

[ATHENA IS STILL IN THE VESSEL, WAITING TO GET TO HER LANDING DESTINATION.]

Ugh, I'm basically *dying* in here... Been stuck in this thing for ages. Well, not really like... ages, but if I really think about it, probably about two hebdomadas... oh. [upset] Oh, I don't wanna think about time...

My legs hurt, I feel like I kinda hate myself right now, and I have this other weird feeling I've never felt before... I've been having those recently. I've never missed home more than I do right now, and there's absolutely nothing I can do about that.

[ATHENA PAUSES AS SHE NOTICES THE VESSEL IS GAINING SPEED.]

Wait... what's happening. Why's the vessel speed getting faster. And I can't see out my monitor... It's just gone blank. Okay, I'm freaking out. This isn't supposed to happen.

[THE VESSEL GAINS EVEN MORE SPEED.]

Okay, oh my god, this is legit, what is going on... AHHHHHHHH!

[VESSEL GOES INTO IMPACT. ATHENA IS INSTANTLY DAZED AND IS KNOCKED OUT. WE HEAR HER HEAVY BREATHING DUE FROM THE INICIDENT.]

[CHANGE OF SURROUNDINGS. THE VESSEL DOOR OPENS. A MIX OF CITY SOUNDS LIKE CAR HORNS AND SHOUTING ARE HEARD.]

Welp, this is reality. So this is what Earth actually looks like from a closer view. It's... nothing I thought it'd be, but it sure does look lovelier than the UNIR300. So new, and yet, so scary. Um... well.. I'm gonna have a look around, try to hide my vessel, and see if anything is worth noting. I'll be back in a bit.

[A BEEP IS HEARD, AND ATHENA IS GOING OFFLINE. WHITE NOISE IS HEARD FOR A COUPLE SECONDS BEFORE THE NOISE IS BROKEN OFF.]

Okay, so, in the future, when I put my logs in, I'll just put it in the vessel logs. Using what I have on the go just won't cut it, it's literally unusable. Somehow what worked on the UNIR300 just won't work anywhere else, then it just turns back on when I'm in or near my vessel. Also, the vessel is about as much home as I have now, right? It's nice to rant to myself in a place where I can feel like myself.

Anyway, today was pretty weird. There were so many things that didn't seem normal to me. The way these individuals live their lives is so... drastically different to how I used to live. Well, for one, they have a different way of conversing...it's nothing like I've

really seen before. Maybe it's their dialect, maybe it's the tone of voice, but personally, I can't quite explain it. And... people interact differently with each other, too... I've noticed that they treat people of the same gender with a, say, shake of the hand, for example, and for the other gender... I don't know... a hug? An embrace? It's so strange to me. I mean, back at home, to greet one another, just a nod of the head, or maybe even a smile, if you *really* felt like it, sufficed. Just more personal interactions, I guess. And, like, what the heck... I thought the people here were crazy, I sure was wrong... my surroundings are even crazier! Too many of their transportation machines are making more noises than even the UNIR300 has. And everywhere I go, I see large structures that look like they're going to crumble and fall on me any second. something's gonna fall on me every five seconds. Basically, it's a sensory overload. This is definitely going to take some getting used to.

Ah, shoot, also, I found this incredibly strange. Okay, so like I've also noticed individuals have this bizarre system where they carry shiny pieces of... uh... I don't even know... and they *exchange* those pieces for things and nutrients. Back at base, given the community was so tightly-knit, everyone would bring something to contribute for every meal. We would usually eat... in... gosh, I don't wanna think about that place anymore. [pause] Oh well, anyway, all the more notes for me to take to try to blend in.

Yeah, I haven't even been here for a whole cycle, and I *still* have troubles of blending in... Call me crazy, clumsy, or something, because I think people here definitely think I am *all* of those things. For example, while walking around, at times, I would feel like I gained weight, even though I still look the same. Which is odd, to say the least.

Even though I still have a lot of learning to do, it's not over yet. I am determined to find my place here, even if that means going out of my small vessel, as well as stepping out of my shy, little world, and finding someone to talk to. My future assumptions are that if I don't meet anyone or if I don't eat something soon, things will not be looking good for me.

[NOTIFICATION ALARMS SOUND.]

Oh, yay. More familiar sounds. Guessing the lights are going to power down in the vessel now, which is my cue to head to bed. Maybe things will get better soon...

[OUTRO THEME AND CREDITS.]

Athena was written and produced by Victoria Dubendorf.

A big thank you to Lee Rosevere for producing Athena's music. Lee's music can be found on BandCamp, Free Music Archive, or wherever you

stream. Athena will be released every two weeks. While you're waiting for the next episode of Athena to come out, check out some other cool podcasts, like Station Blue. Follow Matthew Leads as he embarks on a new job in the Antarctic. You'll be asking yourself, "What's behind *that* door?"

Until then, stay safe, and be curious.

[END.]