

COLD OPEN

EXT. SPACE - X

CHYRON: EARTH, 2417. We see the familiar blue and green marble looking as serene as always. 300 years in the future, however, it is surrounded by a network of space stations, spaceships of various varieties, and floating dockyards. We PUSH IN through it all, down through the atmosphere.
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

The city is an evolved blend of futuristic architecture gracefully complemented by Earth's natural green beauty. The Statue of Liberty and the George Washington bridge remain preserved amidst the gleaming new structures. Small flying pods of various types glide about their business with gentle whirring sounds. We eventually arrive at one particular structure: an apartment building of tomorrow. One of the flying pods glides smoothly into a pocket just beside a window on the 54th floor. Upon pushing in farther, we see ED STEVENS (late 30's). He is in uniform. A panel slides open in the front of his pod, allowing him to step right out of his seat and into the hallway of his apartment.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

He walks to his door. He waves his hand once in front of a shiny black wall pad, and the door slides open.

INT. ED'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

He puts his computer pad down, then pauses. He hears something coming from the bedroom. He makes his way there, and as the door slides open for him, he sees...

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

...his wife, KELLY (early 30's), as she bolts upright from under the covers. She stares at him with a gasp.

KELLY

Oh, shit.

A moment later, a scaly, blue-skinned humanoid alien pops up as well. He has a ridged forehead and very large, involved ears. Kelly wipes her mouth.

The alien makes a high-pitched squeal, and a glob of blue liquid spurts out of a blowhole in the side of his head, hitting the wall. Speechless, Ed spins on his heel, and strides back out. Kelly scrambles after him, clutching the sheets to her torso.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Wait, Ed! Ed, wait! Stop!

He doesn't listen. He continues out into the hallway. She races after him.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

KELLY

Ed, can we just talk for one second?!

ED

(whirling to face her) Whoa whoa whoa. You don't get to say anything. There is no "we." I'll be moved out by tomorrow. Have fun banging Papa Smurf.

He gets back in his pod, and pulls away from the building angrily. Then he's gone. Kelly watches, devastated...

CHYRON: ONE YEAR LATER

EXT/ESTAB. PLANETARY UNION FLEET HEADQUARTERS - DAY

INT. ADMIRAL HALSEY'S OFFICE - SAME

ADMIRAL HALSEY (mid-50's) sits at his desk working. After a moment, a door buzzer sounds.

HALSEY

Come in.

The door slides open, and Ed enters.

ED

Hey. You wanted to see me, Admiral?

HALSEY

Ed, yeah, have a seat.

Ed sits on the other side of the desk.

HALSEY (CONT'D)

There's a ship available. And your name is up on the promotion roster.

ED

Really?

HALSEY

Now, it's not exactly a heavy cruiser. It's a midlevel craft. The U.S.S. Orville. It's hardly the top of the fleet, but it's an exploratory vessel.

ED

That's... that's great.

HALSEY

Honestly you would've been offered a command sooner, but... you haven't really inspired anyone with all that much confidence this past year.

ED

Yeah I know, I... had some personal shit I was working through, it's... not worth getting into--can I have one of these mints?

He takes a white mint out of a bowl on Halsey's desk and puts it in his mouth.

HALSEY

Those are marbles.

Ed spits it out.

HALSEY (CONT'D)

Look, all I need to know is that you're ready for this. Your service record is... well, it's average, honestly. But we have three thousand ships to staff at any given time, and we need Captains. And we think you can handle a command.

ED

Ever since I was a kid, I have wanted to work on an exploratory vessel. And for you to put me in the Captain's chair... Admiral, I am ready. You can count on me.

HALSEY

Good. I don't doubt it. Now, the Orville has a nearly full crew complement. Her previous Captain retired this month. But she is short a helmsman and a first officer. We're waiting for an ex-o to become available, but as far as a helmsman, we have a few excellent options if you'd like to review them.

ED

Well, actually... um, I don't know if you'd be open to this, but... I can get the best pilot in the galaxy.

HALSEY

(uneasy) Your mean Gordon. I'm aware you two are friends, but--

ED

I know Gordon's checked out half the time, but we all know there's nobody who can drive a starship like him.

HALSEY

Didn't he once draw a penis on the main viewing screen of orbiting station T85?

ED

He did. He's... drawn a lotta penises on a lotta things, and he's... yes, he's a colossal tool, but if you were navigating an ion storm, come on-- isn't that the guy you'd want at the wheel?

HALSEY

(beat) Well, if you think you can keep him focused, you can bring him on board. It's your ship, Captain Stevens.

INT. A CORRIDOR - DAY

Ed approaches a doorway marked "SIMULATION CHAMBER 7". He punches a few buttons on a keypad, and the door slides open.

INT. SIMULATION CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Inside, a computer simulation is in progress. GORDON STEVENS (late 30s) is battling a huge, simulated orc-type creature in a forest environment (however, the ceiling of the simulator is visible). Gordon wields a sword, which he inexpertly uses to fight the orc, who wields a battle-axe.

ED

What the hell are you doing?

GORDON

(turning to Ed) Oh hey, Ed! (to orc) Hey, just gimme one sec.

ORC

All good, I'm here.

ED

What is that?

GORDON

It's this program I wrote where you can battle an orc in a forest. It's pretty cool, right?

ED

Yeah, you made it talk and everything.

GORDON

Yeah he's a badass fighter, but I gave him a really neat personality. Hey dude, this is my buddy Ed.

ORC

Hi Ed, I'm Justin. Glad to know you.

ED

Hi.

GORDON

So what's goin' on?

ED

Gordon. I got a ship.

GORDON

No. Friggin'. Way.

ED
The Orville. Mid-level.
Exploratory. And she needs a
helmsman.

GORDON
Oh my god. Are we doin' this?
We're doin' this! This is it!

ED
How soon can you be ready?

GORDON
Dude, I was born ready. Holy shit,
this is amazing!

ED
We check in tomorrow.

GORDON
We got a ship! Justin, we got a
ship!

ORC
Oh my gosh you guys, I'm so excited
for you! Do just feel, like, so
blessed?

GORDON
Oh yeah, I also made him super
Christian.

EXT. ORBITING DOCKYARD (SPACE) - X

A shuttle glides smoothly through the orbiting dockyard,
weaving in and out among the various ships of the Fleet.

INT. SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS

Ed stands watching eagerly through the front window, while
Gordon pilots the shuttle.

GORDON
How many ships in the Fleet these
days?

ED
Three thousand.

GORDON
That's insane.

ED

I mean, that's three thousand spread out over two quadrants, so when you think about the size of the galaxy, it's actually not that much--are you drinking a beer?

Gordon is indeed drinking a beer.

