

IN OUR SPACE

Original screenplay by  
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FADE IN:

EXT. ELDORADO'S FRONT YARD - DAY

The Space Bus, a vehicle converted to a spacecraft, sits in a field. Three college age people are walking to the bus: ELDORADO, an edgy looking man, HENDRIX, a nerdy looking man, and AMYL, a dark haired woman.

ELDORADO

This is it.

HENDRIX

This is it?

ELDORADO

Hey, this thing has a nickel magnetic field drive. A thousand light years for five cents. Talk about fuel efficiency!

AMYL

And we're supposed to believe this coming from someone who thinks the millenium started in 2001 instead of 2000?

ELDORADO

But it did start in 2001 - fifty three years ago!

They stop at the door of the bus. Eldorado enters digits on a keypad and the door opens with a hissing sound.

ELDORADO

I've been planning for this day ever since high school. Let's take this up now.

HENDRIX

Now? Aren't you going to test drive this thing?

ELDORADO

Of course I am - NOW!

AMYL

Right. I hope there's a bathroom in here.

ELDORADO

Everything is in here, and whatever isn't in here...  
(pointing to sky)  
is out there.

Eldorado, Hendrix, and Amyl enter the craft.

INT. SPACE BUS

Eldorado flips switches on the wall and overhead lights illuminate the interior. He sits at one of three control consoles.

ELDORADO

This is where it all begins.

AMYL

Are you the pilot or the narrator?

HENDRIX

For me, it began when I read my first sci-fi story. It was fun, but impossible. Aliens visiting Earth? Anything smart enough to invade another planet would be dumb enough to destroy its own.

AMYL stares at the ceiling.

ELDORADO

I guess it began for me when I got dumped by that girl in tenth grade. Everyone on this planet seems to find someone except me, so I'm going to look a little bit farther.

AMYL

It started for me when I was born. Dad was working at NASTA East building rockets. Then he moved to NASTA South designing propulsion units. Later it was NASTA West and control systems, then back east as a command control operator. He always called me his little astronaut - never his little daughter.

Eldorado leans forward in his chair.

AMYL (cont.)

And everything at home was space. We talked space, we had space for dinner, we pissed and pooped space! When I told him I wanted to be a psychologist, he made sure to let me know how disappointed he was.

(beat)

So let's get this space crap over with already!

Eldorado salutes.

ELDORADO

Yes sir, Amyl sir!  
Thrusters on!

Nothing moves.

HENDRIX

Isn't something supposed to happen here?

AMYL

Yeah, some shaking, pitch, or yaw, or getting thrown across the room like on TV?

ELDORADO

Look out the window.

Hendrix and Amyl lean toward the windows.

AMYL

Holy shit!

Amyl and Hendrix are greeted with a view of Earth from space.

HENDRIX

That has to be three hundred kilometers in twenty seconds!

ELDORADO

Antigravity generator in the ceiling. Damn, I'm good!

A beeping comes from Eldorado's console. He leans over and stares at a video screen.

ELDORADO

What the hell is this?

Amyl stares out the window.

AMYL

My dad said something about this once. It's the Space Force.

HENDRIX

NASTA has a space force? But I thought -

AMYL

It's them all right. They think they own the universe.

CUT TO:

INT. NASTA CONTROL CENTER

A SERGEANT and two controllers CAPTAIN SMITH and CAPTAIN WILLIAMS are watching a communications console.

SERGEANT

NORAD confirms unauthorized launch of vehicle into high altitude orbit. Force squad Alpha is tracking them now.

Smith points to the screen.

SMITH

Look at this vector. 90 degrees - straight up!

SERGEANT

That's not an orbit - and no known vehicle of ours can do that! This thing is highly advanced - and I want to bring it back.

WILLIAMS

Alpha One attempting contact now, sir.

SERGEANT

Patch it in.

SQUAD LEADER (filter)

This is National AeroSpace Transportation Authority One to unidentified craft. Do you read?

INT. SPACE BUS

Hendrix picks up a microphone.

HENDRIX

What do I say?

ELDORADO

How about "Eat my cosmic dust!"

HENDRIX

That'll just piss them off. Really - what do I say?

SQUAD LEADER (filter)  
This is NASTA One to  
unidentified craft. We are  
prepared to lock on and tow  
your vessel to our base. Do  
you read?

HENDRIX  
Any ideas?

Amyl grabs the microphone from Hendrix.

AMYL  
Listen to me. We're just  
exploring space - OUR space.  
We have a right to be out here  
without some space cop pulling  
us over. We've done nothing  
wrong. We've broken no laws.

INT. NASTA CONTROL CENTER

AMYL (filter, cont.)  
So leave us alone, and we'll  
send you pictures of our trip,  
OK?

WILLIAMS  
AMYL!

SERGEANT  
Excuse me, Captain Williams?

SMITH  
DOD just ID'ed the occupants of  
the vessel, sir. Hendrix  
Harris, age 21 - Eldorado  
Estevez, age 22 -  
(beat)  
And Amyl Williams, age 21.

Captain Williams takes the microphone.

WILLIAMS  
Amyl! Have they hurt you?  
What are their demands?

AMYL (filter)  
Dad? What are you talking  
about?

WILLIAMS  
Just stay calm. We'll bring you  
back soon.

SERGEANT  
Cut the comm link! I'll handle  
this.

He punches a button on the console.

SERGEANT (cont.)  
NASTA command to Alpha One on  
secure channel. Lock on and  
bring them back now!

INT. SPACECRAFT

AMYL  
Oh my god! He thinks I've been  
kidnapped!

The spacecraft jars slightly. AMYL looks out the window.

HENDRIX  
Finally, it moved!

AMYL  
They're trying to lock on!

ELDORADO  
Not gonna happen. This thing's  
almost all aluminum. Score  
another one for me!

AMYL  
Get us out of here now!

ELDORADO  
No problem. By the time I stop  
talking, we'll be past Pluto.

AMYL

So why are they still following?

SQUAD LEADER (filter)  
Alpha two, use the tether gun to lock on.

ALPHA TWO (filter)  
My fuel's at half scale. No can do.

ELDORADO  
Half full - or is it half empty?

Amyl hits Eldorado.

ELDORADO (cont.)  
That means this is as far as they go.

AMYL  
Hendrix! Log that distance so we know their maximum range.

Hendrix salutes Amyl.

HENDRIX  
Yes, sir! Any other orders, Sir?

ELDORADO  
Yeah, who elected YOU captain?

AMYL  
Sorry, guys. That whole thing with my dad just made me hyper.

HENDRIX  
Captain Williams. Has a nice ring to it.

Amyl glares at Hendrix.

ELDORADO

Since you know space so well,  
you can be acting captain.  
That is, if it's OK with you.

AMYL

No. I'll be Commander Amyl, or  
Commandant Amyl, or even Chick  
In Charge Amyl, but don't EVER  
call me by my last name with  
"captain" in front of it.

ELDORADO

Yes sir, oh fearless leader!

HENDRIX

Um, excuse me, your royal  
highness?

AMYL

What is it NOW?

HENDRIX

You had better take a look at  
this.

All three move to Hendrix's console. Eldorado leans closer  
and stares intently at the screen.

ELDORADO

If this is correct, your theory  
about life in space has just  
been shot down.

HENDRIX

By some wobbly lines on a  
computer monitor?

ELDORADO

Spectrum analyzer. It's a  
forward scatter receiver, and  
we're picking up something at a  
distance of 125 light years.

HENDRIX

Sure. Ham radio operators in  
space. I don't think so.

ELDORADO

No - some sort of military transmission. It's scrambled, but the computer's decoder just locked on. Here it is.

