

# SPACE ACADEMY

"THE CHEAT"

SA - #85003

JULY 21, 1977

**FILMATION**  **N**  
STUDIOS

# SPACE ACADEMY

"THE CHEAT"

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by

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COMMANDER ISAAC GAMPU  
CADET CAPTAIN CHRIS GENTRY  
CADET LT. LAURA GENTRY  
CADET LT. PAUL JEROME  
CADET LT. ADRIAN PRYCE-JONES  
CADET LT. TEE GAR SOOM  
PEEPO

CADET LT. MATT PRENTISS

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EXTERIORS

Space  
Space Academy  
Seeker  
Asteroid

INTERIORS

Academy  
Gampu's office  
Control Room  
Corridor  
Launch Pad  
Entry Port

Seeker  
Pilot station  
Cargo Hold

SPACE ACADEMY

"THE CHEAT"

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE ACADEMY - ESTABLISHING 1

As it drifts through space.

2 INT. GAMPU'S OFFICE - GAMPU, CHRIS, MATT 2

GAMPU sits at his desk, reading a document, the contents of which do not make pleasant reading. MATT PRENTISS, a handsome, restless cadet of about Chris' age, a devil-may-care air about him, sits in a straight back chair facing Gampu. CHRIS, also in a straight-back chair, sits beside him.

GAMPU

(to Chris)

According to your deposition you are charging Cadet Prentiss here with flagrant disregard of regulations.

CHRIS

...and flagrant disregard of his own and fellow cadet's safety.

MATT

(a cool, superior attitude)  
Now hold on! I know exactly what's safe and what isn't!

CHRIS

You took too many chances, Matt.

Momentarily, Matt loses his cool, smacks his thigh and jumps up.

MATT

That's a matter of opinion.  
No disrespect to Cadet Captain Chris Gentry, Commander, but --

GAMPU

(sternly)

Cadet Prentiss, I realize you are a man of action, but while this hearing is in session you will remain in your seat and control your emotions. Sit down.

(CONTINUED)

2 (CONTINUED)

2

MATT  
Sorry, Commander.

GAMPU  
(nods)  
All right -- now I take it  
you deny these charges?

MATT  
(sitting down)  
Yes, sir. I deny them  
categorically.

GAMPU  
Then we shall proceed. According  
to Captain Gentry's deposition...  
(reading from documentation)  
"On the mission to Nebula Four,  
Cadet Prentiss disregarded  
safety regulations on three  
successive occasions. One, --

He breaks off as a bright red light on his desk starts flash-  
ing, accompanied by an ELECTRONIC WARBLE. All are immediately  
alert, tense. Gampu jabs at a button.

GAMPU  
Commander Gampu.

LAURA'S VOICE  
(filter)  
This is Laura in Control. We have  
an emergency on Asteroid BX-3.  
The Eco balance reactor is damaged  
and leaking.

GAMPU  
(cutting in)  
On my way.  
(jabs button OFF)  
This hearing is suspended for the  
moment.  
(moving out)  
We shall continue at the first  
opportunity.

He goes out. As Chris follows, Matt grabs his arm.

(CONTINUED)

2 (CONTINUED) 2

2

MATT

(smiling contemptuously)  
Thanks, Chris. Thanks a whole  
lot. What do you say we settle  
this just between you and me.

CHRIS

If I thought you'd learn some-  
thing from it I'd be glad to.

He pulls away and goes out. Matt stares after him.

3 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM - CLOSE ON MONITOR 3

We are looking at a dome-shaped ENERGY DISTRIBUTOR about one  
meter in diameter. A couple of steel beams and other heavy  
metal objects have collapsed on the distributor which is  
spewing a fountain of LIGHT EMISSION. Where the light has  
hit the metal above it, the metal is scorched and melted.

GAMPU'S VOICE

What a mess. If that distributor  
builds up to critical mass,  
anything could happen.

3A ANOTHER ANGLE 3A

To include Chris, Gampu, Laura, Paul, Adrian and Peepo, as  
Gampu crosses to a star chart.

GAMPU

(indicating)

For the past six months our  
experimental station on Asteroid  
BX-3 has been providing energy  
for our new colony here on Alopek.  
Unless the leak in the energy  
distributor is sealed immediately,  
it may blow and poison space for  
three parsecs around including the  
colony on Alopek.

PAUL

We'd better fix it fast.

GAMPU

Laura, what's the emission level?

LAURA

Twenty two point three.

ADRIAN

What's the tolerance, Commander?

(CONTINUED)

3A (CONTINUED)

3A

GAMPU

Very little. It will blow at fifty, but if it reaches forty we won't be able to get near it.

(thoughtfully)

Tee Gar, prepare the Seeker for blast off as soon as this briefing's over. Paul, I want you to stay and plot a course in the event Alopek has to be evacuated. The team will be composed of Tee Gar, Laura, Adrian, and Peepo.

