

Brian Tochi

SPACE ACADEMY

"MY FAVORITE MARCIA"

SA - #85004

JULY 28, 1977

FILMATION  **N**
STUDIOS

SPACE ACADEMY

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BY

TED PEDERSEN & MARTHA HUMPHREYS

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. DEEP SPACE - THE SEEKER AND THE WHITE STAR 1

The Seeker approaches a white dwarf star -- a white-hot orb of a sun that dominates this region of space with its intense illumination.

2 INT. THE SEEKER - MONITOR SCREENS 2

Gampu, Laura, Paul and Loki are watching the main monitor screen. The cadets in particular are very absorbed in the sight.

LOKI

Camelopardus!

PAUL

You said it!

3 INSERT - MONITOR SCREEN 3

With a picture of a white star.

LAURA'S VOICE

It's so -- incredible -- and so beautiful.

4 RETURN TO SCENE 4

GAMPU

The universe is a wondrous place indeed, Laura. A white dwarf star like this one took millions upon millions of years to form.

LOKI

What happens next?

GAMPU

Paul, can you give us an astronomical evaluation?

PAUL

Well -- if this was a normal star -- it would just keep burning up more energy -- until it was just a cold black cinder.

(CONTINUED)

4 (CONTINUED)

4

GAMPU

That's true of most stars. What about this one?

PAUL

This one is so massive, that it's burned itself out too fast. It'll go unstable -- and explode -- a supernova.

LOKI

I wouldn't want to be around then.

GAMPU

None of us would. Which is why this sector of the galaxy has been evacuated. That star's getting too close to the critical stage.

Gampu turns and walks forward. Tee Gar is at the pilot controls and Peepo at his navigational station.

GAMPU

(to Peepo)

Peepo. Plot us a fast course back to the Academy.

PEEPO

Right Commander.

5 EXT. SPACE ACADEMY

5

Drifting in space.

6 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM - DAY

6

Chris at the main control panel. A view of the white dwarf star on the central monitor screen. Adrian enters, a section of computer printout under her arm, a look of concern on her face. Chris notices her preoccupation.

CHRIS

Hello Adrian -- something wrong?

ADRIAN

Is the Seeker back yet?

CHRIS

No. But it shouldn't be much longer.

(CONTINUED)

6 (CONTINUED)

6

ADRIAN
(shows him the printout)
Our original calculations were
wrong about when that star
would go critical.

CHRIS
How much time do we have?

ADRIAN
It became unstable five minutes
ago.

Chris' look of shock is cut short when -- AN ALARM BEGINS
TO RING AND A RED LIGHT ON THE CONTROL PANEL STARTS FLASHING.

7 INT. THE SEEKER - PILOT STATION

7

On the control board A SIMILAR RED LIGHT STARTS TO FLASH.
Gampu and Tee Gar react to it.

GAMPU
It's the Galactic Distress
Beacon.

TEE GAR
But nobody's supposed to be
in this area.

GAMPU
Apparently somebody is. And
they're in trouble. We need
triangulation to find out exactly
where it's coming from.
(he presses a switch)
Seeker to Academy. Come in please.

8 INT. CONTROL - MONITOR - CLOSE

8

Chris' face appears on screen.

CHRIS
Academy to Seeker, we see it,
Commander.

9 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM - DAY

9

Chris looks at the computer graphic map while he talks to the
Seeker via the radio. Adrian is next to him. Gampu's face
is on the monitor.

(CONTINUED)

9 (CONTINUED)

9

CHRIS

Our plotting shows the signal coming from the fourth planet of the white star.

GAMPU'S VOICE

Thank's, Chris. We should have sufficient time for a search and rescue operation.

ADRIAN

Negative, Commander.

GAMPU'S VOICE

Explain please.

ADRIAN

The star has already passed the critical stage. It could explode at any moment. You have to get away.

*

10 INT. THE SEEKER - PILOT STATION

10

Gampu on the radio, while the rest of the team crowds around.

ADRIAN'S VOICE

Did you read me, Commander?

GAMPU

I read you, Adrian. But someone needs our help. We have to try to rescue them -- no matter what the risk. Meanwhile, double-check your calculations!

*
*

And the faces of the team are a mixture of determination at the necessity of their mission -- and the uncertainty of the situation.

11 EXT THE WHITE STAR (MINIATURE)

11

An ominous pulsating inferno -- a bomb waiting to go off.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

12 EXT. THE WHITE STAR (MINIATURE) 12

Pulsating and throwing off occasional belches of molten white fire.

12A EXT. SEEKER 12A

As it streaks by.

