

TN SANJI BARDO

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9

START ①

TRAVELER

Is there a Doctor here?!

The figure looks up between wracking breaths. His name is SANJI BARDO, a pudgy, exuberant East Indian man.

BARDO

(ragged)

I am a doctor!

TRAVELER

Yeah, but you're sitting flat on your ass. We need another doctor.

ELISABETH

(on the move)

How can I help?

With Maddy in tow, Elisabeth stoops to examine the wheezing Bardo. Checks his pulse and vitals with the aid of a DIAGNOSTIC DEVICE she pulls from her backpack.

BARDO

I can't breathe... dear God, I can't breathe!

ELISABETH

(checking device)

Resolving tachycardia, diaphoresis... you're having a minor panic attack.

BARDO

Minor?! We're about to be hurled through a time portal eighty-five million years into the past! Correction, Doctor -- I'm having a MAJOR panic attack!

ELISABETH

And I understand. This is scary for all of us.

(squeezes his hand,
reassuringly)

You're going to be okay.

MADDY

(jumping in)

There've been nine Pilgrimages before us. Never a problem.

(CONTINUED)

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20 SEPT

BARDO

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BARDO

Increasing the statistical odds that this will be the ill-fated journey.

ELISABETH

I can give you a mild sedative, if you'd like.

Bardo suddenly notes her dangling name tag.

BARDO

(rising stiffly)

Elisabeth Shannon?! You're the Elisabeth Shannon?

ELISABETH

That's me.

BARDO

You wrote that thesis on the effects of ozone depletion on neuropathology. Your work was instrumental in saving thousands of lives in my district.

ELISABETH

I had a great team behind me.

BARDO

Well, I'm honored to be able to work with you. I'm a paleo-botanist.

ELISABETH

Pleasure's mine, Dr. Bardo. This is my daughter Maddy.

MADDY

If you dropped a few pounds you could minimize the freak-outs.

ELISABETH

Maddy!

BARDO

(chuckling, feeling better)

The girl's absolutely right. I've gained fifteen kilos since I was recruited for this trip.

END ①

(CONTINUED)

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