He starts to go.

CHRIS

What about me, Commander?

GAMPU

(turns back)

You will not be going this time. I'm sending a laser technician along. He will be in full command.

CHRIS

I'd like to go anyway.

GAMPU

Sorry, Chris.

CHRIS

But I don't understand.

GAMPU

The cadet who will be in command, Chris, is Matt Prentiss.

CHRIS

I'd still like to go, Commander.

MATT'S VOICE

And I don't mind having him.

WIDER ANGLE to INCLUDE MATT who has just entered.

MATT

(continued; eyeing Chris)

As long as you understand that once we're in space, you'll have to take orders from me!

4 OMIT

4

5 MATT, CHRIS - CLOSE

5

Confronting each other -- Chris deadpan, Matt smiling.

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

"THE CHEAT"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 EXT. SPACE ACADEMY 6  
7 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM 7

FAVORING CHRIS, MATT confronting each other as Gampu moves into scene.

GAMPU

(to Chris)

I admit that everything else being equal, I would have preferred you went along, nevertheless --

CHRIS

(interrupting)

Commander, I wish you'd reconsider.

MATT

(a teasing smile)

You sure you want to be around someone who "disregards his fellow cadets' safety"?

GAMPU

Prentiss, we can do without that. I want this to be a safe and successful mission. I expect you to abide by our regulations. Violate them and you'll answer to me. Understood?

MATT

(stiffly)

Yes sir.

GAMPU

It will be your job to seal the leak in the reactor. In two days we will send a specially protected ship and crew to return the distributor here for study.

8 ANOTHER ANGLE 8

To INCLUDE the others. Gampu looks at Chris, he nods.

(CONTINUED)

8 (CONTINUED)

8

GAMPU

All right, you can go. Good luck to all of you. And be careful.

He starts to go as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

9 INT. CORRIDOR - CHRIS, LAURA - MOVING SHOT

9

They are on their way to the Seeker.

LAURA

I wish you hadn't brought those charges against Matt.

CHRIS

Why not?

LAURA

I can't believe they were true.

CHRIS

They were true all right. He sticks his neck out too far.

LAURA

It's his neck.

CHRIS

That's just the point. It's not only his neck. It's yours and mine and everybody else's.

LAURA

(shrugs)  
I like him.

CHRIS

Oh? How much?

LAURA

Enough to go to the dance with him -- if he asks me.

CHRIS

(a beat)  
It's not up to me to tell you whom to go out with.

(CONTINUED)

9 (CONTINUED)

9

LAURA

No, it isn't.

They exit door leading to Launching Area.

10 INT. THE SEEKER

10

SHOOTING from the forward control area where Peepo is manipulating dials. Chris and Laura enter. Also present is Adrian.

CHRIS

Course all charted, Peepo?

PEEPO

Of course, all charted and checked. We're ready for lift off.

TEE GAR

All we need is our laser technician. I think we're lucky to have Matt in charge.

Chris reacts.

TEE GAR

Hey, what I mean is --

CHRIS

I know what you mean -- Matt's the best man for the job.

11 ANOTHER ANGLE - CHRIS, LAURA, ADRIAN

11

Chris and Adrian join Laura before the screen. On it is a far shot of the asteroid. Light emission is emanating from a point on its surface, splaying out and forming a thick circle around the asteroid.

LAURA

That distributor is up three points already.

12 ANOTHER ANGLE

12

To include Matt as he enters, moves to the screen.

MATT

(with a grin)  
You all worrying about the emission level?

(CONTINUED)

12 (CONTINUED)

12

CHRIS

Nobody's worrying. If it's increasing we have to know.

MATT

Of course.

(looks around at his team)

Now that we've settled that, prepare for lift off!

Tee Gar secures the hatch as the others move to their stations. Sensors are touched and switches are thrown as the whine of jets begins, mounts.

13 INT. LAUNCH PAD AND ENTRY PORT

13

As the port opens and the Seeker moves out, drops into free fall, then its rockets firing, it gathers speed and heads toward the OS asteroid.

14 EXT. DEEP SPACE - THE SEEKER (MINIATURE)

14

At cruising speed.

15 INT. THE SEEKER - FAVORING CHRIS, LAURA, TEE GAR, ADRIAN

15

At their stations, communicating with each other MOS.

16 EXT. DEEP SPACE - THE SEEKER - LONG SHOT (MINIATURE)

16

An indication of the distance it has gone.

17 INT. THE SEEKER

17

On Matt, Adrian and Tee Gar working before a target screen on the laser panel. PAN to Chris and Laura at the controls.

18 THE TWO

18

LAURA

Emission is up to thirty point one now.

