It’s the year 20XX, and there’s no way to contain the deterioration of the planet. After centuries of overused, the natural resources are no longer enough to sustain human life on Earth. Some of the most powerful nations and corporations (there’s not much of a difference by them), unite to form a desperate plan: exodus. Flying by ship won’t do; it’s too slow and there’s nowhere close that could be serve as a new home. A new way of travel must be developed. When the idea of interdimensional travel arises, it quickly become a laughing matter. Soon, though, it’s no longer a joke, and becomes the ultimate goal of humanity.

For years, scientists of all around the globe gather together, building giant computers that could help with the delicate calculations involved in the process. It’s not just a matter of opening a portal to another part of the cosmos, but making sure that nothing dangerous could come from the other side. Also, it’s not easy to find the perfect planet, with plenty of resources and a way for humanity to go on.

Early experiments were a disaster, exposing the crew to toxic gas, lava and all sorts of hazardous biomes. Some creatures even escaped to the tunnels, and began to reproduce there. This was an event turned around for the good of the research, since all the money being poured by governments in a mysterious project began to being noticed by the starving people. As the creatures were afraid of light, the equipment in the tunnels was hiding by symbols that only glow in the dark, dooming anyone who was not prepared to a gruesome death.

The machines needed for the experiment grew bigger each year, moving underground and ignoring borders and nations. A new energy source was developed to sustain the gargantuan metallic station: even though it had been a while since an engine that could produce water as a residue existed, scientist finally inverted the process, making pure water as a fuel. This would aggravate the deterioration of the planet, but the goal was always to leave, so there were no issues in destroying nature some more to do so.

Little by little the process was refined, first by making sure that the portal was a single-way door, where nothing could come back. Then, by sending wired probes that could read the data of the new places explored. When the time came for the exodus, though, the plans changed. Orders from above impose the silence about the results, and the escape plan no longer involved the entire humanity, but only a select few; a couple of thousand people, the healthy class and the workers they deemed fit to really build the new world. Not every member of the research crew agreed with that; but the only hope for them, and their families, to join the exodus, was to keep the silence.

The day came, and one by one the chosen ones passed through the portal, greeting a world of fresh air and abundance on the other side. The leader of the research team made his pairs draw sticks, to see who would be left behind to close the portal. The leader himself was chosen, not by luck, but by will. That’s because, by cheating the draw, he could guarantee that the portal stayed open for as long as he needed to send news to the surface, and save as many humans as he could.

He never knew how he raised suspicion, never saying any word that contradicted the investors of the plan. But someone knew. As soon as the leader was alone, and grabbed the phone to tell about the machine build in secret, using all the water of the world, a cold pain spread inside his chest, and his white shirt began to turn red. a black shadow crossed his eyes right before his life faded, a shadow that entered the portal as soon as her job was done.

A couple of the leader words got out in the interrupted transmission, feeding rumors and insane theories about the giant machine in the core of the planet, capable of producing water. In the meanwhile the poverty and starvation reached alarming levels, while the seas receded little by little. The Earth seems doomed, and desperate souls began to excavate anywhere they could, searching for the hope buried between rocks and metallic plates.The portal is still open in the exodus room, waiting to be discovered, powered by the misery of the people left behind, every day more thirsty.