

Gilda

*Pause.*

Are these relatives? Ancestors?

Ray I don't know any of these people.

Gilda You have pictures of strangers.

Ray I collect them.

Gilda You collect old photographs.

Ray That's very valuable that one –

Gilda *Alright.*

Ray ... It was taken on an early space flight. Nineteen sixties.

...

Damn near bankrupted myself getting hold of that one.

Gilda You can't just look at them online?

Ray They exist.

No one has anything that *exists* anymore.

Everything you own is just ones and zeroes.

...

They have a life.

Light trapped in paper.

Something from then I can hold onto now.

*He looks at the photo.*

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Ray Back when space travel meant something.

When people cared.

Gilda Some people still care.

Ray *No one* cares.

They care so much they've ditched us here and cut off contact.

Gilda It's a technical fault, they'll fix it.

Ray And how are you on your history, because we didn't send anyone anywhere for *decades* –

Gilda We've always launched –

Ray Not people.

Not people.

The only reason we even *started* way back when was just to fuck Russia.

Beat them to the first rock in spitting distance.

Once we started having our wars with countries that used *sticks* for weapons there was no threat of any of *them* getting out to Mars. Europa.

Gilda We have people on both now.

Ray Just your lot.

Scientists. People looking at rocks.

And only since the birds dropped out the trees.

Only to find some way of prolonging whatever paltry existence we can manage on our own planet. The one we *ruined*. It's too *late*.

Gilda Ray, this isn't –

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Ray All that'll happen next is the rich'll start shipping themselves out to their own private tin cans like this one, on whichever planet they can afford.

And no one gives a damn. Earth is pissing its last and everyone's just looking at their fucking shoes.

Gilda Ray –

Ray When I get back they're going to *retire* me, do you understand? They don't give two shits about an old cunt like me –

Gilda Ray.

Ray *catches his breath.*

*Pause.*