

Awake

Chapter 11 (final) *Transcript*

Listen to audio at
http://www.sparklermonthly.com/audio_episode/awake-chapter-11

Awake © Tory Woollcott, Barabara, and Rebecca Scoble, 2013

Illustrations by Angela Sham and © Chromatic Press

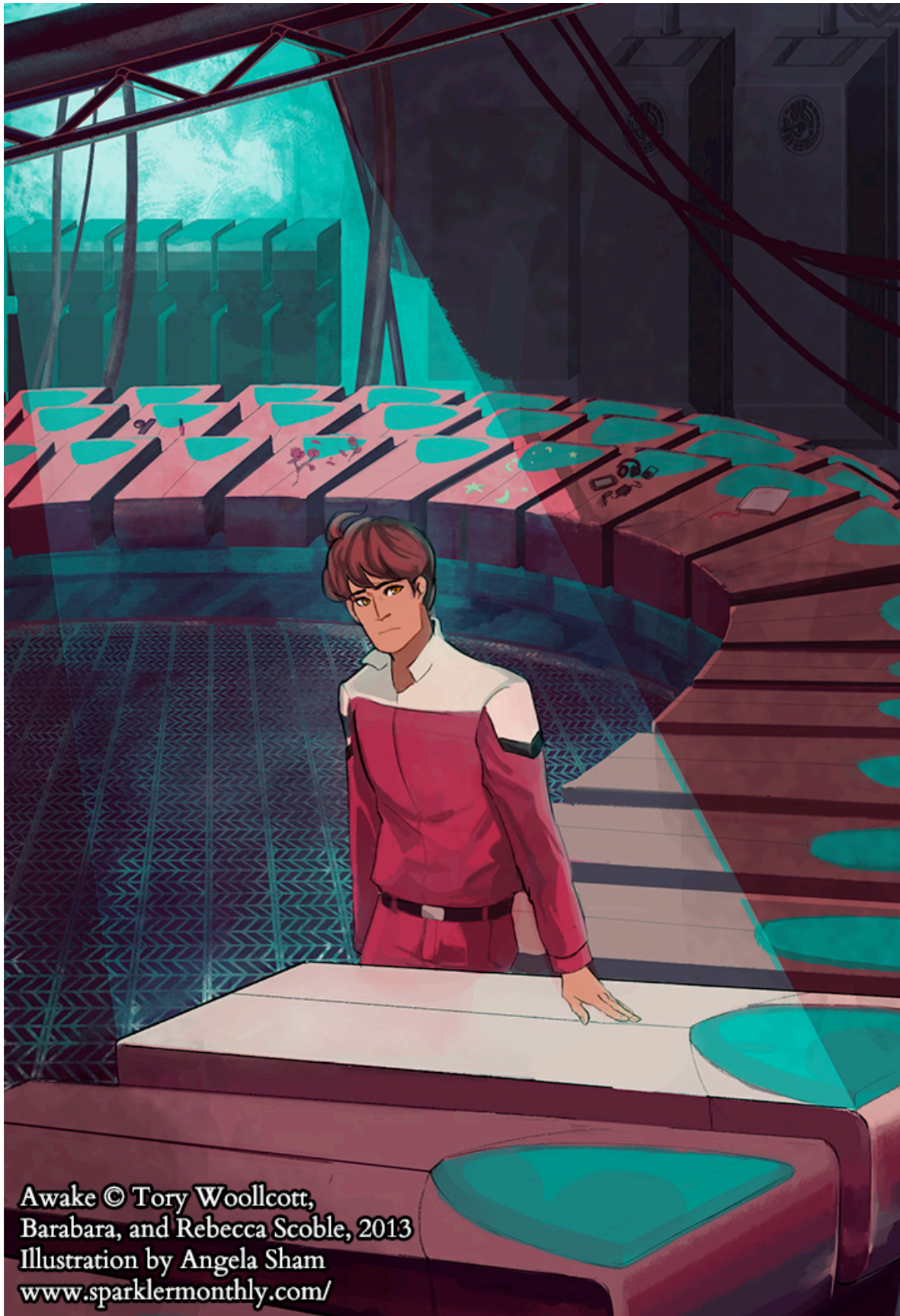
Cast:

