

Definition of *unearth*

- 1: to dig up out of or as if out of the earth : exhume
- 2: to make known or public : bring to light

The genesis of this work is rooted in questions that ultimately have no answer— yet. What effects might deep, prolonged space travel have on the human condition? Never before in human history has there been a more potent time to ask, with an answer seemingly in reach. As our wildest dreams of a millenia become more plausible each day, I fear it is easy to lose sight of the individuals who might embark on such a symbolic quest, and their experience of the journey.

In an attempt to humanize the popular fantasies of space exploration, this piece provides a short story within a much larger adventure; a momentary glimpse into a spaceship millions of miles away from Earth. In this hypothesis, four astronauts confront isolation, confinement, hallucination, loss, and fear in ways currently unfathomable to our terrestrial selves. In spite of it all, the dark void requires the best of humanity in each of them to survive— to successfully move forward they must embrace the best of what they've left behind, and each other.

Perhaps it would do us some good here on Earth to consider ourselves astronauts, and responsibly assume the roles we must play to maintain and support our spaceship. It is worth noting that the further we explore and probe space, the more special our planet appears. No where is it more evident than in the vastness of space that our livability on Earth's surface is miraculous. There may just be nothing else like it, which is why we must preserve this home, no matter how many leave to sail the stars.

- Half of the proceeds from this performance will be donated to The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and one of the world's largest environmental organizations addressing today's most urgent environmental challenges.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alex Meeth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.