

MAX SPACE: INTERVAL 9

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FADE IN:

INT. MAX'S SHELTER - MORNING

In darkness... Voices **echo** in and out...

UNKNOWN OLDER MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Don't listen to them-

UNKNOWN YOUNG FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
Who cares, let em' go-

UNKNOWN YOUNG MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Don't act like you wouldn't do the
same-

UNKNOWN OLDER FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
You give people hope, Max-

UNKNOWN YOUNG MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Max-

UNKNOWN OLDER MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Max-

UNKNOWN YOUNG MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Max-

UNKNOWN OLDER FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
MAX!

MAX SPACE (19), jolts awake, sitting up to the sound of faint arguing. His **mechanical eye** swirls and pulses light, whirring. Max blinks quickly and gets moving.

EXT. STREETS, CLAN HARMON - PACIFIC FRINGE (CALIFORNIA) -
WEST COAST - 2157 - CONTINUOUS

Max exits his shelter, an old metal and wooden shack left behind from **The OldWorld** (the world before **The Fallout**).

The Fallout: Hinted at later, The Fallout is the period of time in which the world ended.

Max's shelter resembles others nearby, all surrounded by a long wall, encompassing the area.

Max walks, sluggish, closing in on the figures ahead.

UNKNOWN YOUNG MALE VOICE (O.S.)
-And what are you planning to do
about it huh!?

UNKNOWN OLDER MALE VOICE (O.S.)
 -It's complicated **Noah**, why don't
 you calm down-

Max makes out NOAH GRAVES (20, **augmented**), a few COUNCIL MEN (40/50s), a COUNCIL WOMAN (30s), and Max's parents, HARMONY CARTER (40s, poised, augmented) and LION CARTER (40s, gruff), all circling Noah.

NOAH
 My brother has been missing for 3
 weeks while you pieces of filth sit
 back and do nothing!

Max approaches close, as does MELODY STRAYDE (21, visible **techno-augments**), pacing to Noah and the council members.

*Techno-Augments: In this world, technological bio-augmentations, are a prevalent aspect of human survivalism after The Fallout. They can include brain chips, bionic arms, bionic eyes, bionic tendons, muscles, bionic spines, or even bionic organs. They vary per every clan and area of **The Wastelands**.*

Harmony steps forward, carefully.

HARMONY
 Noah, we're trying our best to find
 your brother FAYNE, we just need to-

NOAH
 No-what you guys *need*, is to let us
 listen to the radios once in a damn
 while so maybe we could hear if
 anyone's actually out there!!

Other Clan Harmon members peek out of their shelters, curious and concerned.

COUNCIL MAN 1
 Well maybe if you could've
 convinced your brother to keep his
 head where it belonged, none of
 this would've happened-

Noah snaps, viciously attacking the council man, each adult backs away.

Noah scratches at the council man, who throws kicks and punches, sinking every one.

Max and Melody jump in and grab Noah.

Harmony and Lion do the same for the council man, now bloodied.

NOAH
Fuck you, you Scrap-Heap Fuck!

The Council Men glare down Noah: a seething stare.

Max and Melody hold Noah and stare back, Noah's look: hateful, as blood drips down his face.

INT. MAX'S SHELTER, CLAN HARMON - LATER

Max and Melody sit facing Noah. The room's littered with old superhero comics, dismembered augment prototypes on a nearby workbench, plus Max's gear and personalized artwork.

Noah's bruised up and cut, but cleaned slightly from before.

MAX
Things are gonna be okay, Noah.

Silence.

MAX (CONT'D)
Hey, at least they didn't lock you up again.

NOAH
Shut up, Max.

MELODY
(hesitates)
Your brother's alive, I know it.
He's too stubborn to die, anyways.

Noah eyes Melody.

Melody pulls back.

MAX
I can talk to Mom and Dad, see if they can do something.

NOAH
They won't change anything. Already tried, already failed.

Max and Melody glance at each other carefully.

Melody scoots closer to Noah. Noah pulls back.

MAX

We *will* find Fayne. I can try to get radio transmissions from Mom, she can-

NOAH

She can do what?

(pauses)

Didn't the council de-rank her last week for shit like that?

Max's look turns sour.

MELODY

Noah...

NOAH

No, seriously. Because the last time I remember anyone trying to actually help us, it was *Fayne*.

MAX

Did he ever tell you where he was going?

Noah turns to Max.

NOAH

He-he said he was going to find,
Interval 9...

Max and Melody light up, exchanging looks.

