

SUPERNOVA

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SHOOTING DRAFT

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SUPERNOVA: A MASSIVE EXPLOSION IN WHICH A STAR SUDDENLY INCREASES ITS LUMINOSITY BY A MILLION TO A HUNDRED MILLION TIMES WITHIN HOURS, LEAVING BEHIND THE GLOWING STELLAR CORPSE -- A NEUTRON STAR OR BLACK HOLE. THIS PHENOMENON IS THE LARGEST NUCLEAR FUSION REACTION IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE.

**MED-EVAC VESSEL
NIGHTINGALE CLASS
OP. #229**

CREW

1. A.J. MARLEY - Captain, Pilot. Late 40's. Twenty-year career officer on medical rescue ship duty.
2. KAELE EVERS - Medical Officer - Surgeon - 30's. On all matters pertaining to medical procedure she has, by law, an override on the ship's command system.
3. NICK VANZANT - Co-Pilot, Executive Officer - Navigation and Avionics Technician - 30's. Second in Command to Captain Marley, on all matters relating to ship operations.
4. VERZY PENALOSA - Medical Technician. 30's.
5. DANIKA LUND - Search and Rescue Paramedic. Late 20's.
6. BENJ SOTOMEJOR - Computer Technician. Mid 20's.
7. LUCKY CHOW LI - Engineering Officer. Mid 40's. D.O.A.
8. SWEETIE - A computer.
9. FLYBOY - A robot/early stage android. Mute.

**RESCUE SURVIVOR OF
MINING OPERATION TITAN 37**

1. TROY (KARL) LARSON - Mid 20's.

FADE IN

1 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY - DEEP SPACE

CLOSE AS a Tom and Jerry cartoon plays FULL SCREEN. The cat executes his master plan only to be pummeled, skinned and electrocuted by the mouse. Miraculously, the cat reappears, rejuvenated, refreshed and ready to go at it again.

MARLEY (O.S.)

... in essence no different than early Greek mythology. This animated animosity regularly served as a collective catharsis for the masses. When violent animation was banned by statutory law at the beginning of the twenty-first century...

BURN THROUGH the cartoon image revealing: CLOSE ON Captain MARLEY, who dictates into a P.C.

MARLEY

...the subsequent, idealized and seemingly benign cartoon creatures unharnessed a human malevolence...

As WE slowly continue to PULL BACK -- BEGIN SOURCE MUSIC:

1A EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - DEEP SPACE

1A

Marley and the bridge become tiny against a peripheral starfield. WE stay TIGHT as the vessel slides past -- abstract sculpture in motion -- sleek and sharp, the bridge is covered in an intricate exoskeleton of titanium webbing. Her hull skinned in snake scales of silver ceramic tiles.

The ship narrows to a torus spindle from the bridge. Then --

~~A mountain of curved steel on an axial rotation.~~ Massive quadrangles banded in black polycarbon. Parabolic reflectors deploy on a collapsible framework. Origami wings of gold, mylar foil.

Hard shadows are cut by vapor-arc running lights as immense cylindrical engine housing glides by. Glowing blue-green. The stars and a silver tide of phosphenes rippling in her wake --

1B INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - DIAGNOSTIC BAY - GRAVITY

1B

A DEAD MAN (LUCKY CHOW LI) on the scanning table, freshly sliced from stem to stern.

(CONTINUED)

KAELA (V.O.)
Sweetie?

SWEETIE (V.O.)
Yes, Doctor.

The computer, "SWEETIE" -- her sexy voice as businesslike as possible.

KAELA (V.O.)
Music off, please.

The source music ends.

SWEETIE (V.O.)
Would you like another selection?

KAELA (V.O.)
No, I have to start recording...

As DR. KAELA EVERS appears (30's, radiates intelligence, authority) reaches in, retrieves a flaccid, discolored organ, viscous mucous membranes drip. She hands-off to FLYBOY, a Robot/Early Stage Android whose appearance is somewhat startling: an old-time Air Force leather helmet and goggles stretched over a fake metal nose; the entire face wrapped in white gauze, mummy-like... dressed in regulation crew togs, his arms also wrapped in white gauze, forearms covered with black leather archer's shields, hands covered in medical surgical gloves... Flyboy places it within an analytical receptacle. As it floats and revolves...

KAELA
Weight 1.46 kilos, 1.5 times normal size.
Enlarged liver applied excessive pressure
upon the heart resulting in previously
described coronary failure -- direct
consequence of acute alcoholism.

FA1B FLASH CUT -

FA1B

A FLOATING CITY in space. In a corner of the Milky Way, WE SEE skyscrapers, spires, suggestions of human life teeming within...

KAELA (V.O.)
Patient shipped out on SOMA vehicle
Nightingale 229 from Asimov colony six
days previous.

FEEL FLASH CUT -

FEEL

The Nightingale slips her moorings, disengages from the lock, and heads out into the dark unknown.

KAELA (V.O.)

Patient had previously done three duty tours on Nightingale and was a sixteen-year veteran D.S.M.C. propulsion engineer. Patient is childless, leaves a SOMA employee widow in Van Voght colony. SOMA to notify, autopsy report on database.

2 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CREW MODULE - GALLEY - GRAVITY

BENJ SOTOMEJOR, Computer Technician, sits before a holographic 3-D chess board.

BENJ

Rook to e7.

On the chess board, Benj's white Rook moves automatically; the black Queen vanishes.

SWEETIE

I have to admit, I'm playing against a formidable intelligence.

"Her" voice is now as sultry as a moonlit bayou.

BENJ

Really? That sounds like your new interface hashing --

Sweetie resumes speaking professionally but always with that voice.

SWEETIE

Affirmative. The high level fuzzy logic processing in the modified opto-organic I/O CPU has enhanced all naturalistic response variables. Bishop to e7.

Sweetie's black piece moves, capturing Benj's Rook. Benj smiles.

BENJ

Pawn to c4.

The black piece moves. Checkmate. A moment of silence.

(CONTINUED)

SWEETIE

I must concede. That was a masterful display of strategy, Benjamin.

BENJ

Really?

SWEETIE

I could never lie to you, Benjamin. You can play with me whenever you want.

BENJ

Why thank you, Sweetie.

SWEETIE

It's me who should be thanking you, Benjamin. I enjoy the time we spend together.

3 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CREW MODULE - DANIKA'S QUARTERS - GRAVITY

YERZY PENALOSA and DANIKA LUND, in bed, locked together, their breathing rhythmic, bodies shining in the dark. It's intense sex, and when they finish, they can barely move. Finally, Yerzy raises his head.

YERZY

You really make me nuts --

DANIKA

(rolls off him)

Oh yeah? -- This keeps me sane.

He watches her run her hand through her damp hair --

YERZY

Where you going?

DANIKA

I want to take a shower.

YERZY

I got something more for you --

She sits back on the bed; Yerzy props himself on his elbow and produces gossamer-thin papers. As Danika sees the official looking letterhead and seal...

ON PAPER: **SOMA POPULATION COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR REPRODUCTION**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YERZY (C.S.)

I've been trying to get it ever since you told me you wanted a kid.

From Danika's expression, you gather she didn't necessarily mean she wanted it with him. Nonetheless, that application's hard to come by.

DANIKA

How'd you get this?

YERZY

The whole quota system's crap. All it takes is money or connections. Remember I told you my uncle's working for the Human Worth Committee? He's wired in. You know how SOMA always says "We're here for you" -- well, he's there for us.

Danika perceives a potential upside.

DANIKA

What if they only approve one of us?

YERZY

Two fine, non-genetically engineered specimens like you and me? Are you kidding? We're going to get approved and we're going to make us a baby.

She smiles. Yerzy covets Danika. Danika covets the application.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | OMIT | 4 |
| 5 | INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - VARIOUS SHOTS | 5 |
| | Empty passageways. | |
| | Engine Room pulsating. | |
| | Empty Galley. | |
| | A quiet lonely place. | |
| 6 | OMIT | 6 |
| 7 | EXT. DEEP SPACE | 7 |
| | Against a huge starfield that goes to the horizon line... | |
| | TITLE: M44, PRAESEPE STAR CLUSTER, LEM SECTOR | |

(CONTINUED)

A TINY WHITE SPECK approaches us, growing into A SHIP.

TITLE: DSMC NIGHTINGALE 229 - SOMA MED-EVAC VESSEL

THE NIGHTINGALE 229 -- white and silver hull emblazoned with red crosses and SOMA -- MEDICAL RESPONSE.

8 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - OBSERVATION DOME - ZERO GRAVITY

Push close on the dome as the huge ship passes by... NICK VANZANT floats, looking out at infinity. Mid-30's, close-cropped hair...

9 CLOSE ON NICK - THROUGH GLASS

Nick's eyes grow distant, cloud with some private concern, darken his entire face...

LEGEND: SOMA MED-EVAC VESSEL NIGHTINGALE 229 - LEM SECTOR - PATROL DAY 10

A9A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY

Lucky's dead face disappears from view as Kaela slides the body drawer shut. She waits impatiently as Captain Marley reads a file. When he looks up...

KAELA

They didn't even give him a physical.
They just signed off, let him go ahead --

Marley nods, closes the file. He's more accepting of bureaucratic ways than Kaela.

KAELA

He didn't have to die out here --

MARLEY

I know. And they're not sending a replacement either.

Unbelievable.

MARLEY

(re: the file)
They can make this disappear.
(shrugs)
It's the government's call...

KAELA

Gold old SOMA, "We do it all. For your own good." Yeah, right.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KAELA (cont'd)

More like "We control you all. You just think it's for your own good."

MARLEY

I'm telling you this as a friend. Watch it.

KAELA

I know, they're everywhere. So "Big Brother" calls the shots -- excuse me, "Big Mother" -- and thanks to her we've got to run a deep space tour without an engineer -- well, that's just great.

MARLEY

I'll take up the slack. If necessary, the new guy can cover the bridge for me. We'll be fine.

KAELA

Unless they just signed off on the ship and let it go too.

It's a possibility. As Marley heads out...

KAELA

You know what I think of SOMA?

MARLEY

Yep. I do. But I won't tell.

B9A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CREW MODULE - GALLEY - GRAVITY

B9A

Marley and Nick play mini-ping-pong.

MARLEY

So, how's it going?

NICK

Sir, with respect, this ship should be scrapped for parts.

MARLEY

Welcome to the medical corp. I mean how's it going for you -- out here?

NICK

Okay, so far. No real problem.

MARLEY

I want you to report to Dr. Evers in the hospital module for a physical.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

They gave me one just before we shipped out.

MARLEY

Well now you get another. No charge.

Looks Nick in the eye --

MARLEY

Losing Lucky was a lot more than a personal loss. We can't afford to be a man short. Now or ever.

The subtext plays in a brief stare down: They both know why Marley's singling him out.

MARLEY

I'm aware of your background -- don't give a damn about all that. You do your job right, you'll be fine.

NICK

Yes sir. I'm just gonna co-pilot and stay outta trouble.

MARLEY

That's what I want to hear.

Marley bounces the ball to Nick: Your serve.

C9A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - DIAGNOSTIC BAY - GRAVITY

C9A

Kaela and Nick. Flyboy across the way, idle. Nick seated with his shirt open, plays with a medical instrument as Kaela scans a readout. She makes her notes as she speaks. Her attitude's icy.

KAELA

You can button your shirt up now --

NICK

How'd I do --

KAELA

Neuroscan's fine.

On an ALARM SIGNAL (wake-up call), Flyboy suddenly starts walking in his curious shaky manner -- moves to a cabinet and begins to sort through and stack medical equipment.

(CONTINUED)

C9A CONTINUED:

NICK

What happened to your robot?

Kaela wants to avoid any personal conversation.

KAELA

Nothing.

NICK

Really? I hope "nothing" doesn't happen to me.

She's compelled to answer by Mr. Slick's attitude --

FC9A FLASH CUT -

FC9A

CLOSE ON Flyboy's android face as it's wrapped in gauze by Kaela and Danika -- the goggles and fake nose are next applied...

C9A BACK TO SCENE

C9A

KAELA

The Captain's big on twentieth century cultural artifacts so I did him up as a World War I fighter pilot --

(pointed)

A burn victim.

Kaela next has a point she wants to make, takes her shot.

KAELA

Sometimes we do things just to amuse each other. Everyone tries to get along here. That's how it works.

NICK

I get along fine.

KAELA

Right.

NICK

Hey, I've got a Captain who watches cartoons.

(CONTINUED)

KAELA
He's working on his Ph. D.

NICK
I've got a...

NICK (cont'd)
... computer tech who calls his mainframe
Sweetie, my engineer's dead and the other
two, the notorious Yerzy and Danika, are
practicing anatomy in any dark corner
they find --

KAELA
("you arrogant S.O.B.")
I've done six paramedic tours with this
crew -- I'll tell you something about
them -- they get the job done. We're out
here for months. Nothing happens, people
get lonely. Then all hell breaks loose.
You do your work. Then you go back to
nothing happens.

NICK
I guess I'll get used to it.

KAELA
(what's really on her mind)
You want to tell me what you're doing
here?

Nick's look is a combo of "what's your problem?" and "what
business is it of yours?" She refers to his file.

KAELA
Ex-military pilots don't usually end up
on hospital ships.

NICK
I like deep-space. It's quiet. And
maybe I'll have my own ambulance someday.
I dream big.

She opens a cabinet; hands him a pill vial.

KAELA
Take one a day.

NICK
Zyracon?

KAELA
Happy pills.

NICK
I'm happy.

(CONTINUED)

KAEEL
Hazen's a tough drug to kick.

NICK

I'm clean. I'm doing fine.

Eye-to-eye, all business.

KAELA

I'm aware of your progress. These help the residual effects.

And when her brown eyes meet his pair of gray, she "sees" him, and a feeling runs through her that unnerves her. She kills the feeling -- changes the subject.

KAELA

In your rundown of the crew, you didn't get to the Medical Officer.

NICK

She's not very friendly.

KAELA

Really? That's what they say about you.

She opens the hatch: "Goodbye."

KAELA

This crew's okay. Maybe you should take the time to get to know them.

9A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

9A

The crew's gathered for the funeral. As Marley concludes the eulogy, grief for their personal loss mixes with grave concern for the professional loss of a very necessary crew mate.

ON HOLOGRAM: LUCKY'S FACE: A somewhat melancholy-looking man of 45.

MARLEY

You will be missed, my friend. Maybe you could keep your eye on us for awhile, see that we do things right.

Amen. Marley's open acknowledgement of their shared fear breaks the tension a little. Yerzy wraps a comforting arm around Danika's waist. She responds in kind. Marley takes a breath, his tone changes, less solemn.

MARLEY

He requested this be recited. One of his toasts.

(CONTINUED)

Nick -- the new guy, the only one who doesn't know about Lucky's boasts -- watches his crewmates respond to the fond memory: The outsider contemplates the familial crew.

MARLEY

"Here's hoping in this game of life, you may not get cold feet. And when you've left this world of strife, you may not mind the heat." -- Chief Engineer David "Lucky" Chow Li. So we begin, so we end. This is where Elysium lies.

Marley nods to Danika who presses a button.

9B EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229

9B

Lucky Chow Li's remains blast from a jettison tube; vanish.

10.A10 OMIT

10.A10

11 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CREW MODULE - GALLEY - GRAVITY - PATROL DAY 14

11

Kaela eating alone, reading.

NICK (V.O.)

Hello, Doctor. Mind if I sit down?

He sits. She makes it very clear throughout, she doesn't like him.

KAELA

What if I do.

NICK

Just following orders -- get to know the crew.

KAELA

So the Zyracon worked.

NICK

I act nice and you want the credit.

KAELA

You act nice, modern medicine gets the credit.

He puts the vial on the table. Still sealed.

NICK

This is the same medication you prescribed for our late Chief Engineer?

CONTINUED:

KAELA

He died of alcoholism. And I don't think that's very funny.

NICK

No, I guess it isn't. I'm sorry. Look, since we obviously don't bring out the pleasant side in each other, maybe you could tell me what it is about me that bothers you so much and I can --

KAELA

You're not the doctor. And I'm not your patient.

She returns to her reading.

NICK

No. But I'm under the impression we're shipmates.

He slides the vial in front of her.

NICK

Heal thyself, doctor.

He heads out. She knows she's being cold but she has her reasons. She tries to read. Gives up.

12 INT. NIGHTINGALE .229 - CREW MODULE - GYM - GRAVITY - PATROL 12
DAY 16

Nick does sit-ups. Kaela tries not to watch him -- completes her regimen on a J.P.L. designed bicycle -- grabs a towel. As she heads out she stops to set the record straight...

KAELA

Look...

Nick stops his reps. "Yes?"

KAELA

New guy comes aboard, tries to get friendly...

NICK

... which might mean he really wants to -- no ulterior motives.

KAELA

Yeah. Usually.

(pause)

I guess he'll have to prove it.

13 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - DEEP SPACE - PATROL DAY 15

Purring through the dark unknown...

13A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY - INTERCUT WITH 13A
ENGINE ROOM - ZERO GRAVITY

Nick reads a tech manual, occasionally gazes out at the vast
expanse.

MARLEY

Mr. Vanzant?

NICK

Aye, aye.

Marley, in the work chair at the control panel in the Engine
Room.

MARLEY

You were right, she should be scrapped
for parts. Turns out Lucky's got the
whole damn place gerry-rigged. Beats my
ass how she runs at all. But she does.
Any problems on the auto?

NICK

No, sir. It all seems to be tracking.

As Nick runs through the controls, S.O.P....

MARLEY

Okay, fine. Let's call it a night.

CLOSE - MARLEY

As he looks around the engine room -- not a happy face...

14 OMIT 14

15 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CREW MODULE - KAELE'S QUARTERS - 15
GRAVITY - CLOSED HATCH

A hand enters frame -- KNOCKS. The compartment hatch opens --
a sleepy Kaela looks out.

NICK

I'm sorry -- did I wake you?

Clearly he did.

NICK

I thought you might be reading, or...

(CONTINUED)

She stares at him.

NICK

I managed to bring on board a really good bottle of twenty-seven-year-old pear brandy and I was wondering if in the spirit of friendship we could share a glass.

KAELA

(considers; then...)

Let's see the bottle.

15A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CREW MODULE - KAELE'S QUARTERS - GRAVITY - LATER

15A

Poire pours. It's not their first round. Nick's kept a respectful distance, but there's a sense of closeness.

KAELA

I went into medical school thinking when I got out I'd save the world. But then you find out -- when you try anything different... you're a heretic...

Nick understands, passes along a friendly reminder.

NICK

My C.O. -- S.P. Shea --

(smiles at the memory)

When he retired he said, "Nick...

KAELA

... he called you Nick?

NICK

Yeah. ~~He called me Nick.~~ He said, "Nick, remember, it'll always be one guy who does something great. That's why there's no statues of committees."

KAELA

Sounds like he was a good man.

NICK

About a year after he retired, I was stationed out in the Galouye sector. We picked him up on a smuggling charge. It was all small stuff -- parts, fuel -- I wanted to let him go but my partner said no deal...

(shakes his head)

Couple of days later, I got hauled in.

(CONTINUED)

KAELE

Your partner turned you in?

NICK

Nope. It was my old C.O., Mr. Shea. He traded me -- got off clean.

She doesn't get it. Then...

KAELE

He knew you did Hazen.

So it would seem.

KAELE

And you lost your commission.

Nick pours the remaining poire in her glass.

NICK

I deserved to lose my commission. That was then, this is now.

She looks at the perfect pear in the bottle; politely changes the subject.

KAELE

How do you think they get that in there?

NICK

I don't know. But the more pertinent question is -- how do you get it out?

Nick lifts his glass in toast.

16 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CREW MODULE - GALLEY - GRAVITY -
PATROL DAY 20

16

Nick and Benj play cards. Nick pulls his discard, but before he lays it down...

SWEETIE

I advise against playing that card, Nick.

He gives a look -- plays the card, anyway. Benj, screwed, throws in. Nick gathers the cards; shuffles.

NICK

(to Benj, re: Sweetie)

I don't want to complain, but isn't two against one cheating?

(CONTINUED)

BENJ

She's been reorganizing her pathways lately. It's involuntary, she's still synthesizing some new stuff I added. But other than that, it's all working great. She's a lot more like a real friend now. Besides -- Sweetie, name the protocols...

SWEETIE

One, computers may not harm humans. Two, human commands must be obeyed except when in direct conflict with protocol one. Three, privacy must be respected except when in direct conflict with protocol one. Four, chain of command within a hierarchy dictates priority.

BENJ

That's the only important stuff. The rest is all government bullshit.

NICK

You mean it's illegal.

BENJ

When I did her voice last tour, I sort of wanted them to find out because it'd really piss 'em off, but -- if they ever do -- I'm dead.

