

PUBLIC MISSION FILE

THE THRESHOLD PROTOCOL

Mission Briefing

Four missions. Four thresholds. One expanding hard-science-fiction universe.

A spoiler-light field guide to the ships, stations, physics, and questions behind Emily Carter's Threshold Protocol.



MISSION TIMELINE

A spoiler-light chronology of the four frontiers currently open in the Threshold Protocol record.

MISSION 01

ARTEMIS INITIATIVE

Deep Space Expedition

Humanity commits to an interstellar crossing aboard the generation ship Artemis. Every burn consumes irreplaceable fuel, and the path to Proxima Centauri leaves no room for fundamental error.

MISSION 02

JOVIAN ARRAY

The Quantum Drift

At Jupiter's L2 point, a precision gravimetric array detects a curvature residual that does not behave like a natural process. First contact begins as a problem in spacetime.

MISSION 03

PROMETHEUS RETURN

The Long Silence

A probe presumed lost for fifteen years is detected inbound. It is decelerating under propulsion it was never built to possess, and its signal still carries the fingerprints of the mind humanity gave it.

MISSION 04

CALYPSO / ORPHEUS

The Warm Dark

After years of descent, Orpheus reaches open water beneath Europa's ice. The discovery shifts the question from whether life exists to how humanity should behave once it finds it.

FOUR IMPOSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Each novel begins with a scientific question and then asks what happens when the answer stops being comfortable.

QUESTION 01

CAN A SHIP REACH ANOTHER STAR?

Deep Space Expedition

Artemis treats interstellar travel as an engineering budget: acceleration, deceleration, fusion fuel, trajectory error, and decades of closed-loop survival. The drama comes from the margins.

QUESTION 02

WHAT WOULD ENGINEERED SPACETIME LOOK LIKE?

The Quantum Drift

The Jovian Array does not “see” an alien craft. It measures curvature. The anomaly becomes extraordinary because its coherence and structure behave more like a designed system than a natural fluctuation.

QUESTION 03

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO CLOCKS DISAGREE?

The Long Silence

A returning probe forces investigators to think about relativistic travel, elapsed time, and the difference between what Earth experiences and what a fast-moving traveller records.

QUESTION 04

COULD EUROPA SUPPORT A BIOSPHERE?

The Warm Dark

Beneath the ice, the evidence is chemical before it is visual: redox gradients, organics, chirality, hydrothermal energy, and the painstaking work of separating geology from biology.

MISSION HARDWARE

Four machines and installations define the current archive. Their specifications are presented here as mission context, not exhaustive engineering plates.

GS ARTEMIS

GENERATION SHIP

DESTINATION

Proxima Centauri

PRIMARY CONSTRAINT

Fuel and trajectory margin

FUNCTION

Interstellar colony transport

JOVIAN ARRAY

GRAVIMETRIC OBSERVATORY

LOCATION

Jupiter L2 region

PRIMARY INSTRUMENT

Spacetime lensing interferometry

FUNCTION

Precision curvature measurement

PROMETHEUS

AUTONOMOUS DEEP-SPACE PROBE

MISSION STATUS

Returned after long silence

CORE SYSTEM

Autonomous judgement architecture

FUNCTION

Observation at extreme range

ORPHEUS

CRYOBOT / OCEAN PROBE

TARGET

Europa subsurface ocean

DESCENT

~20 km through ice

FUNCTION

Astrobiological sampling

WHERE SHOULD YOU START?

The books share a universe and a hard-SF sensibility, but each is built around a different kind of scientific pressure.

IF YOU WANT SURVIVAL

DEEP SPACE EXPEDITION

A generation ship, a shrinking fuel margin, and an unknown gravitational influence changing the mathematics of the mission.

IF YOU WANT FIRST CONTACT THROUGH PHYSICS

THE QUANTUM DRIFT

An impossible curvature signal near Jupiter and a discovery that begins with measurement rather than a voice.

IF YOU WANT AI, RETURN, AND TRANSFORMATION

THE LONG SILENCE

A lost probe comes home carrying an architecture that is recognisably human - and no longer only human.

IF YOU WANT ASTROBIOLOGY AND EUROPA

THE WARM DARK

A hidden ocean, a possible biosphere, and the planetary-protection question that follows the discovery.

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MORE FROM EMILY CARTER

The Reader Archive

Thirty-three more pages: two companion stories, the engineering schematics for Orpheus, Calypso and Artemis, and the relativity behind The Long Silence worked out in full.

Two Companion Stories

Set either side of the Threshold Protocol.

Engineering Schematics

Orpheus, Calypso and Artemis, drawn to scale.

The Relativity of The Long Silence

The mathematics, worked through rather than waved at.

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