

# Diary writers

## Character 1:

**Name:** Lata (Female)

**Nationality:** Indian

**Role:** Biologist

## Key notes on story:

- It heavily involves another character that's female, and married. Sophia (American). They have conflicting views and motivations.
- Both of them work in similar departments that require them to work together. Sophia being a Chemist.
- Her entries focus on the conflict onboard, and the discoveries of plant life on Elpis. Also discuss the possibilities of other life forms on the planet.

## Diary entry 1: (256 characters)

So... I decided to start keeping a journal since I've been assigned to Solus project.

It's an honour to be one of the selected to save Earth. All of my friends asked me if I'm sure about this.

It's a suicide mission, but I try not to think about it that way.

## Diary entry 2: (255 characters)

We don't have a planet B. And that's why we have the Solus project.

It feels like my insides are on fire, saying good-bye to all my loved ones. I'm excited to be part of this adventure to save the people of Earth, but I'm sad to leave my loved ones behind.

## Diary entry 3: (244 characters)

I met some of my future colleagues today. I'm going to work aside a woman named Sophia. She told me that she's also worried about leaving her friends and family behind and that she'll lend an ear if I want to talk with someone. She seems nice.

## Diary entry 4: (256 characters)

Launch day! I was so nervous during the whole thing. I guess this is it... I still haven't processed it all yet.

We all watched as our blue planet became smaller and smaller as the distance grew. Elpis is 15 years away and our departure marks the first step.

**Diary entry 5: (259 characters)**

15 years – Earth time – away, but 8 years traveling time as time flows more slowly onboard the ship. My friends told me that it seemed trippy when I told them that. I would've explained further, but we have a limited time per week for personal communication.

**Diary entry 6: (232 characters)**

Sophia is always going on about how having a family is her driving force. I just want her to get off my back. Having all that doesn't guarantee happiness, and not wanting the white-picket fence life doesn't mean you failed in life.

**Diary entry 7: (255 characters)**

And now she's asking me if she can use my assigned communication time. If life was so perfect on Earth, why not spend the rest of their lives together on Earth? She won't be able to ever see them again by joining the Solus project. Ugh, I'm so frustrated!

**Diary entry 8: (245 characters)**

I asked Frédéric if he wanted to help out with going through some of the scans of Elpis' surface. Sophia was supposed to be there too, but she didn't show up. This isn't good, we're all supposed to be working together for these upcoming years!

**Diary entry 9: (254 characters)**

We should've had gotten a bartender, or at least a mini-bar. Writing doesn't really help me vent for long. Maybe I'll book an appointment with the councillor. Moon seems to handle it differently, she's become a little cooky. Maybe as a result of boredom.

**Diary entry 10: (252 characters)**

During the latest Q&A session Casey responded that one of the things he was missing on the ship was a bar (Yeah!) and the overall reaction among the crew was applause. I could see both Lars and Amon were considering striking that question off the list.

**Diary entry 11: (253 characters)**

I wonder what the general public thinks of us. Like if we're a bunch of serious scientists, all wearing sterile white lab coats and always doing research. We watched the Q&A episode that featured our crew and everything felt so scripted and artificial.

**Diary entry 12: (257 characters)**

There are so many things that the Terra Nova group prohibits us from saying, and it just feels wrong that everyone we want to talk to has to sign an agreement not to tell anyone what our discussions are about. Maybe Fredric's right about them censoring us.

**Diary entry 13: (247 characters)**

I saw Moon reading off a script given to her from Amon. Apparently the next episode will be featuring all the astronomers on all the ships. But when Isabella and Hatim had their episode they weren't given any script. But Moon is a bit weird, so...

**Diary entry 14: (257 characters)**

This ship is slowly starting to turn into my own private hell. Sophia just keeps going on about her family and how much she misses them. We all knew that we're never going back, so why didn't she just stay with her family instead if she loves them so much!?

**Diary entry 15: (249 characters)**

I'm trying to keep my sanity by bouncing ideas with Fredrick about the possibilities of organic lifeforms on Elpis. The rapid and extreme changes in the temperature should eliminate the possibility, and I'm curious to see how they manage to survive.

**Diary entry 16: (260 characters)**

Sophia has almost broken down completely. She's mostly spending her days staring apathetically at the nothingness surrounding the ship. She bluntly admitted that she thought that the things she should've kept her strong were instead the things that broke her.

**Diary entry 17: (242 characters)**

Frédéric and I were going through the recent scans of the planet's surface. Advanced Spectrographic analysis shows carbon compounds scattered along the surface, almost perfectly lining up on the areas where the suspected plant life might be.