CHRIS

(nodding grimly)

Yeah -- and rising.

LAURA

If you're really worrying about Matt being in command, don't. He's fully aware of the danger.

(CONTINUED)

18 (CONTINUED)

18

MATT'S VOICE

Come and join us, Laura. You too,  
Chris.

19 ANOTHER ANGLE

19

Chris and Laura join Matt, Adrian and Tee Gar before the  
screen.

MATT

Just to set your minds at rest,  
this assignment is going to be  
a piece of cake.

CHRIS

That may not be true by the time  
we get to the distributor.

MATT

(smiles confidently)  
I don't intend to get close.  
I'll seal that box at a distance  
of 400 meters. Watch this trial  
run.

19A CLOSE MONITOR (MINIATURE)

19A

A view of space appears on a screen that has cross-hairs.  
Space debris drifts into focus -- a rusted exhaust stack,  
a cable spool, a slab of metal rather like a hubcap which  
has a break midway.

19B CLOSE MATT

19B

MATT

(pointing)  
That slab of metal is perfect.  
It's a little over a thousand  
meters. I'm going to seal it  
at that distance. Give me a  
quarter million units, Tee Gar.  
Check firing position, Peepo.

20 EXT. SPACE - THE SEEKER - THE LASER CONNON (3/4 BACK)  
(STOCK)

20

21 INT. SEEKER

21

FAVORING Peepo as he turns toward the laser cannon screen.

PEEPO

Laser spinner now in position.

22 EXT. SPACE - THE SLAB OF METAL - CLOSE (MINIATURE) 22

We see the break in the slab as it drifts prominently along with other debris. In the BG is the Seeker.

23 INT. THE SEEKER, LAURA, CHRIS, TEE GAR, MATT, PEEPO 23

PEEPO

Range finder locked on. Laser ready to fire.

Matt looks at Laura and winks, grins at Chris' look of annoyance.

MATT

Now I'll show you how it's done.

Matt touches the appropriate sensor.

24 EXT. THE SEEKER (MINIATURE) 24

A beam streaks toward the OS slab of metal.

25 THE SLAB OF METAL (MINIATURE) 25

As the beam hits the break in the metal, then concentrates into a glowing dot.

26 INT. THE SEEKER 26

Chris, Laura, Tee Gar and Matt watch the screen on which we see the glowing dot on the slab of metal.

MATT

(to others)

Watch closely. I'll show you how I'm going to seal the break on BX-3.

Matt hits a button and we see the dot glow so brightly that the break can no longer be seen.

27 INSERT - THE SLAB OF METAL (MINIATURE) 27

The break is sealed, a metallic "scar" remaining.

28 INT. SEEKER 28

CHRIS

(trying to be fair)  
Well -- it worked.

(CONTINUED)

28 (CONTINUED)

28

TEE GAR  
Nice going, Matt.

LAURA  
Nice? It was perfect!

MATT  
(grins)  
Anybody else?

ADRIAN  
After that I know it's going to  
be a "piece of cake".

PEEPO  
We are approaching Asteroid  
BX-3. Gravitational pull  
registering.

Laura reacts, checks the readout.

LAURA  
(worriedly)  
Emission level is up to thirty  
nine point seven!

GAMPU'S VOICE  
Academy Control calling the  
Seeker. Come in Seeker.

28A ANOTHER ANGLE

28A

Matt crosses to a monitor, touches a sensor. Gampu appears  
on the screen. The others listen curiously.

MATT  
We read you, Commander.

GAMPU  
Our latest reading puts the  
reactor's emission level at  
thirty nine point seven. It's  
emission rate has accelerated to  
almost double.

MATT  
We're already aware of that,  
Commander.

(CONTINUED)

28A (CONTINUED)

28A

GAMPU

My point is that the distributor will be unapproachable by the time you touch down. Paul has plotted a course for the evacuation of the people on Alopek. As for the mission we must consider it aborted. It's best that you return to base.

MATT

Commander, we've come this far, could we at least take a closer look?

GAMPU

(a moment's hesitation)  
Very well. But take care.

Gampu's image fades off the screen. Matt rises.

MATT

Nothing I hate more than an unaccomplished mission.

CHRIS

Take a look at this, Matt.

Matt crosses to Chris at his monitor -- looks at the screen.

28B CLOSE MONITOR

28B

A SMALL Asteroid is drifting through space.

28C TWO SHOT - CHRIS, MATT

28C

Looking at the screen.

MATT

What about it?

CHRIS

(indicating)  
That small asteroid, maybe, just maybe, we could use the Seeker to nudge it over, near BX-3.

Matt looks at the others, grins.

MATT

You want to push an asteroid with the Seeker?

(CONTINUED)

28C

CHRIS

I know it's a long shot, but if it worked, we could push it down and smother the distributor.

