

Entry Twelve

by

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No Such Thing Productions

INT. Chel's Laboratory, Starship Adamantine - NIGHT

We hear Chel struggling to limp her way down the hall, towards her lab.

CHEL

Don't be too late... Don't be too late...

She fumbles with the key code, and the door whooshes open. She sees the ruined lab.

CHEL

PETER?! ... Shit!

She stumbles as quickly as she can to the wall and presses on the comms system.

CHEL

Mayday, mayday, mayday! This is Chel of the Janus Initiative, broadcasting from the starship Adamantine. I'm currently located in our on-board laboratory, using our short-range transmitter. I can't make it up to the bridge by myself, but if anyone is passing by-... I-... Please, if anyone can hear me-... My friend is missing, I'm injured, and we have been stranded here on this godforsaken planet by a storm! There's some sort of-... creature. Hunting us. On our ship. We require immediate assistance! Mayday, mayday, mayday!

No response. She hits another button and we hear her voice echoing faintly over the ship's intercoms.

Peter?!

Still, nothing, except the faint hiss of static.

...Peter, can you hear me?!

She leans away from the comms unit.

It's on... It's working...

She hits the comms unit, hard, several times.

Peter, answer me! Peter!

I have to go. Now. I have to find it. I have to find it. Get it off

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHEL (cont'd)

the ship. Maybe... maybe it hasn't fully hatched yet. If I can find it... capture it... bring it back to the caves... If the others aren't already looking for it... if they don't already know it's here...

SHIT! Shit... Peter please, please... PLEASE be okay... Shit. This is my fault... This is all my fucking-

She clicks on the comms unit again.

Peter? I don't know if you can hear me. I don't know if the system isn't working or, you're hurt, or ... I'm coming to get you. It's going to be okay. I'm... I'm sorry. I'm so-... Peter, please, just... Answer me. Please. Say something. Let me know you can hear me. Peter? Tell me I'm not just screaming out into the darkness. Don't do this, Peter. Please be okay. Don't leave me here again. Please! I need to know you can hear me! Peter?!

PETER

(from behind her) Oh, I hear you.

He grabs her, and she screams.

Static.

FADE TO:

2

SCENE TWO

2

INT. Bridge, Starship Adamantine - NIGHT

Static.

Chel shrieks, and we hear the sound of a struggle as Peter drags her onto the bridge.

CHEL

Let go of me! Get off! What are you doing?! Let go!

(CONTINUED)

PETER
No can do.

CHEL
GET OFF!

She kicks out violently, wrenching herself free of Peter's grasp and falling to the floor hard, knocking something heavy from a nearby console as she does.

They stare at one another.

PETER
Computer, seal the bridge.

We hear the door lock, heavily.

CHEL
What are you doing?

PETER
I could ask you the same question.
Who were you transmitting to?

He steps towards her. Chel flinches.

PETER
... you flinch away from me now?

CHEL
You were hurting me.

PETER
I know.

CHEL
... Peter, unlock the door.

PETER
You forgot the magic word.

CHEL
Peter-... Unlock the door, please.

PETER
(softly) You know I can't do that.

CHEL
(struggling to her feet) Peter, I'm sorry! I know I promised I'd be more careful. I love you, but this is no time for your misplaced mom friend overprotective bullshit! We

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHEL (cont'd)
have to get back into those caves.
There's a gorgon on the ship.

PETER
(softly) So you admit it.

CHEL
Yes, I- I'm sorry. I brought it up
with me after our trip down into
the Den. We have to get it off of
the ship.

Chel moves for the door, but Peter grabs her.

CHEL
Let go! Peter, stop! You have to
let me go!

PETER
Nice try.

He throws her to the floor.

CHEL
Peter, what the fuck!

PETER
You're not leaving. Please don't
make this more difficult than it
has to be.

CHEL
Peter... No... No, Peter, we can't
leave. We cannot leave this planet,
not with that thing still on the
ship! We have to find it, we need
to get it back to the caves.
They'll know it's here, Peter, it's
a hive-mind creature, we HAVE to
get it as far away from the ship as
we can, or they won't let us go. We
have to get rid of it!

PETER
I know.

CHEL
... you know? You know. So what,
this is your idea of chivalry?! I'm
not staying behind! We don't have
time for this, Peter! We have to
go!

PETER

No, you really don't. I'm taking care of it.

beat.

CHEL

You're... you're taking care of it? What do you mean 'you're taking care of it?' (when he doesn't respond) Peter, what are you talking about, you're taking care of-... You're... You're bleeding. Peter, what happened? Are you hurt? What did it- Peter, you didn't kill it?!

PETER

(softly) Not yet.

CHEL

Not yet? So... (realizing) ... so... (beat) Peter...

PETER

You sound just like her.

CHEL

(not wanting to believe) No...

PETER

Please don't speak. This is... going to be so much harder if you speak. The worse you make this for me, the worse I'll make it for you.

CHEL

This is a joke... You're joking. You're not-... You wouldn't-... ... You're not joking. Why would I lie to you?

PETER

Why does any predator use camouflage?

CHEL

Are you out of your mind?! I'm not infected! They didn't touch me! I'm not a Gorgon! Peter, it's me! It's my body! My skin! My face! My voice! You know me!

(CONTINUED)

PETER

You were down there such a long time. You should be dead.

CHEL

You let me go! You should have rescued me!

PETER

I DIDN'T! You can't blame- I didn't! I never! I-... I-I didn't kill her! You did. She's dead. My Chel is dead.

CHEL

I'm not! I'm here.

