

Brian Tochi

SPACE ACADEMY

"LIFE BEGINS AT 300"

SA - #85011

AUGUST 22, 1977

FILMATION  **N**
STUDIOS

SPACE ACADEMY

"LIFE BEGINS AT 300"

SA - #85011

BY

JACK PARITZ

AUGUST 22, 1977

SPACE ACADEMY

"Life Begins At 300"

85011

CAST

COMMANDER ISAAC GAMPU
CADET CAPT. CHRIS GENTRY
CADET LT. LAURA GENTRY
CADET LT. PAUL JEROME
CADET LT. TEE GAR SOOM
CADET LT. ADRIAN PRYCE-JONES
SPECIAL CADET LOKI
PEEPO
GINA COREY

SETS

INTERIORS:

ACADEMY

CONTROL CENTER
SICK BAY
GAMPU'S CLASSROOM
LAUNCHING PAD
REPAIR BAY
CORRIDOR
 OUTSIDE CLASSROOM
 OUTSIDE SICK BAY
 OUTSIDE CONTROL CENTER
LIBRARY-LOUNGE AREA
GAMPU'S QUARTERS

SEEKER 1

PILOT STATION

SEEKER 3

PILOT STATION

VIEWPORT GLASS PANEL

EXTERIORS:

DEEP SPACE

ACADEMY

LAUNCH PAD

SEEKER 1

ASTEROID SIGMA 105

SEEKER 3

SPACE ACADEMY

"Life Begins at 300"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. DEEP SPACE - MINIATURE 1

The jet-black sky of outer space is pierced by stars -- intense, unwavering points of light. Slowly the Space Academy comes INTO VIEW in a corner of the SCREEN. As it moves into the center of the SCREEN, we APPROACH CLOSER until the Academy FILLS the SCREEN, the observation dome prominent.

2 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL CENTER 2

GAMPU, sitting in the dominant chair, watches the Primary Monitor which shows the Seeker as it zeroes in on Asteroid Sigma 105. ADRIAN is to Gampu's right. Next to her is GINA COREY, a hard-edged young cadet who has been temporarily assigned to the Blue Team. Gina wears orange in contrast to the blue worn by the other members of the team. Adrian checks a read-out on the Control Panel.

ADRIAN

The Laser-probes can be activated.

3 EXT. DEEP SPACE - THE SEEKER AND ASTEROID SIGMA 105 (MINIATURE) 3

Twin beams of brilliant purple-red light thrust downward toward the asteroid from the spaceship. As they come in contact with their target, the straight-line rays SERRATE.

4 INT. THE SEEKER - PILOT STATION 4

LAURA, CHRIS and PAUL watch intently as the needle on the Laser-probe indicator starts to move. PEEPO is at navigation system.

LAURA

(excited)

There it is!

CHRIS

Look at that needle go!

PAUL

(grins)

Who said we were running out of Zolium?

5 INSERT - INDICATOR DIAL - ACADEMY CONTROL CONSOLE

5

The needle moves steadily to the right. The CAMERA PULLS BACK to INCLUDE Adrian, Gampu and Gina. They watch as the needle climbs to the highest point on the indicator.

GAMPU

We're in luck.

TEE GAR enters the Control Area and crosses to stand behind Gin's chair

TEE GAR

How are things going?

GAMPU

I think we've found it. Take a look at that indicator.

TEE GAR

That baby is a Zolium mine!

ADRIAN

It looks like Sigma has all we'll need.

GINA

Maybe too much, they shouldn't land there.

GAMPU

(puzzled)
What does that mean?

GINA

I mean too much Zolium could make our life support badges unstable.

GAMPU

True, but Zolium is never found in that high a concentration.

GINA

With all due respect, Commander you're wrong.

ADRIAN

The Commander has been at this a lot longer than you have, Gina. He practically wrote the book.

(CONTINUED)

5 (CONTINUED)

5

GINA

Maybe the book needs a little up-dating.

(patronizingly; to Gampu)

I don't suppose you've read Stanley Crane's paper on Zolium distribution?

GAMPU

(coolly)

No, I haven't.