ALIEN VOICE (filter, distorted)

...with project TSM. Your subject is located on planet two of our system. Your instructions have been transmitted. Do not return until subject has been terminated. End.

ELDORADO

I have a fix on their position.

HENDRIX

We have to go there.

AMYL

Wait a minute! They're going to kill somebody! We're not going anywhere near these freaks.

HENDRIX

I didn't say we were going to visit these particular aliens. It's just that we now know where they're going, and that the planet is inhabited. I want to see who's living there, what they're like, and what aliens really do instead of the crap stories that they expect us to believe. Eldo, how soon can we be there?

ELDORADO

We'll be there in a half hour or so.

AMYL

I don't know about this. I was expecting to stay in our own galaxy. You know, pick up some Mars dust, or get a balloon full of the gas rings around Uranus...

Eldorado snickers.

AMYL (cont.)

Or something like that. I wasn't planning for a five year mission.

HENDRIX

You're a psych student. That involves studying people. Here's a chance to study different people.

(sighs)

Nobody has had this chance before, and judging from our Space Force, nobody will for a long time. This is our chance to explore the universe, and to do it first.

ELDORADO

Like you said, this is OUR space.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANET TWO - STREET - NIGHT

Amyl, Hendrix, and Eldorado are walking side by side down a dimly lit street. Aliens with unusually narrow faces walk past them, staring as they pass by.

AMYL

(out of breath)

You couldn't have landed any closer to here, could you?

ELDORADO

Any closer, and someone would have seen us.

HENDRIX

So, where are we going?

ELDORADO

To a bar, of course! That way Amyl can study a few of the locals...

AMYL

And now that you've discovered life on other planets, you can see if it won't give you the time of day either.

ELDORADO

Come on, Aim...give me some credit here! I'm looking for more than that.

AMYL

Yeah, you're looking for cheap drinks, and you're asking me for credit to pay for them! Not in this or any other galaxy, El!

A monorail goes by overhead. The three travelers stop and watch it pass by.

AMYL

Fascinating.

ELDORADO

Sure is quieter than the ones in Chicago.

The three travelers continue walking down the street.

HENDRIX

I'm going Dumpster diving.

ELDORADO AND AMYL

What?

HENDRIX

Trash. That's what a history professor told me once - that a civilization's trash is the key to understanding them.

AMYL

I've never heard THAT before.

HENDRIX

Think about it - what are archaeologists finding when they dig up the ruins of lost civilizations? It's their trash, that's what.

ELDORADO

You can dig through their smelly trash if you want, but I'm going to pick up something that smells a little better.

Amyl elbows Eldorado.

ELDORADO (cont.)

Something to DRINK! There! Up ahead.

Amyl, Hendrix, and Eldorado approach an old brick building. Neon signs in the windows have outlines of beer mugs with alien language brand names. A sign atop the window says "Zorlahan's Pub."

HENDRIX

I'm not much for the interplanetary bar scene. You guys have fun. I'm going to do a little investigation.

ELDORADO

We will. Hope you find what you're looking for - just don't wipe it on your shirt!

Hendrix shakes his head and walks around the corner.

AMYL

I worry about him sometimes.

ELDORADO

I worry about him all the time.

Eldorado and Amyl enter the bar.

INT. ZORLAHAN'S PUB

Eldorado and Hendrix come through the doorway and stop to stare at the crowd. More aliens with narrow faces are seated at bar stools and tables. Disco music plays in the background amid muffled conversation. A waitress walks across the floor and hands a drink and a yellow headset to a woman sitting at the bar, then directs her attention to a man sitting at the other end of the bar who also wears a yellow headset. The woman puts on her headset, smiles, and they both move to the same rhythm. Amyl and Eldorado seat themselves at the bar, and a BARTENDER approaches.

BARTENDER

Request?

AMYL

Coors Light.

Eldorado stares at Amyl.

AMYL

Sorry. How about a screwdriver?

BARTENDER

Repeat?

AMYL

Screw...driver!

BARTENDER

Not logical.

AMYL

It's an alcoholic beverage, you little...

BARTENDER

Specify.

AMYL

Vodka and orange juice.

BARTENDER

Explain vodka.

AMYL

Vodka. Well, it's from Russia,  
and...

She turns to Eldorado, who looks down at the bar, shaking his head.

AMYL (cont.)

Um, it's strong stuff. High  
potency. High alcohol content.

BARTENDER

Confirmed with short delay.

The bartender next moves to Eldorado.

ELDORADO

I'll have an alcoholic fruit  
juice, slightly and naturally  
carbonated.

BARTENDER

Confirmed wine cooler with  
short delay.

AMYL

I'll bet they've got Coors  
Light here somewhere!

The bartender punches keys on a keypad at the edge of the bar, and two drinks emerge from hidden trap doors in the bar. Amyl lifts her glass and sips her drink.

AMYL

Mmmmm! Are you sure this isn't  
Russia?

Eldorado tastes his.

ELDORADO  
 (sarcastically)  
 Manischewitz, 2044. An average  
 year.

Amyl is distracted by a couple at a table behind her.

MAN #1  
 Verify status?

WOMAN #1  
 Seeking. Verify sign?

MAN #1  
 Aquarian.

WOMAN #1  
 Pisces.

MAN #1  
 Employed, paratechnician.

WOMAN #1  
 Student, education.

AMYL  
 (whispering)  
 I don't believe this.

MAN #1  
 I suggest.

WOMAN #1  
 I refuse with ambivalence.

MAN #1  
 Commitment optional.

WOMAN #1  
 I accept.

The man and woman join hands and leave the bar together. Amyl is startled by a tap on her shoulder. She turns and comes face to face with a narrow faced GEEKY ALIEN in a plaid leisure suit and a bow tie. He smiles. Amyl tries to hide a smirk.

GEEKY ALIEN  
I suggest.

AMYL  
Suggest WHAT?

GEEKY ALIEN  
Transportation, entertainment -  
OTHER.

AMYL  
Other?

A shocked expression crosses her face.

AMYL  
No way! Get lost!

GEEKY ALIEN  
Proposed condition  
unacceptable. I insist.

AMYL  
Drop dead, creep!

GEEKY ALIEN  
Life functions not near  
termination. I demand!

AMYL  
Go take a walk and leave me the  
hell alone!

GEEKY ALIEN  
Conditions of walk  
unacceptable. I use necessary  
force subsequently.

Eldorado leaps off his bar stool.

ELDORADO  
Well, I intervene immediately,  
sucker!

Eldorado reaches back and lands a blow directly to the alien's narrow chin. He flies backward and lands hard on the floor, dazed. Everyone in the bar stares in absolute silence while he slowly rises to his feet, dusting off his jacket.

GEEKY ALIEN

All normal. Recommence.

The music and conversation slowly return to normal except for a few voices heard over the conversation level.

FEMALE ALIEN VOICE

Pre-evolutionary  
deficiencies...

MALE ALIEN VOICE

Inferior by-products...

ELDORADO

Aim, let's blow this joint!

Amyl puts her arm around Eldorado.

AMYL

I accept, with relief!

They walk toward the door, but stop and eavesdrop on an alien couple in conversation.

MAN #2

I propose.

WOMAN #2

I accept with reservation,  
fear, doubt, insecurity,  
ambivalence, and conditions.

AMYL

Hey - what about LOVE?

WOMAN #2

Condition not necessary or  
feasible.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY NEXT TO BAR - NIGHT

Two dumpsters are in the alley; one towards the front and to the left, and one in the rear right corner. A rattling noise comes from the one to the right and Hendrix emerges with a bottle. He twists the cap one half turn and it pops open.

HENDRIX

Hey! Bayonet style caps!  
Cool.

