

SPACE: ABOVE & BEYOND

“MUTINY”

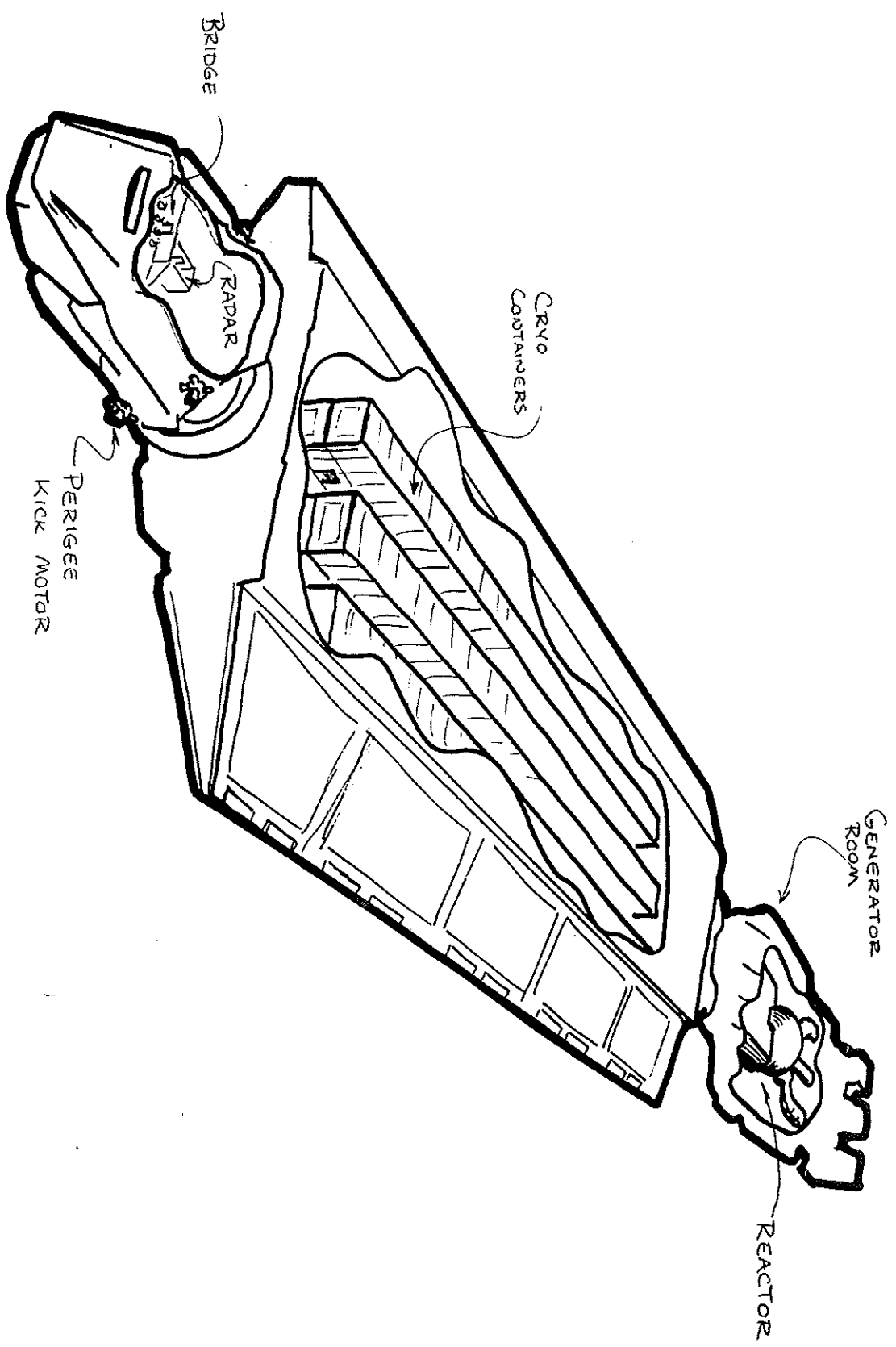


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Episode 3S03
FIRST DRAFT

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THE MUTINYTEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. GROOMBRIDGE 34, URSA MAJORIS STAR SYSTEM - NIGHT 1

The dead of night. An eerie silence has fallen on Groombridge 34. The Western horizon is streaked with light from John Glenn Space Port.

2 EXT. SPACEPORT - NIGHT 2

SGT. MONK drives the TRANSPORT JEEP. He's a big man, about thirty, with a face only a mother could love. MCQUEEN gets out of the passenger seat.

COOPER, SHANE, NATHAN, WANG and DAMPHOUSSE pile out of the back, unloading their duffels and equipment.

MCQUEEN

We're cutting this pretty close.

NATHAN

The MacArthur'll wait for us.

SHANE

Don't count on it!

SGT. MONK

They gotta wait. I've been TDY on Groombridge 34 since April. By the time I get home...

SHANE

Right. Who says you're gonna get duty Earthside?

SGT. MONK

(to Nathan)

She always this cheerful?

NATHAN

(sardonically)

It's one of her good days.

SGT. MONK

I haven't seen my wife since before the war. She's probably forgotten what I look like.

(beating Shane to it)

I know. I know. In my case, maybe that's a good thing.

CLOSE ON COOPER

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

listening. Something in the conversation hits close to home.

NATHAN

Your wife's a great cook, right?

SGT. MONK

What makes you think that?

(pats his ample gut)

This?

SHANE

(drifting)

Man, would I love to have a meal

that isn't freeze-dried.

WITHOUT WARNING, sniper fire erupts from the ravine.

McQueen and the others quickly return fire at the unseen enemy.

McQUEEN

(pointing left)

Cooper, Monk! Cover the flank.

(pointing right)

Vansen, West ...

McQueen, Damphousse, and Wang lay down covering fire.

Shane and Nathan move out to the right --

MOVING WITH COOPER AND MONK

Cooper sprints for the cover of a nearby rock outcropping. He draws a withering hail of enemy fire. He dives to the ground, rolls.

Monk starts to cross the open space toward the high ground.

COOPER

Monk! Keep down.

Monk ignores the warning. A bullet rips him --

SGT. MONK

Medic up! Medic up!

CLOSE ON COOPER

He gets to Monk, kneels beside him.

SGT. MONK

I'm not gonna die. Not yet.

Please, not yet.

Cooper tends to Monk's wounds. He's cut up bad, loses consciousness.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 2

2

SUDDENLY the night is still. There's not a SOUND. It's over as quickly as it began. McQueen comes to Cooper.

McQUEEN

Nothing you can do.

There's nothing that's going to keep Cooper from trying.

3 EXT. MASH UNIT - NIGHT

3

Cooper carries Monk to the nearby MASH unit. The TRIAGE NURSE races to help Cooper lie Monk on the ground.

COOPER

His name's Solomon Monk. You gotta help him.

The Triage Nurse takes a quick look at Monk, checks for a pulse. Softly, and with kindness --

TRIAGE NURSE

He doesn't need a doctor, Lieutenant. He needs a Rabbi.

COOPER

Look, maybe there's a chance ...

The Triage Nurse points at the wounded lying on stretchers...

TRIAGE NURSE

These men have a chance.

COOPER

He has family.