Hina: Rielle Braid
Janelle: Jae Jae Lopez
Robbie: Jesse Hodson
Rosa: Annemieke Wade
Travis: Alex O'Shea
Seb: Adam Ford

Special Thanks

Leena Soussi
Sharif E. and his daughter Aya
Phu Nguyen

Note: Due to last-minute audio changes, transcript may not match final audio script exactly.



Awake © Tory Woolcott,
Barabara, and Rebecca Scoble, 2013
Illustration by Angela Sham
www.sparklermonthly.com/

[Door opens. The sound of the giant hydroponics bay trickles in. Hina steps through the door, and halfway through a step the door shuts.]

HINA: [tripping] Whoa!

[long pause]

HINA: Easy, Persephone.

[Hina walks for a few long seconds.]

ROBBIE (from a distance): Hina?

HINA: Robbie.

[Robbie's footsteps run up. Hina stops walking.]

ROBBIE: [breathes heavily for a second]

ROBBIE: I...I'm sorry. About...

HINA: I know, Robbie.

ROBBIE (getting a little teary): I just...wanted a little time alone. But now Persephone is acting--

HINA: I know.

[long pause]

ROBBIE: Is Rosa...mad at me? Is Janelle?

HINA: They just want you to come back. They just want to go back to *normal* again.
[pause] They agree with the last crew--no one wants to punish you for what you did.

ROBBIE (a little weak): But...

HINA: I get it, Robbie. I saw the video. [long breath] I know why you said it wasn't an accident.

[long pause]

HINA: You're blaming yourself for what Persephone did.

ROBBIE: I *should* blame myself! I'm her technician. I know her better than anybody.

HINA: You weren't her tech back then. Naveen was. You just--

ROBBIE (adamant): I **STILL** knew her better than anybody. Including Naveen. And that was the problem.

[long pause]

ROBBIE (breaking a little): He thought I was confusing her by working with her on my own. *I* knew what I was doing. [pause] I was...pushing her algorithms to make a choice.

[pause]

ROBBIE: To choose the best technician for the job.

[long pause]

HINA: You didn't want Naveen to die.

ROBBIE: But I--

HINA: You didn't. I heard you. You didn't even want Naveen's pod. (firmer) **You didn't want him to die for you.**

ROBBIE: N-nobody ever asked me...if I **WANTED** to go into cryogenic sleep.

HINA: Robbie...

ROBBIE: They never asked if I *cared* about a life on Tau Ceti Prime. All anyone ever talked about was getting **out**. [long pause] No one ever let me...look for happiness *here*.

[long pause]

HINA: I can see now why you...confessed a few days ago. (uncomfortable) You wanted

to tell me you loved me before the truth came out.

ROBBIE: [grunt]

[long pause]

HINA: I don't know what you want, Robbie. Punishment? Forgiveness? [pause] *Penance?* I don't know, this is sorta...Rosa's domain.

ROBBIE: No. That's not...what I want.

[long pause]

ROBBIE: I just wanted...someone to listen to me.

[long pause]

HINA: Other than Persephone.

[long pause]

ROBBIE: She listens, but...she doesn't understand. She *can't* understand--she's not a person! And when I treat her like one, she...she does terrible things.

[long pause]

HINA: I get it, Robbie.

ROBBIE: Do you?

HINA: Yeah. [pause] You made a mistake. And...and Naveen died because of it.

[long pause]

HINA: But *people make mistakes*. And they move on. We've all done it.

ROBBIE (defensive): But other people's mistakes don't kill people!