13 INT. THE SEEKER - PILOT STATION 13

Paul at the pilot controls, Gampu standing next to him, Peepo at his navigational post. The red distress beacon light stops blinking. Gampu and Paul both look at it.

PAUL

It stopped sending. And I don't have a definite fix yet. *

GAMPU

Take us as close as you can, Paul.

Gampu turns and walks to the back where Laura, Tee Gar and Loki are waiting.

GAMPU

(continuing)

We haven't much time. The star is already critical. Paul will put us down in the general area of the signal, then take the Seeker back into orbit and continue the search for the Beacon. *

LOKI

You can count on us, Commander.

PEEPO

I was about to say the same.

LOKI

But I said it first. *

GAMPU

Spare us the bickering. This is serious business. Loki, you and Peepo will stay on the Seeker. *

LOKI

But I can help.

(CONTINUED)

13 (CONTINUED)

13

GAMPU

Not this time. The situation is too dangerous.

Loki is about to respond, but Gampu throws him a look that says the subject is closed. Loki shuts up, but isn't happy.

14 EXT. THE FOURTH PLANET (MINIATURE)

14

A barren hunk of space rock, not much of a planet. The white dwarf star hangs low in the horizon. The Seeker swoops low behind it.

DISSOLVE TO:

15 EXT. THE PLANET'S SURFACE

15

Gampu, Laura and Tee GAR trudging up a steep hill. Each one alert to signs. Gampu carries his collinear in his hand.

LAURA

(looking up)

I was hoping Paul would locate the distress beacon for us before we got this far.

At the top of the hill they pause. Tee Gar spots something and points.

TEE GAR

Commander -- over there.

They all hurry over to where Tee Gar is pointing. It is a small black box with a red light on top. Tee Gar picks up the box and looks it over.

*
*
*

TEEGAR

It's the distress beacon.

15A INSERT - THE DISTRESS BEACON - IN TEE GAR'S HANDS

15A

On one side is printed in white letters: SUNBEAM RSX-11957. Below the lettering there is an illustration of the sun with rays streaming out.

15B GAMPU, TEE GAR, LAURA

15B

LAURA

(eyeing the beacon)
But where's the ship?

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

15B (CONTINUED)

15B

Gampu takes the beacon from Tee Gar.

GAMPU

I know who owns this. The Sunbeam
is a space trader -- operated by
Marcia Giddings.

LAURA

Marcia Giddings? Do you know her?

*

15B (CONTINUED)

15B

GAMPU

(nods)

A long time ago -- before either
of you were born -- I took Marcia
on her first survey of the Draco
Cluster.

*

(beat)

After our tour, she decided to go into
business for herself against my better
judgement. She bought the Sunbeam -- and I
continued on at the Space Academy.

*

*

TEE GAR

But what would she be doing on an
out of the way planet like this?

GAMPU

Dear Marcia always had the happy faculty
of being in the wrong place at the wrong
time. I cannot tell you how many times
I had to rescue her from impending disaster.

*

TEE GAR

Looks like she's in trouble again.

GAMPU

Very characteristic of that woman!
Well, let's go find her.

*

Gampu puts the black box down, and starts off. Tee Gar
and Laura exchange a look -- then start after him.

16 EXT. THE SEEKER (MINIATURE)

16

in orbit around the planet.

17 INT. THE SEEKER - PILOT STATION

17

Paul at the controls. THE RADIO BEEPS -- and Paul
switches it on.

PAUL

Come in, Commander.

The radio emits GARBLED STATIC NOISES. Paul makes
and adjustment and the STATIC DECREASES somewhat.

GAMPU'S VOICE

(lots of static)

We found the distress beacon, Paul.
But no ship. What's your progress
up there?

(CONTINUED)

17 (CONTINUED)

17

PAUL

Nothing to report, except that
radio reception is very poor.

GAMPU'S VOICE

(lots of static)

Have Peepo compute a new orbit.
Keep searching.

18 EXT. THE PLANET'S SURFACE

18

Gampu on his collinear.

PAUL'S VOICE

(on collinear, lots of
static)

Not much time left. The star is
getting ready to burst any time now.

*

GAMPU

(cutting him off)

I know, Paul -- I know. Give us a countdown.

*

He turns off the collinear and repockets it.

19 EXT. THE WHITE STAR (MINIATURE)

19

Activity seems to have increased -- a sudden flare bursts
free of the surface.

20 INT. THE SEEKER - THE BRIDGE

20

Paul leaves his pilot chair and starts back to the rear
compartment.

PAUL

Peepo, I need some new figures.

Paul continues and is at the door.

