



EMPTY SPACE

In the semi-distant future, a brave crew of scientists, along with medical, military and civilian personnel departed Earth in search of a new home planet. They were led by a well-revered aerospace engineer who pioneered many of the discoveries that lead to the ability to undergo such feats. Driven by the dissatisfaction with the lack of progress in the field of space exploration despite numerous technological leaps, as well as speculations of a potentially cataclysmic solar event looming, this individual spent his life's work directing the construction of a giant space habitat. This habitat was designed to sustain a large colony of people indefinitely while searching for a new home where mankind could begin anew. This would prove that humans were not constrained to Earth any longer. He was determined that mankind was destined to continue exploring, and took the role of The Navigator, the highest ranking official aboard the ship.

Many years passed with the colony successfully traversing unexplored space, sending back vast quantities of data due to frequent manned reconnaissance missions. These missions consisted of small crews that were able to collect information first hand. All had gone according to plan until one such mission tragically ended with one of the reconnaissance crews perishing. This crew included the Navigator himself. Despite this unfortunate event, the colony persevered. The late Navigator's son took up the mantle, showing all the genius and leadership of his father.

As time went on, fewer and fewer planets showed promise of life sustainability. Most reconnaissance missions were recalled shortly after leaving the colony due to these findings, and it had been some time since one of these missions made it to a planet's surface. Despite this, the crew continued their journey.

One fateful day, all communications with Earth were abruptly cut off. Investigations verified there had indeed been an apocalyptic solar event, as was predicted. Earth itself was no longer viable for human life. The colony now represented the last humans in the known universe, and the last hope for mankind's survival.

it's been a long long time
with all our questions
yet all we have is speculation

we're the few that got away
peace be with those who were forced to stay
their memories will stay with us always

now we're drifting
our fate uncertain
beyond starry skies
but we can't help thinking

we did this to ourselves

we had this coming for a long time
(so they say)
we're the survivors of the great unknown
(in a future far away)
will we find solace among stars
(we'll never know)
forever sailing through the empty space
(that we call home)

it's been a great many years
still eking out as best we can
our frail existence

and we burn inside
we can't return, can't hide
just waiting for our luck to turn around

we'll check the readings
(we'll check the readings)
and look for changes
(and look for changes)
any sign of hope
(any sign of hope)
but we can't help thinking

we did this to ourselves

we had this coming for a long time
(so they say)
we're the survivors of the great unknown
(in a future far away)
will we find solace among stars
(we'll never know)
forever sailing through the empty space
(that we call home)

and still we're drifting
(and still we're drifting)
our fate uncertain
(our fate uncertain)
beyond starry skies
but we can't help thinking

we had this coming for a long time
(so they say)
we're the survivors of the great unknown
(in a future far away)
will we find solace among stars
(we'll never know)
forever sailing through the empty space
(that we call home)

THROUGH THE NOTHING

The pilot of a scout crew tasked with the reconnaissance of discovered planets reminisces about his life aboard the colony, the world that was left behind, and the missions that lie ahead.

it started with a notion
there was so much left to see
so much more than what was given
had to push the boundaries

we knew our days were numbered
it was all so very clear
that our world might soon betray us
and it all could disappear

then there was the mission
we would search across the stars
somewhere out there we would find
another home we could call ours

till one fateful day
when our worst fears had all come true
when it all fell into darkness
we lost everything we knew

through the nothing we drift
we stay the course
with the past in our wake

I will fly to the edge
do what I must do
we are so far away

I have spent every day
with this thought in my mind
there must be another place
where we all can survive

we can't make the same mistakes
of the world left behind
we just gotta get through this
it will be alright

but it's hard to deny
that for so long
despite how we try
everything seems to signify
we are lost here, far away

through the nothing we drift
we stay the course
with the past in our wake

I will fly to the edge
do what I must do
we are so far away
away
away
away

all the years we've drifted out here alone
never ever looking back
promising ourselves we'll adapt to this
traversing the eternal black

all the places that we have gone before
lifeless worlds that have no name
still I'm holding onto this distant hope
but it always turns out the same

the journey is long, the journey's hard
I don't even know quite where we are
but someday we'll bring about a new age

remembering all that we have lost
we have to succeed no matter the cost
we owe it to them - the ones that had to stay