GINA

(pointedly)

I would think that in your position you would want to keep up with new theories.

ADRIAN

~~Gina -- sometimes you're isufferable! You resent being assigned to our team and you take every opportunity to show it.~~

GAMPU

~~(trying to smooth over the situation) All right Adrian -- as it happens, Gina knows more about Zolium extraction than any other Cadet at the Academy. I would be most interested to hear her point of view.~~

GINA

Another time Commander, they're coming in for a landing. There's still time to call them back.

GAMPU

I see no need to.

6 EXT. THE SEEKER - APPROACHING SIGMA

6

7 INT. THE SEEKER - PILOT STATION

7

Chris is at the controls. Peepo stands beside him, Paul and Laura sit in their chairs. Chris leans forward, presses some buttons.

CHRIS

Prepare for landing.

8 EXT. DEEP SPACE - THE SEEKER AND ASTEROID SIGMA (MINIATURE) 8

The Seeker approaches the asteroid, the retarder rockets flaring as it slows, descends and lands.

9 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM 9

LOKI enters the Control Room and crosses to Gampu as he and the cadets watch the Seeker's progress. (Front of monitor is not visible.)

LOKI

(sulking)

Sure wish I could have gone with them.

10 TWO SHOT - GAMPU, LOKI 10

FACING CAMERA, Gampu is concentrating on the screen which has its BACK TO CAMERA.

GAMPU

Not on this trip, Loki...

(reacting to screen images)

Ah -- there he comes!

11 POV REALITY SHOT - THE SEEKER 11

As Paul emerges from the space ship carrying the portable spectro-analyzer.

12 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM 12

On Gampu watching the monitor (screen not visible). Suddenly he frowns.

GAMPU

Something's wrong!

WIDER ANGLE as he is joined at the screen by Adrian and Gina. They look concerned by what they see.

13 POV REALITY SHOT - THE ASTEROID - PAUL 13

Walking away from the Seeker, he begins to move erratically, finally stumbling and falling to the ground.

14 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM 14

All stare transfixed at the screen. A BUZZING ALARM starts to SOUND.

(CONTINUED)

14 (CONTINUED) 14

ADRIAN
(points to indicator)
Gampu -- look! His Life Support
Badge is failing!

15 POV REALITY - PAUL 15

He squirms around on the ground.

16 BACK TO SCENE 16

GINA
(straight to Gampu)
That's what I meant, Commander, and
I was right! It's your fault that
Paul is out there!

17 CLOSE SHOT - GAMPU 17

We SEE Gampu's reaction to Gina's stinging accusation.

18 EXT. ASTEROID - PAUL 18

He lies sprawled on the ground, the spectro-analyzer beside
him.

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

19 EXT. ASTEROID - THE SEEKER (HOLD FOR CREDITS) 19

Paul lies where he fell.

20 INT. THE SEEKER - PILOT STATION - ACROSS PAUL TO MONITOR 20

Gampu's face is on the screen.

CHRIS

We've got to get Paul inside, and fast! His Life Support Badge is practically useless. I'm going out.

He starts to rise.

GAMPU

(on Monitor)

You will both stay inside. That's an order!

LAURA

(on Monitor)

We've got to do something.

GAMPU

(on Monitor; in a calming voice)

Listen to me. Peepo is there, and he doesn't need a life-support system.

21 INT. THE SEEKER - PILOT STATION 21

Peepo turns away from the Control Panel.

PEEPO

I'm on my way, Commander.

Peepo starts for the hatchway.

LAURA

Send back Paul's vital signs as soon as you make contact.

PEEPO

(at hatchway)

Will do. All systems go --

(with a touch of robot pride)

-- as usual.

22 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL CENTER 22

Gampu and the assembled cadets watch Peepo's rescue efforts on the o.s. screen. Loki looks at Gampu's concerned face.

LOKI
Is Paul -- all right?

ADRIAN
He's going to be, Loki.

23 CLOSE - ADRIAN 23

Her worried expression belies her confident words.

24 THE SCREEN 24

We SEE Peepo come around the nose of the Seeker from the far side of the ship, carrying a rope.