GORDON

Yeah, I'm having one beer.

ED

While you're piloting the shuttle.

GORDON

I'm actually a better driver if I have like a little to drink. I'm actually more careful.

ED

I don't wanna show up for my first day on the job with a drunk helmsman. Get rid of it.

GORDON

Oh come on, man, it's like such little alcohol.

ED

Get rid of it.

GORDON

What are you worried I'm gonna crash?

EXT. ORBITING DOCKYARD - X

We see the shuttle continue to glide among the ships, but now it starts to swerve and wobble back and forth aggressively.

GORDON

Oh man, I hope we don't crash. Oh man, I didn't realize I was this wasted. That was my first beer ever and the sensations are all new. I hope we don't crash--

ED

Stop it. No. Gordon seriously, knock it the hell off. Gordon. Stop. I am literally ordering you to stop.

Another shuttle whizzes by them as they veer a little too close. It blares a horn-like warning.

GORDON
Oop, sorry. (beat) Okay, I'll stop.

EXT. ORBITING DOCKYARD - X

The shuttle gracefully skirts the top of a heavy cruiser.

INT. SHUTTLE - X

Through the front window, we see the Orville come into view just beyond the heavy cruiser. It's not massive or imposing, but looks large enough to handle a crew of about two hundred.

ED
Look at that. It's not bad, right?

GORDON
No, it's good.

ED
It's good. It's nice. It's pretty.

GORDON
You paint some flames on the side, maybe a rainbow unicorn, you got something.

ED
Take us in.

A hatch opens on the side of the ship, and the shuttle disappears inside.

END COLD OPEN - MAIN TITLE

ACT ONE

EXT./ESTAB. - ORVILLE IN ORBITING DOCKYARD - X

INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE - X

Ed stands before the entire crew, with Gordon just off to the side. At the front of the crowd we see the bridge officers: Security Chief ALARA KITAN (20s, alien-looking, sleek nose and brows), Co-pilot JOHN LAMARR (30s, black), Doctor Claire Finn (40s, black), BORTUS (a thick, broad, very alien-looking humanoid with a rippling epidermis that looks like hardened lava), and ISAAC (a silvery, metallic-bodied artificial life-form with a smooth, featureless head and two faintly glowing eyes).

ED

So I just wanna sum up by saying I'm thrilled to be your new Captain. I know you guys are all used to a certain way of doing things. I don't wanna come in here and upend any of that, I'll just say, I want this to be an efficient ship, tightly run, but also one that you're glad to be serving on. That's all I got. Let's get to it.

They start to disperse.

ED (CONT'D)

Bridge officers, hang back for a sec.

Ed looks at his computer pad as he acquaints himself with the officers.

ED (CONT'D)

(reading) Lieutenant Alara Kitan. Security Chief. You're Selayan, yeah?

ALARA

I am, sir.

GORDON

Wait, don't you guys have like, super strength?

ALARA

My world has as an exceptionally high gravitational pull compared to the planetary average, so yes, in Earth normal gravity my physical strength is pronounced.

GORDON

Can you open these nuts for me? This bag is like, I dunno what's goin' on.

He hands her the small bag of nuts he has been trying to open. She opens it with ease and hands it back to him.

GORDON (CONT'D)

Sweet.

ED

Well done Alara, I'll see that the Fleet awards you a medal of valor for that.

ALARA

Sir, that's really not necessary.

ED

I was--I was kidding.

ALARA

Oh. (smiles weakly)

ED

Hey Gordon, how bout you stay quiet and let me get through this, huh?

GORDON

(mouth full) Do it.

ED

(reading) Lieutenant John Lamarr, co-pilot. How's it goin' John?

JOHN

It's goin', man, how's it goin' with you?

ED

Not bad. Not bad. It says here you're a level 8 helmsman, that's pretty impressive.

JOHN

Yeah, yeah, that's right. Hey um, so our last Captain let us have um, soft drinks on the bridge while we're working. I just wanted to make sure that's still okay.

ED

You... you wanna know if you can have soda on the bridge?

JOHN

Yeah.

ED

I--yeah, if you keep it below the controls and don't spill it, yes.

JOHN

Ah, dig. Boom.

Ed pauses with confusion, then moves on to BORTUS.

ED

Lieutenant Commander Bortus, Ship's Armory. Y'know I've never met a single-gender species. Your entire species is male, isn't it?

BORTUS

That is correct, sir.

ED

(know it's a lame joke) So... when you dance, who leads? Ha.

BORTUS

We do not dance.

ED

You--not at all?

BORTUS

It is a foolish waste of stamina. We Moclins are proud warriors.

ED

Okay. Listen to this, and try standing still.

Ed takes out a small device and hits a button. It begins to play "Let's Groove" by Earth, Wind, and Fire. Ed moves along to the beat, trying to get Bortus into it. Bortus is stone-faced.

ED (CONT'D)

No? Nothing? All right, let's shut that off. We're gonna work on you. (he does so) Okay, (reading) Doctor Claire Finn. You're my Chief Medical Officer, yeah?

CLAIRE

Yes sir, I am. Welcome aboard.

ED

Thank you. You just transferred here?

CLAIRE

I did, yes.

ED

Your credentials are exceptional. Molecular surgery, DNA engineering, psychiatry... You could be posted on a heavy cruiser, what are you doing on The Orville?

CLAIRE

I always request my transfers based on where I think I'm needed. I feel more stimulated that way.

ED

And what made you request this ship?

CLAIRE

I think you need me.

ED

Really.

CLAIRE

It's your first command. And based on your profile and record, yes, I think you can use my help.

ED

So... you think I might screw up.

CLAIRE

I didn't say that.

ED

Yeah, but you're worried I don't have the balls for this job.

CLAIRE

I'm your doctor. If your balls are under par, I'll know.

ED

(uncomfortable laugh) Okay-y-y, not exactly the thing to say in front of a brand new crew that I need to respect me, who's excited to be here, huh? Who's excited to be workin' for me? All right, movin' on. And finally... (reading) Isaac.

He stops in front of the metallic Isaac.

ED (CONT'D)

Our science and engineering officer. Hailing from the planet Kaylon 1.

ISAAC

That is correct, sir.

ED

I gotta say, I was surprised to see any Kaylonian serving in the Fleet. Aren't you guys like, legendarily racist?

ISAAC

My planet regards humans and other biological life forms as inferior, yes.

ED

Cool, thanks.

ISAAC

You are welcome.

ED

(beat) So, what are you doing on a Union ship?

ISAAC

Your Fleet's Admiralty offered a posting on a Union ship to any Kaylonian willing to accept it. It is my understanding this was an effort to improve relations between Kaylon and the Union. The idea intrigued me.

