



Season 1

Episode 1: The Abacus Project

Written & Created by

Nicholas Prufer, Victor Lee & AJ Churchill

Edited by

Alexa Polivka

Transcript Prepared by

Caroline Mincks

INT. THE GUNGNIR, COCKPIT

A low humming sound fades in, layered with unidentified, unnerving high tones which fade out as music comes in, quiet and dramatic. Clicks of buttons and flips of switches sound, paired with the digital beeps of monitors. The static of a radio transmission sounds. NICO speaks.

NICO  
(unintelligible)  
Is this garbage turned on?

The engine of the ship gets louder as it gains speed. The static clears up and NICO'S voice comes in clear:

NICO (CONT'D)  
Hello? Hello. There we go.

More buttons are pressed.

NICO (CONT'D)  
Listen up. We don't have much time.  
The Human Concord is collapsing.  
The whole damn thing.

Two beeps of a digital alarm. The drumbeat in the music picks up. The Gungnir takes a massive hit, hull straining and creaking, and shifts side to side.

SAI  
(background)  
The Gungnir is at twenty-three  
percent armor damage.

NICO  
The Concord Network, and everything  
connected to it, will cease  
functioning. Space stations,  
vessels: listen close. You need to  
get back to a planet now. Every  
system on your ship relies on the  
network. When that goes, you go. If  
you have to, use emergency pods.  
They're not hooked up so they're  
safe.

SAI  
(background)  
Armor damage at twenty-four  
percent.

NOVA  
(background)  
Shut it, Sai.

NICO

Things are gonna get... messy. But those of you on planets, you have everything you need to survive. Trust me. It may not feel like it because you've never been on your own before, and you're going to have to figure out some things for yourselves for the first time. But you will get through this chaos.

SAI

(background)  
Armor damage at twenty-five percent.

NOVA

(background)  
Not helping!

NICO

You will long for your comforts and dependencies. You will loathe the choice we have made and curse the changes we have brought. The chain of events The Abacus Project set in motion. Seven-thousand six-hundred and four standard years. That's the record for the longest lie. You lived your whole life in a prison and it became your home. I can only hope that, in time, you will come to see these bindings as they truly are.

SAI

(background)  
Armor damage at-

NICO

(interrupting, losing temper)  
I swear I'm going to throw you out of the god damn airlock!

SAI

(background)  
But Chief, you told me-

NICO

(interrupting, still sharp)  
To keep an eye on it, SAI. Not to yell out the exact number every second.

(MORE)

NICO (CONT'D)  
(turning back to the  
microphone with a sigh)  
Alright, listen. A lifetime's use  
of Emotea and Nociceptor Splicing  
have surely numbed your senses but  
now, you will feel. You're not used  
to it, but it's human. And, as a  
wise person once said, if humanity  
wants to be at its best, it will be  
through its feelings. Because love  
and pain and joy have gotten more  
done throughout history than  
strength or smarts alone ever did.  
So that pain you're about to feel  
may be hard...but it's necessary.  
(beat)  
Survive. Stay safe. And,  
eventually, rebuild. Humanity  
depends on what Alex has done.

Long beat. Drumbeats play under as NICO disconnects from the  
transmission.

NICO (CONT'D)  
(background)  
Any of you idiots care to tell me  
how many listeners we got?

NOVA  
(background)  
Can't this wait?!

SAI  
(background)  
Wait, I got it.

Beat.

SAI (CONT'D)  
(background)  
Two.

Beat. The ship slowly creaks.

SAI (CONT'D)  
And armor damage at thirty-one  
percent.

NICO  
Well, fuck.

Title sequence music plays, an almost frantic beat with  
electronic instruments and dissonant tones. Music fades out.

INT. PARAIS SHOW, ON SET - DAY

Footsteps. The beeps of a keypad and the hiss of an electronic door opening. The sound of people moving around a busy studio fills the space. Chatter and commotion as the production crew gets things in place. Crosstalk of the EMPLOYEES working.