25 WIDER ANGLE 25

To INCLUDE Gampu, Gina, Loki and Tee Gar on the screen which now has its back to CAMERA.

ADRIAN
I hope Peepo is strong enough.

GAMPU
(quietly)
He has to be.
(turns to Gina)
You were right -- and I was wrong.
That laser-probe reading should
have been a warning.

GINA
(pointedly)
Tell that to Paul.

Adrian touches Gampu's arm as the Commander's worried expression turns grim at Gina's callousness.

26 CLOSE - GAMPU 26

As he gives his attention back to the O.S. screen.

27 POV REALITY SHOT - PEEPO 27

As he nears Paul Jerome's sprawled body.

28 CLOSE - GINA 28

Watching intently.

29 POV REALITY SHOT - PEEPO AND PAUL

29

Peepo loops the rope under Paul's limp arms and, with great difficulty, pulls the cadet's inert body across the sandy terrain of the desolite planetoid. The robot moves awkwardly as it makes its way back toward the Seeker, slowed by his burden. CAMERA ZOOMS IN for a TIGHT SHOT of Peepo's faceplate and the waveforms.

PEEPO

I am monitoring vital life signs
Transmission initiated.

30 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL CENTER

30

TEE GAR

(checking read-out)

Hey -- all life signs are within
normal range. His respiration
is a little shallow, but it's
steady.

He gives his attention to the screen.

31 CLOSE - TEE GAR

31

Watching the O.S. screen -- suddenly he looks worried.

32 POV REALITY SHOT - PEEPO, PAUL

32

Peepo is slowing down perceptibly in his progress toward the Seeker.

33 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL CENTER - TEE GAR, GAMPU, LOKI

33

TEE GAR

There's something wrong with
Peepo.

The others react -- study the O.S. screen intently.

GAMPU

Peepo -- Peepo! Why are you
slowing down?

34 POV REALITY SHOT - PEEPO, PAUL

34

Peepo's speech is becoming as slow as his movements.

PEEPO

I -- can't -- tell -- what --
is -- happening -- I can't --
(he stops walking)

35 INT. THE SEEKER - PILOT STATION

35

Chris and Laura tear their eyes away from the Monitor on the Seeker's console, and look at each other incredulously.

LAURA

He stopped!

CHRIS

We've got to get them.

They run to the hatch, open it.

36 OMIT

36

37 OMIT

37

38 POV REALITY SHOT - THE SEEKER

38

We see the hatch open. Chris and Laura pull Peepo and Paul into the spaceship.

39 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL CENTER - THE GROUP

39

GAMPU

(leaning back)

Well, they're safe --

He looks at Gina.

GAMPU

(continuing)

No thanks to me.

ADRIAN

He's safe, that's all that matters.

TEE GAR

How are we going to get the Zolium out if our Life Support Badges aren't effective?

40 ANOTHER ANGLE - FAVORING GINA COREY

40

GINA

(matter-of-factly)

We'll use another kind of life support system.

GAMPU

What alternate system are you suggesting?

(CONTINUED)

40 (CONTINUED)

40

GINA

The use of one of your Seekers.
I can rig up an Extractor.

GAMPU

I think not.

Gampu shakes his head.

GINA

It will work!

Gampu crosses thoughtfully to the Command Center door.

GAMPU

All right, Gina, you have my
permission. I'll see you at the
launching pad.

Gampu turns and exits, followed by Tee Gar and Loki.

41 INT. SPACE ACADEMY - CURVED CORRIDOR

41

The door irises closed as Gampu, ~~Tee Gar~~ and Loki emerge.

LOKI

That Gina Corey -- she thinks
she knows everything.

GAMPU

(as they walk)
She has a good mind.

TEE GAR

And a big head to go with it.

GAMPU

She's right about one thing -- risking
Paul's life out there. I was
responsible.

He exits through the door leading to launching pad.

42 OMIT

42

43 OMIT

43

44 OMIT

44

45 INT. SPACE ACADEMY - SICK BAY

45

Paul, surprisingly, is sitting up in the hospital bed. But
as Gampu, Tee Gar and Loki enter, he falls back against the
pillows.

