

Norcastle

By CBenby

<https://bsky.app/profile/cb-enby.bsky.social>

(originally titled 'This is an SOS')

My name is Victor, acting captain of the ESW Norcastle, I do not know if anyone is out there to hear this but I must explain our situation.

In the year 3611 we left Earth to test the new class of ship, the Earth Ship Warp, the point of the test was to see if humans could physically and mentally survive light speed. The test was simple, arrive at the nearest earth colony in 1 year instead of multiple decades.

We arrived at the Beta colony in the year 3612 just as planned but something was wrong, not only was the colony missing but all life on the planet was as well, at first we thought we somehow warped to the wrong planet but we double, triple and quadruple checked every computer on board and every single one agreed we were at the right planet.

The captain and a couple crewmen went down to the planets surface to try find out what happened, they returned 3 days later with reports that the planet is barren, not a single piece of life, not a plant, animal or even microbe down there.

The ship held a vote, do we return to Earth or try another planet.

Return to Earth won by a landslide, of course it did, people were scared and wanted to see their families I didn't blame them I wanted to return as well.

Then in the year 3613 we returned to our home planet to find the same as Beta colony, empty, not a single lifeform. We were stunned to not only see Earth barren, but every single colony in the solar system empty, the Moon and Mars colonies were both gone as well.

I can't remember what happened next super clearly but I believe we just orbited Earth for a couple months to grieve the planet as well as give the crew time to deal with the fact they may never see their families or anyone else ever again.

Captain Lee wanted to check every system for life, the crew as well as myself agreed not because we thought we would find anyone but just to take our minds off, you know everything, at the time.

After about a decade and about 300 planets checked our computer systems corrupted, we have been flying blind since then.

Lee, as well as a big chunk the crew started seeing lights out the windows, moving lights, they were convinced the lights were other ships and we weren't alone, so the captain and just under half the crew went out in an escape shuttle in hopes of meeting the lights.

That was many years ago, I hope they found what they were looking for

This transmission will repeat until someone, anyone finds us or we run out of power