

FATHERLESS

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE

White walls.

White desk.

White chair.

White floor.

Everything is white except for the silver hair and brows on the ADMINISTRATOR, an aging man dressed in a white uniform.

The administrator sits behind the desk with a straight back and stares at nothing.

The door catches his attention as it slides open.

YRAM RETHOM, dressed in all gray clothing, a woman in her thirties, walks in holding the hand of a small BOY, also dressed in all gray.

Yram and the boy stand in front of the desk.

ADMINISTRATOR
State your business.

YRAM RETHOM
Thank you, Administrator. I'm Yram Rethom of the Gray Sector and this is Emit Elcyc, also of the Gray Sector.

The Administrator looks sternly at the boy.

ADMINISTRATOR
Who's your parents?

BOY
I don't know.

YRAM RETHOM
His mother was Aneladgam Elcyc. She died right after he was born, Administrator. I've took care of him ever since.

ADMINISTRATOR
Was she a relative of yours?

YRAM RETHOM

No, Administrator. Just a friend. She had no family also. Her parents died long ago, during the *Red Plague*.

ADMINISTRATOR

And the father?

YRAM RETHOM

Unknown.

ADMINISTRATOR

Rubbish! Colony Twelve Twenty Five has always had a strict reproductive policy! Even before the Red Plague. Only the most qualified female candidates are cleared for fertilization and the spermatazoa we collect are from only the most physically and intellectually fit males. How can this child's father not be known?

Yram shrugs.

YRAM RETHOM

Anela was...

ADMINISTRATOR

Anela?

YRAM RETHOM

Aneladgam was never cleared for fertilization.

ADMINISTRATOR

What are you trying to say?

Yram hesitates.

YRAM RETHOM

She...

ADMINISTRATOR

She went through the natural process?

Yram looks down.

YRAM RETHOM

Yes, Administrator.

The Administrator frowns.

ADMINISTRATOR
That's hard to believe.

He looks at the boy.

ADMINISTRATOR
Who's your father, boy?

BOY
I don't know.

ADMINISTRATOR
(disgusted)
Do you know anything?

Anger flashes on the boy's face.

BOY
I know you're the oldest, ugliest
person I've ever seen!

YRAM RETHOM
Emit! That's the Administrator!
Show some respect! He could order
us off the colony! Shot into the
empty void of space! Is that what
you want?

The Administrator leans in closer.

ADMINISTRATOR
I can have you encased within an
exile pod and shoot it straight
into the depths of a black hole,
understand?

Defiantly, the boy does not answer.

ADMINISTRATOR
I would have ordered that very
thing for each of his parents if
they were here.

YRAM RETHOM
Administrator, please, show mercy.
I brought him in today because I
want to do what's right.

ADMINISTRATOR
Do what's right? And yet you didn't
report this natural born bastard's
mother when she committed the
illegal act of copulation?

Yram gasps.

YRAM RETHOM

No, Administrator! I never knew about it until she started to show! The only thing she told me was to name the child *Emit* right before she died.

ADMINISTRATOR

Why "Emit"?

YRAM RETHOM

That was the name of his father.

ADMINISTRATOR

No last name?

YRAM RETHOM

She never said. I don't think she knew.

The Administrator ponders for a moment.

ADMINISTRATOR

Here's what will happen. You will take care of the child. When he's of age, he will work on the colony, obey all the rules, regulations, and laws... or I will expel him into the deepest, darkest, black hole I can find. Is that understood?

YRAM RETHOM

Yes.

INT. GARBAGE DISPOSAL AREA

SUPERIMPOSE: 18 YEARS LATER

A GROUP OF MEN, all dressed in gray uniforms, dump buckets of trash in a disposal unit.

EMIT ELCYC, a young man, dumps trash into a disposal unit while SADUJ ROTIART, another man similar in age to Emit, operates the machine.

SADUJ ROTIART

What do you mean?