TRIAGE NURSE

That's the hell of it.

She walks away. Cooper looks down as Monk's eyes open.

SGT. MONK

Don't leave me, Cooper. Don't let me die alone.

Cooper leans down close to him.

COOPER

I'm not going anywhere.

Monk grabs for his hand. Cooper holds on tight.

4 EXT. SPACEPORT - NIGHT

4

McQueen and the others walk toward the detached "cab" of a space freighter.

BACK TO MCQUEEN

McQUEEN

That's our ticket out of here.
Find Cooper.

5 EXT. MASH UNIT - NIGHT

5

Shane races up to Cooper.

SHANE

We're outta here in five!

Cooper doesn't move.

COOPER

Told Monk I'd stay with him.

SHANE

(looks at Monk)
You kept your word.

Cooper looks down. Monk's gone. Cooper reaches down, takes Monk's dog tags.

6 EXT. MACARTHUR "CAB" - NIGHT

6

CLOSE ON CAPTAIN LEWELYN, a silvery, distinguished Merchant airman in his sixties. He wears his years lightly, has the authority that comes from years of command. PULL BACK TO REVEAL McQueen coming toward him.

McQUEEN

I'm Colonel McQueen. 58th Air
Commando Group. En route from Fire
Base Langston to the Battleship
Saratoga.

McQueen hands the orders to Captain Lewelyn.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

Been expecting you, Colonel.

McQUEEN

We have our orders. It'll mean
rerouting through Canis Majoris
system.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

Don't suppose there's a chance of a
fighter escort?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

McQUEEN
 (with a smile)
 Not in this lifetime.

A CREWMAN loads a wooden box onto the cab.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN
 Sixteen pounds of prime rib.
 (off McQueen's look)
 Black market. I traded my last
 1986 Dan Fouts card.

McQUEEN
 That better be pretty good prime
 rib.

7 EXT. SPACE "CAB" - NIGHT

7

Perigee kick engines propel the space cab into space.

8 EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

8

Docking rockets back the cab into the huge, self-contained cargo hauler. On the rear of the cargo hauler, separated by a transit tunnel is the propulsion bay. The propulsion bay houses an antiquated nuclear reactor; stainless steel containment vessels for steam, and a proton engine. There is also a machinery department housing two Fairbanks-Morse auxiliary engines powered by diesel fuel.

9 INT. MACARTHUR - CARGO HOLD - NIGHT

9

McQueen, Nathan, Shane, Cooper, Wang, and Damphousse follow CAPTAIN LEWELYN off the tug into the cargo hold of the MacArthur. They walk past row after row of refrigerated containers. Each container is the size of a small living room, and has a glass door.

Cooper falls behind the others. He goes over to one of the refrigerated containers. He wipes the frost from the glass and looks inside. What he sees amazes him.

There are twenty two people floating inside, suspended in cryogenic sleep.

BACK TO COOPER as he looks down the huge cargo hold where 2500 souls lie in darkness.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

10 EXT. SPACE - NIGHT 10

The MacArthur heads into space.

11 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT 11

CLOSE ON the SCREEN of the NAVIGATION COMPUTER --

CAPTAIN LEWELYN (V.O.)

Set course for the Canis Majoris
star system.

PULL BACK to REVEAL Captain Lewelyn and NICHOLAS POTTER, the MacArthur's First Mate. Potter's a tough man in his thirties, hardened by life aboard tramp freighters. He's a man with a hole in his soul. He gives orders to NAVIGATOR HARKIN, who enters the heading into the computer. Harkin was a geek in high school and nothing's changed.

FIRST MATE POTTER

Bring us to 260 AU's.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

Plot course heading at two one
fiver.

Potter glares at the Captain, surprised.

FIRST MATE POTTER

That's Blood Alley. The
nav-channel's 200 clicks wide.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

Things change, Potter. There's a
war on.

FIRST MATE POTTER

Captain, our course takes us
between Adhara and Aludra. The
hydrogen gasses play havoc with
radio communication. The solar
flares screw with the on-board
computers.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

It's the fastest way from
Groombridge 34 to the battleship
Saratoga.

(CONTINUED)

FIRST MATE POTTER

I didn't hire on for a suicide mission.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

What'd you sign on for -- the debating team? When I give an order, Mr.. Potter, follow it.

Potter thinks it over for a long minute. To Harkin --

FIRST MATE POTTER

Plot a course heading two one fiver, Mr. Harkin.

Potter leaves the bridge. Lewelyn responds to McQueen's pointed silence --

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

Hard to find men you trust. Hell, it's hard to find anyone willing to spend five years delivering cargo in deep space.

McQUEEN

(with a smile)
Five years feels like ten with the wrong X.O.

Lewelyn turns to MERCER, the Planesman. He's built like a sweet potato: small at both ends and big in the middle. Mercer likes to do things by the book. He's never been under fire.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

All ahead full, Mr. Mercer.

MERCER

Aye, Sir. All ahead full.

Lewelyn pulls out a pack of cigarettes.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

You mind if I smoke?

McQUEEN

(with a smile)
It's your ship, Captain.

The Captain drops a nicotine pellet into a hole in a "dosing device". The pellet warms up. The Captain sucks on a plastic tube that draws nicotine vapor into his mouth. Harris, the radio operator COUGHS. He's an asthmatic kid, of about eighteen. He looks like his mother still takes him to summer camp.

12 INT. CREW QUARTERS - NIGHT

12

The members of the 58th get their first break in months. Cooper sits to one side, WATCHING THE OTHERS.

COOPER WATCHES DAMPHOUSSE as she reads a letter from home --

HER LOVER'S VOICE

... Janice loved your present. I took her to Disneyland for her birthday. She loved Mr. Toad's Wild Ride. She missed having you there.

She looks down at a photograph of Janice, a little girl about six.

HER LOVER'S VOICE

I missed you. You're still my favorite wild ride.

An OLDER MAN stands at her side. He's Janice's father, the divorced man who's the love of Vanessa's life.

COOPER WATCHES NATHAN who takes out the photo-tag of Kylen and holds it like a talisman before him.

COOPER WATCHES WANG as he writes a letter on a computer.

WANG (V.O.)

There's a rumor that we're gonna be rotated back to earth in a month or two, Martie. I can't wait till we finally get to see each other face to face.

Shane looks over Wang's shoulder, peeks at his letter.

SHANE

How can you fall in love with someone you've never met?

WANG

(defensively)

Martie and I talk every day.

SHANE

You met her through a personal ad on SpaceNet, Wang. You have no idea what she looks like.

WANG

I love the way she thinks. And she's got a great sense of humor.

(CONTINUED)

SHANE

Okay. Let's say you get along great at 7 light years. What happens when you finally meet face to face, and she's not a dog, how'll you know how to act with each other?

WANG

Why are you grilling me?

CLOSE ON COOPER watching McQueen writing a letter. It kills Cooper that Tanks are all alone in the world. He gets up, goes to McQueen.

COOPER

You writin' to Monk's wife?

McQueen nods yes. Cooper takes out Monk's dog tags, tosses them to McQueen. McQueen catches them.

COOPER

Ever wonder what it's like to have a mother... a father?

McQUEEN

Never think about it.

COOPER

It don't bother you that when you die no blood relation's gonna be there to say words over you?