(CONTINUED)

45 (CONTINUED)

45

PAUL

I feel just fine -- until I try to get up.

GAMPU

You stay in that bed -- and that's an order.

(after a moment)

I'm sorry, Paul. This never should have happened. I don't know what else to say.

PAUL

It wasn't your fault, Commander.

GAMPU

I would expect you to say that, but you're wrong. There's a very old saying that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. I've never believed that was true -- until now.

tee TEE GAR
It's not, Commander.

Gampu gives him a momentary smile of gratitude.

GAMPU

(checks time)
I'll look in on you later, Paul.
(starts for door)

PAUL

Tee Gar, get me out of here -- fast.

TEE GAR

I'll do my best -- but meanwhile, if you need anything from the dorm or supply, make a list. *think of me as* your servant..... *then*

then Tee Gar boys as Paul *then* manages a smile. They exit.

CAMERA HOLDS on Paul.

CUT TO:

46 INT. SPACE ACADEMY - CORRIDOR

46

As Gampu, Tee Gar and Loki emerge from Sick Bay.

(CONTINUED)

46 (CONTINUED)

46

GAMPU

(to Tee Gar)

I think I'll stop off and see Peepo.

TEE GAR

We'll go with you, Commander.

GAMPU

No, I'd rather be alone.

He walks off as the others look after him.

47 INT. REPAIR-BAY

47

This is a room used for general electronic and mechanical repairs. It is filled with various mechanisms in differing states of assembly. On a long work-bench, we SEE a partially disassembled Peepo. Gampu enters and closes the door behind him. He walks over to the work-bench. During this scene, Gampu talks to the robot as if the inanimate object were the functioning, human-like Peepo.

GAMPU

Hello, old friend.

(sits on a high stool)

You look like I feel. But a little re-wiring and you'll be as good as new. I wish I could say the same for me.

(smiles)

I'm afraid I'm feeling sorry for myself. I have a big decision to make -- a hard one -- and a sad one. I'm 300 years old, Peepo. Oh, I know that the slowing down of the aging process makes me a unique case -- But I'm just not the man I used to be. It appears that -- time is running out -- even for me. Apparently I can't think as well, or as fast as I used to.

Gampu leaves the stool and runs his hand gently along Peepo's metallic body.

GAMPU

It's going to be very hard to say goodbye.

Gampu moves toward the door. Before he exits, he turns toward Peepo again.

(CONTINUED)

47 (CONTINUED)

47

GAMPU

Dear old friend. You're a good listener.

(he exits)

The CAMERA ZOOMS IN to a TIGHT SHOT of Peepo's inanimate face-plate. And then a brief flurry of waveforms cross the face-plate.

48 CORRIDOR - OUTSIDE GAMPU'S QUARTERS

48

Chris comes down the corridor and stops in front of Gampu's door. He depresses a sensor-plate at the doorside, and a MUSICAL BELL SOUND is HEARD from inside. Gampu opens the door.

GAMPU

Chris, come in. Come in.

He stands to the side as Chris enters Gampu's sanctum sanctorum.

49 INT. GAMPU'S QUARTERS

49

Chris takes everything in quickly. It is the first time, at least to his knowledge, that any of the cadets have been permitted to enter Gampu's sanctuary. The room is filled with mementos of Gampu's 300 adventure-filled years, like old-fashioned lasers, out-dated athletic equipment, an old telescope, and finally Isaac's very first spacesuit, a relic of a long-gone age. Chris is fascinated. He walks over to the spacesuit and examines it.

CHRIS

Commander, you really have some antiques!

GAMPU

Yes, and I'm one, too, in a manner of speaking. That's why I asked you to come by. I want you to do a little errand for me.

CHRIS

Anything at all, sir.

GAMPU

I've a letter I want beamed back to earth on the next document transmission. I'm giving it to you because I don't trust myself to send it. It's a letter of resignation.

(CONTINUED)

49 (CONTINUED)

49

CHRIS

What?

GAMPU

I've made up my mind. I can serve the Academy best by giving up my post.

