

The Girl Who Fell to Earth  
(excerpt)

By

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Formally Titled 'Them'  
Third Draft

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INT. YEAR 2065 - MARS COLONY STATION, GREEN HOUSE - DAY

In a blue flight suit ELEANOR, 24, putters around a hydro wall of greenery.

The flight suit has a few patches on it:

A Mars logo on the left arm, below it a Canadian flag, a CSA logo on the right breast and her name on the left breast.

The plastic composite framing of the hydro wall is decorated with beaded string, paper cutouts and stickers.

Stickers read 'Mars', 'Eleanor', 'Colony One'

She picks out a few pieces of lettuce from the wall and eats them. She dangles a new decoration to go with her others.

The decoration reads, 'There's a whole world down there.'

A person in a flight suit walks by.

Eleanor turns from her wall, face blank.

Stars and light twinkle in her vision. Pinks and blues, greens and gold. Lights flash and flow.

Eleanor drops like dead weight. Crumpled on the floor like a sack of potatoes.

Rushing foot steps are heard off screen. Hands reach down to help Eleanor.

Stars twinkle in blackness.

INT. MARS COLONY STATION, ROOM - NIGHT

Two people, MAN and WOMAN, silhouettes speak in hushed tones.

MAN  
She's sick.

WOMAN  
We're all sick.

MAN  
We have to send her home.

WOMAN  
This is her home.

(CONTINUED)

MAN

She has a chance. But not if we keep her here. It will happen again.

WOMAN

We have to give her that chance don't we?

EXT. RURAL ONTARIO - DAY

A space to Earth landing pod descends from the sky. A taught parachute keeps it from falling too fast.

TITLE CARD: YEAR 2065

An observation helicopter flies circles around it.

The pod lands in an expansive and empty field of dry dirt and grass.

Pumpfh. A circular cloud of dirt is sent up around the pod.

A team of excited and happy aerospace engineers dressed in khakis, jeans, golf shirts and tees shift an aluminum tri-ladder over the pod.

A few climb up, one with a tool sets to work opening the top of the pod. They lift the lid and one reaches inside.

Gently they lift a pressure-suited person out by holding and hoisting from under their arms.

The returning human is limp, their body almost immobile from reentry.

The person sits on the edge of the pod for a moment. The crew speak with the person. Reassuring smiles.

The reentered person nods their head.

With a final lift up two engineers hoist the reentered person by the armpits, two at the bottom of the ladder work to grab the legs.

The reentered person is Eleanor, held by four people one on each limb. She is moved to a solitary padded seat set up in the field.

The engineers move about, they speak to Eleanor.

(CONTINUED)

Eleanor nods her head, she smiles tentatively. An engineer holds a bottle of water with a straw up to Eleanor's lips. She takes a sip.

Eleanor looks from side to side, squinting. Someone puts sunglasses on her.

TITLE CARD: And then...

Series of still images.

Eleanor, HARJIT, man 50s, and a few others waving and smiling at a press conference.

Eleanor in a flight suit, the others in golf shirts and khakis.

Hugging and handshaking with welcoming groups.

TITLE CARD: And then...

Series of still images.

Eleanor, Harjit and others in fancy dress at black-tie event.

Hand shaking dignitaries, reception line, sitting at long ballroom dinner table, eating and drinking champagne.

TITLE CARD: And then...

Six months later...Eleanor's first summer on Earth.

But first...

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

A makeshift campsite made of a mishmash of household and camping items is set up on a pine needle covered dirt forest floor.

A tent with a solar tarp pitched over it at the centre of it all.

A clothes line is strung up, a bike is locked to a tree, a few boards are placed over stumps acting as shelves.

Tins, utensils, a hairbrush, tooth brush, mirror, sneakers all lined up neatly on the boards.

A rugged and rough looking camping woman ANNE, 70s, with a septum nose ring, comes out of the tent.

(CONTINUED)

She has bleached out hair and is sunburned.

She wears worn cutoff denim shorts and a unicorn print tank top exposing a sleeve of geometric black ink tattoos on her arms.

The woman sings to herself, a tune from her youth, as she contently checks the pins holding her solar tarp in place.

She fiddles with some wires that connect it to a small battery.

EXT. GROCERY STORE, PARKING LOT - DAY

Eleanor gets out of the passenger side of an old model electric car.

She wears the same sunglasses she was given at her landing six months ago.

She wears a worn blue flight suit that has a few patches on it.

A Mars logo on the left arm, below it a Canadian flag, a CSA logo on the right breast and her name on the left breast.

She has a small device strapped to her right arm.

Harjit gets out of the driver's side of the car, a few canvas bags tucked under his arm.

Uncle and niece walk towards the entrance of the store.

Eleanor spots a grocery cart in a parking spot. She takes a detour to get it.

She breaks in to a light jog as she pushes it to catch up with her uncle.

Eleanor eyes a help wanted sign on the door.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Eleanor, sunglasses hung in the neck of her shirt, and Harjit stroll down an isle. Their cart half full of fruits, veggies and bread.

ELEANOR  
We need allergy pills.

(CONTINUED)

A young female monotone voice speaks the words 'we need allergy pills', the audio comes from the device, a small speaker, on Eleanor's arm.

Eleanor's way of speaking.

HARJIT

Sure.

They continue to stroll, looking at the items on the shelves.

CUT TO

At the check out counter Eleanor hands items from the cart to Harjit who puts them on a glass turnstile.

Prices come up on a small screen as the items are put on.

A check out girl, NANCY, 20s with an Edwardian Gibson-girl bun, puts the items in to Harjit's canvas bags as they are tallied.

NANCY

You're Eleanor right?

Eleanor looks at Nancy, then at her uncle.

Another clerk, ROBIN, 20s, also with an Edwardian Gibson-girl bun, cuts flowers at a flower stand.

Robin, in a heavily modified uniform, buttons sewn on, cuts and folds made here and there, watches Nancy and Eleanor's interaction.

Harjit nods his head towards Nancy, encouraging Eleanor to answer her.

ELEANOR

(to Nancy)

Ya.

NANCY

There's a job open here. You should apply.

Nancy smiles sincerely. Robin comes out from behind the flower stand and over to the group.

NANCY

It's not bad. Summer's are always busy.

Robin approaches from behind.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Here. Give me your hand.

Eleanor turns and looks at Robin.

Robin takes Eleanor's hand, pushes up the sleeve of her flight suit and writes a number in pen on her forearm.

Eleanor is shocked at Robin's forwardness but allows it to happen.

When Robin is done Eleanor takes her arm in and holds her hand over the pen marks.

ROBIN

Call me and we can help with your résumé.

Robin heads back to the flower stand.

Eleanor looks at her arm. She sniffles.