McQUEEN

The Corps is my family, Cooper. The men and women I served with'll know what to say.

COOPER

(sarcastic)
You got that right.

McQueen goes back to writing, then looks up. Something Cooper has said has awakened something long suppressed in McQueen.

McQUEEN

Monk say anything to you before...

COOPER

Yeah. He wanted to die with his family. With people who loved him. He was scared. You're not gonna put that in the letter are you?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 2

McQUEEN

No. I'm going to tell Monk's wife
that his last thoughts were of her.

McQueen goes back to the letter. The look on Cooper's face
speaks volumes. He's not connected to anyone in the world.
He's totally, absolutely ALL ALONE.

13 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT 13

The MacArthur enters the narrow passage between the intense heat
fields of the two bright suns. Solar flares explode in space.
Yellow-tinted hydrogen gas whirls in clouds.

14 INT. RED CORRIDOR - NIGHT 14

We HEAR the POUNDING OF FEET HITTING METAL. Cooper comes into
VIEW. He's jogging down one of the two corridors that runs the
entire length of the MacArthur.

15 INT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT 15

Cooling down from his run, Cooper enters the transit tunnel that
leads from the cargo hold to the propulsion bay.

16 INT. ENGINE ROOM - NIGHT 16

Cooper comes into the engine room. It's a a dirty, dangerous
place. An aging nuclear reactor sits cradled among catwalks.
The cooling tank leaks water.

The controls are laid out over a block diagram of the propulsion
system. On the block diagram, the links between the reactor,
the containment vessels and the proton engine are indicated by
green lights. The lights flick to red when the links are
broken.

Cooper bends over to catch his breath. KEATS spots his Tank
navel.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

You've come to the right place.
Every man down here's a tank.

Cooper turns to find CHIEF PETTY OFFICER J. J. KEATS, standing
beside him. Keats is about forty, a Tank. Working in the b.g.
are ASHBY, the bespectacled engine room foreman, and SORRELL, a
gruff, rough giant of a man, the chief engineer.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

(introducing himself)

J. J. Keats.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

COOPER
 (holds out his hand)
 Hawkes. Cooper Hawkes.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
 (indicating two men)
 Ashby's the Engine Room foreman.
 Sorrell's the Chief Engineer.

COOPER
 Everyone on the crew a tank?

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
 Six of us. Seven humans, including
 the Captain. Computers do the rest
 of the work.

SORRELL
 Ever notice how Tanks always get
 the dirty jobs?

COOPER
 Isn't that why we were made?

17 INT. CARGO HOLD - NIGHT

17

Keats and Cooper pass the rows of refrigerated units with glass doors where the cryogenic cargo is stored.

COOPER
 You did good for yourself.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
 No trick becoming the Chief Petty
 Officer on a tramp steamer. Do the
 dirty jobs... keep your mouth
 shut... go along.
 (softening a bit)
 Captain Lewelyn's a good man. I
 got a standing invitation to take
 meals in the Captain's mess.

Keats stops at a sign reading SECTION 46.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
 Section 46.
 (off Cooper's look)
 In Vitros.

Cooper looks through one of the glass doors.

WHAT HE SEES

Several Tanks -- those still waiting to be born -- floating in large glass cylinders.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

Air bubbles rise around their naked forms.

BACK TO SCENE

COOPER

Where are they going?

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

A Plutonium mining colony in the
Corvus star system.

(bitterly)

What're a few tanks more or less?

Keats studies Cooper, looking for a reaction. Clearly he's brought Cooper here for a reason.

18 INT. CAPTAIN'S MESS - NIGHT

18

McQueen, Nathan, Shane, Cooper, Keats, Damphousse, Wang, Potter, and Lewelyn eating in the Captain's mess.

FIRST MATE POTTER

Tell me something, Colonel. Why the hell's it so hard to provide air cover for commercial freighters.

SHANE

(flaring)

We've got a war to fight. We're not baby sitters.

MCQUEEN

What Lt. Vansen means is that the resources of Allied Star Command are stretched a little thin.

SHANE

What I mean is that I'm tired of taking crap from people who don't know what they're talking about.

WANG

(ironic)

You got something on your mind, Shane. Why not come right out and say it.

DAMPHOUSSE

(of the dinner)

It's great to have real food, Captain.

A silence falls at the table. Cooper turns to the Captain.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

COOPER

The cargo manifest...

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

(a warning)
Cooper.

COOPER

I'd like to see it.

The Captain's caught off guard. Potter answers --

FIRST MATE POTTER

You know what he's doing, Captain?
The same thing they all do -- look
for family.

(to Cooper)

How can something grown in a tank
consider itself related to anything
else? Except maybe algae.

CLOSE ON McQueen, taking all this in. He says nothing.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

Stuff a sock in it, Potter.

(to Cooper)

You have my apologizes, Mr. Hawkes.
However, the cargo manifest is
confidential.

SUDDENLY --

19 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT

19

A BURST of ENERGY hits the MacArthur.

20 INT. MESS - NIGHT

20

The room rocks. ALARMS SOUND.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

What the hell was that?

(to Keats)

Take a damage control team aft!
Secure the cargo hold.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

I'm on it!

Keats and Potter race out. Our guys race after them.

- 21 INT. ENGINE ROOM - NIGHT 21
- ALARMS SOUND. Ashby, the engine room foreman, can't believe what he sees on the temperature gauge for the coolant tank.
- SORRELL
Coolant temp's spiked to 700!
- ASHBY
Step the rods down. Take it off line -- take it all off line.
- 22 INT. RED CORRIDOR - NIGHT 22
- McQueen, Vanessa, Shane, Wang, Nathan, Cooper, Potter, and the Captain race down the corridor toward the bridge. The lights go out. Red emergency lights kick in.
- 23 INT. GENERATOR ROOM - NIGHT 23
- Two backup generators kick into action. The left generator COUGHS and CLANKS.
- CHIEF MECHANIC
Come on, Clyde. Don't fail me now.
- It reluctantly comes to life, spitting smoke, sparking wildly.
- 24 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT 24
- The Captain races onto the bridge. The others follow. The lights flicker back on.
- CAPTAIN LEWELYN
Backup generators kicked in.
- Lewelyn yells into the intercom.
- CAPTAIN LEWELYN
ENGINE ROOM/BRIDGE: How bad is it?
- ASHBY (V.O.)
Reactor's scrambled. We're off line. The core's unstable.
- CAPTAIN LEWELYN
Harris: Radio S.O.S. to Deep Space Network.
- HARRIS (THE RADIO OP)
All our radio systems are down.
- CAPTAIN LEWELYN
Radar?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

HARRIS (THE RADIO OP)
It's pea soup, Captain.

The Captain paces.

MERCER
We're at half speed, Sir.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN
Okay. What hit us?

HARKIN
Solar flare.

FIRST MATE POTTER
What the hell else do you expect
when you fly between two unstable
suns?

McQUEEN
(to Lewelyn)
What's your weapons package?

CAPTAIN LEWELYN
Two laser pulse cannons. It's not
manned.

McQUEEN
Vansen! Wang!

CAPTAIN LEWELYN
There's a chin mount forward.

Vansen and Wang take off running.