PAUL (cont.)

Peepo -- Loki. Come on out.
This is no time for games.

The door slides open and Paul looks inside -- an expression
of utter amazement appears on his face.

21 INT. THE SEEKER - REAR COMPARTMENT

21

The small room is completely empty.

(CONTINUED)

21 (CONTINUED) 21

PAUL'S VOICE

Loki -- Peepo -- where are you?!

22 PAUL'S FACE 22

A final look of disbelief.

23 EXT. THE FOURTH PLANET, WHITE STAR (MINIATURE) 23

CAMERA MOVES IN on the star throwing off flares of molten fire.

24 EXT. THE PLANET'S SURFACE - DAY 24

Loki and Peepo on a trail. Peepo halts. Loki continues on for a few steps, then turns around to see what's keeping his companion.

LOKI

What's up? *

PEEPO

I believe I saw something. *

LOKI

I don't, and my eyes are better than yours. Come on. *

PEEPO

This terrain is hard on my gears. They get clogged with sand. *

(looks around where they are)

We really shouldn't be here.

LOKI

You're scared! *

PEEPO

I am not! I wasn't programmed for irrational fear. Still -- the Commander is going to be very angry with us for abandoning ship.

LOKI

We didn't abandon ship. We're just helping out with the search.

PEEPO

I don't remember having been asked.

LOKI

Sometimes you just gotta do what you gotta do.

(CONTINUED)

24 (CONTINUED)

24

PEEPO

(sighs)

I don't think this is one of those
times.

Loki smiles and continues, Peepo following.

25 EXT. ELSEWHERE ON THE PLANET - DAY

25

Gampu in the lead; Tee Gar and Laura puffing to keep up the pace. Laura catches up with Gampu, while Tee Gar goes off to the side to look at something.

LAURA

Commander, -- can't we slow down a little? I am so tired of walking -- and how do you know we aren't going in circles?

GAMPU

Instinct, my dear Laura. A quality that has been refined to a razor's edge through three hundred years of disciplined living. Of course, I know where we're going. We are going to find Marcia Giddings.

LAURA

The way you say that, Commander, Miss Giddings must be something very special.

25A CLOSE SHOT - GAMPU

25A

A look crosses his face as he gazes out toward the horizon.

GAMPU

(almost dreamily)
Special? -- Indeed she was.

25B GROUP SHOT

25B

Now he suddenly becomes aware of Laura and Tee Gar watching him. He frowns.

GAMPU

If you can call Calamity Jane special! One disaster after another, -- and each time I had to rescue her, -- special, indeed! Special nuisance!

*
*

25C CLOSE SHOT - LAURA

25C

She grins and looks to Tee Gar.

LAURA

Methinks he protests too much!

25D CLOSE SHOT - GAMPU 25D

As he reacts.

25E CLOSE - TEE GAR 25E

TEE GAR
(sagely)
Macbeth, Act Two!

25F CLOSE - GAMPU 25F

He looks at Tee Gar disdainfully.

GAMPU
Hamlet, -- Act Three.

25G GROUP SHOT 25G

Laura smiles.

LAURA
Well, I'd say you liked her alot.

GAMPU
Liked her? The woman was impossible...
(an afterthought)
Well, perhaps I did have a slight
fondness for Marcia, -- as I would
for any helpless creature.

At that moment, Tee Gar discovers something on the ground.

TEE GAR
Commander -- Laura -- over here!

They come over to see what it is he had discovered.
Tee Gar points to TRACKS ON THE GROUND.

LAURA
What are they?

GAMPU
It appears to be some kind of *
mechanical device. *
(beat)
We'd better follow. *

26 EXT. THE SEEKER (MINIATURE) 26

orbiting the planet.

27 INT. THE SEEKER - PILOT STATION 27

Paul trying the radio. NOTHING BUT STATIC COMES OVER.

(CONTINUED)

27 (CONTINUED)

27

PAUL

Loki -- Peepo -- do you read?
(listens to static,
then switches frequency)
Commander, -- do you read me?
(more static)
Does anyone read me?
(still more static)

28 EXT. ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE - DAY

28

Loki and Peepo come to a stop.

LOKI

Do you have any idea where we are?

PEEPO

I do not, you're the leader.

LOKI

Well, just give me time to look
around.

*
*

PAN Loki toward a large rock. Cautiously he looks
around the rock...and reacts to what he sees:

28A MARCIA GIDDINGS - LOKI'S POV

28A

Unaware of his presence this large gray-haired woman,
who might be the Tugboat Annie of the star ways, is
working at a crystal rock with a hammer and cold chisel,
the light reflecting in her face.