**Diary entry 18: (254 characters)**

I decided to show our findings regarding the carbon compounds to Corina. The image resolution of the orbiters is not enough to tell, because we were counting on most of the information to come from the landers. She said she would look into it a further.

**Diary entry 19: (248 characters)**

Corina commented on seeing traces of methane. It's very faint, and we don't really know what the source might be. We speculated for a while, but we won't know until we land. If only the land probes had been successful. Then we would have more data.

**Diary entry 20: (258 characters)**

Sophia has started to calm down and has gone back to work. We're now almost certain that there's complex plant life on the surface, not just microbes. What adaptations they developed in order to survive in the harsh climate will have to be discovered once we've landed.

**Diary entry 21: (253 characters)**

Things are looking bright for Elpis to become a potential colony if it has carbon-based plant life. If there are plants, there may also be animals larger than microbes. While everyone's celebrating these finds, Frédéric 's hung up about something else.

**Diary entry 22: (254 characters)**

Frédéric is still worried about the landing probes. Though it is of some concern, he's being paranoid about it. Moon chimed in and said that it might be aliens. Or that a wizard did it. The expression on Frédéric's face was priceless when she said that.

**Diary entry 23: (259 characters)**

We're all so very busy so I haven't found any time to write stuff down. I would say that we're not that far away from Elpis. Most people onboard are really excited, but then there's Frédéric. He's freaking out about having to change the planned landing site.

**Diary entry 24: (258 characters)**

Frédéric and Casey told us we have to change the landing site. Something about the rocks appears to be more jagged than what we initially thought. While Casey seems calm about it, Frédéric's worried about something. But him being cynical isn't anything new.

**Diary entry 25: (235 characters)**

Everyone onboard gathered together so we could run by the plan once more. When we land, we'll start a temporary research base in the lander, and then some will get started right away with their research while others set up a permanent base.

**Diary entry 26: (260 characters)**

Now would be a great time to reveal that there's been a bottle of champagne hidden onboard that we can open once we finally land! Just having something extra nice to celebrate would be nice, you know? We've been traveling for so many years! We're almost there now!

## **Character 2:**

**Name:** Amon (male)

**Nationality:** Egyptian

**Role:** Representative from the Terra Nova group, assigned as a Psychologist.

### **Key notes on story:**

- His diary pages focus on his work as a psychologist onboard and the well-being of the crew.
- Also mentions a lot of his current work with Terra Nova, and about the Terra Nova group.

### **Diary entry 1: (245 characters)**

It is day one of our mission, we broadcasted our departure live, all across the globe. Though it didn't take long until we got problems with the signal. I'm scheduled to meet half of the crewmembers in two weeks to evaluate their mental health.

### **Diary entry 2: (225 characters)**

Henriksen and I had originally planned that I would counsel half of the crew and he the other half. Though we're having problems with some of the crew refusing to attend appointments, namely Montserrat, Joachim and Frédéric.

### **Diary entry 3: (260 characters)**

I've given all of the crewmembers a diary. It's without any doubt that this mission will put some severe mental strain on the crewmembers, so it's important that they have emotional outlets. Some seem to have the erroneous conception that this is unnecessary.

### **Diary entry 4: (254 characters)**

Most of the crew says that they feel like there's no point in keeping a diary. I told them that their diaries may also be used later on as historic document as they will be the representing founders of the Elpis colony. This seems to have inspired some.

### **Diary entry 5: (253 characters)**

Some of the crewmembers are experiencing strong feelings of homesickness, most notably the chemist, Sophia. However, we are not too concerned that this will negatively impact their work. Sophia's labpartner, Lata, seems to have paired up with Frédéric.

**Diary entry 6: (226 characters)**

We should focus on helping those experiencing severe homesickness by booking in appointments to give them a chance to properly express their feelings, and give them some information and ideas on how to address these feelings.

**Diary entry 7: (260 characters)**

We're having problems with some of the crew refusing to attend appointments, namely Montserrat, Joachim and Frédéric. They all must have a reason for avoiding appointments. They aren't refusing doctor's appointments, so it might be due to some misconceptions.

**Diary entry 8: (260 characters)**

We received a notice from Terra Nova Headquarters that they want to televise recordings of the crew on all ships. Along with the notice there was a long list of planned topics which will be the focus of certain episodes. The first one is a basic Q&A session.

**Diary entry 9: (251 characters)**

I managed to convince Joachim to attend an appointment. It seems like his reasons for not previously attending were misconceptions. We're not here to analyze or criticize the crew. As psychologists, our job is to help our patients, not embarrass them.

**Diary entry 10: (251 characters)**

Out of all the members on this crew, I would have to say that Montserrat is the most elusive one. I've heard both praise and critique about her eccentric behaviour, so we will have to provide her with a script and precept for the next broadcast event.