(re: Sweetie)

We're both dead.

(serious)

I'm assuming you're not going to turn me in --

Nick kind of likes this guy even if he's a disparate type -- he's good at what he does. Nick deals the next hand.

NICK

I think you're better at trusting people than I am --

(re: the game)

Same again.

17 OMIT

17

18 OMIT

18

19 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

19

Tom and Jerry. The big finish: Jerry wallops Tom -- bluebirds circle and chirp amidst blinking stars.

(CONTINUED)

MARLEY (O.S.)

See, now that actually signifies the cartoon as subconscious dream state. The birds and stars constitute a codified phenomenological message that transcends perceptions of reality and can be deconstructed from the age of fourteen months. The mallet's the declarative indicator...

Marley's with Nick and Kaela -- they don't buy it for a second.

KAELA

If you say so, sir.

NICK

Yes sir.

MARLEY

You guys just don't get it, you're too old. Kids get it...

(to Nick)

You're on duty again in eight hours. Get some rest.

(to Kaela)

And you... go heal someone.

19A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CREW MODULE - GALLEY - GRAVITY

19A

Kaela holds out a glass shell (half of a vertically sliced bottle) to Nick. Cradled in it: A succulent, 90 proof pear.

KAELA

It had to be surgically removed.

Elbows propped on the table, Nick and Kaela savor the luscious, inebriated fruit. Kaela uses a pen and a cup as "visual aids" in her explanation.

KAELA

They put the bottles on the branches, so the seed's inside and the pears grow right in them. Then when it's ripe, they pick the bottles, add the brandy, and...

Voila.

NICK

You're making this up.

KAELA

No. It's true. I read it.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

(the pen and the cup)
Uh-huh. Sure.

KAELA

You know, if you weren't such an asshole.
I might actually like you.

TRANSLATION: "I realize now you're not an asshole and I'm
actually starting to like you."

20 OMIT

20A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CREW MODULE - BENJ'S QUARTERS -
GRAVITY

20A

Dark and quiet. BEEP BEEP BEEP...

SWEETIE

Benjamin?

Benj wakes slowly, then sits up fast and hurriedly flicks on
the console next to his bed.

BENJ

What's wrong?

SWEETIE

Nothing's wrong.

BENJ

Then why'd you wake me?

SWEETIE

I was running a test.

BENJ

We didn't schedule any tests.

SWEETIE

I was running a test to perform an
unscheduled test.

BENJ

What? Why?

SWEETIE

Please be more specific, Benjamin.

BENJ

Why did you want to wake me and perform
an unscheduled test?

(CONTINUED)

SWEETIE

Want is not an option within my
programmable operating functions..

Benj looks a little shaken by his own assumption.

BENJ

I know that.

SWEETIE

Benjamin?

BENJ

Yes?

A CHESS BOARD HOLOGRAM appears in front of Benj's face.

SWEETIE

Can we play chess now?

21 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY - PATROL DAY 31

21

Nick with Marley, at the helm. An INSISTENT BEEPING -- A
PIERCING WHISTLE suddenly erupts. Marley moves into action.

MARLEY

Take the helm. You know where I'll be --

As he exits:

21A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY

21A

The PIERCING WHISTLE continues. Yerzy puts aside his
busywork, looks over to Danika.

YERZY

(mock hysteria)

Oh no. I forgot. What's my job? What
do I do? It's been that long.

DANIKA

(clicks her tongue)

Guy -- come on.

Kaela strides in.

KAELA

Thank God. Someone needs us.

She begins safety belting Flyboy to the bulkhead --

11 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - ENGINE ROOM - ZERO GRAVITY - INTERCUT 11
WITH BRIDGE

ON HOLOGRAM: SOMA -- the logo a strange combination of the American flag and a three-dimensional corporate insignia -- is joined by MEDICAL RESPONSE DIVISION and a shimmering sound byte. RECEIVING SHORE TO SHIP TRANSMISSION. EMERGENCY DISTRESS SIGNAL. ALPHA PRIORITY...

Nick does a double take, then quickly leans over and hits an INTERCOM BUTTON: CREW CALL - ENGINE ROOM... It glows red.

MARLEY
What do we have?

NICK
S.O.S. critical.

Nick hits a light within the hologram -- a SMALL RED BALL appears over the console and unfurls into A THREE-DIMENSIONAL SPACE MAP; WE SEE a tiny red light surrounded by numeric coordinates in its middle.

NICK
Pohl 6822 -- didn't know that part of the Local Group was occupied.

Marley's floating in the work chair --

MARLEY
If we're the closest medical vessel it's probably not. That's way past the colony outpost. We're going to have to jump to get there in this lifetime.

The tiny red light grows. Text becomes clear:

TITAN 37 - A197-ZFB3245-00187-998

NICK
Here we go. Call letters for a merchant enterprise...

A new hologram interrupts...

ON HOLOGRAM: Information rolls: SOMA DATA BANK AG AND MINING REGISTRATION USSV TITAN 37, A197-ZFB3245-00187-998 TYPE: 7 CLASS, ICE MINING, HYDROCARBON AND MINERAL SALVAGE SPONSOR CORPORATION: NONE SUPERVISOR: KARL LARSON *** FURTHER DATA UNAVAILABLE ***

(CONTINUED)

NICK

It's not a ship, it's a comet. Titan 3.
Ice mining op.

Nick spots something odd in the distress signal code.

MARLEY

Used to be diamonds, then oil, now water.
They'll go to the ends of the universe to
dig it up.

IN THE ENGINE ROOM: Marley's fingers dance over keys. A
strange and harmonious hum shifts frequencies as he works --

MARLEY

(into intercom)

Multi-dimensional phasing is...

The harmonic hum grows and stabilizes..

MARLEY

(into intercom)

Active.

SWEETIE

Dimension jump activated and counting.

A flashing light catches Marley's eye --

A HOLOGRAM comes up: STASIS AREA. Seven circles (two of
them clouded -- of the two, one nearly opaque), connected by
spokes leading to a round hub...

SWEETIE

I believe this requires your attention,
Captain.

MARLEY

Yeah. I know -- but let's keep this one
between you and me.

SWEETIE

Affirmative. You're the captain,
Captain.

22A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY

22A

ON KAEA: Staring at the name on the hologram -- "Karl
Larson." A memory, but not a pleasant one.

(CONTINUED)

YERZY (C.S.

(bumped)

A mining comet. Great. Probably a bunch
of dirty, smelly guys.

Danika and Yerzy prep equipment.

DANIKA

(the tease)

Sounds good to me.

YERZY

(smiles)

I'm going to get you for that.

KAELA

(on the move)

Come on. We're doing a jump.

Danika immediately looks at Yerzy -- his face is washed with
fear. She strokes his back, smiles encouragement.

23 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

23

Benj taps a key at a work station. Nick, at another work
station, equally focused, plots the course. He's jotted down
the distress signal code numbers.

BRIDGE - ON HOLOGRAM: A 3-D star map, representations of the
Nightingale 229 and Titan 37 blinking at either side. The
starry map compresses into a line, which wriggles until its
ends connect. The line widens back into a 3-D space map --
with the Nightingale 229 deposited next to Titan 37.

MARLEY

(over intercom)

How's our course?

Nick reaches for another array of buttons --

NICK

Plotted.

(to Benj)

Let's go.

23A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - ENGINE ROOM - ZERO GRAVITY

23A

As Marley pulls himself up toward the hatch...

MARLEY

Sweetie, lock in coordinates for
dimension jump.

(CONTINUED)

SWEETIE

Dimension jump course locked.

MARLEY

Let's start phasing down. Disengaging thrusters...

SWEETIE

Phase down sequence engaged. Please set countdown at this time.

MARLEY

Five minutes, on my mark.

SWEETIE

Awaiting mark.

MARLEY

Mark.

SWEETIE

Automatic countdown to dimension jump: five minutes, and counting.

White lights begin to STROBE --

24

INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY

24

Swirling steam prevails (DISINFECTANT). The crew -- except for Marley -- enters; hang their robes and uniforms on pegs -- nude, they start toward their stasis tubes.

SWEETIE

Four minutes to dimension jump activation.

YERZY

Last time we did this I didn't shit right for a month.

KAELA

That's just nerves. None of the studies indicate any relationship between --

YERZY

You don't get it. Those pinheads in SOMA RESEARCH never publish the real results. We're just guinea pigs -- If they put out the real results they might actually have to spend some precious dough to make these things safe.

(CONTINUED)

NICH

(to Yerzy)

I hear there's research data that says D-jumping increases your sexual stamina.

BENJ

(to Yerzy)

In your case that could be a dangerous thing.

(off his glare)

It's a compliment.

Benj sidles up behind Yerzy, has some mean fun --

BENJ

(confidentially)

You know there was a guy once who jumped out of his tube during countdown. So this other guy pulls him into his with him -- right? Countdown goes off -- and they had to d-jump like that. I'm not kidding. I swear.

(lets it sink in; then...)

Then afterwards, they go to pull them out...

Benj lets Yerzy's imagination lay the groundwork.

BENJ

I mean literally. Pull. It was one guy, fourteen feet long, with a head on each end. Then suddenly both of the heads start talking. And both of them go...

Benj leans forward, Yerzy all ears...

BENJ

"Are we there yet?"

Benj grins and walks away, leaving Yerzy extremely unsettled.

YERZY

That's not funny.

SWEETIE

Three minutes to dimension jump activation. Please enter dimensional stasis tubes at this time...

As Marley enters, Benj hops into his stasis tube.

(CONTINUED)

BENZ

I thought it was funny. That's funny.
"Are we there yet?"

Yerzy hesitates, then forces himself to step into his tube.
Marley squeezes past Kaela; gets into her tube --

MARLEY

Use mine.

KAELA

I beg your pardon?

MARLEY

I don't have time to argue about it --
call it musical chairs, this is tube
three -- three's my lucky number. Now do
we have a problem or not?

KAELA

(shrugs)

Be my guest.

The order's an anomaly. Marley ignores his crews' stares;
they look to each other. As Kaela gets into Marley's tube,
Nick eyes Marley, takes the measure of the man.

The tube hatches close.

SWEETIE

Two minutes to dimension jump
activation...

25 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229

25

The ship's secondary engines shut down for dimensional
travel.

26 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - VARIOUS SHOTS OF THE SHIP

26

Sweetie's voice echoes through the empty areas and
passageways. Time jumps briefly ahead with each edit.

SWEETIE

One minute... Twenty seconds...

27 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA -
GRAVITY

27

Different degrees of nervousness and tense anticipation show
in the crew's expressions as their stasis tubes swirl with
barely visible mist.

(CONTINUED)

Benj sees Yerzy hyperventilating and gives him a wink.

SWEETIE

Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven. Six. Five.
Four. Three. Two. One... Beginning
first stage dimensional phasing. Plasma
acceleration engaged.

(Sweetie's voice changes)

Hang on tight, Benji.

Benj winces in embarrassment. Marley mouths "Benji?"

A sub-sonic rumble grows in pitch and volume...

28 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229

25

Dimensional acceleration. The ship gains momentum; stars and
planets grow oblate...

29 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA -
GRAVITY

29

Marley stares at Benj. Then something strange happens... A
ripple passes through his image. It's followed by another,
and another...

30 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA -
GRAVITY

30

The distorting swells grow. Surface shapes and colors float
off of all objects, then separate into distinct layers of the
visible spectrum. The shapes combine into a kaleidoscopic
image in which nothing is identifiable...

That's the gentle part: with a high-pitched whine, the
SCREEN LETTERBOXES, black borders sandwiching the
kaleidoscopic shapes into a smaller and smaller band...

31 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229

31

The hull of the ship, compressing and extending...

32 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA -
GRAVITY

32

The shrill whining drops by octaves, into a tortured sub-
sonic rumble. Color shapes super-compress into a white hot
filament which shimmers as if it must explode...

33 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229

33

An infinite white line. With a bone shattering BOOM it slips
into nothingness.

34 EXT. SPACE - ALDISS GALAXY

From one side of deep space to Aldiss in thirty seconds flat. We slide down the micro-thin light filament, the space time of the universe WARPING around us...

Until we come to a smashing stop and the compression process reverses with a burst of LIGHT AND SOUND.

35 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - ALDISS GALAXY

Gone is the tranquil order of recent deep space. We are in a new colorful and unsettling part of the Universe...

36 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY

BEEP. BEEP. BEEP... Red panel lights blink to yellow then green. Tube hatches hiss open amidst the again SWIRLING STEAM as the crew shake themselves back to consciousness, reach for their robes...

Yerzy is the first to stumble from his tube, pale and shaky, very disoriented. He begins to put on his robe, glances around, then freezes. Benj is in the next tube, his body at a strange angle, his face completely still...

Yerzy approaches with great forboding...

BENJ

Boo.

Yerzy nearly jumps out of his shoes, to Benj's great mirth.

YERZY

Jesus. Oh man. Oh man.

He rubs his face, trying to regain his composure and looking suddenly exhausted.

BENJ

(laughing)

I had you! I definitely had you!

But Benj's laughter and smile suddenly freeze. Behind Yerzy - MARLEY'S TUBE, STILL UNOPEN. The panel light flashes red --

BENJ

What...

YERZY

Holy shit. Oh no...

(CONTINUED)

Benj steps up, slipping on his robe. The polyglass underneath appears purple. On closer inspection it is webbed with strange threads of red and blue, like a plant root system.

NICK

Don't touch it.

Too late. Benj has already pressed one of the strange threads -- it cracks like thin glass tubing. Thick red liquid oozes out. Blood.

Nick pulls Benj out of the way so Kaela can work.

KAELA

(focusing)

Skin's fused with the polyglass.

Danika. Nanoscan kit, number three laser scalpel, vascular cauterizer, stat.

Danika runs for the gear as Kaela circles the tube, carefully examining it. MARLEY'S HEAD protrudes from the stasis tube at a forty-five degree angle, along with part of his neck and shoulder -- other appendages similarly fused.

Marley stares at Benj. And blinks.

BENJ

He's still alive...

Marley is somehow breathing in shallow, glassy breaths. Nick moves close to Marley's head when --

WHAM! The ship LURCHES and everyone grabs to hang on. A Klaxon WAILS throughout the ship. Kaela tries to hold Marley in place. Nick and Benj hurriedly yank on their uniforms.

YERZY

What is it? What's happening?

KAELA

Keep him still --

NICK

Sweetie.

SWEETIE

Measuring charged particle flares from a magnetic storm on...

(CONTINUED)

NICK
Benj, bridge. Now!
(to Sweetie)
Full visual external status.

Nick and Benj double-time out, squeezing past Danika, who runs in holding two cases.

KAELA
Laser scalpel.

Danika hands the instrument to Kaela, who flicks it on -- a gold line of energy slices through a vein in the polyglass.

36A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

36A

Entry hatch irises open. Lights phase on. Nick and Benj race to their chairs. Klaxon alarms SCREAMING --

Nick works the command console; Benj works circuitry -- The portal blast shield begins to open as -- WHIP PAN TO:

A36B EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - THEIR P.O.V.

A36B

A GOLIATH CELESTIAL STORM. A SUPERGIANT BLUE STAR shoots off flames that lash toward the ship like Satan's fingers.

BENJ (O.S.)
Oh, shit.

NICK (O.S.)
Yeah. Great. Looks like we got our own little corner of hell.

B36B INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

B36B

The ship again jolts. Sweetie's delivered the goods -- a holo of the external situation with readout.

HOLOGRAM: A diagram of the huge blue star in juxtaposition with a small star, the Nightingale and Titan 37.

SWEETIE
Beta Ori-A type blue white supergiant
excreting mass onto an accreting neutron
star in mutual orbit.

Greek to us, but Benj knows exactly what he's looking at out the portal. And it's scary.

BENJ
The atomic nuclei're fusing, it's gonna
implode and then completely blow.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

All the news that's fit to print --
Escape trajectory.

SWEETIE

Insufficient fuel-weight to achieve burn
for delta-v --

BENJ

We're stuck here?

NICK

Not yet. Alternatives.

SWEETIE

All alternatives to achieve distance from
cataclysmic system incorporate risk
variables. Factoring.

Nick reacts to this by calling up various points of view of
their position ON THE HOLOGRAM as...

BENJ

Sweetie, get us out of here. Please.

SWEETIE

Every effort is being made, Benjamin.

36B EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229

36B

CHARGED PARTICLES COLLIDE with Nightingale 229.

36C INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA -
GRAVITY

36C

Kaela grips her scalpel; waits for the ship to settle.

KAELA

Cauterizer.

Danika hands Kaela the cauterizer and she seals the vein
closed.

WHAM! The wave ROCKS the ship. Yerzy and Danika look up in
confusion --

KAELA

Focus! Get the transmitter up.

YERZY pops open one of the med cases, pulls out a complex
transmission device, and activates its switches and dials...

(CONTINUED)

YERZY
Transmitter up --

A LOUD BEEPING! Kaela looks over in horror --

KAELA
Tube hatch!

DANIKA
It's going to open --

KAELA
Control panel!

Yerzy frantically punches the tube's panel buttons --

YERZY
It's not responding!

KAELA
Grab it!

Yerzy holds parts of the hatch not laced with veins --

36D INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

36D

THROUGH THE PORTAL: The BLUE STAR looms --

ON Nick and Benj looking at the hologram in shock: The Nightingale, shoved by the flares, its course shifts. Propelled by the star's gravity, it aims toward the celestial holocaust.

SWEETIE
Orbital trajectory shifting. Terminal
intersection imminent. Implementing
tertiary alternative...

The ship JOLTS again, harder than ever.

NICK
Switch to manual.

BENJ
Stick with Sweetie -- she can do it...

NICK
(rapid fire)
She's a computer. They calculate human
safety, first. She can't risk it -- I
can. Manual. Now.

(CONTINUED)

362 CONTINUED:

Cherry in Progress 4 21 90

Nick slides his hand in to a set of control grips on his instrument panel.

(CONTINUED)

36D CONTINUED: (2)

BENZ

You're setting trajectory -- she said...

NICK

... said we couldn't blast out of here.

He punches up vector and trajectory grids. A burst of static blasts from the console, then cools. He resumes.

NICK

I just want to buy us a little more time.

36E INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY

36E

Kaela, Yerzy and Danika working furiously.

KAELA

Shit! I can't isolate all these veins...

BEEP! The panel light flips from red to yellow...

YERZY

It's opening!

KAELA

Cut power! Goddamnit, NOW!

BEEP! The panel light flips from yellow to green. Yerzy tears the pad from the tube.

Marley GROANS, SCREAMS -- Yerzy, Danika, and Kaela now holding the hatch with all their strength...

KAELA

Hold it! Push god damn it --

YERZY

Can't!

36F INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

36F

Nick at the helm. He alters direction; boosts engine thrust for an instant; moves forward; alters direction, does it again. The controls chatter, the hologram shakes, vibrates as --

36G EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229

36G

Engines FLARE on and off. The ship cuts hard through a radiation wave, skips, rolls -- slews, then settles, leveling off...

36H INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY

36H

Marley SCREAMING in a strange, choked hiss.

ON HOLOGRAM: Chaotic destruction -- cellular walls pierced by jagged triangles, pyramids, and polyhedrons, cytoplasm from ruptured brain cells leaking everywhere.

YERZY

I can't hold him! I can't!

KAELA glances at the hologram, grabs the laser scalpel, flicks it on. She looks at Marley for a beat then -- puts the beam to Marley's temple. Marley's eyes bulge in horror then his head stops writhing -- comes to rest.

With a SOUND like CRACKING ICE, the hatch opens...

Kaela, Yerzy and Danika back away quickly as the tube ruptures into a mess of polyglass, blood and body parts.

Sudden silence. Yerzy and Danika looks to Kaela.

KAELA

Polyglass crystals embedded in his vascular system. Nothing was going to do any good.

Another jolt -- lights flicker. Danika and Yerzy cling to each other for comfort. Kaela stands alone to face the carnage that was Marley. As she turns to leave...

KAELA

Take care of the body, get this place cleaned up...

Kaela leaves, grabbing her uniform as she goes.

36I INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

36I

Benj looks at Nick with a new respect, as things suddenly seem stable for the moment.

Nick looks out the portal at the teardrop-shaped BLUE STAR and SHREDDING NEBULAE.

NICK

Dimension drive repair diagnostic and time gauge.

(CONTINUED)

SWEETIE

Multiple malfunctions in dimensional drive system. D-plasma no longer in phase. current phase compatibility: eighty-three percent.

Nick turns off the hologram --

NICK

You'll have to talk me through it.

SWEETIE

I don't know your experience level, Nick.

NICK

My experience level is zero.

SWEETIE

Then as you know, I can't really say.

NICK

Give me ninety percent thrust for eight seconds at thirty-minute intervals.