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

It seemed an ideal opportunity to study human behavior.

ED

You're serving on a Union ship to study us?

ISAAC

Yes sir.

ED

Well, we'll try not to bore you.

ISAAC

Thank you, sir. You will find me to be your most capable officer.

ED

All right relax, Tom Brady. Okay. everybody settle in, we ship out this afternoon.

INT. ED'S QUARTERS - X

Ed is talking with Admiral Halsey on the screen in his quarters.

HALSEY

I wish I could give you something more exciting for your maiden voyage, but it's pretty straightforward. You'll be delivering supplies to the science station on Epsilon 2. About as dull as it gets.

ED

Hey. I'm not complaining sir, it'll be great just to be out there. Um, is there any word yet on a first officer?

HALSEY

I should have an update in a few hours. Sounds like you won't have to wait much longer.

ED

Well that's good news.

HALSEY

Safe travels, Captain. May the wind be at your back.

INT. BRIDGE - X

Ed steps out onto the bridge and surveys his new surroundings. The bridge crew are at their stations. Ed smiles to himself, recognizing how fortunate he is.

ALARA

Captain, we've received the green light from dockyard tower, and we're cleared for departure.

ED

Great, thanks Alara. Tell 'em we're good to go.

Ed settles into the Captain's chair. The first officer's chair, positioned right next to it, is conspicuously empty.

ED (CONT'D)

All right Gordo, take us out.

GORDON

Aye, sir. Departing dockyard.

Gordon works his control panel. On the main viewscreen, we see the ship's POV as it begins moving forward. John watches as he drinks a soda.

EXT. ORBITING DOCKYARD - X

The Orville makes its way beyond the rest of the Fleet, and out into open space.

INT. BRIDGE - X

JOHN

Dockyard perimeter cleared.

ED

Set course for Epsilon and engage quantum drive.

GORDON

Course set, drive engaged.

EXT. SPACE - X

The Orville streaks away with a colorful warping of space.

INT. BRIDGE - X

ISAAC

Captain, there is a message coming in from Fleet Admiral Halsey. He says an executive officer has become available, and can rendezvous with the Orville at Station 794.

ED

That's great, that's barely out of our way. Who is it?

ISAAC

He requests I forward it to you privately.

ED

(that's odd) Ok, send it to my pad.

Isaac presses a few keys, and a little pad on the side of Ed's chair twitters. He picks it up, and his expression instantly registers shock and dismay.

ED (CONT'D)

Shiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiit!

GORDON

What's the matter?

Ed jumps out of his chair, and races for the door.

ED

Nononononononononononono--

INT. CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Ed sprints down the corridor, still staring at the pad.

ED

Nononononononononononono--

He accidentally runs right through a gelatinous blob ambling in the other direction. The blob splits in two with a wet splat. Ed whirls around.

ED (CONT'D)

Oh crap, man, I'm sorry! You okay?

The blob (Lieutenant Yaphit, a crewmember) re-forms itself into one mass, and speaks with a sloppy hole of a mouth.

BLOB
It's all good man, you okay?

ED
Yeah, sorry.

BLOB
No worries.

Ed sprints away.

INT. ED'S QUARTERS - SHORTLY AFTER

Ed frantically addresses Admiral Halsey on his screen.

ED
Sir, you cannot do this to me! I'm begging you-- do NOT do this to me!

HALSEY
Calm down Ed, and be professional about this.

ED
There is nothing at all professional about this situation! This is my ex-wife who I have not seen since my divorce a year ago after she screwed another guy!

HALSEY
Look, I know this isn't ideal. But she's the only qualified ex-o available. And the staff profile compatibility program indicated it'd actually be a good personnel match.

ED
Did it? Really? Well, I have four years of marriage that says your computer program is a piece of shit!

HALSEY
It indicated your skill sets complement hers.

ED
Oh, so it said I'm also good at goin' down on guys at the gym?

HALSEY

Ed, you need to calm yourself here.
That's an order.

ED

I can't even believe this is
happening.

HALSEY

Look, I get it. But here's the
reality: she's the only current
option. And if you make a stink
about an ex-o assignment one day
into your first command... I'll be
honest with you, it's not gonna
look good. The Fleet Admirals will
think you can't separate your
personal affairs from your job.
And they won't allow a ship to
function indefinitely without a
first officer, you know that.

ED

And you're telling me she's okay
with this??

HALSEY

(beat) Ed, she requested it.

Ed is speechless.

EXT. SPACE - X

The Orville drops out of quantum drive and into normal space.
It approaches a space station orbiting an unremarkable
planet. This is Station 794. A small shuttle emerges from a
hatch in the station's side, gliding over and into to the
Orville's shuttle bay.

INT. BRIDGE - X

Ed sits in the Captain's chair, looking decidedly tense.

ALARA

Sir, shuttle bay reports ex-o's
shuttle has docked.

ED

(striding to the door) Can you tell
her to come straight to my office?

ALARA

Aye, sir.

He exits.

ISAAC

The Captain does not appear to be pleased at the arrival of his first officer. Why is this?

GORDON

Cause she's a total bitch.

ALARA

Do you know her?

GORDON

Oh yeah. They were married.

ALARA

(eyebrow raiser) No shit.

GORDON

She cheated on him.

JOHN

Aw damn, that's cold.

GORDON

Yeah, so this should be a really fun trip for all of us.

ISAAC

Your description of the occurrence indicates unpleasantness. Yet you believe it will be... fun?

GORDON

No, I was being sarcastic, it's gonna suck.

ISAAC

Suck?

GORDON

Suck. Y'know, like ass, balls.

BORTUS

(beat) Perhaps we should not be talking about this.

ALARA

Are you kidding? I wanna talk about this for like four hours.

INT. ED'S OFFICE - X

Ed sits behind his desk. His door chime sounds. He steels himself for a beat, then:

ED
Come in.

The door slides open, and Kelly stands there.

KELLY
(beat) Hi.

ED
Hi. I'm sorry, do I know you?

KELLY
Come on, Ed...

ED
You know my name? I'm sorry, you have me at a disadvantage.

KELLY
Look, please don't make this a game.

ED
No game, I swear to God, I literally do not recognize you at all--oh, wait a second.

He hits a button on his desk computer, and it snaps a picture of her, which instantly appears on his screen. He picks up a stylus, and draws a bunch of blue alien goo on her face.

ED (CONT'D)
Oh, Kelly! Hi! How are you! Sorry, I didn't recognize you without a blue load on your face.

KELLY
Are you all finished?

ED
I thought I was, but apparently you're not.

KELLY
Ed... Look. I can't say I'm sorry enough times. And I know it doesn't mean a damn thing to you, but I truly am.