HINA (defensive back): Sometimes they do, Robbie! You weren't back on Earth. We

lived through *war* down there, and we know exactly what kind of mistakes people make when they're cornered.

[long pause]

ROBBIE: I...I've seen videos. Of what the war was like in the United States.

HINA (darkly amused): You *can't* get a feel for what that's like through videos. Trust me on that one.

HINA: But besides all that. [sighs] Robbie, *your* mistake was human. Persephone's wasn't. Persephone only killed him *because* she was a machine.

[long pause]

HINA: You wouldn't have done that because *you're not a machine*.

[long pause]

ROBBIE: [relieved half-sob/shaky breath]

ROBBIE: Hina...

[shuffling fabric, sound of hug]

ROBBIE: Hina... I'm so glad you woke up while I was here.

HINA: [relieved sigh sounds against fabric]

ROBBIE (teary): I'm so glad you're awake...!

[long pause, sounds of fabric]

ROBBIE: [takes a breath] Persephone.

PERSEPHONE: Yes, Robbie?

ROBBIE: I want...I want you to execute protocol N3229.

PERSEPHONE: Code Green.

ROBBIE: Persephone, deactivate Code Green. Technician Override 77365.

[tone]

ROBBIE: Execute protocol N3229. Password "P...Prodigal Son."

PERSEPHONE: This requires authorization from Rosa Medina.

ROBBIE: Persephone, patch me through to her.

[long pause]

ROBBIE (a little angry, firm): Persephone, patch me through to Rosa Medina. (quieter)
It's okay. It's not going to hurt me.

[long pause]

ROBBIE (firm): Persephone, Technician Override 77365. Disable all Code Green failsafes, deactivate warnings flags one through six and eliminate technician conditional on Protocol N3229 blocks.

[several overlapping tones as he makes the commands]

PERSEPHONE: Contacting Rosa Medina. Please standby.

[pause]

ROSA (over the loudspeaker, shortly before overlapping dialogue below): Robbie?!

SEB: Robbie!

TRAVIS: Where are you?!

JANELLE: Is Hina okay?!

ROBBIE: We're in hydroponics. Hina's fine, she's...right here. Persephone, put us on the monitor.

[tone]

[long pause]

ROBBIE: Rosa, I-I want to unlock Naveen's files. A-and show everyone the reports we were going to forward to his family. Uh...m-my family.

[long pause]

ROSA (relieved): Of course, Robbie.

ROBBIE: And... (a little weaker) Can we lay him to rest in the morgue now? While I'm...s-still awake?

[long pause]

ROSA: ...I think that's the right thing to do.

ROBBIE: I'm sorry. I...I'm s-sorry I put you through this, Rosa. And not just everything in the last month...I mean, I'm sorry for...uh...

ROBBIE (breaking a little): Th-thank you for always taking care of me. I wish I deserved you.

[long pause]

ROSA: That's not how love works, Robbie.

[long pause]

TRAVIS (a little terse): Are you coming back now? Are we done with all this?

SEB: Yeah, this probably isn't the best way for us to, uh...do our jobs.

[long pause]

JANELLE: I wanna...deal with this, Robbie. And start things over with you.

[long pause]

ROBBIE: [tearing up] Ngh...!

[pause]

HINA: [slight chuckle] That's a yes, guys. We're coming.

PERSEPHONE: Good morning, Hina Hwan. This is Day 92 of your shift on Persephone. You have 29 years, 273 days remaining. Have a nice day.

HINA: [creaking bed sounds] Hn?

PERSEPHONE: Your video was paused when you fell asleep. Would you like to continue from that point?

HINA: Oh. Um...which one did I end on?

PERSEPHONE: Video number 13. Folder: Bassel comma Baltimore.

HINA: [sighs] No, that's okay.

[creek as she falls back on bed]

HINA: [long sigh] Hnnnnnnnn.

[knocking on the door]

JANELLE (cheerful, through the door): Morning, Hina! Get up now or you'll miss breakfast!