(gives Chris the letter)
And now, if you don't mind, I've got some work to do.

CHRIS

Commander, please -- take it back.

GAMPU

No, my boy. When you can't do a job the way it should be done, then it's time to bow out -- gracefully.

Gampu walks Chris to the door. The cadet, visibly moved, exits quickly. The CAMERA MOVES IN to Gampu's face. There is the trace of a tear on his cheek.

50 OMIT

50

51 INT. LAUNCHING PAD

51

Chris, Laura, Tee Gar and Gina cluster near Seeker 3. Gampu enters. All wonder what he will say to Gina.

GAMPU

I've decided to go with you, Gina.

GINA

That won't be necessary.

GAMPU

It will be safer if you have someone along.

GINA

(a faint air of disdain)
You mean that in case of trouble I could depend on you. Thanks, Commander, but I'd rather depend on myself. You can be sure that I won't make a mistake.

(CONTINUED)

51 (CONTINUED)

51

GAMPU
Please say what's on your
mind.

GINA
May I be blunt?

GAMPU
By all means.

GINA
Is there a mandatory retirement
age for Academy personnel?

Gampu freezes. Adrian steps forward angrily.

ADRIAN
Listen, Gina...

Gampu waves Adrian away.

GAMPU
Please Adrian (to Gina) Have
a safe trip.

He turns and walks off. Gina looks after him, shrugs, and
walks to the Seeker.

DISSOLVE TO:

52 EXT. SPACE - SPACE ACADEMY, SEEKER 3 52

Entry port opens and Seeker 3 drops down in free-fall, then
moves out into deep space.

53 INT. SEEKER - CLOSE SHOT - GINA 53

54 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL CENTER 54

Chris, Laura, Peepo and Loki are at the monitors. Gampu enters
-- grim, downcast. He ignores the monitors -- toys with some
read-outs.

CHRIS
Gina's almost there, Commander.

Gampu nods but says nothing.

LOKI
(eyes him sympathetically; then)
She got you, Commander, didn't she?

(CONTINUED)

54 (CONTINUED)

54

GAMPU
(smiles faintly)
Loki, I know you can see through
walls, but I'm sure you can't see
my feelings. In other words,
don't jump to conclusions.

Loki looks puzzled -- scratches his head.

55 EXT. DEEP SPACE - ASTEROID SIGMA 105

55

Seeker 3 approaches, hovers, then lands.

56 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL CENTER

56

favoring Laura at the monitor.

LAURA
She's down, Commander.

GAMPU
Good.

57 EXT. DEEP SPACE - ASTEROID 105 - SEEKER 3

57

ESTABLISHING.

58 INT. SEEKER 3

58

The extractor equipment has been set up toward the rear of the bridge together with suction hose and container into which the Zolium will be poured. Gauges and control panels with red, green and yellow lights complete the system. Gina crosses to the system, thrusts the drill down through an opening in the power unit -- switches it on. At once, we HEAR the accelerating GRINDING SOUND of the DRILL. The ship shudders to the rhythm of the sound. Gina nods complacently as she watches the equipment working.

CHRIS' VOICE
This is Academy Control. Come in,
Gina.

Gina turns and crosses to the monitor where we see Chris on the screen, touches a sensor.

GINA
Right with you, Chris.

CHRIS
How's it going?

(CONTINUED)

GINA

(grinning)

You won't believe this, I've got the extractor going full blast -- already. The surface is so flaky even my drill is complaining that the job's too easy.

59 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL CENTER

59

as Gampu joins Chris at the monitor. We see the smiling Gina on the screen.

GINA

At this rate, we'll have all the Zolium we need in two hours.

GAMPU

Gina, don't push it. You've got plenty of time.

The screen goes blank.

CHRIS

We're going to have enough Zolium for a long, long time.

GAMPU

For which we'll all be very grateful.

60 INT. SEEKER 3

60

On Gina -- monitoring the equipment and making whatever adjustments he feels are necessary. She presses a button and the speed of the power unit revs up -- shaking the ship. CAMERA PANS to portside viewport and we MOVE IN on the viewport pane of glass. It shudders in its frame -- and presently we see a hairline crack appear at the base of the plane. It is spreading upward very slowly.