MAX

(in awe)

Interval 9?

MELODY

Wait, the what, the rumored place no one knows exists? That Interval 9?

Noah stays silent.

Max can barely stay still.

MAX

I knew it-

MELODY

-Hold on, knew what? That place isn't even real. And aren't we forbidden from mentioning it now?

NOAH

God, who cares what The Council says? New curfew at 10, you guys hear that, too? *Fuck* that.

Melody shrugs, nods.

MAX

But, wait. I know Interval 9. It's this oasis-

Max gets up and picks out a piece of his artwork from a nearby table. It is of an unfinished map of **United States**, where Max points out a **question mark** on the East Coast.

***Max's Map:** This map and its keys include a few labeled sections of the US:

The Pacific Fringe, on the East Coast, with dots spelling where they are now. **The Wastelands**, a larger overarching text labeling the entire US from West to East. **The Divide**, spelling out the midwest. "???" is labeled along the Midwest to East until reaching, **The Rust Belt**. The North, above The Rust Belt, is labeled **Arclands**. Then lastly, there are "???" labeled on the East Coast.*

MAX (CONT'D)

-Look. I've heard the rumors a while back. It could be real.

NOAH

And you've never brought this up with *us* before?

MAX

I've shown Fayne, that's how it came up.

Noah looks down.

Church bells ring, Max, Melody, and Noah look alert.

NOAH

(to himself)
Christ...

EXT. THE COUNCIL HALL, CLAN HARMON - EVENING

The sky is grey, and standing atop the wooden stage, are The Council members, including Harmony and Lion.

The crowd of Clan Harmon stands to watch from below, in the dirt and pebble filled streets.

Max, Melody, and Noah stand up front.

COUNCIL MAN 1
As per our list of updates, this
week, we have 6.

The crowd jitters, faint gasps and head turns.

COUNCIL MAN 1 (CONT'D)
Number One: Rations are now fully
stocked.

RANDOM CITIZEN 1
(to themselves)
Like hell they are...

Max, Melody, and Noah turn over; people don't seem excited,
rather mellowed.

COUNCIL MAN 1
Number Two: Curfew implement is now
nine, at dark.

The crowd boos, arguing amongst each other. Max and Melody
keep cool but Noah boos with the crowd.

COUNCIL WOMAN 1
Settle down, settle down, now!

The crowd settles.

COUNCIL MAN 1
Number Three: Threats from The
Sicliac Clan continue to arise-

The crowd begins to lose it, some people cowering in fear.
Max and Melody exchange concerned looks.

Noah remains stoic, eyes glued to the stage.

HARMONY
Do not fret. We are doing
everything in our power to keep you
safe. This is no threat we haven't
seen before.

NOAH
(to Max and Melody)
There she goes, *our* Savior.

Max glances to Noah, vexed.

COUNCIL MAN 2

(older, quakier voice)

Thank you, Miss Harmony. Clan Harmon will stand together. Now, in order, Number Four: Our trading stations will continue to operate smoothly, though the augment shortages are still in effect-

The crowd boos, some frantic from the news.

COUNCIL MAN 1

Settle down, please! We just have a few more to go-

The crowd eases, all except Noah.

NOAH

When are you gonna give us back out freedom!

MELODY

(whispering)

Psst! Noah!

Max and his parents exchange solemn looks.

The crowd stays silent.

COUNCIL MAN 1

Noah... Please, if you'd refrain from erratic and mad behavior, that would be-

NOAH

No. No! Screw You! Screw this useless Council! Our rations haven't been up for weeks!!

The Crowd perks up.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Our augment and med stations have been unfixed for weeks!

The crowd chants with Noah.

THE CROWD

YEAH!

NOAH

My older brother, a well-known and well-respected member of this clan, a *fucking* Veteran of Wasteland missions, Veteran of med station calls, an ally to trading posts, a braver man than any of you, is missing, and you dare try to shut down our radio transmissions!?!

The crowd completely erupts in Noah's favor. Chaotic loudness drowns out the Council.

Noah looks to them with ferocity.

Max's parents begin to pack it up, and the rest of The Council follows, each beginning to walk off the stage.

INT. MAX'S PARENTS' SHELTER, CLAN HARMON - LATER

Harmony and Lion quickly search through their notes, papers, maps, and boards with strategies and plans, which lay about their room and on the walls.

Their shelter looks polished, richer and larger than Max's.

Max sits and watches in waiting.

MAX

Mom, Dad, what's really going on?

