

SPACE ACADEMY

Ross (Get-on)
Sarcotious
Cute type Character
Brash 77

"COUNTDOWN"

SA - #85008

Always
Flowing

Constantly
building body
- In action the
very physical

JUNE 27, 1977

John
Locke

FILMATION
STUDIOS

SPACE ACADEMY

"COUNTDOWN"

SA - #85008

BY

TOM SWALE

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SPACE ACADEMY

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CAST

COMMANDER ISAAC GAMPU

ROARG (A VEGAN)

CADET CAPT. CHRIS GENTRY

CONTROL VOICE

CADET LT. LAURA GENTRY

CADET LT. TEEGAR SOOM

CADET LT. ADRIAN PRYCE-JONES

CADET LT. PAUL JEROME

SPECIAL CADET LOKI

PEEPO

SPACE ACADEMY

SETS

INTERIORS

SPACE ACADEMY

CONTROL CENTER

STORAGE CORRIDOR

SEEKER

VEGAN WARSHIP

EXTERIORS

DEEP SPACE

SPACE ACADEMY

SEEKER

VEGAN WARSHIP

SPACE ACADEMY

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE - THE SPACE ACADEMY 1

Turns slowly on its axis as it moves through the star-studded void. We ZOOM IN as a cargo ship, retrorockets backing it out of its berth, falls away from the orbiting space platform, then streaks away on its return voyage.

DISSOLVE TO:

2 INT. SPACE ACADEMY - A STORAGE CORRIDOR 2

The corridor is stacked with futuristic-looking polygonal shipping crates in bright colors. LAURA and CHRIS are straining to lift one of the crates. PEEPO and ADRIAN stand behind. *

CHRIS

What's in this thing? Lead bricks?
We can't get it to budge!

PEEPO

I can develop sufficient momentum
to transport the container.

LAURA

Sorry, Peepo, but this cargo is too
delicate for you.

ADRIAN

If you'd like a hand from the Geology
Department... *

She steps forward. *

CHRIS

Hey, speaking of hands, I have a better
idea. *

He holds out his hand to Laura. *

CHRIS

Sist~~er~~! *

Laura under stands his meaning. They join hands palm-to palm, concentrating. Peepo scoots around inquisitively.

3 ANGLE ON THE SHIPPING CRATE 3

As it LEVITATES slowly off the deck.

4 ANOTHER ANGLE ON THE GROUP 4

LAURA

Now this is more like it!

*

ADRIAN

Wish I could do that!

*

CHRIS

Any time you want to hold hands,
Adrian, let me know!

*

*

Peepo sees LOKI approaching down the corridor.

PEEPO

Oh oh. Here comes trouble.

LOKI

Hey, that's a pretty good trick.
But it's missing one thing -- a
passenger!

With that, Loki jumps onto the shipping crate and takes a
seat. It dips a little, but supports his weight.

LAURA/CHRIS

Wait, Loki! Don't!

TEE GAR comes down the hall as the container begins to
dip and weave.

ADRIAN

Loki, get down from there!

*

CHRIS

We can't support you.

LOKI

You're doing fine, Chris!

LAURA

Loki! Get down!

5 CLOSE ANGLE ON LOKI, Oblivious to danger 5

LOKI

That's fun! Let's move it!

The carton and Loki dip and twist crazily, then DROP
abruptly out of frame with a CRASH!

6 ANGLE ON LOKI 6

Sprawled on the floor next to the box, shaking head
disgustedly.

(CONTINUED)

6 (CONTINUED)

6

LAURA
Loki, you're impossible.
(then smiles in spite
of herself)

*

Tiger runs over, picks him up and sets him on a railing.
Then he picks up the heavy box.

TIGER
Two people are no substitute for
brute strength!

*

CONTROL VOICE
Attention! Blue Team One report
to Academy Control on the double!

All exchange glances, AD LIB excited reactions, Tiger
sets down the box and takes off down the corridor, the
shipping crate forgotten. Loki jumps off railing
in pursuit.

LOKI
Hey, wait for me!

7 INT. SPACE ACADEMY - CONTROL ROOM - GAMPU

7

We are CLOSE ON ISAAC GAMPU standing at the control
monitor checking readouts and punching up new displays.
CAMERA ANGLE WIDENS to INCLUDE PAUL JEROME standing near
Gampu -- also checking readouts. CAMERA BACK to INCLUDE
Chris, Laura, Adrian, Tee Gar, Peepo and Loki as they enter.

*
*
*
*
**

CHRIS
Commander? Hi, Paul.

PAUL
Hi, Chris.

GAMPU
(to Chris)
Take a look at the Space Monitor,
Chris.

As he does so, the rest of the group crowd in to look.

8 INSERT - THE DEEP SPACE MONITOR

8

It shows a mass of slowly spinning debris approaching
against the starfield. CAMERA BACK.

(CONTINUED)

8 (CONTINUED)

8

LOKI

What's that stuff?

*

We can make out the individual hunks of charred debris, obviously man-made.