EMPLOYEE 2  
(background)  
She is heading to the casting set now. Sound web connection all good?

EMPLOYEE 1  
(background)  
Stand by for online galactic connection in t-minus sixty seconds.

EMPLOYEE 3  
(background)  
Long-range equalizer prepped for casting transmission.

EMPLOYEE 4  
(background)  
Casting mics operational.

EMPLOYEE 5  
(background)  
Holding for Parais.

Footsteps stop. PARAIS stands up from a chair.

PARAIS  
Doctor. Happy you could make it.  
You like to cut it close.

ALEX  
I'm here, am I not?

PARAIS  
Of course. Take a seat. We are about to begin.

ALEX takes a seat. A sound engineer approaches.

SOUND ENGINEER  
Excuse me, Doctor.

He places a casting mic and headphones on Alex. The sounds of the crew become muffled as perspective shifts to the microphone feed. Parais' voice is close and clear.

SOUND ENGINEER (CONT'D)  
Mic check.

ALEX  
You hear me okay?

PARAIS  
We'll balance it as we go, guys.

Crank of a lever. Crackling of static as the levels and connection adjust.

PARAIS (CONT'D)

Ready to cast.

(pause.)

Alright. We are live on three.

Beat.

Synth music plays, a typical news broadcast-style intro.

ALEX

(recording)

Neo-Genetics has allowed us to shape our future. It has cured us of our flaws. It has lengthened our lives and brought us to a higher consciousness.

The human body has been expunged of all its errors and defects. We have taken another important step to ensure our continued prosperity among the stars.

Applause.

Parais' theme music continues under.

PARAIS

Good evening, Human Concord. You are listening to the Parais Show, live from our capital planet, where we bring you the brightest, most influential voices in the universe.

I'm your host, Julian Parais, and today, I have with me the brilliant scientist and visionary inventor, Doctor Alex Prometh.

ALEX

Thank you for having me on again, Parais.

PARAIS

Always a pleasure. That clip we played in the opening: that's from a recent Initiation speech.

ALEX

Yes, I had the honor of addressing this year's Institute of Neo-Genetics graduating class. A hugely promising group of Initiants.

PARAIS

You've become an inescapable figure throughout the Human Concord. Not only as a brilliant researcher but also as pioneer in multiple industries across the universe. Do you miss being more... anonymous?

ALEX

(chuckles)

Since I have no say in it, really, I can only hope that the visibility of my work provides reassurance and hope to all citizens of the Concord.

PARAIS

But how has your life changed from your early scientific breakthroughs at Promethech, to having a seat on the board of HoloCorp?

ALEX

I prefer to focus on the future, Parais. My life's mission has always been to make a mark on humanity by changing it for the better. And nowhere else in the The Human Concord do I have more of a chance to effect change than I do at HoloCorp.

PARAIS

I wanted to talk about your current project there.

It is no secret that you and HoloCorp have been granted a large Concord contract, and that—

ALEX

(overlapping)

With the resource monitors.

PARAIS

—and that the work involves human memory technology.

(MORE)

PARAIS (CONT'D)

(pause)

Care to elaborate?

Beat.

ALEX

Where did you get that information?

PARAIS

Well, sources say the project you are leading at HoloCorp deals with uploaded human memory data. Data that until now, as far as I understand it, has never been collected. The source says there is a connection between these recorded memories and the resource monitors. How do they—

ALEX

(interrupting)

Parais, even if any of that were true, you know that I work under strict classification guidelines and cannot possibly—

PARAIS

(overlapping)

Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, but it is possible that the Planetary Monitors are recording people's memories?

Beat. Pulsing, low music fades in.

ALEX

You know I can't discuss our work with the Resource Monitors.

PARAIS

In general terms then. We all know the Resource Monitors collect all sorts of information in order to maintain equilibrium within the Concord: climate data, population levels, planetary imports, exports... The Monitors are what keep our galactic economies functioning and in balance with each other. No one wants a return to the Days of Distance. A time of corruption. Starvation. Of war. Our way of life depends on the Monitors.

