

GALAXY QUEST

David Howard (Story)

David Howard & Robert Gordon (Screenplay)

RED
ORIGINAL

EXT. OUTER SPACE

The vastness of space. Suddenly a hole in the sky opens with a flash and a SPACESHIP rumbles into view. On its hull the letters USEA PROTECTOR. Magnificent, though on closer inspection it shudders ever so slightly, denoting pre-CGI model work on a budget. We're watching a TV show.

VOICE (O.S.)

We're exiting the time knot now sir.

INT. USEA PROTECTOR COMMAND DECK - SPACE

5 Members of the crew of the USEA PROTECTOR sit in the large circa-1979-"high-tech" cabin. All of them human except for one, DR. LAZARUS, a cross between a human and a raptor. The crewmates exchange relieved smiles.

TOMMY

We're alive.

DUSTY

We made it. Captain, we made it!

LAZARUS (THE ALIEN)

By Grabthar's hammer, we live to tell the tale.

COMPUTER (O.S.)

Systems register functional.

GWEN

All systems are working, Captain. Captain?...

They all turn to look at THE CAPTAIN, who turns to reveal himself dramatically. Good looking. His acting is classic Charlton Heston take-no-prisoners style. He looks around the command deck, worried, almost sniffing the air.

CAPTAIN

I don't like it. It was too easy... Look for ambient energy fields.

TOMMY

All normal sir... The entire spectrum.

CAPTAIN

Check again.

TOMMY

Yes sir, I- Wait. My god.

His radar lights up with dots. First a few, then HUNDREDS.

TOMMY

They're everywhere. There are time knots opening everywhere.

LAZARUS

IMPACT NOW CAPTAIN!

Suddenly an EXPLOSION rocks the ship. The crew goes SCUTTLING to one side of the ship then back in classic "the ship is rocking" fashion.

GWEN

A trap.

LAZARUS

We're surrounded Captain. The entire 5k Ranking is out there.

CAPTAIN

Our plasma armor?

TOMMY

Gone sir.

Another BLAST rocks the room. (Close inspection reveals that some of the actors scuttle more than others.)

COMPUTER (O.S.)

Structural damage at 68 percent.

GWEN

We're getting major structural damage!

DUSTY

It's a core meltdown sir. It can't be stopped!

The Captain turns to his advisor, Lazarus.

LAZARUS

Captain, surrender may be our only option.

CAPTAIN

No, never give up... NEVER surrender!

GWEN

The reactor has eaten through four levels... Six levels... The ship is disintegrating!

TOMMY

Your orders sir?

Another SIREN sounds. The Captain pauses, considering the situation. His face a melodramatic collage of emotions.

TOMMY

Sir. Your orders?

He walks into close up, steely determination on his face.

CAPTAIN

Activate the Omega 13.

The crewmates exchange expectant and terrified glances. CLOSE UP of a crewman's hand as he pushes down a CRYSTALLIN ROD which in turn opens five layers of mechanical locks revealing a serious looking lever. The Captain pulls that lever.

A MACHINE is revealed, rising from the floor in the middle of the room. It begins to GLOW. Cut to each actor in turn reacting dramatically. Then suddenly...

THE PICTURE GOES WHITE, LEADER NUMBERS APPEAR, with a STUDIO COPYRIGHT notice.

CUT TO:

HUNDREDS OF FACES - ENTHRALLED LEGIONS of mostly spotty faced male adolescent FANS staring into camera. For a moment all is silent. A few are sobbing. Then a BURST OF THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE.... We're at a SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION. The enthusiastic crowd of geeks, nerds, and complete geeks continue cheering as the master of ceremonies GUY takes the stage.

GUY

Well, there you are! You are the first people to see the lost GALAXY QUEST episode 53 two parter since it was originally aired in '82!
(the fans cheer)

As most of you know, no concluding episode was filmed when the series was cancelled, so the episode was never included in the syndication run. Let's hear it for Travis Latke, who actually rescued the footage from the studio garbage. They were going to throw it out! Can you believe that?

(Latke stands, fans cheer)

Now for the moment you've all been waiting for... The intrepid crew of the USEA PROTECTOR!

The audience cheers, but a STAGEHAND in the wings signals for Guy to "stretch."

GUY

But first... What is a "hero"? Let's take a look at a few more clips...

The audience groans, impatient.

BACKSTAGE

Here we meet the REAL LIFE ACTORS all dressed as their TV alter egos... GWEN DEMARCO, beautiful, in a sexy and improbable body suit. SIR ALEXANDER DANE, (DR. LAZARUS) irritable, wearing green alien prosthetic makeup. DUSTY KWAN, calm, sitting on an apple box off in a corner reading the paper. TOMMY WEBBER, the youngest of the group.

TOMMY

Where the hell is he?

GWEN

An hour and a half late. I can't believe he'd do this to us again.

TOMMY

I believe it, the bastard. He doesn't care about anybody but himself.

DUSTY
You guys hear he scheduled a fan appearance
without us?

TOMMY
You're kidding. When for?

DUSTY
Tomorrow morning, before the store opening. My
agent told me.

GWEN
But we made a pact. We said we'd stick
together.

TOMMY
Right, like he's got loyalty to anyone. This is
the guy who tried to kill off Alex's character
when it became too popular... Am I right, Alex?
Alex?...

They all turn to see Alexander staring into a makeup mirror, eyes
roaming over his alien green makeup and scaly rubber features with
a mournful expression.

GWEN
Uh oh... Alex, get away from that thing...

ALEXANDER
(staring into mirror)
Dear god... How did I come to this?

TOMMY
Didn't we specifically say NO MIRRORS?...

ALEXANDER
I played Richard III at the Royal National
Theater before her Majesty the Queen!..

DUSTY
(quietly, as he flips a page)
"Five curtain calls..."

ALEXANDER
...Five curtain calls! I was an ACTOR once,
damn it. Now look at me. LOOK AT ME.

TOMMY
Settle down, Alex...

ALEXANDER
No. I can't go out there! I won't say that
ridiculous catch phrase one more time. I won't.
I can't!

GWEN
At least you had a PART. You had a character
people loved! My TV guide interview was six
paragraphs about this body suit. About my legs.

(MORE)

GWEN (cont'd)
 How did I perfect my trademark sidesaddle pose?
 Nobody even bothered to ask what I DO on the
 ship. Nobody knows. Do you? Does anybody?

DUSTY
 You were the, uh... Wait I'll think of it...

GWEN
 I repeated the computer. Whatever it said, I
 turned and said to the rest of you. I spoke the
 obvious. Nothing I did ever affected the plot
 not ONCE. Nothing I did was ever taken
 SERIOUSLY.

TOMMY
 Guys. I'm an African American playing a
 Malaysian named "Laredo." HELLO!

Suddenly the rear stage doors open, bright light streams in and
 JASON NESMITH ("The Captain") appears, strolling in in his
 confident exuberant charming way.

JASON
 My friends, your Captain has arrived!

He pats Tommy on the back.

JASON
 Am I too late for Alexanders's panic attack?
 (looks at him)
 Apparently so.

He squeezes Alexander's shoulder, leans in to inspect a giant
 green plastic mole on his neck.

JASON
 That's irregular, you should have it looked at.

He flicks Dusty's newspaper, reads over his shoulder. Dusty holds
 out a hand for a mild five without looking up.

JASON
 Lakers are HOT.
 (kisses Gwen on the cheek)
 Speaking of which... You look amazing.

He looks up to see the others glaring at him. A beat.

JASON
 Okay, what did I do now?

CONVENTION STAGE

On the stage, Guy continues to stall...

GUY
 ...Sure, the rocks looked like paper mache, and
 the sets moved when anyone bumped into them...
 But we didn't care...

FILM CLIPS are projected behind him: On an alien planet THE CAPTAIN carries the LIMP BODY OF HIS ADVISOR, LAZARUS, ray guns erupting around him... On the command deck the crew fights a space battle with crack precision TEAMWORK....

GUY (CONTINUED)

...For those four seasons from '79 to '82 we the viewers developed the same affection for the crew of the USEA PROTECTOR that the crew had for each other... These weren't just adventurers exploring space, these were friends...

BACKSTAGE

The others surround JASON, fighting.

TOMMY

You said we do appearances together, or not at all!

JASON

I didn't say that. I said "wouldn't it be great if we could always work together." That's what I said.

GWEN

Unbelievable.

TOMMY

You are so full of shit.

JASON

What's the big deal? A few fans built a little set in their garage. I come in for an hour at most. It's a nothing.

GWEN

How much of a nothing? Not enough to split five ways kind of a nothing?

JASON

What do you want me to say, Gwen?... They wanted the Captain.

Suddenly bright light streams in. They all turn to see ALEXANDER skulking out the exit. A beat, then they all run to catch Alexander, TACKLING HIM.

ONSTAGE

Guy gets a thumbs up cue from a stagehand and begins to introduce the cast, much to the delight of the applauding FANS.

GUY

Okay, here we go... Let's hear a warm welcome for crack Navigator and Gunner "Lt. Laredo", Tommy Webber!

Tommy comes bounding out with a big smile, his hair mussed. On the screen behind is a projected film clip of Tommy in action.

TOMMY (FILM CLIP) AS LAREDO
 "If it's got proton thrusters, I can fly it."

GUY
 Ship's Tech Sergeant Chen... Dusty Kwan!

Dusty strolls out with a casual wave.

DUSTY AS CHEN
 "I'll reverse the polarity. It's our only hope."

BACKSTAGE

Gwen and Jason are wrestling on the ground with Alexander.

GWEN
 Alex you can't just leave.

ALEXANDER
 I was knighted by the queen!!!

JASON
 Come on, old friend...

ALEXANDER
 Friend. You stole all my best lines. You cut me out of episode three entirely! One evil twin wasn't enough, no you had to have TWO evil twins!...

GUY (O.S. FROM THE STAGE)
 The beautiful shipmate Tawny Madison... GWEN DEMARCO!

Gwen hears her introduction and stands, leaving Jason to wrestle Alexander.

GWEN
 He's all yours.

ONSTAGE

Gwen takes the stage. In the film clip, Tawny Madison looks around the cabin fearfully.

SHIP'S COMPUTER
 One hundred degrees and rising...

GWEN AS TAWNY MADISON
 "It's... It's getting hotter, Captain!"

Many "appreciative" WHISTLES. Gwen forces a smile.

GUY

And now... The Captain's advisor and closest friend. His peaceful nature ever at odds with the savage warrior inside him, after witnessing the massacre of his entire species as a boy...

We see a split screen shot of Alexander, one peaceful and monk-like, the other a savage reptilian beast, tearing into a foe.

BACKSTAGE

Jason is still in a wrestling match with Alexander.

JASON

You WILL go out there.

ALEXANDER

I won't and nothing you say-

JASON

"The show must go on."

ALEXANDER

(a beat)

Damn you! Damn you!

GUY (cont'd) (O.S.)

"Dr. Lazarus of Tev'meck"... Sir Alexander Dane!

Alex bounds up on stage, bowing deep with grace and humility. The stage trained British actor.

ALEX AS LAZARUS ONSCREEN

"By Grabthar's hammer, you shall be avenged!"

Alex cringes, desperately unhappy.

GUY

And finally, my fellow Questarians, the brave Captain of the USEA PROTECTOR... Peter Quincy Taggart ... JASON NESMITH.

Jason appears and a SPOTLIGHT follows him on.

TOMMY

Unbelievable. He rented a SPOT?

Jason raises his hands like a conductor, encouraging the FANS to cry out in unison...

JASON/JASON ON SCREEN/EVERYONE

"NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER SURRENDER... DAMN THE NEUTRINO CANNONS... FULL SPEED AHEAD!"

The fans go crazy. The actors exchange glances.

GUY

The Captain and his crew will be signing autographs on imperial decks "b" and "c" near the coke machines.

CONVENTION HALLWAY

It's quiet. We're on FOUR PAIRS OF BOOTS walking down the hallway. We PAN UP to reveal FIVE SERIOUS LOOKING YOUNG PEOPLE, 4 men and a woman, clean cut as Disneyland employees and impeccably outfitted in GALAXY QUEST style uniforms. There's something odd about their movements and behavior you can't quite put your finger on.. For now we'll refer to them as THE PECULIAR FANS. They don't say a word to each other as they walk down the hallway and into the bustling

CONVENTION HALL

We move with the PECULIAR FANS through the convention floor, past the numerous FANS dressed as their favorite GALAXY QUEST characters... through the various booths selling GALAXY QUEST and other Sci-fi memorabilia, catching snippets of conversation along the way:

...They pass two ELABORATELY COSTUMED ALIEN FANS talking.

ALIEN

...Yeah, I used to be Gark'nor of Ang but I got a rash from the chest pads so now I'm Sacnod from episode 5, which is fine except the transducer pinches when I sit down...

...They pass a group of particularly EARNEST (geeky) FANS at a vendor's booth, also costumed as the five GALAXY QUEST leads. Their leader, BRANDON WHEEGER, inspects a seller's model of the DEFENDER, contemptuously.

BRANDON

The tail fin is concave, not convex. The proton reactor is where the influx thermistors should be and.. my god... is this Testor's blue green number six on the hull?

(drops the model roughly)

I... I... This is a complete abortion.

With curious glances to this similarly uniformed group, the PECULIAR FANS move past, then come to a halt as they spot...

JASON, up on a raised platform at the front of the hall signing autographs for a long line of fans.

The peculiar fans stare at Jason as if they were in the presence of God. They exchange astonished smiles and one of them even grows misty. Then they start toward him...

THE CAST TABLE

Gwen, Tommy, Alexander and Dusty sign autographs at a row of tables near Jason, but significantly lower than his perch.

TOMMY

Is it me or does that sonofabitch's table get higher every convention?

One of many fans dressed as "Dr. Lazarus" steps up to Alexander and salutes him with crossed fists.

FAN

"By Grabthar's hammer, by the suns of Warvan, I shall avenge you!"

Alexander ignores this, grabs the photo from his hand, signs it, thrusts it back. The next fan steps up.

FAN

"By Grabthar's hammer, by the--"

He signs and thrusts it back before he can even finish.

ALEXANDER

Next!

Guy (the MC) approaches the actors at their tables.

GUY

Hi everybody.

GWEN

Hey. Thanks for the great intro, uh...

GUY

Guy... You probably don't remember me, do you?
(they stare at him blankly)
I was on the show in '79. Episode 12? Got killed by the lava monster before the first commercial? "Crewman #6?"

The actors pretend that they remember him. "oh, right! Guy!"

GUY

Listen, I was wondering, would you guys mind if I sit in today? See if anybody's interested in an autograph? I mean, who knows...

TOMMY

Sure, Guy, if you can take the excitement.

Two more FANS dressed as Alexander's character approach him, proudly CHATTERING at him in Lazarus' "Mak'tar" language.

ALEXANDER

Don't make me get a restraining order.

ACROSS THE ROOM

THE PECULIAR FANS are making their way through the crowd toward Jason. They have to step aside as a procession of fans pass through on their way to the costume contest. As the peculiar fans stand there we suddenly notice something very strange;

THE LEFT HAND of the tallest one is flickering like bad reception on a TV, buzzing between a normal hand and A HAND WITH FOUR LONG BLUE TENTACLES WHERE FINGERS SHOULD BE.

The LEADER notices the flickering and motions to the afflicted man. The tall man raps sharply against a metal blinking box on his belt a few times -- like you might a broken radio -- and the hand becomes normal again. He looks up, nods at the leader. From now on we'll just refer to these 5 as THE ALIENS.

AT THE CAST TABLE

Guy now sits with the others, forlorn. No fans are in line for his autograph. He watches as Dusty fields questions from the group of dedicated fans led by the fastidious BRANDON.

BRANDON

Mr. Kwan? In episode nineteen, when the reactor fused, you used an element from Leopold Six to fix the thrusters. What was that called?

DUSTY

Bivrakium.

BRANDON

The blue sheath it was encased in- ?

DUSTY

A bi-thermal krevlite housing.

Brandon makes a note, thanks him and exits with his group.

GUY

How do you remember this stuff?

DUSTY

Oh I just make it up. Use lots of "k"s and "v"s.

A male FAN moves up to Gwen, hands her a picture to sign.

FAN

I'm a big fan Ms. Demarco.

Gwen looks at the photo, nonplussed.

GWEN

You really expect me to sign a naked picture of myself? This isn't even my body!

FAN

Yeah, normally with fakes it's like, recycle bin. But.. This one's really good.

(Gwen sighs, starts to sign)

Could you not write over the... Thanks.

A fan finally approaches Guy who looks up eagerly. The fan looks at him quizzically, trying to place him.

GUY
 Episode 12. (gets no reaction) Killed by the
 lava monster?..

FAN
 (turns to Tommy)
 Mr. Webber, could I get an autograph?

Guy shrugs, disappointed. Gwen gives him a comforting look, then
 looks across at

JASON ON HIS PERCH

Talking dramatically to a group of fans.

JASON
 ...on one hand, if I had moved an inch, the
 beast would have killed me. On the other hand,
 my crew was in danger...

FAN
 How did you know what to do?

JASON
 Without a crew, I'm not a Captain.
 (he smiles)
 And we all know what happened to that beast on
 Enok 7...

The fans make happy nerdy "we sure do" noises.

CASTMEMBERS TABLE

Gwen shakes her head appreciatively.

GWEN
 You gotta admit, they do love him.

TOMMY
 Almost as much as he loves himself.

They watch as Jason fields another question from a fan.

JASON
 ...I'm glad you asked... To me the most
 important qualities of a Galaxy Explorer are
 loyalty...

ALEXANDER
 ...to camera center no matter whose shot you're
 blocking...

JASON
 Leadership....

GWEN
 ...to make sure craft service keeps those
 little butter cookies, and plenty of them...

JASON
And determination.

TOMMY
...to playing scenes shirtless because the
ladies do love Captain Furry.

Gwen, Alex and the others try to contain their laughter as...

CLOSER ANGLE - JASON'S TABLE

Bored with the constant queries of his fans, Jason glances over to see Gwen smiling at him. He smiles back, unaware that her mirth is at his expense. She quickly looks away, self-conscious. Jason doesn't even take his eyes off Gwen as BRANDON steps forward, his brow knit with serious matters.

BRANDON
Captain, please settle a dispute that my crew
and I are having. In "The Quasar Dilemma", the
Sentient had taken control of the ship's
guidance systems, however-

Jason stands, his attention still on Gwen.

JASON
Excuse me guys.

Jason exits. Brandon turns to his friends, frustrated.

BRANDON
I hadn't even gotten to the relevant
conundrum...

THE CAST TABLE

Gwen answers a question from a shy NERD GIRL.

NERD GIRL
Miss Demarco?... In episode 15, "Caverns of
Delos 5?" I got the feeling you and the Captain
kind of... had a thing... in the cave when you
were sealed off together... Did you?

GWEN
The Captain and I NEVER had a thing.

Jason sidles up.

JASON
That's her story.

The nerd girl giggles and exits, leaving Jason and Gwen alone.

GWEN
So decent of you to come mingle with the little
people.

JASON

Okay, what's up Gwen? I know you. It's not my little fan appearance tomorrow that's got you so pissed off. What is it?

GWEN

Where were you on Tuesday?

JASON

Tuesday, Tuesday... Oh, Jake's birthday, right... Is that all you're mad about?

GWEN

Is that all? He did your makeup every day, put up with all your crap, never complained once and you couldn't take one stupid hour out of your night to toast him at his birthday?

JASON

I meant to but I got busy. Hey, you know if Jake ever really needed anything I'd be there for him. I admit, I'm not great with the small stuff, but with the big stuff...

GWEN

He died yesterday. Cardiac arrest.

This shuts Jason up. He looks a bit stunned.

JASON

Shit. Old Jake? I was... I was going to-

GWEN

But you didn't. (beat) You have this image of yourself, Jason. Maybe it's the show. Maybe it's the way you saw yourself as a kid. Well, I hate to break it to you, but you're not that guy. You're not the guy you think you are.

JASON

I... I...

Jason looks stunned. He starts to say something, but seems genuinely affected. He turns and walks away. Gwen feels bad.

GWEN

Shit...