I will never stop till we find the one

the journey is long, the journey's hard
I don't even know quite where we are
but someday we'll bring about a new age

remembering all that we have lost
we have to succeed no matter the cost
we owe it to them - the ones that had to stay

through the nothing we drift
we stay the course
with the past in our wake

I will fly to the edge
do what I must do
we are so far away
away
away
away

ANOTHER LIFE

A routine reconnaissance mission is prepared to survey a potential new home planet amidst doubts that anything viable will ever be found.

it's time
suit up, let's go

lock in
systems engage

and we all tell ourselves
this might be the one
it's the only thing that keeps us moving

we're searching for another life
(another life)
we're sifting through the dark empty
communications standing by
(standing by)
we're hoping we can someday leave

we're looking for a way to thrive
(a way to thrive)
so we can finally be free
we're searching for another life
(another life)
still looking for a way
still looking for a way

lift off - we're on our way
just like every time before
I can feel a sense of doubt ever looming
but I know this only needs to work one time

we're searching for another life
(another life)
we're sifting through the dark empty
communications standing by
(standing by)
we're hoping we can someday leave

we're looking for a way to thrive
(a way to thrive)
so we can finally be free
we're searching for another life
(another life)

still looking for a way
still looking for a way
still looking for a way

but some say it's so clear
that our efforts are all in vain
and there is no way
and there is no place for us here
are we destined to drift alone?

another life
(another life)
we're sifting through the dark empty
communications standing by
(standing by)
we're hoping we can someday leave

we're looking for a way to thrive
(a way to thrive)
so we can finally be free
we're searching for another life
(another life)

still looking for a way
still looking for a way
still looking for a way
still looking for a way
still looking for a way

SIRENS

The crew aboard the reconnaissance vessel encounters trouble as they enter some sort of electromagnetic storm, blocking normal communications with the colony. Soon after, an emergency alert is received, telling the crew to abort the mission and return. Recalled missions have become an all-too-common occurrence recently, and the pilot, confident in his abilities and perceiving no threat, makes the decision to disregard the alert, forge ahead, and complete a long overdue planetary surface survey.

As they make their approach, navigation systems suddenly fail. The pilot loses all control, and the ship quickly descends upon the planet, a crash landing inevitable.

lights, piercing sirens
an emergency call
a signal to the crew that
warns of danger to us all

with a start, we jump to action
check the readings, they seem fine
there must be something missing
but the radio's offline

we'll continue with caution
I know we have no choice
we have to complete our mission
a new home to fill the void

approaching the galaxy
the screens flicker warnings
a catastrophe in the unknown
but it seems so quiet here
there's nothing out there to fear
we are drawing near

I can feel it
I know we are in the clear

(what if you're wrong?
no time to think
hear the sirens?
think of the consequence
that comes with defiance)

we can't afford to give into fear

(you can't just break the rules
and think they'll forget it
if you don't turn around
you know you'll regret it)

I know we can do it

this is our chance to show
we won't be defeated
we have our mission and
it will be completed
I won't just turn around
I will take my chances

I won't give up
I won't give up now

approaching the galaxy
the screens flicker warnings
a catastrophe in the unknown
but it seems so quiet here
there's nothing out there to fear
we are drawing near

approaching the galaxy
the screens flicker warnings
a catastrophe in the unknown
but it seems so quiet here
there's nothing out there to fear...

DESIDERIUM

An announcement is made aboard the colony that due to a celestial disturbance, the latest reconnaissance mission has failed, resulting in the death of all aboard the ship. An engineer who grew up with the pilot of the mission, completely shocked by this news, mourns the loss of her friend and questions whether it's worth it to continue these dangerous missions.

emotionless
the message came across the wire

and I can't believe
that you're really gone
you were the best
that I have known

I try to speak
my voice is dry
it feels so numb

I can't help but think
it's all been in vain
nothing is worth
the price you've paid

there's so much left
I'd want to say if you were here
if I could
I would

what I wouldn't give
just to see you one last time
if I could
I would

there's so much left
I'd want to say if you were here
if I could
I would

what I wouldn't give
just to see you for one last time
if I could
yeah, I would

if there was a way
(if there was a way)
to go and take your place instead
if I could
I would

but you've gone away
(you've gone away)
I have to face this on my own
if I could
I would