61 INSERT - PRESSURE GAUGE ON INSTRUMENT PANEL

61

as it begins to fall slightly.

62 GINA

62

busy at the extractor equipment, oblivious of the danger.

63 THE VIEWPORT GLASS PANEL

63

The crack in the glass is widening.

64 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL CENTER

64

FAVORING Tee Gar at the monitor -- suddenly alert to what he sees.

TEE GAR
Hey -- Seeker 3's losing pressure!

He is joined by Chris.

TEE GAR
I think there's a crack.
Chris, Gina's in big trouble.

As he says this, a sensing monitor begins an incessant BEEPING, followed shortly by a piercing SIREN ALARM.

65 INT. CORRIDOR

65

Cadets run toward the Control Center. Then we see Gampu making his way there.

66 INT. SEEKER 3

66

Gina staggers from her position at the Extractor equipment toward the pressure gauge -- is shocked by the reading -- tries to adjust it -- then looks around and sees the crack in the viewport.

67 POV SHOT - THE VIEWPORT GLASS PANEL

67

The crack has widened considerably and we hear the HISSING of escaping air.

68 GINA

68

She starts toward the viewport but collapses before reaching it.

TEE GAR'S VOICE
Gina, Gina! Are you all right?
Can you hear me? | Gina?

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

69 EXT. DEEP SPACE - SPACE ACADEMY AND ASTEROID SIGMA 105 69

The Space Academy can be seen in the f.g. and in the distance, the barren asteroid. CAMERA MOVES IN towards the Academy.

70 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL CENTER 70

There is a flurry of activity in the room, but the primary focus is on Gampu, Chris, Laura, Peepo and Tee Gar. All watch the screen.

GAMPU

Gina -- do you read me? Gina?

71 POV REALITY SHOT - INT SEEKER 3 71

Gina is trying to rise from the floor. The extractor continues to pound away -- the ship is shuddering.

GAMPU'S VOICE

Gina -- turn off the extractor -- immediately!

GINA

(dazed)

What?

GAMPU'S VOICE

Listen to me, Gina! Try to concentrate. The red sensor plate on the power unit -- do you see it?

Gina manages to sit up -- looks toward power unit.

GINA

(dully)

Yes.

GAMPU'S VOICE

That turns off the extractor. Do you understand? Turn it off -- now!

Gina tries to rise but can't make it. She crawls toward the power unit on hands and knees -- barely manages to touch the red sensor.

She touches it.

(CONTINUED)

71 (CONTINUED)

71

The power dies.

72 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL CENTER - THE GROUP

72

All look relieved as the power unit stops.

GAMPU

Peepo, how much time do we have?

PEEPO

(after computing)

60 minutes.

TEE GAR

I guess we'll have to send Peepo again.

GAMPU

If Gina were out in the open -- like Paul was -- we might chance it.

PEEPO

In two point four minutes I would be immobilized. The Zolium radiation affects every capacitor.

LAURA

We've got to do something.

GAMPU

Quiet -- for a moment -- please.

73 CLOSE SHOT - GAMPU

73

He sits very still, his eyes closed in deep concentration. Then suddenly, his eyes open -- fired with excitement.

GAMPU

Chris! There is a way. And you can do it! My old spacesuit! It's awkward and confining, but it ought to do the job. Quickly, go down to my quarters and pick it up! Laura, go with him in case he needs help.

(rising)

Meet me at the launching pad.

74 BACK TO FULL SHOT

74

TEE GAR

I'll get the Seeker ready for launch.

(CONTINUED)

74 (CONTINUED)

74

GAMPU
(using Space-com)
Gina, hold on. We're on the way.

75 INT. SEEKER 3 - GINA

75

He is leaning back against the wall.

GINA
Hurry. My head -- it's -- full --
of -- cotton.

The CAMERA ZOOMS IN to a TIGHT SHOT of Gina's face.

GINA
(continuing)
Get me -- out of here -- please!

76 INT. LAUNCHING PAD

76

Gampu, Tee Gar and Peepo stand by Seeker 1, waiting for Chris to return with the spacesuit.

