

Characters:

ASSISTANT – The Elder’s Assistant. Young, enthusiastic, but not naïve.

ELDER UMARELL – Leader of the expedition. Stickler for the rules.

REISA – Builder. Pragmatic and independent.

BAHHAN – Cook. Chatty and caring.

USLUK – Security Officer. Paranoid and protective. Has an irrational fear of Chonkers (alien creatures).

MEDERI – Scientist. Intelligent and perfectionist.

CHOREIN – Explorer. Shy and nervous.

KEI.KI – Robot. Helpful and unassuming.

1. Head to the crew meeting

USLUK: What’s the trouble?

ELDER: The trouble, Usluk, is with our kin!

What was the Elder Federation thinking? Leaving Altra 2 like that... The blatant violation of protocol!

BAHHAN: How did they manage to get here before us?

MEDERI: We were asleep for thousands of cycles and science never stops! The propulsion technology on their ship must be a thing of beauty!

REISA: Alright, so they got a faster ship. But why didn’t they wait for us? Why did they leave?

 Could the Ascended tell us?

MEDERI: Hmph, perhaps if they would agree to interact with us a little more.

I would love to learn the science behind those pillars of theirs!

CHOREIN: Our people... we... did act rather carelessly with the planet. A little caution on their part is understandable.

 They ruined the planet...

ASSISTANT: Dead plants, sick animals, used up resources... It's the same reason we were looking for a new home.

BAHHAN: I have to say, when I first got out of my pod, I thought this place looked a lot like Altra 2... But it's so much nicer now!

CHOREIN: Oh, isn't it?! It's so, so colorful and everything smells nice! I wonder if it was all like this when they first arrived?

 ASSISTANT: Why don't we ask the other Alters, then? They must have settled on another planet by now. We could find them, right?

MEDERI: The crater in the forest... that must be their take-off site! I could certainly determine their direction of travel!

USLUK: And you have an expert in communications with you.

It's me. I'm the expert.

REISA: If you have the know-how, I can assemble a transmitter of some sort.

The problem is the energy input...

USLUK: Indeed, interplanetary communication requires a serious power source. We have what? KEi.Ki's charging dock?

ELDER: ...the Hearth Ship.

ExoCo may have cut a few corners with this expedition, but the ship's core is a marvel of engineering!

REISA: YES! With that type of power, we could beam up an entire satellite!

CHOREIN: But Elder... if we take out the core...

The ship's our only way off this planet. Does that mean we can't ever leave?

BAHHAN: Stuck here? By the Plentiful!

ELDER: I think in my attempt to blindly rely on protocol, my decisions may have been... misguided.

This should be *your* decision. All of you, please think on this.

Assistant, a word, if you please. In private.

2. Talk to Elder Umarell

ASSISTANT: You wanted to speak with me?

ELDER: Assistant, I am not feeling very well.

You have been so good with the others. Talk with them. Find out where they stand.

ELDER: This decision must be made, and it must be unanimous.
Start with Reisa. I trust their judgement most.

3. Talk to Reisa

ASSISTANT: What do you think about this Hearth Ship debate?

REISA: Where would we go? If we decided to leave this planet, I mean. We can't go back to Altra 2. There's nothing left for us there.

 We could follow the other Alters?

REISA: Would they even take us in? I don't want to depend on anyone's favor when we can make something for ourselves here.

 We could just stay here.

REISA: You know, I never really had a home, but I think I finally found it! What we have here is worth keeping! We just need to do a better job than in the past.

 ASSISTANT: I'm glad to hear you say that! It won't be easy, but we can make this place nice again!

REISA: Listen, I'll get working on that communication tower. If nothing else, we could use it as a standard radio.

ASSISTANT: Great idea! You do that and, hey, maybe leave space for a power core in your design?

REISA: You got it!

4. Talk to Bahhan

ASSISTANT: Hey, Bahhan, you seemed concerned about taking out the ship's core earlier.

BAHHAN: Me? Not at all!