McQUEEN
With your permission, Captain.
Just in case that wasn't a solar
flare.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN
Under the circumstances, I think
there's room on the bridge for two.

McQUEEN
West. Radar. Tell us what's out
there.

Nathan sits down at the radar console. Out of which springs a
holographic 3-D image of immediate space. Nathan manipulates
the image with an archaic LIGHT PEN.

McQUEEN
Dampousse.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: 2

24

DAMPHOUSSE

I know, Colonel. The engine room.

She takes off. McQueen pulls Cooper aside to speak privately.

McQUEEN

Go work with Keats. I want one
of our people on damage control.

COOPER

Keats is one of our people.

McQUEEN

He's a civilian. We're Marines.
(very tough)
And Hawkes. Forget the manifest.
It's not part of our mission.

Cooper stares at him defiantly.

McQUEEN

Why put yourself in the way of
being hurt. Looking for family...
it only creates pain.

COOPER

Feeling pain's part of being human.

McQUEEN

(very cold)
Who said you're human?Cooper's stung, angry, full of thoughts, for which he cannot yet
find words. He doesn't know that McQueen's trying to keep him
from getting hurt.

25 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT

25

The freighter drifts sideways in space. The heat of two suns
bounces off the metal skin.As the ship passes, we CATCH a QUICK GLIMPSE of a dark object
moving through the blinding light and heat of the far sun.
There's something creepy and unnerving at work here.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

26 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT 26

The ship drifts in the narrow channel between the suns. Solar flares burst through their violent atmospheres. An unseen shadow passes distorted in the blinding heat.

27 INT. BRIDGE - COM DESK 27

McQueen stands expectantly, watching as Nathan monitors the radar screen while Harris attempts to restore communications with the outside world.

NATHAN

Potter's right. A white light solar flare's the most probable source of the distortion.

McQUEEN

It's something else.
(off Nathan's look)
Something targeting us. I can feel it.

NATHAN

There's nothing there, Sir.

McQUEEN

(a criticism)
Trust your instincts, West. That's how you stay alive.

Nathan stares at him, angry. He's felt the rebuke.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

ENGINE ROOM/BRIDGE: Status?

ASHBY (V.O.)

Core temperature's stabilized with the rods at full insertion.

28 INT. ENGINE ROOM - NIGHT 28

INTO INTERCOM:

SORRELL

We're trying to get a handle on the blow down into the sump.

DAMPHOUSSE

So far there's been no energy release on board.

(knocks on her noggin)
Knock on wood.

29 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

29

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

Estimate to get the reactor on
line?

DAMPHOUSSE

Maybe today. Maybe Malaba Day.

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

Stored energy?

SORRELL

Four-point-five kilotons left in
the containment vessel.

MCQUEEN

Keep the engine on line.

ASHBY

Aye, Sir.

30 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT

30

Shane and Wang climb into the gun turret. The armament: two pulse cannons. Shane slides into the left seat. She activates the control panel. Wang slides into the right seat, activates the panel.

SHANE

hits a control. Her seat rotates the full 180 degrees.

WANG

hits a control. His seat jams at 45 degrees.

WANG

Of course.

SHANE

puts on her headset.

SHANE

BRIDGE/TURRET: Request permission
for weapons check.

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

TURRET/BRIDGE: Permission granted.

Shane activates the FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM. A light on the indicator panel flashes green.

SHANE

FIRE LIGHT STATUS - GREEN. Four
second burst.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

The pulse cannon blasts rounds into space.

SHANE

She works.

ON WANG

WANG

FIRE LIGHT - GREEN. Four second burst.

The pulse cannon fires.

WANG

Bucks like a mule.

SHANE

We're in business.

31 INT. CARGO HOLD - NIGHT

31

Keats and Cooper yank tiny but powerful high-tech fire extinguishers from the wall and WOOSH out several small electrical fires. Meanwhile, Potter and several crewmen wield oversized oily electronic wrenches and close off WOOSHING STEAM VALVES while their gauges pop and tinkle.

SECTION 46

Cooper goes to inspect the refrigerated containers.

FIRST MATE POTTER

Keep moving, Tank!

COOPER

(defiantly)

What about Section 46? Don't we inspect it?

FIRST MATE POTTER

People are the priority here.

COOPER

Yeah. I forgot. Tanks aren't people.

FIRST MATE POTTER

Do what you're told.

Cooper shoots him a hard look!

32 INT. ENGINE ROOM - NIGHT

32

CLOSE ON the temperature gauge as it drops to 600. PULL BACK to REVEAL Damphousse, Ashby, and Sorrell.

SORRELL

Clad temp: 650.

DAMPHOUSSE

Coolant density: 722 kilograms over M cubed.

ASHBY

Ceramic fuel temp: 1200.

The three of them look at each other.

DAMPHOUSSE

Mr. Ashby, Let's go back on line.

ASHBY

(reluctant)

Don't know what caused the coolant temp to spike.

SORRELL

Or if it'll happen again.

DAMPHOUSSE

Worse thing that can happen is we blow up, Mr. Sorrell.

SORRELL

(wildly exaggerated
courtesy)

Then I don't see the problem, Ms. Damphousse.

The Tanks decide that Damphousse knows what she's talking about. Sorrell grins at Ashby.

SORRELL

Let's do it.

DAMPHOUSSE

Raise rod one.

ASHBY

Rod one raised.

DAMPHOUSSE

Raise rod two.

They're sweating bullets as the rods come up.

33 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

33

McQueen, Lewelyn, Mercer (the Planesman) and Harkin, the Navigator, work to get the ship back on course.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

How far before the nav-channel widens, Mr. Harkin?

HARKIN

We still got a long way to go.

MERCER

Quarter speed's all she can make, Captain. We're gonna be old men before we get out of this star field.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

You were born old, Mr. Mercer.

WANG (V.O.)

BRIDGE/TURRET: Right chair movement limited. We are fixing.

McQUEEN

West: What's out there?

AT THE COMMUNICATIONS DESK

Nathan stares at the screen.

NATHAN

I'd have better luck reading tea leaves, Sir.

McQUEEN

(sardonic)

Tea leaves couldn't tell us anything less than you're telling me right now.

West shoots him a look. He'd like McQueen off his case.

34 INT. CARGO HOLD - NIGHT

34

The crew has secured the cargo hold. Potter turns to Cooper and Keats --

FIRST MATE POTTER

My men are standing down. You wanna check Section 46, knock yourselves out.

Copper and Keats start back to Section 46. Keats takes out several sheets of computer print-out and hands it to Cooper.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
The cargo manifest.

Cooper takes it with shaking hands.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
The number on the left is the date
of conception. The middle number's
the gene pool. This is the batch
number on the right. Place of
conception is indicated in the
margin.

COOPER
Thanks.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
I check the manifest every time I
have a cargo of "in vitros."

COOPER
Ever find a match?

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
(hopeful)
Nope. Not yet.

Cooper's glad to have someone to share his confusion, his
longing for connection.

COOPER
You wonder what it would be like to
have family?

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
Only all the time.

The men are silent for a moment.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
Why do you think that Tanks can't
cry?

COOPER
I heard tears were removed from our
DNA.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
What are you?