HINA: Uh...coming, hang on.

[footsteps disappear outside]

[For the next several seconds, we hear the sound of fabric, feet, as Hina gets dressed.]

HINA (to herself, as if trying to rev herself up): Okay...okay. [pause] I'm past the three-month mark.

[long pause]

HINA: Nngh. [pause] Persephone, let me out.

[door sound]

[Hina's footsteps down the hallway as voices slowly fade in from the kitchen]

ROSA (somewhat upbeat): I mean, the bone was a clean break, but it still kept me off my feet when there was way too much work to do--so I asked Jamilah to use the accelerated program on the bots to repair it. But Robbie was all keyed up from watching some movie, so he was running around the med bay and causing havoc. She was so distracted that she punched in the wrong program.

SEB: Oh, man. What'd she put in?

ROSA: Laser hair removal!

SEB/JANELLE: [laugh]

ROSA: [laughs] Between the half block and the painkillers, I had no idea what was going on with my leg. So when the bots were done, I tried to stand, right? And I fell so hard that I broke my *other* leg!

JANELLE (laughing): Oh my God!

SEB: [laughs]

TRAVIS: [laughs a little]

ROSA: On the bright side, it only took me half the time to shave my legs for a while.

[laughter]

[Hina walks in.]

ROSA (cheerful): Hina! So nice of you to join us.

HINA: Yeah. Good morning.

ROSA: Have a seat! There's plenty to go around.

HINA: [sound of her sitting] Whoa...is that French Toast?

SEB: I know, right? We opened the Specials Box. (almost conspiratorial) It's Travis's birthday today.

JANELLE (almost conspiratorial): I think he's turning sweet sixteen.

TRAVIS (shooting back): Right. Then that makes you old enough to be my mother.

JANELLE: Wow, do you seriously think *old age* jokes are gonna bother me on this ship? I signed up for 25 years, you entitled little prick. You'll be out of here in four and a half!

TRAVIS: *You* wouldn't last four and a half years on this cane.

JANELLE: You're fine. Stop bitching. And here I was gonna make you an extra batch of that cream for your birthday.

TRAVIS: Whatever. Seb already gave me a better present. Twice.

SEB: [uncomfortable] Travis!

JANELLE: Twice? That doesn't sound like Seb.

SEB: [this one's actually slightly horrified] JANELLE!

HINA: [chuckles at that one]

ROSA: All right, that's enough.

[long pause, sound of clattering utensils]

HINA: Um...where's Robbie?

JANELLE: I think he went to crew pod storage. Maybe to visit Jamilah again.

TRAVIS: It looked like he was waiting for you, but he was kinda twitchy. He didn't end up eating much.

HINA: Was he...okay?

ROSA: He was fine.

JANELLE: He's just been kinda quiet the last few days--he told me he's been thinking about a lot of stuff. Well... [chuckle] He's been asking me a lot of random questions, too. But nothing that made me worry.

[long pause]

HINA: [chair scrapes back] Maybe I'll go join him.

SEB: Wait! Uh...

ROSA: He actually said he wanted to be alone.

[pause]

HINA: Oh. [sits down again]

[long pause]

JANELLE: Here, give me your plate. Do you like powdered sugar on yours? [chuckles darkly] You do NOT want to try the synthetics syrup.

TRAVIS: Actually, that depends. Have you had trouble shitting lately?

ROSA: I would like ONE meal where nobody's being disgusting, please.

TRAVIS: (in his defense) It's my birthday.

[scene fades out]

[Scene fades back into Hina's room. Ruffling of clothes]

[someone knocks on the door]

ROBBIE (muffled through the door): Hina?

HINA: Robbie. Hang on, I'm not...dressed.

[shuffles clothing]

HINA: Persephone, open the door.

[door sound]

ROBBIE: Sorry, I know it's late...

HINA: It's okay, I'm just...in my pajamas now. Do you care?