(MORE)



PARAIS (CONT'D)

But it's not a particularly lunar idea to believe that these monitors could now be gathering data beyond their stated purpose.

ALEX

I—and HoloCorp—simply analyze data that is already present on the Monitors. That is all. Any speculation, Parais, as to what they collect beyond what we already publicly know is... entirely conjectural.

PARAIS

But my main point in bringing up these questions, beyond the basic ethics of allegedly accessing people's minds, is that there are dangers inherent to studying memory. The disastrous MemoLab Experiments six-hundred standard years ago—

ALEX

(sharply)

They made unfortunate miscalculations.

(a breath)

After six centuries, we have learned from them.

PARAIS

Interesting you should say that.

I can now announce that our in-house Parais Show Investigative Team has uncovered a link between four of the five individuals who have recently gone missing and have made headlines around the Concord. We can report the four had signed up for the same HoloCorp human trial. And that this particular experiment involved memory testing. Is it just a coincidence?

ALEX

Parais—

PARAIS

How did HoloCorp conceal this information from the public? Did the Concord help in this matter?

Beat. A faint commotion can be heard. Light footsteps.

EMPLOYEE 1	MAX
(background)	(background)
Sir, we are still online you need to-	I am with Dr. Prometh. Get your hands off of me.

PARAIS  
Could these new revelations tarnish  
Holocorp's image? Your image?

Commotion and footsteps become louder. The music builds.

EMPLOYEE 1	MAX
(background)	(background)
Please, sir- Listen.	Move! Or HoloCorp will sue each every one of you.

PARAIS  
Alex? Still with me? How do you  
account for-

A series of high beeps.

PARAIS (CONT'D)  
What's going on? We are live.

ALEX  
I think we are out of time.

PARAIS  
No, we still have a few minutes.  
Perhaps we should move to the next  
topic-

Clicking sounds as MAX takes the mic.

MAX  
(background)  
Dr. Prometh is done with the  
interview.

PARAIS  
Let me move on to my-

MAX  
(background)  
Dr. Prometh has fulfilled her  
interview obligations and will not  
be accepting any more questions at  
this time.

PARAIS

(stammering)

We will be right back after a short message from our sponsors. Don't go anywhere. We have the Daredevil of the Belt himself on the show with us today. That's coming up next.

Parais' music can be heard in the background. ALEX takes off her headset. PARAIS follows. The commotion becomes clearer.

PARAIS (CONT'D)

What the hell was that? You can't just break into my studio and end my interview. You knew the deal when we booked Alex.

MAX

You have no right to bring up false allegations.

PARAIS

False allegations? I'm not some third-rate gossip caster. I'm Julian Parais. Who the fuck are you?

Alex. Alex, Alex, there are still ten minutes left in your slot. Let's just—

ALEX rises from the chair.

MAX

(overlapping)

That was not a topic Alex agreed to discuss. We were made to believe this was a puff piece on Promethech. On the 'early years'.

PARAIS

The public has the right to know if there is a link between HoloCorp's memory project and the recent disappearances. It's my basic duty as a journalist.

MAX

Where is your proof of these allegations?

PARAIS

I would never out a source.

MAX

What you were implying is completely unfounded and defamatory.

Footsteps are heard as MAX and ALEX walk towards the exit.

PARAIS

Look I'm just- Alex, have a seat-

MAX

Do not speak to Dr. Prometh.

PARAIS

This is insane! Alex, come back and let's finish the interview. We have a good relationship, but this is beyond any-

MAX closes the door behind them with a digital lock.

PARAIS (CONT'D)

(muffled behind door, voice fading out)

Alex, listen to me-

ALEX

(sigh)

Die in a black hole, Parais.

MAX

Are you okay? He can't get away with smearing Doctor Alexine Prometh. Who does he think he is? He's a nobody, a third-rate-

ALEX

(interrupting)

That's enough, Max. Max. Enough. What's next on the schedule?

MAX

One moment.

MAX pushes buttons.