MATT

Now I've heard everything! That would take the fanciest flying I've ever seen. Forget it, Chris.

He walks away. Chris is disappointed, but tries not to show it.

29 EXT. SEEKER

29

As it approaches the asteroid. Suddenly the ship is surrounded by a sea of particles.

30 INT. THE SEEKER

30

The light emission is as thick as hail and suddenly the ship lurches, everyone grabbing for a handhold.

CHRIS

The distributor is generating an ion storm. We're moving directly into the path of some highly charged particles! Peepo, Force Field on!

MATT

Hey -- wait!  
(with a smile to Chris)  
You've forgotten that I give the orders here. Force field on!

Peepo hits a series of buttons.

31 EXT. SPACE - THE SEEKER

31

A maelstrom of light particles is hitting the ship, causing it to wobble. Suddenly the ship is surrounded by a glow of rainbow colors, shielding it from the particles.

32 OMIT

32

33 INT. SEEKER

33

The ship settles down. Laura moves to a board, while Adrian, Chris, Matt, Tee Gar, and Loki stare out of the viewport.

(CONTINUED)

33 (CONTINUED)

33

Then suddenly the ship begins to lurch. We hear the particles peppering the hull.

ADRIAN

The force-field isn't holding.

LAURA

I see why. Emission level is now up to thirty-nine point eight!

CHRIS

I think we should change course. Tee Gar!

MATT

Hold it, Chris! You're not listening well. I said I give the orders and we're not changing course.

Laura looks troubled, facing the dilemma of loyalty to Chris and her admiration for Matt.

ADRIAN

Do you think that's wise, Matt?

MATT

(smiles)

I trust my experience, Adrian. Peepo -- double the force field strength.

Peepo makes no move.

CHRIS

You realize that you're violating safety regulations, don't you?

MATT

(smiles)

We're perfectly safe, Chris.

(then a gentle dig)

You know something? I used to think you were just overly careful, but now I think you're overly chicken. Peepo -- I ordered double force field strength -- now!

(CONTINUED)

- 33 (CONTINUED) 2 33  
Once again the turbulence is so bad everyone has to hold on. Peepo hits the buttons as the peppering sound reaches peak.
- 34 EXT. DEEP SPACE - THE SEEKER 34  
The particles thick as snow -- many of them piercing the force field until it brightens.
- 35 INT. SEEKER - PEEPO, CHRIS, LAURA, TEE GAR, MATT, ADRIAN 35  
The peppering sounds faint now, the turbulence minimum.

MATT  
Prepare to dive, Tee Gar.

CHRIS  
Dive -- into that?

MATT  
(imperturbably)  
We'll bull our way through  
and out of it. Tee Gar,  
I'm ordering full speed ahead.

Tee Gar eyes him uncertainly.

MATT  
(quietly)  
I said full speed ahead,  
Tee Gar.

Tee Gar is silent, but hits the appropriate sensors. Propulsion engines thunder with power. Everyone is holding on to handles and whatever else is available to prevent from being thrown backwards. The turbulence starts to climb.

- 36 EXT. SPACE - LONG SHOT - THE SEEKER - ASTEROID 36  
As we see the effect of Matt's order. The light particles are funneling outward and upward from a pin-point on the asteroid's surface. The Seeker is caught in the center of the funnel, diving for the closest point of exit.
- 37 INT. SEEKER - TILT POSITION 37  
The peppering sound is growing again, the lurching on the increase. Chris, Tee Gar and Laura are tense, apprehensive. Matt is a picture of stoic calm. The Seeker is being battered -- indicating the tremendous forces which are being exerted on it.

(CONTINUED)

37 (CONTINUED) 37

LAURA

Emission level near danger  
point -- it's up to thirty-  
nine point nine.

38 EXT. SPACE - THE SEEKER 38

Wobbling badly, some of the particles beginning to pierce  
the force field.

39 INT. SEEKER - TILT POSITION 39

ADRIAN

Matt, we're in trouble!

The noise and buffeting are heading for a peak. The strain  
on everyone is evident. MOVE IN ON Matt -- no longer calm,  
but worried.

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

"THE CHEAT"

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

40 EXT. SEEKER 40

As it wobbles in the force field.

41 INT. SEEKER - CHRIS, LAURA, TEE GAR, PEEPO, MATT AND ADRIAN 41

The interior is still tilted. A few moments have passed and the buffeting and noise are worse than ever.

MATT

(tightly)  
Emission level?

LAURA

Forty.

CHRIS

(as calmly as he can)  
That reading's off the scale.  
Our screens can't take it.

Matt thinks for a moment as the others wait, then:

MATT

(determinedly)  
We'll hold present course.

Chris and Tee Gar exchange grim looks. Laura and Adrian seem uncertain.