He climbs out of the Dumpster with the bottle, then stops and listens to the sound of people running toward the alley opening. A young woman with long blonde hair, LORIANNA, appears around the corner, and is immediately shot in the back with an energy blast. She staggers around the corner and toward Hendrix, collapsing at his feet. Hendrix kneels, reaches down to her, and lifts her head slightly. She gazes with a distant look into his eyes.

LORIANNA

You have TSM. May the creators  
protect you.

Lorianna slowly vanishes.

HENDRIX

TSM again? What the hell...

Fourteen soldiers round the alley corner, seven in blue and seven in red. The leaders wear hats instead of helmets. All have letters and numbers on their uniforms. They stop, and the leaders take one step forward. The twelve others raise their weapons.

J-6

J-1 - is she a known  
shapeshifter?

J-1

Negative. Or am I wrong here?  
I don't take risks, you know.

He aims his weapon at Hendrix.

J-1  
I'll do this one.

Hendrix raises the bottle, showing a label that says "Pulsar Ale". He feigns intoxication, staggering backwards and wobbling on his feet.

HENDRIX  
Say there, Bud - wanna drink or  
three or ten?

He staggers forward.

HENDRIX (cont.)  
Yo! You wanna drink or what?

J-1 slowly lowers his weapon.

HENDRIX (cont.)  
Well, I guess if you ain't the  
drinkin' type, then be gone  
with ya! Beat it!

Hendrix waves his hand at the soldiers. An unseen force lifts them and throws them aside to the right.

HENDRIX (cont.)  
What the hell?

J-1  
K-1! He has it! Shoot!

Hendrix waves his hand upward, and the weapons are lifted from the soldiers' hands into the air. He slowly guides them with his hand into a pile against the left alley wall.

HENDRIX  
This must be the TSM!

J-1  
K-1! He knows! We have to  
stop him!

HENDRIX

Hold it right there. Whatever it is, I've got this TSM thing. Now either you tell me about it or I make those weapons self-destruct with you sitting on them!

J-1

It's a code name for something. We don't even know what it is. It could be those powers of yours, or it could be someone's initials. We don't know!

K-1

We were just told to eliminate the girl, and we did. Our mission here is over. Listen, we've got family waiting for us at home. Just let us walk, and we'll forget all about you and your TSM thing, OK?

Hendrix notices a soldier reaching toward the pile of weapons. He waves his hand and slams the soldier against the right wall.

HENDRIX

You eliminated her, all right. You eliminated a beautiful young woman in the prime of her life, and you just shot her in the back. You didn't see the look on her face, you didn't see her eyes, you didn't see her pain. You didn't see her die.

(beat)

You were sent to terminate, and you sure did. I guess I was brought to this place to carry on this TSM thing, and I will - with all the honor and responsibility which you have none of.

K-1

But we had orders!

HENDRIX

Once upon a time, a nation in our world had orders too - from a lunatic named Hitler. But never mind ancient history. J-1 and K-1, where are these orders?

J-1

We don't have them with us.

HENDRIX

Oh, I see. You work at the misinformation department in your spare time!

He waves his hand. A folded paper flies from J-1's pocket. It unfolds in mid-air, then floats to Hendrix and into his hand. He stares at J-1, then reads the note.

HENDRIX

"J, K, and L squads - TSM support mission. A bonus of one-point-five kilo to whoever terminates Lorianna, ISN 625. She is rated a class A threat to the program."

(skipping to end of page)

"Your subject is located on planet two of our system. Your instructions have been transmitted." Wait a minute - it's the message we heard when we left our solar system!

J-3

Earth?

J-1

Soldier, you will remain silent!

HENDRIX  
Program, huh? The program's  
over, kids! Bedtime!

He waves his hand, lifts the soldiers, and deposits them into the Dumpster. The lid closes, and sparks fly from the edge.

K-1  
(muffled)  
He's welded it shut!

Eldorado and Amyl walk around the corner, arm in arm. Amyl holds up a bottle.

AMYL  
Hey, guess what? They've got  
bayonet caps on their bottles!

HENDRIX  
You won't believe what just  
happened. Take a look at this.

Hendrix waves the soldiers' note.

ELDORADO  
Let me guess. You found  
someone's mail in the trash,  
and the address is somewhere on  
Warp Drive.

HENDRIX  
Are you guys ever serious about  
anything? I just saw a girl  
get killed by that hit squad we  
heard about.

AMYL  
See? I told you we never  
should have done this. I  
almost get date raped by an  
alien, and now this!

ELDORADO  
You could have kicked ass. He  
was a wuss.

AMYL

That's not the point. Here we are, over a hundred light years from home, and people are getting killed and I'm getting sleazed on by alien geeks!

ELDORADO

That's life in space, Aim. It sucks too, but you can't go running to Daddy here.

AMYL

Right now, the only space I want is some space away from you!

ELDORADO

(mocking)

I want to go into space! I want to show Daddy that space sucks! I want to outrun the Space Force!

AMYL

(mocking)

I want to pick up babes with antennas! I want to drink alien wine coolers! I want to pass out in an alien gutter, get run over by an alien car, and wind up as an alien autopsy!

HENDRIX

Hey guys...

A loud bang is heard from the Dumpster and a corner rises and rattles. Hendrix motions to the alley opening.

HENDRIX

There are alien soldiers in that dumpster. One of them killed that girl. Are you going to stand here and argue, or do we leave?

The three run down the alley. Eldorado stops to pick up three weapons.

ELDORADO

Wait! I think we're going to need these.

AMYL

Oh great. Guns.

ELDORADO

What do you expect us to do if they find us, huh? Throw Pulsar Beer bottles at them?

AMYL

You know how I feel about guns.

ELDORADO

You know what? I don't care how you feel.

AMYL

That's it. Take me home NOW.

There is a loud bang, and the corner of the Dumpster again rises.

HENDRIX

We will talk about this LATER!  
Now let's go!

Eldorado, Hendrix, and Amyl run around the corner and down the street, fading into the darkness.

INT. SPACE VEHICLE - NIGHT

Eldorado is seated, holding a weapon. Amyl is pacing behind the consoles. Hendrix stares out a window.

AMYL

I knew we shouldn't have done this.

ELDORADO

Don't start with me, Amyl.

HENDRIX  
Will you both just SHUT UP and  
listen to me!

Amyl sits down abruptly at her console. Eldorado turns,  
crossing his legs and folding his arms.

ELDORADO  
Yeah? What!

HENDRIX  
That transmission we  
intercepted - it's all on this  
paper I took from a squad  
leader. It says that there's  
this TSM thing, and we need to  
find out what it is before more  
people are killed.

ELDORADO  
What makes this so important  
all of a sudden, huh?

HENDRIX  
When I saw that girl, I felt  
something - a sense of purpose,  
a mission. I have to do this.

ELDORADO  
You probably felt something in  
your pants, that's what.

AMYL  
Eldo, will you just knock it  
off already? I've had it up to  
here with your crap.

ELDORADO  
And I've had enough of you too.  
Can't you just...

Hendrix waves his hand.

HENDRIX  
All RIGHT already!

As he waves his hand, a Pulsar bottle flies off Amyl's console and shatters on the floor.

AMYL

What the hell was that?

He brings his hands together, and the pieces are arranged into a pile.

HENDRIX

Oh, nothing. Nothing at all.

ELDORADO

Dude - what happened to you?

AMYL

Are you OK?

HENDRIX

Like I was trying to tell you, I felt something. Next thing I know, I have telekinetic powers. I don't know if this is the TSM thing or not. Whatever it is, we can't just go home and pretend that it never happened.

ELDORADO

Wow. Sounds like we DO have a mission, whether we want to or not.

AMYL

This changes everything. I want to stay.

ELDORADO

Sorry about what I said, I mean, about your dad and all.