EMIT ELCYC

I mean, it isn't natural, life on this colony. There has to be more to life than this, Saduj. We're born, we work, we apply for the right to propagate, some are cleared, some are not, and then what?

Saduj shrugs.

SADUJ ROTIART

All I know is, my father fertilized an egg which my mother carried for nine months, and out I came. The same thing happened with my father's father and his father before him.

EMIT ELCYC

So?

SADUJ ROTIART

So it's useless to try and change things. This is the way it is. We are colonists on a colony doing a colonist's duty.

EMIT ELCYC

What if I don't want to be on the colony anymore?

SADUJ ROTIART

If you know of a way off Colony Twelve Twenty Five then let me know, I'll come along. Otherwise, you shouldn't talk like that. The colony has ears. The Administrator rewards people who report dissenters.

Emit laughs.

SADUJ ROTIART

You don't believe me?

EMIT ELCYC

Oh, I believe you. I'm just tired of this place and the all mighty Administrator. I might just elect to be shot into space.

Saduj shakes his head.

EMIT ELCYC
Don't shake your head, I'm joking!

Emit laughs.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

In an all white room, Emit stands. Unseen, invisible bonds prevent him from moving.

The Administrator slowly paces around the young man.

ADMINISTRATOR
So you're tired of this place? And the all mighty Administrator, are you?

Emit gasps.

EMIT ELCYC
Sudaj...

ADMINISTRATOR
Yes. Sudaj. He was willing to pass on the information just to be approved for propagation. Funny thing is, he was already cleared.

The Administrator laughs.

ADMINISTRATOR
I am law here. Everyone, except you, understands that. I have been looking for any legal reason to expel you from the colony ever since you entered my office. And now, I have it.

EMIT ELCYC
You won't get away with it.

ADMINISTRATOR
I will. And I want to thank you.

EMIT ELCYC
For what?

ADMINISTRATOR
For making me smile again. Expelling you from the colony brings me joy. I haven't felt this way in a very long time. Since before you were born.

Emit struggles.

Fingers of electricity crawl in waves over his body.

He gasps in pain.

ADMINISTRATOR

Don't struggle. You'll only feel more pain. Save it for the exile pod. Remember what I told you? That I'd put into an exile pod and shoot it into a black hole? That's exactly what's going to happen in a few hours.

EMIT ELCYC

Why... are you... like this?

ADMINISTRATOR

I had a son once. The only thing on this forsaken colony that ever brought me joy. But he was killed in a freak accident. Taken away from me. So, I thrust myself fully into the workings of the colony and became its Administrator. I had to find other ways to achieve fulfillment and satisfaction. One of those ways is getting rid of vermin like you.

Emit struggles again and is rewarded with pain as he is shocked by fingers of electricity.

ADMINISTRATOR

Resistance is useless. You will be placed in an exile pod. You will be shot into a black hole. And just to make sure you perish...

The Administrator places a small black disc on Emits chest.

A small red light slowly blinks on the black disk.

ADMINISTRATOR

This will explode after forty eight hours. If you and the exile pod aren't destroyed in the black hole, the explosion will kill you instantly. If you try and remove the disc, or it loses contact with your skin, it will explode, destroying anything within five meters.

Emit's eyes widen.

The Administrator stands in front of him and looks Emit in the eyes.

ADMINISTRATOR

I know what you are thinking. You want to try and remove the disc while I'm close enough. That's why I had you restrained.

The Administrator smiles.

ADMINISTRATOR

I won't let a little thing like a suicidal tendency ruin my fun. I thought of everything. Planned every detail. I even researched your mother's background. Nothing unusual. I tried looking for your father. If I remember correctly, he supposedly had the same first name as you, but... nothing. Absolutely nothing. Whoever he was, he has covered his tracks well. He will likely never be found. As far as I'm concerned, you're fatherless. So... bon voyage.

INT. EXILE POD

The hatches close on the exile pod, with Emit in it.

INT. OFFICE

The Administrator sits behind his desk.

An ASSISTANT, dressed in white, enters.

