answer.

DR. HOLLOWAY (CONT'D)

Commander!

No response.

DR. HOLLOWAY (CONT'D)

Altair!

COMMANDER ALTAIR (O.S.)

(Over the radio)

Yes, sorry. My radio lost signal.

DR. HOLLOWAY

Let's meet back here. At the station. We'll swap out your radio for a working one.

The radio fizzles out.

Dr. Holloway SCOFFS.

EXT. INTERNATIONAL MARTIAN SPACE STATION - NIGHT

Dr. Holloway sits on a large rock. The wind kicks up. Mars's rusty red dirt forms clouds of dust. Creates a haze.

She stares at the blue dot in the sky. Home.

Commander Altair trudges over and stops a good distance from Dr. Holloway.

DR. HOLLOWAY

Oh, there you are! I was starting to get worried that your vehicle had malfunctioned or you'd lost coordinates.

Commander Altair stands still. Silence.

DR. HOLLOWAY (CONT'D)

What, did I share my existential crisis with you?

Commander Altair pulls out a rifle and shoots past Dr. Holloway.

The bullet strikes someone behind Dr. Holloway. Another Commander Altair.

DR. HOLLOWAY (CONT'D)

The hell?! Commander!

The wounded Commander Altair clutches his shoulder. Blood seeps through his suit. His suit loses oxygen.

COMMANDER ALTAIR (WOUNDED)

Doctor! That's not me!

Dr. Holloway pulls out her gun from her belt and aims it at the Commander Altair with the gun.

COMMANDER ALTAIR (GUN) (CONT'D)

The one behind you is fake! It followed me back from the tent!

Dr. Holloway points her gun at the Commander Altair who had been shot. She then turns frantically and points her gun at the Commander Altair who holds gun. Points at wounded Commander Altair. Then back at the Commander Altair who holds the gun.

Dr. Holloway BREATHES HEAVILY. Her hands shake.

SCREEN turns BLACK.

GUNSHOT.

FADE OUT.