A WHISPER IN THE WALLS

The engineer can't stop thinking about the death of the pilot and how the story doesn't seem to add up. Determined to find answers, she begins her search, confronting personnel and scanning through archives of data, including the final logs of the deceased pilot's ship.

thoughts racing through my restless mind
(over and over and) I
don't know where to place the blame

I heard everything they told the crew
but it lacked the closure that I need
I lie awake, there's something wrong
there's something out there
I know that I'm missing

yeah
something is missing

I heard a whisper in the walls
(that things aren't quite what they) seem
have to find the proof I need

I'd burn everything
I'd tear it down
this isn't adding up and I know
deep down below there is a lie
but it still feels like I'm getting farther

I'm getting farther
I'm getting farther
so am I ready?
I'm getting farther
I'm getting farther
I'm getting farther
I'm getting farther
so am I ready?
am I ready?

tell me what is going on, I gotta know
and I'm gonna find the truth
no matter what it takes
what's hiding beneath?
what's hiding beneath?

and so suddenly this turned out to be
everything that I had feared
can't fall asleep
secrets that they keep
what more could they try and hide
someone tell me

all I wanna know
is anything to fill this empty
fighting all alone
reading out the final entry

all I wanna know
is anything to fill this empty
fighting all alone
reading out the final entry, I'm

(realizing your fate
hasn't quite been explained
where are you?
they said you were gone
I've known you too long
if you're out there I swear I'll find you
someone tell me)

all I wanna know
is anything to fill this empty
fighting all alone
reading out the final entry

all I wanna know
is anything to fill this empty
fighting all alone
reading out the final entry, I've

turned around
I won't hide
pressing on
I'll find what's really happening

lie in wait
searching for the answers
it's not too late
I'm going to the center
fell from grace
I don't care what they say
cuz I am ready
(are you ready?
are you ready?)
I am ready

tell me what is going on, I gotta know
and I'm gonna find the truth
no matter what it takes

tell me what is going on, I gotta know
and I'm gonna find the truth
no matter what it takes
what's hiding beneath?
what's hiding beneath?
what's hiding beneath?
what's hiding beneath?
what's hiding beneath?



THE WRECKAGE

The pilot awakes to find the wreckage of his ship and his crew dead. Alone and on a foreign world, he activates a distress beacon. His only hope for survival is that someone takes notice and comes to his rescue.

awoke in the wreckage
how did I make it?
how am I alive?

I search my surroundings
seems I'm alone now
no one else survived

and I try to think
and I remember the warnings
and I can't believe that I ignored them all

so I crawl outside
and I see nothing familiar
where am I?
what do I do now?

so I am desperately
waiting for somebody
can anyone hear me?
I'm out here alone

I have survived the fall
was willing to risk it all
will you heed my call?

I began recollecting
everything till now
I remembered all the people
everyone that I've let down

and I want to say I'm sorry
that I put you all at risk
all I did was to help us
never thought it'd end like this

so I am desperately
waiting for somebody
can anyone hear me?
I'm out here alone

I have survived the fall
was willing to risk it all
will you heed my call?

will you heed my call?

IN HARM'S WAY

Aboard the colony, the engineer locates a distress call from the planet the scout ship crash landed on which isn't being acknowledged by anyone else. Believing that he must be alive and that this fact is being purposefully concealed, she covertly disables tracking systems on an unused scout ship in order to avoid detection as she secretly leaves the colony to rescue the pilot.

I have seen through all their lies
and I know one thing above all else
there is something very wrong
I know they're hiding
what won't they tell?

I know that this might
just be the death of me
I know that this might
just tear the whole thing down
I know that this might
just be the death of me
I know deep inside
it's what I gotta do

now I know how far they have gone
we have laid ourselves in the way of harm
now I know how far we must go
to save ourselves we must take control

I have locked it in my sights
I know you're out there
I feel it inside

this defiance that I've made
will all be worth it
I know I'm right

I know that this might
just be the death of me
I know that this might
just tear the whole thing down
I know that this might
just be the death of me
I know deep inside
it's what I gotta do

hang tight
don't let go

now I know how far they have gone
we have laid ourselves in the way of harm
now I know how far we must go
to save ourselves we must take control

just pray that I'm not too late
just pray that I'm not too late
just pray that I'm not too late

hey, I know you can't hear me now
but please believe I am coming down
and just hang on to the hope you're saved
I know together we'll pave the way

when it's all said and done
when it's all said and done
when it's all said and done
when it's all said and done

now I know how far they have gone
we have laid ourselves in the way of harm
now I know how far we must go
to save ourselves we must take control

just pray that I'm not too late
just pray that I'm not too late
just pray that I'm not too late