*
*
*
*

28B LOKI

28B

With chipmunk curiosity sidles out from behind the rock
and walks cautiously toward her. She is much too busy
to see him coming.

*
*
*

28C MARCIA, LOKI

28C

As Loki stands right beside her and watches with fas-
cination as she chips away at her "diamond" quarry.
Finally she turns her head and sees Loki beside her.

*
*
*

MARCIA

(only slightly astonished)
Well! Whose little boy are you?

*

(CONTINUED)

28C (CONTINUED)

28C

LOKI

I'm Loki.

(points a thumb toward
the OS Peepo)

That's Peepo. We're from Space
Academy.

Marcia is curious enough to go see Peepo, led by Loki.

28D ANOTHER ANGLE

28D

to include Peepo.

MARCIA

(looking from one to the other)
Space Academy you say?

(gives them the once over)
They're admitting them younger every
year.

(casually)
I suppose you know Captain Gampu?

LOKI

You mean Commander Gampu! We sure do.
He's not too far away.

MARICA

(lights up)
Gampu! Here on this planet?

LOKI

(nods)
We're here to rescue a stranded
space ship.

MARCIA

So my distress signal was picked up
after all. I was beginning to lose
heart. And Gampu's leading the party.
Surprised he was able to find his way here
at his age. *

LOKI

What?

MARCIA

Nothing. Just that when I knew Gampu
-- back when we were shipmates together --
he couldn't find a hole if he fell into it.
I had to rescue him on more than one occasion.

(beat, a sudden thought)
Does he know about the robot?

(CONTINUED)

28D (CONTINUED)

PEEPO

28D

Of course, he knows about me. *
He's practically my father.

MARCIA

Not you, Shorty. I mean the Big
one. The one that wrecked my ship.

LOKI

A robot wrecked your ship?

Marcia nods.

MARCIA

He sure did, I was lucky to get away. *

LOKI

We didn't know about that!

MARCIA

Then, lads, we'd best find old Gampu before he *
stumbles onto it unexpectedly. That robot's *
about the most destructive piece of
machinery I've ever met!

The three of them start off.

29 OMIT

OMIT

29

30 EXT. SHRUBBERY - DAY

30

Gampu, Laura and Tee Gar have followed the tracks to some
dense shrubbery. They stop.

TEE GAR

What now, Commander?

GAMPU

It appears that whatever we've been
following may be in the woods.

TEE GAR

I don't advise going after him. *ow*

GAMPU

Remain here. I'm going in.

Laura has spotted something in the shrubbery -- a shadow
that seems to be moving.

LAURA (quietly)

Commander. You won't have to.

And as the trio looks off -- a huge black shape rolls from
behind the shrubbery -- the largest and most frightening robot
machinery any of them have ever seen -- coming straight toward
them.

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

31 EXT. THE WHITE STAR (MINIATURE) 31

as the activity seems to be increasing -- great streams of fire shoot out from the surface.

32 EXT. ON THE PLANET - DAY * 32

Gampu, Laura and Tee Gar confront the huge ROBOT.

TEE GAR

I don't believe what I'm looking at.
Is he for real?

GAMPU

He's real enough.

33 EXT.-MARCIA, LOKI, PEEPO 33

They approach a rock. Marcia suddenly stops, steers Loki and Peepo behind the rock. All three peek out.

34 EXT. NEAR THE WOODS -LAURA, GAMPU, TEE GAR, THE ROBOT * 34

The three tense as they await the robot's next move.

TEE GAR

Who's controlling this thing?

GAMPU

I believe it's self-activating. *

34A CLOSE ROBOT - IT-EMITS A BEAM OF YELLOW LIGHT (OPTICAL) * 34A

34B GROUP - THE LIGHT SETTLES AROUND THE THREE PEOPLE, THEN FADES AWAY. 34B

TEE GAR

What is it?

GAMPU

A force field of some kind. We're locked in. *

Tee Gar reaches out to touch the edge of the invisible field -- and is knocked flat by a ZAPPING SPARK. The Robot begins to move away, and Tee Gar gets to his feet.

GAMPU

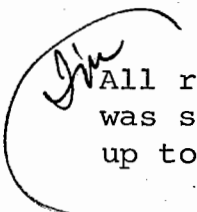
Are you all right?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONT'D.

34

TEE GAR



All right, Commander, but that was some jolt. Now what's he up to?

GAMPU

(worriedly)

I think he's going in the direction of our rendezvous point with the Seeker. If he destroys the Seeker, we're trapped with an exploding star.