(MORE)

KELLY (CONT'D)

It doesn't change anything, I get it, but I am sorrier about what I did to you than anything I've ever done in my entire life.

ED

Y'know, I've done a pretty good job getting over this -- over you -- in the past year. So why don't you tell me just what. The hell. You're doing here.

KELLY

I heard about your promotion. And I also heard there was no ex-o available. You know how the Fleet Admirals are: they don't like a Captain to be on his own for too long, and I know what a big deal this commission is for you. I didn't want see the Orville mothballed right after you launched. And I figured I'd wronged you so badly that if I could do something good for you... it'd help me atone in some way. So I requested a transfer. I literally bailed on my own crewmates to come here.

ED

Well, you bailed on a whole marriage, so that must've been a piece of cake.

KELLY

Look. I'm not saying what I did wasn't disgraceful. But I only did it because I didn't have you.

ED

Here we go...

KELLY

You were working all the time. You'd shut yourself off from our relationship, and I just felt like it was in decay.

ED

As I've said before, you could've said something.

KELLY

As I've said before, I tried. Many times. Either you didn't hear me or you weren't around at all. But I did try.

ED

This ship is what I've been waiting for my whole career. Who the hell are you to come back at this moment and screw it all up?

KELLY

As soon as a new ex-o becomes available, I'll be the one to request another transfer. You'll come out squeaky clean, and with luck they'll let it slide without asking me too many questions about why I can't sit still. Ed, I just wanna help.

ED

(beat) Fine.

KELLY

(beat) I did miss you.

ED

We should be on the bridge.

He exits. Kelly watches him go with a look of deep conflict.

END ACT ONE

EXT. SPACE - X

The Orville cruises along at high speed.

INT. BRIDGE - X

Ed is back in the Captain's seat, with Kelly at his side in the First Officer's chair.

JOHN
Epsilon in range.

ED
Drop to impulse drive.

EXT. SPACE - X

The Orville drops out of quantum drive and approaches a pleasant-looking Earth-like planet: Epsilon 2.

INT. BRIDGE - X

The crew observes the planet on the viewscreen. Alara signals the station.

ALARA
Orville to Epsilon science station.
We've entered orbit and we're ready
to bring down supplies. (beat)
Captain, the research manager for
the station is asking to talk to
you.

ED
Put him on.

She switches the main viewer to communication mode. A man in his 50s, DR. PETER LEONID, appears on the screen from his office on the surface. It's a comfortable looking office. On a couch behind him, a dog licks itself.

ED (CONT'D)
I'm Captain Ed Stevens, can I help
you?

DR. LEONID
Captain, would it be possible for
you and your first officer to come
down here to the surface?

KELLY

I'm Commander Kelly Grayson. We were just about to send down your supplies. Is there some problem?

DR. LEONID

(beat) We don't need any supplies. We're well stocked for at least six months.

ED

Wait, I'm sorry, I don't understand. You requested these supplies yourself, yeah?

DR. LEONID

I did.

ED

Well why the hell'd you have us bring all this plutonium and toothbrushes and shit out here if you don't need 'em?

DR. LEONID

Forgive me. I wouldn't have lied unless I had to. Please, just come down to the surface and I'll explain everything. It's very important.

The viewscreen switches back to the image of the planet.

KELLY

This is really strange.

ED

Yeah, great way to start things off.

JOHN

(to Gordon) You see that dog lickin' his balls in the background?

GORDON

First thing I saw.

ED

(getting up) All right, let's go. Alara, you're with us, just in case there're any surprises down there.

(MORE)

ED (CONT'D)

Isaac, tell Dr. Finn to meet us in the shuttle bay. Bortus, you have command.

BORTUS

Aye, sir.

Bortus takes the Captain's seat.

GORDON

Hey is it cool if we smoke in here while you're gone?

ED

No.

The three officers exit.

JOHN

(to Bortus) Sir, permission to use the viewscreen to show him the cat video I was talking about earlier?

BORTUS

Permission granted.

John hits a few buttons, and the "Pinky the Cat" video plays on the screen.

LOCAL SHERRIFF (ON SCREEN)

This is Pinky, he's a male cat, domestic shorthair, he's available for adoption, he's pet of the week. He's a very loving cat.

ANGLE ON John and Gordon.

JOHN

Watch this shit.

We hear the sounds of an O.S. commotion. When we cut back, we see that the cat is climbing up the sherriff's leg, clamping its claws onto his balls. The sherriff screams.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Oh, shit! Oh, shit! Hahaaa!
Look at that! He got him!
He got him!

GORDON

Oh my god! Haaaa! That is
great! That is just awesome!
Oh my god!

JOHN (CONT'D)

Still holds up after 400 years!

BORTUS

That cat is a brave warrior.

EXT. SPACE - X

A shuttle departs the Orville and heads down into the planet's atmosphere.

INT. SHUTTLE - X

Kelly pilots the shuttle with Ed, Claire, and Alara in the passengers' seats. Through the front window, we see the Science station far below on the surface as the shuttle descends.

KELLY

Approaching planet's surface.

ED

Yeah, we can all see, it's right there.

KELLY

What?

ED

Why does everybody always have to announce shit in space?
"Approaching planet's surface."
Yeah, duh, there's a huge friggin' window right here.

KELLY

It's just protocol, that's what everybody does.

ED

Yeah but, that's what I'm saying. Like, who are you even saying it to and why? It's like (pointing) "fire truck". Y'know?

KELLY

Are you just looking for shit to harp on?

ED

I am. I am. Didn't take long. Found it! Found one!

KELLY

That's really productive.

ED

Claire, do you see the planet surface?

CLAIRE

I'm staying the hell outta this.

ALARA

(quietly to Claire, pointing at Ed and Kelly) This is like the best thing that's ever happened to me. I got laid in a hot air balloon once and this is better.

EXT. EPSILON 2 RESEARCH FACILITY - DAY

The shuttle lands on the ground outside the impressive-looking array of buildings. The main doors open, and Dr. Leonid hurries out.

DR. LEONID

Captain Stevens! Welcome to Epsilon 2! Thank you for coming!

ED

Dr. Leonid (shakes his hand). This is my Security Chief Alara Kitan, Chief Medical Officer Claire Finn, and my ex-wife Kelly Grayson.

KELLY

I'm his First Officer.

ED

But if any of your research team needs an artless, jabby-nail shoulder massage, she's the best there is.

Kelly is clearly aggravated, but keeps her cool.

KELLY

Doctor, you wanna tell us what this is all about? Why you falsely diverted a starship on active duty? You know you could do time for that.

DR. LEONID

We needed protection.

ED

From what?

DR. LEONID

Krill ships have been sighted in this sector.

ED

Yeah, we're a little close to the Krill border, but so what? You're a science station.