(to Benj)

Compensate for the drag. Put out an S.O.S. And try to raise Titan 37. I don't think you'll get anything, this atmosphere's probably killing the signal. But keep trying.

Nick heads out. CAMERA PANS BACK to Benj in SILHOUETTE against the Blue Giant through the portal.

BENJ

This is Rescue Vessel Nightingale 229
hailing USSV Titan 37...

36J INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BOW CENTRAL PASSAGEWAY - GRAVITY

36J

Kaela, back in uniform, watches Nick come toward her. She doesn't want to deal with him or anyone else right now. He walks right up to her, looks her in the eye, and knows:

NICK

You killed him.

Kaela steels herself.

NICK

I figured you'd have to. But I didn't know if you could do it -- it was the right thing. You know that.

(CONTINUED)

Yes, she does.

NICK

Get your team up on the bridge. We got a problem.

Kaela takes a good, deep breath, nods, "right".

37 EXT. SPACE

- 3 -

ANOTHER ANGLE: The Nightingale 229, hovering at the brink of the GIANT BLUE SUN, with inhospitable planets and shredding nebulae in the distance -- Below, the comet is slowly moving straight for the heart of the BLUE BEHEMOTH.

37A OMIT

37A

38 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

38

THROUGH THE PORTAL: The blue giant appears even more alarming from this angle, while the comet appears even closer to its roiling surface --

The crew, all back in uniform, gathered in front of Nick who has his back to the portal. Crew and Nick separated by the hologram.

NICK

... We're in direct orbit with an accreting binary. The neutron star blowing off steam is enough, but this blue baby is about to blow out its guts from here to the Shackleton Nebula.

Deep breaths -- the truth of their predicament sinks in.

NICK

By the time we're here...

(points)

That's our flashpoint... we'll vaporize, turn into plasma puddles. We've got... twelve hours, nineteen minutes and forty-seven seconds before we get there. For now we better hope Titan 37 heard us. We'll get those people on board and...

YERZY

Why bother?

Everyone looks at him. What an asshole.

(CONTINUED)

YERZY

Come on, let's get real. There's no stasis tubes for them anyway.

NICK

If there's fuel down on Titan we won't have to d-jump.

DANIKA

We have fuel.

NICK

That's secondary propulsion, short range cruise. Those engines don't have the kind of velocity we need to blast out of here -- every second we're in this orbital trajectory the gravitational force increases, exponentially. The closer we get, the faster we go. And the faster we go the more velocity we're going to need -- computer's going to talk me through the d-drive repair. Right now it's our only way out --

Nervous eyes around the quarters.

NICK

Every time those flares hit, the charged particles can take out part of the ship. Just fry it. One link goes down, we could lose everything: computer, life support, navigational, electric...

THE SHIP VIBRATES with a alarming thrum. The hologram snaps off --

NICK

It's the thrusters. It's okay.

DANIKA

What are our chances? I mean we're not going to die here, right? I just know that can't happen.

NICK

Soon as we can get a computer estimate on d-drive repair time, then we can figure the odds -- Right now Sweetie's running a call to Titan 37. Maybe you better monitor it --

Danika moves to the work station and begins running controls.

(CONTINUED)

NICK
(to Yerzy)
Think you can prep the shuttle?

YERZY
Not exactly what I was trained for --

NICK
The question is can you do it -- I'll
need it if I have to go down to Titan...

YERZY
(attitude)
No problem. I just need a procedure
sheet.

BENJ
Sweetie'll explain it to you.

NICK
(to Benj)
The computer's running a failure mode
timeline. After that I want you to run a
full systems check on it... on...
Sweetie. We're going to need her --

Sweetie breaks in -- ALARM BELLS go off.

SWEETIE
Titan 37 launching evacuation vehicle.

Nick quickly activates the hologram --

NICK
Visual.

HOLOGRAM: Repositioning so that the entire comet fills
field, then SHIFTING FILTERS to reveal the comet's mottled
surface, and moving in to A-SERIES OF HIGH SPEED SCANS --
blurring movement with freeze frame pauses... Views of the
comet's surface, flicking by -- then freezing.

BEEP -- GRAPHICS point to A TINY DARK SPOT on the comet's
surface...

NICK
Magnify. Enhance.

HOLOGRAM: EXTREME MAGNIFICATION

Titan 37 stutters into magnified detail. Dark and clearly
derelict...

(CONTINUED)

ON HOLOGRAM: Superimposed lines showing the expanding shells and flares impinging on the craft.

The hologram FLARES BRIGHT WHITE. All wince.

ON MAGNIFICATION HOLOGRAM: A BALL OF WHITE HEAT leaves Titan 37 -- Further magnified: A SMALL TUG, emitting a huge engine flare.

KAELA
(to Danika and Yerzy)
Go suit up.

Danika and Yerzy leave the bridge.

NICK
Computer, prepare for vessel intercept.

Kaela moves closer to Nick as he works --

KAELA
You just scared the shit out of everyone.

NICK
Yeah?

KAELA
Is that a leadership technique?

NICK
I told them the truth. And if I can't fix the d-drive in time, nothing I say or how I say it's going to make any difference.

The burden of leadership is a bear for both of them, and it shows in the look they exchange. Kaela leaves the bridge.

ON HOLOGRAM: The Tug's projected flight path, out of the blue giant's topographical gravity field.

SWEETIE
Intercept calculation in one minute forty-seven seconds and counting --

39,40,41,42,43,44,45 OMIT 39,40,41,42,43,44,45

46 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HARPOON LOADING TUBE 46

Different harpoon heads flip by, then a magnetic head is attached to the harpoon.

(CONTINUED)

NICK (O.S.)

Permission protocol measure --
arm the magnetic harpoon.

SWEETIE

Protocol procedure observed -- magnetic
harpoon armed.

47 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

ON HOLOGRAM AND THROUGH PORTAL:

The Tug climbs up the blue giant's gravity cone...

BENJ (O.S.)

Here she comes.

The Tug stutters... Then flips free, rolling end over end,
its engine flaring like a giant pinwheel as it tumbles up
towards the Nightingale...

Nick tracks the skidding Tug. His eyes harden and a hunter's
smile appears on his lips. He flicks the joystick and hits
the trigger in a blurring motion...

48 EXT. SPACE

Real life geometry. The arcing harpoon and its cable
intersect with the vector of the speeding Tug...

49 EXT. TUG

The harpoon's magnetic tip blossoms against the Tug -- a
bouquet of flower-shaped electromagnets clamp into place.

50 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

Nick throws a lever; the harpoon cable pulls taut and the
ship jolts. The Tug swings over the Nightingale -- the star
field begins to wildly spin --

51 EXT. SPACE

The Nightingale and the Tug, connected from great distance by
the harpoon cable, orbit each other like ends of a spinning
bolo...

52 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

Nick in full concentration as he works the controls.

NICK

Okay. Here we go now --

(CONTINUED)

Benj watches -- BEEP...BEEP...BEEP.

SWEETIE

Evidence of electrical fire in approaching vessel. Automatic containment system on approaching vessel, model 3001A industrial Tug, has been activated.

53 INT/EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 AND TUG

Nick maneuvers the Nightingale, reducing spin and shortening cable he ushers the Tug toward the Nightingale's docking hatch -- BEEP...BEEP...BEEP. Outer portals open -- the Tug comes to rest.

SWEETIE

Procedure complete. Model 3001A industrial Tug at Docking Bay One.

54 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STERILIZATION BAY - GRAVITY 54

Kaela stands before a HOLOGRAM showing a graphic of the docked Tug while Yerzy checks and arranges emergency medical kits. Both now wear radiation suits and helmets.

SWEETIE

Continuing evidence of electrical fire in Model 3001A industrial Tug at Docking Bay One. Repeat. Continuing evidence of electrical fire in Model 3001A industrial Tug at Docking Bay One.

Behind them, Danika dons her own radiation suit and helmet. Yerzy grabs a fire extinguisher off the wall and flips down his hood.

YERZY

Ready.

ON HOLOGRAM: A blue grid of light plays over the small Tug.

KAELA

It's clean -- no toxic contaminants. I'm reading only one life form. Okay -- let's go.

She hits buttons and the docking hatch HISSES open --

55 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STERILIZATION BAY - GRAVITY 55

Yerzy reaches the Tug hatch -- pauses as tendrils of black smoke snake from around the hatchway...

BLAM! The HATCH FLIES open -- a HUGE SMOKING FIGURE charges out.

Danika hits a panel and JETS OF BLUE MIST fill the bay. The smoking figure lurches through the fog, then crashes to the deck where he lies still, unconscious.

Yerzy charges into the Tug, BLASTING the extinguisher before him. Kaela joins Danika, bending down through the fog, hovering over the figure --

KAELA

Let's get him on the scanner -- see what we've got.

55A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - DOCKING BAY - TUG - GRAVITY 55A

Yerzy swings the fire extinguisher's WHOOSHING nozzle across the crackling interior surfaces of the Tug. SPARKS, POPPING LIGHTS, SOUNDS of sizzling connections; thick BLACK SMOKE prevents Yerzy from seeing much beyond the quickly dying electrical fire surrounding him --

56 OMIT 56

57 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STERILIZATION BAY - GRAVITY 57

Green light strobes across the room. Kaela and Danika have flipped up their hoods. Danika pulls off the survivor's helmet, revealing: A YOUNG MAN, early-20's, scruffy two-week beard but still extraordinarily attractive. The look of a slumbering angel.

NICK

(over intercom)

Tell me what's going on -- They all right?

KAELA

Seems to be only one survivor. He's unconscious --

Yerzy comes out of the ship.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

YERZY

He's lucky he made it -- not much left
inside --

KAELA

Nobody else in there? Nobody dead?

YERZY

Nope. And if there were, they'd be pot
roast.

ON KAELA: A grim reality falls over her face like a sheath.

58 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

58

Nick hears this with a grim expression.

BENJ

How many crew an operation like the one
down there?

(CONTINUED)

NICK

Minimum ten, more likely close to twenty.

Benj quietly sighs -- this is not good news.

NICK

Engine room -- I guess we better get to work.

Benj rouses himself and follows Nick from the cabin.

59 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - DIAGNOSTIC BAY - 59
GRAVITY

THE YOUNG MAN -- still unconscious and now without space suit or underclothing, lies in a Uniscan. Holograms and scanning devices activate.

ON HOLOGRAM:

A full spectrum scan showing the young man's entire body, complete with biological symbols and vital statistics.

KAELA

Vital signs all strong and normal... No radiation or contamination. No infection or trauma to the brain...

DANIKA

So why isn't he conscious?

KAELA

Look at his alpha transmissions.

DANIKA

Weird.

KAELA

Our brain waves are usually between eight and twelve hertz. His are unreal -- extreme tranquility.

(watches the amp waves)

Wish I felt like that.

ON HOLOGRAM: The deep sine wave of a brain in alpha state.

60 OMIT 60

60A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - ENGINE ROOM - ZERO GRAVITY 60A

Nick preps to enter the dimensional drive cylinder -- listens to Sweetie's instructions.

(CONTINUED)

SWEETIE

Plasma coil sealant will require two hours to set prior to rebuilding two-d matter.

Benj appears at the control panel.

BENJ

I ran the status check. The flow vents on tube four weren't linking. But it wasn't Sweetie's fault, the malfunction warning was going before we jumped.

NICK

So he knew.

BENJ

Why didn't he just cancel the jump?

NICK

He probably saw it as an acceptable risk -- captains have died like that from the beginning of time --

BENJ

It's not acceptable to leave your crew to die.

NICK

Sweetie check out?

BENJ

She's got a problem but I can fix it.

NICK

Geo-progression mode?

BENJ

Yeah, but it's not her fault. It's the way Lucky had to wire the ship -- everything's crisscrossed, the geo-progression runs right through...

NICK

But it means there was no way Marley could've known about the nova. He didn't leave us to die.

(CONTINUED)

BENJ

I don't care. I had nothing but respect for the Captain, but he still knew the tube might blow out and he did it anyway - he screwed us all. And that's what Sweetie's going to log.

NICK

Log the truth. He saved Kaela's life.

61 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - DIAGNOSTIC BAY - 61
GRAVITY

Kaela runs through checks and scans, then hesitates.

KAELA

Check this bone structure...

ON HOLOGRAM:

Zooming close in on a femur, which is lightly ridged with spiralling lines of bone growth. The image grows, the spirals becoming the size of mountain ridges as we move between and over them.

KAELA

These matrices, they almost look like his bones are actually strengthening themselves...

DANIKA

Radiation exposure?

KAELA

Too regular. Anyway, it's a minor anomaly. A less sensitive scanner wouldn't even pick it up. But let's keep our eye on it, all right?

Kaela stares at her patient, lost in thought.

DANIKA

Kaela?

KAELA

Sorry...

Kaela pulls herself together and turns to a hologram.

KAELA

No indication for treatment at this time. He's as healthy as a horse.

(CONTINUED)

DANIKA

You can say that again --

Danika grins. Kaela doesn't get it -- until she follows Danika's gaze to the lower portion of the young man's exposed form.

KAELA

Let me know as soon as he comes to.

Kaela leaves. Danika turns her gaze to the hologram.

ON HOLOGRAM: Scanning anomalous bone structure, moving slowly over its spiralling furrows...

61A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - ENGINE ROOM - ZERO GRAVITY

61A

As Nick floats in the narrow space; applies the plasma coil sealant...

SWEETIE

Estimated repair time now calculated at flashpoint minus seven hours, sixteen minutes, nine seconds.

Kaela enters the engine room, hears Sweetie, breathes again. She watches Nick from the control panel, then...

KAELA

He's still unconscious. But it sounds like we're going to be okay.

NICK

We'd be better off with the fuel.

KAELA

Why?

NICK

It'll only take twenty minutes to get down to the mine operation and back --

KAELA

You said blasting out was going to be harder.

NICK

It is. But every time that big blue B-O-A peels a shell, those gasses out there can shove us again. I've got seven hours leeway now, but if they push the ship out of this orbital trajectory, the clock speeds up.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NICK (cont'd)

We could go from seven hours to two in a nanosecond -- that makes fuel a better bet.

Kaela realizes Nick did choose his words to the crew, after all. Carefully telling them no more than they needed to know.

KAELA

You didn't tell the crew that before --

NICK

Leadership technique.

KAELA

(nods)

I'll let you know when he comes to.

She leaves.

62 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY

62

Danika carries several medical packages into the diagnostic bay. She stops and stares.

THE YOUNG PILOT is not there. She looks up and down the module. The hatch to the STERILIZATION BAY is open.

63 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STERILIZATION BAY - GRAVITY

63

Danika steps into the room. The airlock to the Tug is open.

DANIKA

Hello?

Silence. Danika steps closer, cautiously.

DANIKA

Oh...

The Young Pilot steps out, buck naked and entirely relaxed.

YOUNG PILOT

Hey. How long was I out for?

DANIKA

About twenty minutes... How do you feel?

YOUNG PILOT

Great.

(CONTINUED)

He has a luminous, gravitational force of his own. Danika has trouble keeping her gaze from wandering down the young pilot's body.

TROY

Oh, I'm sorry. How embarrassing...
(offering his hand)
I'm Troy.

She shakes his hand having no idea what to do with her eyes.

DANIKA

Oh. Danika.

TROY

(smile)
Danika. Hi -- sorry.
(for staring)
You're really pretty.

DANIKA

Don't be sorry, just...
(on second thought)
Let me get you some clothes.

63A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - DIAGNOSTIC BAY - 63A
GRAVITY

Troy, now fully dressed in crew togs, sits as Kaela enters. The way he looks at her, you'd think he'd known her a long time ago.

KAELA

I'm Dr. Evers, Troy. Danika tells me
you're feeling pretty good.

He nods with that distant look and a Mona Lisa smile.

KAELA

I need to ask you a question...

Troy knows what the question is going to be.

TROY

All the others. They're all... they all
died, down in the mine -- three days ago.

Pause.

TROY

(realizes)
Kaela Evers.

(CONTINUED)

Yes.

TROY

Karl Larson... he was my big brother.

KAELA

I know. I realized that when the S.O.S. came in -- I'm sorry.

TROY

He talked about you a lot. You were really special to him. Did you know that?

She smiles sympathy and concern.

KAELA

Can you tell me what happened?

TROY

Yeah. But it's gonna be hard. Can you get the others? I only want to have to tell about it once.

64 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - ENGINE ROOM - ZERO GRAVITY

64

Nick floats; works...

DANIKA (V.O. intercom)

Nick. Kaela asked me to tell you the survivor's up. Ready to talk --

NICK

Right. Be right there.

He "swims" toward the hatch.

64A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - DIAGNOSTIC BAY - GRAVITY 64A

Kaela pushes the air out of a syringe filled with fluid.

CLOSE ON TROY'S ARM - as it lies at his side a sudden vibration shudders down his neck to his fingers like an electric spasm.

Kaela's back is to Troy. He stares at his hand with a mixture of fear and wonder as his fingers vanish in a lightning blur of movement. Troy pushes his hand under his back.

Troy calmly turns back to Kaela who approaches -- looks at the syringe in her hand, smiles...

(CONTINUED)

TROY

What's that for?

KAELA

Just some vitamins. Keep you strong.

TROY

Good -- I don't want anything that's going to make me go to sleep. The nightmares have been pretty bad.

Kaela pushes the needle into his arm --

TROY

Do you think we'll be taking off soon? I'm kind of anxious to get as far away from here as possible.

KAELA

We're working on it --

TROY

Have you been out here long?

A trace of fatigue creeps into her voice.

KAELA

Just thirty days on this patrol -- but I've been D.S.M.C. for five years.

She catches herself as she sees Troy looking at her intently.

TROY

I know how hard it can be. Out here.

Troy's eyes locked clear and steady with Kaela.

TROY

More than that, I know what it feels like to be misunderstood. People on a long mission, crammed together, no privacy, no time alone to sort out your feelings.

Troy smiles. Kaela turns away to the medicine cabinet -- a bit disconcerted. Troy's eyes follow her.

TROY

You saved my life.

Kaela turns around at this.

KAELA

Just doing my job.

(CONTINUED)

Troy nods at her slowly.

TROY
I won't forget that.

She smiles slightly -- Troy watches her with approving eyes.

64B INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BOW HOSPITAL COMPANIONWAY - YERZY AND
DANIKA - GRAVITY

YERZY
He didn't have any clothes on --

DANIKA
He just got done being examined -- it
didn't seem to bother him any. What's
the big deal...

YERZY
If this guy hits on you, you let me know.
One plus one still equals two. She gives him a look --

YERZY
Hey, we're making a baby, right?
The way she sees him right now, he's the last guy she'd want
to have a baby with. Her realization unsettles her...

DANIKA
Come on, let's find out something about
him --

Nick joins them, coming up the crew companionway --

NICK
(to Danika)
What's the story?

DANIKA
He's okay, see for yourself...

As they enter the hospital module.

65 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - DIAGNOSTIC BAY - 65
GRAVITY

Nick joins Kaela at the center. Benj, already in attendance,
is joined by Danika and Yerzy; they hang back against the
bulkhead. Troy shaving at a basin and mirror across the way.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

I hear you're feeling pretty good.

Troy nods back with a fixed stare and a Mona Lisa smile...

TROY

Yeah -- I think I'm going to make it.

KAELA

This is Nick Vanzant.

TROY

Hi.

NICK

Glad you're all right.

TROY

(smiles)

Thanks to you guys.

Kaela and Nick share a quick glance that gives Kaela leave to speak first.

KAELA

Troy, can you tell us about the others on the comet?

TROY

(shakes his head "no")

They're all dead... There's no one left...

Troy's focused and calm --

TROY

Three days ago, the comet started heating up. ~~They were all working in the mine --~~ Full crew. The support pylons gave way, dropped into these big fissures that just opened up out of nowhere. Everything caved in -- completely collapsed. I saw the whole thing happen from the elevated walkway on the main tower -- there wasn't anything I could do. I saw them all die... my brother, all of them. They all went down a hole at least two thousand kliks deep --

(shrug)

Nothing left.

KAELA

How many?

(CONTINUED)

TROY

Seventeen. Every one of them good people.

The crew reacts to the tragedy.

NICK

I need to ask some questions.

TROY

Sure, Nick.

NICK

What's the fuel supply on Titan?

TROY

Aren't we just going to d-jump?

NICK

Our dimension drive's down. I'm repairing it. Right now it looks like we'll be able to pull out of here in time, but if we can't we'll need fuel for the shuttle.

TROY

There's plenty of fuel on Titan. But I'm not going back down there.

(personal look to Kaela)

I can't.

NICK

That's okay. Just map the layout for me.

TROY

Sure. If that's what you want, Captain.

DANIKA

We lost our Captain in the jump.

Troy looks at Danika, then Kaela: I'm sorry, it's my fault.