CONVENTION FLOOR

Jason moves forward, introspective, amidst the enthusiastic fans. They all shout out questions and comments to him... But Jason pushes past without response and takes refuge in the-

MEN'S ROOM

Jason enters to witness the incongruous sight of four MANK'NAR beasts at the urinals taking a MANK'NAR piss.

He enters a stall and sits on the lid, trying to get a moment to think. But two CYNICAL 20-SOMETHINGS enter, laughing their asses off.

CYNICAL GUY 1

You're right. What a FREAK SHOW. This is fricking HILARIOUS.

CYNICAL GUY 2

Yeah, what a bunch of losers. And those poor actors. They've done, like, WHAT for twenty years? I think Dusty Kwan did a dog food commercial... Sad.

CYNICAL GUY 1

Did you hear Nesmith up there? That's the saddest. I think he actually gets off on these nerds thinking he's space captain. It's pathetic. And his friends...

CYNICAL GUY 2

...they HATE him. I know, did you hear them ragging on him? "Loyalty...to center stage."

CYNICAL GUY 1

He has no idea that he's a laughingstock... Even to his buddies.

They exit, their laughter ringing in Jason's ears.

CONVENTION FLOOR - JASON'S TABLE

Jason is back at his table signing autographs in a foul mood. He scribbles his name irritably, avoiding contact with the fans as BRANDON and his group of nerds approach him.

BRANDON

Captain, as I was saying... In "The Quasar Dilemma", the Sentient had taken control of your ship's systems, and you used the auxiliary of deck b to gain control. But the CD ROMS of the ship guidance systems indicate that the auxiliary of deck b is not tied to the main power grid, so we were wondering then where the error lies.

JASON

(he stares at them a beat)
What's wrong with you?

BRANDON

Excuse me?

JASON

It's a television show. Okay? That's all. It's just a bunch of fake sets, and wooden props, do you understand?

BRANDON

Yes but, we were wondering-

JASON

There IS no quantum flux and there is no auxiliary... There's no goddamn ship! Do you get it? DO YOU?

Gwen and the others notice the commotion at the other table and exchange glances. Jason is now standing.

JASON

...Throwing away your time and energy on a TV show that's been off the air for twenty years! What the hell is wrong with you?

Jason notices that all eyes are turned on him. The hall has become deathly quiet. Angry and ashamed, he rises and exits through the hall. Brandon and the fans do their best not to take this personally. Tommy turns to Alex, stunned.

TOMMY

Wow. What was that?

ALEXANDER

I've said for years. He's mentally deranged.

CONVENTION HALLWAY

Jason strides down the hallway. As he turns the corner he runs into the five ALIENS. Their leader, BETZALAR, pauses, bowing his head respectfully before addressing Jason.

BETZALAR

Captain, I must speak to you. I am Betzalar of the Theramin Nebula. We have come on a matter of supreme importance...

JASON

NOT. NOW.

He pushes past them and continues away down the hallway.

INT. JASON'S BEDROOM

Jason sits on the edge of the bed. Gulps down the last of a glass of scotch. He flips channels. We pan to

THE TELEVISION as the channels change; late night fare.. 900 chat numbers... infomercial for a Flowbee.... He stops at the conclusion of an episode of GALAXY QUEST... Captain Taggart makes a heroic speech. Jason begins to mouth the words along with his alterego.

CAPTAIN TAGGART (ON TV)

As long as there is injustice, whenever a Targathian baby cries out, wherever a distress signal sounds among the stars... We'll be there. This fine ship, and this fine crew...

We pan back to the bed... Jason has passed out, body twisted face down in a pillow.

FADE OUT.

INT. JASON'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Jason sleeps, hungover, dead to the world.

His DOORBELL RINGS. He barely moves. Every indication is that he's dead. More ringing. He stirs enough to groan, and drags a pillow over his head. The ringing continues....

EXT. JASON'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jason opens the door in his robe, drooping bloodshot eyes, squint of a headache... There before him are

THE ALIENS

dressed in their perfect GALAXY QUEST attire. Jason stares at them, bleary eyed. With earnest respectful faces, the five salute him in the classic "GALAXY QUEST" style. Jason shuts the door in their face.

CUT TO BLACK... DING DONG! The door opens again.

JASON

WHAT. DO. YOU. WANT?!

The leader, BETZALAR, steps forward. Speaks quickly.

BETZALAR

Sir, I understand this is a terrible breach of protocol- But please, we've come on a long journey at great risk, and I beg you to hear our plea. We are Thermians from the Klatu Nebula. Our people are being systematically hunted and slaughtered by Roth'h'ar Sarris of Fatu-Krey. Out of self preservation we have constructed a duplicate of your ship, The Protector, from your historical records, your computer databases... Sarris, our nemesis, wants the ship, he is particularly interested in the Omega 13. We are to meet in a negotiation. However our past efforts in this regard have been nothing short of disastrous. The flames, the death...

(he quickly gathers himself)

You are our last hope. Your leadership, your courage, your skills at negotiation and diplomacy are our only bid for survival.

Jason scans his brain, then two synapses connect.

JASON

Oh, right! The thing with the thing. My agent told me. Sorry. Come on in, I'll get some pants on.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE

The four aliens stand on one side of the room. Jason, mostly dressed, hunts under his couch for something.

BETZALAR

Captain, sir. I speak for all of us when I say that standing here in your presence is the greatest honor we could ever have hoped to achieve in our lifetimes.

Mostly all they can see of Jason at the moment is his butt.

JASON

Thanks, appreciate it... Anybody seen my other shoe?

The others look around the room for the shoe.

INT. LINCOLN LIMO - DAY

Jason enters and sits in the back with the aliens. Betzalar motions the driver to go.

NERU

Sir, I am Neru, senior requisition officer. Before we travel to the ship, please let me know if you have any requirements. Weapons, documents, personnel...

JASON

(half awake)
I could use a Coke.

One of the aliens nods to the other who makes a note.

TEB

Sir, I am Teb. I would like to explain the historical situation between our people and the Sarris Dominion in greater detail. In the 5 million years following the great nebula burst our people were one...

JASON

How about him? Doesn't he talk?

TEB

His translator is broken.

The fourth alien says something, but it comes out a weird mix of sounds. Like a screaming baby inside a bagpipe.

JASON

Okey doke... So, listen, I had a late night with a Kreemorian Fangor Beast, so I'm going to shut my eyes for a bit. But keep going, I'm still listening...

Jason is asleep before Teb gets the next sentence out.

INT. RECEIVING QUARTERS - PROTECTOR II

Jason is shaken softly by the shoulders. He opens his eyes to see a young female CREWMAN in GALAXY QUEST uniform, LALIARI.

LALIARI

I am sorry to wake you, sir, but your presence is requested on the command deck.

Jason tries to reorient himself as she leads him forward.

INT. HALLWAY - THE PROTECTOR II

Laliari escorts Jason down the high tech hallway. Jason looks around, still holding his can of Coke.

LALIARI

Sir, Sarris has moved the deadline. We are approaching his ship at the Ni-delta now. He wants an answer to his proposal. I understand you have been briefed.

JASON

Yeah, I got most of it in the car. He's the bad guy, right?

LALIARI

Yes sir he is a very bad man indeed. He has tortured our scientists, put us to work in the gallium arsenide mines, captured our females for his own demented purposes...

JASON

Okay I've got the picture. Let's see what old Sarris has to say for himself.

Betzalar approaches with other CREWMEMBERS.

BETZALAR

Captain... Welcome to the Protector II. Would you like to don your uniform?

JASON

Mind if we skip that? I have to get back pretty quick for this thing in Van Nuys.

BETZALAR

As you wish.

Another ALIEN comes running up out of breath.

EXCITED ALIEN

Sir... It's Sarris. He's here.

INT. COMMAND DECK

A door slides OPEN and Jason and the others enter the COMMAND DECK.... It's straight out of the TV show.

Blinking lights, consoles, the cool old tech displays... 'Jason looks around, genuinely impressed.

JASON

Not bad. I was expecting some cardboard boxes in a garage.

They lead him to the Captain's chair. He sits.

JASON

I mean, I've never even seen the real one all put together like this. They'd shoot the master this way, then they'd pull the back walls for the reverse angles and... This thing have a cup holder?

NAVIGATOR

We're approaching in five ticks, sir. Command to slow?

Jason looks toward the front window/view screen. Stars move past in a familiar display.

JASON

Sure, set the screen saver on two.

The NAVIGATOR looks at him, confused.

JASON

Sorry. Sorry. Didn't mean to break the mood. Slow to Mark 2, lieutenant.

A SHIP appears on the screen, growing closer. It is a MENACING craft, sharp and jagged, with a gargoyle shaped figurehead. The ship slows to a stop, looking like the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Then the VIEWSCREEN fuzzes to life with an image of...

SARRIS

He's ugly and green hued. Black sharp teeth. A metal hand... He hisses... There is a beat as the aliens take in the sight, trying to well their courage.

SARRIS

I see fear. That is expected.

The whole room resonates with his voice.

SARRIS

Ah, they bring a new Captain... Such a cowardly race. Not even your own kind... No matter. Here are my demands, and I would suggest, Captain, that you think well before speaking a word, because these negotiations are... tender... and if I do not like what I hear... There will be blood and pain as you cannot imagine...

Jason takes a sip of coke and checks his watch.

SARRIS
First, I require the Omega 13... Second-

JASON
(blase, like a laundry list)
Okey dokey, let's fire blue disrupters full.
Fire red disrupters full. Fire gannet magnets
left and right. Fire pulse catapults from all
chutes. And throw this thing at him too,
killer.

He hands the GUNNER the empty coke can, then before even waiting
for the weapons to reach their target...

...he exits!

HALLWAY

Jason emerges and looks both ways trying to get his bearings.
Several of the aliens chase after him as he enters the corridor,
exchanging stunned glances, trying to absorb the magnitude of what
just happened.

BETZALAR
Captain?... Where are you... going?

JASON
(shrugs)
Home.

BETZALAR
You... You mean Earth?

JASON
Yeah. "Earth." Time to get back to "Earth,"
kids.

He turns a corner. Jason is oblivious to the very soft muffled
sounds of explosions, traces of the demolition going on outside.

BETZALAR
But Captain... The negotiation... You...
You... You fired on him!

JASON
Right. Long live... What's your planet?

BETZALAR
Theramin.

JASON
Long live Theramin! Take a left here?

BETZALAR
What if Sarris survives?

JASON
Oh, I don't think so. I gave him both barrels.

BETZALAR

He has a very powerful ship. Perhaps you would like to... Wait to see the results of...

JASON

I would but I am REALLY running late and the 134's a parking lot after 2:00. But listen, the guy gives you any more trouble, just give a call...

Betzalar produces a walkie talkie device for Jason.

BETZALAR

An interstellar vox.

JASON

Thanks.

Betzalar looks him in the eye. A TEAR starts down his cheek. He HUGS Jason, then shakes his hand sincerely.

BETZALAR

How can we thank you, Captain. You- You have saved our people.

JASON

It was a lot of fun. You kids are great.

The others shake his hand, thanking him as they enter the...

DOCKING BAY

A room with a very high circular ceiling. In the middle of the room are a number of red lighted disks about the size of manhole covers. The aliens thank Jason, leading him onto the disk. Then they depart, everybody waving their good-byes.

Jason realizes he's left all alone in this strange room with no visible doors.

JASON

Wait. Where's the car?

Suddenly a CLEAR CYLINDER rises from the circumference of the disk and deforms around him, ENCASING HIM IN A BULLET SHAPED CONTAINER. It's as if he's sealed in a lucite paperweight. There is only an instant to register surprise as...

The ceiling divides, opening like an iris. The ROAR of escaping oxygen, and an AWE INDUCING ROTATING STARFIELD is revealed in the expanding circle... The WALLS pull back around him. And Jason suddenly finds himself surrounded by

THE INFINITE VASTNESS OF SPACE.

And before he can fully register the HORROR of his situation, Jason in his pod is ROCKETED FORWARD INTO SPACE.

EXT. SPACE

He HURTTLES FORWARD, the acceleration impossible, faster and faster... It's the entire 30 minute ending of 2001 in 10 seconds. Overwhelming. A rollercoaster at light speed. The universe bends and snaps like a rubber band. Planets scatter in front of us like bowling pins and he quickly finds himself heading toward a PULSAR, an undulating BLACK HOLE... Toward the mass so dense it even absorbs light and time... And on impact the screen is filled with

BLACK

We pull back slowly from the iris of Jason's eye. He is now standing on the black disk in the middle of his own back yard. He stands there in shock, SHIVERING IN WAVES AND WAVES from the incomprehension of what he's just experienced, unable to move from the spot.

CUT TO:

INT. BRANDON'S GARAGE - TARZANA - DUSK

Crickets chirp. Inside the open garage of a suburban house sits BRANDON and his friends in their uniforms, surrounded by a homemade space ship interior constructed of painted cardboard boxes and Christmas lights. Brandon and his friends look very disappointed... The Captain never showed.

FADE OUT AND IN:

EXT. COMPUTER STORE PARKING LOT - MORNING

Gwen, Alexander, Tommy, Dusty and Guy are in their GALAXY QUEST uniforms, performing a lame routine for the computer store's grand opening. A small crowd is gathered, including Brandon and his gang, inspecting a mock up of the PROTECTOR.

GWEN

Take it from us... We've been all over the universe...

DUSTY

But we've never seen the space age values we've seen here at...

TOMMY

TechCo electronics superstore!

Alexander pauses, deeply ashamed. Gwen nudges him.

ALEXANDER

(mumbles)

By Grabthar's hammer, what a savings.

A few balloons are released into the air.

STORE ENTRANCE - LATER

The actors hand out pamphlets and sign the occasional autograph. Dusty pats Alexander's back, who stares ahead, morose. They look up to see JASON approaching. His demeanor a good deal more intense and less cavalier than usual.

ALEXANDER

Do you know what time it is? Why did you even bother to show up?

Jason opens his mouth, but he's got so much to say he can't get out a word. Gwen notices his wrinkled slept-in clothing, and wild eyes.

GWEN

Jason... Are you all right?

Jason moves his lips a little more, then, unable to express himself otherwise, POINTS to the sky, grasping for words.

JASON

I was there. (a beat) Up. There.

The actors exchange glances as Jason sits and leans in conspiratorially. His voice is quiet but intense.

JASON

They came to the convention. I thought they were fans, but they're not. They're from...

TOMMY

Up there?

Jason nods vigorously.

JASON

They took me up to their ship. What they built... It's incredible! I fought this man, this... **THING**... called Sarris. I kicked his **ASS**... They have these... pods. One took me **THROUGH** a black hole. The pod generator is **SITTING** in my back yard!...

He smiles crazily. He senses their disbelief.

JASON

I know. I know what you're thinking. I'd think so too. But I can prove it. Look!

He searches his pockets frantically and produces the interstellar vox. The thing blinks its little red light. He motions victorious.

JASON

See? Huh!

The others exchange glances, then produce their own interstellar voxes, placing them on the table. They blink just like his.

23.

JASON

...Yes, but have you been talking to people in outer space all morning on them? I have!

Gwen turns to Alexander.

ALEXANDER

I don't know. My therapist only does light neurosis.

TOMMY

I have a good Freudian I see sometimes...

As the others chime in with suggestions Jason picks up his VOX and pushes a button. A VOICE EMITS FROM THE VOX.

VOX VOICE (O.S.)

Yes Captain. Your orders?

JASON

Stand by.

The others stare at the vox, silenced. He has their attention.

JASON

I'm going back up. I didn't kill Sarris. He's still alive. And upset I'm told. I want you all to come with me. It's the opportunity of a lifetime. The chance to explore the infinite... We'll save an entire civilization. You'll meet them, they're very nice...

Gwen looks at Jason. He looks so sincere.

JASON

Gwen, you know me. I'm a lot of things, but I'm not crazy. I need you to believe me.

Gwen looks at his pleading expression. A beat. Then she picks up the vox and hits the switch.

GWEN

Hi! Anybody up there?

VOICE (O.S.)

Where is the Captain?

GWEN

He's here. This is Gwen- uh, Lt. Tawny Madison.

VOICE

Yes! Yes Lieutenant Madison, Ma'am!

Gwen raises an eyebrow, flattered by the enthusiasm.

GWEN

You're on the ship? Right now? You have weapons and everything?

VOICE

Yes.

GWEN

Then could you just, if it's not a problem, blow something up? Not a planet or anything. Just maybe a moon or asteroid? Something small so we can see where you are.

VOICE

(a long beat)

Uh... Captain? Captain are you-

Jason, smiling at Gwen's smarts, takes the vox.

JASON

This is the Captain. Go ahead. Do it.

VOICE

Yes sir. Right away sir.. Targeting the largest asteroid in the Andromeda chain. Detonation in five seconds. Three.. two...

The others look at the sky, starting to get sucked in.

VOICE

Andromeda Nine has been obliterated.

They all look around. Nothing seems to have happened. They all feel silly even for a moment believing something might have.

JASON

...Right. Okay, thanks.
(switches off the vox)
They're very far away.

GWEN

Jason... You need help.

JASON

No, I don't. But they do. I know how this is going to sound, but I don't care; Going up there changed me. I know deep down that for once in my life, I can do something really good and really meaningful. We all can do something... amazing!

(he stands)

Look, I realize I can't convince you with words. Just come to my house at eight. You'll see the transport pod. It looks like a manhole cover, but wait 'till you see what happens... Then you can do whatever you want, okay?

He starts away.

GWEN

Jason...

JASON

Eight o'clock. Just trust me. Please trust me,
just this once.

The others exchange distrustful glances.

PARKING LOT

Jason pulls his car keys out of his pocket as he turns a corner and runs smack into the group of NERDS led by Brandon. Brandon and Jason go down, along with an armful of GALAXY QUEST collectables.

JASON

Sorry...

BRANDON

(at attention)

Captain!... My apologies.

Brandon is nudged by his friend KYLE.

BRANDON

Captain... Evidently we had some
miscommunication regarding yesterday's
scheduled voyage, and-

JASON

Sorry I'm in a real hurry.

He gathers his things and quickly walks to his car. The other nerds look at Brandon.

KYLE

He dissed us AGAIN, Brandon!

BRANDON

(hiding his disappointment)

He probably... Has some very important business
to attend to...

The others want to believe that too.

OTHERS

Yeah... I guess so...

They shuffle off, despondent.

JASON'S CAR

Jason drives. He reaches into his pocket for his Vox, and hits the "talk" switch.

JASON

Hello?

(no response)

Protector? Betzalar? Anybody there?

He taps the vox, then notices a tag on the bottom that reads "PROPERTY OF BRANDON WHEEGER." He thinks about driving back, checks his watch, then shrugs and drives on.

INT. JASON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jason's GALAXY QUEST uniform hangs neatly on a hanger. Jason looks at it for a moment, then pulls it out of his closet. In a series of SHOTS Jason buttons the shirt, fastens the belt, pulls on the boots, attaches the Captain's stripes...

He looks at himself in the mirror for the moment. Picks a piece of lint from his shirt. He turns and looks at the clock. It's 8:30. His friends haven't shown. A tinge of disappointment in his face. He moves to the sliding glass doors and looks out to his backyard...

The glowing TRANSPORT POD DISK still sits in the middle of the lawn. Jason's eyes GLISTEN. He opens the door and moves FORWARD...

INT. GWEN'S HOUSE/ALEXANDER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Gwen paces in her kitchen, cooking dinner. She's on the phone with ALEXANDER. (INTERCUT WITH ALEXANDER at his apartment. He's still in makeup, eating a sandwich.)

GWEN

God, I don't know, Alex. I should have gone over. He practically begged. I feel lousy.

ALEXANDER

Don't. He's not crazy. It's just a desperate bid for attention.

GWEN

Did you see the look in his eyes? He looked, I don't know... Like he was a kid again.

ALEXANDER

That's what he is, a big kid. Let me tell you something, Gwen, he needs to grow up.... And I'll tell you something else...

...As Alexander continues to rant on about Jason, Gwen's attention is drawn to the TELEVISION.

ON THE TV

A STARFIELD IMAGE... The TV SCIENCE REPORTER circles a brightly colored area of light on the image. A NASA ANIMATION shows an asteroid exploding and disappearing.

SCIENCE REPORTER

...scientists are at a loss to explain this explosion in space but as these Hubble photographs show, it was spectacular...

