

Film Title and Release Date: *Europa Report* (2013)

Length of Film in Minutes: 91 Minutes

Film Genre: Sci-fi/Thriller

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Benjamin W., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: December 11, 2020

This film takes place in outer space on a privately funded spacecraft. Six astronauts set off on a decades long mission to find potential life sources on Jupiter's moon Europa. Their commanding officer is William Xu, pilot is Rosa Dasque, science officers are Katya Petrovna and Daniel Luxembourg, and engineers are James Corrigan and Andrei Blok.

Six months after its launch, Europa One gets hit by a solar storm. Communication is knocked out but the astronauts decide to continue on their mission. In an attempt to restore comms, James and Andrei suit up and perform repairs on the system from the outside. When Andrei rips his suit, they are forced to head back in. However, James' suit gets contaminated along the process, preventing him from entering the spacecraft. In his last move, James pushes the blacked out Andrei into the spacecraft while he drifts off into space. The crew continues on their mission and after 20 months, they finally reach their destination. A geyser of water forces them to miss their target zone which doesn't allow them to get the samples they want. After their probe gets destroyed by some mysterious underwater creature, Katya does a surface walk to collect samples. She discovers traces of a single-celled organism but when she goes to investigate further, the ice gets broken by the mysterious creature and Katya goes down. With two of their crew down and the data they were looking for in their possession, the remaining astronauts decide to head back to Earth. However, Europa is not ready to let them go yet. During takeoff, the spacecraft's engines malfunction and it crashes back down to Europa. William takes off his seatbelt to dump water shielding to reduce the impact and gets killed in the process. Now, with only three left, they must find a way to report their data back to mission control.

Now, I will answer some questions about the film:

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)? - I found this film through casual browsing. It was in the Newly Added Movies section.

Did the plot keep you interested? - This plot kept me interested. There was some action and some plot twists throughout the film. There was also an air of suspense throughout the entire film that made me want to know how it would end.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right? - I think the pace of this film was just right. This was a really long mission so the filmmakers did a really good job of spreading the drama over the long period of time to build up to the final event.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for? - I think this film is appropriate for kids in grades 7-12. There is a little bit of cursing and the timeline can be a little confusing so this film wouldn't be suitable for younger kids.

I would rate this film *4 stars*. Considering these were top of the notch astronauts, I expected more of a personality from each of them. There also wasn't as much action that the description led me to expect and the film was a little confusing at times. The timeline kept on jumping back and forth so you have to pay close attention to the digital clock on the screen.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Katie D, 8th grade

Date Reviewed: March 30, 2021

Astronauts are sent to explore the possibility of life beneath Europa's surface. The Europa One crew consists of commander William Xu, pilot Rosa Dasque, science officer Daniel Luxembourg, marine biology science officer Katya Petrovna, engineer James Corrigan, and chief engineer Andrei Blok. It's revealed that the crew was lost, setting *Europa Report* up in the style of a fictional documentary where scenes on Europa One consist of found footage.

Six months in, a solar storm hits, causing Europa One to lose connection with mission control. Andrei and James have to perform EVA to repair the ship, during which Andrei's glove rips and James' suit gets coated with hydrazine, preventing him from entering the airlock. With no hope for himself, James pushes Andrei to safety and is propelled away from the ship.

Eventually, the crew lands on Europa, but miss their target. They drill through the ice and release an underwater probe, which is hit by an unknown lighted object and lost. Katya goes to collect samples and traces of an algae-like organism are discovered. She then approaches a blue light in the distance, and the ice breaks below her.

The crew agrees to leave for Earth before they aren't able to tell anyone of their discovery. The engines fail, and as the lander falls to Europa's surface, William unbuckles to dump water shielding and reduce impact. Ironically, the ship crashes within the original targeting landing zone. On impact, the lander is damaged and William is killed.

Andrei and Daniel go to make repairs, but Daniel falls through the ice. Andrei can't repair the lander before it sinks but luckily manages to fix the communication link with the orbiting ship. The same blue light Katya saw nears Andrei, and he falls through the ice.

Rosa establishes communication with mission control and data saved since the solar storm is sent to Earth. Anticipating death, Rosa opens the airlock in hopes of allowing mission control to see the source of light. She locates a jellyfish-like bioluminescent creature, and it's later confirmed that the crew of Europa One had discovered life.

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?

I found this film on Kanopy by casual browsing.

Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?

The plot of *Europa Report* was very captivating and the accuracy made the movie feel realistic.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

The movie is a bit slow in the beginning but worth watching till the end.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

This film would be appropriate for 7th grade and up because a general understanding of space exploration is required, and death is portrayed throughout the movie.

Rating:

4 stars: I enjoyed this film and found it worthwhile to watch.

This film is very well done and portrays a highly realistic situation of what could happen if humans were to journey to Europa in search for extraterrestrial life in its frigid waters. There's a huge element of uncertainty, so you never know what may happen.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Michael E., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 31, 2021

This film was a fictional movie as it is a Sci-Fi/Action movie. Being this movie is fictional, the setting takes place in the Solar System at Jupiter's moons. The story begins with Dr. Unger, the CEO of Europa Ventures, begins to tell the story of six crew members named commander William Xu, pilot Rosa Dasque, chief science officer Daniel Luxembourg, marine biology science officer Katya Petrovna, junior engineer James Corrigan, and chief engineer Andrei Blok. These six characters embark on a mission to one of Jupiter's four Galiean moons, Europa. While on their mission to find new life, a solar storm hits their ship and completely wipes out all communication with their partners back at Earth. Throughout the course of the mislanding, the crew members slowly begin to die out due to the fact that there is either no oxygen or something happens inside Europa. At one point, the crew decides to go back to Earth to report their discoveries, but the engines begin to malfunction and they become stuck. In the end, everyone dies from some sort of disaster that occurs. The epilogue states that there was living life found on Europa and the mission exceeded expectations. The crew were all unique in their own different ways as they were all brave and fearless to go on the mission. Their personalities showed that they cared to make a difference and make new discoveries for the future.

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?

I found this movie by going to the subject search option on Kanopy.

Did the plot keep you interested?

Yes, because it kept me interested to keep watching it and kept me wondering what would happen next.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

It felt just right because I was able to follow the plot at a great rate

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

The grade levels 7-12 are appropriate for this movie.

Rating:

4 stars: I enjoyed this film and found it worthwhile to watch. There were a lot of good things to watch like the setting it took place in. The characters had really good personalities to watch. The movie also had a really good plot to see as well. The only gripe I have with this movie is the lack of characters added into the movie. Otherwise, it was a really solid movie.