MAX (CONT'D)

You have a holo call tomorrow morning with the memory engineers but your public schedule is all clear tonight.

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

I did receive requests from a few other shows that would like to host you next week. Maybe do some damage control-

ALEX

Damage control for what?

ALEX'S intercom begins to ring.

ALEX (INTERCOM) (CONT'D)

Linus. Patch it through.

Beeps as the call goes through.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Yes?

LINUS (INTERCOM)

We've booked you a star cruiser back to base.

ALEX

Kando asked?

LINUS

I'll send Max the booking. Don't be late this time.

Static indicates the intercom conversation has ended. There is a beep to indicate that LINUS has sent the booking.

ALEX

Max, you receive it?

MAX

Just inbound from Linus. Cruiser leaves from hangar bay G2. The ship has been pre-cleared. Huh. They must want you there fast. Flight time is six hours with a hyperflight time deficit of two.

Elevator door opens.

ELEVATOR

Third floor. Parais Show.

ALEX and MAX enter the elevator.

MAX

Elevator, express to hangar bay G2.

ELEVATOR

Express mode: activated. Charges  
may apply.

Elevator door closes. Transition music, soft and atmospheric.

INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

A beep, then the slide of an electronic door opening. We hear a room full of important murmuring - the board members as they wait for ALEX. The room goes silent as she enters. The door slides closed behind her with a hiss. Footsteps as ALEX enters and takes her seat.

Beat.

ALEX

Who wants to start?

LINUS bangs on the table.

LINUS

What were you thinking? Did you forget to take your Emotea this morning?

ALEX

Nice to see you, Linus.

VELA

You left the show too abruptly,  
Doctor.

ALEX

Great to reconnect, Vela.

LINUS

Your interview with Parais was unacceptable. You left without a single thought as to how bad this would make HoloCorp look.

ALEX stands with a quiet scoff.

ALEX

Members of the board, I left because it was the best choice out of a very limited set of sub-optimal choices.

LINUS lets out a single humorless laugh.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

Did you happen to hear what Parais' investigative team uncovered? The testers?

LINUS

Because you abandoned the interview, any idiot in the Human Concord- in the inhabited universe- knows we are hiding something.

ALEX

Linus, did you not understand me? I had to leave.

KANDO

That is beside the main point here. The true problem lies in what Parais has uncovered.

LINUS

Reading the memory data in the Resource Monitors is your project, Alex. We put you in charge of it. So tell me, how did Parais find out about the testers?

ALEX

How am I supposed to know how he obtained that information? We vetted the team. We nulled any records of the experiments along with those of the test subjects. The leak cannot have come from my team.

LINUS makes a derisive sound as VELA speaks.

VELA

Clearly, the steps you took were insufficient, Doctor. What do you think will happen to the company if people begin believing Parais? If they confirm the connection between The Abacus Project and the disappearances of the test subjects?

LINUS

It would irreparably destroy HoloCorp's galactic brand.

ALEX

Which is why we need to act fast to control the narrative regarding what Parais found. The public will not believe him if we get out in front of this and-

KANDO

(interrupting)

The Concord has informed us that they will limit the damage related to this whole Parais situation, but they have warned us that there cannot be any more leaks.

LINUS

Sir, with respect, what are we waiting for? We should just say it. Alex is unfit to lead The Abacus Project. Parais saw right through her.

VELA

I agree with Linus. We need someone who will finish the contract without incident.

ALEX

We are closer than ever to a positive test. It's only a matter of time before we come across-

KANDO

(interrupting)

Enough.

LINUS

(clears throat)

Let's take it to vote. All in favor of suspending Alex from the Abacus Project?

A unanimous round of 'ayes', one at a time, going around the table.

ALEX

(whispered after the third 'aye')

Please...

The round of 'ayes' ends.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Please. Please don't do this.



LINUS

All opposed?

Silence. After a pause, music begins to fade in, quietly at first and then steadily building.