This planet has so many flavors I've yet to experience! I could happily spend a lifetime discovering new dishes here.

Also, I like sharing a house with Reisa, you know. Would be a shame to leave this all behind.

 I think Reisa feels the same.

BAHHAN: Yes, we... had a talk. I think we'll stick together for a while.

ASSISTANT: Ooh, congrats!

 Glad you like it here!

BAHHAN: It started out rough, but things are finally looking up!

 BAHHAN: I hope you'll find someone too! Not sure who...

Oh, I heard the Elder and Usluk had a fling in their youth, but I think they're both single now!

ASSISTANT: Umm... I don't know what to do with this information...

5. Talk to Mederi

MEDERI: I do not have time. I am just gathering my tools before I start calculating the distance to the nearest planet!

 To find a new home for ourselves?

MEDERI: You want to leave? I did not take you for a quitter.

ASSISTANT: I'm not! And neither are you, it seems.

Are you trying to find the other Alters?

 To find the other Alters?

 MEDERI: Of course! Not only will this be a remarkable opportunity for me to test out my interplanetary communication hypothesis, but I am also looking forward to hearing from our peers.

I can only imagine the discoveries they must have made to travel through space so quickly!

ASSISTANT: I'm sure they'll be curious to hear your theories too.

MEDERI: Curious? I am going to stun their entire scientific community!

Get that power core out already so I can start messaging them!

ASSISTANT: That's... the spirit!?

6. Talk to Usluk

ASSISTANT: How are you doing? This must all feel a bit sudden since you just joined us at the base.

USLUK: You can say that again! Barely knocked the snow off my boots and now we're talking about disassembling the Hearth Ship?!

ASSISTANT: What do you make of all this?

USLUK: What can we do? Follow our kin? Not likely. Even if we caught up with them, who knows what we'd find?

 You don't trust them?

USLUK: We must be relics to them... old tech, old views.

 Better to deal with what we know.

USLUK: Exactly! We have the advantage in our territory.

 USLUK: But I think we could ally with the other Alters *from a distance*.

I have things to ask about this place. About the Chonkers...

ASSISTANT: You want to take apart the Hearth Ship so you can ask about Chonkers?!

USLUK: Staying informed keeps me one step ahead of them! Can't let them outmaneuver me.

ASSISTANT: Right... definitely putting that on the agenda of things to discuss via the interplanetary communication tower.

USLUK: Very good, sprout! You catch on fast.

7. Talk to Chorein

ASSISTANT: Oh, no! What's the matter, Chorein?

CHOREIN: I- To tell you the truth, I'm scared... Exploring this planet – it's thrilling! But I always counted on having a way out.

What if we find something terrifying here? What if that's why the other Alters left in such a hurry? If we take out the ship's core, we'd have to face that. All alone!

 Not alone, Chorein. Together!

ASSISTANT: We've had to deal with a lot since we landed, but we came through because we helped each other!

 We can't keep running away.

ASSISTANT: The most terrifying thing here is the state of this place. Let's fix it! We can't just do it all over somewhere else.

 CHOREIN: Hmm, the more I learn about this place, the less strange it will feel, won't it?

ASSISTANT: That's right!

8. Return to the Elder

ASSISTANT: Elder, I've spoken to the crew! There were obvious concerns, but in the end everyone agreed: we should use the ship's core for the communication tower.

ELDER: Good. I must say, I am not looking forwards to having to explain all of this to the Elder Federation. But they owe us some answers too.

Either way, it will be good to have their aid and counsel. You may need their wisdom... in case anything happens.

 Your wisdom is enough.

ELDER: Ah, it has its shortcoming, as I came to realize.

 We can handle whatever comes our way!

ELDER: I had my doubts, but you have proven me wrong. Thank the Plentiful for that!

 ELDER: But back to the matter at hand. I have shut down the power core so it can be safely removed. Simply disconnect it from the primary drive.

I would have, naturally, turned it back on if you had decided not to use it!

ASSISTANT: Of course.