

Third Place Prose – Middle School

“Jupiter’s Eye”

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Harsh ringing sounded around her. She blinked blearily, her vision focusing. The blaring of an alarm sounded. As her mind began to uncloud she felt a sharp pain, reaching lightly she brushed her fingers against the back of her head, blood. She pulled her hand away as if she had been stung and inhaled sharply. Carefully composing herself she stood up. Her surroundings were familiar but she couldn't figure out how. A pod. Yes, that was it. She was in a pod, and she definitely was not on earth.

Something wasn't right, She quickly darted over to an area of the room that was walled with iron paneled switches and keyboards and disabled the alarm. The sound ceasing, once more she reached her hand to her head. Hoping to help the sinking pain but it only seemed to grow from the wound. She couldn't make sense of it. Any of it. A blank slate. She didn't know where she was, who she was, she could remember so few things.

The ship rocked as if on impact, she tumbled backwards, and flinched sharply. Aideon. The realization kicked in. She was Aideon. Yes that was the truth. The fall seemed to have triggered some sort of memory. Not wanting to fall again she crawled over to a corner of the pod, a window. She pressed a hand to the window lightly, her breath fogging up the glass. Space. Jupiter. Lost? Alone. No one's here. Where is someone? Anyone? Her inner consciousness panicked, she felt her breath quicken. Her heartbeat banging loudly in her chest, a piercing pain shot through her head, she wanted to throw up. Calm. The voice urged her. She was far from home. Too far. Her breath caught in her lungs as she tried to piece together bits and pieces of her puzzle. My name is Aideon. I am... she fought with her mind desperately for some sort of conscious memory. I am 16... I think. I'm not sure. I'm away from home in something like a pod. What is my home? Why am I here? Stop panicking! The pod rocked again and she tumbled away from the window. An automated voice spoke from the keyboard. 'Oxygen levels are depleting. Please contact the home ship and refill. Oxygen levels are depleting, please contact home ship and refill.' She felt her heart in her throat, trying once more to make sense of what was happening. 'My name is Aideon I am 16? And I am going to die.'

She scanned her ship, a small red stain tainted one of the walls, she must've fallen there and, and what? Did I fall? Is that why I can't remember anything? She swallowed quietly, her throat dry and cracked. She knew there was some sort of malfunction in the ship. She would either die of lack of oxygen or she would freeze, neither would be pleasant she knew. A soft static buzz hissed near her. She crept towards the control board.

“Podship 118. Aideon are you there? I repeat Aideon are you there?” Her entire body flashed to panic mode, fumbling over the control board she clumsily picked up the microphone, “Hello? Anyone please. This is Aideon- from podship-” she paused racking her mind “118, Podship 118, Please I need help I think I hit my head, I'm bleeding pretty badly... I can't remember what...” she swallowed drily, her eyes building in tears. “I can't remember what happened. Please...” She trailed off her hope starting to fade.

Static played over the radio. No response. She was going to die. She was going to die. She pressed a hand to her mouth choking on a sob. The ship was impacted again, she was thrown across the podships floor. Suddenly the radio buzzed softly, she scrambled back to it.

‘Podship 118, do you copy?’ She grabbed the small microphone.

‘Yes! Yes! Please come help me... I don't want...’ she couldn't bring herself to say it. There was a long silence.

'Podship 118 remain calm, you are out of reach, I'm afraid it is time to say your goodbyes now.'
She froze.

"I'm sorry what? Please no, no please do anything..." it was pure silence for a moment.

"There is nothing we can do. To the right of your hand is a video recording log, currently your ship is losing oxygen rapidly and the temperature levels are also lowering. This is your last chance."

Aideon's mouth went dry, she couldn't think straight, her mind was a mess and only one thought rang out. She was going to die and she didn't even know who she was and what she was supposed to say goodbye to. She let out a soft outtake of breath. Her hand hovered over the control keyboard, she opened the record log.

"Hello My name is Aideon... Aideon..." she paused, breaking off. "I don't know what's happening or where I am, I think I hit my head pretty hard. I don't know what to do but... but I'm sorry for all of this, I may not know who you are but I wish you the best... I...I" her voice cracked. "I don't... I don't want to... Goodbye." She trailed off.

She stepped back, her eyes dark and somber. Quietly she moved to the viewing window, another gust of icy wind billowed into the podship, pressing a hand to the window she almost recoiled because of the ice cold sensation. Almost. Aideon watched through the window into the long expansion of space almost completely covered by Jupiter's hovering cream colored form, its stormy scarlet eye staring into her. Aideon let out a shaky breath. "Goodbye." She spoke quietly even though none could hear. Aideon's eyes closed slightly and she blinked away tears, the icy cold surrounded her steadily, she let out a heavy breath and stepped back. Not wanting to see what would happen, she turned off the lights so she was completely in the dark, and turned away.