

Sunwake - Cayde's Audio Log

Kat Underhill

INT. CAYDE'S QUARTERS - DAY

A MAJOR PEEP sounds as the recorder is turned on. CAYDE VANDERS begins speaking.

CAYDE

Is this thing on? Yes? Good. Gotta love when they give you new tech and just assume you know how to use it... But down to business. Star date: October 16, Sol year 2174. Three days before departure.

The final preparations for the Sunwake's departure are nearly complete: the more perishable preserves - an oxymoron if I ever heard one - need to be loaded, fuel reserves need to be checked, and the engines need to be primed. After that, all that remains is for the colonists and crew members to move aboard. Some of the colonists have already arrived and have been sleeping on the edges of the hangar. It's refreshing to hear so much laughter and peaceful conversation. Their excitement is contagious, and everyone's spirits are high, and getting higher the closer we are to departure.

He laughs.

I admit that I may have been overzealous myself, and moved into my quarters three days ago. May as well take advantage of the relative peace and quiet before everyone else arrives.

Speaking of which, I met with Captain Ortega this morning when she arrived. We spent three hours going over technicalities and details - all of which is saved in the ship's central data base for future reference - and we agree that the Exodus Program is one of humanity's greatest steps this century. In my professional opinion, Captain Ortega is an excellent choice for this voyage. The sort of woman to

get things done and to make the hard choices when necessary while keeping everyone's best interests in mind. I admire her, knowing her story. I look forwards to working with her in the future of this voyage.

I also met Ellie Hatsume yesterday. I like her, and think the Exodus Program did well in selecting her as an engineer for the Sunwake. Everyone I have met thus far fits their roles perfectly. A benefit of working for a private organization that cares more about the expansion and growth of humanity than petty political struggles, one could say. It will be a relief to finally have the growing unrest and chaos of the U.T.R. lightyears behind me.

But enough of that. Today is a day to think of the future, not the past. I said I'd meet with Ellie for tea, so I'd better get going if I want to make it in time. Wouldn't do to make a poor impression on day two!

Until next time. Cayde out.

The sound of a chair BUMPING against the table is heard, followed by Cayde's footsteps, before the recording clicks off with a MINOR PEEP.

INT. CAYDE'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

The recorder turns on with a MAJOR PEEP, and Cayde's voice comes on.

CAYDE

Star date: October 17, Sol year 2174.
Two Days before departure.

Cayde pauses, the DRUMMING of his fingers filling the silence.

CAYDE (CONT'D)

I am honored to have been chosen by the Exodus Program as program director aboard the Sunwake. To be a part of such an accomplishment is... beyond

words. But the closer we come to departure, the more anxious I become for the success of our journey. Voyages of a similar length have been done in the past, but... So many people have placed their trust in me and Captain Ortega. That responsibility, their safety and health, is a weight on its own. To say nothing of the cryosleep system. While I trust the A.I.s and the Sunwake's autonomous programming, my main concern is the time of suspension. Thus far, no one has attempted to go so long in cryo, and I worry that some may not wake up. I know cases of failure are rare - unheard of within the past few decades - but one still thinks of the worst case scenarios. It's only human.

Should this mission succeed an invaluable door for future deep space travel and exploration will open. But I fear what will happen to the Exodus Program, and future missions, should it fail.

The air filtration turns on, adding a HUM to the background of the recording. Cayde sighs.

CAYDE (CONT'D)

I need to talk to Dad before I go. He hasn't been the same since Mum died, and I worry about him being alone. It will be good to talk to him, one last time.

Cayde's voice fades into silence, and the recording continues for some time before it shuts off automatically with a MINOR PEEP.

INT. CAYDE'S QUARTERS - DAWN

Air filtration is BUZZING, and ambient VOICES and mechanical BEEPS are heard before the recorder turns on with a MAJOR PEEP and Cayde begins speaking.

CAYDE

Star date: October 19, Sol year 2174.
Day of departure.

I meant to record a log yesterday, but in the chaos of finalizing initiation and preparations, it must have slipped my mind. The colonists have moved in, and cryo-stasis has been started. As far as I know, half the colonists are in stable cryo with no complications. That is encouraging, and I realize my anxiety of two days past was unfounded.

I spoke with Dad yesterday as well. It was reassuring to know that he has faith in this venture. I'll miss him, that is certain, but he assured me he was going to be fine, and that he was going to do all that he could to ensure the security of future Exodus ventures.

As reassuring it was to know that Dad was going to have no problem keeping busy, I do worry about the state of the U.T.R., and what that means for him and the Exodus program. Just in the past few days reports of more riots and attacks came in. If I'm being completely honest with myself I couldn't be happier about leaving this conflict behind. If we were leaving any later, I'm not sure we'd get clearance to take off--

The AUTOMATED voice of CELESTE, one of the Sunwake's A.I.s, interrupts.

CELESTE
Director Vanders. The cryo-bay is ready for you.

CAYDE
Everyone else is secure and stable?

CELESTE
Yes, Director. Everyone but you and Captain Ortega. As soon as you both have entered stasis, the Sunwake will depart.

CAYDE
Noted. Thank you, Celeste.

CELESTE

You are welcome, Director. Sleep well.

Celeste CLICKS off, and Cayde resumes his log:

CAYDE

I suppose I'd better go then. It would be ironic if I were the one to delay our departure! That's all for the present.

May the Gods of All protect us.
Director Cayde Vanders signing off.