AMYL

No problem. I was just getting freaked out again with all that alien stuff happening.

HENDRIX

We can talk about it in the morning. We've got beds on board, right?

ELDORADO

Sure, right here.

He pushes a button and three beds come out of the side panels. He slowly walks to one, and straightens the pillow.

ELDORADO (cont.)

I set this one up just for you, Aim. Extra soft. And I promise, no pillow fighting.

AMYL

And I won't raise the pillow force-field!

CUT TO:

INT. SPACE BUS - DAY

The interior is filled with a dim red light. Eldorado is first to awaken.

ELDORADO

What the heck is this?

HENDRIX

(yawning)

Red star, smoky atmosphere.

ELDORADO

Damn dawn sun!

HENDRIX

But you have red floodlights in your room! I thought you liked red.

ELDORADO

I like it there because I can turn it off!

AMYL

(stretching)

My eyes must be REALLY  
bloodshot!

HENDRIX AND ELDORADO

Dawn sun!

Hendrix and Eldorado climb out of their bunks and go to their consoles. Hendrix stares at the screen and punches buttons.

HENDRIX

Let's see...after inputting all  
the variables, adjusting for  
time of year, it looks like  
their day is -

ELDORADO

Twenty six hours long.

HENDRIX

How did you figure that out?

ELDORADO

The clock in the bar!

AMYL

Guys, I'd rather be calculating  
how much sodium is in my  
breakfast - while I'm EATING  
it!

ELDORADO

Scrambled eggs, 5 seconds!

He removes three very small packets from a compartment, injects them with water, and puts them on plates in a microwave. After a hissing and a beep, he removes three plates of scrambled eggs.

ELDORADO (cont.)

Can you believe my grandmother  
had to actually guess the time  
to cook raw eggs and manually  
input it with a keypad?

AMYL

I would have starved back then!

CUT TO:

INT. SQUAD HEADQUARTERS

NEFARGON, a space villain in a military uniform, is outlining plans on a touch screen blackboard. J-1 and K-1 enter the room, and Nefargon watches them out of the corner of his eye.

J-1

Nefargon - I have news for you, sir.

NEFARGON

All I want to hear is that our timeline for TSM is intact.

J-1

That depends on what you mean by "intact."

Nefargon turns and faces them.

NEFARGON

I hope there aren't any surprises, loose ends, or blunders like there were fifteen years ago.

K-1

The girl has been terminated as planned.

NEFARGON

(irritated)

Fine. TSM will proceed as planned.

K-1

At least our weapons were on "terminate" when she was hit.

Nefargon begins to pace in front of the board.

NEFARGON

You mean you didn't see her dematerialize?

J-1

Negative, sir.

K-1

She may have shape-shifted.

NEFARGON

They are NOT shape shifters, Jamada and Kenneth. Did Lorianna remain after being hit, yes or no?

J-1

Negative, sir.

NEFARGON

Then she is considered TERMINATED! As the only outsider who knew of TSM, she carries that knowledge with her to the afterworld.

J-1

Leader, there was another.

NEFARGON

Another of her people?

J-1

Another...from Earth.

NEFARGON

Earth? And why should Earth concern me?

K-1

The Earth subject intercepted our message. He was there, and he removed our documents. He has three of our weapons, and he is telekinetic.

J-1

The positive side of this is that he claims to have seen Lorianna terminated.

NEFARGON

An Earth telekinetic who can intercept coded messages at more than a hundred light years and travel to here in such a short time? Do you know what that means?

Nefargon turns and slowly walks to the blackboard, then abruptly faces J-1 and K-1.

NEFARGON (cont.)

It means this is some of the worst space hooey I've ever heard! What did you screw up this time? Sure - a telekinetic Earth person, with a magical cryptodecoder implanted in his butt - who can fly through space and time like the dental fairy!

J-1

It did happen! Honest!

NEFARGON

Not the way you said it did. I'll accept that you terminated her, and then proceeded to celebrate by visiting the local pub and soaking up their entire stock of Pulsar Ale. Then your squad misplaced three expensive plasma rifles while stumbling through town. Do you know anything at all about Earth? They can barely leave their own solar system, let alone travel but a half of a light year! There is not a single true telekinetic on the whole

NEFARGON (cont'd)  
planet, and they can barely  
decode messages from across  
their own continents!

K-1  
But, sir...

NEFARGON  
You are dismissed! DIS -  
MISSED!

J-1 AND K-1  
Yes, sir.

J-1 and K-1 leave the room quickly. Nefargon turns and  
again faces the blackboard.

NEFARGON  
This is why they don't know of  
the true nature of TSM.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Hendrix, Eldorado, and Amyl walk down another street.  
Hendrix is waving the soldiers' instruction sheet.

HENDRIX  
This message is from some  
"Nefargon" guy.

AMYL  
Nefargon? What kind of name is  
that?

HENDRIX  
I don't know. I just want to  
find him and shut him down,  
that's all.

AMYL  
Where do you go to find  
"Nefargon, Evil Space Villain"?

ELDORADO

Right here in the phone book.

The three stop at a phone booth under a sign saying "Comm-station." Eldorado pulls out a book labeled "listings register" and flips pages.

ELDORADO

Hmmm...Nefargon...one listing -  
"Nefargon ISN 1, wanted by  
authorities."

AMYL

How about Lorianna? Her  
number's 625.

ELDORADO

Just looking for her now - got  
it. "Lorianna ISN 625 -  
unlisted."

AMYL

This is really productive  
here...

Hendrix pushes past Eldorado, grabs the handset, and dials a number.

ELDORADO

What are you doing?

HENDRIX

Dialing the number "Pi."

AMYL

I don't think that's the number  
for information on this planet.

HENDRIX

I know what I'm doing.

PI (filter)

Hello, Pi!

HENDRIX

You're a phone freak!

PI (filter)  
I am not!

HENDRIX  
So you know what a phone freak  
is, and you're not one, right?

PI (filter)  
Right.

ELDORADO  
What the hell is a phone freak?

AMYL  
I think it's a hacker who does  
phone systems instead of  
computers.

HENDRIX  
Only phone freaks know what a  
phone freak is. Explain that.

PI (filter)  
So, I'm a phone freak. What of  
it?

HENDRIX  
We need some information.

PI (filter)  
I know nothing. Zero-point-  
nothing. Less than nothing.

HENDRIX  
I was hoping you could give us  
some info on TSM.

PI (filter)  
Where did you hear about that?

HENDRIX  
From someone who "terminated"  
Lorianna. Someone with a  
letter on his uniform who was  
sent by Nefargon.

PI (filter)  
Hey, don't go talking about  
that in public! I'm coming  
down there. Where are you?

HENDRIX  
You're the phone freak - you  
tell me!

EXT. SIDEWALK BY PHONE BOOTH - FIVE MINUTES LATER

A narrow faced alien approaches. He is wearing narrow but  
thick glasses, dress pants and shirt, and a pocket  
protector.

ELDORADO  
Phone geek alert!

PI  
Hey, cool it, you guys! Keep  
it down - the squads might  
still be here!

AMYL  
Squads?

PI  
You wouldn't believe what  
they're up to. I gotta show  
you. Come on over to my place.

ELDORADO  
Wait a minute - you look like  
those other ones. You know,  
the ones who say "Tight  
undergarment generating wedgie  
condition. Require boxers  
immediately."

AMYL  
Yeah, and "Sagittarian! Sit!  
Strip! Sex! Scram!"

ELDORADO  
Why don't you sound like them?

PI  
Oh, them. They're all a bunch  
of nerds.

Amyl and Eldorado stare at each other, then turn back to Pi.

EXT. PI'S HOUSE - DAY

The three travelers and Pi cross a street and walk up the steps to the front porch. Pi quickly punches buttons on a keypad and the door swings open.