GWEN
(intense)
Channel four.

ALEXANDER
What?

GWEN
Turn on Channel four.

REPORTER
...The asteroid, largest in a chain called Andromeda Nine, was completely vaporized in an explosion so bright it could even be viewed by the naked eye this evening, yet distant enough that it took an estimated four hours for the light from the phenomenon to reach the earth...

Gwen watches, jaw dropped to the floor.

ALEXANDER
There's a logical explanation.

GWEN
It's true... It happened, it really... Wait, that was me! I blew up an asteroid, Alex!

ALEXANDER
Now Gwen, get ahold of yourself... This sort of thing happens every day... Supernovas, planetary anomalies...

GWEN
He said the NAME. Andromeda Nine! How many Andromeda Nines get blown up every-

Then suddenly something that looks like a METEOR plunges out of the sky and lands in Gwen's back yard. It happened so fast that she barely registered it. But sitting on her patio is a glowing DISK, like the one at Jason's house.

ALEXANDER
Gwen?... Gwen?...

Hypnotized, Gwen walks toward the door and goes into her...

BACKYARD

She moves toward the POD GENERATOR. It GLOWS more brightly as she approaches.

ALEXANDER (cont'd)
There's a logical explanation, Gwen...

ALEXANDER'S APARTMENT

Alexander sees an identical streak in the sky, and a glowing POD DISK appears right on his BALCONY.

ALEXANDER
What the hell?-

GWEN
You have one too. You do, don't you?

ALEXANDER
I... I... What is it? Where did it come from?..

GWEN
He sent them down for us... What did he call it? A pod transport?...

ALEXANDER
Oh Gwen, you can't be serious. Now-

Unable to resist, she takes a step forward onto the disk... We see A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT. HER PHONE falls to the ground.

ALEXANDER'S APARTMENT

Alexander stands next to the pod on his balcony...

ALEXANDER
Gwen? GWEN? Oh, I see. Just like the old days. You and Jason pulling pranks on the humorless Brit.

Alexander looks at the GLOWING, BECKONING disk...

ALEXANDER (cont'd)
I suppose you have your camcorder hidden somewhere. Fine, where is it? I'll play it to camera...

He takes a step toward the disk.

EXT. ALEX'S DRIVEWAY

TOMMY and GUY walk up to the front door calling for Alex.

TOMMY
Alex? Are you here? We were over at Marlo's and on TV we saw... Alex, where are you?

They open the door just as... IN THE BACKGROUND ON THE BALCONY ALEXANDER STEPS ONTO THE DISK and in a flash, the transparent POD forms around him sealing him in and EXPLODES AWAY at light speed. Tommy and Guy close the door, completely unaware.

TOMMY
Alex? You here? Alex?..

GUY
What the hell is THAT thing?

The POD GENERATOR glows on the patio...

INT. DUSTY'S APARTMENT

Pan up from BARE LEGS dripping WATER on the carpet to Dusty Kwan in a bathrobe straight from the shower. He gazes curiously at the GLOWING DISK sitting in the middle of his living room.... And then looks up to see layers of perfectly round holes burned through five levels of his apartment building through to the sky... He scratches his chin, thoughtfully, in his calm unflappable way.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. USEA PROTECTOR DOCKING STATION POD BAY- DEEP SPACE

We PAN from a blinking panel in a grey room of the spaceship... The room LIGHTS BRILLIANTLY with a flash. Then ANOTHER FLASH... We continue PANNING to find...

GWEN, ALEXANDER AND GUY STANDING ON THE SHIP'S POD PLATFORM, newly arrived from their horrifying journey from Earth. They stand paralyzed, shivering, white as ghosts.

Suddenly a streak of light appears through a hatch in the ceiling and a POD arrives right next to them, opening up to reveal TOMMY. He stands, horrified and teeth chattering like the rest. They look like a bunch of horrified bowling pins all facing toward...

A METAL HATCH

Beyond it they register the SOUND of WET FOOTSTEPS growing closer... Their eyes widen as they see the far door open revealing a group of 5 HORRIBLE TENTACLED ALIEN MONSTERS! The monsters come toward them, the sound from their drooling mouths a horrible SCREAMING CACOPHONY. They surround our terrified visitors, tinkering with devices around them, their tentacles flying everywhere. Then one of the monsters looks down at a mechanism on his belt and turns to the other monsters sheepishly.

MONSTER #1

Oops. Crewmen, your skins! Activate your E-skins!

The monsters all flip switches on their belts their forms become HUMAN, uniformed as ship's TECHNICIANS.

TECHNICIAN #1

Our most sincere apologies! We forgot about our appearance generators.

Then JASON appears in the doorway, a big warm smile on his face.

JASON

Guys! You CAME!...

They stand there, still paralyzed and terrified.

JASON

Okay, who wants the grand tour?

Guy is now relaxed enough to let out the loudest most genuine SCREAM you've ever heard in your life. A beat.

JASON

Okay, Guy... Anybody else?

Then another streak of light, and Dusty appears alongside the others in his bathrobe. As his pod retracts into the floor, he steps off of the disk, unaffected, and walks past the others.

DUSTY

Now that was a hell of a thing.
(to Jason, motioning to others)
What's wrong with them?

Jason smiles. Nothing gets to Dusty.

INT. PROTECTOR DOCKING STRUCTURE - HALLWAY

Jason leads Gwen, Alexander, Tommy, Guy and Dusty down the hall. They shuffle forward like recent hospital releasees, looking around silent and dumbfounded at their surroundings (everyone but Dusty, who takes everything in stride.) They shake their limbs a little as they walk.

JASON

That's right... Just keep shaking it out...
Weird feeling going through that black hole,
isn't it? Like somebody turned you inside out
set the blender on puree and poured you into a
wall socket, am I right?

TOMMY

Wh... Where are we?

JASON

Twenty third quadrant of gamma sector. Don't
ask me. I can show you on a map.

Then BETZALAR appears coming down the hall with a small group of ALIENS. He has a warm smile on his face.

BETZALAR

Welcome my friends! I am Betzalar. On behalf
of my people I wish to thank you from the
deepest place in our hearts.

He reaches out to shake their hands, one at a time, with nods of deep respect.

BETZALAR

Dr. Lazarus... Lt. Madison. Tech Sgt. Chen...
Lt. Laredo...

He looks at Guy quizzically, not sure who he is.

GUY

"Crewman #6"... Call me Guy.

GWEN

You... know us?

BETZALAR

(soft laugh)

I don't believe there is a man, woman or child on my planet who does not. In the years since we first received your ship's historical documents, we have studied, discussed and debated every facet of your missions, technologies and strategies.

ALEXANDER

Historical documents?

BETZALAR

Yes. Eighteen years ago we received transmission of the first. It continued for four years, and then stopped, as mysteriously as it came...

TOMMY

You've been watching the sho-
(he's nudged by Jason)
the historical records... out HERE?

BETZALAR

Yes, I am ashamed to say, but in the last hundred years our society had fallen into disarray. Our goals, our values had become scattered. But since the transmission we have modeled many aspects of our society from your example, and it has saved us. Your courage, teamwork, optimism and resourcefulness. In fact, all you see around you now, comes from the lessons laid out in the historical documents.

GWEN

THAT'S why you built this ship?

GUY

It's... incredible.

JASON

Oh this? No, this isn't the ship. This is only the star port for the ship.
(a twinkle in his eye)
You want to see the ship?

He leads them to a large square window, blocked by an opaque shield, and pushes a button. Slowly with a RUMBLE the shield slides aside way revealing...

A MAGNIFICENT AND BREATHTAKING VIEW OF THE ENORMOUS SHIP, THE USEA PROTECTOR DOCKED IN FRONT OF THEM...

They all gawk at the amazing sight, their eyes wide like children.

ALEXANDER

It's real. Oh my god, it's real.

GWEN

All this from watching the.. historical records?

BETZALAR

Yes, and from your supplementary technical documents, of course...

He motions to another alien who withdraws a number of brightly colored BOOKS and BOXES from a backpack, and passes them around.

The actors look through the materials... They are various FAN BOOKS and ENTERTAINMENT SOFTWARE bearing such titles as "THE OFFICIAL GALAXY QUEST BLUEPRINTS: USEA PROTECTOR" and "VIRTUAL GALAXY QUEST: THE CDROM EXPERIENCE." The actors exchange glances and then...

...Tommy begins to giggle.

Alex looks at him, at the fan stuff, then out at the ENORMOUS SHIP, and he begins to laugh too... The others join in... Gwen... Guy... Laughing like maniacs, hysterical, disbelieving laughter, the GIANT SHIP hanging outside in infinite space in the background. The aliens join in too, out of joyfulness, and Jason stands there smiling, a proud papa, as the laughter ECHOES through the cosmos.

INT. DOCK TRANSPORT TUBE - LATER

A CLEAR TRANSPORT tube runs from the docking structure to the ship. Inside everyone can get a good look at the space panorama as they approach the ship. The view is breathtaking.

GUY

So you people don't actually... Look the way you look... Right?

BETZALAR

No. This device on our belts simulates an appearance more familiar to you, as well as translating our language to yours. We have found from earlier visits to Earth, that our true appearance can be... distracting.

The actors wave this off... "No, you look great... Fabulous..." One of the aliens, NEX, motions out the window to Tommy.

NEX

Lt. Laredo. It may interest you to see that we have mounted an additional Proton Afterburner over the aft proton vent. We felt it improved navigational stability. We hope it doesn't offend.

TOMMY

Well, I'll have to try it out before I can comment.

NEX

We look forward to it. Your skills are legendary.

The others turn to stare at Tommy. He just shrugs as the vehicle comes to a stop, locking at the ship's hatch.

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR

The group walks down the corridor, peeking into various rooms, more amazed every second.

JASON

That's the medical quarters to the left...
Weapons storage... Maintenance facility...

As they pass each room, the CREWMEMBERS inside salute.

JASON

The main barracks...

TWO HUNDRED crewmen rise to attention. Jason salutes back.

JASON

At ease men.

GWEN

(looks at Jason, shakes her head)
Like throwing gasoline on a fire...

INT. GENERATOR ROOM

The group enters. The centerpiece to the room is a large pulsating ORB. When the orb dims, we see its surface has a rocky texture, like a large boulder. Many CREWMEN scurry about tending to the surrounding measurement devices.

BETZALAR

The generator room... Our Carbonite Sphere, of course... I hope, Tech Sergeant Chen, that this meets with your approval.

DUSTY

Fine... Very nice and... tidy.

Three YOUNGER CREWMEN approach and whisper to Betzalar. They argue a bit, then Betzalar reticently approaches Dusty.

BETZALAR

I am sorry to ask this of you so shortly after your arrival. But members of our reactor staff have a question they find most pressing.

DUSTY

Well certainly... What is it, son?

TECH #1

Sir, we have had unexplained proton surges in our delta core. They cannot be verified on the sub frequency spectrum, but they appear on the valence detector when scanning the Carbonite Sphere. We are unable to resolve this problem and were hoping you would be able to advise us.

Everyone turns to Dusty who takes a deep breath.

DUSTY

Uh huh... I see... Well, that's a puzzler isn't it?... A textbook puzzler...

The others watch, wondering what he'll say. Then Dusty turns to one of the Techs with an air of authority.

DUSTY

...You.

NERVOUS TECH

Yes sir?

DUSTY

(testy)

I haven't got all day. What might account for this phenomenon?

NERVOUS TECH

Perhaps... The valence bonds have shifted?

DUSTY

Yes... And therefore?...

NERVOUS TECH

Therefore the bonding molecules have become covalent?

DUSTY

And if this were the case, how would you remedy it?...

NERVOUS TECH

(smiling, figuring it out)

Introduce a bonding substrate! A two molecule compound sharing a free electron apiece and bombard the ions with their reflective isotopes!

Dusty smiles, giving him a wink.

DUSTY

Now you've got it.

The other TECHS grin, astonished.

TECH #1

Of course! It's so obvious!

TECH #2
Sergeant Chen, you're... amazing!

Dusty waves off the praise modestly. Betzalar shoots a look to Nex as if to say "we're in good hands here."

BETZALAR
Now I suggest that you go to your cabins and rest before we take the ship out of dock.

He claps his hands and a group of aliens arrive to meet them.

BETZALAR
These crewmen will escort you to quarters.

INT. HALLWAY

Alex's young escort, QUELLEK, leads him down the hall.

QUELLEK
Dr. Lazarus... I hope that I'm not breaching protocol but.. I am so very humbled to stand in your presence... I have studied your missions extensively... Though I am Thermian, I have lived my life by your philosophy, by the code of the Mak'tar.

ALEXANDER
Well good, that's very... nice.

QUELLEK
(emotional)
By Grabthar's Hammer, Dr. Lazarus, I-

ALEXANDER
Don't do that. I'm not kidding.

QUELLEK
(bewildered)
I'm sorry, sir, I was only-

ALEXANDER
Just don't.

QUELLEK
....Yes sir.
(they come to a stop)
Your quarters sir.

INT. ALEX'S QUARTERS

Quellek opens the door and they enter. The room is a grey square completely barren.

ALEXANDER
This is it?

QUELLEK

Yes sir. Marvelous, isn't it? Completely distractionless.

ALEXANDER

Where's my bed?

Quellek pushes a button and FIVE LARGE SPIKES rise from the floor.

QUELLEK

Just as on your home planet, sir. If I may say, it took me three years to master the spikes, but now I sleep with a peace I never thought possible...

Alexander points to a door.

ALEXANDER

Is that the bathroom?

QUELLEK

Yes sir...

(Alex moves to the door)

The use of your waste facilities were strangely absent from the historical records, so we had to extrapolate purely on the basis of your anatomy.

INT. ALEX'S BATHROOM

They enter. Alex looks down at a thing that looks more like a torture device than a toilet, with elaborate tubes and stirrups and plugs going everywhere.

QUELLEK

You're quite complicated, sir.

Alex stares at the thing, despairingly.

INT. TOMMY'S QUARTERS

Tommy's escort SED hands over various weapons to grinning Tommy.

SED

Here is your ion shield. Your vox. Your molecular disrupter... We know you prefer a sensitive trigger. If there is anything else you require?

TOMMY

Uh, no, I'm good. Thanks.
(Sed starts to exit)
Oh wait. Here you go.

Tommy stuffs a couple of bucks into Sed's hand. Sed looks at the tip, perplexed, and exits.

INT. GWEN'S CABIN

An exotic and beautiful room. Gwen is changing into her GALAXY QUEST uniform. There's a knock on the door.

JASON (O.S.)

It's Jason...

GWEN

One minute, I'm -
(he enters)
Hey, I'm dressing!

JASON

Oh come on, it's not like I haven't-

She glares. He turns his back while she finishes dressing.

GWEN

Okay.

She turns. They just look at each other for a moment. Gwen breaks out into a smile, trying to find the words.

JASON

Yeah, I know.

GWEN

I just can't believe it. Any of it! Look at this room!.. They designed it based on the Tauran Pleasure ship from "historical document" thirty seven.

(looks at a mirror)

Oh and wait, wait, listen to this!

(looks up)

Computer?

COMPUTER

-Yes?

GWEN

What's the weather like outside?

COMPUTER

There is no weather in space.

GWEN

I never get tired of that joke.

JASON

Let me try. Computer? (no response)
Computer?...

GWEN

Only answers to me.

JASON

That's ridiculous. I'm the Captain.

GWEN
On the show I talk to the computer and repeat
what it says. So that's what they built.

JASON
Computer? COMPUTER?

GWEN
Computer?

COMPUTER
Yes?

GWEN
(singsong, teasing Jason)
I can talk to the compuuuter and youuu
caaaaan't...

Jason smiles.

GWEN
So when are you going to tell them? The aliens.

JASON
Tell them? About...

GWEN
Who we are. Don't you think they're going to be
PISSSED?

JASON
I'm not going to tell them.

GWEN
Well you have to tell them. What if something
happens? Something dangerous.

JASON
Then we'll take care of it.

GWEN
"We'll take care of it." Listen to you. We're
actors. We're not astronauts, we're not
adventurers... We pretend. We didn't even write
the scripts!

JASON
Look, these people are depending on us. They've
structured their whole lives based on the show.
I'm not going to be the one to bring their
entire civilization crashing down just because
of a little thing called the truth.

GWEN
You want to play space man.

JASON
They have a problem. We can help them.

GWEN

Are you nuts? We can't do this stuff!

JASON

It's not the STUFF. The STUFF isn't the thing... I mean, anybody can learn the STUFF... The important thing is COMMITMENT. 99% of anything is just committing to it.

GWEN

99% of ACTING is commitment. ACTING. Stella Adler never manned a neutron cannon, she taught ACTING...

JASON

Secretly you agree with me.

GWEN

Secretly you know things about me is so smug I just want to smack you right in your smug little-

JASON

Do we have to always fight on the spaceship?

GWEN

Computer do we always have to fight on the spaceship?

COMPUTER

This is not required.

GWEN

Well.

JASON

Well.

They smile at each other. Gwen looks around, giddy.

GWEN

We're in space.

A CREWMAN appears in the doorway.

CREWMAN

Sir, Betzalar requests your presence on the command deck.

INT. HALLWAY

Jason and Gwen turn a corner and join up with Tommy, Alexander and Guy. They keep walking toward the command deck.

TOMMY

What's going on?

JASON

I think we're going to exit the space port.

GUY

That should be something to see...

INT. COMMAND DECK

They enter and gawk at the familiar hub, waiting for the show to start... not realizing they ARE the show.

BETZALAR

If you would all take your positions, we can exit the space port.

THE ACTORS

Oh, right... US! Yes, of course... US!

They take their positions, marveling at the familiar control panels in front of them. Tommy turns to Guy.

TOMMY

Look.. This thingy... I remember I had it all worked out... This was forward, this was back...

BETZALAR

Captain, some of the crew has requested to be present at this historic event.

Betzalar motions and a few CREWMEN enter, followed by a dozen more... followed by FIFTY more. They stand around the periphery of the room, watching eagerly.

TOMMY

(whispers to Guy)

No pressure, huh? Glad I'm not the Captain.

CAPTAIN

Okay, Laredo, take her out.

Everyone in the room turns their attention to Tommy. His sarcastic smile drops. He looks mortified.

TOMMY

Excuse me?

JASON

They designed the ship from watching you. So... Take her out, Lieutenant...

Tommy stares down at his control panel. It's pretty self explanatory, a throttle and a circular dial for direction. But daunting nonetheless.

TOMMY

Right. Okay, yeah, sure.

Everyone's eyes are glued to him as he moves the throttle forward slightly. The ENGINES COME TO LIFE, a massive exhilarating sound. Tommy giggles nervously.

His hand trembles as he pushes the throttle further. The ship start to move. Gwen and the others exchange worried glances.

TOMMY

Oh god. Oh my god....

EXT. SHIP

You can feel the WEIGHT of the giant craft as it eases forward, sliding through the sides of the dock.

INT. COMMAND DECK

Everyone watches the forward monitor. Tommy turns the NAVIGATION DIAL slowly. Guy whispers to him...

GUY

More to the left... Stay parallel...

TOMMY

Hey, YOU want to drive?

EXT. STAR DOCK

Indeed, the ship is slightly off course... It's like trying to get out of a tight parking space with concrete walls to either side. And the ship is veering ever so slightly into one of the walls.

INT. COMMAND DECK

Tommy turns the dial to correct... But it looks like the momentum might carry the ship into the wall anyway... Tommy PEGS the dial to the left... The others hold their breath as the bow of the ship moves closer and closer to the wall... Will it correct in time? It moves a hair's width next to the wall... Then...

It TOUCHES. The sound of a soft but high pitched SCRAAAAAAAPE.

TOMMY

Oh shit.

EXT. STAR DOCK

The ship is stopped, just grazing the wall EVER SO SLIGHTLY.

INT. COMMAND DECK

All eyes are on Tommy. He doesn't know what to do... Should he continue forward, or back up, and scrape again for sure? The classic parking lot dilemma, magnified by ten thousand. Tommy grasps the throttle and moves it slightly forward... SCRAAAAAAAPE. He keeps going, in too deep to back out now... And the ship continues to SCRAAAAAAPE for a couple of horrible seconds as it completes the curve...