42 EXT. SPACE - THE SEEKER 42

Still diving into the maelstrom.

43 INT. SEEKER - TILT POSITION 43

MATT

Emission level!

LAURA

Forty point three.

MATT

Tee Gar, maintain full  
power!

Tee Gar clenches his jaw, but hits the buttons.

44 EXT. SPACE - THE SEEKER 44  
As it descends below the storm of particles.

45 INT. THE SEEKER 45  
The noise and buffeting cease abruptly. Tee Gar looks at the others.

TEE GAR  
That was a close one.

Everyone except Matt signs with relief. Matt plays it cool.

MATT  
Well -- I made it.

CHRIS  
Yeah, -- you made it. You risked all our lives, but you made it.

LAURA  
Chris, must you? Matt got us through.

TEE GAR  
Yeah -- but through to what?

46 EXT. THE ASTEROID - THE DISTRIBUTOR 46  
Spewing out light particles as before.

47 EXT. THE ASTEROID - THE SEEKER  
Approaching terminal descent phase.

48 INT. THE SEEKER 48  
Tee Gar stands before the same monitor with which Matt zeroed in on the slab of metal.

48A THE MONITOR - TEE GAR - MATT 48A  
The surface of the Asteroid appears. CAMERA MOVES IN ON the spewing distributor.

MATT  
Give me a sighting, Peepo.

PEEPO  
Fourteen vertical degrees, four hundred and sixty meters.

48

49 EXT. SEEKER - LASER CANNON (3/4 BACK) (STOCK) 49

Aiming toward OS distributor.

50 INT. THE SEEKER 50

PEEPO

Laser in position. Range  
finder locked on.

MATT

Tee Gar shorten all other power.  
We'll need three million energy  
units.

TEE GAR

(reacting)  
Three million?

MATT

That's what I said.

CHRIS

We don't have that kind of energy  
to spare now -- not after that  
dive we took. You're a technician  
-- look at the board.

Matt does so, realizes he's made a mistake.

MATT

(thoughtfully, then:)  
Give me what you can.

Tee Gar works at the board, and the ship's lights dim.

51 EXT. THE SEEKER - LASER CANNON (STOCK) 51

A beam streaks out but with far less intensity than before.

52 EXT. ASTEROID - THE DISTRIBUTOR (MINIATURE) 52

A concentrated beam darts out, but does not reach the asteroid.

53 INT. SEEKER 53

MATT

Power off. It's no good...  
We'll have to use hand lasers.

(CONTINUED)

53 (CONTINUED)

53

TEE GAR

Hand lasers? They'll never  
work from here!

MATT

They won't have to, we're  
going to land and seal the  
distributor.

Chris stares at him incredulously. The others react similarly.

CHRIS

We're going to land?

MATT

(nods)  
Scared?

CHRIS

You bet I'm scared.

MATT

(to Tee Gar)  
What about you?

TEE GAR

(a beat)  
I'm scared, too. What's  
wrong with that?

Matt eyes both of them pitifully.

MATT

Take it down Tee Gar.

54 OMIT

54

55 EXT. THE ASTEROID - THE SEEKER

55

As the Seeker descends and lands.

56 INT. SEEKER

56

It shakes and comes to a stop. Chris is taking a couple of hand lasers out of a cabinet. He hands one to Matt. Thick-barreled and heavy, they're cumbersome. Adrian shoulders a small geological kit. Laura moves to another cabinet, withdraws five life support bracelets.

(CONTINUED)

56 (CONTINUED)

56

LAURA

(handling them their bracelets)  
 With that high emission level out  
 there our life support bracelets  
 won't last long. We'll have to  
 listen for the warning signals --

The five don their bracelets.

57 EXT. SEEKER

57

As Matt, Adrian, Chris, Tee Gar and Laura wearing their life support bracelets pass through the natch, and start toward the distributor.

58 ANOTHER ANGLE - CHRIS, MATT, TEE GAR, ADRIAN, LAURA

58

Approaching the Distributor. The emission spewing from it is a faint roar. Matt puts an arm up for protection. All get down on hands and knees and start crawling.

MATT

Hot as a re-entering nose  
 cone!

Matt and Chris crawl forward. Tee Gar moves to a couple of heavy beams lying across the distributor. His muscles strain as he lifts one of them, shoves it out of the way. He does the same with another beam.

59 OMIT

59

60 OMIT

60

61 MATT

61

crawls toward a position near a towering I beam. A loud BUZZ is heard. ANGLE WIDENS TO INCLUDE Chris and Laura. Similar BUZZING is heard coming from their life support bracelets. Chris glances down.

LAURA

Two minutes left.

MATT

We'll make it.

61A ANOTHER ANGLE

61A

FAVORING Matt as he approaches the I beam.