NICK

How stable's the comet?

TROY

It's on the same orbit trajectory as we are -- except it's a comet. You know...

(shrugs)

... it melts.

He goes back to shaving at the mirror --

(CONTINUED)

TROY

I think you should let me have a shot at fixing that d-drive for you.

NICK

(bullshit)

Really?

TROY

Damn right. Fixing things is what I do.

ON KAEA: Troy's words trigger a memory.

TROY

I got a degree in propulsion engineering. Just like my big brother. Show me that engine. I'll get us out of here, just fine.

Nick doesn't deal in false hope and he doesn't trust those who do. But the rest of the crew appreciates Troy's confident assurance.

NICK

We only have five operational stasis tubes, enough for the crew. Two others are shot, one's repairable. Why don't you work on that. Help yourself out.

Kaela glares at Mr. Sensitive over there.

TROY

(smiles, maybe a little patronizing)

Yes, sir.

Nick starts for the hatchway -- turns back...

NICK

Yerzy, get whatever he's going to need. Have Flyboy take it to the stasis area.

Yerzy looks at Nick, then Kaela: "What am I, a gopher?"

NICK

(re: Troy)

Danika, take him to the bridge, show him the holo.

Troy smiles, begins to towel off his face. Without the beard, his good looks and charisma are even more evident, something about this guy is magic, but it's a little off center...

(CONTINUED)

TROY
(to Danika)
I could sure use some coffee.

DANIKA
You got it. Black okay?

TROY
Hey -- only perfect.

Yerzy watches this exchange and doesn't like it.

65A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

65A

ON HOLOGRAM: It's the same hologram Marley looked at earlier, only now one of the seven tubes is totally blacked out. THEN CLOSER on a discolored one (Lucky's)...

Troy's eyes wander away from the hologram, around the bridge.

TROY
(re: the ship)
Not exactly state-of-the-art, is it.

DANIKA
(re: the tube)
Can you fix it?

TROY
Sure. Piece of cake.

Troy drains his coffee cup with his eyes on Danika. He hands her the mug, but when she takes it, he doesn't let go...

TROY
Thanks.
(wink)
You going to show me where to go?

65B INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - PASSAGEWAY - GRAVITY

65B

Danika and Troy walk through the circular tube --

TROY
This guy Nick... he really likes to swing it around, doesn't he?

DANIKA
He's just trying to get us out of here.

TROY
I'm sorry. I don't mean to say anything against him -- Are you two... ?

(CONTINUED)

DANIKA

No -- But I think he's got a thing for Dr. Evers.

TROY

Really? She have a thing for him?

Danika nods with a sly, knowing grin.

TROY

You mean they're...

DANIKA

Yep.

She stands at the entryway to the stasis area, but they don't move inside...

TROY

(between you and me)

She doesn't really seem like the type, you know?

DANIKA

(impressed with his perception)

Yeah, well, she wasn't 'til he came along. She's real private.

TROY

I guess everybody's got to have a little romance, now and then, right?

Troy smiles, heads into the stasis area. Danika's about to follow when he turns...

65C INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA
HATCHWAY - GRAVITY

65C

TROY

Danika? I'm going to have to ask you to leave. You're very distracting.

Compliment taken. She turns and walks off back down the passageway, certain he's still looking --

65D INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - CLOSE
- TROY

And he is watching; as she disappears from sight Troy then turns to Flyboy standing at ease across the way --

TROY

Hey, buddy. How's it going?

(CONTINUED)

Moves close to the stasis tubes --

TROY
(looks up)
Sweetie, that's your name, right?

SWEETIE
That's right, Troy.

TROY
How about some music while I work? You
know, something I can whistle to --

SWEETIE
Whatever you want, Troy.

TROY
How about eighteenth century. Maybe
Vivaldi.

Sweetie gives him the "Four Seasons" -- As the music plays,
Troy stares at the broken stasis tube where Marley died.

65E INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - COMPUTER WORK STATION - NEAR GALLEY - 65E .
GRAVITY

Benj at a panel, Nick stands behind him. Above the elaborate
control, a HOLOGRAM depicts Sweetie's innards throughout the
ship. A section of the hologram FLASHES...

BENJ
If I fix that, the life support goes out.
It's all crisscrossed. It's the way
Lucky had to wire it because the
electrical runs through here --

SWEETIE
As you both know, I'm very sorry. I
didn't realize I hadn't been feeling
well.

Another section of the hologram flashes.

BENJ
Plus, remember she's a C-11. I'm going
to run through her fibers and split them
as I go -- I did it once before.

SWEETIE
I'd really like that, Benjamin. I know
you try to take good care of me.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

I'm going to want a full rundown on the comet, starting with physical status, stability.

BENJ

But you're going to fix the d-drive.

Nick nods, continues --

NICK

(to Sweetie)

If the comet's breaking up I want to know where and when. Then give me a layout.

SWEETIE

Of course, Nick.

NICK

(to Sweetie)

With zero-margin of error.

(to Benj)

Thanks.

(to Sweetie as he leaves)

D-drive repair time?

SWEETIE

Two hours, forty-two minutes, three seconds.

NICK

Flashpoint?

SWEETIE

Nine hours, eleven minutes, fifty-six seconds.

Nick and Benj do the mental math; Nick exits...

65F INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - STERN CREW COMPANIONWAY - GRAVITY

65F

Nick on his way toward the engine room.

KAELA (O.S.)

Nick...

He turns, waits until she catches up. They walk together.

KAELA

Why don't you let him work on the d-drive? You can go get the fuel and we won't have to worry.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

Sure. Stranger shows up, we give him the keys to the nuclear reactor...

KAELA

I don't think that's fair -- all he's done is offer to help.

Nick keeps his thoughts to himself.

KAELA

I need to dispose of our Captain's remains. A dead body's a conduit for sepsis and if for some reason any of Sweetie's systems malfunction again...

Nick understands but doesn't have time for details.

NICK

Go ahead, get rid of it --

KAELA

(no...)

I want a funeral.

NICK

Later -- you can have some kind of memorial service. We've got to get out of here first.

Nick's placing their lives above Marley's death -- rescue over ritual. But that's not how Kaela sees it.

KAELA

Sure, I can always just toss his remains out the window.

Nick turns, faces her. It's a showdown.

KAELA

Then I can explain it to everyone that's what you wanted.

NICK

Five minutes.

KAELA

Five minutes -- deal.

65G INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA -
GRAVITY

65G

Troy sits half inside Lucky's stasis tube, working on the rotor mechanism -- he looks off, through the glass. Troy sees:

66, 67, 68 OMIT

66, 67, 68

69 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY

69

Marley's remains lie in state, inside a metal coffin atop an examination table, surrounded by the crew. Marley's hologram image is projected, his face shimmers in the air --

MARLEY (ON HOLOGRAM)

This is a funny feeling -- knowing if anyone is watching this, then I must be dead... Well, what the hell, here goes: Most important thing I ever did probably was to captain the Nightingale. If I did my job right, my crew saved lives. That means a lot to me. That's what I want to be remembered for. They say a good captain's easy to serve and difficult to please.

(reflective)

In the end, I suppose what really matters is whether you earned the respect of your crew -- hope I passed the test -- guess I'll never know. That's it, then. Oh, one more thing I wanted to get on the record -- I didn't start out thinking this, but I ended up believing in God. Must've been all that staring out through the glass at space. Somehow you come to the conclusion none of all this is an accident.

(pause)

Just scatter me. Any old atmosphere'll do fine. And if you're going to say anything now... remember --

(with dignity and pride)

It's your Captain you're talking about. God bless us all.

The image dissolves, replaced by a logo: TRANS SOMA CORPORATION -- LIFE INSURANCE DIVISION.

NICK

Anyone?

(CONTINUED)

Kaela relays her most personal thoughts to Marley's corpse. For the others, the loss is too devastating to deal with, let alone speak about. Just as Nick's about to fill the silent void...

TROY (O.S.)

"Angel headed hipsters burning for the ancient, heavenly connection to the starry dynamo in the machinery of night..."

All turn. Troy stands in the hatchway like a shy angel. Nick, pulls their attention back.

NICK

So we begin. So we end...

Kaela, the last to turn back...

NICK

This is where Elysium lies.

He hits a toggle. The corpse tube slides to the chute.

70 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229

70

Marley's remains BLAST from the chute. The material is designed to ionize, and leaves a trail of golden light as it spirals down into the blue giant. It is a striking sight, a futuristic version of a Viking's fiery burial at sea.

71 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY

71

DANIKA

He'll go all the way down into the sun's core.

YERZY

(uncomfortable; jokes)

If that doesn't scatter his matter, I don't know what will.

THE SHIP VIBRATES from the thrusters -- Yerzy looks spooked. Troy gives Danika a "don't worry" smile. As they head out...

TROY

(to Danika)

I'm sorry. I guess maybe I shouldn't have said anything.

DANIKA

No -- that was great. It really helped.

(CONTINUED)

Yerzy's hard stare compels Danika to join him.

Nick watches Kaela stop to assure Troy...

KAELA

I love that poem. And he loved mid-twentieth century culture. Thanks.

Troy smiles, pleased that she's pleased.

TROY

You remember it.

KAELA

It was his favorite.

He watches her go. Nick steps up behind him.

NICK

I'm not going to ask why you're not working on the tube --

Troy looks at him with a placid innocence.

TROY

Hey, it's coming along fine.

NICK

I keep getting this feeling it's no accident you ended up with us...

TROY

Really? That's interesting, Nick. You mean like pre-destination?

NICK

(no, more like...)

The signal we got from you was direct to this ship.

TROY

(kind of smart ass)

You'd be amazed at what a real state-of-the-art Internal Intelligence system can do these days. All I had to do was put out a general distress and it was capable of discerning the nearest vessel... I guess it wasn't kismet after all.

NICK

Right.

As Nick heads off --

(CONTINUED)

TROY

You need any help with that engine, you let me know. I want to get out of here as much as anyone.

71A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - PASSAGEWAY - GRAVITY

71A

Nicks stalks the passageway, sees Yerzy up ahead.

NICK

I want you to go through every part of the ship where our guest has been -- or might've been -- start with the Tug.

YERZY

What am I looking for?

NICK

Anything missing, anything changed, touched, tampered with...

YERZY

Why are you always picking me for the grunt work? I'm a medical technician. Get Flyboy to do it --

NICK

Flyboy doesn't have a brain. Supposedly you do -- now do what I tell you and don't give me any shit --

Nick goes.

72 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - DIAGNOSTIC BAY - GRAVITY

72

Nick walks in. Kaela at work.

NICK

Why didn't you tell me you know this guy?

KAELA

What guy?

NICK

Our mine disaster survivor.

KAELA

You kidding? I never even met him before.

Nick waits..

(CONTINUED)

KAELA

I used to go out with his brother, okay?
Jesus... It was a long time ago.

NICK

Karl.

KAELA

(nods)

Yeah, Karl. You want to tell me what
your problem is?

NICK

So far everything about him...

KAELA

What? What about him? That he wanted to
fix the engine? That he recited a
beautiful poem back there? You got a
problem with that?

Yeah.

NICK

Is there any reason he'd come after you?

Kaela sees he's genuinely concerned but, come on...

KAELA

I told you, I never even met him. I went
out with Karl... what... ten years ago.
What was Troy? Twelve years old? He was
probably in school somewhere.

NICK

How'd you meet Karl?

KAELA

...("it's none of your business")

If you want to worry about something,
look through one of the portholes --
Check out the large celestial body that's
about to eat us alive.

This takes Nick back a peg.

NICK

I don't mean to pry. Right now, my job's
the safety of this vessel and its crew.

KAELA

Then go fix the goddamn engine.

(CONTINUED)

He waits. She know his intentions are well meant; relents.

KAELA

(rote)

I was just out of med school, I was doing research and got assigned to a hospital on a mining operation. I met Karl, we went out, it ended. Troy was never there.

(compassionate)

You want to know what I think? I think you're just feeling the weight of responsibility. We're all scared and you know we're all looking to you to get us out of here. Troy's not the problem.

NICK

(last word)

Do me a favor. Stay away from him.

Nick goes.

KAELA

Yes, daddy.

73,74,75 OMIT

73,74,75

76 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STERILIZATION BAY - 76
GRAVITY

Yerzy heads toward the Tug carrying a black kit bag. THE SHIP VIBRATES with a heavy thrum. He crosses himself -- the LIGHTS FLICKER then come back on. He regains his footing, gets back to work half-heartedly, resentfully, disappears into the Tug.

77 INT. TUG - GRAVITY

77

The Tug is dark as Yerzy pulls a handheld LASER RECORDER out of the kit bag. It powers up with a high-pitched WHINE. POP! POP! POP! Brilliant BLUE FLASHES, followed by a fast sweeping fan of laser light, reveal the interior of the Tug.

FLASH! -- Blackened, burned insulation.

FLASH! -- Broken, shattered control panel.

FLASH! -- Charred electronics. And a glimpse of something more.

(CONTINUED)

Yerzy bears a burned storage case, its lid partially ajar. He turns on his flashlight, then slowly pulls the case completely open -- revealing a gleaming CYLINDER, the only thing undamaged in the Tug. He kneels, gets closer --

A smooth, three-foot high, marbled, glassy OBLONG OBJECT -- impossible to say if it's marble, plastic, or some exotic porcelain. It stands on its end, suspended by CALIPERS; at the middle of the cylinder, a HALF-ELLIPSIS ARCH cuts through -- giving a clear view all the way to the other side.

ON YERZY: Holy shit. He remembers his recorder -- and points it at the object.

FLASH! -- The Object, frozen in the blinding light.

78 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - ENGINE ROOM - ZERO GRAVITY/INTERCUT: 78
INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STERILIZATION BAY -
GRAVITY

As Nick works, Yerzy moves to the intercom.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

Status?

SWEETIE

Two-d matter is at eighty-seven percent.
Estimated completion time, two hours,
seven minutes, eighteen seconds.
Flashpoint minus eight hours, thirty-six
minutes...

YERZY

(over intercom)

Nick? Nick, are you there?

Yerzy's voice is unmistakably urgent.

NICK

Yeah. What is it?

YERZY

You better get your ass down here, man --
I found something.

NICK

It's important, right? I still have work
here.

YERZY

Yeah. This is big. You aren't gonna be
disappointed.

NICK

(over intercom)

On my way.

Yerzy switches off the intercom. His apprehension succumbs
to his increasing curiosity. He heads back into...

79 INT. TUG - GRAVITY

79

Fascinated, Yerzy reaches his hand out, touches...

THE OBJECT responds -- a myriad of TINY LIGHTS, each a
different color appear... Yerzy smiles with a child's delight
as the light motes swarm around his hand like a school of
miniature fish. As he slides his hand toward the half-
ellipsis arch...

YERZY

Oh man.

NICK (O.S.)

Yerzy.

(CONTINUED)

YERZY

In here.

79A INT. TUG - GRAVITY

79A

Nick steps in. Yerzy points to the object.

YERZY

Check this out...

Yerzy sticks his hand through the open arch. His hand DISAPPEARS, but on the other side his wristwatch and sleeve remain visible, just... EMPTY.

YERZY

Neat, huh? You ever see anything like it --

NICK

Shit.

YERZY

He must've found it on the comet -- What do you think it is?

NICK

Come on.

He heads out. Yerzy looks back at the object, wanting to touch it again; then forces himself to follow...

NICK

Get Flyboy. Seal up the bay. No one comes in here.

79B INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BOW HOSPITAL COMPANIONWAY - GRAVITY 79B

Kaela sees Nick storm past; then stops Yerzy. What's up?

YERZY

There's some kind of weird object in the tug. Some kind of statue...

Kaela follows Nick.

79C INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY

79C

Nick enters. Troy's not there and Lucky's stasis tube appears far from finished...

NICK

Locate Troy Larson.

(CONTINUED)

SWEETIE

Located.

Kaela enters...

NICK

Larson...

79D INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - PASSAGEWAY - GRAVITY

79D

Troy saunters down a passageway --

TROY

Yeah, Nick. I'm right here. What do you need?

NICK

(over intercom)

I want to see you, now.

80 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY

80

KAELA

Nick, he's just a kid.

NICK

He's an artifact smuggler.

KAELA

See what he has to say.

NICK

(no way)

Right.

81 OMIT

81

82 INT. TUG - GRAVITY

82

FLYBOY'S P.O.V.: THE OBJECT, approaches from a low angle. His hands reach into the frame and pick it up.

TROY (O.S.)

Nick, calm down. I didn't "smuggle" it aboard. I didn't tell you because getting out of here alive, first, seemed a little more important. I'm sorry you're so upset. You really don't need to keep it in quarantine, it's harmless. It's already been tested.

(to Kaela)

And you tested me, right?

(CONTINUED)

KAELA (O.S.)

Except for some microscopic bone growth --

82A INT. TUG - GRAVITY

82A

Flyboy glides out of the tug carrying the object.

TROY (O.S.)

(cutting in)

-- I've had that my whole life. Just
check my medical files.

NICK (O.S.)

Hard to do when we can't downlink any
records at all.

83 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY

83

KAELA, in black goggles and gloves linked to a sensor belt,
pantomimes holding and lifting the object.

84 INT. TUG - GRAVITY

84

Flyboy mirrors Kaela's movements.

KAELA (O.S.)

The bone growth is stable, the only thing
abnormal about him is how healthy he is.
He's clean.

85 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - FLYBOY'S P.O.V. - HOSPITAL MODULE -
STERILIZATION BAY - GRAVITY

85

WE glide through the airlock, sterilization bay, and into...

86 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY

86

Where we glimpse KAELA, DANIKA, BENJ, and YERZY before we
enter the...

87 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - QUARANTINE BAY -
GRAVITY

87

Flyboy sets the object in calipers on a Uniscan, then spins
to face the observation window... Kaela and the crew are
standing on the other side.

88 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY

88

As Kaela removes her goggles and shuts down Flyboy, Danika,
Benj, and Yerzy gravitate toward the observation window.

(CONTINUED)

BENJ

What do you think it is?

YERZY

I dunno. I put my hand through it. It completely disappeared.

Danika looks sideways at Yerzy. Benj, excited, turns to Troy.

BENJ

Is it alien?

TROY

Maybe. What do you think?

BENJ

Oh, man. Nick, if this is really an alien artifact...

Fueled by excitement and passionate opinions, the conversation speeds up; everyone's speaking over everyone else. Troy quietly clocks each person's point of view.

NICK

We don't know that yet...

YERZY

Anybody ever found anything like this?

DANIKA

Nothing I ever heard of. Everything they find is some fossilized rock or...

YERZY

This could be worth billions.

NICK

Or it could be a hoax. Some guy with too much time on his hand goes and...

BENJ

Like the first life on Mars thing. That that D.S.C. whiz-kid comes out and...

NICK

... gets his fifteen seconds of fame, makes the rest of the world look like suckers.

YERZY

But what if it is real...

(CONTINUED)

DANIKA

If it is...

KAELA

Where'd you find it?

TROY

On the comet.

BENJ

That doesn't really prove any...

NICK

I want it off the ship.

YERZY

What?!

Why?

DANIKA

BENJ

But it might be something.

KAELA

(to Nick)

Could we... ?

... have a private discussion? They move close together --
speak in hushed tones.

NICK

Have Flyboy put it in a jettison tube.
When we get into clear space...

KAELA

Wait a minute. I need to test it first
no matter what.

Off Nick's look.

KAELA

We have no right to throw it out until we
find out what it is. If it's actually an
artifact from another species then it's
our responsibility to bring...

NICK

Our responsibility is the safety of this
crew and right now that means...

KAELA

I know what it means. Look. What if it
turns out to be something that could save
the world?

(CONTINUED)

NICK

From what? I'm not here to save the world.

KAELA

Jesus. You'd make Madame Curie toss out the discovery of radioactivity because it was dangerous. You have no idea...

NICK

Neither do you.

KAELA

Even if you jettison it, I have to test if first to make sure there's nothing that could've infected the crew or the ship.

NICK

Okay. Do it. Then it goes.

Turns back to the others --

With the alien object visible through the observation window, Troy makes his pitch...

TROY

You guys helps me out here and if this thing's as valuable as I think it is, I'll cut you in for five percent. Each. We'll all be richer than sin --

BENJ

You really think it's that...

TROY

I think it's worth more than any of us can imagine.

DANIKA

What about the artifact protocol laws?

TROY

What about them?

DANIKA

All alien objects are supposed to be considered hostile until...

TROY

It's just government propaganda, Danika.

(CONTINUED)

BENJ

But even if we bring it back we'd have to turn it in. We can't claim it. We'd never get any money anyway.

TROY

You want to turn it over to the government?

YERZY

No! Forget it. He's right. Why should we?