PETER

She was changing. She was gone!

CHEL

I came back to you. And now- What? You think I'm just going to sit here and let you- What are you going to do, kill me?

Peter says nothing.

CHEL

You-... You're-... NO!

She gets up and frantically races for the bridge communication console. She turns it on, and starts a hailing frequency.

CHEL

Mayday! Mayday! Mayday! This is the Janus Initiative, designation Adamantine! Please, someone help me! Aphelion! Axel, do you read me?! Jesus, fuck- Please! PLEASE, god, SOMEBODY HELP ME!

PETER

(quietly, watching her) You won't reach them. No one can hear you.

CHEL

HELP!

She tries to bolt for the door again, but Peter grabs her. This time, he doesn't let go.

(CONTINUED)

PETER

I warned you.

CHEL

Wait! Wait wait wait! Please. I-...
If-... If I'm one of them. You
can't kill me. You can't. I'm an
alien. An endangered species.

PETER

You're a parasite.

CHEL

(thinking fast) Fine! A parasite!
Call me whatever you like! B-but
you're a scientist... an
anthropologist... I'm a specimen,
right? Take me back. Take me to
Aphelion Industries. Let me talk to
Axel! To your team! Study me. Lock
me up. Don't kill me! You're not
stupid, Peter, don't throw away
this... this opportunity! There's
so much I could show you-

PETER

I don't doubt it. But I don't need
you for a specimen.

CHEL

Ah! Let go! Peter, please, you're
hurting me! Peter-... Peter... Your
arm... What happened to your
veins?! They're-... crystalizing...
Oh my god. Peter, stop! STOP! Look
at your arm!

PETER

Amazing, isn't it? A parting gift
from our last encounter.

CHEL

You're infected. When did they-
How-

PETER

You should know. You were there.
Just now, in the lab. Before you
knocked me unconscious, and
scurried off. So you see? I don't
need you. Not with this... this
child... (laughs, mirthless)
Congratulations. You're a mother.

(CONTINUED)

CHEL

That wasn't- You only left me-
No... This-... This is too fast.
It's spreading too fast. You
shouldn't be-... Peter- Peter,
what's HAPPENING to you?!

PETER

(grimacing) It hurts...

CHEL

Peter-

PETER

(pained, distracted) Little...
pinpricks. Bright, and cold, like-
All she ever asked for was the
stars. And - god - I can FEEL them.
And it HURTS. And they are cold,
and they are barren, and they are
hungry. So... many... stars...

CHEL

Those aren't stars you're feeling,
Peter, they're Gorgons. Spread out
across the universe. You're being
assimilated into the hive mind.

PETER

It hurts...

CHEL

Peter please, look at me. Focus on
me, let me help you, I need you to-

PETER

Something's-... broken!

CHEL

Trust, Peter. It's just trust, not
us. We'll be okay. Just let me-
what are you doing?! AH!

PETER

(gripping her face, hard) You
are... So. Beautiful. You really
are. All of you. Believe me, more
beautiful than any other creature
you will encounter in this
universe.

(CONTINUED)

CHEL

I'm not... I'm not...

PETER

You are. Truly gorgeous. If you hadn't killed her- But we never stood a chance against you, you gorgeous- This universe belongs to you, and you deserve so much more than this... dead... barren, rotting hell hole.

CHEL

Please...

PETER

(as if she hadn't spoken) And when I bring your kind back to my home world, you'll have what you deserve. I'll be good. I'll be... good, and supplicant. We never should have-... (almost pleading) You will spread, and grow, and expand your empire to stars you've never even dreamed of. Just like her. Like she always wanted to. See? I'm going to help you.

CHEL

Peter, y-you're infected. You can't-... You can't go BACK! You don't WANT to go back, that's the urge of a parasite to feed, and grow, and spread. It's a disease!

PETER

It's what she would have wanted. To bring a little of the universe home...

CHEL

What about Axel? Your friends, your family. If you bring this back- Stay with me. Unlock the door. Let me take you to sick bay. We can fix this! Just give me time, I can fix this, I can come up with a way to cure this, I can save you.

PETER

I don't want your salvation, I want retribution. For her. I want to see your kind snaking around the stars.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PETER (cont'd)
I want everyone who had anything to do with this project, with her MURDER, dead. Like her.

CHEL
Peter, you're sick-

PETER
I'M NOT.

CHEL
(realizing) You're insane...

PETER
YOU TOOK HER FROM ME. NO. (fighting to master his mind) No, I-... I am good. I am... yours-... hers... their- ours! I'm going to take this thing, this... "child" of ours, and give your kind the stars and a whole new horizon, and everything she wanted- we deserve- but you... You. Killed. Chel.

CHEL
No! Look at my skin! I'm not like you! If I was one of them, you would be able to feel it! Peter, they're pulling you into the hive mind, if I were there you would feel me! You would sense me! You would know me!

PETER
I did know you.

CHEL
(starting to cry) Peter, please... Please...

He stops, watching her.

CHEL
...Peter?

PETER
(reaching out and wiping her face) You cry just like her.

CHEL
NO!

(CONTINUED)

Peter wraps his hands around Chel's throat, crushing her windpipe. She chokes, tries to scream, and struggles to get away from him.

We hear Peter grunt as he lifts her, and then with inhuman strength, slams her savagely down on the control panel. Once. Twice. Three. Four times. Chel stops screaming.

beat.

Peter drops Chel's body to the floor. He stares at it numbly for a moment, and lets out a shaky sigh. And then he starts to sob... The sobs rise, become a scream-

Static.

FADE OUT.

END.