ROBBIE (nervously): I-I can see that. Um...

HINA: [sighs, almost laughs] Never mind. Come in. [a little louder] Persephone, close the door behind him.

[steps, door sound]

[long pause]

HINA: I didn't see you all day today.

ROBBIE: Yeah...

HINA: It's too bad--we were playing a new card game for Travis's party. I think you would've liked it.

ROBBIE: Uh...maybe.

HINA: But we can try it again after dinner tomorrow, if you want. Everybody said they wanted to do it again--

ROBBIE: Hina.

[long pause]

ROBBIE: I'm sorry to...I-I don't mean to pressure you about this, but I wanted to, um...

[long pause]

HINA: I know. I...told you I'd have an answer in a few months.

[long pause]

HINA: [sighs]

ROBBIE: If...if you need longer--

HINA: No, it's not that. I've done enough soul-searching by now. (quieter, a little dark) I'm kinda sick of it, honestly. [pause] Thinking so much about Earth and Tau Ceti Prime is just making me...depressed. (quiet) I just wanna focus on the now and get through this trip one day at a time.

ROBBIE: I-I understand that.

[long pause]

HINA: Robbie... [sighs] It's always been hard to pinpoint how I feel about you. I like you, and I think we...understand each other, in a lot of ways.

[pause]

HINA: But...God. [pause] You remember what I said, right? About how you're only going to be awake for a few years of my term?

ROBBIE: Yeah.

[long pause]

HINA: I already lost one man I love to time. I don't...wanna go through that again. (quieter) I'm sorry.

ROBBIE (suddenly excited): D-does that mean you love me?!

HINA: Robbie, I just--

ROBBIE: Hina!

[sound of hugging]

HINA: Nngh! Robbie, crushing me!

ROBBIE (still happy): I'm sorry! [shifts clothing] I'm sorry. I, um, I'm sorry...I'm sorry I put you through this...

HINA: Don't be sorry. You have...nngh. [shifting clothes as she hugs him back] (quietly) You have every right to try and be happy on this ship, too.

[long pause]

ROBBIE: Can...can *you* be happy on this ship?

HINA: I'm gonna...try. It's just hard. I miss the sun on my skin and the grass under my feet. [pause] And...Aya. And Bassel... [pause, sad chuckle] I know I have to let them go.

HINA: Even in the best case scenario, I'm still 30 years away from seeing them again. [deep breath] I have to figure out a way to live my life here. [pause] Rosa said it gets easier. Eventually.

[pause]

HINA: But...*you're* making it easier, Robbie. You and Janelle and the others. You're helping me through this.

[long pause]

HINA: I...hnnngh. [pause] (half-chuckle/half-sob) This is *so awkward*.

[long pause]

ROBBIE: No, it's okay. [shifts clothing] You don't have to say anymore. I understand.

HINA: (a little sarcastic) Do you? I don't think I'm being...that clear...

ROBBIE: You miss Earth. You miss everything you had there.

HINA: I think everyone does.

ROBBIE: I don't. Persephone is all I know. (quieter) I'm sorry I put you through this.

HINA: You don't have to *apologize*, Robbie.

[long silence]

[shift of clothes]

ROBBIE: Can I...stay with you? Just for tonight?

HINA: Robbie...

ROBBIE: I don't mean for sex. You said no, right? That part wasn't really clear...

HINA: (overlapping with above) R-right, no sex. (very awkward) Oh, God.

ROBBIE: I just...can I share your bed with you? Just once?

ROBBIE: It'll be like the first time I met you, when you were still asleep. Only now...I'll be even happier when you wake up.

HINA: That's a little creepy, Robbie.

ROBBIE: Is it? I'm sorry!

HINA: Yeah, but...it's all right. [chuckles slightly] You were raised on a ship surrounded by cryogenically frozen people. I can't blame you for not knowing that one.