GAMPU

"This stuff" Loki, is space debris. The observatory on Alpha side picked it up. It's from the Vegan War.

*

LOKI

Vegan War?

GAMPU

A long time ago, Loki, the people who left Earth to colonize the planet Vega, called themselves Vegan and referred to us as their Terran enemies and we found ourselves at war. Since then the debris left by the war has orbited back into well-traveled space lanes and could pose a potential danger to stellar navigation. Do you understand?

*

*

*

LOKI

Yes...I think so.

*

GAMPU

Chris, Laura, -- I'd like you to go out and clear away the debris. Your spin laser should pulverize it effectively.

CHRIS

How about Adrian, Commander? Could we take her along?

*

*

GAMPU

Sorry, I'll need Adrian and Paul here. But a, -- maybe next time.

*

*

Adrian grins, a bit embarrassedly.

*

8 (CONTINUED)

8

LAURA

(a smile)
We may need some "brute strength".
We better take Tee Gar!

CHRIS

I'd like to have Loki come along,
and Peepo.

*
*

TIGER

~~Hauling off~~ space junk! Oh, come
on, Commander! The Academy isn't
here to teach us garbage collecting.

GAMPU

On the contrary the Academy is here
to teach you -- everything. The
Academy is all things to all people.
(meaningfully)

However, Mr. Soom, if you'd rather
not go I'm sure we can find something
else for you to do.

TIGER

(hastily)
That's okay, Commander. We're on our
way. Come on.
(starts to go but
turns to Paul)
How'd you get out of this?

PAUL

(grins)
Just lucky I guess.

As Tiger and the others exit. CAMERA ZOOMS IN on the
Space Monitor.

9 EXT. SPACE - THE FLOATING DEBRIS

9

It spins lazily in space. A slowly turning mass of
lifeless space junk. But near the edge, something
MOVES. We ZOOM IN as a small black craft scans the
area with its dorsal antennae and we hear the ticking of
electrical telemetry. Unknown to the cadets and their
advisor. something out there is ALIVE!

*
*

END TEASER

See Paul & Competition

"COUNTDOWN"

SA - #85008

ACT ONE

9A EXT. SPACE ACADEMY

Establishing.

9A *

*

10 INT. LAUNCHING PAD - THE SEEKER

The launch doors open and the Seeker emerges and lifts off.

10

11 INT. THE SEEKER

TeeGar, Laura and Chris busy at the monitors -- Loki at the viewport -- Peepo at navigation system.

11

12 EXT. DEEP SPACE

As the Seeker flashes past the stars on its mission.

12

12a INT. THE SEEKER

ON TeeGar, Laura and Chris at the monitors.
Chris peers intently out through viewport.

CHRIS

(cheerfully)

There it is, Teegar - everything
you asked for ... space junk.

Laura and Teegar look out of viewport.

12b WHAT THEY SEE - LONG SHOT

Drifting chunks of indefinable space debris - still
too far for identification.

TEEGAR'S VOICE

(drily)

It couldn't look lovelier.

*

12c INT. THE SEEKER

All including Peepo and Loki stare out thru viewport.

CHRIS

We'd better start warming up the
spinners.

*

Teegar rises to comply.

12d EXT. DEEP SPACE 12d

SHOOTING PAST the small black craft which we now identify as a spacemine, its telemetry ticking, toward the Seeker as it approaches the space debris.

13 INT. THE SEEKER 13

PEEPO

Approaching space debris -- reduce speed. *

Chris nods, touches the appropriate sensors.

14 EXT. THE SPACE DEBRIS 14

The Seeker moves into the cloud of drifting wreckage, then slides in among the drifting hulks. *

15 INT. THE SEEKER 15

Chris and Laura are seated forward, the others aft.

TEEGAR

Collecting space junk, Next thing you know, we'll be out scraping hull plates!

LAURA

You heard Gampu, TeeGar. Space Academy is...

TEEGAR

(interrupting)

I know. "All things to all people." *
*
Point *just*

Large chunks of space debris float by the forward viewports as Chris pilots through the cloud. *

CHRIS

(indicating)

Tee Gar -- that chunk out there.

Zap it!

Tee Gar looks out.

15A WHAT HE SEES: 15A

A chunk of debris about the size of a toy locomotive floats past.

15B TEE GAR

15B

Well, ^{So} clean up time.

*tee gar
sitting back and
casually
pressing
switch **

He presses a switch.

15C EXT. SEEKER - THE LASER - 3/4 BACK (STOCK)

15C

As the streak of light leaves the laser.

15D THE CHUNK OF DEBRIS

15D

It is hit by the streak of light and explodes.

15E INT. THE SEEKER

15E

LOKI

(grinning)

You sure zapped that one, Tee Gar.

(he reacts to something

he sees OS)

Camelopardus! Look at the size of that one!

All look out toward.

15F WHAT THEY SEE:

15F

In the distance, an enormous section of glinting black hull floats into view.