*
*
*
*

The Robot moves off.

35 EXT. BEHIND THE ROCK - MARCIA, LOKI, PEEPO

35

Marcia shakes her head and sighs.

MARCIA

I've been avoiding that bucket of bolts for days. It only took Gampu a few nanoseconds to fall into its trap.

LOKI

We gotta get them outta there.

MARCIA

Just like I had to save his skin on Draco Nine. But how do we get rid of that force shield...

(she thinks for a moment, then looks at Peepo with an idea)

You.

PEEPO

Me? What do you have in mind?

MARCIA

A simple rearrangement of your circuits...

PEEPO

I'm not sure...

(CONTINUED)

35 CONT'D.

35

MARCIA

Trust me. It's the only way to free Gampu and the others from that electro-magnetic cage.

PEEPO

If it's to help them, go ahead. But please exercise great care. I am ticklish.

*
*

Loki watches as Marcia goes to work on Peepo. Opens him up and makes a few changes in wiring.

LOKI

What're you doing to him?

MARCIA

Reversing his polarity. This ought to short out that force field when he goes through it.

PEEPO

I'll be disoriented for life.

MARCIA

Nonsense. You won't even feel it.

Peepo looks at Marcia as if he doubts that last remark, as she closes him back up.

36 ANOTHER ANGLE

*

36

Laura sees Peepo approaching the electronic force field. She tugs on Gampu's jacket.

LAURA

Commander -- it's Peepo!

GAMPU

Peepo -- what's he doing here?

Peepo walks directly into the invisible force field -- A SHOWER OF SPARKS -- PEEPO GETS A GOOD ZAPPING, and slowly keels over-- his machinery SQUEALING.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

36 (CONTINUED) 1

36

TEE GAR
(tentatively, touches invisible field, gets no shock) *
Peepo's done it! We're free! *

Peepo whimpers electronically. Laura rushes over to comfort the little robot, and hoists him to an upright position. *

LAURA
Oh, you poor thing. Are you all right? *

PEEPO
Thank you, Laura. I'm not sure. *

At that moment, Marcia and Loki appear on the scene. Laura reacts.

LAURA
Loki! *

LOKI
Hello, Laura -- *
(shamefacedly) *
--Commander. *

Gampu reacts to Marcia's presence.

GAMPU
Well, Marcia we meet again.

MARCIA
Hello, Captain -- I beg your pardon, *
Commander.

GAMPU
I find you as I last saw you -- on the *
brink of disaster -- what havoc have you *
wrought this time? *

MARCIA
Hold it, sonny -- you've got your right *
shoe on your left foot again -- it's you *
that's causing the trouble, not me. *

GAMPU
You haven't changed one iota. *

MARCIA
Oh, yes, I have. I've come into the *
full flower of my womanhood.

GAMPU
Albeit a bit wilted.

(CONTINUED)

36 (CONTINUED) 1A

36

MARCIA

And you haven't changed, pity!
(looks around)

Quite some little rescue party you
put together on my behalf. At least
these two are near full grown.

(CONTINUED)

36 (CONTINUED) 2

36

Gampu turns to Loki.

GAMPU

(angry)

Loki. Young man you were under strict orders to remain in the Seeker. Does Paul know you're gone?

Loki shakes his head negatively. Gampu is about to continue when Marcia interrupts.

MARCIA

Not too hard on the lad. After all, it was us that saved you.

GAMPU

It's been twenty years and you're still rearranging the facts to suit yourself.

*
*

TEE GAR

Excuse me, Commander --

*

MARCIA

Somebody had to keep you out of trouble.

GAMPU

How dare you say that? You managed to involve me into so many feather-brained schemes. It's a miracle I survived at all! And I suppose it's another such scheme that brought you here.

TEE GAR

(more impatient now)
Excuse me, Commander --

*

MARCIA

Scheme? Tut! It was treasure that brought me here.

GAMPU

Treasure? There is no treasure on this planet!

MARCIA

You're wrong again, -- there is, diamonds!

*
*

38 FULL SHOT

38

MARCIA

Those little gems will buy me a dozen starships. And if that robot hadn't come along, I'd have them already.

*

GAMPU

(suddenly realizing)

The robot. We've got to stop it before it meets the Seeker. Did you want me, Tee Gar?

*

*

TEE GAR

~~yes,~~ Commander. First the Seeker, and then the star.

*

*

GAMPU

Right. First things first. The robot must have a weakness. We need data from the Academy's main computer memory. Call control, Tee Gar.

TEE GAR

(flips open his collinear)

Blue Team to Academy. Come in.