61B CHRIS, TEE GAR, LAURA, ADRIAN 61B

Watching Matt's approach. Tee Gar looks up at the I beam, frowning.

61C THE I BEAM - TEE GAR'S POV 61C

It has begun to sway -- starts to topple.

61D ANOTHER ANGLE 61D

As the toppling I beam begins to fall toward the unaware Matt. Tee Gar leaps to his feet.

TEE GAR

Look out!

He plunges toward the toppling beam -- crashes into it and sends it toppling away from Matt, he himself falling with it to the ground. ZOOM IN on his right arm and we see that his life support bracelet is badly damaged and is buzzing faintly and intermittently -- then stops.

CHRIS' VOICE

Tee Gar -- your bracelet's broken!

62 TEE GAR, CHRIS, MATT, ADRIAN, LAURA 62

Tee Gar tries to rise, but collapses.

TEE GAR

(panting)

I'm passing out.

Laura rushes to him, quickly removes her own bracelet.

LAURA

(puts bracelet on Tee Gar's arm)

Take mine. We'll go back to the ship.

CHRIS

Make sure Adrian shares her bracelet with you!

Laura nods. She and Adrian go out of scene.

TEE GAR

How much time have we got.

CHRIS

Less than a minute.

(CONTINUED)

62 (CONTINUED)

62

MATT

That's enough time to finish.

Matt picks up his laser, trains it on the distributor.  
Chris does the same.

63 OMIT

63

64 NEW ANGLE

64

Tee Gar watches tensely as Chris and Matt aims at the distributor. Laser beams play around the spew hole. As he watches the emissions begin to decrease, then stop completely.

65 CLOSE - DISTRIBUTOR

65

We see the metallic "scar" over the sealed hole.

66 CHRIS, MATT, TEE GAR,

66

Looking at the sealed distributor.

MATT

(proudly)  
Sealed tight as a drum.

CHRIS

Maybe so...but the internal pressure must be tremendous. That seal's not going to last very long. I think we'd better--

MATT

(angrily)  
Look -- I've had all the criticism I'm going to take from you, Gentry! I'm relieving you of duty. You're under arrest. Tee Gar -- escort Captain Gentry back to the Seeker. He's to be confined in the engine room until we land!

(stares at Chris)  
This time I'll be making the charges!

TEE GAR

(unhappily)  
Look, Matt -- can't you --

(CONTINUED)

66 (CONTINUED)

66

MATT  
(interrupting)  
Would you like to join him?

HOLD ON Matt watching them go  
as he stands alongside the sealed distributor.

67 INT. THE SEEKER- LAURA, PEEPO

67

As Chris, and Tee Gar enter.

LAURA  
(happily)  
You did a really tremendous--  
(stops as she realizes  
something's wrong)  
What's the matter -- ?

No one answers. Tee Gar opens the door to the engine  
room. Chris enters. Tee Gar closes the door - turns  
to Laura.

TEE GAR  
Chris is under arrest, Laura.

Laura pales with shock.

68 EXT. THE ASTEROID

68

ON Matt as he starts back to the Seeker. Suddenly we  
hear the OMINOUS RUMBLING sound. Matt turns to look as:

69 DISTRIBUTOR

69

Exploding in an awesome eruption of flame and smoke  
and flying debris.

70 MATT

70

As he is hurled to the ground and lies there stunned.

71 INT. THE SEEKER LAURA, ADRIAN, PEEPO, TEE GAR

71

As the Seeker is rocked and shaken violently by the explo-  
sion -- continuing like an endless tremor. The  
rumbling sounds also continue.

- 72 INT. THE ENGINE ROOM. 72
- On Chris hanging on to a support as the room and its equipment shake violently. He staggers to the door, tries to open it, but can't. It's jammed.
- 73 INT. THE SEEKER 73
- Tee Gar looks out -- reacts.
- 73A MATT - TEE GAR'S POV 73A
- Lying motionless a few yards from the Seeker.
- 74 INT. THE SEEKER 74
- As Tee Gar runs out.
- 75 EXT. THE PLANET - THE DISTRIBUTOR 75
- Still smoking and flaming -- the roar continuing.
- 76 ANOTHER ANGLE 76
- ON Tee Gar as he runs in a crouch toward the stunned Matt kneels to him to make sure he's alive, then hoists him to his shoulder and starts back to the Seeker.
- 77 INT. THE SEEKER - LAURA, ADRIAN 77
- Watching anxiously.
- 78 ANGLE ON HATCH 78
- As Tee Gar enters with Matt, sets him down on a bench.
- TEE GAR
- Shock more than anything else.  
He'll be okay. We'd better get  
out of this holocaust as fast  
as we can.
- Adrian and Laura run to the pilots seats up front. They seat themselves, turn on the engines.
- 79 EXT. SEEKER (MINIATURE) 79
- As it takes off.