SAID AND DONE

The engineer arrives on the planet to find that not only is the pilot still alive, but the planet he crash landed upon actually appears to show promise in sustaining human life. The two come to the conclusion that the entire colony has been lied to all along. A discovery of this magnitude would mean their search for a new home world could finally conclude, and the mission would be complete. With the realization that many of the recalled missions could have yielded new home worlds, they decide to return to the colony and share their findings with everyone - no matter the cost.

fell in line with all the others
never thought to question anything
we believed everything they told us
didn't know there was any other way
it's all about to change

did the job with skill and passion
that was how we all were trained to be
come to find it was all for nothing
all we've lost is such a tragedy

I'm on my way now
I'm on my way now
I'm on my way now
I'm on my way

all along going through all the motions
holding on, now the facade is broken
we were wrong to follow with blind devotion
all alone lost in this endless ocean

somehow I knew you were still out there
I made my escape
though it was a shot in the dark
(shot in the dark)
they tried to cover up what has happened here
it's more than I can take
we have gotta tell everyone

now it's all said and done
(all said and done)
now it's all said and done
(all said and done)
now it's all said and done
(all said and done)
now it's all said and done

we're on our way

all along going through all the motions
holding on, now the facade is broken
we were wrong to follow with blind devotion
all alone, why were we waiting?

why were we waiting?
what were we waiting for?
why were we waiting?
what were we waiting for?
why were we waiting?
what were we waiting for?
why were we waiting?
why did we wait?

ENDINGS

The engineer and pilot return to the colony, intent on revealing the truth. The two break into a communications room and manage to make an announcement that the pilot had crash landed onto a planet suitable for life, and his distress beacon had been completely ignored and covered up. The mission, the initial purpose of which was to find a new home planet, has become nothing more than endless exploration. It is now clear that the new Navigator had decided that the colony was to be humanity's home forever.

After the announcement is made, the Navigator finds them, and expresses his utmost disappointment in their decision to put the wellbeing of the colony and its inhabitants in jeopardy, insisting that in settling down on a new world, humanity would be doomed to stagnate and repeat its past mistakes. The Navigator orders them to be arrested, and departs to deal with the damage done.

Colonial security forces appear to take the two into custody, when suddenly the engineer brandishes a weapon she had previously assembled from spare parts, and they escape toward the colony's bridge, intent upon landing on the new planet.

Having made their way across the ship and onto the bridge, they are once again confronted by the Navigator, who explains that it's only out of necessity that the colony remains space-bound. Planets yield war, suffering, and ultimately limit mankind's true potential to explore infinitely, not to mention the dangers that visiting foreign planets entail. Mankind has always been destined to continue exploring, and the Navigator admits that his belief is so strong that he himself sabotaged the pilot's scout ship to prevent humanity from once again settling on another planet.

The pilot and the engineer, stunned with disbelief, decide that the right thing to do is land the colony on the planet and allow it to become the new home for mankind. This was always the mission, and the reason for the colony's existence. As the pilot begins to maneuver toward the planet, sensors begin reporting that it is not an unknown planet at all. Their destination is in fact not an alien world - it is a still perfectly viable Earth.

The Navigator insists keeping Earth's viability a secret was absolutely essential to continued exploration and the progression of mankind. Returning to Earth would mark a complete and total failure of the mission, so keeping Earth as a distant memory to the colony's inhabitants was the only logical option.

Seeing that his diplomatic efforts have failed to convince the others to turn back, the Navigator lunges at the engineer, attempting to steal away her weapon. In their struggles, she fires a single shot, mortally wounding him. In his final moments, he triggers the same mechanism that caused the crash of the pilot's ship, this time aimed at the colony itself, dooming all its inhabitants. With no options remaining, the pilot begins to attempt a crash landing of the entire colony as best as he can back on Earth.