...and then it is free. The beautiful craft glides slowly out to open space... Jason and the others let out a sigh of relief.

JASON

Very good Lieutenant. Forward Mark two...

Tommy smiles, relieved. He pushes throttle to the "2".

TOMMY
Mark two, Captain.

EXT. SHIP

The ship glides out to space, only a relatively minor scrape of the paint job to show for the incident.

INT. DINING HALL

The crew and various aliens sit around the large table, eating an extravagant meal. Betzalar makes a toast.

BETZALAR
To our brave guests. Few in this universe have the opportunity to meet their heroes. We are blessed to count ourselves among them.

Everyone clinks glasses. Quellek clinks glasses with Alexander, brimming with admiration. Tek turns to Tommy.

TEK
We are sorry about the instrumentation, Lt. Laredo. Obviously there must have been an alignment problem in the steerage mechanism.

TOMMY
Yes, well.. As long as it doesn't happen again.

TEK
How are you enjoying your food, Lt. Madison?

GWEN
Oh it's fantastic. French is my favorite.

TEK
Yes, we programed the food sythesizer for each of you based on the regional menu of your birthplace.

(turns to Alexander)
Are you enjoying your Kep-mok bloodticks Dr. Lazarus?

Alexander, miserable, toys with a bowl of living insects swimming in a disgustingly vomit-textured broth.

ALEXANDER
Just like mother used to make.

He pushes the bowl away, nauseated.

ALEXANDER
Tell me, Betzalar, this character we're flying to meet... Sarris... What is it he wants exactly?

BETZALAR

For years, Sarris has plundered the resources of our planet. Our people, our technologies. We built this ship in order to find a new planet to settle. One far away from Sarris. We are not a people accustomed to confrontation. We are scientists. This ship was our salvation.

A tick jumps off of Alexander' spoon back into the soup.

BETZALAR

But Sarris found out about our plans just as we had completed construction of the Protector II. He heard about the device... The Omega 13.

GUY

The Omega 13... Why does that sound so familiar?...

GWEN

The lost footage. At the convention. The mysterious device in our last episo-- historical document.

TOMMY

What is it? What does it do?

BETZALAR

We don't know.

GWEN

But... You built one, right?

TEK

We built... something.. from the blueprints and what references we could find on your internet... Our computer neural nets made educated guesses in areas we were uncertain. So there is actually much about the device we don't even understand. We were hoping you could enlighten us.

JASON

Well, it's... This was a device we...

He looks around for someone to help him. Gwen just shrugs.

JASON

...discovered on an alien planet. We don't know what it does either.

TOMMY

Why don't you just turn it on, and see what it does?

TEK

It has at its core a reactor capable of generating unthinkable energy.

(MORE)

TEK (cont'd)

If we were mistaken in our construction by even the slightest calculation, the device would act as a molecular explosive, causing a chain reaction that would obliterate all matter in the universe.

TOMMY

Right, maybe nix on the turn it on thing then.

JASON

Betzalar?... Has Sarris seen the... historical records?

BETZALAR

No, Thank God he has not.

JASON

Then how did he find out about the device?

BETZALAR

Our former Captain was not... Strong.

Betzalar looks down, somber.

JASON

Former Captain?

BETZALAR

I'm sorry. You deserve to be shown.

He nods to a Crewman who pushes a button and a wall panel moves aside to reveal a large viewscreen. An image appears on the screen with a lot of static, and the sound cuts in and out..

BETZALAR

The tape was partially demagnetized as it was smuggled off of Sarris' ship.

But through the static we can make out an image: The former CAPTAIN, in ALIEN form, is strapped to a metal board. Each of his wrists and ankles is secured with mechanical devices and twisted in different directions.

BETZALAR

Originally, one of our own people tried to lead...

In the IMAGE Sarris stands over the alien with a control panel.

SARRIS (ON MONITOR)

Is that all? You have no more to confess to me? No? After three days of this you still require incentive?

Sarris moves switches on the panel. The device pulls at the alien's limbs, twisting them horribly. Bones crackle.

ALIEN CAPTAIN (ON MONITOR)

I say again... I have told you all I know! To my shame, I have told you everything. You must believe me.

SARRIS

I do believe you.

ALIEN CAPTAIN

Then if you have any mercy within you, please, let me die.

SARRIS

Oh I shall, I shall... When I grow weary of the noises you make, my little plaything, be assured, you shall die...

Sarris toys with his control panel. Mercifully the screen fuzzes up with static and we can only HEAR the bone chilling SCREAMS...

We PAN around the table, past GWEN, ALEXANDER, TOMMY, GUY... Their mouths open in horror as they watch the screen. Camera stops on JASON. He stares, the blood draining from his face.

INT. HALLWAY

The actors walk quickly down the hallway behind Jason, panicked.

GWEN

We're leaving, Jason. We're leaving NOW.

JASON

Let me think. I need time to think.

TOMMY

No, Jason, that's a wrap! There's nothing to think about!

GUY

Listen, I'm not even supposed to BE here. I'm just Crewman #6. I'm expendable. I'm the guy in the episode who dies to prove that the situation is serious! I'm leaving NOW.

JASON

Okay... Okay...

Betzalar comes running up, looking distressed.

BETZALAR

Captain...

JASON

Betzalar, I need you to prepare pods for my crew. They're going to return to Earth.

GWEN

Us? What about you?

JASON
I'm staying.

GWEN
Jason...

BETZALAR
Begging your Captain's pardon, sir, but we cannot launch pods at the moment. Sarris will certainly detonate any objects leaving the ship.

(beat)
Yes sir, he's here now. Your presence is required on the command deck.

Everyone reacts, alarmed, and we

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND DECK

The actors enter followed by Betzalar. The command deck is empty.

GWEN
There's nobody here.

JASON
Betzalar, maybe we should get some of your crew up here.

BETZALAR
I thank you for your consideration to our pride, but while my people are talented scientists our attempts to operate our own technologies under simulation have been disastrous...

He leans over to Gwen's computer station as she sits, and pushes a button.

BETZALAR
I have raised Sarris on zeta frequency.

GWEN
Great. Thanks.

JASON
Still, Betzalar, your crew may nonetheless be helpful in certain-

But he is interrupted by the sight of SARRIS appearing on the large VIEWSCREEN. Sarris now wears a metal eyepatch, and has a long scar across his cheek.

SARRIS
We meet again Captain.

The crew stares at Sarris. He's a frightening thing to behold.

JASON

Yes... Hi Sarris... How are you doing?

SARRIS

Better than my Lieutenant. He failed to activate ships's neutron armor as quickly as I'd hoped on our last encounter.

He brings into view a stake with the impaled head of his former Lieutenant.

JASON

Right. Well... Listen, I'm (laughs) I'm sorry about that whole... thing.. before. It was kind of a misunderstanding. I'm sure we can work this out like reasonable people... How's the uh...

(motions to his eyepatch)
...that going to heal up? God, I hope so, I feel just awful about that.

SARRIS

Deliver the device now or I will destroy your ship.

JASON

Listen, I'd like to, but frankly.. I'm not even sure where it is, or even...

SARRIS

You have ten seconds.

JASON

All right. You got it. You win. I'll deliver it now. Just give me a moment to set it up.

Jason motions to Gwen for her to cut the transmission. Gwen nods.

JASON

All right, now nobody panic, I've dealt with this guy before and believe me, he's as stupid as he is ugly.

GWEN

Jason..

Jason

We're going to fire everything we've got at him, all right?

GWEN

JASON...

Jason

You just keep pushing those buttons, those there, send everything at him, okay?

Guy looks at the buttons. They have icons of the armaments on them.

GUY

Okay.

JASON

All right. Put me back on with him.

GWEN

I'm trying to tell you. You ARE on with him.

SARRIS

Perhaps I am not as stupid as I am ugly,
Captain.

Jason turns to Gwen horrified.

JASON

I made the CUT THE LINE gesture. You nodded
okay!

GWEN

I thought it was the "We're dead" gesture! I
was agreeing! Like I know where the hold button
is???

JASON

(nervous jovial)

Listen, Sarris, you can't blame me for
trying...

SARRIS

Of course not...

GUY

Guys... Red thingy moving toward the green
thingy. Red thingy moving toward the green
thingy!

JASON

What?

Guy motions to the radar screen. The red blip is about to impact.

GUY

I think we're the green thingy.

SARRIS

A present for you, Captain.

CAPTAIN

Shit. Turn. Gun it! Get out of-

The ship is POUNDED BY A TORPEDO BLAST. Now, unlike the "run back
and forth" shake-the-camera explosions of the TV show, the result
here is jarringly BRUTAL, like side-slammng a Hummer at 70mpg.
The entire crew goes FLYING from their positions and into the
walls. The lights FLICKER.

They exchange glances, for the first time, bona fide FEAR in their
eyes. This is REAL.

Then ANOTHER blast sends them crumpled against walls and objects like rag dolls. The pain is palpable as they try to get back to their stations.

JASON

We've gotta get out of here!

Tommy looks at the sparkling map of lights on his dash.

TOMMY

Where?

ALEXANDER

Anywhere!

JASON

Just GO! GO! DAMMIT PUNCH GO!

Tommy punches the big red button. They all hold on for dear life as the ship roars forward, across the path of Sarris' ship.

GWEN

They're turning. They're COMING.

An explosion rocks the ship.

COMPUTER

We are sustaining structural damage.

GWEN

Guys, we're sustaining structural damage!...

JASON

Faster Tommy. Get us out of here.

Tommy pushes on the throttle as another explosion impacts.

TOMMY

It's as far as it goes.

GUY

They're still behind us...

Another EXPLOSION.

JASON

We should have a turbo. I'm always saying "activate turbo thrusters", right?...

TOMMY

Could be this.

JASON

Push it. Hold it down.

He pushes the turbo. The ship ROARS forward and begins to VIBRATE.

COMPUTER

The enemy is matching velocity.

GWEN

The enemy is matching velocity.

ALEXANDER

We heard it the first time!

GWEN

Shit! I'm doing it! I'm repeating the damn computer!

Suddenly an image of Dusty down in the generator room appears on the side viewscreen. He's taking it all in stride.

DUSTY

Hi guys. Listen, they're telling me that the generators won't take it, the ship's breaking apart and all that. Just FYI.

The viewscreen goes black.

ALEXANDER

We've got to stop!

JASON

We stop we die. Keep holding the thruster down Tommy.

ALEXANDER

You don't hold a thruster down! It's for quick boosts!

JASON

Like YOU know?

The ship begins to GROAN and CREAK. Then a loud KLAXON goes off.

GWEN

I remember that sound! That's a very bad sound!

Jason looks forward. In the distance is an amorphous hazy MASS...

JASON

Maybe we can lose them in that cloud.

They ROAR forward.

GWEN

I don't think that's a cloud...

As they approach, the "cloud" reveals itself to actually be thousands upon thousands of SLOWLY ROTATING CUBES.

JASON

Betzalar? What is that?

BETZALAR

It's the Tothian mine field left standing from the Great War of 12185.

ALEXANDER
Mines? Oh lovely!

GWEN
The ships are gaining...

Jason turns to Tommy.

JASON
Do your best, Tommy...

Tommy grips his controls.

TOMMY
Oh god...

THE FIRST MINE HITS, ROCKING THE SHIP... BOOM! Tommy SWERVES to avoid it, running into another mine. Then another. Tommy couldn't do worse if he were aiming for them.

ALEXANDER
Could you possibly try (BOOM!) not to hit (BOOM!) every (BOOM!) single (BOOM!) one! (BOOM!)

TOMMY
They're drifting toward me... I think they're magnetic!...

EXT. SHIP

The ship HURTTLES FORWARD through the mine field, taking considerable damage as the mines impact. PIECES of the ship fall off behind it...

INT. COMMAND DECK

JASON
We're almost through... Come on... Hold...

The ship is now VIBRATING HORRIBLY. It GROANS and CREAKS then... RIVETS start to POP! DEADLY PROJECTILES hurtling across the command deck like BULLETS.

ALEXANDER
WE HAVE TO STOP!

GWEN
JUST SLOW IT DOWN A LITTLE!

JASON
NO! WE'RE ALMOST THROUGH!

ALEXANDER
DON'T BE INSANE, STOP! FULL STOP!

JASON
KEEP GOING! KEEP GOING!

TOMMY
WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO?

And then suddenly, a horrible METAL GRINDING noise and..... the vibrating stops.

ALEXANDER
 What's happened?

TOMMY
 There's no power... The engines are dead. We're drifting.

They exchange horrified glances.

JASON
 Are they behind us?

Gwen checks the radar.

GWEN
 No, I don't think so... Wait. They're not but... Something is.
 (beat)
 Oh my god.

They look out the rear view screen to see... TWO DOZEN MAGNETIC MINES BEARING DOWN ON THEM IN A CLUSTER.

JASON
 DOWN!

They barely have time to brace themselves as the ship is ROCKED by WAVES of explosions. They hit the floor and try to ride it out. It's brutal...

EXT. SHIP

The last of the mines explodes and the ship is sent tumbling lifelessly end over end through space. The exterior lights are dark. The once shiny hull now blackened and ragged.

INT. COMMAND DECK

The deck looks dead and empty. Smoke is in the air. The lights are dim. The sirens have stopped. It's completely silent. The crew slowly emerges from behind panels and equipment, bruised and bloodied. Jason moves to Gwen.

JASON
 Are you all right?

She nods, slowly rising. He turns to Betzalar.

BETZALAR
 I'm fine.

JASON
 Tommy? Guy?

They hear a GROAN. Tommy is crumpled against the wall, his arm twisted impossibly. Gwen and Jason move to him. He's in agony.

TOMMY

It's broke... Oh God... Oh God...

He winces in pain as Betzalar helps him to his feet.

BETZALAR

I'll take him to medical quarters.

They exit, limping. Alexander rises, moves past Jason. Blood trickles down his forehead.

ALEXANDER

(mocking tone)

"Go into the cloud!..."

GWEN

Alex? Where are you going?

ALEXANDER

I'm going to try to find a drink.

He exits. The others turn to Jason, their faces sooty, their clothing torn and bloody.

INT. SHIP STRATEGY ROOM

The crew sits around the room, licking their wounds. Alexander nurses a blue beverage. Tommy examines a high tech metallic cast on his arm. The computer lists off an endless damage report.

COMPUTER

...Forward thruster shaft, 87% damage... Left vector guards, 96% damage... Level 5 structural breaches in quadrants 32, 34, 40, 43, 58...

JASON

And the engines?

GWEN

Computer, what about our engines? Why don't we have power?

COMPUTER

The Carbonite Sphere has fractured under stress. Damage to carbonite sphere irreparable. New source of carbonite must be secured.

TOMMY

Oh great. There's no spare on the ship?

GUY

We didn't have one on the show, so they don't here.

TOMMY

...Hell, even my Yugo came with a spare.

ALEXANDER

(to Jason)

You broke the ship! You broke the bloody SHIP!
I told you you don't hold down a turbo. You
push it once, maybe twice for a boost but you
don't HOLD it.

Suddenly the door opens and seven Aliens enter, led by Betzalar.
They look VERY SERIOUS. Guy exchanges an "uh oh" glance with
Tommy... But the aliens fall to one knee, lowering their heads.

BETZALAR

A thousand apologies. We have failed you.

The actors exchanged surprised glances.

JASON

You what?.. What are you talking about?

BETZALAR

We have seen you victorious in much more
desperate situations. The fault must lie with
us, with the ship, with our engineering...

JASON

No, no... It was us, Betzalar. Listen...
We're... We're... We're not the people you
think we are.

BETZALAR

I don't understand...

GWEN

Betzalar, don't you have television on your
planet? Movies? Plays?

BETZALAR

The historical documents of your culture...
Yes, in fact we have begun to document our own
history, from your example..

GWEN

No not historical documents... They're not all
historical documents... I mean... Surely you
don't think Gilligan's Island is a...

Betzalar and the others exchange sad glances...

BETZALAR

Those poor people...

TOMMY

(rolls his eyes)

Hoo boy...

GWEN

Your culture doesn't have any form of Drama?
Of theater? Make believe?

Betzalar and the others exchange quizzical looks.

GWEN

Does no one on your planet behave in a way that is contrary to what they are in reality?

BETZALAR

You're speaking of the use of deception? Lies?

GWEN

Well, sort of, I suppose...

BETZALAR

We have become aware of these concepts only recently. In our dealings with Sarris. Often we have found that Sarris will say one thing, and do another. Promise us mercy and deliver destruction. It perplexed us at first. Our people are builders, designers, we work together to create, not to destroy. These concepts of deception and lies have no worth in our society. But with Sarris, yes, we have begun to learn their meaning... at some great cost. But if you are saying that any of you could possibly have traits in common with Sarris...

He starts to laugh, and the other aliens join in.

BETZALAR

You are our protectors... Our heroes. You will save us.

Jason opens his mouth, but isn't sure what to say... Suddenly a VIEWSCREEN lights and we see Dusty on the monitor from down in the generator room.

DUSTY (ON SCREEN)

Hey Captain. Listen, our detectors have picked up a source of Carbonite on a nearby planet. What do you think about the idea of rigging the aft solar distributors in a parallel matrix and configured for negative propulsion? It won't be a rocket ride, but it should get us there.

JASON

(impressed)

I... Well, uh... Yes, absolutely!

Dusty turns to two young TECHS next to him.

DUSTY

Correct! Gold star for you and a gold star for you...

He licks and sticks two sticky GOLD STARS on the wrists of two beaming alien TECHS.

EXT. SHIP

The ship lumbers slowly forward. In the distance we see the swirling globe of a colorful and mysterious PLANET.

INT. SURFACE POD BAY - LATER

Jason, Gwen, Tommy and Guy enter the small surface pod. Quellok, Alexander's protege, steps forward, hands Alex a device.

QUELLEK

Dr. Lazarus, here is your surface mapper. I have programed it to the coordinates of a Carbonite Sphere of sufficient density.

ALEXANDER

Thanks.

QUELLEK

(emotional)

Good luck on your mission, Sir. By Grabthar's Hammer, by the Suns of Warvan I wish you-

ALEXANDER

(holds up a warning finger)

Uh uh! What did we talk about?

QUELLEK

Right... Sorry, sir.

INT. SURFACE POD

Tommy pilots the craft. Out the window the pod approaches the planet. It's an amazing sight, a blue sky with red clouds. Three suns hang in the horizon. Guy looks out the window nervously.

GUY

I changed my mind. I want to go back.

ALEXANDER

After the big fuss you made about not getting left behind on the ship?

GUY

Yeah, but that's when I thought maybe I was the crewmember that stays on the ship and something is up there and it kills me, but now I'm thinking I'm the guy who gets killed by some monster five minutes after we land on the planet. It makes perfect sense...

JASON

Guy, you're not going to get killed on the planet, okay?

GUY

Oh, I'm not? I'm not? Then what's my last name?

JASON
Your last name?

GUY
Yeah, what is it?

JASON
It's... I don't know.

GUY
No. Nobody does. Do you know WHY? Because my character isn't IMPORTANT enough for a last name. Because I'm going to DIE five minutes in, why bother to come up with a last name for me?

GWEN
Guy, you HAVE a last name. We just don't KNOW it.

GUY
Do I? DO I? For all you know I'm just "CREWMAN #6"
(hysterical)
Okay, it's FLEEGMAN! Guy FLEEGMAN! There! Now I'm a whole person! I can't die! FLEEGMAN! THEY CAN'T KILL ME NOW, CAN THEY? CAN THEY?

Jason slaps him.

GUY
See? I'm the hysterical guy who needs to be slapped, and then I die!

ALEXANDER
(looks around with a sigh)
Are we there yet?

EXT. SURFACE POD

The pod makes its way toward the surface, and lands softly.

INT. POD

Everyone applauds, complimenting Tommy on the landing. Tommy looks away, shamed.

TOMMY
Autopilot.

Everyone looks away, disappointed.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAY

HARD RAIN beats down on the pod. The five exit the craft and look around. Alexander checks his mapper.

ALEXANDER

It's this way...
 (they start forward)
 Wait... No... That way.

They all turn and head the opposite direction.

GUY

You had it upside-down, didn't you?

ALEXANDER

Shut up.