- 80 INT. SEEKER - FULL SHOT 80
- CHRIS' VOICE  
(muffled)  
Tee Gar -- get me out!
- TEE GAR  
I'm on my way!
- He crosses to the door, tries to open it, but it won't budge.
- 81 INT. ENGINE ROOM - CHRIS 81
- Tugging on the door knob.
- CHRIS  
It's jammed!
- TEE GAR'S VOICE  
All right. Stand back, Chris!
- Chris steps back from the door.
- 82 MEDIUM SHOT - TEE GAR 82
- Tensing himself for a more powerful attempt. He rushes forward and the door falls flat. Chris steps out over the door.
- CHRIS  
Thanks.
- He sees the recumbent Matt, looks questioningly at Tee Gar.
- TEE GAR  
He was out there when it blew.  
Nothing serious.
- Chris moves up to Laura, they join hands.
- GAMPU'S VOICE  
This is Academy Control. Come in,  
Seeker.
- Chris moves to the monitor -- presses the sensor.
- 83 CHRIS - THE MONITOR - CLOSE 83
- As Gampu appears on the screen.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

This is the Seeker. Go ahead,  
Commander.

GAMPU

(relieved)

Chris! Thank heaven you're back.  
We saw the explosion. A dreadful  
experience. We've ordered the  
evacuation of Alopek. All we can  
do now is hope they get out before  
the entire area is polluted. Tell  
me, was anyone on the team hurt?

CHRIS

Only Matt. He was outside when  
the distributor blew. It isn't  
serious. He's recovering well.

GAMPU

Good. I'll be awaiting your  
return.

CHRIS

Commander -- there's something  
I'd like to try.

84 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL - GAMPU, PAUL 84

At the monitor, Chris' image on the screen.

GAMPU

What is it?

CHRIS

There's a small asteroid not too  
far from BX-3 which I think could  
be used to smother the distributor.

GAMPU

How, Chris?

CHRIS

If I have your permission to use  
the Seeker, I could use it to nudge  
the small asteroid over to BX-3  
and then push it down to smother  
the distributor.

Gampu exchanges a look with Paul.

PAUL

It's a sensational idea, Commander!

(CONTINUED)

84 (CONTINUED)

84

GAMPU

(thinks, then)

It's an ingenious suggestion, Chris. However I'm concerned with the safety of the team as well as your ability to attempt a maneuver in which you've had no practical experience.

CHRIS

Commander, I've been planning it in my mind ever since we landed on BX3. I wouldn't attempt anything that could endanger the team...and as for the maneuver itself, all I can do is try.

GAMPU

(a. beat, then )

All right, Chris, go ahead -- and good luck.

CHRIS

Yes sir -- and thank you, sir.

Chris' image goes off the screen.

GAMPU

Paul -- see if you can punch up that small asteroid Chris mentioned.

Paul punches up the small asteroid.

84A THE MONITOR - CLOSE

84A

As the small asteroid (as in Sc. 28B) appears on the screen.

84B PAUL, GAMPU

84B

PAUL

Do you think he can do it, Commander?

GAMPU

Chris can do it if anybody can.

(a thought)

If it works he'll be doing more than smothering the distributor. He might be creating a new star!

PAUL

Yes! A natural sun!

85 EXT. THE SEEKER - ASTEROID BX-3 AND SMALL ASTEROID

85

As the Seeker drifts toward the small asteroid.

86 INT THE SEEKER - CHRIS, TEE GAR, ADRIAN, LAURA, PEEPO, MATT 86

Matt watches from his bench as Chris orders his course toward the small planet. The others are all intensely involved.

(CONTINUED)

86 (CONTINUED)

86

CHRIS  
Increasing angle of inclination  
eight degrees.

PEEPO  
Increasing eight degrees.

CHRIS  
Maintain normal speed.

ADRIAN  
Normal speed.

87 EXT. THE SEEKER - ASTEROID BX 3 - SMALL ASTEROID (MINIATURE) 87

As the Seeker climbs at an angle of eight degrees toward  
the small asteroid.

88 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL ROOM - GAMPU, PAUL 88

Watching the off stage monitor.

GAMPU  
Suggest you reduce speed, Chris.

89 INT. THE SEEKER - THE TEAM 89

CHRIS  
Aft Retro jets on. One burst.

90 EXT. THE SEEKER - ASTEROID BX 3 - SMALL ASTEROID 90  
(MINIATURE)

As we see the aft retro jet emit a single burst...and  
the Seeker slows somewhat -- moving steadily toward the  
small asteroid's perimeter.

91 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL - GAMPU, PAUL 91

92 CLOSE MONITOR 92

We see the Seeker approaching the small asteroid's  
perimeter.

GAMPU'S VOICE  
Gently now, Chris, gently.