**Diary entry 11: (258 characters)**

Montserrat tried to derail our conversation by asking outrageous questions and go off topic. While asking her to please show up for appointments, she asked us how we could've possibly stored enough antidepressants for everyone onboard, for the next 15 years.

### **Character 3:**

**Name:** Frédéric (male)

**Nationality:** French

**Role:** Geologist

#### **Key notes on story:**

- Opposes the Terra Nova group, and writes about his view on the group.
- Cynical and a worrier, his entries mentions several things that worried him about the Solus project and the journey.

#### **Diary entry 1: (259 characters)**

I got assigned to Elpis, the planet that they were considering striking off the list because the landing probes went all silent. They try to reassure us that it's just a tech glitch, as the orbiter is working fine and sending back really promising data.

#### **Diary entry 2: (258 characters)**

I feel like this has "suicide mission" written all over it, but not many seem to share my concern. Perhaps they're hiding it. Maybe so they don't have to get "educated" by the Terra Nova group. I wonder if they know that I was part of those protests in May.

#### **Diary entry 3: (258 characters)**

I've heard that there'll be representatives from Terra Nova onboard with us for the 15-year long mission. You know what they say, keep your friends close, but keep your enemies closer. But I didn't think I'd spend the rest of my life living among my enemies.

#### **Diary entry 4: (232 characters)**

I have less material than planned to go on since the landing probes didn't send any information. At least the other scientists on the crew invite me to bounce ideas off them on other subjects that don't strictly belong to my field.

#### **Diary entry 5: (260 characters)**

Since the land probe mission didn't succeed, we don't have any real atmosphere analysis or mineral samples. The orbiters can only send us generic data, and thus we can't date the planet properly. Both Casey and I speculate that the planet might be quite young.



**Diary entry 6: (247 characters)**

Lata, one of the biologists, invited me to work with her as she goes through some of the orbiter's scans of the surface. She refuses to admit it, but she appears to be fighting with Sophia. I don't want to mention it in fear of getting kicked out.

**Diary entry 7: (238 characters)**

Lata has continuously invited me to help out with her work as Sophia seems to be spending much time with the counselor. We're all educated on several subjects, it's just that Geology is my specialty. But doing this is better than nothing.

**Diary entry 8: (235 characters)**

There were supposedly two landing probes sent to Elpis, along with the Orbiters. Once the landing probes reached the surface, each would've let a rover out. So even if the transmitters were broken, the probes should be on the surface.

**Diary entry 9: (260 characters)**

The psychologists are representatives from Terra Nova and I don't feel comfortable disclosing any secrets to them. They're all a shifty-looking bunch with their "that's classified information"-excuse for everything. I know you're lying and censoring the truth.

**Diary entry 10: (253 characters)**

I sometimes feel like I'm spiraling down to a madness and paranoia that nobody else seems to worry about. Most of the crew's cheerful and hopeful attitude regarding the latest scans seems to make me more annoyed than happy. The landing probes are gone.

**Diary entry 11: (253 characters)**

We might be able to locate the landing probes at their planned landing sites from the orbiter, but we have seen nothing from the scans of these areas. Elpis is large, and the probes may easily have landed somewhere else or burned up on atmospheric entry.

**Diary entry 12: (254 characters)**

I'm trying to spend more time alone so that I don't accidentally lash out on someone who's not deserving it. Montserrat pops up every now and then, like a spider crawling on the wall. She's quite the nuisance. I just have to hope she'll stop pursuing me.

**Diary entry 13: (257 characters)**

We all had to participate in filming a Q&A session for Terra Nova's television program back on Earth. It's supposed to serve as a source of information to the public about the Solus project. Of course, all of it is staged by the group to suit their liking.

**Diary entry 14: (256 characters)**

I watched the episode that we were all forced to attend. It was as expected, staged. Terra Nova are making sure they maintain their image of professionalism and hope. They don't care about humanity, they only care about who can pay their way to the colonies.

**Diary entry 15: (244 characters)**

Maybe I'm wrong, and Terra Nova is actually trying to avoid widespread panic. Regardless, people on Earth are being fed lies that there might be hope that they too will be saved. Is it right to save a few and let everyone else die in ignorance?

**Diary entry 16: (252 characters)**

Montserrat is the latest victim of having to participate in special feature episodes. She showed me the script and precept that she had to follow, though I do partially understand why they would give her something like that due to her quirky behaviour.

**Diary entry 17: (242 characters)**

Montserrat showed up while I was fuming due to having to deal with more of Terra Nova's censor bullshit. She asked me if I wanted her to accompany me in the episode I have to participate in, and stated that she also disapproves of the group.

