

Julia Ecklar

"Darkness"

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There's a darkness out between the stars that any eye
can see
There's a deeper dark within me where no light will
ever be
There's an empty place beside me where my lover
ought to stand
There's a burning sun before me and the throttle's in
my hand

Two days ago I lost him on a world without a name
As we touched the land to claim it for the thousandth
time the same
Then I left him but a moment and I did not see him fall
I know only that I failed him, never heard him final call

I dug her grave in alien ground in the shade of alien
wood
And I touched him there one final time and I said what
words I could
Let that cold world hold him gently for he came so far
to die
Then I took the ship that was our home and blasted for
the sky

But deep space holds no comfort for one broken and
alone
And our ship held only memories of the joys that we
once had known
And I could not live without him in a life no longer whole
So I chose to die by starlight and let fire cleanse my
soul

And now the screens grow blinding bright, the fires
burn ahead
The hull around me whispers as it glows an angry red
There's a high cold wind behind me as if starships to
could cry
But my hand is cold and steady for the time has come
to die

But now my love comes back to me 'cross gulfs I'll

never know
And I hear his voice within me and I hear him saying no
And I pull the throttle to me and the forward thrusters
burn
And the ship cries out in agony as she fights to make
the turn

My vision starts to fail me as the forces mount and
grow
And I wonder when the ship will fail and I wonder if I'll
know
Then the screens before me darken and a coolness
strikes my face
Then there's nothing left before me but the endless
depths of space

There's a darkness out between the stars that any eye
can see
But there's light within that darkness touches even a
fool like me
For I know my love forgives me and I know he loves me
still
Once we roamed the stars together. Now I know we
always will

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