*

(no answer)

Rescue team to Academy, come in please.

(shrugs)

Guess the Robot jammed the frequencies when he threw his force field over us.

Gampu looks about.

*

GAMPU

Then it's up to us -- come on --

*

He exits. The others follow.

*

39 OMIT

OMIT

39 40

40 EXT. SPACE ACADEMY (MINIATURE)

40

As it moves slowly through deep space.

41 INT. CONTROL ROOM

41

Chris is standing at one of the consoles. Adrian enters. *

ADRIAN

Any word?

*

(CONTINUED)

41 (CONTINUED)

41

Chris shakes his head.

CHRIS

Nothing, -- we should have heard from
them by now.

*
*

ADRIAN

I just took another reading.
(she shakes her head)
-- that star could go nova any
time now!

*
*
*
*

CHRIS

(grimly)
I know.

Adrian manages a smile.

ADRIAN

Well, -- they know what they're doing.
They won't stay around there any
longer than they have to.

CUT TO:

42 - 53 OMIT

OMIT 42 - 53

54 EXT. THE PLANET'S SURFACE - RENDEZVOUS POINT - THE ROBOT 54

He stands there waiting for the Seeker to land. CAMERA PANS to the group watching the robot.

GAMPU

We must neutralize its power! *

He turns.

GAMPU (cont.)

Peepo -- it's up to you -- try to communicate. Anything you can find out will help -- anything at all.

PEEPO

Yes, Commander, I will try. But first my circuits will have to be repolarized.

MARCIA

All right, Peepo. *

She starts to fix Peepo but Gampu stops her. *

GAMPU

I'd better do that. *

MARCIA

You, you'd better keep out of this! *

GAMPU

Madam, you will remove your hands from Peepo. *

Marcia throws her eyes upward and sighs. *

GAMPU

Thank you. *

He makes the adjustments. *

GAMPU

All right, Peepo. *

PEEPO

Here goes. *

55 FAVORING PEEPO 55

As he moves out to confront the Robot.

56 THE GROUP 56

Watching intently.

57 THE ROBOT, PEEPO

57

As Peepo approaches -- but stays at a reasonably safe distance. The Robot makes whirring, grinding sounds. Peepo makes tap and squeaks in return. The Robot makes a few more grinding sounds accompanied by a couple of deep booms.

PEEPO

(turns his head to OS group)

This robot is the last active survivor
of the Orion wars of '99. He means us
harm, and I fear he is almost indestructible.

*
*
*

58 - 61 OMIT

OMIT 58 - 61

61A THE GROUP

61A

Favoring Gampu.

GAMPU

I was afraid of that. Peepo,
try and get his operating frequency.
It's vital!

61B EXT. THE WHITE STAR (MINIATURE)

61B

It is beginning to break up. The flares are continuous.

61C THE ROBOT, PEEPO

61C

The Robot makes strange grunting and popping sounds.
Peepo makes a few high-pitched "appeal" sounds. The
Robot grunts an abrupt negative.

PEEPO

(turns head to OS group)
He's full of fight -- it's hard
to get anything out of him. I told
him that if he was a true robot he
would never harm a human being. He
laughed at me--

61D THE GROUP, PEEPO AND ROBOT

61D

PEEPO

Then he asked me to join with him,
against you. I will try to reason
with him.

*
*
*

(turns back)

61E THE ROBOT, PEEPO

61E

Peepo uses his most friendly, almost bell-tinkling sounds
as he speaks to the Robot. The Robot's responses are
grinding, growling and booming.

PEEPO

(turns to OS group)
This robot is no robot. He is a
war machine. He's bad. There
is not a centimeter of good in his
entire structure.

*

61F FAVORING GAMPU

61F

GAMPU

Be more subtle, Peepo. You must get
his operating frequency before he gets
the Seeker or us.

*

61G ROBOT, PEEPO

61G

Peepo has turned back to the Robot. He begins with soft, mellow, musical beeps. Waits. The robot seems to be listening. Peepo increases the number of musical beeps -- he almost harmonizes them. The Robot reacts by making a few low-pitch drum sounds.

61H THE GROUP

61H

Listening and watching.

61I ROBOT, PEEPO

61I

Peepo continues his musical beeps -- also gestures with his arms. The robot responds with a series of complicated drum and fife sounds.

PEEPO

(turns his head toward OS group)

He relaxed enough to let me zero in on his operating frequency. It is between 146 and 147 megahertz.

61J THE GROUP, ROBOT, PEEPO

61J

GAMPU

Good work, Peepo.
(to the others)
A strong continuous signal on one of those frequencies might short circuit the Robot internally.