PI  
Come on downstairs.

ELDORADO  
You live in your parents'  
basement.

The three start laughing.

PI  
Keep it down, you guys! Don't  
tell the whole galaxy!

Pi starts down a staircase with Eldorado, Amyl, and Hendrix following. Hendrix slows to read movie posters of alien sci-fi films hanging on the stairway wall. In the basement, they find themselves among disassembled computers and scattered wiring.

HENDRIX  
So now we can find out about  
TSM.

AMYL  
Is it a military operation by a  
hostile government?

PI  
No - this is intergalactic  
terrorism. Have a seat.

They sit, as Pi pulls a small disc from a drawer and inserts it in a drive in a computer at the desk.

PI (cont.)

Listen to this.

NEFARGON (V.O., filter)  
This is Nefargon. I am  
innocent of all charges brought  
against me by the Alliance  
Council, and in due time will  
prove this beyond reasonable  
doubt.

ELDORADO

What a liar!

PI

Not just a liar. His speech is  
encoded with doubletalk.

AMYL

He's a politician?

PI

In a way. Here he is played  
back through a pulse width  
subdecoder.

Pi unplugs the speakers and connects a cable leading to a  
black box, which beeps upon being plugged in. He plays the  
disc again.

NEFARGON (V.O., filter, distorted)

All squads, attention!  
Lorianna has been terminated  
and TSM is proceeding as  
planned.

ELDORADO

Whoa.

HENDRIX

Where is this jerk?

PI

You don't want to know.

HENDRIX

His squad killed her right in front of me!

PI

J squad, or K?

HENDRIX

Both.

PI

Well, I'll tell you - I don't know where he is. If I did, I'd be a few megamoneys richer with the reward the council has.

HENDRIX

So how do I find him and bring him back for prosecution?

PI

Hold on for just a little timeframe there, bro. Do you realize who and what you're dealing with?

AMYL

Some overblown internet fiction bad guy, right?

PI

It's a lot more than that.

(sighs)

Nefargon is a terrorist who leads an organization of squads against anyone who threatens him in any way at all. That's the idea behind TSM.

ELDORADO

Finally an answer.

PI

TSM stands for "two stray missiles." He sees a threat from a planet far away, and he decides to divert two nuclear missiles from their abandoned space arsenal and destroy two major cities.

AMYL

I'd hate to be on that planet.

PI

Yeah, the planet called Earth is in some serious danger all right.

ELDORADO

Earth? What the hell?

HENDRIX

What threat?

PI

Seems he detected time fluctuations coming from there. Someone was developing a quantum field -

AMYL

Induction coil! Dad worked on that!

PI

Uh-oh...

HENDRIX

And Lorianna - where does she figure in?

PI

You mean Princess Lorianna.

AMYL

Does she have a brother named Luke?

PI

Her father is the king of her planet and a member of the council. She's next in line for the throne - or was, anyway.

AMYL

Why was she involved with TSM and Nefargon? Is he an ex-boyfriend or something?

PI

No way. She's engaged for life to Brawndo, the interplanetary goalsball player. They say she just got bored with her life and started tracking down space criminals for fun.

ELDORADO

Figures that a princess would be dating a space jock.

PI

Everyone on their planet is telekinetic. Sure helps them win at goalsball.

HENDRIX

Telekinetic. I think I understand now.

PI

You touched her when she dematerialized, right?

HENDRIX

Yes.

PI

Some say that a part of these people will pass on to whoever they are with when they enter the afterworld.

HENDRIX

I can feel it. It's like she's still with me.

Pi pats Hendrix on the shoulder.

PI

A part. Only a part, my friend.

HENDRIX

It's more than a part. I can feel it all.

ELDORADO

I don't like the sound of this.

AMYL

Hendrix? Are you OK?

Hendrix drops from the chair to his knees, stares at the floor, and puts his hands to his head.

HENDRIX

I can see it. I can see her.

ELDORADO

You've got a good memory for faces, guy. Like that kid you knew in junior high that you saw -

HENDRIX

I see HER. Four years old. Opening a door.

AMYL

This is getting a little creepy.

CUT TO:

INT. LORIANNA'S HOME - DAY

Lorianna, age 4, opens the front door and looks around. She walks around a couch to a coffee table, and finds a bowl of soup, stopping to taste it.

HENDRIX (V.O.)  
Radio's on. Eldarian soup on  
the table. Still warm.

Lorianna looks up, then continues through the house.

ELDORADO (V.O.)  
Eldarian soup?

PI (V.O.)  
A favorite of the royal family  
- Lorianna's family.

AMYL (V.O.)  
This is getting a LOT more  
creepy.

Lorianna becomes more frantic as she runs down a hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. PI'S BASEMENT

HENDRIX  
Where ARE you?

ELDORADO  
Where's who?

HENDRIX  
Mother?

Amyl moves her chair closer to Eldorado's.

HENDRIX (cont.)  
Mother!

PI  
(whispering)  
Lorianna lost her mother when  
she was a kid.

Amyl squeezes Eldorado's hand.

CUT TO:

INT. LORIANNA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lorianna buries her face in the sofa cushion, crying.

HENDRIX (V.O.)  
(anguished)  
Mother!

CUT TO:

INT. PI'S BASEMENT

Amyl leans on Eldorado's shoulder.

Hendrix looks up.

HENDRIX  
That smell...

He raises a fist in the air.

HENDRIX (cont.)  
NEFARGON!

ELDORADO  
What?

HENDRIX  
Nefargon! He did it! He  
killed Lorianna's mother!

PI  
So the rumors really are true?

HENDRIX

The smell! I smelled it when they shot Lorianna, and I could smell it just then! Ozone!

PI

Nefargon's plasma rifles! They leave ozone traces when fired! That's it!

AMYL

That's why she knew about TSM - she was after Nefargon!

ELDORADO

Bastard missed her the first time - that's why Nefargon was still after her!

HENDRIX

And that's why we now have a mission - to terminate Nefargon.

CUT TO:

INT. SPACE BUS - DAY

Hendrix, Eldorado, and Amyl sit in front of a console. Pi stands behind it reading a manual.

PI

Nickel in a magnetic field?  
This thing works?

ELDORADO

It brought us here.

HENDRIX

Are you sure you don't want to come along?

PI

I have no argument with Nefargon. I have no need to seek out adventure. I have no desire to meet the Creators before my time.

AMYL

How about you have no guts?

PI

Intestines not deficient. Capacity nominal.

AMYL

You're reverting to the way the others talk! You're losing your cool!

PI

Frozen state not - not - Aw, FUDMUCK!

AMYL

What?

ELDORADO

He can cuss. We have discovered intelligent life on this planet!

PI

Guys, just don't go saying that word around here. They'll think you're a low-order.

AMYL

You mean low-life, right?

PI

Same stuff, different dialect. Anyway, good travel to you, and don't become ozone, OK?

He backs toward the door, waving.

AMYL

Wait! Just one question - where did you learn to talk like us?

Pi holds up a walkie-talkie.

PI

You're not the only ones with forward scatter receivers.

Pi exits and closes the door.

AMYL

Well, fudmuck.

HENDRIX AND ELDORADO

AMYL!

AMYL

I just like the sound of that!

ELDORADO

Hey, Hendrix - we still haven't fully defined the parameters of your new super powers. What else can you do?

AMYL

Yeah! Are you telepathic now? What am I thinking?

HENDRIX

That I'm a telekinetic nerd with absolutely no idea what you're thinking?

AMYL

Noooo...

ELDORADO

How about X-ray vision?

HENDRIX

What should I try to look through?

AMYL

Ohhhh no. Don't even try it!

HENDRIX

Don't worry - you're safe. No X-ray vision.