TOMMY

You know, with the makeup and everything, I actually believed he knew his ass from a gopher hole for a second...

GWEN

Me too!

We pull back to see the landscape around them. It's a marvel, huge crystal formations and gleaming mountains surround them.

EXT. CRYSTAL PLANET - VALLEY - LATER

The RAIN pours mercilessly as they move through a valley. Lightning flashes on the horizon. They continue forward.

EXT. CRYSTAL PLANET - INCLINE - LATER

They move up a moderate grade as the rain abates. Soft earth squishes under their boots. Guy looks down to see tiny BUDS beginning to peek up through the dirt, growing like time lapse photography. He bends over and reaches out to touch one bud as it opens its petals revealing... rows tiny little TEETH. And suddenly it THRUSTS forward and CHOMPS down on Guy's finger. Guy YELPS, trying to withdraw his finger, but it's got a good grip.

GUY

SEE?! I TOLD YOU! FIVE MINUTES!

Alexander crushes the plant underfoot, shaking his head. Guy sucks on his bleeding finger as they continue on.

EXT. PLANET - VALLEY PASS

They continue up a grade, and CLOUDS pass over the suns in the sky, darkening the horizon.

GWEN

More rain?

TOMMY

More something...

Indeed the clouds look peculiar... Like icy crystalline structures floating in the sky. Suddenly there is a crash of THUNDER and it begins to rain solid frozen PROJECTILES...

Hundreds of STALACTITES falling like knives from the sky! Jason TACKLES Tommy, pushing him aside just as one of the projectiles impacts. It would have cut him in half.

JASON
Take cover! There!

They all run toward a cliff face dotted with caves and overhangs.... Everyone scatters to the cave closest to them.

INT. CRYSTALLINE CAVE

Jason and Gwen enter from outside... The room glows with shiny green and pink crystals...

JASON
I guess we'll have to wait it out.

They sit and watch the frozen rain fall and melt into pools outside for a long moment... Then simultaneously they get the same thought. They turn to each other...

JASON AND GWEN
Episode 23. "The Caverns of Delos 5."

JASON
"It's not us, Tawny... It's these caves, they have some strange power over us..."

GWEN
"Oh, Captain, I could never reveal my true feelings until now..."

JASON
"Resist it, Tawny... Resist it! It's just the cave talking! Be strong!"

She moves over to him melodramatically.

GWEN
"Kiss me Captain? Oh, please, kiss me..."

They laugh at the dumb dialogue. There's an awkward pause as Jason thinks about really kissing Gwen. But she moves away before it becomes an issue.

JASON
We always had fun, didn't we?

GWEN
Well they did. I'm not so sure about us...

JASON
Oh, come on. We had good times. Remember when we mic'd Alex in his trailer? Remember the space monkey in Tommy's locker?
(a beat)
Remember up in the catwalks between lighting setups?...

GWEN

Sure, on the set we were great. But off the set...

JASON

We had plenty of good times off the set... There was the time I... There was that time we... Remember at the beach house we...

GWEN

Fought.

JASON

Yeah. We fought a lot.
(thinks)
It was me. It was my fault.

GWEN

(surprised at the admission)
Yeah? You never said that.

JASON

It's strange, you know..? The way people treat you like your character. Even the grips and teamsters who should know better...

GWEN

(motions to her outfit)
Tell me about it.

JASON

I know. You couldn't wait to get out of there at wrap... But me, I would have slept in stage six if they'd let me. It was the best time of my life. The way people looked at me... Like I could do anything... I could even get someone as amazing as you to think I was special.

GWEN

You thought it was him I wanted?...

JASON

Truthfully... Wasn't it? Just a little?

GWEN

Maybe... What girl didn't want to be with Captain Taggart?

(a beat)

But Captain Taggart couldn't make me laugh.

They exchange a long glance.

JASON

That sounds like the cave talking.

She laughs, proving her own point as they look out the cave entrance... A long beat as they watch the rain...

JASON

I still think we had fun off the set ONCE...

GWEN

Well let me know if you think of it...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PLANET

The rain has stopped... The five actors have regrouped, and are trudging up a steep grade as the three suns in the sky boil away the water on the ground.

CARBONITE QUARRY - DUSK

They move to a cul-de-sac of large dusty boulders, exhausted and parched. Alexander's device BEEPS as he approaches one five feet in diameter.

ALEXANDER

This is it.

TOMMY

I thought it was going to be little.

GUY

You never watched the show at all, did you?

Suddenly they hear a sound from the darkness, a strange sound, half human, half animal.

GUY

That's it. That's what's going to kill me.

ALEXANDER

Will you shut up.

GWEN

Let's get out of here before something kills Guy.

They surround the boulder and start to push it the way they came.

CRYSTALLINE PASS

They push the Carbonite sphere forward as around them they hear more SPOOKY VOICES whispering in an alien tongue. And the sound of rocks shifting; Critters climbing around the surrounding cliffs.

GWEN

I saw something move.

JASON

Me too. Let's just keep going.

They push the Carbonite past a cliff revealing a POOL of glimmering liquid. At the pool are two SMALL BLUE beings that look somewhat like human CHILDREN, drinking. Everyone stares.

GUY
C'mon, let's go...

GWEN
Look at them. They're cute. They look like children...

She waves at one of them. It cocks its head and waves back.

GUY
Of course they're cute now. But in a second they're going get ugly and mean somehow and then when we turn around there's going to be a million more of them...

Gwen and Tommy make baby talk sounds to them. They make baby talk sounds back..

GUY
Jesus, didn't ANY of you guys watch the show?!

Gwen smiles. The aliens smile back, imitating her... But it's a hideous sight: Their lips curl three times wider across their faces than normal and their mouths reveal HUGE SHARP teeth. We then notice that one of them is holding a RAGGED SEVERED LEG, and has blood in his teeth. The actors hear more SKITTERING behind them and turn slowly to see DOZENS of ALIEN DEMON CHILDREN appearing on the ridge.

GUY
I am so sick of being right!

The demon children begin coming down the hillside in WAVES.

ALEXANDER
God I hope they're just coming for Guy.

JASON
C'MON. PUSH!

They push the Carbonite rock to the ridge as fast as they can. It's all downhill from there, luckily... The bad news is...

...Below they see the field of CARNIVOROUS FLOWERS now grown to eight feet tall, and there are HUNDREDS of them, all snapping and biting at each other.

...Jason turns to see the STAMPEDE of the demonic aliens coming at them like a tidal wave. He makes a decision.

JASON
Stay close behind it.

He gives the Carbonite boulder a shove and it begins rolling down the hill, faster and faster. The actors follow in its path...

Down the hill... straight into the FLOWER FIELD... The now MUSCULAR plants SNAP at them with powerful jaws, but the boulder mows down the ones in their path and they make it through...

Up ahead the SURFACE POD is in sight. Jason looks back to see the DEMON ALIENS following through the field, some getting carried into the air and eaten by the plants, but by sheer numbers, most getting through and still in pursuit.

The group follows the boulder as it comes to rest at the pod. They roll the boulder onto the ramp as the DEMON ALIENS grow closer. But the boulder now blocks the entrance. Gwen helps Guy inside, then squeezes through herself, followed by Tommy. Alexander and Jason both motion each other forward.

ALEXANDER

Go ahead!

JASON

You go first! There's no time!

ALEXANDER

Oh, of course, I forgot! YOU have to be the hero... Heaven forbid I get the spotlight once! Oh no, Jason Nesmith couldn't possibly-

Jason cold cocks him unconscious and lifts him through, then squeezes through himself as behind him

THE DEMON ALIENS DESCEND UPON THE POD

INT. POD

Jason is almost through.

JASON

Tommy, I'm in, push go now!

Tommy pushes the button when suddenly Jason is GRABBED BY THE ANKLE by FIVE PAIRS OF DEMON HANDS and dragged back outside just as the door closes behind him.

GWEN

Oh my god! Tommy! Stop the pod! Stop the pod!

TOMMY

I can't... It's on autopilot!...

As the pod ascends they all move to the window to watch horrified as Jason disappears into the middle of the huge blue mob that surrounds him. Alexander regains consciousness, looks around.

ALEXANDER

He knocked me out the sonofabitch. Where is he?

GWEN

(horrified)

Down there.

Alexander joins the others, looks down at the blue mob below.

ALEXANDER

Oh right, of course... It's always about YOU, isn't it?!

The view fades to white as we move up into clouds.

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - DAWN

One of the SUNS rises on the horizon.

INT. ALIEN SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Jason is tied to a slab, his shirt off. Around the room are hooks from which hang various severed parts of a variety of strange alien BODIES. He is surrounded by five of the DEMONS. One of them brings forth a long carving knife.

JASON

Wait. Just wait. You speak English?... Habla Espanol? Parle-

Without hesitation, the alien SLICES a thin slice of "meat" from Jason's shoulder, and eats it from a fork.

JASON

AGH! JESUS! What the hell are you DOING?

The demons confer in a strange SUBTITLED language.

DEMON #1

It is suitable.

DEMON #2

I will try.

He slices off another bit of meat and chews. Jason yells.

JASON

OWWWW! STOP! NO MORE! Not one more bite, do you understand? Do not eat ONE MORE BITE OF-
AAAAGH! SHIT!

Suddenly we hear a RUMBLING from outside, like a volcano, and another alien runs in.

DEMON #3

The hill of fire.

DEMON #1

Gorignak is displeased.

DEMON #2

It has been too long since an offering.

They look down at Jason. He looks back, wary.

DEMON #1

Yes. Unfortunate. It is flavorful.

DEMON 2

What do you suppose it is?

DEMON #1

(momentarily introspective)

I don't know. Strange, it looks like a child.

DEMON #3

What should I do?

DEMON #1

Hit it with a rock.

Demon three lifts a rock and Jason doesn't have time to object before everything goes BLACK.

INT. SHIP POD BAY

The pod door opens and Gwen, Alexander and the others exit, out of breath. They're greeted by Dusty and three of his Generator Room Techs.

GWEN

We got the Carbonite, but the Captain's down there with a bunch of cannibals!

DUSTY

We have to go back down in the pod then...

GWEN

There's no time. What about that dohicky... That transports us back and forth? It's your thing, Dusty, you know... "Molecularize me in, Sergeant Chen..." Do we have one of those?

DUSTY

The molecular conveyor...

TOMMY

Of course, we could just zap him up with the molecular conveyor! Teb?...

TEB

Yes, we did build a conveyor, of course...

GWEN

What are we waiting for? You guys get the Carbonite Sphere up and running, okay? Teb, take us to the conveyor station.

They exit running. Dusty looks a little unsure...

INT. CORRIDOR

Gwen, Alexander, Dusty, Tommy, Guy and the technician Teb run down the hallway. Huffing, Alexander turns to Gwen.

ALEXANDER

You said "the Captain."

What?
 GWEN

ALEXANDER
 Back there. You said "the Captain" is down there with a bunch of cannibals.

GWEN
 No I didn't.

TOMMY
 I heard it too.

GWEN
 Is this really the most important thing we could be talking about right now?

EXT. PLANET SURFACE - ROCKY TRENCH/EXHIBIT AREA

Jason opens his eyes to find himself outside in a rocky landscape. He hears the sound of strange chattering and looks up to see a large group of DEMONS watching him through a window set in the rock wall high above. The entire effect is that of a zoo exhibit; a rock valley with high walls, and a number of viewing areas. Above, the aliens chant a single word over and over...

DEMONS
 Gorignak... Gorignak...

Next to the Jason lies a wooden spear. Jason hears scratching footsteps approaching around a corner. He rises quickly and grabs his spear. The animal appears.. It looks about the size of a pot bellied pig, but somewhat reptilian.

DEMONS
 Gorignak... Gorignak...

Jason moves slowly toward the animal. It SNORTS at him, holding its territory. Suddenly we hear Gwen's voice.

GWEN (O.S.)
 Jason.. Can you hear me?

Jason pulls the vox from his belt.

JASON
 Yes. Yes, I'm here!

INT. SHIP - MOLECULAR CONVEYER ROOM

Gwen, Alexander and the others watch Jason on a viewscreen.

GWEN
 Thank God. Are you okay?

JASON
 Yeah.. They want me to fight this thing, Gorignak... I think I can take it though...

GWEN

Jason, we're going to use the molecular conveyer to get you out of there.

Jason pokes at the pig-lizard. It HISSES at him petulantly.

JASON

The molecular conveyer? Wait, that's the thing that pulls me apart into a zillion pieces zaps me up there, and reassembles me, right?

DUSTY

Right.

JASON

I'll take my chances with Gorignak.

The pig lizard NIPS at Jason, getting a bite. Jason stabs back.

GWEN

Jason, we've got to get you out of there... It's perfectly safe, isn't it, Teb?

TEB

It has never been successfully tested.

JASON

What? What did he say?

GWEN

Nothing. Hold please.

She switches off the vox, they turn to Teb.

TEB

Theoretically the mechanism is fully operational. However, it was built to accommodate your anatomy, not ours. Our actual hands are six fingered and jointed at ninety degrees to yours. We are unable to operate the device with the required dexterity. But now that Sergeant Chen is here he can operate it... It was designed watching his motions from the historical records.

Everyone turns to Dusty. For the first time, he looks a little apprehensive. He laughs nervously.

DUSTY

Well I mean I can't... I can supervise of course, but...

Alexander turns the vox back on.

ALEXANDER

Jason, we're going to test it.

JASON

Okay... On what?

TOMMY

How about the pig lizard?

JASON

Hey, I was doing okay with the pig lizard...

Alexander and the others move aside to let Dusty at the control panel. The controls are complicated, and fit Dusty's hand like two metal gloves. Teb GASPS as he grasps the controls.

TEB

I'm sorry. It is very exciting to see the master at the controls. The operation of the conveyer is more art than science.

Dusty moves his hands and the pig is TARGETED in crosshairs of the instrument panel. He slowly twists his wrist as he manipulates a lever cautiously and....

ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE

The pig lizard demolecularizes and disappears.

CONVEYOR ROOM

Everyone looks very impressed. Dusty starts to smile, "no sweat" as the pig rematerializes on the conveyer pad. As it forms, however, something is very wrong. We hear the pig lizard's HORRIBLE SQUEALS over the disgusted reactions of the crew.

JASON

What? What?

ALEXANDER

(singsong)

Nothing.

JASON

I heard something. A squeal.

GWEN

Oh no. Everything's fine.

TEB

But... the animal is inside out.

JASON

I heard that! It's INSIDE OUT!

Then the monstrous remains of the pig lizard EXPLODES.

TEB

...And it exploded!

JASON

What? Did I just hear that it came back INSIDE OUT, and then it EXPLODED? Alex? Gwen? Hello?

GWEN

Hold on. (to others) What are we going to do?

PLANET SURFACE

Jason looks up at the viewing window where the Demons continue to chant.

DEMONS

Gorignak!... Gorignak!...

JASON

Wait, the pig lizard is gone. Why are they still chanting for the pig lizard?

GWEN

Turn on the translation circuit.

Teb flicks a switch and we hear the Demons in English.

DEMONS

ROCK... ROCK... ROCK...

Suddenly Gwen and the others notice that the entire ROCK FACE behind Jason moves slightly, like a granite MUSCULATURE... Jason, facing forward, doesn't see it.

GWEN

Jason? I dcn't think the pig was Gorignak...

JASON

What the hell are you talking about?

Behind Jason, the boulders in the wall begin moving forward, EMERGING from the rock face, and a GIANT emerges... A MONSTER made of granite... Jason turns slowly, with a feeling of dread, as he hears the rumbling SOUND of the monster's body freeing itself from the rock face around it.

JASON

Oh darn.

He takes a step back, holding his puny wooden spear. The ROCK MONSTER steps forward, 20 feet tall. Its face mostly featureless yet ominous and determined and upset, and it heads straight for JASON.

JASON

Guys, molecularize me in...

Jason backs away slowly, around the corner, but the monster follows CRUNCH CRUNCH forward...

JASON

Guys...?!!

INT. SHIP - MOLECULAR CONVEYER ROOM

Dusty looks genuinely distressed.

DUSTY

I can't. You saw what happened...

GWEN

You have to. They based it on YOUR hand movements.

Dusty backs away, terror in his face... He starts talking to himself nervously...

DUSTY

All my professional life they'd say "can you ride a horse" Dusty? And I'd say "Of course, been riding since I was a boy." "Can you fence Dusty?" "Funny you should ask, I've won six international competitions." I learned never to say I can't do something. You don't get the part if you say "I can't do this." So I said "sure!" because after you're cast, a stuntman does the fall, somebody's hands play the piano for you... But this is life or death! There is no stuntman, there are no hands, so may God forgive me Jason... I can't do this.

Dusty huddles in the corner, obviously no use to anybody.

ON THE PLANET

Jason is in a FULL OUT RUN being chased by the ROCK MONSTER which STOMPS forward, DEMOLISHING everything in its path. The DEMONS move from viewing window to viewing window excitedly, following the pursuit. Finally Jason runs into a dead end.

ALEXANDER

Dusty's no good, Jason. You're going to have to kill it.

The monster CRUNCHES forward, distracted by a couple of Pig Lizards which scurry across its path. He grabs them and puts them in his rock mouth, SQUASHING them. Then turns back to Jason...

JASON

KILL IT? Well I'm open to ideas!...

GUY

Go for the eyes. Like in episode 22 with the Var-Dragon... Or episode 46 with the-

JASON

It doesn't have eyes.

GUY

The throat, the mouth... Its vulnerable spots.

JASON

It's a ROCK. It doesn't HAVE vulnerable spots!

TOMMY

I know... You construct a weapon. Look around, can you form some sort of rudimentary lathe?...

JASON

A LATHE??? Get off the line, Guy! Gwen?

GWEN

It's REALLY big, Jason...

JASON

Thanks. Helpful!

The monster takes a step forward, its shadow falling over Jason..

JASON

ALEXANDER??? PLEASE? You're my advisor, advise me!

Alexander strokes his chin, thinking...

ALEXANDER

Jason, you have to figure out what it wants... What's its motivation?

JASON

It's a DAMN ROCK MONSTER!!! It doesn't HAVE motivation!

ALEXANDER

That's your problem. You were never serious about the craft...

(closing his eyes)

"I'm a rock... I just want to be a rock... Still. Peaceful.. Tranquil.."

The monster goes on a frenzy, crushing everything inbetween itself and Jason... Meanwhile, Alexander curls in a ball pretending to be the rock monster...

ALEXANDER

..."Oh, but what's this? Something's making noise... No, not noise, no... MOVEMENT. VIBRATIONS. Make the vibrations stop, they go straight into me like a knife!.. I must CRUSH the thing that makes the vibrations..."

JASON

Am I crazy, or do you actually have something there?

Jason reaches down and grabs a handful of small rocks. But at that moment the rock monster reaches down and GRABS him in his fist. Jason is carried into the air and dangled above the beast's mouth. Jason keeps his composure enough to toss one of the rocks at the DEMONS in the viewing window. The rock SMACKS the window with a BANG and bounces off.

The Demons turn to each other, smiling at this feeble effort to hurt them. That is until the monster WHEELS toward the window.

Jason throws another rock at the window. It hits with SOUND, VIBRATING the window. The monster drops Jason. Jason lands, throws another rock. The monster CHARGES toward the vibrations, and before the demons can flee, SMASHES into the viewing area, causing the entire wall, Demons and monster to collapse together in a mammoth landslide. All is still.

IN THE SHIP

The actors CHEER, but their relief is short lived as...

ON THE PLANET

The rock monster EMERGES from the rubble, its jaws BLOODY from munching a few of the flattened DEMONS in its mouth... It begins to make a beeline for Jason. Jason is perplexed.

JASON

But I'm not moving, I... Oh no. My heartbeat.

IN THE ROCK MONSTER'S POV we head toward Jason and hear Jason's adrenaline heartbeat magnified like a drum, THA-THUMP THA-THUMP.

JASON

Dusty? Dusty, can you hear me?

ON THE SHIP

Dusty moves to the panel, shaking.

DUSTY

Yes Jason?

JASON

You've got to do this... It's up to you.

The MONSTER picks up speed toward Jason.

DUSTY

(sweat pours down his temple)
No, I'll kill you...

JASON

Listen Dusty. You did this for four years on the show. You can do it now... Put your hands on the controls..

