

SR - 75

by
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1st Draft

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FADE IN:

EXT. FEDERATION NAVY MEMORIAL CEMETERY - DUSK

Gray sky above GRUMBLES, signaling impending rain. The clouds shade everything below, robbing their colors.

Gravity pulls A FADED LEAF off from a LARGE MAPLE TREE that lords over the fallen. The leaf free falls to the earth without much struggle.

From some distance, AUDREY McDOWELL stands alone in the middle of rows of WHITE CROSSES, aligned with military precision, nailed to the evenly mowed grass field. Impeccably dressed in DARK BLUE NAVY OFFICER SUIT, she stands motionless before a freshly planted CROSS as if she is a statue guarding the dead.

POV: THE CROSS ENGRAVED WITH "MICHAEL KAHN, 2275 - 2307."

Her gaze is unwavering from the engraving, with her eyes are dry like a glass from lack of blinking. She registers no trace of emotion on her pale white face as she clenches onto the FOLDED FLAG in her hands.

The raindrops start to tap the ground, the grass, the crosses, and Audrey's shoulders. The rain soon becomes heavy downpour, yet she continues to stand tall, soaking in all the rain. The RAINDROPS drenches her eyes and face, falling along her curvy cheeks as if they are her tears.

The sky grows darker. The rain starts to pelt everything in its path.

A STREAK OF LIGHTING is quickly followed by ROARING THUNDER. With another FLASH OF LIGHTING, everything goes black. A THUNDER echoes in the darkness.

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE: SR - 75

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION CENTER HALLWAY - DAY

The title, SR - 75, dissolves to a sign on the door that briefly blocks Audrey's POV before yielding the doorway with a DING. She hesitates for a moment before entering the dark room.

INT. SR - 75 - DAY

A WOMAN is in a CONTROL SEAT, suspended few feet above the floor, enclosed within a HOLOGRAPHIC GLOBE parading various colors. The woman within the globe is KARLA, a black woman in mid-thirty, supporting the same uniform worn by Audrey.

Audrey stops half-way between the door and the globe, and the slit of light beyond the door disappears and submerges her figure into the darkness.

Karla looks down to identify her visitor. Her eyes meet with Audrey's and breaks into a smile. Karla issues quick VERBAL COMMANDS and her control seat begins to descend slowly toward the floor. The holographic globe flips its colors off to become a sphere composed of white dots like a summer starry night.

Karla steps out of the seat before it plants onto the floor, with her enthusiastic face and warm embrace extends toward Audrey. Audrey accepts the embrace and two women merges into one in each other's arms.

KARLA

Audrey! I can't believe you are here! How have you been?

AUDREY

Fine. I am so glad to see you, too. Thank you for everything you've done for me last two weeks.

Two women loosens up and face each other, but their arms are still holding onto each other.

KARLA

It's a least I can do. Let me take a good look at you, now.

(MORE)

KARLA (CONT'D)

(notices Audrey in uniform)
You came to work already?

AUDREY

(nods)
I've passed the tests. I'm technically-

KARLA

(interrupts)
Anybody can pass the psych tests. They don't care as long as some body fills the seats, bastards.

AUDREY

No, I requested to come back to work. I feel fine and quite capable. Last two weeks have been more than enough.

KARLA

Oh darling, I know you are eager to move on...

AUDREY

I am a big girl. I can handle it.

Audrey puts more effort to broaden her smile. Karla studies her face carefully and places her hand on her cheek.

KARLA

You poor thing. You've lost some weight.

AUDREY

Don't worry. I regained my appetite and had a big lunch before I came down here.

KARLA

Good. Regardless, I'm cooking you a big dinner after your shift. This is an offer you can't refuse.

AUDREY

Yes, ma'am.

Audrey playfully salutes to Karla.

KARLA

All right, then. The station is all yours.

AUDREY

Thank you. What did I miss?

KARLA

Nothing really. There was a small skirmish we lost at Sector 5E-82, about 18 hours ago. Our force is reenforcing nearby sectors along with our boys. So, you, fortunately, will be filling the calm hours before the storm before the command gets itself in order.

Audrey nods.

KARLA (CONT'D)

The kids will be so excited.

AUDREY

How are they?

KARLA

Oh, the same. They miss you and ask you to come back and forgive them for the noodle incident.

Karla chuckles.

KARLA (CONT'D)

Take it easy, OK?

AUDREY

I will. Go. Say hello to the kids.

KARLA

See you later.

Karla exits the room, leaving Audrey alone with a glowing globe behind her, casting a silhouette around her figure.

Audrey takes the seat and relaxes for a moment, trying to remember the feeling of her work she used to do on this seat.

Audrey produces a THIN FRAME from her pocket and wears it around her ears, with the frame rests on her nose bridge. The frame is a retina scanner/display which shoots two thin layers of laser directly into her retinas to initiate the access procedure.

AUDREY

Audrey McDowell reporting for duty at SR-75.

The retina scanner confirms her identity along with a voice recognition system.

SYSTEM (V.O)

Retina scanning confirmed. Voice recognition confirmed. User identity confirmed. Security Level C-8 Access granted. System Level Theta-32 Access granted. Initiating AOD System.

(pause)

Welcome back Major McDowell.

The seat begins to elevate, entering the glowing globe above her. The globe expands with its inner surface refreshes into a tactical map of a region of universe, decorated with numerous SYMBOLS and FIGURES of various primary colors.

Audrey settles into the middle of the globe as the map becomes more alive as the various markings and bearings and graphs becomes more animated. She takes a long sweep around the globe before she fully assumes the control of the station.

AUDREY

Thank you, SYSTEM. Let's see if I still got the handle of this thing. List the latest sorties.

The retina display quickly disperses arrays of green, yellow, and red lights on her eyes.

POV: A graph summary of latest sorties, their crews, and their status superimposed over Audrey's view.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Tag 12, 15, and 19.

THREE SHIP MARKINGS become bigger and brighter on her left, her immediate right, and just above her. She shifts her seat so that she faces the ceiling to see the last marking, labeled BETA-19.