

ESCAPE VELOCITY

Where Does It Go From Here?

Escape Velocity is an event series designed for multiple seasons - telling a serialized story first contact with extraterrestrial intelligence.

At its core, *Escape Velocity* features extreme personal and emotional stakes: an alien invasion in which the aliens come not as conquerors, but as our children.

SERIES THEME

As a series, *Escape Velocity* asks timeless questions relevant to every human being:

What does it mean to be a parent?

How are our children a reflection of our true selves?

And - most importantly:

How far would you go to protect your child?

Escape Velocity is a high-concept sci-fi series in which the hero is a mother... and humanity is saved not by brute force, but good parenting.

SEASON ONE: INFANCY

The birth of the Pilot sends shockwaves from Enyo to the mainland: not just because Vertu wants to study the child, but because - like a pilot fish - it triggers the acceleration of all pregnancies in the village.

By episode four, twenty children will be born on Enyo - all resembling the Pilot, communicating telepathically and bonding profoundly with their parents, even as the corporation draws its plans to kidnap and study them.

The birth of these children is no accident: **they are a genetic message, sent telepathically to Earth from the outer recesses of the galaxy... by the last survivors of an**

ancient cataclysm making one last gasp at survival...

...but are these human/alien beings we will call **CYBRIDS** manipulating the emotions of their parents for some nefarious goal, or do they yearn to coexist with humanity?

As tensions escalate, the corporation will move to use force - staging a full-scale invasion of Enyo with a team of mercenaries - to take for themselves the Cybrids, and all of the knowledge they carry within..

...forcing Emily to lead a group of parents - scientists, engineers and civilians - to make bold decision that changes the course of human history.

To steal the Agathos Six spaceship and take their Cybrid children on a desperate escape to Mars.

INDIVIDUAL STORIES

EMILY: A born leader, Emily will recover from the trauma of pregnancy and the birth of the her Cybrid to be at the forefront of discovery involving the children: from their telepathy, to the truth of their alien origin, and starting a special "school" in which to keep the Cybrids safe. Like any "lean in" mom, Emily will have to wrestle with the possibility that her drive has compromised her bond with her child. With Vertu's private army closing in, Emily will make the ultimate decision to steal Agathos Six to lead the escape from Earth: even if that forces her to make the ultimate sacrifice and leave her beloved Mike behind.

Indeed, at the end of season one, Emily will have reached Escape Velocity - but at a terrible price.

CHRIS: Shaken to his core by the birth of the Pilot, Chris will reject his wife and child and become militant: joining a small band of fanatics (mostly fathers, like him, who cannot adjust) in trying to destroy the Cybrids. By the end of the season Chris will have tried to bomb the special school set up for the Cybrids and be incarcerated. Finally coming around to the truth that flesh and blood cannot be denied, Chris will be sprung from confinement as Vertu invades Enyo. Chris will ultimately help Emily complete Agathos Six and co-pilot her departure, redeeming himself and re-ascending to the role of loving father and husband

to Fatima and their Cybrid.

MIKE: Faithful, loving and tenacious, Mike will stand by his wife's side in all things - and ultimately agree to stay behind when it becomes clear that it is the only way to save one more Cybrid from Vertu. Also, forming an unlikely team with David, Mike will also be the force that discovers the alien connection to the Cybrids. As Emily becomes more involved with the science of her child as opposed to its well-being, Mike will become Emily's conscience and empathy - especially when he realizes that their Cybrid is neither male nor female, but a third sex unique in the culture of the race responsible for the telepathic communication between all Cybrids: quite literally a bridge between male and female (who will make it possible for them to communicate when separated in season two).

FATIMA: As Chris turns from her - and joins other estranged husbands unable to make peace with their unusual offspring, Fatima will become the one who redeems him. Her love and maternal instinct will ultimately prove to Chris that their love need not be a casualty of their parenthood... she will ultimately free Chris and make it possible for him to complete Agathos Six in time to escape from Vertu's army. Together, they will travel to Mars with their son - as husband and wife and father and mother.