Dusty puts his trembling hands on the controls...

DUSTY

I don't know... I don't know...

The monster picks up speed. STOMP STOMP STOMP.

JASON

(hiding his fear)

Dusty, I worked summer stock with Hopkins. Regional theater with Hoffman. But I swear to God I have never met an actor who could hit his mark, or nail his lines with the professional consistency of a Dustin Kwan. You're Mr. Dependable... You can do this.

DUSTY

You worked with Hopkins? I worship Hopkins.

Dusty draws confidence from these words. The monster is UPON Jason... It raises its fist...

CAPTAIN

Molecularize me in Dusty.

A moment of concentration - as everybody holds their breath - and then Dusty works the controls. Jason is STILL THERE and..

THE MONSTER SMASHES DOWN HIS FIST RIGHT DOWN ONTO JASON....

...at the very moment he dematerializes. The fist goes right through the scattering molecules. Everybody on ship holds their breath and watches the..

REMATERIALIZING PLATFORM

Dusty twists and turns his controls with extreme concentration as Jason appears, solidifying. His body instantly DUCKS and CONTORTS to avoid the ROCK FIST that moments ago descended upon him. Everyone runs up to him as he regains his composure, celebrating, hugging him and patting him on the back. Even Alexander looks relieved, but won't admit it of course.

ALEXANDER

I see you managed to take your shirt off.

Jason looks over and sees Dusty still at the controls, drenched with sweat. He moves to Dusty and shakes his trembling hand.

DUSTY

As good as Hopkins?

JASON

Hopkins can't drink your bathwater, Dusty.

Dusty wells with pride. Jason turns to the others.

JASON

All right folks, let's get the hell out of here...

Jason punches a communications button.

JASON

Betzalar, we're back and we're on our way to command deck. (silence) Betzalar?

(MORE)

JASON (cont'd)
Come in Betzalar? Teb? Queelek? Generator
room?!.. What's going on? Where is everybody?

Gwen pushes a button on the monitors to see... EIGHT GIANT SHIPS
JUST LIKE SARRIS' SURROUNDING THE PROTECTOR. The crew REACTS...
Gwen punches another button and a dozen video panels light up
showing... SARRIS' MEN ALL OVER THE SHIP. IN THE GENERATOR ROOM,
THE HALLWAYS, THE COMMAND DECK... An INFESTATION.

TOMMY

NO NO NO.

JASON

We've got to get out of here. C'mon, hurry!..

But as they head toward the door, it OPENS, revealing SARRIS AND A
DOZEN OF HIS MEN, guns drawn. The actors back away, except for
Jason who stands his ground as Sarris approaches. They stand face
to face for a moment.

JASON

Listen Sarris, just hold on a-

But Sarris BACKHANDS him brutally with his metal gloved fist.
Jason crashes to the floor. Gwen and the others move to help, but
are restrained by the guards. Jason starts to stand, wiping blood
from his mouth, but with a nod from Sarris, six of his men
surround Jason and begin to kick and beat him on the ground
brutally... Alexander and the others can only watch in horror.

INT. BARRACKS/PRISON

The row of barracks down the long hallway have been converted to
prison cells. From inside these the hundreds of captured ALIENS
watch in despair as JASON, BLOODY AND BEATEN, is led down the
corridor, his hands and feet shackled. Sarris, his guards and the
other crewmembers follow behind.

Weak and semi-conscious from the beating, Jason stumbles and
falls. Sarris produces a device that looks-like a cattle prod and
applies it to Jason's neck. Jason cries out, his entire body
lights up with electricity. The aliens push against the cell doors
to come to his aid, but the guards beat them back mercilessly
through the bars.

SARRIS

If you cannot walk, Captain, then I suggest you
crawl.

Jason hesitates. Sarris SHOCKS him again. Jason finally rises and
slowly begins to CRAWL forward. Everyone is silent. Numb.

INT. MEDICAL DECK

The area has been converted to an interrogation chamber. Jason is
led in with the others. Sarris' men are in the middle of an
interrogation on a man strapped to a table. They move aside to
reveal BETZALAR, barely alive. But as he sees Jason, a ray of
hope lights up behind his eyes. He smiles.

BETZALAR

Captain. Thank God you're here.

Jason, despite his own pain, attempts an encouraging nod.

BETZALAR (cont'd)

Now you will face justice, Sarris.

Sarris laughs long and hard.

SARRIS

Brilliant. Absolutely brilliant. At every turn you demonstrate the necessity for your extermination. The qualities of your race... Ridiculous optimism, like that of little children. Loyalty without regard to purpose or effect. Building, always building. But what you spend years to build, I take from you in days. What you create in decades, I destroy in moments... But you are stubborn, Betzalar, I'll grant you that. Annoyingly stubborn.

(to Jason)

Do you want to save this man's life, Captain? And the life of your crew?

JASON

Yes.

SARRIS

Then tell me one thing... What does it do, the device? The Omega 13.

JASON

I... I don't know.

Sarris twists a dial. Betzalar writhes in pain on the table.

SARRIS

Is it a bomb? Is it a booby trap? Tell me!

JASON

Stop, please! I don't know!

Sarris twists the dials even higher.

SARRIS

Guards! Prepare a tear harness for the female...

JASON

No! I don't know! I swear I don't know! I can't tell you!

SARRIS

Do you think I'm a fool? That the Captain does not know every bolt, every weld of his ship?

Gwen fights the guards valiantly as they drag her to a table.

JASON

But I'm not! I... I'm not the Captain!

Sarris turns, interested. He motions his guards to halt.

SARRIS

Wait. What did you say?

JASON

Please, don't hurt them, it's not their fault.
I'm not the Captain, I don't know anything.

Betzalar looks at him too, bewildered. Sarris looks intrigued.

SARRIS

Explain.

JASON

Gwen. The show. There's no choice... Do it.

GWEN

(a long beat)

...Computer, play the historical records of the
GALAXY QUEST missions.

A screen lights up with the opening of the first GALAXY QUEST episode. We see the various actors in their roles, freeze framed in action poses, intercut with the ship speeding through space.

Sarris watches, captivated. Realization dawns on his face. He begins to laugh. Sarris turns to Betzalar, beaten and bloody, but hope lighting in his eyes as he watches the show. That tickles Sarris even more, he ROARS with laughter.

SARRIS

Oh, this is wonderful. Wonderful. I treated you as a foe, but no... You have done much greater damage to these poor fools than I ever have... Than I ever could.... Bravo!... Bravo!

He puts his arm around Jason and leads him to face Betzalar.

SARRIS

Tell him. This is a moment I will treasure.
Explain to him who you really are.

Jason looks up at Betzalar. A long pause.

JASON

My name is Jason Nesmith. I'm an actor. We're all actors.

SARRIS

Our dim witted friends don't understand the concept of acting. They have no theater, no imagination these scientists...

JASON

We pretend...

Simpler. SARRIS

We.. We lie. JASON

Yes... You understand THAT, don't you,
Betzalar?...

Betzalar looks up at Jason, bewildered.

JASON
I'm not a Captain, there is no United States
Exploration Administration. There is no ship.

BETZALAR
(perplexed, points to TV)
But there it is!...

JASON
A model, only as big as this.
(motions with his hands)

BETZALAR
But... Inside, I have seen-

JASON
Just sections of rooms made of plywood. Our
Carbonite Sphere was painted wire and plaster.
The molecular conveyor was Christmas lights...
Decorations.

BETZALAR
But... why?

JASON
It's difficult to... On our planet we pretend
in order to... entertain.

Betzalar just stares. Sarris watches, eyes twinkling.

JASON
That's how I make my living. Pretending to be
somebody else. Pretending to be Captain Peter
Quincy Taggart...
(beat)
I'm... I'm so sorry Betzalar...

Betzalar looks away, his eyes hollow, all hope gone.

SARRIS
(to Betzalar)
Now you know. This entire world you've
concocted. Your miserable lives, all based on
nothing. Your beliefs... your hopes... All a
dream. A wisp of smoke. Now there is only pain.

Sarris moves to his Lieutenant, RAK LATHE.

SARRIS

Lieutenant Lathe, I confess that I am beginning to feel a bit foolish myself. Chasing across the universe to obtain what is, I am now certain, a bauble of fiction. But just in case... Tell me how best to obliterate this vessel? I would like nothing to remain.

LATHE

The core could be hardwired to overload without much effort.

BETZALAR

Sarris. What about my men?

SARRIS

Yes, you're right. Much too easy a death for the trouble you have caused me. Lieutenant, open a vent on level "C" and let the outside in a bit for our friends downstairs.

A beat. Enraged, Jason LUNGES for Sarris, but his men quickly beat him down brutally.

SARRIS

I guess an actor is not the same as a Captain after all.

He turns to his guard, motioning to Jason and the others.

SARRIS

Release them, Sergeant... Into space.

The Guard nods and escorts them out. Sarris turns to Betzalar and raises the torture control with a sick smile.

INT. CARGO JETTISON CHAMBER

A number of Sarris' men jettison cargo through a hydraulic airlock. The crates floats into space, collected by a freighter ship outside. They look up as the computer makes an announcement.

COMPUTER VOICE (O.S.)

Core overload. Emergency shut down overridden.
Core implosion estimated in nine minutes...

Jason and the others enter, escorted by the guards who motion for the workers to leave them alone. Then Guard #1 pushes a button, opening the cargo hold. He motions to Alexander and Jason.

GUARD #1

Lift out the crate and get in.

Jason and Alexander move to the cargo hold. Alex glares at Jason.

ALEXANDER

Well, how does it feel, Jason? Was it worth it?

They lift the crate aside. Jason simply hangs his head.

ALEXANDER

Hundreds of innocents to die because of you...
How does it feel?

JASON

Shut up. Just shut up.

GUARD #1

Be quiet, both of you. Get in.

The guard lifts his gun. Alexander and Jason slowly walk toward the cargo jettison scoop.

ALEXANDER

Hundreds dead, all so you could play at being the Captain!

GUARD #1

Be quiet.

ALEXANDER

You've murdered us all you egomaniacal sonofabitch!

JASON

Shut up! Just shut up you green skinned freak!

Alexander LUNGES at Jason, striking him in the face. They tumble to the ground, fighting. The guards smile, enjoying the fight. Jason quickly overpowers Alexander and punches him repeatedly, his own anger taking hold. Finally, he lifts Alexander to his feet. Alexander's eyes are rolled back in his head. Jason pulls back for the crowning blow...

...and deals a punisher right past Alexander into the face of Guard #1! Alexander's eyes snap open and he ELBOWS Guard #2 in the face. The fight was an act. The second guard's gun goes SKITTERING into the cargo scoop as he drops unconscious. Guard #1 dives into the scoop to retrieve the gun, aims at Jason and pulls the trigger at the instant the scoop hydraulics comes to life and he is WHISKED THROUGH THE HOLD INTO SPACE, flailing silently into the vacuum. Everyone turns to see Dusty taking his finger off the cargo button.

DUSTY

Hmmm.. A bit sticky. I'll get one of my boys up here with a can of WD-40.

Alexander turns to Jason, both out of breath.

ALEXANDER

"Green skinned freak...?"

JASON

I was staying in character. "Egomaniacal sonofabitch?"

ALEXANDER

Naturalism. I see you got to win the fight...

JASON

I had the shot...

GWEN

Guys...

She motions to a row of security monitors...

One labeled "ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS DECK - C LEVEL" shows FOUR OF SARRIS' MEN straining at a large circular valve. On another monitor we see DEBRIS rushing up to a vent in the BARRACKS area as AIR IS SUCKED OUT OF THE ALIENS' PRISON. Teb and the other aliens pull on their prison bars in horror.

JASON

Let's go.

INT. CORRIDOR

The six of them run down the hallway. Jason stops them and they duck into an alcove as a unit of Sarris' men jog past.

COMPUTER VOICE (O.S.)

Core implosion in four minutes...

JASON

Go on, give it a try, Gwen.

GWEN

Computer, shut down the core.

COMPUTER VOICE

Unable. Memory checksum for core operations invalid. Systems hardware damaged.

JASON

All right guys, listen up. Gwen and I are going to have to get to the core and shut it down manually. Tommy, you and Dusty need to get that air valve back on. Alex, see if you can get the prison doors open downstairs in case Tommy and Dusty can't get the oxygen back in time.

TOMMY

Jason? What about me? What do I do?

Jason puts a hand on his shoulder.

JASON

Practice driving, Tommy.

They all split up, leaving Tommy standing there.

TOMMY

Practice driving?

INT. HALLWAY

Gwen and Jason hurry down the hallway, keeping a look out for Sarris' guards.

GWEN

So... We get to shut down the neutron reactor?

JASON

Right.

GWEN

Uh... I hate to break it to you Jason, but I don't know how to shut down a neutron reactor, and unless you took a Learning Annex course I don't know about, I'm pretty sure you don't know how to shut down a neutron reactor either.

JASON

No I don't. But I know somebody who does.

INT. BRANDON'S HOUSE - TARZANA - EARTH - DAY

Birds chirp outside pleasantly.

INT. BRANDON'S BEDROOM - EARTH - DAY

The room of our #1 GALAXY QUEST fan, BRANDON. The fourteen year old sits at his computer, in uniform, gluing a tiny piece of plastic to his model of the Protector. A knock on the door, and his mother enters.

BRANDON'S MOM

Brandon?

BRANDON

Mother, I'm quite busy as you can see. The "C" rings on my booster unit came broken in the mail.

BRANDON'S MOM

I'm sorry. I made rice crispy squares.

BRANDON

Mother, I'm very busy. Well, maybe one. Thank you.

She exits. Brandon looks at his model with a sigh. Suddenly he hears a familiar TONE. He cocks his head and turns to...

THE INTERSTELLAR VOX sitting on his table. He starts to turn away, but it BEEPS again. Slowly he reaches out, takes it in his hand and flips the switch. We hear Jason's voice.

JASON (O.S.)

Hello?... Hello is anyone there?...

Brandon stares at the thing, then looks around his room for signs of a practical joke. He speaks into it quietly.

BRANDON

...Hello?

INT. USEA PROTECTOR - SPACE

Jason, holding his VOX, nods to Gwen... "Got him."

JASON

This is Jason Nesmith. I play Captain Peter Quincy Taggart of the USEA PROTECTOR.

INT. BRANDON'S ROOM

Brandon stares at the vox for a very long moment like those people on the old Candid Camera show when the mailbox talks to them.

BRANDON

...Yes?

JASON

We accidently traded Vox units when we bumped into each other on Saturday. You got mine.

BRANDON

Oh... Oh, I see. Oh.

JASON

What's your name, son?

BRANDON

Brandon.

JASON

Brandon, I remember you from the convention, right?... You had a lot of little technical observations about the ship, and I spoke sharply to you...

BRANDON

Yes, I know, and I want you to know I thought about what you said... I know you meant it constructively but...

JASON

It's okay. Listen-

BRANDON

...But I want you to know that I am not a complete braincase, okay? I understand completely that it's just a TV show. There is no ship, there is no Carbonite Sphere, no molecular conveyor... I mean, obviously it's all just a-

JASON

It's real, Brandon. All of it, it's real.

BRANDON
 (no hesitation)
 I knew it!... I KNEW it!...

JASON
 Brandon... The crew and I are in trouble and we need your help.

The look on Brandon's face is indescribable. His entire life has built to this moment. He straightens in his seat at attention, his eyes glistening.

BRANDON
 Yes sir. How can I be of service, sir?

INT. MEDICAL QUARTERS

Sarris' first lieutenant LATHE enters.

LATHE
 General, your transport is ready for departure.

SARRIS
 One moment...

Sarris moves to turn on a viewscreen. Behind him, Betzalar lies on the table, unconscious.

SARRIS
 Something to amuse him if he wakes.

As Sarris exits we see that the VIEWSCREEN IMAGE shows the aliens in their cells, pulling at the bars. Some are already unconscious from the lack of oxygen.

INT. MEDIA ROOM

Tommy, all alone, peeks into the room to make sure it is empty, then enters and moves to a high tech case. He pushes a button and a panel moves aside revealing a complete library of the GALAXY QUEST episodes... Like a high-tech shrine. Tommy moves his finger across the selections, picking one episode in particular with a smile...

INT. SHIP CORRIDOR

Alexander makes his way down the hall stealthily, avoiding Sarris' guards. He stops as he hears a NOISE from a utility compartment to his side. Steeling his nerve, he reaches out to turn the latch, preparing for whatever is inside...

He opens the door suddenly and a FIGURE jumps out. Both of them assume defensive stances, then Alexander recognizes him as QUELLEK, his young protégé. Quellek beams.

QUELLEK
 Sir, it's you! Thank Ipthar!

ALEXANDER

Quellek. What are you doing in there?

QUELLEK

I avoided capture using the Mak'tar stealth haze. Where is everyone?

ALEXANDER

Come with me. I'll explain on the way.

INT. SHIP STORAGE BAY

Gwen and Jason enter the dark room full of old esoteric machines in storage. Jason speaks to Brandon on his Vox.

JASON

Okay, we're in the storage bay. What now?

INT. BRANDON'S BEDROOM - CONCURRENT

Brandon inserts a GALAXY QUEST CDROM labeled TECHNICAL SYSTEMS into his computer. A couple of clicks later, a 3D wire frame diagram of the ship appears.

BRANDON

Okay, there's a hatch on the port wall. It leads to a system of utility corridors through the bowels of the ship.

INT. SHIP STORAGE BAY - CONCURRENT

Jason searches in vain for the hatch.

JASON

There's no hatch. (losing faith) There's no hatch!

GWEN

Wait... Jason, Here!...

The hatch is hidden by a large piece of scrap equipment. Gwen and Jason push the metal out of the way leading to the hatch.

JASON

Okay, we got it.

BRANDON (O.S.)

Okay, you can go on in... I'm going to get Kyle. He knows the utility tunnel system better than anybody alive.

INT. BRANDON'S BEDROOM - CONCURRENT

Brandon punches some keys and Kyle pops up in a little CU-SEE ME window on the computer.

KYLE (ON MONITOR)

Hi Brandon.

BRANDON

No time for pleasantries, Kyle. We have a level five emergency. The Captain needs us to get him to the core and shut it down before it overloads.

KYLE

Oh, okay.

BRANDON

You've got the utility systems walkthrough, right?

KYLE

I have sectors 1-28. I think Hector has the upper levels.

BRANDON

We'd better get everybody online. And Kyle, stop downloading porn. Your frame rate is unacceptable.

KYLE'S ROOM - CONCURRENT

An obviously faked nude picture of Gwen as Tawny Madison downloads slowly onto his screen.

KYLE

I'm not downloading porn!

He clicks <cancel> on the picture.

INT. SHIP'S CORRIDOR SECTORS 30-50

Dusty and Guy make their way down the corridor, checking the numbered sectors as they pass.

DUSTY

Okay, sector 38... 39... 40. This is it. The environmental systems are in here. All we have to do is shut off the valve to the barracks...

They look through the window into the room to see... A HUNDRED of Sarris' men sitting inside, surrounding the large circular wheel that controls the valve. Dusty exchanges a look with Guy.

GUY

All we have to do...

INT. SHIP LIBRARY

Tommy sits at the desk watching an episode of GALAXY QUEST play on the screen. The scene has Tommy piloting the ship, dodging and weaving through a very silly giant paper mache monster floating in space.

But Tommy is dead serious. He watches himself on the tape, mimicking his own piloting moves, pretending that the miscellaneous objects on the table are his controls... And lip-synching his lines as his character says them on TV...

INT. UTILITY TUNNELS

Jason and Gwen run through the tunnel system, following Brandon's instructions.

BRANDON

Okay, now left at the next turn... You should see the crystalline oxygen units. Make a right there. Then go through the antimatter vent...

JASON

Okay... Okay, now what?

BRANDON

Now make a right, you'll see a doorway that opens on the central manufacturing facility. The bowels of the ship.

Gwen and Jason turn right and their eyes widen.

INT. CENTRAL MANUFACTURING CAVERN (BOWELS)

Dante's Inferno. Down below, a huge automated facility for ship construction and maintenance. Moving elevators and conveyor belts move through a maze of scaffolding and overhangs. Glowing rivers of molten metal run past giant swinging hammers and pronged robot arms and crushing machines.