**Diary entry 18: (259 characters)**

When Montserrat showed up before the filming both Amon's and Lars' face dropped. They both knew they would have to provide her with a script, and it had to be done with a time constraint. They couldn't turn her away since she's also knowledgeable in geology.

**Diary entry 19: (249 characters)**

After going through the latest scans of the surface with Casey, we decided it would be for the best to change the landing site. The initial site has jagged cliffs and prominent boulders, meaning that making landing there could result in a disaster.

**Diary entry 20: (257 characters)**

The landing site Casey suggested was one of the landing sites where one of the landing probes should be. But there's no trace of it on the site. Even if it had broken down it should still be there. Casey told me that it might be buried underneath the sand.

**Diary entry 21: (241 characters)**

I've started looking at the high-resolution scans we have of the planned probe landing areas. If the rovers are functioning then they should be somewhere on Elpis, even if the transmitters are broken. However, nothing has been found so far.

**Diary entry 22: (245 characters)**

It's impossible for a mere person to check high-resolution scans of the whole planetary surface, and the low-resolution maps wouldn't show anything smaller than a few hundred meters. Yet I refuse to give up on this impossible endeavor just yet.

**Diary entry 23: (254 characters)**

What if they went underground? What if the probes are covered in sand? No, I refuse to believe that it would be something as convenient as that. The crew might say I'm paranoid, but I refuse to walk away from such a big unanswered question.

**Diary entry 24: (250 characters)**

I'm becoming more frustrated. Montserrat showed up while I was looking through all of the scans once more. I still can't find any traces or an explanation to why that is. I think she might've tried to cheer me up, but she said she would help me out.

**Diary entry 25: (258 characters)**

I try to be as discreet as possible about my continued search so no more people find out. Montserrat showed up when I had cleared the table and asked if I had looked for any tracks on the surface. I told her that the windy climate would've erased all tracks.

**Diary entry 26: (250 characters)**

I'm starting to feel appreciation for Montserrat's company. She doesn't dismiss my feelings by saying I'm overthinking things or that I'm paranoid. Instead she acknowledges them and continues the conversation with her quirky behaviour.

**Diary entry 27: (255 characters)**

Moon returned with some bad news today. We had hoped that Eutimio would send back the high- res scans to Earth so that AI software could scan through images and maybe detect the probes. He responded that they already did that when the probes went silent.

**Diary entry 28: (250 characters)**

Moon showed up at my quarters whilst most of the crew were sleeping, carrying a snack she's been saving from 2 weeks prior. She said she wished to speak with me in private. I had to decline for now, but I'm not sure what it is that's bothering her.

**Diary entry 27: (241 characters)**

I meet up with Moon tonight, and for the first time she was calm and utterly serious. She shared her feelings about the future. When I asked her about it she responded with that she has an unshakable feeling that something is about to happen to us.

**Diary entry 28: (241 characters)**

Most of my fear has been stilled about the landing probes for the moment, but now I am instead left with an ominous feeling that something is about to happen. Everyone is very excited that we're going to land soon, and our landing is going to be recorded and sent back to Earth.

## Mentioned crewmembers

### Character 1:

**Name:** Sophia (Female)

**Nationality:** American

**Role:** Biologist/Chemist

**Mentioned in:** Lata's diary (heavily), Amon's diary (mentioned)

### Character 2:

**Name:** Lars Henriksen (Male)

**Nationality:** Danish

**Role:** Psychologist/Curator

**Mentioned in:** Amon's diary (mentioned), Frédéric's diary (mentioned)

### Character 3:

**Name:** Joachim (Male)

**Nationality:** Israel/Bulgaria

**Mentioned in:** Amon's diary (mentioned)

### Character 4:

**Name:** Casey (Male)

**Nationality:** Irish

**Role:** Geologist

**Mentioned in:** Amon's diary (mentioned)

### Character 5:

**Name:** Hatim (Male)

**Nationality:** Jordan

**Role:** Doctor

**Mentioned in:** Lata's diary (mentioned)

### Character 6:

**Name:** Isabella (Female)

**Nationality:** Italian

**Role:** Doctor

**Mentioned in:** Lata's diary (mentioned)

**Character 7:**

**Name:** Montserrat (female), often referred to as “Moon”

**Nationality:** Chile/American

**Role:** Astronomer

**Mentioned in:** Lata’s diary (mentioned), Amon’s diary (mentioned), Frédéric’s diary (heavily)

**Character 8:**

**Name:** Corina (female)

**Nationality:** German

**Role:** ???

**Mentioned in:** Lata’s diary (mentioned)

**Character 9:**

**Name:** Eutimio (male)

**Nationality:** Mexico

**Role:** Engineer/Communicator in charge of communication between Earth and the ship

**Mentioned in:** Frédéric’s diary (mentioned)