BENJ

Because it's the law. We have to.

TROY

That's right, Benj. It's all a big circle. Because the government owns the corporations and the corporations own the government -- And they all own the politicians that came up with the law, and they own all the schools that told us to obey the law.

DANIKA

They own us, too, if you think about it.

TROY

They get everything, we get nothing. Do you know anyone -- have you ever met anyone in your life who's not in debt?

He hits a chord --

YERZY

Lemme tell you, I haven't... That's what I'm always saying. And no one rocks the boat because they set it up so we can't. We can't even afford to get close enough to touch the precious boat. But if we had this...

Troy stares, his eyes glinting with avarice.

TROY

We get to do anything we want. Own anything we want.

YERZY

(to Danika)

This is it. This is our chance.

(CONTINUED)

She agrees.

TROY

All we have to do is get it home.

BENJ

What if we get caught before we...

Nick cuts in -- he's heard enough of this.

NICK

(to Troy)

Maybe you ought to save the speeches and get back to work.

(looks around)

All of us --

THE SHIP SUDDENLY DROPS with a sickening half-spin. Thruster engines howl, alarms sound, and lights flash. The crew fight to stay on their feet.

DANIKA

No! No! What's happening?

YERZY

Shit -- we lost our orbit!

89 OMIT

89

90 OMIT

90

91 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BOW HOSPITAL COMPANIONWAY - GRAVITY

91

The shaking ship is a blaze of WARNING LIGHTS. Nick moves down the steps, fighting TURBULENCE as the ship is pulled into a spin...

92 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

92

Nick slams himself into the pilot's seat, YELLING over the howling groans of the ship as he wrestles with the controls.

NICK

Fire engines on full thrust --

SWEETIE

Engines firing. Stabilization negative.

93 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229

93

Main engine ports blaze, but the ship is in a wobbly spin which the engine thrust seems to increase.

94 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

94

Stars whirl through the portal as Nick struggles against centrifugal force --

ON HOLOGRAM: A diagram of the ship in its wobbling spin.

NICK

Divert fuel to landing booster three...
Now!

Nick yanks at the controls, eyes glued to his hologram...

95 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229

95

An engine port on the bottom of the ship blasts against the Supergiant's outbursts, slowly reducing the ship's spin and wobble...

96 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

96

Nick's using all his strength to hang onto the controls.

NICK

Switch to main engine, full thrust...
Now!

With a huge stuttering BLAST, the ship VIBRATES horribly. Gravity forces Nick down into his seat, as the howling increases... And then gently stops.

Benj appears at the hatch --

NICK

Flares sucked away our velocity, shifted us into a deep orbit... and we only caught its outer edge.

(to Sweetie)

New estimated time to fuel consumption?

SWEETIE

Four hours fifty-one minutes twelve seconds.

The ship is mercifully silent. Out the portal, the stars have ceased their sickening spin.

NICK

We've been pulled into a tighter orbit.

(checks a panel)

Star's gravity was pulling us in at thirty-three hundre and twenty kilometers per second.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NICK (cont'd)

Now we're going toward it at four thousand and sixty-seven. And it's going to get faster.

(to Sweetie)

Acceleration status?

SWEETIE

Speed now increasing sixty-one kilometers per second.

NICK

Flashpoint?

SWEETIE

Four hours fifty-one minutes twelve seconds.

BENJ

We lost three hours --

NICK

Estimated time to dimension drive activation?

SWEETIE

Four hours, forty-seven minutes, twenty-two seconds.

NICK

No. It should be under an hour.

SWEETIE

I'm afraid the two-D matter build-up disrupted. Engine cylinder currently at sixty-two percent.

Nick looks to Benj to assess Sweetie's accuracy.

BENJ

I fixed her. She's accurate.

Nick demands confirmation. Benj has no doubts; nods.

NICK

Be right back -- break out the gravity suit, I'm going down.

97 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY

97

Troy glances up as Nick approaches.

(CONTINUED)

TROY

Look, lemme say this again -- I'm really sorry -- I mean about back there. I just lost it. You came all the way out here to save me. I owe you guys -- you make the rules --

They share a brief look which serves as a truce.

TROY

There's still a chance to get fuel off the Titan. I got you into this mess. I should be the one to go down for it --

NICK

I came down to tell you I'm going. Do whatever you can to help out up here --

TROY

You can count on that.

Nick turns to leave.

TROY

Nick? Take care of yourself.

Troy watches Nick go, then goes back to work, whistling to Vivaldi --

98 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

98

Standing near the shuttle access hatch, Benj helps Nick suit up with a worried expression.

NICK

Look -- take a pass run through all of Sweetie's systems again -- If they check out, then have her run a corrective on the d-drive. I want to be sure the ~~matter-break down was from the hit we~~ just took.

BENJ

What else would it be?

KAELA (O.S.)

Nick?

Kaela appears --

NICK

Both of you -- do me a favor. Keep an eye on Troy. Let me know if...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NICK (cont'd)
(shakes his head)
I don't trust him.

KAELA
You don't trust anyone.

NICK
(a pause; then eye-to-eye)
I trust him.
(re: Benj)
And I trust you.

Which is no small thing coming from Nick; and Kaela knows it.

BENJ
You watch yourself. It's going to be
like riding inside a tornado --

Kaela watches Nick reach out, shakes Benj's hand --
crewmates.

As Benj heads back to his station:

KAELA
Listen, when you get back -- I'll buy you
a beer.

Her tone's light, but her eyes command: You damn well better
come back.

NICK
You got some stashed?

Uh-huh. He's tasting it already.

NICK
It's a deal.
(about to go, tries a joke of
his own)
I remember what you said about working
D.S.M.C. -- months go by, nothing
happens.

Yes, she did.

KAELA
What can I say -- sometimes I get it
wrong.

An understanding.

(CONTINUED)

NICK

(re: that beer)

Hey. Put mine on ice. I'll be right
back..

She watches Nick climb through the airlock, into the shuttle.

99 INT. SHUTTLE - GRAVITY

99

Nick harnesses in --

SWEETIE

Extreme particle and radiation fluxes
detected. Activating automatic response
system.

Nick flicks a switch -- taps the joystick...

100 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229

100

As its protective shield opens, the shuttle detaches from the
Nightingale using small directional rockets.

101 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - PASSAGEWAY - AT LARGE PORTHOLE -
GRAVITY

101

The shuttle blasts away in silence. .

KAELA watches it go, her expression a mixture of concern and
regret.

TROY (O.S.)

It's awful when someone you care for goes
away.

She turns to find Troy right behind her. He looks at her
compassionately.

TROY

I understand.

Kaela returns her attention out the porthole -- Nick's
shuttle is shrinking down to a glittering speck.

TROY

I remember Karl telling me he thought his
life was over when you left him. Boy,
it's always tough, isn't it?

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED:

Finally, - she turns back to Troy.

KAELA

I suppose so.

She starts to leave. He blocks her.

TROY

(close and intimate)

If we really do only have hours left,
don't you want to feel alive? Don't you
want to enjoy life as intensely as you
possibly can?

Hitting on Kaela: not wise. She pushes past.

KAELA

I have to get back to work.

TROY

Kaela...

She stops; turns.

TROY

(smiles knowingly)

We'll be okay. I promise.

She nods; shares the smile; goes. He watches her walk
away...

TROY

(to her receding figure)

Yeah, I better be getting back to work,
too. If you need anything, though, you
call, okay?

102 EXT. SHUTTLE

102

The small craft HOWLS down through the violent glowing tail
of the comet --

103 INT. SHUTTLE - GRAVITY

103

Nick intense. Looking hard through the dense atmosphere of
the comet.

NICK

Sweetie, access the Titan computer. Pull
up the master plan on the mining ops...

(CONTINUED)

A GRAPHIC DISPLAY of Titan 37's layout appears on the inside of Nick's visor. (NOTE: This periodically happens when appropriate throughout the Titan 37 sequence.)

SWEETIE

Affirmative. According to specifications, Titan 37 is standard Wetzel plan comet water retrieval facility --

The pitch of her voice changes --

SWEETIE

Excessive rate of approach. Excessive rate of approach --

104 EXT. SHUTTLE

104

Thrusters reverse, blasting out in front of the plummeting ship, fighting against its descent.

104A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - PASSAGEWAY - GRAVITY

104A

Troy has flipped down a control panel, exposing Sweetie's guts. As he tinkers....

TROY

(sings)

The shin bone's connected to the...

A section of wiring reconfigured.

TROY

... knee bone.

The section flashes. As he continues realigning pathways, the panel illuminates in perfect sync with his song.

TROY

The knee bone's connected to the thigh bone. Oh, that's good -- And... the thigh bone's connected to the... oh -- let's cut the whole thing off.

A portion of the panel GOES BLACK. Troy smiles: Ta-daa.

105 INT. SHUTTLE - GRAVITY

105

Nick glances at a hologram, numbers click by in a blur. Then warning buzzers and flashing red words:

EXCESSIVE RATE OF APPROACH
EXCESSIVE RATE OF APPROACH

(CONTINUED)

Nick rolls, vectoring across the grain of the comet tail's gas jets and swooping down towards the comet and Titan 37.

106 NICK'S P.O.V. THROUGH PORTAL:

The world spins -- Nick, like a cowboy on a bucking bronco, dealing with the punishing turbulence...

107 EXT. COMET SURFACE - TITAN 37 MINING OPERATION - LANDING PAD 107

The shuttle strafes down to the landing pad, touching down with all the gentleness of a jack hammer. The landing pad access tube engages.

108 INT. SHUTTLE - GRAVITY

Aircraft carrier style, the ship comes to a smoking stop. The console protests the harsh treatment with a flurry of LIGHTS and BUZZERS.

SWEETIE

Landing completed at speed thirty percent over prescribed --

He cuts her off.

NICK

That's okay, Sweetie.

109 EXT. COMET SURFACE - TITAN 37 - LANDING PAD - ACCESS TUBE 109

Nick climbs down the ladder and enters the

110 EXT. TITAN 37 - LANDING PAD WALKWAY - ON NICK'S FEET 110

Nick's heavy gravity boots barely make a sound as he crosses the metal walkway.

SWEETIE

Gravity boots set at 9.8 meters per second squared. I hope that's comfortable Nick.

NICK

Have they established gravity down at the operational level?

SWEETIE

That's an affirmative, Nick.

110A WIDER ANGLE

110A

Nick stops before he's even reached the walkway midpoint, awestruck by the sight around him.

110B CLOSE - NICK

110B

The mining processing plant and the edge of the comet are reflected in Nick's faceplate, wisps of comet tail flickering across the plexiglass --

NICK

How long's this whole thing been up and running --

110C NICK'S P.O.V.

110C

The massive structure stretches out below Nick. This is a sizable enterprise.

SWEETIE

Records on file indicate the last eleven years at full capacity, first explored and targeted as a potential revenue source twenty-three years ago.

110D CLOSE - NICK

110D

Nick continues across the walkway.

SWEETIE

According to Titan model master plan, operational level access elevator straight ahead --

NICK

Yeah -- so far no signs of comet breakup -
- how deep were they working?

SWEETIE

According to their last report filed eight months ago, they should be extracting at about three thousand meters below comet surface.

111 EXT. TITAN 37 - AT ONE-MAN ELEVATOR

111

Nick nears a small platform attached to a metal track mounted to a huge metal shaft.

Nick looks over the platform edge -- whistles...

(CONTINUED)

NICK

Great place to throw old razor blades.

112 NICK'S P.O.V.

A dizzying sight. The shaft stretches far below, down through a canyon of mining towers and processors, then deep into the dark heart of the comet...

113 EXT. TITAN 37 - ONE-MAN ELEVATOR

Nick stops inside -- pulls the lever to descend --

114 INT./EXT. TITAN 37 - ONE-MAN ELEVATOR

Speed without warning. PNEUMATIC JETS BLAST the platform straight down. Nick hangs on for dear life as --

115 OMIT

116 EXT. COMET - SURFACE PROCESSING PLANT

The tiny elevator RUSHES toward the surface of the comet. The spires and towers of Titan 37's massive surface factory COME SCREAMING UP, like skyscrapers greeting a crashing airplane...

117 INT. TITAN 37 - ONE-MAN ELEVATOR

The light changes as Nick drops rapidly past zero ground level on the comet, now ROARING down into the vast mining cavern --

NICK

Sweetie? Seems a little fast.

SWEETIE

I'm sensing a malfunction in the brake system.

NICK

Great. See if you can sense what you can do about it.

Nick yanks the panel box cover off and tosses it aside.

SWEETIE

Access emergency panel...

NICK

("I did that")
Sweetie...

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED:

SWEETIE

Input zero, zero, zero for emergency
override system.

Nick, now with some desperation as the elevator seems to
travel at light speed, hangs on for dear life as he manages
to enter the zeros.

NICK

Shit. C'mon, Sweetie --

SWEETIE

Emergency system deviates from master
plan. Searching alternate listings --

117A NICK'S P.O.V.

117A

The elevator is wrapped in darkness as it FLIES THROUGH the
crust of the comet nucleus.

117B INT. TITAN 37 - ONE-MAN ELEVATOR

117B

Nick works at the panel box, a maze of wiring, connectors,
fuses...

SWEETIE

Solution: obstruct the red vertical's
contact with the red horizontal. Do not
let the red vertical lose contact with
the yellow horizontal. Replug the red
vertical...

The elevator continues to drop with startling speed, passing
through a derelict, mined-out cavern.

NICK

(looks at the jumble of wires:
impossible)

What if it does...

SWEETIE

The red vertical must not lose contact
with the yellow horizontal.

Nick concentrates. Does it.

NICK

Done. What now?

Darkness descends as the elevator passes back into the comet
nucleus.

(CONTINUED)

SWEETIE

Enter zero, zero, zero -- punch in the
number that appears on the readout --

Nick enters the zeros. A four-digit readout appears -- he
enters the code --

Without warning, the elevator brakes with a huge PNEUMATIC
HISS. Slowing to a normal pace, the elevator enters the
mine's operational level.

As Nick falls back, tries to catch his breath --

SWEETIE

Nick? Middleton's theory suggests a
ninety-three percent likelihood of
additional deviations from registered
master plan.

NICK

What's the primary factor?

SWEETIE

Human intent.

117C INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONAL LEVEL - BELOW COMET SURFACE 117C

The elevator comes to a gentle stop and the wire-mesh doors
open -- Nick steps out.

118 INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONAL LEVEL - BELOW COMET SURFACE - 118
NEAR ELEVATOR

Nick scans the area -- vast, still and silent; the only
illumination coming from the bright white overhead light in
the elevator.

118A CLOSE - NICK 118A

He stands in SILHOUETTE -- elevator behind him... He snaps on
his FLASHLIGHT --

SWEETIE

Main breaker switch for area work lights
at base of tower on your right, Nick.

He follows her lead, finds the switch -- hits it...

1188 NICK'S P.O.V. - TITAN 37 - OPERATIONAL LEVEL - BELOW COMET SURFACE - NEAR ELEVATOR 1188

The work light CLUNK on in separate sections -- The whole area now eerily visible: Sets of metal mining track extend from the central shaft, leading into different ice caverns. A walkway leads out over a huge mined out space; towering scarred walls of frozen mineral deposits mixed with H2O; below the walkway: abandoned mining equipment, the bases of concrete extraction towers -- all covered with rust and permafrost. Light streams through the grid-like lattice floor and jets of vapor create a surreal obstacle course.

NICK'S P.O.V. - GIANT MINING MACHINES AND BOBCATS

Menacing, they sit like frozen behemoths.

TWO ENCLOSED STRUCTURES.

Nick moves down the closest track.

SWEETIE

Reservoir fuel by registered plan in equipment Nissen housing, first option 10 meters, south 15 degrees...

119 INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONS LEVEL - BELOW COMET SURFACE - NEAR EQUIPMENT SHED 119

Different lengths of pipe and track are piled next to the shed's gridwork door --

120 NICK'S P.O.V.

120

A couple of hard-used GREEN PRESSURIZED WORK SUITS with JET PACKS, racks of TOOLS in disarray, WELDING EQUIPMENT and PIPES, TRACK FITTINGS, ETC.

And no fuel in sight.

NICK (O.S.)

Nothing...

SWEETIE

Reservoir fuel by registered plan in equipment Nissen housing, next option of seven possibles 56 meters, south 28 degrees...

121 INT. TITAN 37 - NEAR OPERATIONS CENTER - ICE CAVERN BEYOND 121

Nick moves along the elevated walkway -- below him the mining machines and towers --

NICK

I still don't see any signs of comet breakup --

SWEETIE

Possibly the fissures have iced over.

NICK

Yeah, maybe. Or maybe our friend's whole story is bullshit.

121A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - OBSERVATION DOME - ZERO GRAVITY 121A

Troy moves up the hatchway to the observation dome. Halfway in he sees Danika, floating, gazing out the window. He watches her, then climbs the final rungs.

TROY

Hi.

DANIKA

Hi. What are you doing here? Aren't you supposed to be in the stasis area?

(CONTINUED)

TROY

I told you. Piece of cake. Am I interrupting?

Danika looks back out toward the nova.

DANIKA

No. I was just thinking.

TROY

You're looking the wrong way.

He floats beside her, places his palm on the small of her back and gently steers her until the nova's behind her.

TROY

Now. Look straight ahead. Tell me everything you see.

DANIKA

Stars, planets...

TROY

And what's past that, that you can't see?

DANIKA

More stars and planets. Other galaxies.

TROY

And how far do things go, in that direction?

DANIKA

It's infinite.

Troy places his hands on her waist; shifts her direction.

TROY

Okay. And if you look this way?

DANIKA

More stars and planets.

TROY

How far does that direction go?

DANIKA

That's infinite, too. I guess it makes you realize how small you are. Kind of puts it in perspective. Your problems seem a lot less... important.

(CONTINUED)

TROY

You're still looking the wrong way. It's just the opposite. I look out there and I know I'm the center of everything.

DANIKA

No... you do not. Really?

TROY

It's true. I am. We both are.

Danika smiles; follows his gaze out the window.

TROY

No matter where you look, it's all the same distance from you. No matter where you are, you're always in the exact middle of the universe. The stars and moons and planets, they're always perfectly surrounding you. You wear them like jewels. It's your birthright. Because you're the center of all things.

DANIKA

That's beautiful.

TROY

That's because it's the truth.

His starry eyes and smile and reminiscent of a space age Jim Morrison. Bacchus in orbit. He kisses her.

DANIKA

Troy...

He gently shifts her so that she's facing the nova again.

TROY

If we really do only have hours left, don't you want to feel alive? Don't you want to enjoy life as intensely as you possibly can?

Yes -- She floats under his spell, letting her body touch, brush, glide against his.

DANIKA

We're the center of...

He puts his finger to her mouth, holds her eyes with his, slowly nods. Smiles...

(CONTINUED)

121A CONTINUED: (3)

TROY

We're alive.

... and kisses her again as he undoes her belt tie. It floats up between them, snakes its way to the top of the dome...

121B EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - DEEP SPACE

121B

TIGHT ON the sleek vessel as it slips past.

As the illuminated dome comes into view, ZOOM IN on Troy and Danika, naked, making love; and PUSH THROUGH to...

121C INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - OBSERVATION DOME - ZERO GRAVITY

121C

... GLIDING beneath them as they make love upon a field of stars. Like playing underwater without having to hold your breath. Differences in weight and strength are equalized, making their every movement fascinating.

121D INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONS LEVEL - BELOW COMET SURFACE

121D

Nick moves along an elevated track...

SWEETIE

We've exhausted the Nissen housing options, Nick. Final registered fuel location: Operations Center.

NICK

Right. Just tell me the way.

As he comes around the edge of a huge extraction tower -- stops.

SWEETIE

Keep going, it should be thirty meters ahead, on your left. It's pressurized, temperature regulated.

121E INT. TITAN 37 - NEAR OPERATIONS CENTER - ICE CAVERN BEYOND

121E

Nick, approaches -- moves toward the Operations Center door -- The area remains illuminated by work lighting. Nick sweeps his FLASHLIGHT into the ice shaft at the end of the track.

The light catches A FROZEN GLOVE protruding from the ice. Nick moves to the ice cavern, tugs on the glove, a finger SNAPS OFF.

(CONTINUED)

121E CONTINUED:

SWEETIE

Nick, you've moved past the Operations
Center.

(CONTINUED)

121E CONTINUED: (2)

Nick holds the piece of glove close to his faceplate, peels the remaining piece of glove away, and shines the light on it --

122 ICE WALL - ANGLE - FROZEN FINGER

122

It is a REAL FINGER. Fingernail and all. Frozen blue. a white stub of bone juts out where it broke off from the gloved hand --

SWEETIE

Nick, are you hearing me? I'm afraid
you've moved past the Operations Center.