Harmony rushes through layered maps.

HARMONY

Nothing sweetheart, don't worry about it.

Lion plots dots on a strategy board with other clans labeled on each part.

***Lion's dart board:** Though hinted at later, on the board, we can see a number of clans across the US, such as The Sicliac, Kravyl, and Solari clans, with lines drawn from them to Clan Harmon.*

MAX

Dad. What the hell is going on? I mean, that meeting was worse than the last few...

LION

Nothing Max, don't worry okay? We've got everything under control.

MAX
I-I don't think you do. I don't
think any of you do. Curfew at
nine? Why? What's really going on
here!?

Harmony and Lion ignore Max and continue in their chaos.

MAX (CONT'D)
Are we safe?

Harmony stops.

HARMONY
Aidan-

Max looks hurt by that name.

HARMONY (CONT'D)
-Max... Baby. Sorry. Look. Me and
your father are trying our best
here, okay? Just bear with us for a
second-

MAX
-Then tell me what's really going
on.

LION
It's not that simple Max.

Max gets up closer to them, looking at all of their scrabbled
maps.

MAX
You guys don't hide things from me,
you never-

Max stops short, staring at map on the table.

They all exchange looks.

MAX (CONT'D)
Interval 9...

Max eyes the unfinished Map, marking Interval 9 on the East
Coast.

LION
Max, town dining is in a few
minutes. Let's just talk after,
maybe tomorrow bud, let's just-

HARMONY

-No, stop.

(pauses)

How do you know about Interval 9,
Max?

MAX

So, it is real...

LION

No, kid, it's not. Can we all
please just take a step back from
this?

Lion sweats in his discomfort.

HARMONY

Max, honey, no, we are not safe
here.

Lion shoots Harmony a gross look.

Harmony stares back, unfazed.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

Max. The Sicliac and Kravyl clans
have been threatening an attack
ever since our head trader quit
after Fayne left.

Max listens intently.

Lion looks pressed.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

We've been in contact with him ever
since he left.

MAX

What?

Harmony turns to the radio.

HARMONY

We lost his signal a few days ago
but we've been mapping where he
should be.

(pauses)

There might come a time when we
have to follow his tracks all the
way through.

MAX

To Interval 9...

Dead, unnatural silence.

MAX (CONT'D)

So, what do we do?

LION

We don't *do* anything. Everything is under control, right Harmony?

Harmony looks cautiously at both of them.

HARMONY

Right. We should be fine. Our head Councilmen are already negotiating with each clan, and we shouldn't feel the ration shortage tonight, so *you*, Max, should be fine. We've got this, okay? Be strong, Max.

Max nods.

The radio perks up, a familiar signal; it's the Council.

Lion and Harmony exchange looks.

Harmony hugs Max and caresses his face with a hand of cold augmented metal.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

We love you, Max. Okay?

Max nods.

MAX

Yeah, I love you guys, too.

Lion smiles, then taps his wrist: it's time to go.

Harmony and Lion grab most of their materials, maps, notes, boards, and so on.

HARMONY

Go to the food hall, Melody and Noah should be there already.

(pauses)

If I could help him, I would. He's like family. But he needs *you*, and Melody. That's your concern okay?

LION

And don't get into any trouble. We can't keep bailing you guys out, you got that?

Max nods, and Harmony and Lion run out.

Max stays behind and walks over to a map they left behind.

***Harmony and Lion's map:** Similar to Max's, but with newer locations, including: A traced path to Fayne's last known location, **The Dwellings** and **Techno-Infected Lands**. Then, in the mid-Midwest, **The Dead Plains**. After and below the Midwest regions, (including The Rust Belt), **The Southern Boarder**, with skulls around it. Then, Arclands up north, before the East Coast. Finally, there's **The Eastern Wall**, with "Interval 9??" labeled underneath it, on the East Coast.*

Max pockets the map and heads out.

INT. FOOD HOUSE, CLAN HARMON - NIGHT

Max walks into the food hall. Dozens of people walk and sit about with their trays of food.

Max spots Melody and Noah at a table in the corner, away from everyone else.

Melody waves him over.

Max nods and heads to get his food.

INT. FOOD HOUSE - CORNER TABLE

Max sits down eating with Melody and Noah.

MELODY

So, what'd they say? Anything new?

MAX

They said they think they know where Fayne might be.

Noah perks up.

NOAH

What? How? Where is he?

Max flashes the map he stole.

MELODY

Oh, shit, is that your map from earlier?

