

EUROPA

Written by

Robert j. Lee

WHITE.

A plain, pure white screen.

A loud CRACK is heard as blue lines cross the screen. Ice. Deep, pure, arctic ice.

The ice is cracked and cut through by a large, loud, diamond tipped titanium drill.

INT. ICE STATION

FUYUKO (27, Japanese female, lab coat) is looking at data on a computer screen as CALDWELL (33, bearded, bespectacled, bedhead) sits with his feet on a cluttered desk reading a well-thumbed old book.

He glances over at a small computer screen on a large, seemingly random pile of screens and readouts.

CALDWELL

Drill number EU-23 has hit water.
Obtaining samples.

He goes back to his book but soon looks up from it.

CALDWELL (CONT'D)

Did you know that the largest
desert on Earth is actually
Antarctica?

She doesn't look up.

CALDWELL (CONT'D)

Is this the way you're going to be
now? The silent treatment, Fuyuko,
really?

A telephone on the wall starts ringing.

Fuyuko doesn't flinch or look up.

CALDWELL (CONT'D)

I'll get that shall I?

Caldwell gets up and walks over to the phone.

CALDWELL (CONT'D)

(Into the phone)

Caldwell... Sir... Are you kidding?
We've spoken about this. We knew we
were going to need more- I know but-
You're making a mistake... Well it
could be a day, it could be a
year...

(MORE)

CALDWELL (CONT'D)

It's your call but I'm registering my complaints with the committee, this operation has been mishandled from the top since day one, we've done our best to- Hello? Hello?

He slams down the phone.

CALDWELL (CONT'D)

They're pulling us out. Sending us home.

FUYUKO

I see you didn't put up much of a fight.

CALDWELL

You think you have more to lose than me, Fuyuko? You can just skip on to another lab on another post and probably rake in a good deal more money. This is a potential endgame for me. We're all the way out here because of me. This goes down and I... Ah the hell with, who gives a fuck. I'll go prep the sled.

Fuyuko watches him as he leaves.

Once he's gone Fuyuko opens the drawer to her desk and takes out a small glass jar. She holds the jar up to the light to see a cloud of tiny amoeba-like creatures swimming around.

FUYUKO

We'll be home soon, as planned. I think you'll be surprised to see what your children have been up to over the last three and a half billion years.

She smiles and we see that several of the same organisms are swimming in the whites of her eyes.

EXT. ICE STATION

Caldwell exits, not in arctic clothing but in a high tech space suit. He start trudging over to a large space craft, The Sled.

Jupiter looms large on the horizon and beyond, somewhere in the sparkling Milky Way is our pale blue dot.