

Mission Day 105; 19:40

*JAMIE is working on a project when suddenly the sound of static lifts. She slowly approaches the radio.
NOA is heating up dinner.*

JAMIE

Hey... I'm here. Can you hear me?

NOA

Jamie...

JAMIE

Hi. Look, right off the bat, I'm sorry about yesterday. It makes sense you'd be skeptical. You have every right to be. I just... got 'triggered,' I guess the kids say. I don't like having to prove myself.

NOA

I'm sorry too. It's been a hard month. The truth is I was really looking forward to talking to you until Enver got in my head. He's right to worry but I think I handled it really poorly. I didn't mean to ruin it.

JAMIE

You didn't. The rain did.

NOA

Maybe. Can we just talk about something else? Like, something and nothing?

JAMIE

Oh, you want the Midwest Special? Oh, watch how good I am at this: Hey Noa. How are you? ...Now you say fine. It doesn't matter how you really are, you say, "fine."

NOA

Fine.

JAMIE

Now you ask me how I am.

NOA

And you say, fine?

JAMIE

You're catching on quick. You'll be an honorary Hoosier in no time. What are you doing?

NOA

Eating dinner. Freeze dried pad thai and apple wedges.

JAMIE

What's pad thai?

NOA

We've got to get you out of that place. It's delicious normally. Rehydrated, eh... I'll have to take you out for a good Thai dinner when I'm back... in about two years... Jesus.

JAMIE

I'm in.

NOA

Let's add the future to our list of subjects we won't discuss. Time loses all meaning out here and I'm already struggling...

JAMIE

I didn't bring it up.

NOA

Let's talk about today. What did you do?

JAMIE

Today? I worked on a new order and then went on a walk. Exciting stuff. You?

NOA

Is that a joke? Nothing. I blew up space junk. Tell me more about your walk. Describe it.

JAMIE

Oh, it rained again so I had to cut it short.

NOA

Give me details. Transport me out of this prison to the rolling hills of Indiana with you.

JAMIE

Oh, well first of all. There are no rolling hills. There are no *hills*. It's just flat. And boring. But the weather was beautiful.

NOA

Beautiful how?

JAMIE

Like, I left the barn doors open all day while I worked because there was a little breeze and the smell was so... It was like fresh cut grass mixed with Spring... just the smell of everything waking up. But by the

time I finally got done with work, the sky was like, split in half; dark on one side but bright on the other, sort of green and orange. So I started off on my walk but knew I'd keep it short. I could actually see streaks of rain up in the sky rolling towards me. And before I felt it, I heard the rain fall on my neighbor's mailbox, so I turned back and... it's silly but I started running. I wasn't really worried about getting wet, I guess I just wanted to see if I could beat the rain home. I got as far as my driveway but then it just started to pour. And, I thought, alright. You win. So I just stopped running. And I stood there, panting and just let it hit my face and bounce off... smiling... Like when I was a kid. Then I just walked up to my porch and sat on my swing, soaking wet, and I watched the rain.

Silence.

NOA

That was beautiful.

JAMIE

I don't know...

NOA

I've gone three months without seeing rain before, but for the first time, I miss it. I wish I could have been there.

JAMIE

You'd take rain over space? Come on, what are *you* seeing?

NOA

Earth.

JAMIE

Transport me.

NOA

It's hard to explain... I see... I see North America. The eastern seaboard is off to the right but it's darker than the west. The sun has set for the east coast so I can see all the cities lit up. I mean, I know they're cities, but what I see are just big blobs of gold with streams coming off in all directions. The line of shadow is right over Indiana, now...

Jamie sets the mic down and moves to the open barn doors and looks up at the sunset. She still hears Noa.

NOA (cont)

It looks like there's a storm above Texas. Jesus. The lightning is chaotic... How far is Texas from Indiana? Something like 1000 miles, probably? It's crazy, Jamie. I'm covering them both with my hand right now.

JAMIE

(not on the radio)

Wow.

NOA

And there's an aurora over the edge of the... Jamie, this is fucking beautiful. I can't believe I've been looking at this every day.

Beat.

NOA

Jamie...? I don't want to go another month before we talk again.

Jamie smiles.