MAX

No, it's Mom and Dad's map. They have new locations on it.

NOAH
 Why'd you put it away? Take it back
 out.

MELODY
 We're in *the* public place of public
 places, are you crazy?

Noah scoffs.

MELODY (CONT'D)
 What else did they say?

MAX
 (hesitating)
 They, uh... They said that our clan
 is...

NOAH
 ...Is what?

MAX
 That we may be in danger-

Melody pushes her food to the side.

MELODY
 What? By who? Where?

MAX
 The Sicliac Clan-

NOAH
 ...Fuckin' *Rusties*.

MAX
 And the Kravyl Clan-

NOAH
 God, after everything we've done
 for them??

MAX
 I know...

NOAH
 Our God damned rations are low
 because of them and now what, we
 pay!?

Some food hall goers glance over.

MELODY
(to Noah)
Voice down.

Noah nods, annoyed.

MELODY (CONT'D)
Okay, so what's the plan?

MAX
Plan?

MELODY
Yeah.
(hinting to Noah)
This guy wants to go after Fayne
anyways, soo...

MAX
What?!

NOAH
Max, you have like, a complete map
now, it could be worth something.

MAX
Going out there's a death sentence.

NOAH
Who told you that? Lion? He would.

MAX
Excuse me?

MELODY
It's not a death sentence,
necessarily, but, I mean, is
staying here much safer anymore?

MAX
I don't know.

NOAH
So, let's weigh it out. Think about
it. Fayne's probably out there, we
have a steady shot to him now, and
we've been out there already. We
could handle it.

MAX
You think we could handle it? Being
out there only leads to more
danger. It's not like anything
good's ever come of it.

NOAH
Uh huh, and where do you think
these are from?

Noah flashes his fingers and arms, coded by metal augments,
lining his tendons and muscles.

MAX
(points at his eye)
Exactly my point. One mission, and
now we have augs! Melody, you used
to live out there. Why would you
want to go back?

Melody seems disturbed by the comment, remaining silent.

NOAH
It may be our only option soon,
considering the news you brought
us.

The group pauses for a second.

MAX
There could be *Techno-Infected*...

NOAH
You've never seen a Techno-
Infected!

MAX
Yeah, well you haven't either!

NOAH
Yeah, and I've been on, like, four
missions! Dude, Melody used to live
out there and she's never mentioned
a singular Techno-Infected before-

MELODY
-Can we not? Please?

MAX
Yeah, sorry, Mel.

NOAH
What else? Let me guess, you're
afraid of Rival Clans, Mutants,
Dust Storms, all that shit, huh?

MAX
Those all could be very real
threats. Maybe not Mutants
though...

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

...I've never even heard a single story about one before.

NOAH

Yeah, me neither.

MELODY

Guys...

Max and Noah glance at Melody, who points at her head.

She moves her hair to show augmented wiring and plating.

MELODY (CONT'D)

Uhhhh, hello? Augments here, *from Mutants?* That's literally the *one* thing we'd need to worry about.

NOAH

Okay whatever, but guess what? I have Fayne's gun. *And*, I have weapons training. We'll be fine.

Each of them takes a pause.

Max stares down, processing it all.

INT. MAX'S PARENTS' SHELTER, CLAN HARMON - LATER

Max sits with his parents.

Lion combs through war plans.

Harmony fiddles with the radio.

MAX

Is it possible we could go out to get him?

HARMONY

Get who, Max?

A beat.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

Look... It's too dangerous to-

MAX

-You always say that. Both of you always say that.

Lion looks back at Max.

LION

Because it's true. Do you think we share these augments as a sign of strength? Aid- Max... We're human. We're strong humans. We founded this Clan over the years, *not* from throwing ourselves into uncertain danger, but by exercising caution.

MAX

Yeah, that sure made Fayne wanna stay, huh?

HARMONY

Max-

(pause)

-Fayne made a stupid mistake by sneaking out in the middle of the night to go to a location no one truly knows exists.

MAX

You know it exists-

HARMONY

-No. Max, what we know, is it could, and if it does, it is a safe haven, one of the last ones... But our chances of reaching it are slim to none, given we don't really know anything about it. Nor does any other clan. Let's leave it alone, okay? We have more important things to worry about than this right now-

BOOM... A faint **explosion** rings out from afar.

Lion and Harmony lock eyes. Max looks at them in anticipation.

MAX

Uhhh wha-

HARMONY

Shhh! Quiet!