ALEX

Don't do this. Not when we are on the cusp of helping so many people and-

LINUS

(interrupting)

A vote having been taken among the members of the HoloCorp board. It is resolved that Doctor Alexine Prometh be suspended from The Abacus Project. Effective immediately, the board revokes Dr. Prometh's access to any and all test sites and -

ALEX

I can finish it in a month.

Music cuts out. Board members whisper.

VELA

I'm sorry?

ALEX

I can finish The Abacus Project in a month.

Music returns, soft bells with a mysterious tone.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Human testing is so close. We can see the code, the signals, the memories. We just...can't interpret them. But I can have it done in a month.

LINUS

Sir, she has already failed us by allowing the test information to be leaked.

ALEX

It's your choice. Me, or some hack who might stumble upon a patchy workaround in two, three, or thirty standard years. Or never.

LINUS

Don't humiliate yourself. Even you are replaceable. Besides, what is stopping another leak from happening?

ALEX

Kando, sir, give me a month. There won't be any more leaks. I'll find the source.

And may I remind the board that we all signed off on using the testers. Let me finish this, Kando. We have come so far.

A beat.

LINUS

Sir, you cannot possibly be considering this-

KANDO

(ignoring LINUS)

Doctor Prometh. If it's true that you can deliver by the end of the month, I will allow you the time to complete the testing phase. I do this only in light of your previous, admittedly stellar work at HoloCorp and your unique place within our society.

But I want a smooth landing. Tighten up every potential leak source. Find out who is responsible for the information Parais found. Ensure it does not happen again.

No one leaves testing until we're finished. The Concord wants complete discretion. If anything else gets revealed, we're on our own. In the meantime, Parais will be dealt with. Get it done or we will find someone who can. Alexine, you have one month.

The board members rise from their chairs and exit the room.

ALEX is alone. She lets out a frustrated groan.

Then, her intercom goes off.

ALEX (INTERCOM)  
Patch it through. What is it, Max?

MAX (INTERCOM)  
You're going to want to come down  
to your office to see this.

ALEX (INTERCOM)  
Just tell me.

MAX (INTERCOM)  
A package arrived while you were  
casting with Parais. 'The Abacus  
Project' is etched onto the  
package. And it's not from HoloCorp  
or any Concord address.

Footsteps.

MAX (CONT'D)  
Do you think this could be what  
we're—

ALEX  
The leaker. Stay where you are.

She picks up the pace. Music builds.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
I'm coming.

INT. MAIN OFFICES - MOMENTS LATER

Beep. Elevator door opens with a chime.

ELEVATOR  
Doctor Alexine Prometh. Main  
office.

ALEX walks out.

ALEX  
Max, where?

MAX  
In your office.

MAX and ALEX open a door to ALEX'S office.

ALEX  
Office, dim windows and lock doors.

Windows dim and the door locks with a series of high-pitched beeps and whirrs.

MAX  
Here it is.

ALEX  
Open it.

MAX  
Do you want me to leave the room?

ALEX  
Open the box, Max.

MAX unwraps the package. He clicks a button and the box opens. He gasps.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
What is it?

MAX  
I've only seen these in ancient archives. I didn't know these still existed.

ALEX  
Let me...

The tape recorder rattles as ALEX picks it up.

MAX  
Careful, Doctor. It's a relic from the Pre-Collapse. It's called a tape recorder, I believe.

ALEX  
Tape recorder?

MAX  
Yes. It plays back sounds.

ALEX  
And how do you know that?

MAX  
I studied Pre-Collapse History.

ALEX  
(with a scoff)  
Of course you did.

There's a note on it. It says "Play".

MAX

I-

ALEX

(clears throat)

Play.

Beat.

MAX

I think you need to manually engage it. It's not voice-activated. May I?

ALEX

Fine.

ALEX passes the recorder to MAX.

MAX

Here.

MAX presses the play button and the tape recorder begins emitting sound. He places it on the table.

NICO

(on recording)

Listen. I know information about the The Abacus Project leaker.

Meet me on the abandoned mining station in sector D549. There is an old tavern there. It's a dump, but an abandoned dump. The only thing alive in there will be me. By playing this recording, you have activated a timer. Be there in eight hours.

