

My Life on Epsilon

Hot air buffeted the window, pushing it open. Quickly, I rushed to close it to stop the toxic air from poisoning the air inside the house. I pulled on my converter mask, allowing myself to breathe. This planet was nothing like Earth. Sadness engulfed me as I thought of my former home. All of my memories there, and everything that I had left behind. The things that I would never get back.

Back on Earth, climate change was so extreme, even Antarctica was now a green continent devoid of any ice. It was the new cool place to live. The continent had been wiped of its former features.

I thought about my school and friends. Those who had chosen to stay, and those who were forced to.

Some of us from Earth were lucky and wise to foresee the looming threat of global warming; this forced us to look for an alternative habitable planet. But a majority of the population didn't believe us, they, in fact, mocked us. They even threatened us. They accused we were scared of change and advancement. And now, we can never go back to Earth again.

Back in Antarctica, a war was raging. Different factions were trying to divide Antarctica, fighting for their own land. Rights were debated on and on, until eventually it spilled over and ended in a war. All the powerful armies, like the USA, Russia, and so many others, all fighting against each other, causing a global depression.

I thought about the people we had left behind. Have we let them down? They were counting on us. Counting on us to get them safely away from the mass destruction on Earth, and to get them to the safety of Epsilon. I can't believe that we failed them; we left them to survive a war they didn't believe in.

Our plan was to return to Earth when it was safe and to bring them with us to Epsilon, but, we were not welcome back, which left them stranded on Earth.

Epsilon, on the other hand, is a planet far outside the Solar system's outer edges. While the air is toxic with Dioxygen, the filtration process in our masks can easily convert it to life saving Oxygen. This was the most remarkable invention in the last 100 years. This made Epsilon the best alternative for Earth.

I, along with my research group, were sent to discover more about Epsilon before it was possible to bring more vulnerable people. We promised to go back for them, but now we can't.

A tear rolled down my cheek as I thought; only if they knew we would do anything to bring them back.

Silently, I walked over to a shelf. From there I pulled a book - *My photo album*. I thought silently. I flicked it open to a photo. A photo of a young girl smiling out from the page. A photo of me. But twenty years ago, back on Earth.

Nadira Marikar

Balwyn North Primary School

6W