Harmony rushes to the door.

Lion turns quick to the radio, then back to Max.

Max looks at Lion, about to run.

LION

Max don't-

Max sprints out.

EXT. MAX'S PARENTS' SHELTER, OUTSIDE - CLAN HARMON -
CONTINUOUS

Harmony spots a shelter on fire in the distance. Another explosion rings out, shocking Max and Harmony. Faint screams follow.

HARMONY

Max...

A quiet whistle begins to howl. Louder. Louder.

Harmony looks to the skies and sees the silhouette of bombshell dropping down...

HARMONY (CONT'D)

MAX!!

Harmony shoves Max forward as the shell falls above the shelter.

Max trips back, blinks once and their shelter blows to pieces.

He savagely flies backward and everything cuts to black.

EXT. BURNING STREETS, CLAN HARMON - MOMENTS LATER

Max slowly wakes up, coughing from the smoke all around.

He pushes debris off of him and gets up, wincing in pain. His leg is hurt and bleeding.

The shelter is decimated. Max stands there, devastated.

He looks around: Clan Harmon is burning....

People run through the streets, some on fire, some carrying dead bodies, some alone, crying.

One runs towards Max, screaming for help until he's gunned down by a plasma beam in the distance.

Max sprints away, his leg trailing along.

Deeper into the streets he spots Melody frantically pacing with her gear.

MAX

Melody!

Melody turns quick and runs to Max. They embrace, rapidly checking each other for injuries.

MELODY
You hurt?

MAX
My leg, it's-

MELODY
-Have you seen Noah?

MAX
Shit-

Max and Melody take off.

EXT. NOAH'S SHELTER - CONTINUOUS

Max and Melody watch as Noah's shelter burns down in front of them.

Max hyperventilates, and Melody tries to hold her tears.

MELODY
(to herself)
He's not dead...
(aloud)
NOAH!!

Melody rushes closer to Noah's burning shelter. It looks emptied out through the flames.

The fire brushes past her face and she recoils back to Max.

MAX
Is he-

MELODY
-He's not there. Let's go!

EXT. BURNING STREETS, CLAN HARMON

The two sprint back to the streets and try to weave behind shelters to avoid RIVAL CLAN GUNMEN (wearing full helmets with painted body armor and augmented gear), out and about.

Max and Melody turn corners, Max's sprint devolving to a rushed limp.

NOAH
(in the distance)
Melody! Max!

The two turn to see Noah outside Max's shelter, one of the few left standing.

They run after him as violent explosions go off all around.

INT. MAX'S SHELTER - CONTINUOUS

Noah, with most of his gear, shows them a battered and injured Harmony.

Max desperately hugs his mother. She winces a bit and hugs back.

MAX
Mom! Where's Dad?

HARMONY
I-I don't know. I swear saw him but-

MELODY
-Everyone, we need to go!

Explosions scream out, getting closer.

Max grabs as much of his gear and personal stuff as he can.

Noah helps Harmony stand up properly, and she spits out some blood.

Noah backs away.

HARMONY
(to Noah and Melody)
You two, there's a secret exit
behind this shelter-Fayne used it
to escape before, but it's blocked
off. Remove the barriers.

Noah immediately runs out through the back.

Melody hesitates.

HARMONY (CONT'D)
Go, now!

Melody rushes out after Noah.

Max, with all his gear, rushes to his mother who falls back down.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

Listen to me, Max-

(coughs hard)

I know you have the map... You have to lead them. Take them to Interval 9... Find Fayne, he'll be there...

MAX

Wa-wa-wait, what-what about you?

I'm not gonna leave you!

HARMONY

Max, there's no other choice. I'm going back for your father. You need to get the hell out of here. Now.

Max steps back as Harmony gets up.

She limps to the workbench nearby, opens it up to a secret compartment, and pieces together a plasma rifle.

Max watches as she cocks and readies the gun.

HARMONY (CONT'D)

I'll meet you at Interval 9... Go.

Max holds his tears and runs out through the back.

EXT. SECRET EXIT - CONTINUOUS

Max meets Melody and Noah, who've managed to remove most of the barricades.

The three tear down the rest as gunfire, explosions, and screams rain down from every angle.

They rush through and run out behind the clan's walls.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF CLAN HARMON

Max looks back, on the move.

Clan Harmon has fallen...

EXT. PACIFIC FRINGE - WEST COAST - ABANDONED CITY -
AFTERNOON, NEXT DAY

Max wakes up with a jolt.