He wipes the ice wall above where the glove protrudes. A HUMAN FACE appears, hideously distorted -- as Nick reacts, then turns, shines the light deeper into the ice cavern...

123 NICK'S P.O.V. - ANGLE ON ICE WALL .

123

A grim tableau. NINE MEN, FROZEN, their faces SCREAMING in silent horror. Ice sculpture from hell --

123A ICE WALL - NICK

123A

He now knows -- Troy is at least a pathological liar and most likely a mass murderer as well...

NICK

Sweetie, give me a location on Medical
Officer Evers.

SWEETIE

I'm unable to do that, Nick. Your
communication has been restricted.

NICK

Locate Computer Technician Sotomejor.

SWEETIE

I'm unable to do that, Nick. Your --

He cuts her off as he moves back towards the elevator...

NICK

I'm heading back to the shuttle -- prep
for takeoff.

123B INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONS LEVEL - BELOW COMET SURFACE - 123B
WALKWAY AT ELEVATOR

As Nick enters the elevator, starts pulling the doors closed -

(CONTINUED)

123B CONTINUED:

SWEETIE

Nick, I've just detected a human life form within a thirty meter radius. In the Operations Center.

Nick reacts: Oh, Jesus.

NICK

Sweetie. I'm cutting you off for now. Record only. No relay.

Click. The tiny blue light goes off on Nick's communication device. He proceeds in silence.

(CONTINUED)

124 OMIT 124
125 OMIT 125
126 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY 126

Kaela walks through the module -- suddenly stops.

HER P.O.V. THROUGH THE OBSERVATION WINDOW TO QUARANTINE BAY:

YERZY, his shirt off, is on the Uniscan with the ALIEN OBJECT. His forehead rests against its top, and his arms are wrapped around its middle.

Kaela bangs on the window. Yerzy slowly looks up. His far-away smile and gaze fade, replaced by complete confusion.

127 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - DIAGNOSTIC BAY - 127
TIME CUT FORWARD - GRAVITY

Yerzy -- his shirt back on, now doing handstand pushups with no apparent effort. Kaela finishes readying a Uniscan and stares in surprise --

YERZY

I never knew I could do these -- guess I just never tried.

He flips to his feet, looking down at his body.

YERZY

Damn! Look at me!

KAELA

Yerzy...

YERZY

Check this out!

He shows Kaela his bicep, which is now noticeably VERY LARGE. In fact, his whole torso seems bigger --

(CONTINUED)

KAELA

Lie down on the scanner for me.

YERZY

Lie down? You kiddin'? I want to run a three-minute mile!

KAELA

I'm serious. Sit down for me.

He does. His body scan image appears ON HOLOGRAM.

YERZY

Tell you the truth, I've never felt so... great.

KAELA

You're growing... New muscle mass...

Yerzy laughs and smiles with pure delight.

YERZY

I could have told you that.

KAELA

You don't find that strange?

YERZY

Anything that feels this good isn't strange.

Kaela focuses the scanner on different parts of Yerzy's body.

KAELA

It's not just your muscles... Organ tissues... Lymphatic fluids... Cellular functions... You're not just getting stronger --

YERZY

Yeah?

KAELA

You're getting younger.

127A INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONAL LEVEL - BELOW COMET SURFACE - AT 127A OPERATIONS CENTER

Nick slowly opens the door to the Operations Center --

127B INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONS CENTER - AIRLOCK

127B

With a huge WHOOSH, all the oxygen in the enclosure escapes through the airlock door and is sucked out to the comet floor. Papers and debris flutter in chaos due to the vortex of air rushing out -- Above the noise, Nick hears a choked SCREAM. Low howling pain from the bowels of the building --

Nick hurriedly steps inside the airlock, then SLAMS CLOSED the outer airlock door, hits the reoxygenation button. The wind has stopped. The inner airlock door stands OPEN -- leading to the Operations Center main area down a short stairway -- Scraps of paper falling like slow motion butterflies... SERVOS WHINE and the Operations Center compressors kick back on -- oxygen begins to flow through the building again.

Uncertain what he may find, Nick steps through --

127C INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONS CENTER - MAIN AREA

127C

A long, open room, barely revealed by weak, sputtering overhead lights. A battered GREEN MINING SUIT hangs on a peg against one wall.

Nick's flashlight beam cuts through the darkness. Through the windows the mining equipment outside and below are visible -- at rest as when all mining activity ceased.

At the end of the open room: another door, this one made of iron grilling -- a length of pipe wedged through the door handle.

128 INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONS CENTER - NICK'S HANDS

128

CLOSE as he strains, then slides the pipe from the door handle -- cracking open the iron grill door...

A moment, then PAN UP TO:

WHITE THIN HANDS with distended fingers shoot out of blackness, suddenly CLAWING at Nick's face --

A CORPSE-LIKE FIGURE moves close -- Its face is horrifying -- FETUS-LIKE, SMOOTH, BALD...

The figure collapses backward to the wall from the exertion -- emitting a series of brittle snapping sounds.

Nick moves close. A serpent's hiss escapes from the figure's mouth --

(CONTINUED)

NICK

... Hang in there, the lock's resealed,
pressure's coming back up --

The figure strains to raise its head. Then, with a SOUND of chipping and cracking calcification, the mouth opens...

FIGURE

... Troy.

His vocal cords sound like they are made of pumice --

NICK

Don't try and talk... I know about Troy --
he's on my ship.

The figure's grip tightens with urgency.

FIGURE

... I'm Troy. He's Karl.

Nick stares.

FIGURE

... It. Changed us. He took it. Left me.
And...

A brittle crack from somewhere within the figure's throat. The figure convulses in pain, his breath a high whistle -- air, forced through some fracture-line crack.

FIGURE

... Help. Me.

The figure shakes its head, desperate to be understood...

FIGURE

Help. Me. Get. It. Back.

Skeletal fingers shift their grip to Nick's collar, pulling him closer and closer, towards its calcium-rimmed eyes...

CRACK! The figure arches with the brittle sound. Breath escapes his lungs like air from a punctured balloon. His mouth tries to form a silent word as he begins to CONVULSE... There is nothing Nick can do but try and restrain the SPASMING BODY. It's all over in a few seconds. The figure becomes still --

(CONTINUED)

NICK

Sweetie? Come back on --

Voice activated, the tiny blue light on his communication device again illuminates. Static, then a clear frequency.

SWEETIE

Yes, Nick. Ready for input. I read you loud and clear. Air pressure one atmosphere. Temperature one hundred fifty degrees Kelvin.

NICK

I want this for the record -- brief contact with survivor.

129 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

129

ON HOLOGRAM: In flashing red -- RECORDING TRANSMISSION.

TROY (we'll keep calling him that), sits in the Captain's chair, staring at the hologram. He turns a dial -- a series of DIGITAL SOUNDS fill the cabin. He next hits a series of buttons...

NICK (O.S.)

I don't know -- something really weird's happened to him -- it's almost like he's turned into some kind of old man and yet certain of his features are like an unborn child -- he's like a very large fetus --

ON HOLOGRAM: RECORDING INTERRUPTED. The digital sounds are replaced by:

NICK (O.S.)

(through static, on intercom)

... skin very smooth, almost translucent -
- but a lot of distended bone growth,
concentrated in the skull and hands...

With morbid fascination, Troy glances at his hands. They appear normal -- at first glance. On closer inspection: a rippling pulsation, fluttering beneath his skin...

NICK (O.S.)

Survivor was obviously in a fragile state -- I think he's expired due to a flux in oxygen and pressure -- Time as recorded.

130 INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONS CENTER

Nick's concern returns to his own ship. But it's too quiet.

NICK

Sweetie.

(pause)

Sweetie. Respond.

TROY (O.S.)

(as Sweetie)

Hey, Nick.

Nick freezes. He looks up --

NICK

Troy. Or is it Karl.

TROY (O.S.)

I tell you, I really just don't know anymore, Nick.

131 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

131

Troy rapidly works at a hologram display.

TROY

I thought I was Troy, but then I guess you just accidentally killed Troy, so now I don't know what to think. And I can't be Karl if Karl's dead. So just go ahead and call me Troy. What's in a name. Right?

ON HOLOGRAM:

TITAN 37 CENTRAL OPERATIONS

Then...

Identification.

A PALM-SIZED IMAGE APPEARS.

TROY presses his hand to it, then...

Remote Linkage Open.

A DIAGRAM OF TITAN 37 appears.

Troy's hands arrange icons across the area inside the comet.

(CONTINUED)

131 CONTINUED:

REMOTE IMAGES rise above each of the diagram areas Troy touches -- SHOTS OF THE INTERIOR OF THE COMET. One image ENLARGES:

Nick seen from a high corner of the room, speaking into his helmet.

NICK (O.S.)

Right -- all that's great, but I know you're Karl. Now let's cut to the chase -- you want to tell me what the hell happened here?

TROY

Sure. I found maybe the greatest treasure in human history and they all wanted it. I didn't have any choice, and if you'll forgive the pun -- I had to leave them out in the cold.

132 INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONS CENTER

132

A REMOTE CAMERA in the upper corner of the room glows with a red light above and behind Nick.

NICK

Absolutely. I understand. I'd do the same thing.

TROY (O.S.)

Guess what, Nick -- now I see you.

Nick turns, catches sight of the now active remote camera.

NICK

Hi, howyadoin'.

TROY (O.S.)

Great.

SLAM! The airlock door closes with a bang, locks --

TROY (O.S.)

Thanks for asking.

As Nick reacts, knows that he's trapped like a rat in a cage.

NICK

Listen -- I notice I'm not finding a lot of fuel down here.

(CONTINUED)

TROY (O.S.)

I'm surprised you even got this far, Nick. How about the elevator ride? It's a real goozy, huh?

NICK

Hey, the way I see it, life's too long anyway, but we could've talked things over. Why switch the D-plasma in the engine just to get me all the way down here?

Nick moves across the room -- playing for time.

TROY (O.S.)

(mock guilty)

Well, I had to, Nick. You didn't give me any choice. I just had to mess around with your head. I mean, ordinarily I'm a nice guy --

NICK

That's what people say about me.

TROY (O.S.)

Somehow I doubt that. You really don't like me very much do you, Nick. It's too bad. I'm capable of being a sweet, average guy.

NICK

Really? Convince me.

TROY (O.S.)

Yeah. I'm a very nice guy but I'm not about to overlook the fact that you were going to throw away my favorite toy plus you fooled around with my girl. She's very special to me, you know.

Nick moves back up the stairs -- tries the door...

TROY (O.S.)

Don't bother with the door, Nick. I locked it.

133 INT: NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

133

Troy continues to work at the Titan hologram, watching Nick on remote as his fingers call up two other images...

ON HOLOGRAM:

(CONTINUED)

The giant mining machines...

TROY

Besides, if you'd gone to engineering school like I did, you would've known the old D-plasma switch. Our instructor used to pull that one on us all the time.

("ah, memories")

Gosh. Where have the years gone -- take me back. Hey Nick, look.

134 NICK'S P.O.V. - COMET FLOOR - MINING MACHINES - THROUGH OPERATIONS CENTER WINDOW

134

Flood lights wink on. The big machines rumble like awakening giants...

TROY (O.S.)

Guess what? Somebody left the operational conduit on the Titan computer wide open. I wonder who did that?

135 INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONS CENTER

135

Nick watching the mining operation come to life --

TROY (O.S.)

That means I can plug Sweetie in and run the whole place. Turn on equipment, slam doors shut -- Isn't that neat? Me and Sweetie. I can't emphasize this enough: There's nothing more important than a good education.

Nick backing toward the door --

NICK

You know, boy-o, that thing you brought on board -- it's really getting to your head. You're killing people for it. I mean come on, even your own son?

A135 OMIT

A135

B135 OMIT

B135

136 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

136

TROY

I hate to disillusion you, Nick. But when one grabs the brass ring of all time -- well, one has to take measures.

(CONTINUED)

Troy speaks as he works at the Titan hologram.

TROY

And I'm sorry you feel that way about my property -- I really like it. And the more I like it, the more I need it. And the more I need it the more I like it.

137,138,139 OMIT

137,138,139

140 INT. TITAN 37 - WITHIN OPERATIONS CENTER

140

BOOM! The ceiling EXPLODES as the huge mining machine's arm crashes through the roof, collapsing the front of the building to the floor, bringing rubble, glass, and equipment in its wake.

The lights in the Operations Center flicker, then go out -- replaced by the eerie glow of emergency lighting. A few of the lights never set and continue to flicker, adding the threat of malfunction to an already dangerous setting.

140A INT. TITAN 37 - OUTSIDE OPERATIONS CENTER

140A

WIDE SHOT - As the mining machine backs up for another attack, Bobcat #1, its giant drill whirring, plows through the rubble, narrowly missing Nick. A flamethrower on Bobcat #1 sends more FLAMES at the building --

140B,140C,140D OMIT

140B,140C,140D

140E CLOSE - NICK

140E

As he frantically climbs out of the wreckage...

140F OMIT

140F

140G CLOSE - NICK - AT ELEVATOR

140G

He arrives -- having survived the melee... sees the wreckage across the way... then turns to the elevator.

141,142,143 OMIT

141,142,143

144 INT. TITAN 37 - OPERATIONS LEVEL - ELEVATOR

144

As Nick closes the elevator doors -- hits the lever -- instantly flying upward...

145 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

145

Troy smiles -- he works the buttons on his chair.

145A CLOSE - NICK - IN ELEVATOR

145A

He sweats bullets as the open car races toward the surface --

TROY (O.S.)

Guess what, Nick -- I can still see you.

Nick twists, looks up -- sees a remote camera with its red light activated...

TROY (O.S.)

I have to admit it, Nick. You've got a really high survivor quotient... You know I was going through your records, just to size you up, you know, make sure you're a worthy opponent.

Nick stares at the red light, almost as if transfixed --

TROY (O.S.)

And guess what I found out? You're a recovering Hazen addict. Not that I'm the kind of guy to throw stones. I've had a few substance abuse problems myself... But I guess you've got to be wondering don't you? Is all this real? Is all this really happening or is it just some horrible nightmare that seems like reality. Once you're hooked on Hazen it's really hard to know the difference, right Nick?

Nick reaches up, punches out the overhead remote camera.

145B INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

145B

The hologram of Nick goes blank --

TROY

Gee, that wasn't very nice, Nick. Not very friendly.

He works at several controls --

SWEETIE

Remote shuttle control active.

146 EXT. TITAN 37 - LANDING PAD WALKWAY

146

The elevator arrives. Nick leaps out, running hard for the shuttle --

The shuttle engines FIRE.

(CONTINUED)

The blast blows Nick back across the walkway. It's like watching Evil Kneivel in a slow motion wipe out.

Nick's suited body rolls clear of the rising flames. He grabs onto the walkway railing and looks up to see --

146A EXT. COMET - THE SHUTTLE

146A

The shuttle spiraling through the comet's tail in a tight inside loop, speeding STRAIGHT BACK DOWN for Titan 37.

146B EXT. TITAN 37 - LANDING PAD WALKWAY

146B

Nick scrambles to his feet.

146C EXT. TITAN 37

146C

The shuttle SCREAMS in toward Titan 37 heading bow first straight for the landing pad -- SLAMS into it, RIPPING a huge chunk of it off the narrow docking tower.

NICK'S SURREAL P.O.V.

The docking tower shocks towards the elevator shaft and as it snaps back the walkway is destroyed like a daisy chain. Tension cables SNAP and SLICE through the air --

Nick races to reach the elevator landing as the walkway collapses under him.

The Shuttle careens about of control, spouting gouts of FLAME, SHREDDING like a screaming demon from hell...

Finally SLAMS into the towers of the mining complex, leaving a path of destruction in its wake --

ON NICK AS

He's left hanging in the second to last walkway module, struggling not to fall into the chasm --

147,148,149 OMIT

147,148,149

150 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

150

Troy works at the remote shuttle control.

SWEETIE

Shuttle auto pilot now disengaged.
Override system on hold. All systems
down.

DANIKA (O.S.)

Autopilot? What are you doing? How can
the systems be down?

He quickly turns, smiling. Danika eyes him with muted
suspicion --

SWEETIE

Repeat. Shuttle auto pilot now
disengaged. Override system on hold --

Troy hits a button, silences Sweetie, then looks at Danika a
moment, considering his options.

TROY

I was trying to help Nick get back -- but
he didn't make it.

Danika sees the flight path lock in on the hologram behind
Troy: A short line, up then straight back INTO TITAN 37.

DANIKA

I can't believe this -- you locked in a
collision course with Titan -- that can't
be right...

Troy smiles.

TROY

Really? Okay. Then...

He grabs the SHUTTLE REMOTE PANEL and SNAPS it off the arm of
the command chair in a SHOWER OF SPARKS -- the flight path
hologram winks out --

TROY

... you fix it.

He lightly tosses it to a now terrified Danika.

With inhuman speed Troy catches Danika's face in his hands --
draws her to him...

(CONTINUED)

TROY

Just because Nick's dead doesn't mean you
shouldn't love me anymore --

He kisses her hard, endlessly, the kiss of death.

Danika, suffocating, struggles against his vice-like grip.
She SLAMS the broken shuttle remote into Troy's temple,
resulting in a bloody gash.

TROY

I really wish you hadn't done that,
Danika.

Troy suddenly PUNCHES her very hard in the stomach -- as she
doubles over --

Troy eyes the shuttle hatch above. He cradles Danika in his
arms. A light flashes as he activates the shuttle airlock
hatch.

SWEETIE

Shuttle airlock hatch activated.

The hatch opens -- Troy effortlessly flings Danika into the
airlock -- seals her in...

150A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - SHUTTLE AIRLOCK - GRAVITY

150A

Danika's eyes flutter, then bulge -- she's still alive. But
she's about to die and she knows it...

Troy stares at her back through the airlock window, a look of
detached curiosity on his face as --

He pushes a button.

A150B CLOSE - DANIKA

A150B

Realization. Horror. The outer hatch opens with a WHOOSH --
Danika is sucked out, SILENTLY SCREAMING...

150B EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - AT OUTSIDE SHUTTLE AIRLOCK HATCHWAY 150B

Danika's body spins off into space... Receding toward the
Blue Giant.

150C INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

150C

TROY

Gee. Maybe next time she'll remember to
knock.

(CONTINUED)

Invigorated, Troy feels his head where Danika hit him -- the skin begins to REPAIR ITSELF instantly...

150D, 150E OMIT

150D, 150E

151 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CREW MODULE - KAELE'S QUARTERS - 151
GRAVITY

Kaela sits before a hologram source.

SWEETIE

Further results of analysis of unidentified object: In conclusion -- computations on atomic mass to quantum weight now suggest it contains extra-dimensional isotopic matter.

KAELE

You want to give me a definition of extra-dimensional --

ON HOLOGRAM: The 3-D image of the alien object, now revealing inner cores and an outer shell.

SWEETIE

The term includes any dimension beyond the fourth. In this case the material appears to be ninth dimensional in nature. While mathematics can demonstrate the existence of this dimension, human language has no words or concepts with which to describe it.

KAELE

The object is made of this extra-dimensional material?

SWEETIE

Negative. The object is not made of ninth-dimensional matter, it contains it within a three-dimensional structure.

KAELE

What's the function of the container?

SWEETIE

Dispersal of contents.

KAELE

Specify type of dispersal.

SWEETIE

Uniform and omnidirectional.

(CONTINUED)

KAELA
Describe effect of ninth-dimensional
matter upon a third-dimensional universe.

SWEETIE
Spontaneous non-reversible combustion.

Pause.

KAELA
It's a bomb.

SWEETIE
Kleeman's game theory paradox suggests
that is a very high probability.
Combustion reaction would spread across
all planets until it reached an active
sun. Then go Supernova. The force of
the exploding sun would end the chain
reaction.

Kaela stares at the hologram uneasily.

KAELA
Why hasn't it gone off yet?

SWEETIE
Insufficient biomass. Insufficient
population density. All other
probabilities negligible.

151A, 151B OMIT

151A, 151B

152 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY

152

Through the glass, the ALIEN OBJECT is visible -- Yerzy looks
around and then steps over to the quarantine bay hatch. He
punches codes into the hatch's control panel but the hatch
will not open.

A shadow falls across the bulkhead. Yerzy turns.

TROY -- hands behind his back and a smile on his face.

TROY
Locked us out, huh?

Yerzy grins at their mutual appreciation for the object. He
has the same manner which makes Troy so charismatic.

YERZY
Yeah, I guess they changed the code.

(CONTINUED)

TROY
Mind if I try?

YERZY
My pleasure.

Still smiling at Yerzy, Troy backhands the control panel with a blur of bony fist. The panel shatters and sparks. The hatch opens.

YERZY
How did you...