BRANDON

Captain, do you have a camera? I'd die to see this in person... All they showed on TV was a machine here, and a wall here... I don't know why they didn't show the whole thing.

JASON

(awed)

We'd never have the budget for this.

BRANDON

Okay, so do you see a door marked "CORE UNIT?" Should be down at the far end to your left.

On the other side of the room, down a circuitous path through a dangerous gauntlet of machinery and lava Jason spots such a door.

JASON

Yes...?

BRANDON

Okay, that's where you want to be.

Gwen and Jason look at each other, then... Giggle nervously. It's just so impossible.

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE PRISON/BARRACKS

Alexander and Quellok arrive at the "prison area" hatch and look through the window... In their cells, many of the aliens are already unconscious. Others valiantly attempt to open their cells with crudely constructed levers and battering rams, to no avail.

QUELLEK

They're dying!

Alexander inserts his hand into the ID pad.

ALEXANDER

Open. Open dammit.

A light flashes. "Pressure lock override" Alexander turns to a wall console.

ALEXANDER

Here. Help me tear this down, we can use it as a battering ram.

Quellok follows Alexander to the console, looking over his shoulder at the prison. Alexander puts his hand on his shoulder.

ALEXANDER

Don't worry, Quellok, it'll be okay...

Quellok seems comforted, but Alexander isn't too sure himself.

INT. SHIP ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS ROOM

Dusty and Guy continue to watch Sarris' men, still surrounding the main valve.

DUSTY

We've got to get that valve turned off. Their oxygen is almost gone...

GUY

Listen, I'll go in, create a distraction. I have this...

(holds up the gun)

I may be able to hold them back long enough for the aliens to escape.

DUSTY

It's suicide.

GUY

I'm just a glorified extra, Dusty. I'm a dead man anyway. If I'm going to die, I'd rather go out a hero than a coward.

DUSTY

Maybe you're the plucky comic relief, Guy. You ever think of that?

Guy cocks his head. No, he hadn't thought of that. Dusty pats his shoulder.

DUSTY

Besides, I just had a really interesting idea...

INT. SARRIS' SHIP TO SHIP TRANSPORT

Sarris stands at the observation window as the transport makes it way toward his ship. All but one of the other ships have left the area, and that ship is turning and heading toward a black hole in the distance...

The TRANSPORT CHIEF next to him gets a message on his earpiece.

TRANSPORT CHIEF

Sir, the FALCON THREE is launched and away, course set for Xactor Minor. FALCON ONE dead ahead. Four minutes to core overload.

SARRIS

Good... Good... All is in its place.

TRANSPORT CHIEF

...General, I have just received word that the Captain of the PROTECTOR and his command crew have escaped custody. Their whereabouts are unknown.

SARRIS

What?

Suddenly a LIFELESS BODY CRASHES against the windshield like a bug. It's Sarris' Guard, jettisoned earlier. Sarris' eyes light.

SARRIS

Find them.

LATHE

But sir, my MEN. The core explosion is not reversible...

SARRIS

Find them.

INT. MANUFACTURING CAVERN (BOWELS)

Jason and Gwen make their way along a narrow catwalk above the manufacturing floor. A row of ROBOT ARMS block their way, moving erratically. They have to dodge the arms to move forward.

JASON

Okay, we've cleared the robot arms. Now what?

INT. BRANDON'S ROOM

Brandon now has his whole CREW on separate windows of his computer screen, including fan KATELYN, wearing a "Tawny Madison" outfit.

KATELYN

Okay, Brandon, as I calculate it the shortest route is down the ladder near the quark accelerators.

OTHER NERDS

I concur. She's right. Very good.

BRANDON

High five, Katelyn.

He and the others hi-five, slapping their computer screens.

INT. MANUFACTURING CAVERN (BOWELS)

Jason and Gwen make their way down the ladder, and across a narrow beam over a LAVA POOL at a staggering height.

JASON

Brandon.. Just in case I die, there's something I have to know...

BRANDON

Yes Captain?

JASON

What does the Omega 13 do?

BRANDON

Well, that's the big the question, isn't it?

JASON

What do you mean?

BRANDON

It's been the subject of an extremely heated debate on the internet for years. Many believe that is a matter collapser, a bomb capable of destroying all matter in the universe in a chain reaction lasting 13 seconds.

JASON

But you don't?

BRANDON

No, I am of the firm belief that in reality it is not a matter killer, but a matter REARRANGER, converting all molecules to the exact state they existed thirteen seconds previous to activation thus effecting a thirteen second time jump to the past.

JASON

How did you come to that conclusion?

BRANDON

My cousin's boyfriend's sister went out with the screenwriter. His favorite movie is The Omegaman. He's seen it 13 times...

KYLE

As you know I strenuously disagree with this theory, Brandon. If all molecules were rearranged, then everyone would be back in time 13 seconds rendering the device useless.

Suddenly a BLAST erupts next to Jason's head. He and Gwen turn to see SARRIS' MEN shooting at them from across the room at the entrance to the cavern.

JASON

Okay guys... Guys?

But the nerds are now caught up in the debate.

KATELYN

No because the brain of the person who triggers the Omega 13 is not affected, so THAT person still has his memory after the time jump.

BRANDON

Thank you, Katelyn. Excellent.

KATELYN

(flattered, shy)

You're welcome, Brandon.

Jason and Gwen RUN as Sarris men continue to shoot at them.

JASON

BRANDON!!! TIME TO GO!

BRANDON

Yes Captain... All right, you're almost there. Just go through the chompers and over the pit.

GWEN

"The chompers?"

They turn to see... THE CHOMPERS... An unavoidable gauntlet of HISSING HYDRAULIC SMASHING METAL HAMMERS AND BLADES jutting out from the sides, top, bottom and diagonally...

GWEN

Oh, screw THAT.

More GUNFIRE from Sarris' men. Another BLAST melts a pole next to them. Jason pulls his disrupter pistol and fires back at them. Sarris' men take cover.

JASON

Brandon, HOW?

INT. BRANDON'S ROOM

Brandon cradles a telephone on his shoulder.

BRANDON

Hollister, do you have the sequence yet?

INT. HOLLISTER'S ROOM

Another one of Brandon's pals, HOLLISTER, watches a tape of the show, fast viewing one sequence backwards and forwards over and over;

ON THE TV, we see the cheap painted cardboard version of the crushers. A cheap looking fish headed ALIEN MONSTER chases Jason through the crusher but is toppled by one of crushers and falls into the fake looking lava pit.

Hollister times the pattern of the crushers with a stopwatch...

HOLLISTER

Okay, the pattern is two.. two... four... two.. three... eight... two...

BRANDON

You're sure they repeat like that? It's sort of extremely important.

Cut from the cardboard props to the REAL THING.

THE MAMMOTH CRUSHERS

Gwen and Jason watch as they SMASH and GRIND back and forth...

GWEN

What IS that thing? It serves no useful purpose to have a bunch of CHOPPY CRUSHY things in the middle of a CATWALK!?!?

JASON

Gwen...

GWEN

We shouldn't have to DO this! It makes NO LOGICAL SENSE! Why is it HERE?

JASON

Because it was on the show!

GWEN

Well forget it! I'm not going. This episode was badly written!

BRANDON

Captain, you and Lt. Madison will have to go through the crushers one at a time in three second intervals. Tell me when the first crusher hits the bottom...

JASON

Okay, now. But-

BRANDON

Wait two seconds then go.

Another BLAST from Sarris' men weakens the catwalk behind them...

JASON
No, wait, are you-

BRANDON
Lt. Madison, GO.

JASON
Shit! Go!

BRANDON
GO Captain.

Jason and Gwen run through the CHOMPERS. It is a series of CLOSE ESCAPES, timed just a FRACTION late, so at one point Gwen must use all her strength to pull a SLEEVE caught in the works before a second hammer comes down where her body was a moment before. Jason DIVES through a quickly diminishing hole, his DISRUPTER PISTOL falling behind him, quickly SMASHED to oblivion by a closing slab.

BRANDON
Stop.

Jason stops, catching Gwen's leg just as... A HAMMER SMASHES right in front of her, barely missing her head.

BRANDON
Go.

They're off again.

BRANDON
Up.

JASON
What? Up?

BRANDON
Berithium lava coming through. Use the handholds above you.

Here comes the lava down a chute ahead of them. Jason pulls Gwen up just as the lava comes through, sizzling the tips of her hanging hair.

GWEN
Whoever wrote this episode should DIE.

The lava passes, and they drop and continue on through the doorway as disrupter blasts erupt around them like fireworks...

DARKNESS

Jason and Gwen run through pitch blackness.

JASON (O.S.)
What the hell?... Brandon, Where are we?

BRANDON (O.S.)

I don't know. This part of the ship is completely undocumented.

GWEN (O.S)

Great... Just great!

INT. MOLECULAR CONVEYER ROOM

Dusty and Guy are now in the Molecular Conveyor room. Very quiet compared to the mayhem in the bowels of the ship... Guy looks down at the panel with great anticipation, then up at Dusty with a nervous smile. Dusty gingerly takes hold of the molecular conveyor controls.

GUY

This should be interesting...

ON THE MOLECULAR CONVEYOR DISPLAY: We see crosshairs target an object... The vague outline is that of a man, but blocky and misshapen... We recognize it as THE ROCK MONSTER... Dusty SMILES.

SHIP ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS ROOM

DOZENS OF SARRIS' MEN continue to surround the oxygen valve when suddenly THE ROCK MONSTER materializes right in the middle of the room! They look up in horrified disbelief, a surreal silence until one of Sarris' stunned men CLICKS his transmitter button... The monster WHEELS on him in an instant, picking him up and crushing him flat between its jaws. Then MAYHEM as Sarris' men TRAMPLE each other trying to escape from the room.

MOLECULAR CONVEYOR ROOM

Dusty and Guy watch the mayhem on a monitor, admiringly.

DUSTY

(contemplative)

It's the simple things in life you treasure.

Guy nods.

HALLWAY

The MONSTER chases a group of Sarris' men down a dead-end hallway. Sarris' men have nowhere to go as the monster bears down on them, and CRASHES through the hull, taking himself and everyone else OUT INTO SPACE. Inside, the far doors shut automatically to contain the vacuum.

EXT. SPACE

The rock monster tumbles gently through the vacuum of space. The monster's jaws move in a roar, and though we hear nothing, the monster's silent roar is SUBTITLED into English:

ROCK MONSTER

Ah, sweet tranquility at last.

INT. SHIP ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS ROOM

The room is now emptied of Sarris' men. Guy and Dusty enter and move to the large valve, straining to turn it. Slowly, the pressure normalizes.

INT. OUTSIDE BARRACKS HALLWAY

Working together, Alexander and Quellok are now using a makeshift BATTERING RAM on the door as an adjacent readout begins to blink.

QUELLEK

Sir! The pressure. It's normalizing.

ALEXANDER

Open.

The door opens and Alexander enters. He runs to a panel down the hall and turns the switch. All the cell doors open. He runs to one of the cells and helps a few of the men to their feet and walks them from their cells. They turn to Alexander, gratitude in their faces.

ALIEN #1

We are saved! He has saved us!..

Alexander suppresses a smile, preparing to feign modesty...

ALIEN #1

Captain Taggart has saved us!

ALIENS

Hooray for Captain Taggart! Long live Captain Taggart!

ALEXANDER

(grumbling)

It's just not fair.

He moves to Quellok at the doorway.

ALEXANDER

Okay, Quellok, let's get back to the command deck and-

Suddenly we hear a DISRUPTER BLAST and Quellok's chest turns RED. Alexander and Quellok look down at the blood, startled and horrified...

QUELLEK

I'm... I'm shot.

He falls, CRUMPLED to the ground. We see one of Sarris' GUARDS down the hall. He shoots again. Alexander grabs Quellok's limp body and pulls him to out of the line of fire.

ALEXANDER

Quellok... Quellok!

Quellek opens his eyes weakly. Alexander pulls aside his uniform to see the wound. It's a mortal injury. Alexander uses all of his acting skills to disguise his shock.

ALEXANDER

Not so bad. We'll get you to medical quarters. You're going to be fine.

QUELLEK

I... I don't think I'm going to make it Sir...

ALEXANDER

No, don't talk like that, son. We're going to get you fixed up.

QUELLEK

...It has been my greatest honor to serve with you. Living by your example these years, my life has had meaning. I have been blessed. Sir, I... I...

He cringes in pain. Alexander looks at him, full of emotion.

ALEXANDER

Don't speak, Quellek.

QUELLEK

You'll forgive my impertinence, sir, but even though we had never before met, I always considered you as a father to me.

Blood appears in the corner of Quellek's mouth, his life fading away. Alexander strokes his head, devastated. He looks him right in the eyes, his eyes welling with tears. Then with intensity, and absolute sincerity...

ALEXANDER

Quellek... By Grabthar's hammer, by the suns of Warvan... You shall be avenged.

Quellek's appreciation of this is indescribable. A tiny spark behind his eyes light up, and he smiles, completely content as he surrenders to death.

Tears fall down Alexander's cheek as he holds Quellek's limp body. Then a DISRUPTER blast hits a corner nearby. Alexander lays Quellek's head to the ground softly, then rises. There is an intensity to him we haven't seen before... His eyes BURN.

Alexander moves into the hallway, fixing his attention on Sarris' man. The guard looks up, momentarily shaken; Alexander looks truly ALIEN. His eyes afire with VENGEANCE. Nervous, the guard fires twice, missing. Alexander begins to RUN toward the guard, picking up speed. The guard tries to reload his gun but his eyes are locked on Alexander like a frightened animal and his cartridges clatter to the ground. Alexander ROARS like a creature, baring his teeth in the final moments... The guard stands there as he meets his death, so terrified he can only mutter a single word..

GUARD

...mother.

as ALEXANDER envelopes him like a force of nature.

INT. DARKNESS (UNDOCUMENTED AREA)

Jason and Gwen make their way forward in the darkness... They are stopped as they hit a pitch black wall.

JASON (O.S.)

Brandon, there's a wall.

BRANDON (O.S.)

Oh, good, you should be at the blast tunnel.
Use the computer to open the blast sections in
sequence.

GWEN (O.S.)

Computer, open the first blast section.

We see a shaft of LIGHT as a huge metal BLOCK rises, and they enter a tunnel that dead ends about 6 feet in.

GWEN

Computer, open the second blast section.

Another 6x6 foot block slides up, the tunnel lengthens. They turn as they hear the sound of Sarris' Men in the distance behind them.

BLAST TUNNEL

Gwen and Jason run as fast as they can through the tunnel, the blocks rising one by one just in front of them.

GWEN

Computer, open blast sections 15,16,17,18,19...

INT. POWER CORE ROOM

A doorway appears and Jason and Gwen emerge from blast tunnel into a large spherical room that glows with a pulsating light from a domed console in the center.

COMPUTER VOICE (O.S.)

Detonation in sixty seconds...

JASON

Okay Brandon, I think this is it.

He moves to the large panel near the dome. There is large blue button under a glass flap.

JASON

I'm at the control panel. What do I do?

BRANDON

Okay, raise the glass and push the blue button.

JASON

That's it?

BRANDON

Yeah. What's wrong?

JASON

Nothing. I just thought it would be more complicated than that.

He reaches for the button when suddenly there are a volley of BLASTS around them and Sarris' men appear in the doorway.

SARRIS' GUARD #1

Raise your hands, NOW.

Jason and Gwen raise their hands.

COMPUTER VOICE (O.S.)

Detonation in 45 seconds...

The computer starts counting down second by second in the background...

JASON

Look, I'm going to just push this button, then we'll talk about whatever-

They fire a BLAST and he raises his arms again.

GWEN

You don't understand! This ship is going to explode!

SARRIS' GUARD #1

Yes, the General warned us of your tricks.
(looks at Gwen)
You know, this one is strangely attractive.

GWEN

(pissed)
Oh GREAT. PERFECT.

GUARD #2

Gar, our orders are to kill them.

Sarris' guard looks at Gwen, lustfully.

GUARD #1

I know, but I would first like to experience an Earthwoman.

GUARD 2

That is sick. It is as if to seek pleasure with an animal...

GUARD #1

...Yes, I know.

GWEN

This is all very flattering but we are going to DIE!

They all laugh at her, and start forward as the computer counts down "15 seconds to detonation..."

GUARD #1

Some of us sooner than others... Hold her down for me, Kreeg.

GWEN

(intense)

If you come one step closer I will kill you all! I SWEAR I WILL!

They LAUGH heartily, and take a step forward. Jason rises, but Gwen is already on the situation.

GWEN

Computer, close blast section 29.

Guard #1's smile drops immediately and he doesn't even have time to scream as THE SECTION BLOCK DROPS, crushing the whole lot of them to petroleum in an instant. Green GOO oozes out from under the block. Gwen shakes her head, her hands on her hips.

GWEN

Why doesn't ANYBODY EVER TAKE ME SERIOUSLY!?

She moves to the oozing GOO and SHOUTS down at it.

GWEN

NOW how are you feeling, HUH? Do you take me seriously NOW? DO YOU? DO YOU?!!!!?

Jason flips up the glass case as the computer counts down to "1" and SMASHES the Blue Button. A beat of silence.

COMPUTER

Core detonation... aborted.

Jason turns to Gwen and they look at each other appreciatively.

JASON

See? We can have fun off the set.

Gwen smiles, exhales a laugh of relief.

INT. SARRIS' SHIP - COMMAND DECK

Sarris' intelligence officer approaches Sarris.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Sir, the core detonation sequence on the Protector has been aborted.

SARRIS
 Impossible... Impossible!
 (to munitions officer)
 Lieutenant, lock a full complement of implosion
 missiles onto the Protector. Tear her apart.

MUNITIONS OFFICER

Yes sir.

INT. PROTECTOR - SHIP'S CORRIDOR

The HUNDREDS of freed ALIENS sweep through the corridor, overtaking the scattered remnants of Sarris' guards. Alexander fights alongside them, dealing crushing blows to two Guards at a time as the Aliens sweep around him. Alexander and his character are now indistinguishable. Jason and Gwen appear in the melee.

JASON
 Alex! Alex, are you okay?

Alexander nods, a faraway look in his eye.

ALEXANDER
 Yes... It is a good day.

JASON
 (hesitant)
 Good... Let's go, buddy, they can take it from
 here... C'mon...

Alexander has to be practically dragged away from fighting one of Sarris' men...

CORRIDOR TO COMMAND DECK

Jason, Gwen and Alexander run up the hall. Dusty and Guy appear from around a corner and they all keep running.

JASON
 Anybody seen Tommy?

TOMMY (O.S.)
 Right here!

Tommy appears from the media room. They all run as a team toward the command deck.

JASON
 We've got to get the plasma armor up before
 Sarris finds out we've aborted the
 detonation...

COMPUTER VOICE (O.S.)
 Warning. Enemy missiles launched.

GUY
 I think he found out.

Alexander signals the door up ahead to open and they run into the

COMMAND DECK

They quickly take their stations.

JASON

Forward view.

In the central viewscreen we see SARRIS'S SHIP dead ahead, having already launched a VOLLEY OF WEAPONS coming straight for them.

JASON

Armor up!

GUY

Plasma armor engaged.

Just in time. The ship is rocked, but not destroyed.

JASON

Fire blue and red gannet disrupters, full.

GUY

Launched.

ALEXANDER

He's raising his armor.

JASON

Power to two.

TOMMY

Want me to turn it around?

JASON

No, straight ahead Tommy.

TOMMY

You got it.

The ship moves straight toward Sarris' ship. A light blinks on Gwen's control panel...

GWEN

Jason, it's Sarris.

JASON

Put him on.

An image of SARRIS appears on the side monitor.

SARRIS

Well isn't this adorable. The actors have decided to play war with me...

GWEN

Sarris's ship is accelerating toward us at Mark 2...

JASON
Accelerate to Mark 4, Tommy.

SARRIS
This is embarrassing, really. I shan't tell
this story when I return home.

GWEN
He's accelerating to Mark 6.

JASON
Mark 12.

OUTSIDE

The two ships ROAR TOWARD EACH OTHER at terrifying speed.

INT. COMMAND DECK

SARRIS
I will remind you, sonny. I am a General. I
have seen war and death as you cannot imagine.
If you are counting on me to blink, you are
making a very deadly mistake.