15G INT. THE SEEKER - CHRIS, LAURA, PEEPO, LOKI, TEE GAR

15G

CHRIS

Hey, take a look at that!

**

15H INSERT: THE FORWARD VIEWSCREEN

15H

As the Vegan ship floats closer.

**

16 OMIT

OMIT

16

16A REVERSE ANGLE - GROUP

16A

CHRIS

Looks like a Vegan marking. Peepo?

PEEPO

Affirmative, Chris. Translating:
"Starship DREADNOUGHT, Flagship
of the Vegan Space Armada."

LAURA

Any data on her?

PEEPO

Disabled in the Battle of Proxima
Centauri against the Terran Confederation
--Third Starwar.

TIGER

Third Starwar? That was two hundred
years ago.

Curiosity

Peepo

CHRIS

She might be worth a look around
before we junk her. There's an
airlock marked on her hull. Going
in for docking...

17 EXT. THE SPACE DEBRIS (MINIATURE)

17

As the Seeker moves in toward the Dreadnought, again we
hear the low-level BEEPING. CAMERA PANS across the cloud
of space junk. The small black craft, a self-propelled
SPACEMINE, opens two glowing red electronic sensors. It
turns to TRACK the course of the Seeker, begins to move
slowly forward.

DISSOLVE TO:

18 EXT. THE SPACE DEBRIS ANGLE ON THE SEEKER

18

As she maneuvers into position to the Dreadnought, fires
lateral jets to close the distance, then LOCKS into place
with a dull CLANG!

19 INT. THE SEEKER

19

As the cadets unbuckle.

PEEPO

Docking complete; airtight seal secure.

Chris touches a button and it glows green.

CHRIS

That's interesting. Environment in
there's the same as ours. We won't
need life support.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

19 (CONTINUED)

19

**
**

LOKI

Then what are we waiting for?

CHRIS

Patience, Loki. Laura, bring the Scanner. **
 Tee Gar, you stay back in case we run **
 into anything.

Ora-co → TEE GAR

Oraco, Chris. Call me forward as
 soon as you can. >

LOKI

Patience, Tee Gar!

**

Tee Gar grins, playfully swats Loki as he and the others
 depart. **
 **

20 OMIT

OMIT 20

As the cadets and Peepo come through the other side
 of the lock. They enter an unfamiliar corridor with oddly-
 shaped beams and dim, mysterious lighting. Laura takes
 readings from the compact black box she carries on a
 shoulder strap.

LAURA

Temperature: Fifty degrees
 centigrade. Atmosphere:
 95 PER CENT Earth-normal--no *
 toxic elements.

CHRIS

Still operating and airtight after
 all these years...

LAURA

I'm picking up strong electro-
 magnetic readings up the corridor.

They move forward cautiously as we PAN to the window TO:

22 EXT. THE SPACE DEBRIS

22

The SPACEMINE, BEEPING, moves slowly closer to the
 Seeker, its antennae scanning carefully.

23 INT. THE VEGAN SHIP, Further along

23

(CONTINUED)

As the cadets and Peepo move slowly up the corridor Ranked along the wall in front of shadowed machinery casings are three transparent man-sized glass containers--Cryogenic Suspension Tanks--empty...so far.

LAURA

I'm getting stronger readings now, Chris. These units may be inoperative, but something up ahead is still going strong.

CHRIS

Spread out, but be careful. The ship could be booby-trapped.

They move ahead cautiously, Chris alert for things in the shadows, Laura concentrating on her Scanner. Loki falls a little behind as they pass a fourth tank, this one opaque with encrusted ice crystals. Laura stops, puzzled.

LAURA

The reading is dropping off now...

Laura and Chris look around, alert. Laura turns in a tight circle, watching her screens.

PEEPO

We have passed the source
of the emissions.

*
*

LOKI

(playfully)
Maybe they're coming from in here.

As Laura and Chris continue to scan and to look Loki rubs his sleeve against the ice crystals, clearing a little window for himself. Then, startled:

LOKI

Hey! I think there's something in here.

Chris and Laura hurry back to Loki. Peepo comes up next to Loki.

PEEPO

Let me see.

Laura clears the glass, she looks in, reacts.

LAURA

It looks like...a MAN!....

Loki jumps back, spooked, and bumps into Peepo.

(CONTINUED)

23 (CONTINUED) 2

23

CHRIS
 Hey,-- it might be a Vegan! Let's *
 clear away more of this ice and
 have a better look.

Chris and Loki start to work on the ice as Laura returns to her scanner.

LOKI
 Ouch! This stuff's cold!

LAURA
 No wonder. Temperature: minus
 394 degrees centigrade; absolute
 zero. I register no pulse, no
 respiration...but very faint brain
 activity.

24 CLOSER SHOT

24

By now, Chris and Loki have cleared away enough of the icy crust to let in light and dimly reveal the VEGAN, a stern figure in unfamiliar battle dress. *
 *

CHRIS
 Then he's alive.