ALARA

The Krill have never bothered any Union science stations before, it's the military outposts that have had all the skirmishes.

DR. LEONID

Come inside, and I'll explain.

INT. MAIN ATRIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Dr. Leonid leads the Orville team through a central open area. It's large and impressive, and we can see various labs through windows all along the multiple levels.

CLAIRE

I see why they call this place The Scientists' Playground.

DR. LEONID

It's incredible, isn't it? Scientists from hundreds of different fields of study, all working in the same facility, tinkering, experimenting, sharing ideas, sharing data, letting their imaginations run wild... and no one looking over their shoulders expecting results.

KELLY

Well, it's worked, from what I hear. You've had plenty of results.

DR. LEONID

Come here and take a look at our botany lab.

INT. BOTANY LAB - CONTINUOUS

The group enters. It's an impressive, high-ceilinged greenhouse filled with exotic, alien-looking plants.

ED

Wow. If you guys have a plant that sings "Feed Me" in a black voice, you got my interest.

Alara examines a bizarre plant with many branches, and several buds on each. Suddenly, the buds all open simultaneously, revealing individual wide, curious-looking eyes.

ALARA

(jumping back) Aaa, holy shit!
Holy shit.

CLAIRE

(to plant) Sorry, she gets nervous meeting new people.

The plant reacts with an indignant twitter. ANGLE ON Dr. Leonid, who holds up a seed.

DR. LEONID

This is a redwood seed. Looks pretty ordinary, right?

KELLY

Sure.

DR. LEONID

Well, this seed has been genetically engineered with tardigrade DNA. Which means it can survive and grow in any environment. In the Arctic, in the desert... it can exist a hundred years without water. You can toss this thing in the middle of the Sahara and in a century, you'd have a towering redwood tree.

ED

Actually, that is impressive.

DR. LEONID

(handing him the seed) Here, take it as a souvenir. We have thousands.

INT. MAIN ATRIUM - SHORTLY AFTER

Dr. Leonid continues to lead them along.

DR. LEONID

I can't even count how many new technologies have come out of this place. Science flourishes when it moves unfettered. And of course, if something emerges that we feel the military needs to be made aware of, we do.

KELLY

Is that what this is about?

DR. LEONID

(stops, turns) I couldn't tell you the real reason we needed a Union ship here because I couldn't risk divulging the information over open subspace communications.

INT. LAB - SHORTLY AFTER

Dr. Leonid enters with the group. The lab is filled with technicians and scientists. He approaches a young Asian woman.

DR. LEONID

This is Janice Lee, one of our most brilliant young physicists.

Janice and the group ad-lib greetings.

DR. LEONID (CONT'D)

Janice has been experimenting with warp fields, and she's made... well, a breakthrough is an understatement. Janice, would you show them?

Janice directs them to a table, above which a strange-looking device hangs.

JANICE

If you'll all gather around this table. Not too close, though.

She takes out a banana, and puts it on the table. She then takes out a keypad, punches in a code, and activates the device. A beam envelopes the banana, which instantly turns brown. A faint flickering field continues to surround it.

ED

Okay, so... you ruined a banana.
I'm glad we came. Aren't you glad
we came?

KELLY

Wait, a minute Ed... what about the
Union border war with the Banana
Empire?

ED

My God, you're right. This could
change the entire course of the
conflict. Every banana in the
galaxy would capitulate to the
Union.

KELLY

With a weapon like this... no
banana would dare defy us.

Ed laughs, then catches himself. For a moment, they were
connecting. Dr. Leonid looks annoyed.

ED

Look doc, I'm sorry, it's just
we've come a long way, and this is
all--

DR. LEONID

Captain, does that banana look
fried to you? No. It's rotten.
Because a month has passed.

ED

Since we got here? Yeah, that's
what it feels like.

JANICE

Captain Stevens, this banana is
suspended in a warp field that can
be adjusted to accelerate time.
Out here, only a few moments have
passed. Inside the field... for
that banana... it's a month later.

ED

Wait... you're serious.

KELLY

You've actually figured a way to
use warp field technology...

JANICE

To accelerate the flow of time,
yes. Only within the confines of
the field. But when I shut it
off...

She hits a few keys, and the field cuts off. The banana is
still spoiled.

JANICE (CONT'D)

The effects remain. The banana is
still spoiled.

ED

Does it only work in one direction?
Like, could someone use it to go...
backward in time to tell their
younger self not to make a terrible
life decision?

KELLY

Hey, why don't you give it a damn
rest for five minutes.

ED

No, I don't mean--

KELLY

I know what you meant.

ED

No, I mean, like, lay off the
carbs, or... don't break your leg
in that fall, or don't get married
but is that how it works?

DR. LEONID

No, the field can only accelerate
the pace of forward time. But
think of the benefits: Entire
crops growing in the blink of an
eye! Starving populations provided
with limitless food overnight!
Life-threatening wounds healed
instantly!

ALARA

Or entire armies reduced to frail
elders instantly. You realize this
could also be used as a weapon.

DR. LEONID

And that's why you're here. We couldn't send word to the Union Fleet about what we'd discovered. If the Krill had intercepted it, they could've been here long before you.

ED

Yeah, well, we're just one ship and not a big one, so we better get help. The Fleet's comm system is superior to anything this facility's got, so there's no risk of the Krill cracking the code with us.

CLAIRE

How fast does the field acceleration go?

DR. LEONID

(smiles) Wanna see a hundred year-old banana?

JANICE

Watch this.

She turns the field back on. This time its frequency sounds higher. Ed takes out his communicator.

ED

(into comm) Bortus, this is Captain Stevens, get a message to the Union Fleet that Epsilon 2 Science Station is in possession of--

Suddenly, one of the other physicists pulls out a plasma weapon and aims it at Ed.

PHYSICIST

Put down that communicator, Captain.

They all freeze.

END ACT TWO

INT. LAB - CONTINUOUS

The physicist still has his weapon trained on the group.

ED

Whoa whoa whoa. What is this,
what's goin' on?

DR. LEONID

Derek, what the hell--? What the
hell are you doing?

ED

Oh, course it's a Derek.

DEREK

I'm telling you to put down that
communicator now.

He fires at a nearby console, obliterating it, then
immediately aims the weapon back at Ed.

ED

Okay, okay. Relax.

KELLY

Who is this man?

DR. LEONID

This is Derek Ashton, one of our
lab technicians. He's been here
over a year, I don't understand it.
Derek, explain this!

Derek takes out a communicator of his own.

DEREK

Ashton to Krill -- it's time.

DR. LEONID

What?!

ED

I've never met a Derek who wasn't a
total douche.

Janice walks toward him, trying to appeal.