COOPER
March sixth, twenty one forty.
Gene pool sixteen A. Batch Alpha
3439. The Philadelphia facility.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: 2

34

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
 (shakes his head.)
 Brooklyn Facility.

The manifest trembles in Cooper's hand.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
 Enjoy the read.

35 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT

35

Shane and Wang are working overtime trying to fix the gun turret so that it will rotate the full 180 degrees. There's a high tech toolbox nearby.

WANG
 Hand me a reverse torque wrench.

Shane hands him the wrench.

SHANE
 I still don't get it.

WANG
 (the literalist)
 Gotta tighten the lug bolt.

SHANE
 (her favorite subject)
 A human being's nothing more than a highly evolved animal.

WANG
 Tell that to Einstein.

SHANE
 Einstein's dead.
 (one track mind)
 We're attracted to a person because of the way they look. They way they smell. How they feel to the touch.

WANG
 You want to tell me what you're talking about?

SHANE
 How do you fall in love with a woman through Deep Space-mail?

WANG
 You don't believe in the soul? In spiritual connection?

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

SHANE

I believe in what you can reach out
and touch.

WANG

Then reach out and touch that
Phillips head screwdriver.

She hands him the screwdriver.

36 INT. ENGINE ROOM - NIGHT

36

On Damphousse, Ashby and Sorrell.

DAMPHOUSSE

Ceramic fuel temp: Twelve hundred,
and holding. BRIDGE/ENGINE ROOM:
Reactor's on line. Generator's
down.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN (V.O.)

Well done. I'll need full power.

Sorrell smiles at Damphousse.

SORRELL

How come you got detailed to the
back of the bus?

DAMPHOUSSE

Four years at Cal Tech. Two
summers I interned at San Onofre.

ASHBY

(amused)

What kinda lunatic interns in a
nuclear power plant?

DAMPHOUSSE

My father was Chief Engineer. Or
do you figure I'm back here because
of something else?

ASHBY

A lot of people won't work with
Tanks.

DAMPHOUSSE

Let me tell you something, Mr.
Ashby. I'll work with anybody who
wants to work. All I ask in return
is respect. I know what I'm doing,
and I earned what I have. I don't
expect a break because of the color
of my skin. And I sure as hell
don't let anyone put me in a place
I don't want to be.

37 INT. CARGO HOLD - NIGHT

37

Cooper reads the manifest and finds something of great interest. He checks, rechecks a number. Cooper races to the door of container twelve, looks inside.

WHAT COOPER SEES

Twenty-two full-grown in vitros suspended in cryatonic sleep, waiting to be born.

BACK TO SCENE

Cooper's transfixed. He never HEARS the FOOTSTEPS. A hand shoves him roughly away from the door. Cooper turns to find Potter standing in front of him.

FIRST MATE POTTER

What's the big deal? You got a Petri dish, you can always make another tank.

Cooper glares. Two, three seconds tops and he's gonna rip Potter's heart out through his nose. BEFORE HE CAN --

38 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT

38

A second wave of energy slams into the MacArthur!

39 INT. ENGINE ROOM - NIGHT

39

ALARMS SOUND. CLOSE ON the temperature gauge -- spiking.

ASHBY

Scram it!

Damphousse hits the emergency switch hard!

40 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

40

ALARMS SOUND!

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)

BRIDGE/ENGINE ROOM: Scrammed.
Taking all systems off line.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

GENERATOR ROOM/BRIDGE: Go to
secondary power supply!

41 INT. GENERATOR ROOM - NIGHT

41

CHIEF MECHANIC

Aye, sir!

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: 41

The auxiliary generator start up. One generator blows apart, bursting in smoke and flame.

The CHIEF ENGINEER runs for cover, as the generator room explodes in flames.

CHIEF MECHANIC
FIRE IN THE HOLE!

He's badly burned.

42 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT 42

On Lewelyn.

CHIEF MECHANIC (V.O.)
FIRE IN THE HOLE!

CAPTAIN LEWELYN
(into Intercom)
Potter, this is the Captain. Get a
Fire Team to Station Four. Repeat.

43 INT. CARGO HOLD - NIGHT 43

On Cooper and Potter --

CAPTAIN LEWELYN (V.O.)
Repeat. Fire team to Station
Four!!!

Differences put aside, the two men take off running.

44 INT. BLUE CORRIDOR - NIGHT 44

Cooper and Potter race aft. Keats joins them.

45 INT. BRIDGE - COM DESK - NIGHT 45

Nathan catches a glimpse of something on the radar screen -- a dark shadow.

NATHAN
I'm getting something.

McQueen turns with --

McQUEEN
Range and bearing!

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

NATHAN

He's coming with us, Colonel...
can't get an exact reading.

As McQueen arrives at Nathan's shoulder. The image disappears from the screen.

NATHAN

It's gone.

McQueen, frustrated --

McQUEEN

Just tell me what you saw!

NATHAN

I don't know. A shadow.

McQUEEN

Figure it out, West. I need to know what's out there.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

(into intercom)

ENGINE ROOM/BRIDGE: Status.

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)

Had to go off line. Control rod insertion complete. Coolant temperature's spiked to sixteen hundred. We're close to thermal design criteria.

46 INT. GENERATOR BAY - NIGHT

46

Keats, Cooper, Potter, and several Crewmen fight the fire in the generator room. The fire rages out of control. Potter freaks.

FIRST MATE POTTER

Fall back. Fall back.

Potter and the Crewmen get the hell out of harm's way. Only Cooper stands tall.

Cooper makes a mad, daring rush through the flames. He reaches an instrument panel, hits a switch. The room is doused in fire retardant. The flames are extinguished.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

(into intercom)

BRIDGE/GENERATOR ROOM: Fire is out. The Chief Mechanic's dead. We've lost one generator. We gotta take the load off the second generator. Or it's gonna blow, too.

47 INT. BRIDGE - COM DESK - NIGHT

47

ON the radar screen. The image stabilizes.

McQUEEN

Update stored energy.

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)

I have 3.7 kilotons thrust stored.

MERCER

One thirty second burn.

NATHAN

Sir, I have radar contact. Bearing three seven six. Range two parsecs.

McQUEEN

We don't have enough power to get us out of harm's way.

The Captain studies the power grid.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

There's only one way to take the load off second generator, Colonel. We may have to cut power to one section of the cargo hold.

McQUEEN

You mean kill people.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

It's math, Colonel. A section dies or we all die. Is there really a choice?

48 INT. GENERATOR ROOM

48

Keats and Cooper work to repair the second generator.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN (V.O.)

Generator room, This is Captain Lewelyn. Stand by to cut power to Section 46.

Reactions from those in the room.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

Section 46 houses seven containers of In Vitros, Captain. That's two hundred lives.

49 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

49

on McQueen listening hard.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN
 Something has to go. There's no
 other choice, if we can't get the
 reactor back on line...

KEATS (V.O.)
 Captain ...

50 INT. GENERATOR ROOM - NIGHT

50

CAPTAIN LEWELYN (V.O.)
 That's an order. Section 46
 affords the most power for the
 fewest lives. Stand by.

The Intercom goes dead.

COOPER
 (to Keats)
 McQueen won't let this happen.
 He's one of us.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
 You hear his voice raised in
 protest just now?

Keats looks at Cooper for a long minute.