The Seeker just lightly touches the small asteroid's  
perimeter and then backs off as the small asteroid begins  
to float gradually toward Asteroid BX 3.

GAMPU'S VOICE  
Excellent -- excellent.

## 93 INT. THE SEEKER - THE TEAM

93

Watching through the viewport... as Matt feels well enough to rise toward them, stops at Tee Gar's station.

MATT

(to Tee Gar)

What's going on?

TEE GAR

Chris has just pushed the small asteroid toward BX 3.

MATT

(quietly)

What do you know?

He moves up toward Chris. Chris turns to him.

MATT

Keep going, you're doing fine.

CHRIS

(studying positions of  
the asteroids)

Prepare for descent. Descend.

Laura and Adrian touch the appropriate sensors.

## 94 EXT. THE SEEKER - ASTEROID BX 3 - SMALL ASTEROID (MINIATURE) 94

The small asteroid is now directly above BX 3 as the Seeker noses gently down to the apex of the small asteroid and nudges it down toward ASTEROID BX-3. Slowly, surely, the small asteroid floats down toward Asteroid BX-3.

GAMPU'S VOICE

Make your escape now, Chris. Hurry!

A BEAT, and the Seeker makes a 90 degree turn and speeds OUT OF THE SCENE -- as we HOLD on the small asteroid floating down, down and then impacting with Bx-3. The small planet now sits upon BX-3 like one pearl sitting upon a slightly larger one. A beat while nothing happens and then suddenly there is a tremendous IMPLOSION -- followed by a vast flowering of spectacular iridescence sweeping across the immense void like the northern lights. As the lights begin to diminish, a small glittering sun rises out of the ashes of the two asteroids -- its warm rays spreading in all directions.

(CONTINUED)

94 (CONTINUED)

94

## GAMPU'S VOICE

(during the above)

As I'd hoped what we are witnessing is the transfer of energy from BX-3 to the small asteroid -- enough to make it burst apart...and finally become a natural sun to provide warmth and light and air to the colonized planets within its orbit. A magnificent maneuver, Chris. We're all very proud of you!

95 EXT THE SEEKER

95

Academy bound.

96 INT. THE SEEKER - THE TEAM

96

Tremendously moved by what they have witnessed.

LAURA

It was more beautiful than any aurora borealis I've ever seen.

ADRIAN

It was more beautiful than anything I've ever seen.

Matt moves up to Chris.

MATT

And what you did was more beautiful than any fancy flying I've ever seen. Congratulations.

CHRIS

Thanks.

MATT

Oh and by the way, I've revoked that arrest order.

CHRIS

(grins)

Thanks.

Without a hint to the others, Matt crosses to a monitor touches the appropriate sensors.

MATT

Seeker calling control. Come in, Control.

The team exchange puzzled looks.

97 INT. ACADEMY CONTROL - GAMPU, PAUL

97

On his screen we see Matt -- unusually serious.

GAMPU  
Matt, how are you?

MATT  
Fine, thank you, sir.

GAMPU  
Then all is well?

98 INT. THE SEEKER - MATT, THE TEAM

98

Gampu is on the screen.

MATT  
Yes, -- now it is...  
(hesitates, then)  
There is one thing you should  
know, Commander.

GAMPU  
And what is that?

ANGLE WIDENS to include the rest of the team listening  
curiously.

MATT  
The charges that Chris brought  
against me, -- he was right, sir.

GAMPU  
(a faint smile of satisfaction)  
I see. Well, any cadet who admits his  
faults has made a positive step forward.  
Anything else, Cadet Prentiss?

MATT  
No sir. I'll give you a full report  
when we land.

GAMPU  
Then I'll await your touchdown.

Gampu's image fades off the screen. A beat, then  
Matt turns to face the rest of the team.

MATT  
(to Chris)  
Take over, Chris.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS  
According to regulations you're  
in command until we dock.

MATT  
(looking at all of them)  
You still trust me after all the  
chances I took?

CHRIS  
I think you just stopped taking  
them. The Seeker's in good hands.

Chris extends a hand. Matt takes it. They shake.

CHRIS, MATT - CLOSE

MATT  
(this is new to him)  
Chris, uh, um, would it be all  
right with you if I asked Laura  
to the dance?

Chris pretends to be thinking this over very seriously then:

CHRIS  
Would it be all right with you if I  
asked Adrian to the dance?

MATT  
(puzzled)  
I'm not Adrian's keeper!

CHRIS  
(grins)  
And I'm not Laura's.

CAMERA ANGLE WIDENS to INCLUDE Laura and Adrian looking  
toward Chris and Matt, smiling as if intuitively aware  
of what was being said.

99 EXT. SPACE - THE SEEKER, THE ACADEMY

99

As the Seeker points toward the Academy.

FADE OUT.

THE END