JASON
Let me tell you something, Sarris. It doesn't
take a great actor to recognize a bad one.
You're sweating.

Indeed, a drop of sweat drips down Sarris' brow.

ALEXANDER
Five seconds to impact...

TOMMY
Sir?

Jason fixes his gaze on Sarris and... smiles.

JASON
(intense, joyful)
Damn the neutrino cannons. Full speed ahead!

Sarris cracks.

SARRIS
Turn! Turn full to Port!

The viewscreen FILLS with Sarris' ship as it turns, and misses
collision by INCHES. Gwen, Alexander and the others exchange
relieved looks.

GWEN
He's coming around... Accelerating... Locking
radar. He's gaining on us.

TOMMY
Heading Captain?

JASON
Into the mine field.

TOMMY
(nervous)
Sir?

JASON
Trust me.

Tommy and the others look at him. They really seem to believe in him at this point. With a collective nod to Tommy...

TOMMY
Yes sir.

EXT. PROTECTOR

Sarris' ship follows the Protector into the mine field. It begins FIRING MISSILES.

INT. COMMAND DECK

Tommy avoids the mines, flying side to side, gracefully. But explosions from Sarris' missiles ROCK the ship, again and again.

GWEN
Jason... The rear plasma armor is weakening. If it goes, he'll tear the engines apart.

JASON
It's okay. Tommy, think you can get a little closer to those mines?

TOMMY
Closer?
(he smiles, realizes what Jason has in mind)
Yes sir. I can try.

Gwen turns to Guy.

GWEN
What are you doing? What are they doing?!

Tommy steers the ship dangerously close to a mine... Then heads toward another one, missing it by inches, then another... A BLAST rocks the ship.

GWEN
Rear armor is GONE, Jason. It's not that I don't trust you, Jason but-

JASON
Look out the back.

Gwen and the others turn to the rear monitors to see..

THE MAGNETIC MINES, all curving behind the ship like a wake, CONVERGING ON SARRIS' SHIP. Gwen turns to Jason, astonished.

GWEN

I never doubted you for a second.

INT. SARRIS'S SHIP

Sarris' eyes open in terror as the mines CONVERGE in his path and the ship is sent PLOWING THROUGH THEM, EXPLOSION AFTER EXPLOSION TEARING THROUGH ITS ARMOR. He and his crew are tossed around like rag dolls.

INT. PROTECTOR

GWEN

His armor is completely gone. He's naked.

JASON

Swing her around, Tommy. Ready the gannet cannons, Guy.

GUY AND TOMMY

Yes sir.

INT. SARRIS' SHIP - THE FALCON 1

Sarris sees the Protector swing on its axis, now flying backwards, and AIMING STRAIGHT TOWARD HIM. A horrifying sight. Sarris's eyes widen.

SARRIS

Forward armor up!

LATHE

Armor is depleted.

SARRIS

No. It can't be... No.

INT. PROTECTOR

Jason stands.

JASON

FIRE.

EXT. PROTECTOR

The powerful GANNET CANNONS fire glowing projectiles.

INT. THE FALCON 1

Sarris sees the Gannet projectiles coming toward them.

SARRIS

FULL TURN TO PORT!

LATHE

There is no more time, General. We are defeated.

Lathe stands starts, moves past Sarris.

SARRIS

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

Lathe SPITS on Sarris, contemptuously.

LATHE

Back to civilian life.

Lathe moves TOWARD THE APPROACHING PROJECTILES in the VIEWSCREEN, and closes his eyes, awaiting his death.

SARRIS

No. NO!

Sarris RISES, TERROR ON HIS FACE as the GLOWING PROJECTILES fill the viewscreen. He DIVES for a raised platform at the side of the command deck and FUMBLES with controls as...

EXT. FALCON 1

The Gannet Projectiles TEAR INTO THE FALCON, burrowing deep inside the ship. There is a momentary pause and then a tremendous EXPLOSION. The Falcon is RIPPED APART, millions of FRAGMENTS sent in all directions.

INT. PROTECTOR - COMMAND DECK

Jason stands, a clenched fist. The others CHEER!

GWEN

Yeah! YEAH!

TOMMY AND OTHERS

We did it! Damn! We DID IT!

INT. PROTECTOR HALLWAYS AND VARIOUS ROOMS

All over the ship the ALIENS CHEER and CELEBRATE their victory.

INT. COMMAND DECK

Jason and the others turn as the door opens and BETZALAR enters, helped along by two alien CREWMEN. He is bandaged and has metal casts on an arm and leg. Jason runs to him and helps him to the Captain's chair. They look at each other fondly.

JASON

Betzalar... You're alive. Thank God.

Betzalar looks at Jason, the old twinkle back in his eyes. Then a smile breaks out on his face, and he begins to LAUGH... Jason stares at him with a bewildered smile.

JASON

Wha- What are you laughing about?

BETZALAR

The ship is a model... As big as this!...
(holds his hands apart)
A very clever deception indeed!

He can't contain his laughter. Jason exchanges a glance with Gwen. These guys are believers to the end...

TOMMY

Set a course for home, Captain?

Jason turns to Tommy, astonished.

JASON

You can do that?

TOMMY

It's point and click. This thing practically flies itself. We will have to go through that black hole though.

He motions out the viewscreen at the swirling green spiral of a BLACK HOLE...

JASON

Anybody have any objections?

The rest of the crew exchanges glances and shrugs. They're pretty battle hardened by this point.

JASON

Let's do it, Tommy.

TOMMY

Captain?... Call me Laredo?

JASON

Mark 20 into the black hole, Laredo.

They ROAR forward, picking up speed, shooting straight into the center of the black hole, the vibrations causing resonating images, the hull CREAKING and GROANING under the strain and it seems as if the ship is about to rip apart, then...

SILENCE... And everything turns REALLY strange. Bodies turn inside out, molecules are scattered, bodies melt to the ground into puddles, then resolve into their former selves... And then...

A loud EXPLOSION like a sonic BOOM as they are rocketed out the other end. Planets roar past them like bullets.

GWEN

We're out!

They all exchange relieved smiles.

GUY

We're alive!

TOMMY

We made it. Captain, we made it!

ALEXANDER

(solemn, too soft for anyone to hear)

By Grabthar's hammer, we live to tell the tale.

COMPUTER (O.S.)

Systems register functional.

GWEN

(gleeful)

All systems are working, Captain.

JASON

How fast are we going, Tommy?

Tommy looks at his controls. Needles literally a blur.

TOMMY

Pretty fast.

Jason turns to look at THE VIEWSCREEN - EARTH is visible now, and they are HURLING TOWARD IT FAST.

ALEXANDER

Jason, before we entered the black hole, my instruments detected strange energy surge emanating from Sarris' ship similar to...

JASON

No time to worry about that, Alex. Tommy, let's get this thing slowed down... Gwen, see if you can calculate the impact point. Guy, get down to deck C and make sure the injured are secured. Also let's make sure-

He stops and turns as he notices the cabin door open... Standing in the doorway is DUSTY... He smiles and walks into the room. His manner is strange, somehow sinister... We notice a limp.

JASON

Dusty, what are you doing up here? You should get back downstairs until we-

But Dusty suddenly does a very peculiar thing... He withdraws a DISRUPTOR PISTOL from his belt, levels it at Jason. Jason smiles, bewildered. Is this a bizarre joke?

JASON

Dusty?

DUSTY FIRES THE GUN. The blast hits Jason in the chest.

Everyone turns, they can't believe their eyes. Jason looks at the blood spreading on his chest. He takes a step forward, then another, stumbling weakly toward Dusty. He grabs his collar and looks into his hollow eyes a moment before collapsing to the ground.

...and as he goes, his hand hits a switch on the familiar box on Dusty's belt... We recognize it as APPEARANCE GENERATOR.

Dusty's form flickers momentarily, then he TRANSFORMS into his true identity... It's SARRIS. Scarred, burned and bloody he looks like the devil himself. He smiles, raising his gun again, and begins FIRING...

Everything turns to SLOW MOTION as...

Tommy is hit. His body goes slumping over his console, pushing the THRUST control full FORWARD. The ENGINES roar like a wounded animal. Betzalar rises and tries to grab the gun, but Sarris backhands him, sending him flying across the room. Betzalar's two CREWMEN wrestle with Sarris. One is shot, sent tumbling backwards. Alexander and Guy run, SLOW MOTION to help the other crewman as he struggles with Sarris...

On the ground, Jason's eyes flicker at the carnage around him. It's like a nightmare, but all too horribly REAL. He tries to rise, but he isn't able...

Around him the bloodbath continues... Sarris FIRES wildly, shooting Gwen as she tries to reach Jason. She falls, her body sliding next to Jason.

Jason looks into her eyes as they dull to lifelessness. He YELLS grief stricken... Then lifts himself up with herculean effort and begins to drag himself toward the front of the room as...

Alexander, rushing Sarris, is HIT, clutching his neck... Guy manages to TACKLE Sarris, and he and the other alien wrestle with Sarris, trying to get the gun away...

Alexander, fallen and life drifting away, looks over to see...

Jason, with supreme effort, pulling himself up on a console at the front of the room...

Then Alex turns to see...

...THE EARTH, HUGE, FILLING THE VIEWSCREEN and suddenly we're...

BACK IN REAL TIME

And everyone is JOLTED as the ship hits the atmosphere heading STRAIGHT DOWN toward Earth at 20,000 miles an hour.

Suddenly Alexander, Guy, Betzalar and the remaining alien look up at the sound of a voice...

JASON (O.S.)

Betzalar...

They turn to see... JASON, swaying in the middle of the deck, bloody, weak, barely alive, but STANDING.

JASON
(about to pass out)
Activate... The Omega 13.

The survivors exchange expectant and terrified glances. Betzalar quickly moves to a control panel and pushes down a familiar crystalline ROD and...

THE ELABORATE MECHANISM, THE OMEGA 13, UNFOLDS IMPOSSIBLY FROM THE FLOOR IN FRONT OF JASON. Its center is a spinning cyclotron of energy. In front of Jason is a prominent LEVER.

Jason turns to the others... nods a respectful goodbye... and they all watch in HORRIFIED ANTICIPATION as

ON THE VIEWSCREEN - the GROUND rushes toward us and just as we hurdle into city PAVEMENT...

Jason pulls the switch.

BLINDING WHITE. And everything goes silent.

Silent...

Silent...

Silent...

Then, suddenly... A loud EXPLOSION like a sonic BOOM.

COMMAND DECK - 13 SECONDS EARLIER

Gwen, Alexander, Guy, and Tommy are all alive - busy at their stations as the Protector hurtles out of the black hole. Planets roar past them like bullets.

GWEN
We're out!

They all exchange relieved smiles.

GUY
We're alive!

TOMMY
We made it. Captain, we made it!

ALEXANDER
(solemn, too soft for anyone to hear)
By Grabthar's hammer, we live to tell the tale.

Jason looks around, disoriented. It takes him a moment to register what is happening. Everyone is alive. Everything is as it was 13 seconds ago. He looks down at his chest... No wounds... The OMEGA 13 is REAL.

COMPUTER (O.S.)
Systems register functional.

GWEN
All systems are working, Captain.

They look out to see ENTIRE GALAXIES whizzing by them at incredible speed. Planets speed by like BULLETS.

TOMMY
We're going pretty fast, Captain. Should I-
Jason starts walking quickly across the room, ignoring him.

GWEN
Jason?

The EARTH fills the viewscreen.

TOMMY
Jason, we're going pretty damn fast!...

GWEN
Jason?

But Jason just continues across the room, arriving at the entrance hatch just as it OPENS and we only get a GLIMPSE of Dusty's smiling face before Jason buries his FIST in it. Jason pulls him up and throws him across the room. As Dusty hits a control panel, his appearance generator switch is triggered revealing him as SARRIS. He lays there, unconscious.

Alexander, Gwen and the others stare, bewildered and amazed.

JASON
Everybody stay put. Tommy, slow this thing down. Gwen-

Suddenly Sarris rises and pulls his gun, but is SMASHED square in the face by a METAL CRUTCH. WE PAN TO

BETZALAR holding the crutch, with a supremely satisfied expression. Jason moves past him with a nod... "I'll take it from here" and DIVES on Sarris... The two LOCK in combat...

TOMMY
Oh my god. Jason!...

On the viewscreen they are HURLING straight into EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.

JASON
Full reverse mark 10!

With Jason distracted, Sarris pulls his knife and is about to IMPALE Jason when suddenly they HIT THE ATMOSPHERE... Sarris and Jason go flying...

INT. BRANDON'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Brandon's MOM AND DAD lounge on the couch reading the LA TIMES. A lazy Sunday afternoon. The TV is on in the background...

ON TV: Perky E! ENTERTAINMENT REPORTERS share the latest gossip. In the corner of the screen, a particularly unflattering photo of Jason as Captain Taggart.

GOSSIP REPORTER

...Word has it that the actor who played 70's Captain Peter Quincy Taggart might be due for a reality check on Earth. Sources report that Jason Nesmith was rambling and incoherent when he described a trip he'd made recently to outer space, imploring his fellow actors to join him!... Jim Dapperson reports from the Galaxy Con Science Fiction convention in Pasadena..

Cut to the REPORTER in front of the Convention center. A group of GALAXY QUEST fans wave at the camera in the background

REPORTER

Hi Marsha, it is the third day of the Galaxy Con and maybe Jason Nesmith wasn't kidding about his trip to space after all. He and the other actors who comprised the GALAXY QUEST team are all no shows to the event, much to the disappointment of the fans of the old GALAXY QUEST show, known as QUESTOIDS.

FANS BEHIND HIM

QUESTARIANS!...

He raises his microphone to a disappointed FAN dressed in a tough warrior alien outfit.

WARRIOR ALIEN

We just really feel let down. I mean, part of the show is about sticking with your friends no matter what... And... We just feel abandoned.

(wipes a tear from inside his mask)

It's hard.

REPORTER

Do you think maybe... He's in space?

WARRIOR ALIEN

Are you mocking me?

REPORTER

Heh heh... Molecularize me in, Marsha!...

Anchor Marsha does one of those entertainment anchor laugh/sighs. Brandon's parents, turn pages of their paper, not even watching the TV... Then BRANDON enters in a rush, two boxes of July 4th fireworks in his arms...

BRANDON
Bye! Back soon!

MOM
Wait, where are you going with those fireworks,
Brandon?

BRANDON
(fast, in one breath)
The Protector got super accelerated coming out
of the black hole and they're trying to slow it
down but it just hit the atmosphere at Mark 15
which is pretty unstable of course so we're
going to go down to 3rd street and help Laredo
guide it in with roman candles...

MOM
Okay, Hon. Dinner at seven.

Brandon exits. Brandon's Dad gives Mom a glance.

MOM
At least it's outside.

On the television in the background, a NEWS REPORTER appears.

REPORTER
We interrupt this broadcast to report that an
unidentified object has broken through the
Earth's atmosphere... I repeat...

Mom and Dad flip pages, not aware of the TV at all.

HOLLYWOOD HILLS

Tourists are dumbfounded as THE PROTECTOR comes burning through
the atmosphere and over the Hollywood sign.

DOWNTOWN LA

Hundreds of people watch frozen as THE PROTECTOR comes hurtling
across the sky, delicately taking off the flashing tip of the
Bonaventure's light tower.

134 FREEWAY

Traffic Jam on the 134. A woman in a convertible Jeep listens to
the radio, when suddenly the reception goes to static and we hear
the broadcasted CHATTER from the PROTECTOR over the airwaves.

JASON (O.S.)
Hold course, Laredo!

TOMMY (O.S.)
I'm trying Captain... Everything's a blur... I
can't see!

GWEN (O.S.)
Tommy, look! Those lights... Like a runway!...

TOMMY (O.S.)
I see them! I see them!

3RD STREET - PASADENA

BRANDON and his TEAM, along with a number of other HEROIC NERDS, stand in their uniforms in a line on either side of 3rd street, blobs of fire shooting from their roman candles...

WE PAN UP TO SEE...

THE PROTECTOR APPEARING over the horizon... And now we can see its awesome scale in context... Gigantic and breathtaking. It comes HURLING over the tree-lined blvd. Cars DODGE and REVERSE to get out of its way for blocks ahead.

It TOUCHES the ground right next to BRANDON -- who can actually look in and SEE his heroes inside for an instant -- then skips like a stone, sparks blazing...

Down the street it goes, sliding two hundred yards straight toward a large recognizable building... The site of the Galaxy Con.

...Right toward the banner which reads "WELCOME SPACE TRAVELLERS!"...

...and CRASHES right into the side of the building.

INT. CONVENTION HALL

FANS RUN FOR THEIR LIVES as brick and plaster fly everywhere. The ship teeters in a cloud of dust as it finally comes to rest, halfway in and halfway out of the building, having demolished the stage area...

Shocked silence. The fans... The sellers at their booths... Everyone is frozen. The ANNOUNCER slowly rises from under his card table...

Then we see the ship's main hydraulic HATCH open... A RAMP lowers to the ground and... A figure emerges... It's TOMMY, looking bruised and scarred and certainly the worse for wear.

The fans don't know how to react.... In the silence Tommy looks around the hall... Hundreds of faces look back at him. Then they begin to APPLAUD. Tommy looks around, flabbergasted. Then - what the hell - he waves.

Seeing this, the Announcer raises his microphone, hesitantly.

ANNOUNCER
...."Lt. Laredo", Tommy Webber!

Then Gwen appears, helping Dusty down the ramp. He's limping, both as beat up and war-torn as Tommy, the three stand together and look out at the audience, shell-shocked.

ANNOUNCER

The beautiful Tawny Madison... GWEN DEMARCO
with Ship's Tech Sergeant Chen, Dusty Kwan!

The fans applaud cheer and shout... Then Guy stumbles out, a cut on his head, looking disoriented. He looks out at the cheering fans... The announcer isn't sure who he is..

ANNOUNCER

Uh... Another shipmate...

Guy stares out at the hundreds of faces, then a smile creeps slowly onto his face.

GUY

I'm alive... I'm-... I'm the plucky comic relief! I'm the plucky comic relief!

His maniacal laughter is drowned out by the applause. Then everyone's attention turns to...

A FLICKERING CREATURE coming down the ramp with Alexander helping him. It is BETZALAR, his "appearance generator" on the blink, and his entire body alternating between his human and alien form.

ANNOUNCER

Dr. Lazarus of Tev'Mek, Sir Alexander Dane
and... a friend!

The crowd continues to go nuts.

DUSTY

Betzalar... Are you all right?

BETZALAR

We'll be fine now, thanks to all of you...

The fans then look up, astonished to see glimpses of HUNDREDS more of the aliens in the ship's portholes... Everything grows SILENT. They can't believe their eyes.

Then, suddenly as if all this weren't enough... There is a crash and...

JASON EMERGES WITH SARRIS, THE TWO LOCKED IN MORTAL COMBAT. Sarris is bigger and meaner, but Jason has the advantage. He quickly overcomes Sarris, punching him again and again and again until Sarris collapses to the ground unconscious.

ANNOUNCER

Captain Peter Quincy Taggart... Jason Nesmith!

Jason, Gwen, Alexander, Dusty, Tommy and Guy stand there, shoulder to shoulder, as the audience goes into a frenzy of applause... Whether it's real or not is no longer relevant to them. They're just JUBILANT.

Jason look out and spots Brandon and his friends in the back of the room...

With a look of true gratitude, Jason crosses his fists in the traditional GALAXY QUEST gesture of respect, and Brandon returns it, about to burst with pride...

Gwen turns to Alexander as the audience cheers...

GWEN

He always has to make the big entrance.

ALEXANDER

By Grabthar's Hammer, this is true.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SOMEWHERE - NIGHT

A cute little boy, no older than 6, lays on a carpet in front of his television, swinging his legs and munching on a bowl of popcorn.

On TV we see the opening to GALAXY QUEST, but now the effects are modern, TV quality CGI and Jason and the others are their current ages. The title comes up reading...

GALAXY QUEST, THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

And as the ship whizzes past and out to space, the little boy raises his little fist in the air and shouts, a joyous sparkle in his eyes...

LITTLE BOY

Never give up. Never surrender!....

CUT TO BLACK:

The End.