Chris flips open his collinear. *

CHRIS
 TeeGar, come forward, on the double.
 And bring your Medkit. We have
 a patient for you, Doctor. *

24 INT. SEEKER

Tiger monitors the message, casts about for his compact black bag. 24A

TEEGAR
 Somebody hurt?

CHRIS' VOICE
 (filtered)
 Maybe two hundred years ago. We
 have a frozen Vegan up here!

TEEGAR
 A frozen Vegan? You're kidding! *unbelievable!*

CHRIS' VOICE
 (filtered)
 Would I kid you? Hurry! *

(CONTINUED)

24 (CONTINUED)

24

TIGER
I'm on my way!

As Tiger dashes out the airlock, CAMERA ZOOMS IN on the forward viewscreen. In the distance, something moves into range.

OMIT SC.25

DISSOLVE TO: OMIT SC.25

26 EXT. SPACE - THE SPACE JUNK

26

It is the SPACEMINE. With a burst from its jets, it ZIPS across the distance to the top of the Seeker.

27 INT. THE VEGAN SHIP

27

*what happens
during*

As Tiger enters the area with the frozen Vegan, a hollow metallic CLAANG! reverberates down the corridor; a tremor runs through the ship. Oblivious to this, Tiger reacts to the sight of the suspended Vegan. He sets his Medkit down on a convenient ledge, removes his Medscan-- a device similar to Laura's Scanner--aims it at the Vegan and studies his readouts.

LOKI

What was THAT?

CHRIS

It sounded like some kind of metal impact. Laura?

LAURA

Nothing at close range on the scanner.

CHRIS

TeeGar, see if you can find a way
to thaw out our frozen friend. *
Laura and Loki, check out the rest
of the ship while Peepo and I go
back and investigate that sound.

Chris and Peepo trot back the way they came as Laura and Loki move off in the other direction.

Satisfied with the information obtained by his Medscan, Tiger sets it down on the ledge next to his Medkit, removes another electronic widget--a Probe--from the black bag, and steps to the nearby Control Panel, figuring.

TIGER

Okay, Sleeping Beauty, we'll have
you up in no time. *

AT ALL

(CONTINUED)

27 (CONTINUED) 27

As Tiger concentrates on the Control Panel and his Probe, his back is to CAMERA...and to the Medscan. He is unaware that a TELLTALE NEEDLE on a gauge attached to the tank has begun to move.

*
*

28 ANGLE ON THE FROZEN VEGAN 28

Steam rises silently from the surface of the glass. Ice runs down the outside of the tank, forming a small puddle of water below. Inside, the Vegan is more brightly lit, more clearly visible amid roiling vapor. He is THAWING OUT.

29 INT. SEEKER 29

Chris and Peepo enter and look around. Peepo plugs himself into the Seeker's on-board computer.

PEEPO

All ship's systems functioning at optimum levels.

CHRIS

Let's check the viewscreens.

Chris flips through his external cameras, displayed on the viewscreen.

CHRIS

Forward...
(stars and debris)
Aft...
(more stars, more debris)
Lower hull...
(still more of the same)
Still nothing. Rotating the camera...

30 INSERT - THE VIEWSCREEN 30

The view of the starfield rotates. Suddenly a dim black mass obscures the view.

CHRIS (OS)

Hmmm. Looks like we've got company, Peepo. Something on the hull. Focusing, extremely close in. Range... five meters.

31 INSERT - THE VIEWSCREEN, As before 31

The image SNAPS into SHARP FOCUS. We see the SPACEMINE

(CONTINUED)

attached to the top of the Seeker, grappling arms firmly attached to the hull. It stares back, unblinking, at the camera with its red electronic eyes, looking for all the world like a big, black mechanical spider.

*

CHRIS

I don't know what that is!

PEEPO

I'm monitoring a faint vibration.

CHRIS

Amplify it, please.

Peepo begins to emit a regular electronic signal, a metronome-like BEEPING.

PEEPO

I am locked to a signal, resolving further...and reading out in Earth-standard minutes and seconds...Minus eighteen point five oh...eighteen point two five...

Peepo's countdown continues under Chris' lines.

CHRIS

Peepo, that's a countdown!
(full realization)
That's a Vegan Spacemine!--
And it's activated!!

32 INT. THE VEGAN SHIP - ANGLE ON TIGER

32

As he continues to examine the Control Panel with his electronic Probe. He is lost in concentration. CAMERA PULLS BACK to REVEAL the Medscan, silently BLINKING its red alert; TILTS DOWN to the puddle of melted ice on the floor.

33 ANGLE ON THE CRYOGENIC SUSPENSION TANK

33

The tank is completely clear of surface ice. The last of the swirling vapor which once held the Vegan in suspension drifts around his knees as it is drawn out the bottom of the tank. The Vegan, ROARG, draws his first breath. His eyes open, and slowly he stirs, looking around. The tank door slides automatically open, and the rest of the vapor spills out onto the deck. He steps out of the tank, looks toward OS Tiger.

Roarg speaks in a deep, measured voice, slightly accelerated.