COOPER
 March sixth, twenty one forty.
 Gene pool nine-E. Batch Alpha
 3439. The Philadelphia facility.
 (a beat)
 I have a sister in Section 46.

Off Cooper's pained confusion.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

51 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT 51

The ship drifts in space -- a target of opportunity.

52 INT BRIDGE - NIGHT 52

On McQueen --

NATHAN

Sir. He's coming around. Bearing
two three niner.

McQUEEN

What's his signature?

NATHAN

Can't be sure.

McQueen strides over to Nathan --

McQUEEN

What does your gut tell you, West?
What's the level of threat?

NATHAN

(insistent)
I can't tell, Colonel, without more
information.

CLOSE ON THE HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE

the image stabilizes. We see a shape come into focus. Nathan
zaps it with the LIGHT PEN, enlarging it to an ominous form.
McQueen stares at the image.

BACK TO SCENE

McQUEEN

You don't happen to remember the
specs on the U378.

NATHAN

What we have here is an
unidentified blob.

McQUEEN

Give me the U378 specs!!

NATHAN

(taken aback)
The U378's an Alien Class D
destroyer, a hunter-killer.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

McQUEEN
Weapons package?

NATHAN
Rockets... mines... guided
weapons...

McQUEEN
What else?

NATHAN
Special Operations Branch thinks
she has advanced microwave
technology that screws up
communications.

McQUEEN
Causes reactor temperatures to
spike...

NATHAN
(the light dawns)
It goes for the soft kill.

McQUEEN
My gut tells me your "blob's" a
U378. He knows we're not dead, and
he's coming in for the hard kill!

The lights flicker.

53 INT. GENERATOR ROOM - NIGHT

53

The generator falters. It's on its last legs. The lights blink
on and off. It's on maximum overload.

54 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

54

Lewelyn paces.

MERCER
Captain, the generator blows, we're
gonna be dead in the water.

The lights flicker.

McQUEEN
ENGINE ROOM/BRIDGE: Can you go on
line?

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)
Negative.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

(to McQueen)

We just ran out of options.

McQueen nods his assent. Into Intercom:

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

Keats. This is the Captain. Cut
power to Section 46.

(no response)

Keats! Confirm you're cutting
power to Section 46.

KEATS (V.O.)

Negative, Captain.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

We're sitting ducks, Keats. Just
what the hell is the problem?

55 INT. GENERATOR - NIGHT

55

Keats doesn't move.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

I'm the problem, Captain.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN (V.O.)

There's not a lot of room for
interpretation in your orders.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

I won't do it, Captain. Too many
of us have died fighting your wars.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN (V.O.)

You're putting every life on this
ship at risk.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

Then we die equal.

FIRST MATE POTTER (O.S.)

Some are more equal than others.
You're going to be the first Tank
that gets killed.

Keats looks up to find Potter, wrench in hand. He takes a step towards Keats. Keats doesn't move. Cooper hits Potter hard, knocks him against the wall. Before Potter can recover, Keats grabs some rope and quickly ties Potter's arms behind his back.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

(to Cooper)

You gonna help me save those Tanks?

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

The look on Cooper's face says it all: he's deeply conflicted between his sense of duty to the human world and his sense of connection to the In Vitros.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

Or are you going to kill your own people?

Keats exits before Cooper can find the answer. He's badly torn.

56 INT. ENGINE ROOM - NIGHT

56

WE SEE KEATS come in, look down at Sorrel and Ashby.

DAMPHOUSSE

Ceramic fuel temp, 1600.

The Tanks go to Keats and speak MOS. A second later, they race out of the room. Damphousse glances after them, appalled.

DAMPHOUSSE

(sardonic)

Don't worry about me. I'll handle things. BRIDGE/ENGINE ROOM:
Things are going downhill fast.

57 INT. RED CORRIDOR - NIGHT

57

Keats, Ashby, Sorrel, and two other tanks break into the arsenal cabinet. Keats passes out the weapons.

58 INT. BRIDGE - COM DESK - RADAR HOLOGRAM

58

A pair of blips separate from the U378. We hear the CLICK, CLICK of the LIGHT PEN. A red laser dot enlarges the blips. Again. Again...

PULL BACK

NATHAN

Missiles launched!!

MCQUEEN

Confirm that!

NATHAN

Missiles launched, sir!!

59 EXT. SKY - NIGHT

59

Two missiles streak through the hydrogen clouds.

60 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

60

On Lewelyn.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

Keats? Keats!
(to McQueen)
I'm going aft.

McQUEEN

No time. ENGINE ROOM/BRIDGE: Give
me everything you've got.

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)

Aye, Sir. 3.6 kilotons thrust.

McQUEEN

(to Mercer)
Maximum power settings.

61 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT

61

The proton engine FIRES! The MacArthur picks up speed.

62 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

62

Into Intercom --

McQUEEN

Vansen! Wang! Lock on those
missiles.

63 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT

63

Wang works on the gun turret. One last twist of the
screwdriver, and the seat works.

WANG

BINGO!

SHANE

We're locked. Let's rock 'n' roll.

64 INT. BRIDGE - COM DESK - NIGHT

64

ON Nathan. Blips on the screen indicate incoming missiles.

NATHAN

Twenty-one hundred clicks...
Eighteen hundred clicks...

65 EXT. SKY - NIGHT

65

The missiles race through space.

66 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

66

An ALARM SOUNDS.

NATHAN

Sixteen. Missiles locked on.

McQUEEN

(to Mercer)

Launch starboard cargo hauler.

MERCER

That's not SOP.

Mercer hesitates.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

Do it!!

The Navigator slams forward a switch on the control panel.

67 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT

67

The starboard cargo hauler blasts away from the side of the MacArthur and spins into space.

68 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT

68

Shane sees the cargo hauler whirl into space.

SHANE

What was that?

69 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

69

McQUEEN

Launch port cargo hauler.

MERCER

(disapproving)

Port cargo hauler launched.

(aside)

This isn't a fix, it's a prayer.

70 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT

70

The port cargo hauler BLASTS away from the MacArthur!

71 INT. GENERATOR ROOM - NIGHT

71

Cooper, torn. He looks at the switch. His hand reaches for the switch. He can't do it. He just can't do it. He starts into the Blue Corridor.

(CONTINUED)

- 71 CONTINUED: 71
- FIRST MATE POTTER
Untie me. I'm needed on the
bridge.
- But Cooper just leaves.
- 72 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT 72
- Into Intercom --
- McQUEEN
PREPARE SHIP FOR IMPACT.
- McQueen waits, waits...
- NATHAN
Eight... Seven... Six... Five...
Four...
- 73 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT 73
- Shane and Wang fire laser rounds at the incoming missiles.
- 74 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT 74
- McQueen gives the command --
- McQUEEN
Hard left rudder!!
- MERCER
Hard left rudder!
- Mercer pushes hard on the central column! There's a GROANING
and GRINDING SOUND.
- 75 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT 75
- The MacArthur moves left, leaving the two cargo haulers floating
behind.
- 76 EXT. SKY - NIGHT 76
- The lead missile HITS a cargo hauler. EXPLODES!!
- 77 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT 77
- The EXPLOSION knocks Shane and Wang around like rag dolls.