Come alone. The name's Nico.

The sound of fumbling over the recorder.

NICO (CONT'D)

(on recording; calling over his shoulder)

SAI, can you turn this off?

Tape recorder ends and clicks off. Beat.

ALEX

D549... That's seven hours away by hyperflight.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

Max, get me my fastest cruiser from the hangar. I want a quick prep for take off.

MAX

That's- that's a restricted zone and we- we don't have a permit to-

ALEX

Do it now, Max!

MAX

Yes, Doctor.

Sound of digital beeping as MAX sends the message. Music picks up in intensity.

MAX (CONT'D)

Hangar bay is prepping your cruiser as we speak. Should I send an escort request to the Concord for security? We don't know what we could find out there, you could be in danger-

ALEX

No, no. Tell no one about this. What do you think will happen if- if the leak is coming from inside of our team? It would ruin us.

MAX

But what if we're flying into danger, or-

ALEX

We can take care of this ourselves.

MAX

Yes, Doctor.

ALEX grabs the tape recorder and smashes it on the ground.

MAX (CONT'D)

No!

ALEX

Obliterate the remaining pieces.

MAX

The tape recorder- it was probably more than seven-thousand standard years old.

ALEX

Melt anything with ABACUS written  
on it.

Door opens. Footsteps.

ALEX (CONT'D)

We are leaving. Now.

Door closes. Music ends.

INT. ABANDONED MINING STATION - DAY

Diegetic music plays, calming and meditative. We hear  
footsteps as the commercial plays, echoing in the station.

COMMERCIAL

Take control of who you are. Be who  
you want to be. Dominate your  
emotions.

Footsteps.

COMMERCIAL (CONT'D)

Emotea. The latest in emotion  
control from Europa Family Farms.  
Now in drink form.

NICO pours the tea. The footsteps get closer.

NICO

Emotea... Humph.

NICO sips his tea and swallows. Footsteps continue.  
Commercial continues playing far off in the distance.

MAX

There he is. I think that's him.

Footsteps stop as ALEX and MAX reach NICO.

ALEX

You must be Nico.

NICO

You're late and I told you to come  
alone.

ALEX

My assistant. Max.

Nico takes a swig of his drink.

NICO

Fine. Take a seat. This only changes things- slightly.

ALEX and MAX both sit.

ALEX

(casually)

Tell me who the leaker is. Whatever you want- I'll make it happen.

Nico lifts his drink.

NICO

I'll tell you the location and identity of the leaker if you do something for me. Simple.

ALEX

And what is it you want me to do for you?

NICO

I need you to get me into a Resource Monitor.

NICO takes a drink. Puts it down.

ALEX

Nico. It's Nico right? Listen. I can give you anything. Anything. But what you asked for right now is the one I can't do. There must be something else.

MAX

Dr. Prometh can make you very wealthy. Enough credits to buy you anything. Buy a planetary home station. Install genetic enhancements. Stock up on Emotea. You would be able to live over a hundred thousand lifetimes-

NICO

I want none of that bullshit.

ALEX

Why in the universe would anyone want to get into a Resource Monitor anyway?



NICO

I need a memory that's stored in one.

ALEX

Look, I don't know what you think you know but, trust me. It's all wrong.

NICO

(sigh)

I know about The Abacus Project. I know about the testers, the disappearances, the memory recording, the lies, the obfuscations, yada yada yada...

Beat.

ALEX

What you want is impossible.

NICO

(firmly)

No it's not. We're going to get into a resource monitor and then you are going to find and interpret a specific memory encoding for me.

You do this and you can go back to huffing Emotea and whatever it is you do.

ALEX

Even if I wanted to get you into a resource monitor, The Abacus Project isn't finished. We're still working to figure out how to visualize the memory code in there. How to interpret it. The code means nothing if we can't visualize it.

NICO

I'm sure you can figure it out... with the proper incentives.