(CONTINUED)

33 (CONTINUED) 33

ROARG
Terran enemy...

34 ANGLE ON ROARG AND TEEGAR 34

As Tiger nearly jumps out of his skin, turns.

TEEGAR
You're awake! But how...? *shocked*

ROARG
You are my prisoner.

Roarg reaches out an open hand, places it firmly on Tiger's shoulder. We HEAR an ELECTRONIC ZZIT! as Tiger's eyes go wide in surprise and he "freezes" into immobility.

35 INT. SEEKER 35

Chris and Peepo; the Spacemine on the viewscreen.

CHRIS
Peepo, we've got to disarm it.
You raise the Commander; I'll get
the others back down here with the
Collinear. *

Chris flips on his Collinear. *

CHRIS
TeeGar, this is Chris. Come in. *

36 INT. THE VEGAN SHIP - CLOSE ANGLE ON TEEGAR IN TANK 36

As Roarg locks him in. *

CHRIS' VOICE
(filtered)
TeeGar, come in....

37 INT. SEEKER, As before 37

CHRIS
That's strange. TeeGar doesn't *
answer. Any luck with the Academy?

PEEPO
Heavy stellar interference, Chris.
I can't get through.

(CONTINUED)

37 (CONTINUED) 37

Chris flips Collinear on again. *

CHRIS
Laura, Loki, do you read me?

38 INT. - ANOTHER PART OF THE VEGAN SHIP - LAURA & LOKI 38

LAURA
Loud and clear. Nothing to report
so far. What about your end?
Find the source of that sound?

39 INT. SEEKER, As before 39

CHRIS
Sure did. Get back down here
right away. And check TeeGar
he's not answering the Collinear. *

40 INT. VEGAN SHIP - ANGLE ON LAURA & LOKI 40

Roarg LAURA
~~Roger~~, Chris. We'll pick him
up on the way.

They exit through a door which opens for them, and start
back down the corridor at a fast walk.

41 ANOTHER ANGLE 41

As Laura and Loki round a corner and pull up short,
shocked.

42 REVERSE ANGLE - THEIR POV 42

Tiger's Medkit spilled on the floor, Tiger in the
Suspension Tank, stiff as a board.

LAURA
TeeGar!! *

LOKI
What happened?

They run toward the tank.

ROARG (OC)
Terran enemies...

Laura and Loki turn to face Roarg, stepping out of

(CONTINUED)

42 (CONTINUED)

42

concealment, open palm outstretched. He advances menacingly. They back.

ROARG.

You are my prisoners.

On their reactions--

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

"COUNTDOWN"

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

43 EXT, THE SEEKER

43

The spacemine is firmly clamped atop the
 Seeker, its two red optican sensors glowing, the BEEPING
 countdown continuing. *

DISSOLVE TO

44 INT, THE VEGAN SHIP

44

Laura and Loki face Roarg, who is between them and TeeGar.
 Somehow sensing the power of his touch, they back away.

LOKI

TeeGar! *

LAURA

What have you done to him? *

ROARG

Your companion is not injured
 -- just temporarily immobilized.

LAURA

We can't just leave him in
 there!

Loki moves toward TeeGar. *

ROARG

Stay back!

Loki doesn't listen; he continues towards the tank. Roarg
 reaches out a hand. Again ELECTRONIC ZZIT! is heard, and
 Loki freezes painlessly into immobility.

LAURA

Loki! What -- ?

ROARG

(cutting her off)
 He will revive presently.
 Now take me to your ship, or
 you will join the other two.

Roarg motions Laura to precede him, and the two move off,
 leaving TeeGar in his glass prison, Loki staring blankly. *

45 INT. SEEKER

45

Chris sits trying to contact the Academy.

CHRIS

Come in, Academy. Seeker calling Academy.

The image of Gampu forms through the static.

GAMPU

This is the Academy, go ahead Chris.

CHRIS

Wow, am I glad to see you, Commander. You won't believe what's happening up here.

GAMPU

What is it, Chris?

CHRIS

Well, first of all, there's an old Vegan spacemine clamped to our hull, and and it's ticking! Peepo says we have sixteen minutes. I'm going to climb out and disarm it. And there's another thi--

GAMPU

(interrupting)

Negative, Chris -- do not try to disarm. Those Spacemines are booby-trapped.

45A INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM

45A

Gampu turns to Paul and Adrian.

GAMPU

Check the micro-file. I want a cross-section blowup of a Vegan spacemine -- and I want it now!

PAUL

Yes, sir.

Paul and Adrian exit on the double. Gampu turns back to the console.

GAMPU

Stand by, Chris. We'll run a scan on the safest way to disarm, -- the slightest wrong move could make it detonate instantly.

45B INT. SEEKER

45B

Chris nods.

CHRIS

Standing by, Commander, but we have sixteen minutes, -- and counting. --
(hesitantly)

And sir, -- there is one more thing.

GAMPU

I'm listening.