JANICE

Derek, please, why are you doing--

He shoves her head-on into the still-activated field. She
screams as her body instantly ages a hundred years.

She staggers back--hair white, eyes milky, skin wrinkled and paper thin... and collapses with a hoarse gasp. The Orville officers react.

KELLY

Oh my God...

BORTUS (V.O.)

Bortus to Captain Stevens.

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Bortus sits in the command chair.

BORTUS

We've just detected a Krill ship entering orbit. It must have been here the entire time, using a cloaking device.

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

We see a formidable-looking Krill ship enter orbit, heading for the Orville.

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

BORTUS

Raise deflector screens.

JOHN

Deflector screens up.

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Three shuttles emerge from the Krill ship and head for the planet.

ISAAC

Three Krill shuttles are heading for the surface. Life signs indicate five Krill in each.

BORTUS

Captain, there are Krill soldiers heading down to you. Captain!

GORDON
(bummed out)
God, there's no way we're gonna be
out by five today, are we?

INT. LAB - CONTINUOUS

The crew is still at gunpoint.

BORTUS (V.O.)
Captain, do you read? Please
respond.

DEREK
Answer him. Tell him the Krill
come in peace, and to stand down
all weapons and deflector screens.

ED
(into comm) Hey so, the Krill are
chill, um... they're just coming
down for...

He's at a loss. Kelly takes the comm from him.

KELLY
The lab is having a pizza party
down here, and the Krill are
invited.

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

John and Gordon immediately whirl to face Bortus.

JOHN/GORDON
Oh man, can we go down? / Aw Bortus
can we go down there?

INT. LAB - CONTINUOUS

BORTUS (V.O.)
Did you say... a pizza party?

Alara slowly and stealthily reaches for a heavy-looking piece
of equipment on a nearby shelf.

KELLY
Yeah it's for... a Quinceanera.

ED

Yeah, one of the physicists, Dr...
Rod...uargo...is throwing it for
his daughter.

KELLY

Yeah, there's karaoke and
everything.

ED

Oh wow Kelly, "Not A Girl, Not Yet
A Woman." What a great choice. Go
to it!

KELLY

Well I would if your name wasn't
before mine on the list. "Jeremy"
by Pearl Jam. Dark choice, but
good.

They look at each other.

DEREK

(aiming gun) Sing.

ED

(beat, then) *JEREMY SPOKE IN CLASS
TODAY...*

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

GORDON

Aw man, this song breaks my
friggin' heart.

ED (V.O.)

JEREMY SPOKE IN CLASS TODAY...

INT. LAB - CONTINUOUS

As Ed continues singing, Alara hurls the piece of equipment
at Derek, bashing him in the head. He falls, and the gun
clatters to the floor.

ED

Thank god.

Ed, Kelly, and Claire draw their weapons as Alara rushes over
to Derek. He makes a grab for the gun, but she grabs his
hand. He's surprised by her strength.

ALARA

Hi, I'm Alara. This is how we
shake hands on my planet.

She twists his hand, cracking his bones. He lets out a howl,
at which point she hurls him against the wall like a rag
doll.

ED

(into comm) Bortus! The Krill are
here to attack! Keep those
deflectors up and weapons charged!
There is no pizza party! Repeat:
There is no pizza party!

Kelly and Claire rush over to Janice. Claire examines the
body with her medical scanner.

CLAIRE

My god, Commander... This woman is
a hundred and twenty-five years
old!

Dr. Leonid grabs Derek by the collar.

DR. LEONID

What did they offer you, you son of
a bitch?! How much were they
paying you?!

KELLY

(grabbing him) Dr. Leonid! We've
got to get the device back to the
Orville! What do we need?

DR. LEONID

Detach the main generator and get
the controller unit. Those are the
essentials.

EXT. EPSILON 2 RESEARCH FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

The three Krill shuttles land one after another, within sight
of the Orville's shuttle. Their hatches open, and out pour
fifteen Krill soliders. They are terrifying in appearance:
Oddly-shapen heads, pale-skinned, eyes black as onyx, with
pinkish mouths and black ivory-looking teeth. Most of them
rush toward the complex, but a few stay back to keep watch
over the Orville's shuttle.

EXT. SPACE - X

The Krill ship faces off with the smaller Orville.

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

BORTUS

Orville to Krill ship. Call off
your attack on the surface or we
will respond.

EXT. SPACE - X

The Krill ship fires several plasma blasts at the Orville.
The blasts are absorbed by the deflectors.

INT. ORVILLE - CONTINUOUS

The ship is rocked violently by the blast. Sparks fly from
overloaded consoles and crew members struggle to maintain
stability.

ISAAC

Deflectors are at two-thirds power.

BORTUS

Return fire.

John activates the controls, knocking over his soda cup as he
does so. He looks around to see if anyone saw that he
spilled.

EXT. SPACE - X

The Orville returns fire, its plasma blasts easily absorbed
by the Krill ship's shields.

INT. LAB - CONTINUOUS

Ed finishes detaching the generator unit.

ED

All right come on, let's go!

He starts for the main atrium, but jumps back as he sees it
is crawling with Krill.

ED (CONT'D)

Shit! They're everywhere out there! Doc, is there another way outta here?

DR. LEONID

There's an underground conduit but it's on the other side of the atrium.

CLAIRE

So we're gonna have to sprint for it.

ED

All right, on the count of three.

KELLY

Doc, stay behind Alara, she's got better aim than all of us.

DR. LEONID

Which one is...

ALARA

Oh, I'm Alara.

DR. LEONID

Sorry, I'm still learning everyone's names.

ED

One... two... THREE!

They all sprint out into...

INT. MAIN ATRIUM - CONTINUOUS

They fire frantically at the Krill as they race across the atrium. The Krill immediately return fire and pursue. Ed, Kelly, and Claire each manage to take out at least one Krill. Alara takes out three. Ed is hit in the shoulder by a Krill plasma blast.

ED

(howls in pain)

DR. LEONID

There's the door!

They run through the door and shut it with a slam. Dr. Leonid hits a keypad, locking it. They can hear the Krill pounding and firing at the door.

KELLY

That won't hold them for long,
which way?

DR. LEONID

Down that corridor!

They hurry down a ramp and into an underground corridor.

EXT. SPACE - X

The Krill ship continues to fire on the Orville. The Orville returns fire.

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Another blast rocks the bridge. More sparks from the equipment.

ISAAC

Deflectors at half power.

GORDON

Sir, I think I can buy us some
time.

BORTUS

What is your idea, Lieutenant?

GORDON

Let me wing it here?

Bortus nods.

GORDON (CONT'D)

(to John) This is something I call
"The Electron Maneuver."

JOHN

Do it, dawg.