PEEPO

I will keep him busy while you set it up.

62 - 64 OMIT

OMIT 62 - 64

65 WIDER ANGLE to INCLUDE the Robot as Peepo makes tinkling sounds. The Robot replies with low-pitch sounds.

65

66 THE GROUP

66

GAMPU

We need some sort of an oscillator, some kind of radio signal that will shift frequency.

There is a moment of silence, then Tee Gar snaps his fingers.

TEE GAR

The distress beacon -- if we could get that *
I could rewire it, send it through Peepo.

(CONTINUED)

66 (CONTINUED)

66

GAMPU

It might work.

(pauses)

But I'm afraid there's not time
enough to go there and back.

LAURA

Loki could teleport to where we
left it.

GAMPU

True, Loki can teleport -- but not
always on target. He doesn't always
land in the right place.

*
*

66 (CONTINUED)

66

LOKI

Please, Commander -- let me try.

Gampu looks at the Robot, realizes that Loki is their only chance at this point.

GAMPU

All right.

And -- Loki snaps his fingers -- he disappears.

67 EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE PLANET - DAY

67

where the Black Box is. Loki suddenly appears and scoops up the box -- he snaps his fingers and vanishes again.

68 - 70 OMIT

OMIT 68- 70

70A GROUP SHOT

70A

As Loki suddenly appears.

GAMPU

Good work, Loki.

LOKI

Thank you, Commander.

Tee Gar immediately goes to work, taking parts out of the beacon. Gampu looks off.

GAMPU

Keep him busy, Peepo.

71 EXT. THE ROBOT, PEEPO

71

Now the robot sees the others and begins to move toward them. Peepo hurriedly makes with gentle, pacifying sounds and the Robot stops -- makes low-pitch sounds of leisure. Peepo continuing his pacifying sounds backs toward the group.

72 EXT. THE PLANET'S SURFACE

72

PAUL'S VOICE

(filtered)

Bringing Seeker in. Touch down
in two minutes!

Tee Gar takes the antennae from the beacon. *

TEE GAR

Laura, a little telekinesis, please. *

LAURA

I'll need everybody's help. *

They join hands. Laura concentrates and the antennae
magically moves through the air and into Peepo's hand. *
(INTERCUT AS NECESSARY) Peepo points the rod toward the robot.*

Tee Gar makes an adjustment. A LOUD SIGNAL TONE BEGINS. *
But the Robot keeps on moving. He heads toward Marcia. *
Marcia stands firm as the others back away. *

MARCIA

(taking an aggressive stance)

Now you listen to me, you bucket of
bolts! Come a step closer and you'll
rue the day they ever made you into
a blunderbuss! *

As the robot continues toward her, Gampu rushes to her, *
grabs her by the arm and drags her back toward the others. *

GAMPU

(as he drags the protesting
Marcia)

What are you doing? You can't talk to
that Robot the way you talk to me. *
He won't take it! *

73/74

OMIT

OMIT

73/74

74A ANOTHER ANGLE

74A

As Gampu, still detaining Marcia, turns to Tee Gar.

GAMPU

(to Tee Gar)

Tee Gar, try 147.

75 FULL SHOT

75

Tee Gar adjusts the dial -- A DIFFERENT HUM EMITS. Then, as the robot begins to aim its laser weapons, THE ROBOT BEGINS TO EXPLODE IN AN ARRAY OF ELECTRONIC SPARKS. It quickly burns itself to a halt.

MARCIA

We did it!

At that same moment -- THE ROAR OF ROCKETS IS HEARD. Tee Gar points upward.

76 MEDIUM SHOT - SEEKER (THEIR POV) (MINIATURE)

76

77 GROUP SHOT

77

It's Paul. TEE GAR
Right on time.

(CONTINUED)

77 (CONTINUED)

77

GAMPU

And not a minute too soon.
This whole planet will be fried
to a cinder when the nova goes.
Let's go.

They all move out.

78 EXT. THE WHITE STAR (MINIATURE)

78

The bursts of fire and growing -- something is about to happen.

79 EXT. THE SEEKER (MINIATURE)

79

lifting off the planet -- heading into deep space at top
speed.

80 INT. THE SEEKER - PILOT STATION

80

Paul and Tee Gar at the controls.

TEE GAR

Brace yourselves everyone --
it's about to go.

81 EXT. THE WHITE STAR (MINIATURE)

81

as it explodes into Supernova -- filling the blackness of
space with an incredible burst of light.

82 INT. THE SEEKER

82

GAMPU

Well, that was a little too
close.