ENDINGS (CONT.)

seems like yesterday
hearing all the stories they would tell
those that came before
vanishing at once when our world fell

ever wandering
misguidedly they strode the same old paths
careless, they lived on
content that all these things would always last

and so it came to be
we left all that we knew so far behind
and all for one chance to see
the future we've been dreaming of

and so it goes
now we found this crack in the seams
the promises made so we would follow, follow

take time, let go
sometimes the truth hurts
but we write our endings
and I know it's time to set this right

so it goes
all this time we wasted in vain
they kept us here
they want us all to drift forever

take time, let go
sometimes the truth hurts
but we write our endings
and now we'll set this right

swiftly as we go
down these darkened corridors
everyone will know all that we have found
can't turn away
not for lack of motivation
there will be no escape, yeah

was this our destiny?
forsaking everything we knew
once we reach the end, all will be exposed

and come what may
let the whole entire station
hear the truth
let them know

listen carefully to what I am about to tell
it doesn't matter if you think you know
what's happening
so hear my words

I know they won't allow me to continue on
so hear the truth, believe
it doesn't matter how
there was no chance, there was no plan
this was the end
it doesn't matter now

*what have you done? such a mistake
this future we built is now at stake
in my eyes*

*a cold wind has blown a cloud of fear
over everyone
you've brought this here
realize*

*what would it be like
if we could stand one and all?
what would it be like?
we could live out here forever
what would it be like
if we could stand one and all?
what would it be like?
but now we fall*

watch it all coming down
their lies from overhead
and it seems we'll soon be dead

(hold on)

heard the sound of a voice
now you're going to let us run
get back - I've got a gun

seems like yesterday
everything was according to plan
now it's figured out
now I finally can understand

conquering the fear
I know that they'll believe the truth, somehow
gotta see this through
there is nothing left to stop us now

we tried to find another way
another home for us to stay
what will become when this is through?
the answer lies in what we do

with all we've done and who we are
we've found our way across the stars
but prisoners we all became
and now it's time to break the chains

we've turned around and faced the truth
we finally have found the proof
this future has become a lie
and now it's time to say goodbye

it's time that we begin again
(we are not alone)
and write ourselves this journey's end
(we are not alone)
there comes a time when one must choose
(we are not alone)
we've done what we've set out to do
(we are not alone)
as we approach, there's a mistake
(we are not alone)
all readings seem to indicate
(we are not alone)
across the universe so far
(we are not alone)
we wound up right back at the start
we're going home

*now it's all come full circle
and you both are to blame*

*we have come all this way now
and things will never be the same*

*it is true that the old world
has survived all along*

*but we can never return there
it is our mission to venture on and on*

*I'll never stop
I'll go out fighting
not for lack of motivation
I'll take you down with me*

save us, save us from ourselves
this falling star comes crashing down
save us, save us from ourselves
this falling star comes crashing down
save us, save us from ourselves
this falling star will save us

HOME

A long time has passed since the crash landing of the colony. Earth's inhabitants had long ago accepted that the colony would never be heard from again. Those aboard the colony were shocked to learn that the solar event, presumed to have wiped out all life on Earth, was not globally fatal. Since the catastrophe, the people of Earth had been struggling to rebuild civilization. As the colony is re-integrated with Earth's people, they all work together toward a prosperous future.

welcome to another time
another place that we can call all our own
cuz we have tried with all our might
after all this time we thought we were alone
and the last ones
but here we are
we have joined together
we broke out, and found our way home

for so many years we had a plan
we had a mission but we didn't understand
that we were searching for a lie
we pressed onward
when we should have turned and ran
but the future shined so bright
we have found each other
and together we go toward the light

we had been searching for a long time
(far away)
we navigated past the distant stars
(and we all were lead astray)
now looking up through our own sky
(and now we know)
we finally found the place that we belong
(we've gone back home)

we had been searching for a long time
(far away)
we navigated past the distant stars
(and we all were lead astray)
now looking up through our own sky
(and now we know)
we finally found the place that we belong
(we've gone back home)

no longer drifting
(no longer drifting)
our fate is certain
(our fate is certain)
beneath shining skies
we found our purpose
(and we have found ourselves)

but still we're striving
(but still we're striving)
and still exploring
(and still exploring)
but we all know
that we'll never find
another place like home
another place like home
another place like home

brian vees - guitar / vocals



fee garro - bass / addl. vocals