Chris and Laura arrive with the ancient spacesuit.

CHRIS
This thing weighs a ton.

TEE GAR
Here, Chris, I'll help you.

CHRIS
No, Tee Gar. This is Gampu's
baby. There's no one here who
could do the job better.

GAMPU
Suppose I can't do it? I no
longer have youth, or the
physical agility that you or
Tee Gar --

CHRIS
(interrupting him) '
But you have something better --
something we don't have -- experience.
You've got to do this, Commander
-- for yourself as well as Gina.

GAMPU
You're so young, Chris, and so
wise.

(CONTINUED)

76 (CONTINUED)

76

CHRIS

(grins)
I've had the best teacher in
the world.

LAURA

And you are the best, Commander.

GAMPU

(strongly)
All right then. Get me into
that suit -- quickly! Gina's
life is at stake!

DISSOLVE TO:

77 INT. LAUNCH PAD 77

Seeker 1 emerges through entry port -- lifts off.

78 EXT. DEEP SPACE - SEEKER 1 IN FLIGHT 78

79 INT. SEEKER 1 - GAMPU 79

Gampu in his space suit but minus the helmet is at the pilot
seat.

GAMPU

(by Space-com)
Gina, come in -- Gina, do you read
me?

He shakes his head worriedly.

80 EXT. DEEP SPACE - SEEKER 1 AND ASTEROID SIGMA 105 80

Seeker 1 is approaching the asteroid.

81 INT. SEEKER 1 - GAMPU 81

Peering through viewport -- then picks up his helmet and puts
it on.

GAMPU

(voice somewhat muffled)
Academy Control -- this is
Commander Gampu. Preparing
to land.

CHRIS' VOICE

We read you, Commander. Good
luck!

- 82 EXT. ASTEROID SIGMA 105 82
Seeker 1, retarders flaring, settles slowly to the surface of the barren asteroid. We see Seeker 3 within fifty feet.
- 83 EXT. THE SEEKER 83
Gampu emerges from Seeker 1. He walks toward Seeker 3, his movements made slow and cumbersome by the heavy spacesuit.
- 84 EXT. SEEKER 3 84
Gampu struggles with the manual lever that opens the hatch. Then squeezes his bulky form into the vehicle.
- 85 INT. SEEKER 3 85
Gina, semi-conscious looks up as the strange space-suited figure enters. Gampu leans over Gina's sprawling figure and pulls her up into a sitting position.
- 86 CLOSE SHOT - GAMPU - GINA'S POV 86
Gampu's troubled face can be seen through the clear face-plate of the helmet.
- 87 REVERSE SHOT - GINA 87
GINA
(struggling to speak)
Commander.
Gina blacks out.
- 88 ANOTHER ANGLE 88
Gampu, racing against time, moves to the instrument panel and checks the gauges on the field generator. He touches sensor-plates which reset the coordinates. Then he uses the Space-come to talk with the Seeker.

GAMPU
I've re-set the coordinates.
Will the crack repair?

PEEPO'S VOICE
(over Space-com)
Affirmative. It will be stable
enough to resume extraction in
24 hours.

GAMPU
All right. I'm bringing Gina
out.

89 EXT. SEEKER 3 89

Staggering under the combined weights of the heavy spacesuit and the unconscious cadet he is carrying, Gampu starts toward the Seeker. Gina starts to slip from his grasp.

90 TWO SHOT - GAMPU AND GINA 90

Gampu's face is strained, bathed with perspiration within the space helmet. He forces his pain-wrached muscles to respond, shifting Gina to an over-the-shoulder carrying position. He staggers on.

91 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM 91

Laura and Chris are watching Gampu's progress on the Monitor screen on the ship's control panel. They watch the screen intently.

92 POV REALITY SHOT - ASTEROID, GAMPU, GINA 92

as Gampu stops and wavers.

93 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM 93

FAVORING Laura watching the screen.

~~Laura~~ *Laura*
Come on, Commander -- you can make it! You're almost home!