CHRIS

We boarded a section of a starship, we found a Vegan here -- in cryogenic suspension.

GAMPU

A Vegan? Amazing, -- Chris, if you can revive him he could disarm the mine.

CHRIS

Tee Gar is working on him now, --

He glances at the OS clock and shakes his head.

CHRIS

But I'm afraid there won't be time.

45C INT. ACADEMY CONTROL

45C

Paul and Adrian hurry in. They are carrying a printed 8 x 10 card showing a cross section of the spacemine.

ADRIAN

Here it is, Commander.

Gampu takes the card.

GAMPU

Stand by, Chris, I will display the cross section.

46 OMIT

OMIT 46

47 OMIT

OMIT 47

48 OMIT

OMIT 48

48A INT. SEEKER

48A *

Chris leans forward as the cross section of the mine appears on his monitor.

**
**

PAUL'S VOICE

Here it is. It has a proximity fuse.

**

GAMPU'S VOICE

It could also be fused by an inertia system. Paul, punch up a cross-section of the trigger mechanism.

**

49 INT. SEEKER - ANOTHER ANGLE

49 *

LAURA

(O.C.)

Chris -- !

Chris turns, startled. Laura is white as a sheet.

CHRIS

Laura! What's --

Roarg steps through the airlock behind Laura.

ROARG

Stay where you are, Terran!

Roarg, not ready to paralyze his last two prisoners just yet, places his hand against a nearby bank of equipment, precipitating a shower of sparks to demonstrate his power. Gampu's startled image fades abruptly from the viewscreen.

ROARG

This ship is under VEGAN command!

LAURA

He means it, Chris. He thinks we're still at war.

PEEPO

Communication down. Estimated time to repair, twenty five minutes.

CHRIS

Where are TeeGar and Loki ?

*

(CONTINUED)

49 (CONTINUED)

49

LAURA

He used his power to paralyze
them back on his ship.

CHRIS

(facing Roarg)

You have some adjusting to
do. The war between Earth
and the Vegan Colony ended
more than two hundred years
ago. While you've been in
suspended animation, we've
been at peace. We came out
here to clean up the wreck-
age from the war, found you,
and ended up with a Vegan
Spacemine on our hull.

*

ROARG

That is not possible.

CHRIS

It's more than possible;
it's fact. I'll display the
mine for you --

As Chris turns toward the control panel, Roarg moves in
reflex action, hand outstretched. Chris stops.

CHRIS

(continued)

-- If I can get over to the
control panel.

Roarg hesitates, then gestures Chris to go ahead. Chris
punches up the display of the upper hull.

*

50 CLOSE SHOT SPACEMINE

50

CHRIS' VOICE

And here's another fact --
the spacemine detonates in --

Chris punches up a digital time display at the bottom of
the viewscreen.

51 INSERT: THE FORWARD VIEWSCREEN

51

The digital time display reads "--12.25" for a beat, then
begins running, a constant visual countdown.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

(continued)
 -- twelve minutes! Can
 you disarm it?

ROARG

I can disarm the Spacemine,
 Terran, but I don't believe
 the war is over. *

CHRIS

You'd better! Because when
 that mine detonates, you're
 going with us.

ROARG

(philosophically)
 It is the duty of a soldier.

CHRIS

(near the end of his patience)
 But we're no longer at war -- !

LAURA

(interrupting)
 Wait, Chris.
 (turning to Roarg, conciliatory)

My name is Laura Gentry. What's yours? *

ROARG

(a pause)
 I am Roarg, Fleet Communications Officer. *

LAURA

(curious, not interrogatingly)
 What were you doing in suspension on
 a dead ship? *

ROARG

When the flagship broke up, I was
 unable to reach a lifeboat. I
 sealed myself in cryogenic suspension,
 hoping for rescue by one of my ships.
 I never expected an enemy ship.

CHRIS

(quietly)
 We are not your enemies. *

(CONTINUED)

52 (CONTINUED)

LAURA

My brother is right. The war is long over. The leaders of both sides finally got together and decided that what they were fighting over ...wasn't worth fighting over. They just...called it off.

(a beat)

They decided they had to trust one another.

*

ROARG

(suddenly firm again)

It's a trick! I don't believe you!

*Yuna
Cylla*

53 INT, THE VEGAN SHIP: ANGLE FAVORING TEE GAR

53

As before, glassy-eyed and immobile. A beat, then he stirs. He tries the door and walls for a way out, but all is secure. Tiger is frantic for a moment, then pauses, seeming to calculate. Suddenly he delivers a fierce karate blow, (or kick) to the tank. The whole wall caves in. (Slow motion FX) Tee Gar runs to Loki and revives him. Loki rubs his eyes, slightly dazed.

*
*
*

TIGER

Where's Laura?

*concerned
winded*

LOKI

I don't know. She must be with the Vegan.

*

TIGER

Then she must be in trouble. Come on.