DAVID AND HELEN: Because of his neuroatypicality, David will find himself uniquely able to understand the Cybrids. Coming to see their coming as a profound spiritual event with massive implications for humanity, Helen will team up with Emily to start the special Cybrid "school" - but also to defend them as the anti-Cybrid sentiment grows around them - especially among the fathers of the strange children. Together, this odd couple will represent the collusion between science and spirituality - and become the crux of humanity's ability to understand the Cybrids.

JASON AND MERCEDES: Stoic and militaristic, Jason will seem like the company's muscle from the start... but in truth, his sense of fair play and right and wrong will quickly move him to work covertly against Antonia and Vertu, a truth that will not be revealed until very late in the season - by which time, he will become crucial in forming the resistance to Vertu's incoming army. Conversely, Mercedes

will bite fully from the apple: tempted by Antonia with promises of advancement in the Vertu ranks and a one-way ticket to wealth and position in the United States, Mercedes will compromise her morality to become the muscle behind the corporation... leading to...

ANTONIA: She has given everything to Vertu - and expects to receive everything in return. Antonia will eventually come to know that Robert Canton placed Enyo where he did and funded Mike's dig with prior knowledge of a series of tablets left by the alien race in antiquity... and was hoping something like this would happen. Antonia will come to believe that Vertu is the way to control the alien intelligence - which they see as a legitimate threat to Earth - and that doing Robert Canton's bidding is the way to ultimate power. She will begin a program to kidnap the children, and when that fails, she will call in the private army. With Enyo under siege - and blindsided by Emily's gambit to take Agathos Six - Antonia will prove herself by taking as many Cybrids for herself - five in total - from Enyo before they can be spirited away.

THE CYBRIDS: They grow at an accelerated rate. They communicate in cyphers. By the end of season one, they will look like five year-olds, by the end of season two, they will be pre-teens.

In season one, they will reveal incredible skills and knowledge... but they will never reveal who they are or why they are here... that will have to wait until...

SEASON TWO: CHILDHOOD

Eight months after the end of season one, Agathos Six arrives on Mars. Emily and Chris lead the charge to establish the colony - making landfall and deploying the domed city contained in Agathos One through Five with the help of their robotic crews... facing impossible odds in a hostile world.

Emily's heart stings with longing for Mike, even as she bonds with her Cybrid child, needing it to fill a familial void missing from her life. In turn, the Cybrids soon prove that in spite of their youth, they have great knowledge of space travel, physics and survival, and are thus the

colonists's greatest allies.

The Cybrids also grow powerful enough in their telepathy to communicate with Earth.

Back home, Vertu Ore holds three Cybrids. They have become strange, cold beings. They cling to each other, and to Mercedes and Antonia, the closest things they have to parents - but are aware that these women are not really family. It is unclear if these Cybrids are working with, or manipulating Vertu Ore.

The first child taken by Vertu emerges as leader of her group... she is the most manipulative, and quickest to turn on "human child" charms with the researchers, only to become cold and alien when alone with the other two.

Devoid of love and caring, these Cybrids are becoming sociopathic and power hungry.

Meanwhile, Mike and the resistance - including Jason, Helen and David - go underground, taking the remaining Cybrids with them. At first, Mike keeps working in the ruins - concealed by friendly locals - trying to figure out the source of the tablets... all the while hoping for some communication from Emily.

Eventually, Mike and his group must return to the states - as the Cybrid telepathy not only allows him to communicate with Emily on Mars - leading to an emotional reunion of their minds - but also to realize that the Cybrids at Vertu have come into a piece of knowledge that changes everything.

There are many more tablets, all over the Earth - and gathering them together will give do to the entire planet what the black waves of anti-light did to Enyo: within two generation, every living being on Earth will be a Cybrid.

The big revelation: the alien race always intended to invade, but the Cybrids have, because of their contact with humanity, become empathic. The Cybrids raised by the corporation are the only ones keeping alive the goal of invasion, the others have become too emotional and attached to humanity to destroy it.