Marcia reaches over and takes Gampu's hand.

MARCIA

That was a brave thing you did
back there.

Gampu looks off, sees Laura and Tee Gar watching. He pulls
his head away.

GAMPU

Control yourself, Marcia!

83 INT. SPACE ACADEMY

83

as it drifts in space.

84 INT. ACADEMY LOUNGE

84

Loki and Marcia off to one side. The rest of the team very happy to be together again. Adrian notices Loki looks sad.

GAMPU

What's wrong, Loki?

MARCIA

The lad's a mite upset about what happened to that big robot.

Gampu crosses to him.

GAMPU

It was only a machine, Loki.

LOKI

But so is Peepo.

GAMPU

Oh no. Peepo is much, much more than a machine, Loki. He's a friend. He has developed a warm and sensitive relationship with all of us.

(pats Peepo on the head)

No, he is neither a machine nor a robot. He's a mandroid!

LOKI

A mandroid?

GAMPU

A mandroid is a machine of almost human feelings.

Loki crosses to Peepo, much happier now.

LOKI

Camelopardus! I never realized that you and I were so much alike, Peepo. Are there any more like you?

ADRIAN

I think not. After they made Peepo they threw away the mold.

Now Gampu notices that Marcia is also sad. Marcia pours the pouchful of diamonds on the table.

(CONTINUED)

84A ANGLE

84A

MARCIA

You know something, everything worked out just fine, -- except for one thing.

GAMPU

And what would that be, Marcia?

MARCIA

I was searching for treasure, -- I'm afraid I came back even poorer than when I left.

GAMPU

Wrong again, Marcia --

He reaches into his pocket and withdraws a closed hand.

GAMPU (cont.)

--while we were searching for you, I came across this little bauble. I think it only fitting that you keep it as a remembrance of things past.

He holds out his open hand.

84B CLOSE SHOT - GAMPU'S HAND

84B

A beautiful diamond is nestled in his palm.

84C CLOSE SHOT - MARCIA

84C

Her eyes have grown wide. She picks up the diamond, brings it up close to her face.

MARCIA

Why, -- it's absolutely beautiful.

And so are you.

(she impulsively kisses
Gampu on the cheek)

You are a doll, Isaac!

At the sound of his first name, Gampu stiffens. He looks at the others, they are grinning. He turns back to Marcia.

GAMPU

Never, -- never call me that.

MARCIA

Three hundred years old, and still acting like a baby over that name. It is yours, you know.

(CONTINUED)

84C (CONTINUED)

84C

GAMPU

Not by choice.

MARCIA

When, dear Gampu, are you ever going to loosen up?

GAMPU

Madam, I am as loose as I intend to be!

Marcia smiles, turns to the others. She looks at them, looks down at the diamond, she looks up.

MARCIA

I hate goodbyes, so I won't say any, -- but I hope we all meet again -- very soon.

She turns to Gampu.

MARCIA

And to you, all I can say is, -- Goodnight, sweet Prince.

Gampu smiles and nods.

GAMPU

Hamlet, Act Three.

Marcia smiles back.

MARCIA

(sweetly)
Act Two!

Gampu frowns.

GAMPU

My dear, Marcia, it is Act Three, line 241!

Marcia starts to reply, then thinks better of it. She looks off at the cadets.

MARCIA

You'd think that I would have learned after twenty years, -- you're a stubborn man, --

(a smile)
-- but I love you.

She turns and is gone.

84D CLOSE SHOT - GAMPU 84D

He looks after her fondly. Then he turns to the others.

84E GROUP SHOT - GAMPU'S POV - LAURA, CHRIS, ADRIAN, TEE GAR, 84E
LOKI, PEEPO, PAUL

They stand looking at him, Tee Gar has his hands folded across his chest. He exchanges a grin with Laura.

85 CLOSE - GAMPU 85

His eyes narrow.

GAMPU

Have you nothing better to do than stand there?

86 FULL SHOT 86

The cadets suddenly move into action. They ad lib "see you later, bye for now", etc. Loki starts away, then stops, he looks back.

LOKI

Isaac?

87 CLOSE SHOT - GAMPU 87

His eyes almost bulge, he starts forward.

GAMPU

WHAT'S THAT!!!!??

88 FULL SHOT - GROUP 88

They are looking back horrified. ~~Tee Gar grabs Loki's arm and pulls him with the group as they hurriedly exit.~~
~~CAMERA PANS to Gampu and MOVES IN TO A TIGHT CLOSE SHOT.~~
His face softens, he tries vainly to suppress the grin that crosses his face.

FADE OUT.

THE END