83 INT. BLUE CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Cooper staggers along Blue corridor toward the bridge. He sees McQueen coming the other direction.

COOPER
How can you let him kill In Vitros?

McQUEEN
Our operating systems are down, Hawkes. We don't have enough power to get out of harm's way. It's the only decision the Captain can make.

COOPER
You can stop him.

McQUEEN
Captain's word is law.

COOPER
Human law.

McQUEEN
Know another one?

COOPER
When someone decides to kill In Vitros, it's not my law. And it shouldn't be yours.

McQueen studies Cooper. Then:

McQUEEN
Keats gave you the manifest.

COOPER
Yep.

McQUEEN
Who did you find?

COOPER
A sister...

McQUEEN
I told you not to look, Cooper.

COOPER
How can you kill your own people.
How can you? Answer me!

84 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

84

Captain Lewelyn looks up as Keats and Sorrel drag Potter onto the bridge, automatic weapons in hand.

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED:

84

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
 Captain, I'm taking the helm.

Lewelyn looks at him a long time.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN
 Are you adding mutiny to your
 resume, Mr. Keats?

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
 Whatever it takes. As long as In
 Vitros don't die.

FIRST MATE POTTER
 Mutiny, Captain? He's adding
 murder. He'll kill us all.

Sorrel throws Potter into a chair.

CLOSE ON KEATS' HANDS

working the rope loose.

BACK TO SCENE

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
 Tell McQueen you need him on the
 bridge.

The Captain's clearly reluctant to do what he's ordered to do.

85 INT. BLUE CORRIDOR - NIGHT

85

McQueen looks at Cooper. He clicks his STOPWATCH.

McQUEEN
 I bought us a little time. I'll
 give Damphousse five minutes to get
 the reactor back on line. If she
 can't, then I pull the plug.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN (V.O.)
 (over INTERCOM)
 Colonel McQueen! Report to the
 bridge.

McQueen goes. HOLD ON Cooper, concerned.

COOPER
 Colonel.

McQueen doesn't hear.

86 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT

86

Wang and Shane look up to find Ashby standing over them, weapon pointed toward them.

ASHBY

I don't want to kill you. I will
if I have to.

WANG

Looks like we're gonna sit this one
out.

SHANE

(of Ashby's gun)

You want to point that some other
direction? I'd hate to think you
killed me by accident.

87 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

87

Keats holds an automatic weapon on Lewelyn.

CAPTAIN LEWELYN

You're making a mistake, Keats.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

Won't be the first, Sir.

Potter frees his hands and charges Keats. Sorrel FIRES at Potter. The slug takes him mid chest. The force knocks him backward. The automatic weapon sprays the room with gunfire. Potter's dead before he hits the deck. The Captain's slumped over the control. He's dead. Keats goes to him. There's nothing he can do.

A slug has torn out a hole the size of a grapefruit. Keats, stunned --

McQueen comes onto the Bridge, sees what's going on.

Sorrel swings his weapon around toward McQueen.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

This isn't what I wanted.

MCQUEEN

That's not good enough. Get your
men back to their stations. I'm
taking the bridge.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

I can't allow that.

Standoff. Neither man will give an inch.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

87

COOPER (O.S.)
You're not going to kill him. He's
a Tank.

They turn to find Cooper. Cooper enters, moves to McQueen.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS
I'll do what I have to do.

COOPER
Then you'll have to kill me.
Because I'm not going to let
McQueen die.

HOLD ON Keats' conflict.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

88 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT 88

The ship drifts in space, obscured by the hydrogen clouds.

89 INT. BRIDGE - COM DESK - NIGHT 89

The standoff continues. Nathan studies the radar screen.

NATHAN

I'm picking up an active sonar pulse. He's doing a Yankee search.

McQueen turns to Keats and the mutinous tanks. His tone is hard, unforgiving!

McQUEEN

Yankee search is an old Navy term. The bastard who's hunting us figures we're a pile of space garbage. He's coming in to confirm the kill. And right now there's not a damned thing we can do.

McQueen and Cooper are getting through to Keats.

90 INT. GENERATOR ROOM - NIGHT 90

The one remaining generator starts smoking. It's gonna blow.

91 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT 91

Shane, Wang and Ashby. Lights flicker, go out.

WANG

BRIDGE/TURRET: FIRE LIGHT STATUS:
RED!!! Repeat: FIRE LIGHT RED.
Get us power!

SHANE

(to Wang)

Whatdaya figure the Colonel wants us to do now? Throw rocks at the U378.

ASHBY

All I want is an end to the killing.

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED:

91

SHANE

We're at war. Sometimes, you've got to kill people, and when you've killed enough, they stop fighting.

(in his face)

Pretty soon you're gonna have to decide if you're gonna kill us.

92 INT. BRIDGE - COM DESK - NIGHT

92

ON Nathan.

NATHAN

Pulse intervals increasing.

McQueen puts the burden on Cooper.

McQUEEN

Clock's running out, Hawkes. Time to decide. Who's side are you on?

COOPER

There are no sides, Colonel. Just right and wrong.

(to Keats)

Give me the gun.

Keats hesitates.

NATHAN

Pulse intervals increasing. He's coming closer.

COOPER

He's our only chance, Keats. The Colonel will do the right thing. You have to trust that.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

Do you, Cooper? Do you trust him?

Cooper thinks it over for a long minute.

COOPER

Yes.

Cooper holds out his hand to Keats. Keats gives Cooper the gun. Cooper turns to McQueen.

COOPER

Sir, the bridge is yours.

McQUEEN

Thank you, Mr. Hawkes. ENGINE ROOM/BRIDGE: We have incoming. Get me back on line.

93 INT. ENGINE ROOM - NIGHT

93

A vile, stinking pit.

DAMPHOUSSE

No can do. Primary coolant loop sheared. Pressure shocks hit the primary system hard during the blowdown phase. And I'm about six hands short.

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

Was containment breached?

DAMPHOUSSE

Yes. And we're losing pressure. We're gonna lose the reactor.

94 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

94

On McQueen.

DAMPHOUSSE (V.O.)

I could sure use a little help down here. BEFORE THIS WHOLE DAMN THING
MELTS DOWN!!!

McQueen turns to Keats.

MCQUEEN

We work together. Or we all die.
It's as simple as that.

(an appeal)

I'm gonna need your help, Mr.
Keats. Be good enough to get your
men back to the engine room.

Keats takes only a second to decide.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

GUN TURRET/BRIDGE: Mr. Ashby...

95 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT

95

Shane, Wang, and Ashby listen to the Intercom --

KEATS (V.O.)

I need you in the engine room. We
have a class nine emergency.

Ashby starts to exit.

WANG

Maybe later you'll tell us WHAT THE
HELL'S GOING ON.

96 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

96

McQueen turns to Cooper.

McQUEEN

I'm out of steam. I got a reactor melt down. And I got a U378 heading my way. We can't fight, we can't run and your five minutes are up. NOW WHAT THE HELL DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO?

COOPER

Cut power to another section.

McQUEEN

Pop quiz, Hawkes. You cut the power to Section 46, 200 tanks die. You cut the power to any other section, four hundred humans die. How does the math work out? What do you do?

COOPER

Why are you asking me?