ALEX

Most importantly, when we insert the memory code into the test subjects, they die. It's sensory overload.

NICO  
Guess it's a risk I'll have to live  
with. Ha.

MAX  
You- you're mad. Lunar.

NICO  
All of the above, one-hundred  
percent.

NICO takes a drink. An alert system of his begins to sound, a series of high, rapid beeps.

NICO (CONT'D)  
Aaand we are out of time. I'm  
afraid our negotiations will have  
to wait until we are on the  
Gungnir.

NICO'S intercom goes off.

SAI (INTERCOM)  
(through crackling static)  
Chief? I see them on my radar.  
Concord Cruisers approaching the  
mining station. Twenty clicks away.

NICO  
Like ancient clockwork.

NICO takes a sip from his drink and sets his cup down.

NICO (CONT'D)  
Now, If you two will just come with  
me we can discuss-

ALEX  
Why would I go anywhere with you?

NICO  
You don't have a choice.

Nico loads a pressure gun he has been hiding with a click and a high frequency. MAX gasps.

NICO (CONT'D)  
Easy. Easy. Relax. I'm going to  
have ask you two to stand up and  
walk over there. For your safety.

ALEX, MAX and NICO stand up and walk together.

MAX

What are you doing with a pressure revolver? They're illegal, even out in the outer sectors.

NICO

Cute. When I pick up a new one, I'll be sure to mention that.

Footsteps stop.

SAI (INTERCOM)

They just started docking procedures.

ALEX

Listen we can come to an agreement here-

NICO

The time for talk was with Parais, Doctor.

Pretty soon your Concord friends, your bosses' bosses, are going to blast through that door.

NICO removes a case from underneath the table and puts it on the table.

NICO (CONT'D)

Lucky for me, I know every move in the Concord playbook.

NICO pushes some buttons and a box opens with the sound of a crank and a beep. NICO removes something from the box.

NICO (CONT'D)

And the fact that I know more about them than they'd like me to makes me very dangerous to them.

MAX

Is that a- a- remote detonator?

NICO

Spot on, Max! Hard thing to come by anywhere but at the very fringes of the Concord.

ALEX

What are you planning?

NICO

Well I don't see me holding off an entire squadron of Concord pawns with only a pressure pistol.

NICO pushes some buttons on the remote device. There are beeps and the sounds of small levers being manipulated.

NICO (CONT'D)

This detonator is our Class-C ticket off this station.

It signals that it is primed and ready with a high, chirping beep.

NICO (CONT'D)

You Concord people are all the same. Blind and deaf, sleepwalking through the universe. Complying with every order, oblivious to everything. So completely unaware that you can't begin to tell the difference between fact and fiction.

MAX

You could blow us to pieces!

SAI (INTERCOM)

They are cutting through the locks now. Any second.

NICO (INTERCOM)

(sarcastically)

Oh that's what that sound is, SAI?

ALEX

(laughing incredulously)

You're insane! Let us go!

NICO

Ha! No can do, Doctor. After you break me into the resource monitor, you can go back to your life. But for now? You do what I want.

SAI (INTERCOM)

Chief, they are almost through the doors.

NICO

Alright. Are you ready?

ALEX

I most certainly am not!

NICO

Here we go!

NICO pushes a button. An explosion goes off, rattling the entire station.

Ending credits music plays, cinematic and exciting.

CREDITS

Earth Eclipsed: Episode One, The Abacus Project. Starring Allegra Rodriguez Shivers, Reginald West, Christian T. Chan, Amy Lyndon, Michael Malconian.

With Benedikt Sebastian, Daniel Dauphin, Cammie Middleton, Jayden Libran, and Flo Kiscellus.

Created, produced, directed, and written by Nicholas Prufer, AJ Churchill, and Victor Lee.

Script edited by Alexa Polivka.

Music by AJ Churchill.

Sound design by AJ Churchill and Shane Rutherford-Jones.

Our production interns are Eamon McKeon and So Asiddao.

Earth Eclipsed is a production of The Lunar Company.

Music ends.