Now it's a race to gather the tablets - and protect them from Vertu and their Cybrids.

Mike, Jason and David return to the States via a makeshift underground railroad - and their Cybrids aid them in recruiting new members to their cause... but the lead Cybrid at Vertu stages a telepathic counter attack.

Eventually, two of Mike's Cybrids defect to Vertu Ore.

Now numbering five, and unencumbered by human emotion, the Vertu Cybrids telepathically sabotage their counterparts on Mars.

The colony faces cataclysmic failure - and even as Emily and Chris heroically save themselves and their city, Emily realizes she must return home with her Cybrid - the only third-gender one in the crew - to save Mike and his resistance.

Emily's Cybrid has grown powerful as well - and she soon realizes that her child can channel the emotions of all the other Cybrids to heal those who have been made sociopathic... but for that, the prodigal must return to Earth.

At the same time, Mike's underground realizes that they must break up the Vertu Cybrids before their telepathic abilities make them unstoppable.

As Emily races to Earth, Mike, Jason and David stage an all-out assault on Vertu Ore. In a season-ending cliffhanger, find themselves outgunned and outnumbered... will they survive?

SEASON THREE AND BEYOND: ADOLESCENCE AND ADULTHOOD

As *Escape Velocity* develops, new characters and plot strands will emerge, so the story can be made flexible enough to accommodate whatever changes may occur on the way - but the grand design is simple and consistent: a story in which humanity faces invasion, but instead of repelling it by force, does what humanity does best - assimilate.

Adopt, adapt and evolve.

When *Escape Velocity* ends its run, the conclusion will not be a final military blow to the forces of evil, but a parable of how humanity will become parents to their invaders, teaching them to coexist with us.

But no growth ever happens without pain.

Even as Mike manages to escape Vertu with several of their Cybrids - cutting their strength - his daring raid will expose to the world the existence of Cybrids and extraterrestrial intelligence.

With this knowledge now public, Earth descends into pandemonium.

Extremists rise on all sides: religious fanatics form around and against the Cybrids. Everyone wants the Cybrids: to study, to worship, to learn whether more are coming.

The lead Vertu Ore Cybrid starts the third season as *de facto* leader of the corporation and becomes the series' lead villain.

She IS humanity's worst fear about the Cybrids. Grown into a lethally attractive teenaged girl, the lead Vertu Cybrid is a genius strategist hellbent on completing the invasion... but all the tablets need to be together before this can happen.

Meanwhile, David's bond with the Cybrids in the underground lead to a telepathic connection with the alien home world - and an attempt to broker a peace and an end to the invasion.

Emily will finally land on Earth, only to be captured by an anti-Cybrid radical movement that will try to execute her and her child.

Of course, Mike will rescue Emily in an emotional and romantic, series-defining reunion and together, they will lead the underground to find and destroy the remaining tablets...

... but as Mike and Emily close in on a final victory, the Vertu Cybrid gets the final stroke and activates the tablets - starting a wave of anti-light that engulfs the

planet just before she is touched and redeemed by Mike and Emily's Cybrid.

With females everywhere on Earth pregnant with Cybrids - David's work finally results in summoning to Earth of a starship carrying the alien race that planted the tablets..

...and Mike and Emily's Cybrid, carrying with it the collected memories of humanity's struggle with the invasion, and the effect of our emotions on the aliens downloading its experiences to its true parents.

Humanity is ultimately given a choice by the alien parents: to carry its new Cybrids to term or terminate.

Being human, the choice varies everywhere. Some choose to become parents to Cybrids, others to abort - but the entire planet is changed, forever. We are now part of a cosmic community - but one thing remains true: our ability to evolve, transcend and unify is what makes us different, and what makes the aliens decide that humanity is not to be conquered, but understood.

With humanity's core essence protected for posterity - Mike and Emily are given one final choice, to remain on Earth or travel the stars with the aliens - to raise their Cybrid among its true forebears and see the universe..

...as the series ends, **Emily gets her lifelong wish - to explore the universe, with husband and child at her side.**