EXT. SPACE - X

The Orville races at the Krill ship, which fires repeatedly but misses. The Orville begins circling the Krill ship like an electron circling a nucleus. The Krill ship fires, but it can't hit the moving target.

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

We see the Krill ship going by at dizzying speed on the monitor.

GORDON
Hahaa! Round and round she goes!

EXT. SPACE - X

The Orville continues its circular maneuver.

GORDON (V.O.)
What is that? Whassat buzzin' around there? Is that a mosquito? Bzzz bzzz bzzz! Can't get at it, can ya! Can't get at the son of a bitch! Too fast for ya, suckaaaaas!

JOHN (V.O.)
Dude, I spilled a lotta soda here.

EXT. EPSILON 2 RESEARCH FACILITY - DAY

The crew emerges from a side door. They pause for breath.

ED
Doc, I'm so sorry about your colleague.

LEONID
She was protecting her research. There was nothing else she could've done.

CLAIRE
Lemme see that shoulder.

Ed lets her examine the wound.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Does it hurt?

ED
It hurts like a bitch.

KELLY
(to Claire) That means it's not that bad.

ED

What're you talking about? I just said it hurts like hell.

KELLY

When he's really in pain, he gives straight answers with no cussing. He's just hoping you give him drugs.

ED

That's bullshit, Kelly, I'm really hurt here. (then, to Claire) Did you bring drugs with you? Do you have dr--

CLAIRE

Everything's back on the ship.

ED

Dammit. Okay Bosley, angels, let's go.

They make their way around the side of the complex, where they see their shuttle. There are three Krill keeping an eye out.

KELLY

Okay, I only see three of them.

ED

Alara, you think you can get 'em from here?

ALARA

Check this.

She takes aim, and easily picks off the three.

ED

Nice! Okay, let's go!

They race to the shuttle, and climb inside. Ed takes the helm.

INT. SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS

KELLY

(to comm) Shuttle to Orville, we're on our way!

EXT. EPSILON 2 RESEARCH FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

The shuttle lifts off as Krill soldiers pour out of the building. They fire at the shuttle, but it soars off into the clouds...

END ACT THREE

EXT. SPACE - X

The Orville and the Krill ship continue to trade fire.

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The ship takes another violent hit.

ISAAC

Ten percent power remaining. One more direct hit will disable our deflectors.

JOHN

I'm picking up the shuttle! Here they come!

EXT. SKIES OVER EPSILON 2 - DAY

The shuttle continues its ascent. Everyone is focused on the front window, waiting to clear the atmosphere.

ED

(into comm) Bortus, are you gonna be able to cut the deflectors long enough for us to get through?

BORTUS (V.O.)

It may not matter, sir. The deflectors are almost gone.

ED

Oh, boy.

KELLY

They're not gonna fire on us, Ed. They know we have the device.

No one notices the Krill soldier rising behind all of them.

ED

I hope you're right. 'Cause if you're not, we're in trouble.

KRILL SOLDIER

Give me the device.

They all turn in surprise and alarm.

ED

Holy shit!

Alara starts for him, but he forces her back with the weapon.

KRILL SOLDIER

Give me the device, and perhaps I
will not harm you.

ED

Uh, okay, hang on, just give us a
second here.

Ed looks down at the floor for a beat.

ED (CONT'D)

All right, you win. Here it is.

He hurls Gordon's beer bottle from earlier at the Krill. It shatters in his face as he screams. Alara jumps on him, and pummels him into unconsciousness.

ED (CONT'D)

God, beer and fighting. This
shuttle smells like a dorm room.

Through the front window, we see the cloud cover of the upper atmosphere dissipate at last. The shuttle soars out into open space. Through the window, we see the battle taking place above them.

INT. BRIDGE - X

The ship is rocked once more.

ISAAC

The deflectors are depleted.

EXT. SPACE - X

The Krill ship fires again, blasting a piece of the Orville's propulsion drive to bits.

INT. SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS

Ed zigs and zags as he tries to dodge the hurtling debris and make it into the shuttle bay. A large chunk barely misses them.

KELLY

That was a chunk of the left
engine.

ED
Yup. Hang on.

The shuttle glides into the bay.

INT. SHUTTLE BAY - X

The crew hurries out.

EXT. SPACE - X

The Orville fires back at the Krill ship. The Krill returns fire, blasting the Orville's other engine.

INT. SHUTTLE BAY - X

The crew struggles to stay on their feet.

CLAIRE
They're cutting us to bits!

INT. BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Ed, Kelly, Alara, and Claire arrive on the bridge. Bortus stands up from the Captain's chair.

BORTUS
Both quantum engines are gone,
Captain. I have failed you.

ED
I couldn't have done any better.
That ship is armed to the teeth.
Isaac, can you get the Krill
commander on screen?

ISAAC
Captain, he is already signaling.

ED
Put him on.

The Krill Captain appears on the viewscreen. He looks even more terrifying than the rest. He is also a little too far to the right on the screen.

ED (CONT'D)
Y'know, it's funny, I was just
about to call you.

KRILL CAPTAIN

Give me the device, human, or I will destroy your ship.

ED

Well, you've done a pretty good job of that already, haven't you?

KRILL CAPTAIN

You have had only a small taste. I am capable of causing you great pain.

ED

Sorry, can you do me a favor? Can you move like two steps to your right?

KRILL CAPTAIN

What?

ED

Just like, a little bit that way? It's just--there's just a lotta dead space.

The Krill Captain does so.

ED (CONT'D)

Thanks, sorry, you were just really weirdly framed, it was like all I could focus on. Anyway, what did you want?

KRILL CAPTAIN

I am losing patience. You know what I want.

ED

Well, that's gonna cost you at least a dinner, mister.

KRILL CAPTAIN

You wish to play games, do you?

ED

That's actually a great idea. How about instead of deciding this by whoever's ship is more powerful, how about you come over here for Pictionary, and whoever wins gets to keep the device.

KRILL CAPTAIN
What is... Pictionary?

ED
Okay well, at first I was afraid of
you, now I just feel sorry for you.

A plasma blast rocks the ship. The power goes out.

ED (CONT'D)
Emergency power!

Emergency power kicks on. The Krill Captain re-appears on te
screen.

KRILL SOLDIER
I will make it simple for you,
human. You have sixty seconds to
give me the device, or I will
destroy your vessel.

ED
Okay, hang--hang on one second.

The Krill Captain vanishes from the screen for a moment.

ED (CONT'D)
I'm out of ideas. Pictionary was
my ace in the hole.

KELLY
I have an idea.

ED
What is it?

KELLY
Let's give him the device.

ED
What? What, are you nuts?! We
can't do that, you'd be giving the
most powerful weapon around to the
biggest dicks in the galaxy!