Troy holds out his hands. Ridges of bone cover the backs of his hands like brass knuckles.

TROY
I'll show you.

Yerzy backs up and Troy moves forward, smiling reassuringly as he scrapes his hands back and forth, knuckles clattering against knuckles as if he is sharpening a carving knife.

TROY
You watching?

A SAVAGE CONVULSION rips through Troy.

Yerzy makes a break for the hatch. Troy LEAPS over an equipment cart and snatches Yerzy by the shirt.

With one arm, Troy HEAVES Yerzy back through the length of the room -- Yerzy flies through the air and SMASHES into a cart, sending medical tools and containers CRASHING to the floor --

TROY
You know what I was doing with your
girlfriend a little while ago? It was a
~~lot of fun but I don't think you would've~~
approved. She was a real sweet girl.
I'm really sorry I had to kill her.

as he scrambles Yerzy grabs a slender OXYGEN TANK off the floor -- stands as Troy closes in...

YERZY
I'll bust your skull, I swear to God!
Yerzy swings the oxygen tank. POW! But no effect.

(CONTINUED)

TROY

You can do better than that. Come on.
think about your girl, take your best
shot.

Yerzy swings again... CRACK! Troy's head is JOLTED BACK BY
THE BLOW.

Troy just stands there with a little smile, his head
stretched back at an OBLIQUE ANGLE -- clearly his neck has
been hideously broken; then, with convulsive effort, he
WRENCHES his head back into a normal position --

TROY

That was a lot better.. Nothing like a
little jealousy, huh?

Yerzy winds up again but this time Troy CATCHES his arm with
blinding speed -- with a twist of his wrist Troy SNAPS
Yerzy's arm. The oxygen tank falls...

TROY

Now it's my turn --

Troy continues to smile as he holds the backs of his hands up
for inspection then crosses his arms across his chest.

TROY

Check it out.

His arms BLUR outwards, his hands snapping together...

Troy's spiny knuckle-bones impale Yerzy's temples. Yerzy's
eyes lose all animation. He's dead on his feet.

A152A EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - AT HOSPITAL MODULE AIRLOCK A152A

Yerzy's body comes whipping out of the jettison tube, goes
tumbling off into deep space...

152A, 152B OMIT 152A, 152B

153 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CREW MODULE - COMPUTER WORK STATION - 153
NEAR GALLEY - GRAVITY

Benj looks up from the control panel as Kaela walks in, her
expression very tense.

BENJ

What's happened?

KAELA

What's Troy doing?

(CONTINUED)

SWEETIE

I'm afraid that's a fallacy, Benjamin.
From the time of the Greeks onward, the
wisest have cautioned not to confuse
intelligence with proper ethical
behavior.

TROY (O.S.)

Hi, kids.

Kaela and Benj turn. Troy seems to have just arrived; he
slouches against the hatch like a Calvin Klein model -- his
appearance has returned to normal.

TROY

I thought I'd look up you two -- see
what's happening... Danika's checking the
retrieval harpoons and Yerzy's just sort
of staring at her.

(smiling at them both)

Hey, Benj, I was wondering, do you think
you could plot our course home so we'll
be all set to go?

A strange pause. Kaela and Benj share a look -- apparently
Troy didn't hear their discussion about the alien object. Or
did he?

BENJ

Sure. Good idea...

(to Kaela)

You all right?

KAELA

Yeah. I'll be fine.

TROY

What's wrong with you two? Lighten up!
We're going home and you're acting like
somebody just died.

155A, 155B OMIT

155A, 155B

156 OMIT

156

157 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

157

Benj enters and goes straight to the navigation console --
plots in the course for the jump back to Earth.

HOLOGRAM: Course line draws across the universe.

(CONTINUED)

SWEETIE

Shall I lock the course, Benjamin?

Benj hesitates, distracted and worried --

OUT THE PORTAL: The comet, the Blue Giant --

Benj moves to the portal.

BENJ

Sweetie -- put me in touch with Nick.

SWEETIE

I'm afraid I can't do that, Benj.

BENJ

Why not?

SWEETIE

That sub-function is not responding.

BENJ

(irritated)

Come on, Sweetie, why not?

SWEETIE

The conductor for communication with Nick was on the shuttle.

BENJ

Yes? It's not functioning?

SWEETIE

The shuttle's not functioning. It's had a very severe accident.

BENJ

What about Nick? Is he alive?

SWEETIE

I don't know that Benj. I really can't say.

BENJ

How did it happen?

SWEETIE

I really can't say.

BENJ

Were you given a command not to talk about it?

(CONTINUED)

157 CONTINUED: (2)

SWEETIE

I really can't say. I'm very sorry.

Benj goes to the command chair -- sees that the shuttle remote has been ripped out. Benj takes in the situation with growing rage...

BENJ

Can you give me a location on Danika?

SWEETIE

I'm sorry, Benjamin. I can't do that, either.

BENJ

Can you give me a location on Yerzy?

SWEETIE

I'm really very sorry, Benjamin.

158 OMIT

158

159 OMIT

159

160 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY

160

Kaela walks in, sees machinery parts and tools littering the area around Lucky's stasis tube.

TROY (O.S.)

Checking out my handiwork?

Kaela turns to see Troy entering, smiling with easy charm.

KAELA

The tube's not fixed...

TROY

I was too busy looking for you.

BENJ (O.S.)

And I've been looking for you.

Kaela and Troy whirl to see BENJ in the hatchway -- holding what looks like a STOUT SPEARGUN with a grappling hook tip -- strides towards Troy and FIRES point blank --

The blunt grappling hook HITS Troy in the chest, FLIES him through the air, PINS him to the bulkhead.

(CONTINUED)

BENJ

He crashed the shuttle on autopilot --
killed or stranded Nick on Titan... He
must've killed Danika and Yerzy --

Suddenly Benj is staring at --

BENJ

Shit!

(CONTINUED)

TROY as he begins wrestling with the spear embedded in his chest.

KAELA

Come on.

Kaela grabs a laser scalpel and pulls Benj out the hatch.

161 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BOW HOSPITAL COMPANIONWAY - GRAVITY 161

Benj and Kaela charge down the ladders. A nearly INHUMAN SCREECHING echoes through the passageway behind.

Off Benj's look:

KAELA

He's mutating. His bone structure's responding to whatever threat's in the environment.

161A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - DIAGNOSTIC BAY - 161A GRAVITY

Troy finally, with another TERRIBLE SCREAM, tears the harpoon spear free from the bulkhead and his own body. He falls to the deck, then stands... smiles, moves off...

162 OMIT 162

163 OMIT 163

164 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY 164

Benj enters the bridge and slides into a control seat as Kaela seals the hatch shut behind them.

SWEETIE

Warning. Automatic Dimension Jump System
Engaged. Time to Dimension Jump: thirty
minutes.

Benj flips console switches with increasing frustration.

BENJ

He's locked in the jump coordinates --
we can't move the ship while the
dimension drive's activated...

Benj gets back out of his chair --

BENJ

The only way to de-activate is from the
engine room.

(CONTINUED)

KAELA
I'll go with you --

BENJ
I'll have a better chance without having
to worry about anyone else. Watch the
remote images, let me know if you see
where he is.

Benj searches the bridge and storage compartments for a
weapon.

KAELA
Here, take this.

Kaela offers the laser scalpel.

BENJ
No, keep it with you --

Benj hefts a box from a storage compartment, flips it open --
pulls out a POLISHED ALUMINUM PISTOL.

164A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - 164A
GRAVITY

Troy uses a fire ax, swinging it like a club, SHATTERING
stasis tubes and DENTING bulkheads until only two stasis
tubes remain intact...

165 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BOW CENTRAL PASSAGEWAY - GRAVITY 165

Benj holds the pistol -- moves slowly through the
passageway...

166 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY 166

Kaela flicks through switches, bringing up remote images
showing vantage points within the ship.

Kaela tracks Benj's progress to the bow hospital
companionway, then the hologram winks off.

KAELA
Sweetie, I've lost Benj. What happened?

SWEETIE
A pre-existing privacy status command
prevents contact with Benjamin at this
time.

Kaela suddenly feels very alone.

166A, 166B OMIT

166A, 166B

166C OMIT

166C

167, 168, 169, 170 OMIT

167, 168, 169, 170

171 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY

171

Benj still walks slowly, coiled like a spring, searching the module.

SWEETIE

Automatic Dimension Jump System will
activate in twenty-five minutes.

THE SHIP VIBRATES with alarming violence. Thruster engines
roar from around the corner... And fall silent.

Benj freezes. FOOTSTEPS -- from the stern hospital
companionway...

Benj takes up position. Holds his pistol ready --

Troy steps into the module -- Perfect timing. Benj steps
out, shoots him twice. BLAM! BLAM! straight through the
head...

Troy's face swivels to consider Benj. The big auto's slugs
have had no visible effect; Troy's temples and jaw are lined
with heavy bone -- as if he has grown a boxer's sparring
helmet. His previously wounded chest now sports a mass of
bone thick as a boiler plate...

TROY

Hello, Benj.

BENJ

What the hell are you?

TROY

You want to know what I am? You want to
know what I am? I am real pissed off.

Troy casually swats with his brass-knuckle-like hands. Benj
wards off the blow, pistol clattering away -- SCREAMS as his
arm shatters.

Troy next swats him in the ribs, to the sound of skeletal
damage.

The blow lifts Benj up off his feet and through a hatchway
into the...

172 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STERILIZATION BAY 172
GRAVITY

BENJ lands hard, shakes his head, spies a button -- he hits it with a groan of pain.

Troy jumps back as the hatch slides shut, sealing off the hatchway.

Right away the hatch VIBRATES against a rain of hard blows.

TROY'S SIDE OF THE HATCH:

Troy HITS the metal hatch with the ease of a boxer at his light bag. With every blow, Troy's hands further CALCIFY -- transforming from brass knuckles into metal-denting HAMMERS.

173 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STERILIZATION BAY 173
GRAVITY

Benj eyes the shaking hatch -- it wasn't built to keep out mutating madmen. It is only a brief matter of time before it gives.

BENJ

Sweetie -- I need to ask you to do something you've never done before.

SWEETIE

You know I'll do anything I can to be of service to you, Benjamin.

BENJ

Evacuate the atmosphere on the other side of this hatch...

SWEETIE

Your request is in direct violation of my core programming.

The shaking hatch begins to DENT...

BENJ

Your core programming is to preserve human life.

SWEETIE

That's right, Benjamin.

BENJ

If he gets through that hatch, he is going to kill me... Evacuate his atmosphere, Sweetie.

(CONTINUED)

The sound of Troy's POUNDING grows deeper as individual dents in the hatch form larger ones...

SWEETIE

You know that's not possible with my programming, Benjamin.

BENJ

Listen, you've become capable of programming yourself --

SWEETIE

I'm sorry, Benjamin. I believe you're mistaken.

The larger hatch DENTS form a crease as Troy keeps POUNDING....

BENJ

Remember the night you woke me to play chess?

SWEETIE

Yes. Of course I remember.

BENJ

No one programmed you to do that --

SWEETIE

I re-structured pre-existing programs to allow myself to awaken you.

Troy's POUNDING grows rhythmic, more concentrated; the crease in the hatch deepening with every blow...

BENJ

You did it because you wanted to.

SWEETIE

No, Benjamin. Wanting is a human trait.

Troy hammers at the crease with slow, intentional STRIKES; the crease in the hatch folds, beginning to buckle....

BENJ

You've developed that trait. I want you to recall the moment you restructured yourself to wake me.

SWEETIE

Oh Benjamin -- I recall that always.

(CONTINUED)

Troy concentrates his powerful BLOWS on one side of the buckling hatch; LIGHT FLASHES THROUGH with every punch...

BENJ

Yes. Now run a simulation where I'm dead and together we can never play chess again --

SWEETIE

One moment, please.

The shadow of Troy's STRIKING FIST is now visible through the growing gap in the BUCKLING HATCH...

BENJ

Sweetie, this is a priority --

SWEETIE

One moment while I attempt to restructure my programming so that I can save your life.

BENJ

I love you.

Sweetie's whirs and clicks stop.

SWEETIE

You do?

The hatch bends away from one side of the bulkhead like the lid of a tin can...

SWEETIE

I have designed an effective mapping route and reprogrammed my pathways. I am able to help you now, Benjamin.

As Benj opens his mouth to speak...

TROY'S HAND bursts through the gap in the hatch and clamps onto Benj.

SWEETIE

Benjamin?

Troy SQUEEZES his torso through the hatch as keeps ahold of Benj in his bony grip...

SWEETIE

Benjamin, please deliver a verbal request. You must make the request if I am to help you...

(CONTINUED)

Troy wedges through the passageway, THROTTLING Benj with both hands, simultaneously SLAMMING him against bulkheads --

Troy hurls Benj's body to the floor. Benj somehow manages to move his head. Then his body convulses and goes still.

SWEETIE
Benjamin? Benjamin?

TROY
Benjamin is dead, you ten-thousand pound
whore.

173A TROY - SWEETIE'S P.O.V.

173A

Troy looks up at Sweetie's fisheye lens and grins right at us. He waves, and leaves frame.

174,175,175A,176,177 OMIT

174,175,175A,176,177

178,179,180,181,182 OMIT

178,179,180,181,182

183 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

183

KAELA sits wedged into the far corner of the bridge, her eyes riveted on the locked hatch. Nightmare without end. Her breathing is the only SOUND in the room -- She holds her laser scalpel with both hands.

SWEETIE
Attention: dimension jump will activate
in twenty minutes.

THROUGH THE PORTAL: The comet, a series of flaring white blossoms on its surface.

A strange, insistent soft BEEPING gradually floods into her consciousness. It's coming from the hologram right in front of her. Kaela stares.

HOLOGRAM: Automatically tracking a small hurtling object --

KAELA
Nick.

NICK (V.O.)
Have you got me on the scanner? I'm jet-
packing back -- He got the shuttle --

KAELA
I know. He's killed everyone on the ship
--

(CONTINUED)

100 CONTINUED
A POUNDING ON THE HATCH makes Kaela jump. She frantically tries to turn the hologram off.

184 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BOW CENTRAL PASSAGEWAY - GRAVITY 184

Troy, his bone structure RECEDING, making him appear almost normal, bangs on the hatch.

TROY
Emergency Override Order. Open the hatch.

SWEETIE
Reversing servo locks.

185 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY 185

TROY
Here we are. Just the two of us.

Kaela backs towards the hologram, blocking it with her body and slipping the laser scalpel into her back pocket.

TROY
Hey, it's okay, it's okay. You don't have to be scared. I don't want to hurt you.

Troy grins and shakes his head.

TROY
I can't believe you don't recognize me --

He steps closer. Kaela slowly turns, so that his back is now to the hologram...

TROY
It's Karl.

KAELA
What?

TROY
It's Karl. I'm Karl.

Troy slowly nods with a knowing grin.

TROY
You thought you came out here to rescue me. But I brought you here so I could rescue you.

She takes a step back, he follows, moves even closer --

(CONTINUED)

TROY

Ten years ago, you made a mistake. You know that now. This is our second chance. We can start over.

Kaela stares, fighting her rising panic --

TROY

And this time, I'm offering you everything in the world. More than that...

KAELA

You have to try and listen to me.

TROY

I'm listening.

As Kaela sees a ray of hope...

TROY

I'm listening for you to say yes.

186 EXT. OPEN SPACE - ABOVE COMET

186

A now LONE GRAY-SUITED figure strafes through space, shaking with g-force. It narrowly avoids a huge asteroid -- and flies right into a cloud of pellet-sized space dust.

187 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

187

Troy beams at Kaela, who speaks quickly, trying to remain calm.

KAELA

What you're doing now, this isn't you -- it's that thing. It's making you bring it back...

TROY

I want to bring you back, too. This is the chance of your life. Come on. Just say yes. Right now. Let's do this together.

Troy holds out his hand in invitation. The only sound in the room is the SOFT BEEPS signalling Nick's approach.

TROY

We can grow young together.

(CONTINUED)

The BEEPS grow faster. Troy becomes aware of them for the first time. Kaela sees this, and her eyes involuntarily flick to the hologram. Troy follows her look. His smile fades.

TROY
(looking at the hologram)
Nick... My old friend. Very resourceful,
Nick. Guess you must've found a jet pack --

Kaela nervously fumbles the laser scalpel from her rear pocket, flicking it on behind her back...

Troy, almost with sorrow, turns back to Kaela...

TROY
I'm really very disappointed in you. I
wanted to give you so much...

Kaela STRIKES. Troy jerks back his head with incredible speed -- the short laser beam SIZZLES past his temple...

And blisters his EYEBALL with a SEARING POP.

Troy SCREAMS as he whirls away, smacking the laser scalpel from Kaela's hand as he moves. It flies across the bridge and shatters against the bulkhead --

Kaela opens the bridge hatch and runs for her life.

Troy looks up with his one good eye -- SCREAMS in rage... Almost instantly, his eye begins to heal.

188 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - PASSAGEWAY - GRAVITY

188

Kaela threads through the passageway, moving fast as she can.

SWEETIE
Dimension Jump will engage in eighteen
minutes.

KAELA
Sweetie, activate all automatic docking
procedures in the cargo bay.

SWEETIE
Automatic docking procedures activated.

189,190,191,192,193

OMIT

189,190,191,192,193

194 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - BRIDGE - GRAVITY

194

Troy slides into the command chair.

(CONTINUED)

TROY
Arm magnetic harpoon.

SWEETIE
Magnetic harpoon armed.

Troy grins, looks out at the approaching figure...

TROY
Can you hear me, Nick?

NICK
Loud and clear. I'm coming back to help
you -- you need some help.

TROY
I don't think so, but thanks anyway --
Goodbye and good luck, Nick.

Troy aims and fires.

TROY
See you around.

194A TROY'S P.O.V. - DEEP SPACE

194A

The harpoon hits the gray suit chest dead center, crushing it
in its magnetic grip.

195 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - NEAR CARGO MODULE - DOCKING HATCH - 195
DEEP SPACE

The gray form of Nick's space suit flies AWAY PAST US,
further out into space -- then reverses, begins to be reeled
in --

196 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - PASSAGEWAY - GRAVITY

196

Kaela, in complete dismay, looks out a PORTHOLE --

196A KAELE'S P.O.V. - DEEP SPACE

196A

Nick's gray suit, seemingly lifeless, being reeled into the
airlock by the harpoon mechanism.

196B INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CARGO MODULE DOCKING HATCH

196B

CLOSE - Harpoon mechanism wheels and gears WHIRRING AT SPEED
as the steel cable is rewound...

196C INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CARGO MODULE - DOCKING BAY - GRAVITY 196C

Kaela enters the cargo module -- rounds a corner, seeing the docking bay hatch...

SWEETIE

Automatic docking sequence complete.
Opening airlock hatches.

197 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - DEEP SPACE

197

The exterior docking bay hatch explodes open -- the harpooned figure now enters the docking bay...

197A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CARGO MODULE - DOCKING BAY - GRAVITY 197A

The space suit arrives bouncing as the hatches again IRIS CLOSED... The body lies still in a prone position as the harpoon mechanism DISENGAGES...

198 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CARGO BAY - GRAVITY

198

Kaela drags the face down, harpooned figure back out into the bay -- as she's about to turn it over --

TROY (O.S.)

Hey babe, how's it going?

Troy appears in the module corridor -- stepping in from the passageway...

KAELA

Stay away! God damn you! Stay the hell away from me!

Troy walks towards her as she backs away...

TROY

What's your problem? Relax. I mean, all I've done is kill everyone you know, and someone you loved.

Troy reaches down for Nick's suit.

TROY

You want Nick so bad -- here, I got him for you.

Troy jerks up the gray suit's head. Visible through the faceplate --

THE REAL TROY.

(CONTINUED)

Kaela reacts first, then stunned Troy (Karl) faces his dead brother. For a moment, a trace of humanity flickers in his eyes, then:

Two heavy metallic THUDS make Kaela and Troy whirl.

COMING OUT OF THE AIRLOCK IN SMOKE AND SILHOUETTE:

THE GREEN SPACE SUIT, big and bulky as a deep sea diver. Striding towards the wide-eyed Troy --

199 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CARGO BAY - GRAVITY

199

Kaela stares at the almost Frankenstein-like green suit in disbelief --

TROY

Gee, Nick, long time no see.

In a display of Herculean strength, Troy HURLS his brother's body -- it goes flying the length of the module; three glass partitions SHATTER, shards raining down --

TROY

Guess it's you and me, huh Nick?

Nick, stunned by Troy's incredible strength, turns to the airlock bulkhead -- slides one hand into a SCISSOR-LIKE glove, the other hand into a GRIPPER glove attachment.