McQUEEN

Because you're going to make the decision. You're going to pull the plug.

NATHAN

We're dead center in the sonar pulse.

McQUEEN

We have one advantage, Hawkes. The U378 doesn't know we're ready to fight. ARE WE READY TO FIGHT?

Cooper races from the bridge.

97 INT. ENGINE ROOM - NIGHT

97

The Tanks race into the engine room.

DAMPHOUSSE

We're losing the core.

The Tanks take their places at the controls.

ASHBY

Kick in the Emergency Core Coolant System.

DAMPHOUSSE

Re-load initiated.
(totally relieved)
Glad to have you back.

98 INT. GENERATOR ROOM - NIGHT 98

Cooper races into the generator room.

COOPER
BRIDGE/GEN ROOM: Standing by.

99 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT 99

On McQueen.

MCQUEEN
Cut power to Section 46.

100 INT. GENERATOR ROOM - NIGHT 100

A tortured beat. Then Cooper closes his eyes and hits the switch.

101 INT. CARGO HOLD - NIGHT 101

Section 46. A light on top of a refrigerated unit goes out. Then another. And another.

102 INT. GENERATOR ROOM - NIGHT 102

Cooper waits. The generator COUGHS back to life.

103 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT 103

ON Mercer.

MERCER
We have power, sir.

104 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT 104

Shane, Wang --

WANG
BRIDGE/TURRET: FIRE LIGHT GREEN.

MCQUEEN (V.O.)
Hold your fire until the U378
closes. At two clicks he can't
fire his missiles.

105 EXT. SUN - NIGHT 105

A solar flare blasts into the heavens.

106 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT 106

Shane and Wang are momentarily blinded by the solar flare.

107 INT. BRIDGE - COM DESK - NIGHT 107

On the radar, scrambled.

NATHAN

Solar flare.

McQueen has a moment of stone cold fear. He fights to get it under control.

NATHAN

The only way the U378 can make contact is visual. Right now we are not on his radar screen. Estimated time until his radar retrieval: Three minutes.

McQUEEN

(challenging)
Is that your gut?

NATHAN

That's a fact, Sir!

McQueen checks his antique stopwatch, turns to Mercer --

McQUEEN

Let's play a little hide-and-seek.
Hard left rudder.

MERCER

Hard left rudder, sir. We beep when he bops.

McQUEEN

Very good, Mr. Mercer.
(then, tense)
TURRET/BRIDGE: We don't know where she is, but she's out there.

108 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT 108

Wang and Shane peer nervously into the swirling hydrogen clouds.

109 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT 109

A shape emerges from the burning sky. It hovers near the MacArthur. PLAYING CAT AND MOUSE. The MacArthur's easy prey.

110 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT 110

McQueen gets a glimpse of a dark mass in the clouds. The U378 comes INTO VIEW -- a fearsome presence.

McQUEEN

Wang! Vansen! Prepare to initiate fire... on my order.

The U378 closes in on the MacArthur.

McQUEEN

Fire perigee kick motor, Mr. Mercer.

MERCER

Sir. I can't do that. We'll break up.

McQUEEN

Fire perigee kick motor!

MERCER

Perigee kick motor fired.
(terrified)
We're going right at him!

111 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT 111

The perigee kick motor fires. There's an abrupt pitch down. The ship blasts sideways, right at the U378. The stress threatens to shake the ship apart.

112 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT 112

ON Shane and Wang, itching to fire.

SHANE

Come on. Come on. Give the order!

WANG

What's he waiting for?

113 EXT. U378 - NIGHT 113

Every gun battery on the U378 opens fire.

114 EXT. MACARTHUR - NIGHT 114

The MacArthur takes fire.

115 INT GUN TURRET - NIGHT 115

Slugs blast through the fuselage.

127 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

127

Nathan, Mercer, Hawkin and Harris whoop it up. McQueen sits back, exhausted.

MERCER

You never know what God has planned.

128 INT. ENGINE ROOM - NIGHT

128

On Damphousse and the Tanks.

DAMPHOUSSE

Pressure's at 18.5. Climbing.
Core Temp's cooling.

The four of them look at each other, relieved.

DAMPHOUSSE

BRIDGE/ENGINE ROOM: The reactor's stabilized. We have ninety micks until we're on line.

MCQUEEN (V.O.)

Good work, Damphousse.

DAMPHOUSSE

I had a little help from my friends, sir.

She flashes her best smile. Keats sobers.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER KEATS

It came at a high price.

DAMPHOUSSE

Yes, it did, Mr. Keats. Yes, it did.

129 INT. GUN TURRET - NIGHT

129

On Shane and Wang as they wind down. SUDDENLY, Shane starts to speak, very softly. Her voice is a caress.

SHANE

O Western wind when wilt thou blow
and the small rain down come rain.
Christ that my love were in my arms
and I in my bed again.

(off Wang's look)

Try sending that via Deep
Space-Mail

WANG

You are full of surprises.

130 INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

130

McQUEEN

Plot a new course, Mr. Harkin.

HARKIN

Aye, sir.

Nathan looks at McQueen for a long minute.

NATHAN

You gotta trust me, sir.

McQUEEN

Earn it!

NATHAN

I just did!

(making his case)

You trust your gut. I trust my
brain. It works out both ways. It
works together.

McQueen leaves the bridge. Nathan never sees his smile.

131 INT. CARGO HOLD - NIGHT

131

Cooper comes into the cargo hold.

WHAT HE SEES

A dark shadow over Section 46.

BACK TO SCENE

as Cooper slowly walks through the cargo hold, past the
refrigerated units housing the living. He comes up to Section
46. He stops when he sees McQueen coming toward him. The two
men stand in silence for a long moment.

McQUEEN

You did the right thing.

Cooper gives him a look: Did I?

McQUEEN

We're soldiers, Cooper. Not Tanks.

Cooper stars past McQueen.

McQUEEN

Sorry for...

He doesn't finish his sentence.

COOPER

What would you know about sorrow?

(CONTINUED)

131 CONTINUED:

131

Cooper turns his back, keeps walking.

McQUEEN

I know this much. I never had the courage to look for my family. Not because I was afraid of what I might find. But because I was afraid of what I might feel.

McQueen turns his back to walk away. He wants to give Cooper his private moment with the dead. Cooper slowly walks up to the unit housing his sister. He wipes the frost from the window, looks inside.

WHAT COOPER SEES'

24 bodies inside.

BACK TO SCENE

Cooper puts his hand on the handle of the unit. He hesitates a long second, then starts to walk away. Then he walks back. He opens the door to the unit.

132 INT. REFRIGERATED UNIT - NIGHT

132

Cooper walks into the unit. He goes over to the first body. He checks the name on a wrist tag. He goes to a second body, then a third, a fourth. And then he finds her.

First he checks her number on her wrist tag. CLOSE ON HIS FACE. Emotions well up as he reads her name for the first time --

COOPER

(softly)

Kate.

BACK TO SCENE

As Cooper wipe the ice crystals from her face. She stands revealed to him. There's a family likeness.

He sees himself in her. At first, he can't find what words to say. So many thoughts, feelings are rushing through him. Then, softly.

COOPER

I'm sorry, Kate. I didn't have a choice.

There are tears in Cooper's eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF THE MUTINY