KELLY
Exactly.

ED
Enlighten me.

KELLY

Dr. Leonid, can you pre-set the field to fire up at a specific intensity the moment the Krill activate it?

DR. LEONID

I think so, but why?

KELLY

And the field can accelerate time a hundred years, correct?

DR. LEONID

Yes, it can.

KELLY

(smiling at Ed) About how long it takes a redwood to grow.

Suddenly, Ed realizes what she's proposing. He reaches into his pocket, and fishes out the redwood seed Dr. Leonid gave him.

ED

(impressed) You crazy motherfucker.

Kelly gives him a smile and a wink. Ed turns back to the viewscreen.

ED (CONT'D)

All right, put him back on.

Isaac re-activates the viewscreen. The Krill Captain re-appears.

ED (CONT'D)

All right Captain, you win. We're gonna send the device to you by remote shuttle. When you receive it, we'll give you the activation code.

KRILL CAPTAIN

Do not take long.

ED

We won't. Oh by the way, it's called a tan, maybe look into it.

Ed shuts off the viewscreen.

INT. SHUTTLE BAY - MOMENTS LATER

Ed and Kelly place the device inside the shuttle. Kelly takes out a tube of something, and puts it on the tip of the device's muzzle.

ED
Just good old-fashioned glue, huh?

KELLY
This is my favorite part of being a Fleet officer, the arts and crafts.

She glues the seed to the tip of the device's muzzle.

ED
If we had more time, I'd make a macaroni man to put on there.

KELLY
You can make a macaroni man?

ED
I make the best macaroni men.

KELLY
(finishing) There we go.

ED
All right, let's get her outta here.

EXT. SPACE - X

The shuttle emerges from the Orville, and glides over toward the Krill ship.

INT. SHUTTLE BAY - X

Kelly operates the shuttle by remote, and watches its progress on a monitor.

KELLY
Okay, it's entering the Krill shuttle bay.

A beat.

KELLY (CONT'D)
It's docked. Let's go.

They hurry out.

INT. BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Kelly and Ed re-enter the bridge and take their stations.

ED
Isaac, signal the Krill ship.

Isaac does so. The Krill Captain re-appears on the monitor.

ED (CONT'D)
Okay Captain, you have it.

KRILL CAPTAIN
You're very cooperative, human. It may save your life.

ED
No problem, if you want we can also send over some Crest, it looks like the Cavity Creeps may be after you there.

KRILL CAPTAIN
Now, give me the activation code.

KELLY
Well see the thing is, we don't wanna get blown up here, so we were thinking we'd get ourselves to a safe distance, and then transmit the code from there.

KRILL CAPTAIN
(a chilling chuckle) Do you take me for a fool? Transmit the code now.

Ed and Kelly look at each other.

ED
Oh, he doesn't trust us. He think's we're gonna dick him over.

KELLY
He doesn't trust us. He's afraid we're gonna run off and screw him.

ED
Got it, you wanna test it before we go, fair enough. Doc?

Dr. Leonid hands him a pad.

ED (CONT'D)
(reading) The code is 6-alpha-937-alpha-300.

The Krill Captain punches the numbers on an O.S. panel.

ED
What would you have said?

KELLY
I would've said, "You've got wood."

JOHN/GORDON
Haaaa! / Yes!

ED
Oh, that is better.

EXT. ORBITING DOCKYARD - X

Suited crews effect repairs on the Orville, which looks better than the last time we saw it.

INT. ED'S OFFICE - X

Ed sits at his desk. His doorbell chimes.

ED
Come in.

The door slides open. It's Kelly.

ED (CONT'D)
Hi.

KELLY
Hi. I didn't wanna bother you unless I had to, you've kinda kept to yourself these past few days.

ED
Yeah, the Fleet Admirals want a full report on the Epsilon 2 stuff, so it's just taking awhile.

KELLY
Yeah. You need help?

ED
No, it's fine, I got it.

KELLY
(beat) So, Lieutenant Commander Murphy from the U.S.S. Chanute just got promoted. He's eligible for a First Officer position. He's also a friend of mine, so I told him he could take this posting.

(MORE)

KELLY (CONT'D)
He's a great guy, you'll love him.
And I'll be out of your hair by the
end of the day.

ED
Okay.

She stands there for a beat, then turns to leave.

ED (CONT'D)
Wait.

She turns back.

ED (CONT'D)
I... never really said thank you.
For what you did. You saved this
ship. In like a totally wacked-out
way, but you saved us all.

KELLY
I was doing my job.

ED
You were... always better at
solving my problems than I was.
You were always wise.

KELLY
I cared about you. More than I
cared about myself. That's why I
stayed so long. Look, I did a
terrible thing, Ed. And I can
never make up for it.

ED
You did, yeah. But I... may have
driven you to it. I wasn't giving
back what I was getting.

KELLY
Well... thank you for saying that.

She turns to leave again.

ED
Kelly...

She stops.

ED (CONT'D)
(mumbling) Iwytsty...

KELLY

What?

ED

I was just saying... (mumbles)
Iwayatasty.

KELLY

I don't...

ED

I want you to stay. Will you stay?

KELLY

Is that really what you want?

ED

I owe you my life and so does this
entire ship. If that's not grounds
for forgiveness, I don't know what
is. And everything else aside...
you were always my best friend.

KELLY

I'd still like us to be friends.
Very much.

Ed rises and extends his hand.

ED

Welcome to The Orville... Commander
Grayson.

She smiles broadly and shakes his hand.

EXT. ORBITING DOCKYARD - X

CHYRON - THREE WEEKS LATER

INT. BRIDGE - X

Ed and Kelly sit side-by-side in the Captain and First
Officer's chairs.

KELLY

(into comm) This is Commander
Grayson, requesting clearance for
departure.

Admiral Halsey appears on the viewscreen.

HALSEY
Orville, you are cleared for
departure.

ED
Admiral. Thanks for the personal
send-off.

HALSEY
I just wanted to make sure all the
repairs were up to snuff.

ED
Everything's ship shape.

ALARA
Ask him about the dog hair.

ED
Oh yeah, there was a lot of dog
hair in the quantum drive buffering
conduits. So maybe just tell the
repair crews, like don't bring your
dog to work.

HALSEY
I'll pass that on. Well, good luck
with your star charting mission.
You'll be entering a relatively
unexplored region, so this
assignment should be a little more
interesting.

KELLY
We'll do our best, sir.

A beat.

HALSEY
So what else is goin' on?

Another beat.

ED
Not... not much, what's goin' on
with you?

HALSEY
Ugh, I only have one more meeting
before the end of the day, and it's
in like an hour.

END OF SHOW (CONT'D)