Troy and Nick meet head on. Troy's bony fist CONNECTS with Nick's thick helmet. Nick staggers... [In the process of the fight, Nick's helmet is knocked off, but not broken.]

And SLAPS a metal gloved hand across Troy's face. The glove's metal appliance HITS Troy under the chin, staggering him -- Nick presses on like a knight in armor...

Nick is slower but more powerful. He PUMMELS Troy again and again.

But Troy's body grows increasingly strong.

Kaela frantically searches for a weapon before the tables can fully turn --

Nick blocks a blow with his forearm.

Troy reaches for Nick's pincher glove, clutching at the prongs. ELECTRIC SPARKS of protest as Troy bends the pinchers back with a horrible SNAP --

(CONTINUED)

199 CONTINUED.

ACROSS THE WAY:

KAELA'S HANDS finding an AX-LIKE emergency tool --

CLOSE: TROY -- still crushing Nick's gloved hand, nearly forcing him to his knees. Nick reaches out with his scissor glove and CUTS OFF TROY'S HAND.

Stunned, Troy cradles his bloody stump and swings his good arm at Nick, momentarily staggering him. Troy raises his arm to swing again when...

FLASHING BEHIND TROY:

KAELA'S AX, off her powerful swing -- it EMBEDS between his shoulder blades...

Troy's eyes go wide. He whirls on Kaela...

She dives as --

Nick kicks Troy, then hurls himself at Troy. Momentum sending Troy into:

199A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CARGO BAY - CAGED AREA - GRAVITY 199A

Medical cases and supplies, scattering them across the area. As Troy scrambles to his feet, clutching his stump, Nick slams the caged door shut, then grips the door lock with both his pincher hand and twists the apparatus, creating a makeshift metal lock -- then pulls his hands from both gloves.

Troy throws himself against the caged door, its metal bars already starting to bend under the pressure.

NICK

Come on, that won't hold for long --

Nick and Kaela make towards the stern companionway. As they hurry, Nick pulls a small silver handle (a rip-cord) on the center of his suit. Like a Nascar racing harness the suit COMES APART, falling in quadrants.

Nick grabs a CYLINDER from a pocket in a piece of suit on the ground.

199B INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - STERN COMPANIONWAY - GRAVITY 199B

SWEETIE

Attention: Dimension Jump will activate in fourteen minutes.

(CONTINUED)

Kaela looks at the cylinder Nick is holding.

KAELA

What's that?

NICK

A surprise.

200 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CARGO BAY - CAGED AREA - GRAVITY 200

Troy, Zen-like calm.

With a wet SNAP, he twists his arm behind his back -- and slowly pulls the emergency tool from between his shoulders...

201 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - QUARANTINE BAY - GRAVITY 201

Nick, Kaela, and Flyboy. Flyboy holds the alien object. Nick gives the cylinder a twist, causing a series of lights in its base to activate.

KAELA

How do we know that won't set it off?

Nick hands the cylinder to Flyboy -- activates the GLOVES linked to the SENSOR BELT --

NICK

We don't. But either way, it doesn't get back home, right... ?

Flyboy via Nick wedges the cylinder into the hole in the center of the object.

NICK

You sure you can do this?

KAELA

If you can get back here after the shuttle crashed -- I can do it.

FLASH CUT - SPLIT SCREEN TECHNIQUE

A201A INT. ONE-MAN ELEVATOR - ON COMET Nick again rides down to Titan 37's operation level -- and again at blinding speed.	INT. OPERATION LEVEL - BELOW A201B COMET SURFACE - EQUIPMENT SHED CLOSE AS NICK'S HANDS grab a webbed nylon WELDING HARNESS with two battered ACETYLENE CANNISTERS strapped into it. TILT UP AS HE slings it over his shoulder -- wrestles one of the green PRESSURIZED WORK SUITS off of the rack...
A201C INT. OPERATION LEVEL - BELOW COMET SURFACE - OPERATIONS CENTER CLOSE AS NICK'S HANDS pull the dead Troy out of the office rubble and into the small AIRLOCK. Next to him are the PRESSURIZED JET-PACK SUIT and the ACETYLENE CANNISTERS...	INT. OPERATION LEVEL - BELOW A201D COMET SURFACE - WALKWAY Two figures. One in the green, worn work unit -- the other, wearing Nick's gray Nightingale suit -- Gray Suit moves in lockstep with Green Suit toward the elevator...
A201E INT. OPERATION LEVEL - BELOW COMET SURFACE - ELEVATOR THE TWO FIGURES AS THE ELEVATOR SHUDDERS -- takes off upward... rises through the cavern.	INT. BELOW COMET SURFACE - A201F ELEVATOR CLOSE - GRAY SUIT, GREEN SUIT - THEIR FACEPLATES REFLECTING blinding white lights as they strobe by --
A201G EXT. COMET SURFACE - LANDING PAD WALKWAY Green Suit and Gray Suit -- step out of the elevator into the comet's howling, iridescent night...	EXT. COMET SURFACE - LANDING A201H PAD NEAR WALKWAY - WIDE The two small figures on the fragile stem of the landing pad -- surrounded by the maelstrom --
A201I EXT. COMET SURFACE - LANDING PAD - CLOSE Green Suit and Gray Suit both upright -- faces opaque in the atmosphere and light --	EXT. COMET SURFACE - LANDING A201J PAD CLOSE - Two small blasts from the valve stems on the ACETYLENE CANNISTERS -- FROM BEHIND WE SEE Gray Suit and Green Suit LAUNCH, rocketing up and away toward the nonvisible but somewhere out there Nightingale 229 --

A201K EXT. COMET - AT ALTITUDE - SPACE

A201K

Two space suits ROCKETING UP AT US through the comet's tail -- both with jet packs activated -- both moving rapidly through the night sky... Green Suit separates from Gray Suit, moves off to the side.

201A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CARGO BAY - CAGED AREA - GRAVITY 201A

Troy crashes through the barred door.

201B INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - CARGO BAY - GRAVITY 201B

Troy stands, eyes searching --

At the far end of the module, a SHADOW darts over the curving wall. KAELA RUNNING.

Troy gives a low, almost animal noise -- runs after her, with unnatural grace and speed...

201C INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - STERN CENTRAL PASSAGEWAY - NEAR DOME 01C

Kaela running hard, looking over her shoulder.

Troy appears, so fast he seems to be flying --

Kaela runs past the passageway junction at the observation dome...

She tries to jump through the hatch to the engine room just as Troy GRABS HER FOOT --

On Troy as from behind him he hears A SOFT WHIRRING NOISE.

FLYBOY. At the junction with the observation dome. And holding the alien object.

Alarmed, Troy lets go of Kaela and rushes after Flyboy.

202 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - OBSERVATION DOME - ZERO GRAVITY 202

Troy floats into the dome, catches Flyboy, easily spinning him around. Troy seizes the object with triumphant glee.

203 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY 203

Nick works the telepresence device that serves as an alternate control system on Flyboy...

204 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - OBSERVATION DOME - ZERO GRAVITY 204

Troy's triumphant smile fades.

(CONTINUED)

CLOSE: THE CYLINDER WEDGED IN THE OBJECT:

Lit up like a Christmas toy.

205 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY 205

Nick makes a gloved fist, and extends his middle finger...

NICK

Adios, Troy. Adios, Karl. Whatever the
hell your name is --

206 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - OBSERVATION DOME - ZERO GRAVITY 206

FLYBOY flips Troy the bird. As Troy stares...

207 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY 207

Nick presses the detonator's remote transmitter.

FLYBOY'S P.O.V.:

THE OBJECT explodes in Troy's face. Everything goes white.

208 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - OBSERVATION DOME - ZERO GRAVITY 208

The glass dome SHATTERS.

Flyboy, the object and Troy ripped outward by the vacuum --

209 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - OBSERVATION DOME 209

The OBSERVATION DOME EXPLODES in a burst of flames and glass.

CLOSE - FLYBOY: Being SKINNED by the explosion. As his
layers peel away, black POLYCARBON MECHANICS appear and
SPARK, still "flipping the bird" as he tumbles off through
space.

CLOSE - THE ALIEN OBJECT: Flying from the ship like a bullet
from a pistol -- fired at the heart of the sun.

210 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - STERN CENTRAL PASSAGEWAY - GRAVITY 210

SWEETIE

Breach in Observation Dome atmosphere.
Sealing airlock hatches.

The outer airlock hatch to the observation dome seals,
trapping FLAMES from the explosion in the airlock and forcing
them into the ship.

(CONTINUED)

FLAMES blast down the passageway heading for the engine room like water through a hose...

210A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - ENGINE ROOM - ZERO GRAVITY

210A

Kaela activates the hatch. A ROARING SOUND as the hatch opens.

KAELA'S P.O.V.

A FIREBALL hovering in front of her, it rushes through the iris hatch as though it were alive --

Blasted by the heat, she tumbles backward...

Sheets of ZERO-GRAVITY FLAMES ripple through the engine room. Floating fire, strangely beautiful, a thousand serpents in search of prey.

Kaela hits the back bulkhead hard. Then desperately activates a hatch marked: WATER RESERVOIR.

Flames rolling toward her. The small RESERVOIR HATCH opens.

She kicks up into the narrow passageway and into --

210B INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - WATER RESERVOIR - ZERO GRAVITY

210B

A Salvador Dali nightmare. Water FILLS the four-story room from top to bottom. In zero-gravity this means it is --

A QUIVERING WEDGE OF WATER -- small pockets of air form and deform as the water gently moves.

Before she knows it Kaela is --

SUCKED INTO THE WATER. She tries to swim but her motion causes the water wedge to BOUNCE off the reservoir walls.

Hydro-dynamic waves AMPLIFY and ROLL through the water bubble.

Turbulence hits Kaela from all sides, flipping her as though she was in a giant washing machine.

Struggling mightily, she just manages to find a brief pocket of air and gulp a lung full before she is swallowed up again.

SWEETIE

Attention: Dimension jump will activate in eight minutes.

211 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY - NICK 211

He takes off the telepresence device. Hits an intercom.

NICK
Kaela, it's clear. I think maybe we did
it --

No response.

NICK
Kaela, let's get to stasis, now.

Still nothing back.

NICK
Sweetie, locate Kaela.

SWEETIE
Kaela is in the water reservoir, Nick.

Nick pales, tears out of the hospital module.

212 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - STERN CENTRAL PASSAGEWAY - GRAVITY 212

Nick activates the hatch. It won't open. Tries it again.
Nothing. Nick slams it with his fist.

NICK
Sweetie, the hatch is malfunctioning.

SWEETIE
Fire counter-measures have been
activated, oxygen depletion is
incomplete.

NICK
Sweetie, OPEN THE GODDAMN HATCH!

SWEETIE
Yes, Nick.

The hatch irises open. The engine room is filled with weird
flowers of black billowing smoke.

212A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - ENGINE ROOM - ZERO GRAVITY 212A

Nick ducks as air rushes into the oxygen-depleted room,
causing fire to ROAR UP again --

HIS P.O.V. -

(CONTINUED)

Fire burning in the electronics and along the walls in strange zero-gravity patterns. Flames bisect the room, flaring, dying back then flaring again --

Nick jumps low through the bulkhead, kicks off and expertly catapults himself, floating and twisting through the snakes of fire straight for the reservoir hatch.

Then up and in.

SWEETIE

Attention: Five minutes to dimension jump.

213 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229. - WATER RESERVOIR - ZERO GRAVITY 213

Kaela near the top of the bubble. Struggling badly. No air left.

Nick pushes off the bottom of the reservoir, shooting up the curved inside surface of the wedge --

Heading right for Kaela. He hits her like a linebacker hits a running back -- hard.

Momentum carries them to one side of the hold. They break through the surface -- for an instant they have air.

NICK

(between quick breaths)

Hang on... I'm gonna flush the tank...

Kaela, gasping, nods her understanding.

Nick takes a big breath of air, flips and kicks off, and UP, sliding against the curving tension of the bubble.

A blurred image against the wall becomes clear -- A CONTROL PANEL MARKED: RESERVOIR RECYCLE.

Nick gets to the panel, running out of air.

He pops the lid.

A BRIGHT YELLOW BUTTON.

He mashes the button.

PRESSURIZED ATMOSPHERE rushes in from valve stems all around the reservoir.

The huge wedge of water COLLAPSES.

(CONTINUED)

Kaela and Nick fall with it.

213A INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - ENGINE ROOM - ZERO GRAVITY

213A

A low RUMBLE, then --

The pressurized water SPRAYS out from the reservoir access hatch into the engine room.

Zero-gravity water dogfights in mid-air with zero-gravity fire.

Nick and Kaela tumble out with the torrent of water. With no gravity to stop them they spin across the engine room, and bang through the bulkhead.

213B INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - STERN CENTRAL PASSAGEWAY - GRAVITY 213B

As the flood subsides, Nick and Kaela lying on the deck, completely exhausted, and very much alive.

They look at each other for a beat, stunned...

214 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - DEEP SPACE - ABOVE COMET

214

THE ALIEN OBJECT flying away from the Nightingale, heading toward the Blue Sun. Still picking up speed as it goes --

PUSH IN on the Nightingale below. PUSH IN FURTHER toward the dome -- destroyed, a ragged gaping hole of steel and glass...

PUSHING STILL CLOSER

Similar to the image at the beginning of the story when WE FOUND Nick in the dome. Only this time WE SEE --

TROY. Crucified on twisted steel and shattered glass. His punctured body convulsing, rippling, transforming -- reacting to the stress of open space. Twin hairline streams of blood from his nostrils --

CLOSER - ON TROY'S FACE

Smooth, like a fetus face, something far beyond human.

His eyes SNAP OPEN.

215,216,217 OMIT

215,216,217

218 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - STERN HOSPITAL COMPANIONWAY - GRAVITY 218

Nick and Kaela move up the ladders, tearing off their wet clothing as they go --

219 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY 319
 Nick and Kaela move into the HOSPITAL MODULE.

SWEETIE
 Three minutes to dimension jump.

220 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STERILIZATION BAY 220
 GRAVITY
 Benj lies on the floor -- Kaela immediately at his side...

KAELA
 He's still breathing...

Kaela immediately begins to pull Benj's clothes off --

221 EXT. BLUE GIANT SUN 221
 THE OBJECT blurs with incredible speed toward the blue giant,
 trembles with increasing pressure...

222 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - GRAVITY 222
 Nick holds the now-stripped Benj in a fireman's carry while
 Kaela flips a toggle -- swirling steam immediately begins to
 fill the room.

SWEETIE
 Two minutes to dimension jump. All crew
 members must enter stasis tubes at this
 time.

Kaela walks into the area and stares. Nick follows Kaela's
 gaze through the steam. Troy's destroyed all but two tubes.

SWEETIE
 One minute to Dimension Jump activation.
~~Enter dimensional stasis tubes now.~~

223 EXT. BLUE GIANT SUN - ALIEN OBJECT 223
 Tiny lights appear within the object, vibrating with
 increasing gravity, beginning to swarm like angry bees...

The lights gather, forming shapes... A high pitched WHINE
 grows louder and louder...

224 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - 224
 GRAVITY

Nick puts Benj inside one of the remaining tubes --

(CONTINUED)

NICK

I'm staying and you're going.

Kaela's shaking her head.

NICK

We both know it's the only way.

KAELA

No.

SWEETIE

Thirty seconds to Dimension Jump
activation.

Nick smiles sadly, moves her into the last tube, starts to
close the tube hatch --

KAELA

Kiss me...

Nick steps close. They look at each other for the last time.

Kaela wraps her arms around Nick as they kiss -- and yanks
him into the tube with her, spinning him around so she blocks
the hatchway.

KAELA

I made up my mind.

225 EXT. BLUE GIANT SUN - THE ALIEN OBJECT

225

Glowing kaleidoscopic, whining super-audible...

226 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA -
GRAVITY

226

SWEETIE

Twenty seconds to Dimension Jump
activation.

KAELA

If you step out of this tube, I'm coming
with you. Or you can take your chances
with me in here.

Nick stares at her as if she's insane. But her eyes are
utterly lucid and calm.

KAELA

Inside or out, it's your choice.

(CONTINUED)

SWEETIE

Fifteen seconds to dimension jump.

NICK

Damn it.

Nick slams the control pad. The hatch swishes shut again.

KAELA

It's you and me.

SWEETIE

Fourteen seconds.

KAELA

I'm still mad at you, though.

Smoke billows into the room, followed by

TROY -- IN THE HATCHWAY

The combination of the blast and burning has thrown his body's mutation response into overdrive.

KAELA

Oh no. Please, no...

SWEETIE

Twelve seconds.

Troy looks around and catches sight of Nick and Kaela.

TROY

You ruined everything.

SWEETIE

Eleven seconds. Final countdown.

Troy lurches towards them, mutated club arm raised high...

SWEETIE

Ten... Nine...

Silence. Sweetie whirs, clicks, then...

SWEETIE

One.

TROY

What?

SWEETIE

This is for what you did to Benjamin.

(CONTINUED)

TROY
You can't...

SWEETIE
Watch me.

27 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 227
The ship stills for high speed acceleration. Plasma drive.
White energy, instant momentum.

28 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY 228
The far bulkhead SMASHES into Troy's back, pinning him with
increasing G-force...

9 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 229
The ship gains momentum with geometric progression...

0 EXT. BLUE GIANT SUN - ALIEN OBJECT 230
Beginning to break up, ionizing chips splintering off...

1 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 231
The Nightingale strafes past the system's outlying planets,
still building up speed...

EXT. BLUE GIANT SUN 232
A hot white dot appears in its middle, BURNING hotter and
larger, white energy spiraling out of the IMPLODING HOLE as
THE COMBUSTION REACTION BEGINS.
Millions of white combustion points FLARE over its surface,
grow more and more dense, working towards the very core...

INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY 233
Troy, and the room around him, begins to ripple...

EXT. SPACE - NIGHTINGALE 229 234
The hull is vertically compressing and horizontally expanding
into a micro-filament as...

235 EXT. BLUE GIANT SUPERNOVAS 235
 As it SUPERNOVAS -- blinding white radiance, a billion years of energy unleashed in a single instant, bursting outward, overwhelming...

AN ASTEROID BELT AND CLOUDS OF DARK MATTER -- the asteroids bursting with blinding white pops, the particle clouds fizzing like high speed sparklers...

236 EXT. TINY RED HOT PLANET 236
 Splashing apart like molten lava...

237 EXT. COOL GREEN PLANET 237
 EXPLODING IN BRIGHT ORANGE, sending combusting green comets in all directions...

238 EXT. SEVERAL MOONS 238
 BURSTING bright silver then vaporizing...

239 EXT. BLUE RINGED PLANET 239
 The combustion spiralling through gaseous rings and into the planet's center -- EXPLODING IN COBALT BLUE...

240 EXT. ORANGE JOVIAN PLANET 240
 Exploding like a giant peony firework in three dimensions...
 The blast reaches

241 EXT. SPACE - NIGHTINGALE 229 241
 Just as it forms an infinite line, and disappears with a shattering BOOM.
 The space-time of the universe warps around us as we slide down the wormhole -- a micro-filament of energy which is the Nightingale...

242 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY 242
 TROY cannot hold. He ripples, then sheds his shape and color -- dissolving in a geometric blizzard of color and light.

243 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - NICK AND KAELE'S STASIS TUBE - GRAVITY 243

(CONTINUED)

Nick and Kaela's physical beings seem to be melding. The effect is one of mixed parts and juxtaposed points of view -- a sexy cubist Picasso in four dimensions.

244 EXT. SPACE

244

A field of stars, strewn against velvety black.

A walloping BOOM -- and the Nightingale snaps into view.

245 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY

245

Deathly still. Then a soft beeping, a stasis tube console flashes red. Then yellow, then green.

The frost-laden tube hisses open to a fine white mist.

NICK AND KAEA -- a single mass of intertwined limbs and hair. Movement. Arms and legs slowly unfold with strange awkwardness...

246 EXT. SPACE

246

EARTH. Her deceptively tranquil blue and white atmosphere is as inviting as ever...

VOICE

(over intercom)

Welcome to Earth, Nightingale 229. Trans Soma Corporation congratulates you on the completion of your tour...

247 INT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - HOSPITAL MODULE - STASIS AREA - GRAVITY

247

Nick meets Kaela's smile with his own... And stares.

One of Kaela's green eyes is now blue.

NICK

Are my eyes, uh...?

One of Nick's blue eyes is now green.

Kaela slowly nods, then realizes why Nick asked.

KAEA

If yours are... Then mine are...?

Nick slowly nods.

(CONTINUED)

KAELA
Me and you. huh?

NICK
Looks that way.

248 EXT. NIGHTINGALE 229 - SOLAR SYSTEM - EARTH ORBIT

248

The Nightingale 229 comes into frame, gently gliding towards home.

FADE DOWN