AMYL

Well then, can you make something appear - you know, materialize something?

HENDRIX

You know, this is ridiculous. All I can do is move things - I'm not Superman!

ELDORADO

OK then, how about you move Nefargon to jail?

HENDRIX

This power is not something to be abused. If I abuse it, I'll lose it.

AMYL

How do you know that?

HENDRIX

I don't know - I just do.

ELDORADO

So this power isn't going to help find Nefargon.

Amyl's console starts beeping.

AMYL

No, but THIS is.

Eldorado stares at Amyl's console.

ELDORADO

Got it! Plasma discharge - range, 5 miles. Looks like a ship lifting off.

He turns back toward his console and throws switches.

ELDORADO (cont.)  
I'm moving to intercept.

HENDRIX  
That may not be such a good  
idea...

AMYL  
The bus has weapons, right?

ELDORADO  
No, but we can outmaneuver  
them.

AMYL  
There they are!

The Space Bus pulls up behind a slightly larger warship  
with an "L" on the side.

INT. WARSHIP

Alarms sound. Soldiers from L squad are manning their  
stations. L-1 sits at the command console.

L-1  
(annoyed)  
What now?

L-4  
A small unidentified shuttle  
has pulled behind us, sir.

L-1  
Scan it NOW!

INT. SPACE BUS

ELDORADO  
That thing's got a plasma  
drive!

AMYL

What a surprise. They shoot plasma, they burn plasma - do they eat plasma too?

ELDORADO

No, they fart plasma.

HENDRIX

I hope I can deflect plasma, because I have a feeling it's coming our way.

INT. WARSHIP

L-4

It's a shuttle with three occupants - species, human.

L-1

Human, as in Earth?  
Impossible!

L-4

They have a magnetically excited fusion drive, but no weapons.

L-1

Humans with a fusion engine?  
This doesn't make sense!

L-3

Maybe this will - one of them matches the description of the alien encountered by J and K.

L-1 jumps to his feet and raises his hand in the air.

L-1

Attention! Prepare to execute a 360 on my command. Ready...

He slams his hand on the console.

L-1 (cont.)

Now!

INT. SPACE BUS

ELDORADO  
(turning around)  
What the hell was that?

INT. WARSHIP

L-1  
Prepare to fire plasma bursts.  
Target their engines.

L-5  
Targeted and ready.

L-1  
Fire!

INT. SPACE BUS

The three jerk backwards in their seats as if bumped from the rear.

AMYL  
Oh crap! They're firing!

ELDORADO  
This is weird - our engines  
deflected the plasma bursts  
back at them!

INT. WARSHIP

L-1  
Damage report...

L-4  
Negligible. Sir, it seems  
their engine emissions are  
shielding them.

L-1  
Then we have no choice but to  
destroy them. Pull ahead and  
face them - fire on my command.

INT. SPACE BUS

The three stare through the front window as the warship pulls in front and turns to face them, coming slowly closer. Hendrix sees L-1 staring at him through the warship's front window and turns to Eldorado.

HENDRIX

I hope this works.

Hendrix watches as L-1 says "fire." A plasma burst comes from a tube below the warship's window, then curves slowly back toward it. A horrified look crosses L-1's face immediately before the plasma burst explodes, blackening the window.

INT. WARSHIP

Air escapes from the damaged window with a loud hiss. Soldiers are scrambling to cover their operating positions.

L-1

Seal that thing!

L-4

Sealing now, sir.

L-1

Damage report?

L-4

Other than that, none.

L-1

They've got shields. Get the ion disrupter cannon on line now!

INT. SPACE BUS

Static comes from the speakers, increasing in volume.

AMYL

What is that?

ELDORADO

Sounds like we're picking up  
electromagnetic noise, like  
from sunspots, or the  
ionosphere, or -

A buzzer sounds on the console.

ELDORADO (cont.)

An ion weapon! I'm taking us  
out of here!

Everyone jerks forward as the bus accelerates backwards.  
Amyl and Hendrix watch the warship pursuing through the  
front window, and Eldorado drops a small box in a hole in  
the floor.

ELDORADO

This should work.

AMYL

SHOULD work? What is it?

ELDORADO

It's a spare engine with a  
battery. When it hits them, it  
activates and sends them in the  
other direction.

He pushes a button on the console and a shiny box is  
launched at the warship. The static gets louder and turns  
into a loud hum.

ELDORADO (cont.)

Three...two...one...

HENDRIX

There they go!

The hum turns to static and it fades.

INT. WARSHIP

L-1

Shoot!

L-5 pushes a button, causing a burst of static. An ion burst is fired from the warship, exploding at a distance.

L-1  
I didn't mean "fire", you  
idiot!

L-4  
Um, we'll get them next time,  
Sir?

L-1  
Where in Hellmox are we now?

INT. SPACE BUS

AMYL  
Twenty thousand light years  
away. Wow!

HENDRIX  
The engine?

AMYL  
At that speed, I'll bet it  
burned up halfway there.

HENDRIX  
(turning around)  
Eldorado?

ELDORADO  
I don't know if I want to go  
any farther with this. I'm  
taking us home.

HENDRIX  
What is it now?

ELDORADO  
No more close calls for me.  
This is my life we're talking  
about here.

AMYL

El - pull yourself together.  
We have a mission now, a  
purpose. Remember?

ELDORADO

Maybe you two have a mission,  
but it's not MY mission to die  
in space.

CUT TO:

INT. NASTA CONTROL CENTER MEETING ROOM - DAY

Williams, the sergeant, and a GENERAL are seated at a table  
in conference.

WILLIAMS

I don't know why she's doing  
this. She must have been  
kidnapped. She hates anything  
to do with space.

GENERAL

These other two, Harrison and  
Estevez - what do you know  
about them?

WILLIAMS

Not much. Hendrix was a loner  
who read sci-fi stories, and  
Eldorado was the opposite. You  
know, Eldorado once built a  
model spacecraft and flew it  
over the neighborhood...

GENERAL

Was she seeing either of them?

WILLIAMS

Excuse me, sir?

GENERAL

Seeing, dating, any connection  
to either one?

WILLIAMS

Not to my knowledge, sir.  
Hendrix kept to himself, and  
Eldorado, well, he dated a lot,  
but never my daughter.

GENERAL

Fine, fine. Looks like she has  
nothing in common with either  
of them. This is pointing more  
and more toward a kidnapping  
scenario.

SERGEANT

I read the profiles, and I have  
to agree with you there, sir.

GENERAL

Good. I've ordered NORAD to  
alert us at any sign of their  
re-entry.

He reaches over and firmly pats Williams on the shoulder.

GENERAL (cont.)

We'll bring your daughter back  
safely, Captain.

WILLIAMS

Thank you, Sir.

Williams stands, salutes, and leaves the room. The general  
pulls his chair closer to the table.

GENERAL

Sergeant, I want your assurance  
that none of this leaves this  
room.

SERGEANT

Understood. You have my word,  
sir.

GENERAL

We want to bring back the captain's daughter, but our priority in this mission is to find out how they outran the Force. They have some sort of unknown new technology, and I want it!

SERGEANT

But sir, we can't have the media seeing us handle it like this.

GENERAL

The media sees what we tell them to see, Sergeant - and I told them this was an alien abduction. After that farmer caught the alien slicing up his cow back in 2036 they've become scapegoats for everything.

SERGEANT

How are we going to convince them?

GENERAL

We'll show them the wreckage after we crash it into the New Mexico desert - minus the engine, of course.

SERGEANT

And the other two on board?

GENERAL

We have a special place for them - in our history, in our hearts...and if they survive, in our secure confinement rooms.

CUT TO:

INT. SPACE BUS

HENDRIX

Two minutes to re-entry.  
What's the best way in?