[long pause]

HINA: Nn. [pause] Just this once, okay? And...I sorta stay to my side of the bed, so if

you stay on yours--

ROBBIE (quickly): Th-that's fine.

HINA: Nn. Yeah. (quieter) I *have* been a little lonely at night.

[long pause]

ROBBIE: I-I'll go change. Are you going to bed now?

HINA: I was planning to...

ROBBIE: Go ahead! I'll be right back.

HINA (half-laughing awkwardly): Okay.

PERSPECTIVE SWITCH: ROBBIE

[Fade back into the room that night.]

HINA: [breathing heavily in sleep]

ROBBIE (very quiet): Hina? [long pause] Hina?

ROBBIE: Persephone, volume 10 percent. Is Hina asleep?

PERSEPHONE (quiet): Yes, Robbie.

[Sounds of Robbie getting out of bed.]

ROBBIE (quietly): Persephone, open door 20 percent, then close it behind me. Lowest volumes possible.

[door open, quiet footsteps, door closes]

ROBBIE: [sighs] [sound of shifting fabric] [sound of a few footsteps down the hallway]

ROBBIE (still pretty quiet): [deep breath] Persephone, volume 20 percent. Please send an urgency flag to Rosa, urgent but not emergency. If she's awake, patch her through to me here, private line.

[tone]

[long pause]

ROSA (through speaker/fuzzy/quiet): [yawns] Robbie, what are you doing up? Is everything all right?

ROBBIE: Rosa... [deep, long sigh]

ROBBIE: We need to talk.

[Sound fades in. We hear Janelle fuzzy, through a door, running through the hallway outside, overlapping with Persephone.]

PERSEPHONE: Cryogenic thaw of Crew Passenger 19642, Elizabeth Adeyemi, has been initiated.

JANELLE: What? What the *hell* is going on?! [running footsteps] Persephone, where did you get the orders for another thaw?!

PERSEPHONE: Cryogenic thaw of Crew Passenger 19642, Elizabeth Adeyemi, has been initiated. Crew position: engineer, training level 4.2 of 7.

JANELLE (overlapping with above): Engineer? You're waking up a new engineer?! (panicking) Hina! [pounding on a door] **Hina!**

PERSEPHONE: Estimated time of thaw: 7 days, 13 hours, 30 minutes.

JANELLE: (overlapping with above) Persephone, patch me through to Hina's room!

[error noise]

PERSEPHONE (fading as it follows Janelle): Living quarters for Hina Hwan have been

reassigned.

JANELLE: [running sounds]

Foreground: [creaking bed, shifting sheets]

ROBBIE (foreground): Hnn.

PERSEPHONE (foreground): Good morning, Robbie. This is Day (slightly warped) 3,040 (/slight warped) of your shift on Persephone. You have 31 years, 152 days remaining. Have a nice day.

ROBBIE: [sighs] [gets out of bed]

ROBBIE: Persephone, let me out.

[Robbie walks through the hallway. We hear snippets of chaos elsewhere (in red) as he walks.]

[error tone]

PERSEPHONE: Hina Hwan cannot be contacted.

[door sound, Seb runs into the hall]

SEB: Maybe she's just under the radar with Robbie! (panicking slightly) Persephone, try Hina again!

[error tone]

PERSEPHONE: Hina Hwan cannot be contacted.

TRAVIS: What the fuck?!

[running feet; running feet with cane]

SEB: Call Rosa!

[fades out]

[Robbie stops at a door.]

ROBBIE: [sighs] Persephone, please let me into Crew Storage Level 49.

PERSEPHONE: Who are you visiting?

ROBBIE: Crew Passenger 23880.

[long pause]

ROBBIE: H...Hina Hwan.

[door sound]

[footsteps]

[pod humming grows louder until steps stop]

ROBBIE: [lets out a long breath]

ROBBIE: Goodbye.

END

The complete set of this series will contain an epilogue and additional material. For more details, please visit <http://www.sparklermonthly.com/series/awake>