54 INT, THE SEEKER

54

Laura and Chris face Roarg in silence as the time on the Digital Time Display slips past the seven minute mark. Stalemate.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

(impatiently)

Look, Roarg, time is running out. *
 We've got to do something. *

ROARG

I intend to, Terran. I will
 return to the safety of my
 ship. The spacemine is your
 problem.

As Roarg turns to go, Tiger and Loki appear in the hatchway,
 blocking his exit. Tiger assumes a karate stance.

TEEGAR

Not yet, Vegan. This time
 you won't take me by sur-
 prise.

Roarg faces Tiger, hand outstretched, silently warning.

CHRIS

Stay back, TeeGar! He could
 light up a city with that
 hand! *

TEEGAR

He's not going anywhere, not
 while I still owe him one! *

I'm still around
 The scorched power distribution panel opens to Tiger's
 touch. Without taking his eyes off Roarg, Tiger strips
 the foam rubber insulation pad from the inside of the
 cabinet door, wraps it around his leading arm for protec-
 tion.

CHRIS

No TeeGar! *

Chris steps in to restrain his friend. Agitated by the
 unusual confrontation and the high electrical potential
 between Roarg and Tiger, Peepo moves into the space between
 Roarg and the cadets.

PEEPO

Danger! Danger!

ROARG

Out of the way, machine!

(CONTINUED)

54 (CONTINUED) 2

54

Roarg reaches out to brush the little robot aside. As he makes contact, the electronic ZZIT! is heard, and a small shower of sparks and a puff of smoke issue from Peepo. But this time Roarg is affected as well. He freezes into immobility, a shocked look on his blue face. There is a moment of stunned silence.

TIGER

(satisfied)

How about that! The Vegan finally got a taste of his own medicine.

CHRIS

(realizing)

Of course! An incompatible power source! Nice work, Peepo.

(no reply)

Peepo?

Loki rushes to the little robot's side.

CHRIS

(to Tee Gar)

That Vegan's our only chance. You've got to revive him.

*

*

Chris glances over at the viewscreen.

55 INSERT: THE VIEWSCREEN

55

The digital readout is running; the time is down to five-point-five-o minutes, and counting.

56 CLOSE ANGLE ON CHRIS

56

CHRIS

We've got nine minutes!

*

Tiger gets his Medkit from Loki, sets to work.

*

57 EXT, THE SEEKER'S HULL

57

The Spacemine crouches and counts.

*

58 INT, THE SEEKER

58

The cadets are crowded around Roarg, who is laid out on the floor, coming to as Tee Gar ministers to him. Peepo is off to the side, unmoving, his normally busy lights and screens inactive.

58A INSERT - THE VIEWSCREEN

58A

The digital count is down to eight point two (8.20) zero minutes and counting.

58B INT. THE SEEKER

58B

TEEGAR

His vital functions all scan normal now.

CHRIS

Stay away from his hand. *

TeeGar steps back. *

CHRIS

We have eight minutes, Roarg. *
Time is running out for all of us.

Roarg, propped up on an elbow, maintains a stony silence.

LAURA

Roarg, we've told you that our leaders got together and called off the war. Why won't you believe us?

ROARG

Because people just don't do that.

LAURA

Don't do what?

ROARG

Trust one another. *

Chris smiles and nods. *

CHRIS

Yes, sometimes they do...The important thing now is that we need each other, and we must learn to trust.

Roarg is moved by his argument, but remains silent.

LAURA

(quiet, but urgent)
It has to start somewhere, Roarg.
Be the one; let it start here.

A very long beat, then:

ROARG

I'll need help.

(CONTINUED)

58 (CONTINUED) 58
 Chris grins as Roarg gets up and looks about. **
 Tiger gets a jet pack from rack, extends it to Roarg. *

TIGER
 Here. You'll need this.

59 EXT, THE SEEKER'S HULL 59
 The Spacemine, optical sensors glowing dull red, crouches atop the hull, BEEPING to itself. *
 Roarg and Chris, both wearing jet packs, armed with a multi-tool, moved into frame, walking in the strange (overcranked) SLOW MOTION of a spacewalk. *
 *

As they approach the Spacemine, the BEEPING starts to increase in PITCH and FREQUENCY. The sound is alarming. Chris throws Roarg a questioning look.

ROARG
 The proximity fuse. We have five seconds to activate the touchplate.

60 CLOSER ANGLE ON THE SPACEMINE'S FACEPLATE 60
 As the two reach it, the red optical sensors TILT down to follow then in. Below the "eyes" is an unarmored panel, and next to it a small touchplate, illuminated a soft blue-green. Roarg puts a thumb on the touchplate and the frantic high-pitched BEEPING cuts off.

CHRIS
 That was close. **

ROARG
 It's going to be closer. The proximity fuse is disarmed, but the countdown continues. Remove the faceplate. **

Chris applies the tool working furiously.

61 INT, THE SEEKER 61
 Roarg, Chris and the Spacemine are displayed on the forward viewscreen. Loki, Laura and Tiger watch in rapt attention as the READOUT passes the one minute mark.

