



**START HERE—>**

TRIONA

Don't you dare quote Mission Standard Operating Procedures to me you pompous, officious --

LUCAS

Then don't make me. You're acting outside of your station. It's not your responsibility to stay here. You're a contractor for Christsake!

TRIONA

Well my supervisor hasn't shown up in three days, so I think I've just been promoted.

LUCAS

You haven't seen General Collins in three days?

TRIONA

Oh heard from her. At this point she's MIA. So according to the Chain of Command you're conveniently ignoring, that means I run this mission. Which means you're looking at the most crucial ground personnel there is.

LUCAS

Triona, you don't have to do this. You don't even believe in this. They can find someone else. I can still get you out. We can still --

TRIONA

There's not a we anymore. Take Bupesh in my place. He's an excellent engineer.

LUCAS

That's not-

TRIONA

Chain of Command, Major Barnes. I am now the ranking officer in Mission Control. My job is to get you to your ship so you can keep 150,000 people safe as they set off for the stars. That means you blast off in half an hour, no alternatives.

LUCAS

You're not safe down here. At the rate these storms are hitting-

TRIONA

Nobody's safe Lucas. But you need Mission Control. I built the damn place, so if anyone can keep it going long enough for you to get off the planet and make this whole shitshow worth it, it's me.

LUCAS

You could die.

TRIONA

So could you if we delay your launch. It's a narrow window between storms. So get to your ship before Bupesh gets promoted to Chief of Engineering.

LUCAS

Bupesh is a wonk. He can't run a mission like this.

TRIONA

So can you put your emotions aside and get your job done?

LUCAS

I'm trying to save you here! Let me!

TRIONA

No!

(PAUSE)

LUCAS

I can't leave you here. I can't do nothing.

TRIONA

You're not doing nothing. You're getting my sister and her family to safety. Thank you for that. It means so much.

LUCAS

I could do more.

TRIONA

The time for that is past. Now go make all of this sacrifice worth it.

LUCAS

Tri -

TRIONA

That's Mission Control to you. Can you get the job done?

LUCAS

This wasn't supposed to be you.

TRIONA

Can. You. Get. The job. Done, Major?

LUCAS

Yes ma'am.

**<—END HERE**

TRIONA

Good. That colony ship is launching even if the fucking world falls down around us. So get to your ship.

LUCAS

Yes ma'am.

(LUCAS throws a bitter salute, turns on his heel and exits. As soon as he's gone, all of the bluster and steel goes out of TRIONA)

The LIGHTS SHIFT back to the present. TRIONA sits for a moment, tinkering with the giant ERGO. She sees something and focuses suddenly.

TRIONA

Oh crap. Lucas-