ASSISTANT

Administrator.

ADMINISTRATOR

Report.

ASSISTANT

The exile pod has been launched and will reach the black hole V-4-6-4-1-S-G-R in approximately two hours. It is already caught in it's gravitational pull.

The Administrator smiles.

ADMINISTRATOR
Excellent. Dismissed.

The servant leaves.

EXT. SPACE

Work Station Colony Twelve Twenty Five (WSC-1225) drifts in the vastness of space.

A small exile pod, microscopic in comparison to the Work Station, floats close by.

As the exile pod floats closer, a hatch in the Work Station opens. The exile pod slowly floats into the hatch.

INT. SALVAGE BAY

The exile pod lays on it's side in the salvage bay.

Two workers, WORKER 1 and WORKER 2, dressed in gray uniforms, stare at it.

WORKER 1
What's that?

WORKER 2
I don't know. Looks like an exile pod.

WORKER 1
Not like any exile pods I've ever seen.

WORKER 2
Maybe it's a new model?

Worker 1 shrugs.

WORKER 1
Let's leave it. This is one for the higher ups. I don't want to get in trouble.

The two workers leave.

The hatch opens.

Emit struggles out. He looks at his chest and sees the blinking light on the black disc. It blinks a bit faster than before.

Emit limps away.

INT. HALL

Emit lays on the ground, unconscious.

A YOUNG WOMAN sees him. She tries to wake him up.

YOUNG WOMAN
Hey! Are you alright? What sector
are you from?

Emit's eyes flutter open.

The woman helps him to his feet and leads him away.

INT. ROOM

In a small room, Emit lays on the bed with his eyes closed.

The young woman sits and stares at him.

Emit's eyes open. He sees the light from the disc on his chest. It blinks faster. He cries.

The woman leans in closer.

YOUNG WOMAN
What's wrong? Why are you crying?

Emit, for the first time notices the woman. He gently touches her cheek with his fingertips. Through the tears, he smiles.

The young woman brushes away his tears and comes closer to him.

Emit leans in closer and gently kisses the woman.

The woman backs away.

YOUNG WOMAN
You shouldn't do that. It's against
the law.

Emit kisses her again.

The woman doesn't break the kiss this time. She embraces Emit as they lay down on the bed.

INT. ROOM - LATER

Emit wakes up.

He looks at the black disc. The light is blinking rapidly.

He jumps to his feet.

The young woman wakes.

YOUNG WOMAN
What's wrong?

EMIT ELCYC
I have to go!

YOUNG WOMAN
Why? I don't even know your name!

Emit kisses her.

EMIT ELCYC
Emit.

He runs away.

YOUNG WOMAN
Hey! You don't even know my name!

Emit disappears before she can say it.

INT. HALL

Emit runs down the hall.

The light on the disc blinks almost as a steady light.

He rounds a corner.

An explosion rocks the hall.

Around the corner, the Administrator, with dark hair, and a generally more youthful appearance, covered with bits of gore, lays on the ground, stunned.

Next to him lays a dead male CHILD covered in blood.

Gore covers the walls and ground.

The Administrator sits up.

ADMINISTRATOR
What the Hell happened?

He looks to his side and sees his dead son.

ADMINISTRATOR

No!

He cries uncontrollably.

INT. HOSPITAL BED

The young woman lays in bed, holding an infant.

YOUNG WOMAN

Take the baby.

She hands the infant to Yram.

YRAM RETHOM

What's wrong, Alena?

The young woman contorts in pain.

YOUNG WOMAN

I don't know! Something's wrong!
Promise me something, Yram!

YRAM RETHOM

Anything! What!?

YOUNG WOMAN

Take care of him! He's the only
thing I have! Name him Emit! That
was his daddy's name. Okay!?

YRAM RETHOM

I will.

YOUNG WOMAN

Promise!

YRAM RETHOM

I promise! I will! I'll take care
of Emit!

The young woman dies.

Yram cries as she holds the infant.

FADE OUT.