AMYL

Straight down. That way we'll  
avoid detection by NORAD until  
we're there - which should be  
just fine for Space Chicken.

ELDORADO

Hey! You're the one who wanted  
to go home yesterday.

HENDRIX

If you keep it under Mach One,  
they'll never hear us coming.

AMYL

Good. They won't hear  
anything, and two minutes  
through the atmosphere won't  
make little Eldo-Wawa shit his  
pants.

ELDORADO

Knock it off already, huh?

HENDRIX

We'll be fine physically after  
landing, right? No nausea?

AMYL

No, but if little Elly's belly  
rumbles, we'll give him a space  
binky.

ELDORADO

Damn it! Why am I taking all  
the crap here when I'm just  
trying to protect you?

AMYL

What?

ELDORADO

I'm just trying to keep  
anything from happening to you,  
that's what.

HENDRIX

Fifty-five seconds to re-entry.

AMYL

I didn't know you cared. I  
actually didn't know you cared  
about anything.

ELDORADO

Anything?

AMYL

Except finding the alien girl  
of your dreams, taking her to  
the alien make-out spot, and  
fondling her little alien...

ELDORADO

Wait one minute!

HENDRIX

Forty-five seconds.

ELDORADO

I do care! Back at the bar, I  
flattened that guy cause I was  
protecting you.

AMYL

Like I said, I could have done  
the job myself without any help  
from you.

ELDORADO

But that's not the point.

AMYL

And what IS the point?

ELDORADO

It just felt like we were on a date. You don't just let someone hit on your date like that.

AMYL

Date? Why didn't someone tell ME we were on a date?

ELDORADO

I didn't think of saying anything at the time.

HENDRIX

Twenty seconds.

AMYL

Not that I would have said no.

ELDORADO

You mean that you would go out with me? After all this?

AMYL

In a second.

HENDRIX

Ten seconds.

Amyl holds Eldorado's hand and gazes into his eyes.

HENDRIX (cont.)

We're passing Earth.

Amyl and Eldorado continue, ignoring Hendrix completely.

HENDRIX (cont.)

Hello?

The light increases inside the cabin.

ELDORADO

Hendrix - turn the lights down, OK?

HENDRIX  
That's not the lights. That's  
the sun.

AMYL  
Pull up! Now!

Hendrix struggles to pull back on the steering wheel.

HENDRIX  
I'm not sure we can make it!

AMYL  
Aaaaah!

HENDRIX  
We're going in!

ELDORADO  
Nooooo!

HENDRIX  
(relaxing)  
We're coming out.

ELDORADO  
You turkey!

AMYL  
You did that just to scare us.

HENDRIX  
No. I did it to disprove a  
theory. You're supposed to  
jump back or forward in time  
when you whip around the sun,  
and our clock says we didn't.

Eldorado stares out the window.

ELDORADO  
OK then, smart asteroids,  
what's that?

AMYL  
That's us!

HENDRIX

That's us - and it really is in our past, with you two sitting there having a staring contest in space.

ELDORADO

Any other theories for us to prove?

HENDRIX

How about the one that says good always triumphs over evil?

ELDORADO

I'll take a shot at that one.

AMYL

Let's do it. And don't worry about me!

CUT TO:

EXT. PI'S HOUSE - DAY

The three travelers are at the door. Amyl attempts to read an alien newspaper left on the porch, while Hendrix examines a trash bag. Eldorado stands in front of the door.

ELDORADO

There's no doorbell. How do you get an alien to come to the door?

AMYL

Just yell, "Last one out is a decaying chicken embryo."

HENDRIX

I think the universe recognizes knocking as the way to do it.

Eldorado stares at Hendrix, then turns and knocks. A scratchy voice responds.

PI'S MOTHER (filter)  
Render assistance?

ELDORADO  
Is Pi home?

PI'S MOTHER (filter)  
Pi? Oh, referring to progeny  
formally designated Dorzek.  
Signalling him with short  
delay.

AMYL  
(snickering)  
Dorzek!

The door opens. Pi stands there, red-faced.

PI  
Maternal figure. Ignore.

AMYL  
Dorzek?

PI  
Full embarrassment. Terminate  
my life functions.

ELDORADO  
You're still cool in my book.

PI  
Temperature of reading material  
not relevant - aw...

AMYL  
Fudmuck!

PI  
Thank you.

ELDORADO  
Look, we need a little help.  
Can you give us diagrams of  
Nefargon's headquarters?

HENDRIX

And a rundown of the weapons systems?

AMYL

How about the location of the damn thing first?

PI

It's all on my computer. Come on down.

CUT TO:

INT. SPACE BUS - LATER

All three are seated at consoles, staring intently forward.

AMYL

So you're sure you've got your part figured out now?

ELDORADO

Roger dodger, Space Kahuna.

Amyl glares at Eldorado.

HENDRIX

We announce our surrender and find the docking bay with the longest corridor. Drop me off, undock, then move around to the other side of the ship.

ELDORADO

You can relax, Aim. I'm not bringing the guns.

AMYL

You sure you can handle them?

HENDRIX

We can.

ELDORADO

We? You and your imaginary  
friend?

HENDRIX

She's not imaginary. She's  
here.

AMYL

Whatever you say.

ELDORADO

Coming up on it now - get  
ready. He's transmitting.

DISPATCHER (filter)

Intruder! Hold your position!

AMYL

Engines off.

DISPATCHER (filter)

State your business here.

Amyl looks at Eldorado, then back at the space station  
ahead.

AMYL

We want to surrender.

DISPATCHER (filter)

You what?

(muffled sounds)

Bring your vehicle to docking  
bay 3 on your left.

Eldorado looks out the window. Nefargon's base has three  
extended docking bays, with the shortest on the left. The  
longest is almost in front of them.

ELDORADO

(whispering)

No! We need that long tunnel!

AMYL

Can't do it. We're, um, out of fuel. I'm coasting to the one in front of us.

DISPATCHER (filter)

You can't do that. You are prohibited from...

A loud "clank" is heard as the ship docks.

DISPATCHER (filter, cont.)

Remain seated. A squad will meet you.

Hendrix rises from his seat and heads for the door.

HENDRIX

When I say "Yo!" you close the door and take off. See you in the control room!

AMYL

Take care, Hendrix.

ELDORADO

Watch yourself, dude.

Hendrix steps down from the doorway. Two squads, J and K, come running around opposite corners of the bay tunnel end. He stands waiting as they approach and stop about 30 feet from him, weapons raised.

HENDRIX

I surrender unconditionally to the forces of Nefargon with a traditional word of greeting from my home planet...

(beat)

YO!

There is a loud bang as the bus disconnects from the bay. He jumps to the corner of the bay end while air rushes down the tunnel and escapes out the docking doorway. Lifting his hand, he pulls the squads' weapons loose and they blow down the tunnel and out into space. He then closes the door with a waved finger.

J-1

Smart move. Now let's see you  
get past fourteen of us in a  
narrow tunnel!

Hendrix puts his hands together, extends them, and moves them outward as if parting the Red Sea. Squad members are pushed toward the wall on either side - all except K-1, who stands at the far end.

K-1

I'm ready for you, space boy.  
I borrowed one of Nefargon's  
telekinetic deflector vests  
just for the occasion.

Hendrix slowly walks down the tunnel past the squads, who swing their arms at him unsuccessfully.

K-1

I took care of half a royal  
family. An Earth worm will not  
get past me.

HENDRIX

Someone who can shoot two  
unarmed women in the back  
doesn't scare me.

K-1

(laughing)

Shoot two in the back. Not  
likely. The queen put up quite  
a fight.

Hendrix continues down the tunnel toward K-1.