94 POV REALITY SHOT - ASTEROID - GAMPU, GINA 94

Gampu manages to continue, arrives at Seeker 1's outer hatch. Carefully, he sets Gina down -- then tries to open the hatch. He struggles with the manual lever -- but cannot get it ipen. The lock is jammed. An incessant BEEPING begins. Large white letters on the b.g. of brilliant red flash the word: "Emergency". A recorded VOICE repeats the word aloud, again and again.

95 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM 95

Tee Gar and Loki have joined Laura and Chris at the screen as we continue to HEAR the BEEPING and the recorded VOICE repeating "Emergency".

~~Laura~~ *Laura*
Chris, ~~link~~ *link* with me. We've got to help Gampu open the hatch!

CHRIS
At that distance, I don't know.

*See how
could we try
telekinetic*

The lock is jammed

95 (CONTINUED) 95

LAURA

We've got to try. Concentrate.

Chris nods. They join hands -- palm to palm -- and concentrate.

96 CLOSE - LAURA, CHRIS 96

Holding hands -- concentrating.

97 CLOSE - GAMPU 97

Struggling with the release lever.

98 EXTREME CLOSE-UP - LAURA, CHRIS 98

Their concentration more intense than ever.

LAURA

Now, Commander -- now -- !

99 CLOSE - GAMPU 99

Struggling with the release lever -- it moves! The hatch opens.

100 ANOTHER ANGLE - GAMPU, GINA 100

As Gampu picks Gina up -- moves with her into Seeker 1. The hatch closes behind them.

101 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM 101

On Laura, Chris, Tee Gar and Loki sign with relief and exchange triumphant smiles. Peepo stands nearby.

LOKI

(to Laura and Chris)

Will you teach me to do what .
you just did -- you know --
telekinship?

PEEPO

The word is telekinesis, dunce.

LAURA

That's true, Peepo -- but I
think Loki has coined a very
appropriate word for a brother
and sister.

(CONTINUED)

101 (CONTINUED)

101

LOKI

Camelopardus! I coined a new word!

102 INT. GAMPU'S ROOM

104

A small celebration is in progress. All of the members of the Blue Team are present, including Paul and Gina. When Gampu enters, there is applause.

GAMPU

(moved)

Thank you. Dear friends.

GINA

(moving forward)

Before I get cold feet, I've got something I have to say. This is my last day with the Blue Team -- and a good chance to apologize for acting the way I have. Commander I learned a very important thing. Theories are fine -- but what saved me out there was experience.

GAMPU

I have some 'thank-yous' to say as well. When you friends have faith in you, it makes it a lot easier to have faith in yourself. We all need both the exuberance of youth -- and the experience of age.

GINA

Before I go, I'd like to tell you that I've been proud to be a part of the Blue Team, even for a little while.

LAURA

(rising)

Gina, before you leave, we've got a little present for you. Something to remember us by.

She holds out a box. Gina takes it and, as she takes off the wrappings, the others gather around her.

GINA

(pleased)

I sure didn't expect any present.

(CONTINUED)

102 (CONTINUED)

102

She folds back the tissue and finds a blue shirt like that worn by all of the members of the Blue Team.

GINA

(continuing; holding it up)

Thanks --

(she looks about)

Now unless you want to see a grown girl cry -- I'll get out of here!

She exits.

103 ANGLE

103

Gampu turns to Chris.

GAMPU

(after a beat)

You could have made that rescue, why didn't you?

CHRIS

For a very good reason. You were the best choice.

GAMPU

(smiles)

Thank you Chris

(a sudden realization)

Oh, good heavens! That letter of resignation -- they must have received it by now!

Chris takes the letter from his pocket and hands it to Gampu.

CHRIS

What do you know? What with all that excitement -- I forgot to send it.

Gampu takes the letter.

GAMPU

Very inefficient of you Captain. I'll forgive you this time -- but don't let it happen again.

The group grins.

(CONTINUED)

103 (CONTINUED)

103

GAMPU

Have you nothing better to do
than stand around and grin.

The group takes off. Gampu looks at the letter in his hands.
He smiles and slowly tears it up as we

FADE OUT.

THE END