

ABSOLUTION (EXCERPT)

Written by

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ON THE MOON...

EXT. DELPHI - DAY

FROM THE STATION TO THE TUNNELS

Glenn and Charlotte trek across the surface. A haze of lunar dust kicked up from the impact gives the moon a faux atmosphere. A suffocating light collects with the increasing frequency of impacts.

A rock spatters a cloud of dust at the two. Glenn wipes off part of his visor as he turns back to check on Charlotte. She waves him on.

INT. CENTRAL MODULE - DAY

Lianna begins to seal off the sleeping module when a large rock punctures the module's roof. The depressurization sucks her in.

INT. SLEEPING MODULE - DAY

Lianna fights against the sudden forces tearing at her limbs. She grasps for the twirling hammocks before having to shield herself from flying debris.

She hits the roof and, after a few moments, floats down as the pressures equalize. She looks for some landmark to orient herself. She is confused. Nothing looks familiar.

She looks up. Dust floats through the module. And then she feels it: the cold boil, the evaporation of moisture from her exposed eyeballs.

She squeezes her eyes shut then covers them with her hand. With her other hand, Lianna searches her way to the hatch. She tries to pull it shut but her strength is mostly drained.

She abandons the hatch and feels her way to the suitport.

INT. SUITPORT POD - DAY

Lianna manages to find her way to an available suit hatch. Eyes still closed, she pulls herself in.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

Glenn runs underneath the protection of the tunnel's overhang.

Charlotte is close behind; he waves her in.

The two appraise their surroundings and realize something alarming: there's only two of them.

GLENN  
Where is she?

CHARLOTTE  
She's not out yet?

GLENN  
I don't see her. Do you?

CHARLOTTE  
Shit.

EXT. DELPHI - DAY

Lianna opens her eyes to chaos and breathes deeply the suit's sudden flush of oxygenated air. She tries to slow her breathing rate, propping herself against the pod as she does so.

She looks up, around. Dust and haze everywhere. Rocks impacting. She stumbles towards the tunnel, fighting for oxygen and balance.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

Glenn maneuvers so he can look to Delphi while minimizing exposure to projectiles.

GLENN  
I see her, I see her.

CHARLOTTE  
Is she injured?

GLENN  
I can't tell.

EXT. DELPHI - DAY

FROM STATION TO TUNNELS

Half hopping/half running, Lianna picks up her pace. The entirety of her focus is on the black mouth of the tunnel. She doesn't see the rock careening towards her from above.

It hits a few feet in front of her, throwing her back several feet. Millions of grains of dust shower her faceplate with a hiss.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

CHARLOTTE  
Oh my god. She got hit.

GLENN  
Holy shit.

CHARLOTTE  
I'm going to help her.

GLENN  
It's too dangerous.

CHARLOTTE  
She'll die.

Charlotte ventures to the new crater obscuring Lianna's body. Glenn comes from behind and grabs her around the waist.

GLENN  
I can't let you.

CHARLOTTE  
Get off me.

Charlotte struggles to wrestle herself free from Glenn's grasp. She loses her balance and falls, Glenn holds tight. They hit the ground. Charlotte rolls to her left. Glenn adjusts his positioning and pulls her back.

EXT. DELPHI - DAY

FROM STATION TO TUNNELS

Alarms echo in Lianna's suit. She tries to blink them away. She shakes the powder off her faceplate, wiping off the remainder of dust. Above her, the rocks continue their plunge.

She sits up and looks ahead. The black mouth of the tunnel is safe and undisturbed.

Lianna tries to stand. She collapses in pain. Even masked by the suit, her injury is obvious.

Broken leg.

LIANNA

Oh shit.

She looks up. She needs to get to the tunnel.

LIANNA (CONT'D)

My leg.

I/E. TUNNEL - DAY

Charlotte has managed to wiggle Glenn's hold to below her knees. Her left leg is free. She kicks at Glenn's helmet. He relinquishes.

LIANNA (V.O.)

My leg is broken.

Charlotte crawls to her feet. In a burst of strength, Glenn latches on and pulls her weight out from under her.

GLENN

You will die. Stay here.

EXT. DELPHI - DAY

FROM STATION TO TUNNELS

Lianna hobbles to her feet now. She hops forward, building momentum with her one good leg. Her broken leg drags and throws her off balance again.

LIANNA

Don't come and get me. I can make it.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

CHARLOTTE

Get off me.

Glenn lets go and rolls onto his back in exhaustion. Charlotte stands in a primal pose, anticipating Lianna's arrival. She checks her wrist monitors. Vitals are good.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

She's not going to make it.

EXT. DELPHI - DAY

FROM STATION TO TUNNELS

Lianna is picking up speed again.

The tunnel is near. She pushes herself harder.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

Charlotte's eye catches motion. Lianna. She's close.

CHARLOTTE

I'm coming.

LIANNA (V.O.)

You will stay there.

CHARLOTTE

Commander.

LIANNA (V.O.)

Stay there.

EXT. TUNNEL - DAY

Lianna is feet away from the tunnel. She collapses. Charlotte rushes out, she drags Lianna by the shoulders. Lianna kicks forward with her good leg.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

The two stumble in.

CHARLOTTE

Commander, are you alright?

Charlotte lifts Lianna into her arms, supporting her as she recovers.

LIANNA

My leg.

GLENN

Let me check you over.

LIANNA

No.

GLENN

Is it bleeding? Do you feel blood?

LIANNA  
(gasping)  
I'm fine. I'll be fine.

Charlotte continues cradling Lianna. She turns her eyes to Glenn.

Lianna forces herself away, stands, and wobbles a few feet.

CHARLOTTE  
Don't get up.

GLENN  
Stay down.

Lianna collapses exhausted against the wall. Between her breaths she laughs, she cries.

Glenn watches her, avoiding Charlotte. Charlotte stands between the two and crouches into Glenn's field of vision.

CHARLOTTE  
Don't ever do that again.

She looks back. Lianna leans her head back and closes her eyes.

They catch their breaths.

GLENN  
Control your breathing. O2 levels.

A nearby impact. The tunnel rattles. The lights above go out.

GLENN (CONT'D)  
That was too close.

He turns on his suit lights, examining the roof of the tunnel.

A rivulet of dust floats down. Then another. And another.

GLENN (CONT'D)  
Shit, get back. It's going to collapse.

CHARLOTTE  
What?

GLENN  
Back to the reactor, go, go.

Glenn runs back as Charlotte helps Lianna to her feet.

A few rocks crash down and soon the whole mouth of the tunnel collapses, spewing dust in their visors.

CHARLOTTE

We're trapped.

GLENN

There's equipment by the reactor.  
We can dig ourselves out.

CHARLOTTE

But we should wait and minimize the  
risk of another cave-in.

GLENN

Commander, how long can you last?

LIANNA

However long I have to.

Black. The moon continues to shake.