- 62 EXT, THE SEEKER'S HULL 62
Chris gets the faceplate off, looks into the cavity.
- (filter) TIGER
One minute, Chris.
- 63 INTERCUTS: Close up of the DIGITAL READOUT 63
- 64 CLOSE ANGLE ON THE FACEPLATE, CHRIS POV 64
A maze of microminiaturized circuits, illuminated from within, and a number of color-coded switches. A red switch is prominent. Chris' hand reaches for it.
- CHRIS
This one?
- 65 ANGLE ON THE TWO 65
ROARG
No! That's a decoy, to fool anybody who gets past the proximity fuse. It detonates the mine instantly.
- 66 ANGLE ON CHRIS 66
As he hastily removes his hand.
- ROARG
Flip the blue switch on the end.
- CHRIS
Here goes..
- The two hold their breath as Chris flips the blue switch.
-
- 67 QUICK CUT: THE DIGITAL READOUT 67
Which has stopped at "--0.10"
- 68 ANGLE ON THE TWO 68
Roarg removes his thumb from the touchplate, and the Spacemine BEEPS once more, giving them a start. Then the internal lights begin to fade. With the Beeping gone, we hear a soft MOTOR SOUND, which dies away into silence.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

That's it; coming in. Let's put some distance between us and this timebomb.

69 ANOTHER ANGLE, CLOSE ON THE SPACEMINE 69

Its red optical sensors dim and go out; then it lets go and slowly drifts away from the Seeker.

70 EXT, SPACE: THE SEEKER AND DREADNAUGHT 70

Against the background of floating debris, the Spacemine hangs motionless a short distance from the Seeker, which disengages from the Dreadnaught with a muffled CLAANG! then drops away from the huge ship section as its propulsion units fire.

DISSOLVE TO

71 EXT, SPACE: PERSPECTIVE 71

The Seeker large in foreground, the space debris slowly spinning in the distance.

72 INT, THE SEEKER 72

The space debris displayed on the forward viewscreen, the cadets and Roarg gathered around watching Tiger play "medic" to Peepo. He has Peepo's housing off, and is poking around with a probe.

TIGER

Ah ha! ~~Overloaded~~ a circuit breaker.

Tiger rummages around in the tool kit, finds a replacement and inserts it. Peepo WHIRRS back to electronic life, running lights and all. His voice resumes, low and garbled, then rapidly coming "up to speed".

PEEPO

What...happened? I sense a time lapse.

LOKI

(patting him)
Tell you later, Peepo.
Right now, it's just nice to have you back.

CHRIS

Now let's take care of that Spacemine. We can't just let it roam out there.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

ROARG

From this distance? It can't
be remote controlled.

LAURA

It'll respond to OUR kind
of remote control.

*
*

Laura and Chris touch palms, concentrating.

73 QUICK CUT: CLOSE-UP, THE BLUE SWITCH (MINIATURE) *

As it moves "by itself" back to the ON position. The
Spacemine returns to life, lighting up and BEEPING.

74 INT, THE SEEKER, ANOTHER ANGLE 74

PEEPO:

I'm picking up telemetry
from the Spacemine...
minus four...three...two
...one...detonation.

74A CLOSE MONITOR 74A *

The viewscreen shows an enormous explosion, engulfing the
cloud of debris, then WHITING OUT THE ENTIRE SCREEN. The
Seeker SHAKES in the spreading shock wave. As the screen
clears, we see only the background of stars. All trace of
the cloud is gone.

74B GROUP SHOT 74B *

LOKI

Camelopardus! Good thing
we got our distance! *

PEEPO

Space Academy coming in.

Professor Gampu's image appears on the viewscreen.

GAMPU

Chris! Thank heavens! We
just monitored the detonation;
I was afraid it was you.

CHRIS

It almost was, but we had
some help -- meet Roarg, our
frozen Vegan. Roarg, Commander
Gampu.

(CONTINUED)

74 (CONTINUED)

74

LAURA

You two have something in common.
Gampu is almost three hundred years
old, and you must be over two hundred
years old!

Gampu smiles wryly.

GAMPU

How do you do, young man, -- when you get
back to the Academy, we can discuss old
times, if you'd like.

ROARG

It would be a pleasure, Commander.
It seems I have a lot of catching
up to do.

TEE GAR

Commander, what you said about the
Academy being all things to all people?

GAMPU

Yes.

TEE GAR

Well, it taught me a couple of
things ~~and~~ there's no such thing
as an unimportant mission, and
you never know where you are going
to find a new friend.

GAMPU

Those are two very important lessons,
Tee Gar, but I trust you've room for
some more.

TEE GAR

(laughs)
Not only room, sir, ready, and willing.

thoughtful

GAMPU

I'll remember that!

Roarg gives Tee Gar his hand. Tee Gar starts to take it,
then, like remembering a hot stove, quickly pulls it back.

ROARG

(smiles)
Trust me.

Tee Gar smiles a little sheepishly and they shake hands.

FADE OUT.

THE END