HENDRIX

That's not how we remember it.

K-1

We? You and what army?

HENDRIX

You shot her in the back  
through an open window while  
she was stirring her soup.

K-1

That's a lie told by fudmucks  
of the lowest order.

HENDRIX

That's the truth, as we have  
lived it - and died it.

K-1

I don't care if the creators  
themselves are in you - no one  
gets past me!

Hendrix stops in front of K-1.

HENDRIX

There's where you're wrong. I  
am not one. Your vest doesn't  
cover everything we'd like to  
do to you.

Hendrix raises his hand and clenches his fist. An  
expression of agony appears on K-1's face.

K-1

AAAAHHHH!

He grabs his crotch and falls to the floor.

K-1 (cont.)

AAAAHHHH! Groin pull! Really  
bad groin pull! AAAAHHHH!

Hendrix pushes a button at the doorway and leaves the  
tunnel. A door at the near end of the tunnel slowly  
closes, and K-1 crawls through the doorway before the  
entire tunnel separates and moves off into space.

CUT TO:

INT. DOCKING BAY 3

Amyl and Eldorado run down the short tunnel into the main hallway.

AMYL

Meet me in the control room.  
I'll find the manual override  
for the missiles.

ELDORADO

Gotcha.

Eldorado runs down the hallway to a room marked "PODS". Pushing a button, he enters. Rushing to the escape pods, he connects a handheld device to the first one and keys in a code.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY

Amyl stops to read a map of the base and puts her finger on the control room. She runs around a corner and into an elevator, pushing the button for floor zero. In a few seconds the door opens and she runs down a hall, turning right through a door into a huge room filled with equipment panels.

AMYL

And I'm supposed to find ONE  
manual override button. Great.

Alarms sound. Amyl runs to a storage closet in the room, closing the door as Nefargon enters from a side "office" door.

NEFARGON

What the...

He moves to a console, and types furiously.

NEFARGON (cont.)  
What is this? Someone ejected  
the weapons reactor! Now the  
plasma drive? Where are J and  
K?

He continues typing at the console.

NEFARGON (cont.)  
All squads gone? One bay  
ejected? Three intruders?

He stops, and stares at the doors.

NEFARGON (cont.)  
The pods! They will not  
escape!

He runs out, slamming the door. Amyl runs from the closet  
and starts to search the control panels.

AMYL  
Got to warn El...and can't find  
the damn intercom either!

INT. SHUTTLE BAY

K-1 crawls into a shuttle and closes the door just as  
Hendrix enters the bay. Hendrix proceeds to a panel and  
launches all the shuttles and fighters into space.

HENDRIX  
Now you're all that's left,  
Nefargon.

INT. POD BAY

Eldorado is working on pod 2. A beep comes from the door,  
and he ducks behind the pod. In comes Nefargon, who looks  
around carefully. Suddenly another alarm sounds.

FEMALE COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning! All fighters and  
shuttles have launched.  
Shuttle bay doors left open.

NEFARGON

Confirms the rumor about Earth  
people being born in their  
barns. CLOSE THEM!

Nefargon runs back out the door. Eldorado reappears and  
plugs his handheld device into a console on the wall.

ELDORADO

Almost forgot the main  
computer!

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Amyl is frantically searching the console. Hendrix enters  
via the main door.

HENDRIX

Got the stairs on the way up.

AMYL

Good. Maybe now you can help  
me find out what they call the  
manual override in this alien  
thing?

Hendrix leans over the console.

HENDRIX

It's this one. The one that  
says "manual override."

AMYL

Duh.

As Amyl pushes the button, alarms sound again.

INT. HALLWAY

Nefargon runs while the alarm sounds.

NEFARGON

The mission abort alarm! The  
control room!

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Eldorado enters the control room, out of breath.

ELDORADO

Just beat him to the elevator!  
I sent it to the top deck and  
pushed all the buttons. He'll  
be here in a while.

AMYL

What now?

HENDRIX

Our next step is to destroy  
this place before Nefargon gets  
back. Where's the auto-  
destruct?

ELDORADO

This isn't science fiction. I  
doubt there is one.

AMYL

Megalomaniacs don't have  
destruct buttons on their  
masterpieces.

ELDORADO

The Space Bus doesn't even have  
one.

AMYL

See what I mean?

HENDRIX

Then we have to get one of  
those missiles here. Where is  
the nearest drive unit to the  
warhead?

ELDORADO

I've got a spare at home.

HENDRIX

Good. Tell me exactly where it  
is so I can move it.

ELDORADO

I left it sitting in the...

A loud bang echoes through the control room. The three look upward to see Nefargon enter and walk slowly toward them, folding his arms and stopping behind the control panel.

NEFARGON

Did you really think you could disrupt my plan AND escape too?

ELDORADO

This is space. Anything can happen in space.

NEFARGON

Not in MY space. You see, I control all of it. Anyone who thinks otherwise...

(raising plasma pistol)  
...does not think otherwise for long.

AMYL

So this is why you wanted to destroy Earth? You thought we were a threat?

NEFARGON

Don't think for one small measure of time that you were a threat to me. I'll still see to it that your planet will not be around for future generations to encounter.

HENDRIX

Then you haven't heard of the hidden impedance remodulator - the MAGNETIC FIELD impedance remodulator.

NEFARGON

Don't play games with me. It does not exist.

ELDORADO

Are you sure? I have one in my garage right now, on the top shelf above the tool cart next to the pressure washer.

Hendrix waves a pinky in the air behind his back.

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

A small black box shakes and lifts off from above a red tool cart lid. It breaks a window on the way out, rising up into the sky. It approaches a missile orbiting Earth and attaches to the nose cone.

CUT TO:

INT. CONTROL ROOM

NEFARGON

Silence! You must think of me as a fool to toy with. My scans of Earth show nothing which remodulates impedance, if such a thing were possible.

AMYL

Don't underestimate us, Mister Far Gone.

NEFARGON

Lame Earth insults. How quaint.

Hendrix holds his forefinger up behind his back. Eldorado glances quickly at Hendrix.

ELDORADO

In fact, we should be seeing the effects of the impedance remodulator in about, oh, thirty more seconds.

NEFARGON

As you would put it, I'm shaking in my space boots. Enough of this nonsense! You only try to stall the inevitable.

AMYL

But that's how it works, right? We keep you talking long enough and something distracts you and we grab your gun. It's bound to happen.

NEFARGON

Unfortunately it is not part of your story, which ends here and now.

Hendrix holds his middle finger up behind his back. Amyl sees it, and giggles uncontrollably.

NEFARGON

May the Creators share your sense of humor. They are rumored to be quite friendly. You are about to meet them.

HENDRIX

If I were you, I'd look at the window behind you.

NEFARGON

Right. I also assume my shoe's untied and my pants port is unzipped as well.

ELDORADO

He's not kidding. Check it out.

NEFARGON

First, I terminate you. Then I will "check it out."

Hendrix wiggles his nose.

NEFARGON

Only an Earth inhabitant would make faces at a recharging plasma weapon.

A nose cone of a missile slowly approaches the window behind Nefargon, bumping it. Nefargon turns quickly.

NEFARGON

What the...

AMYL

Fudmuck?

NEFARGON

Yeah. Fudmuck. FUUUUD-MUUUUCK!!!

Amyl leaps toward Nefargon, knocking him to the floor. He drops his plasma pistol as he falls. Scrambling toward it, he looks forward to see Hendrix standing inches away with his foot on the weapon.

AMYL (O.C.)

Now THIS is how it's supposed to happen.

Nefargon scrambles to his feet and runs for the door.

HENDRIX

Let me guess. He's headed to the escape pods.

ELDORADO

Let him run. He won't get far.

AMYL

I hope you remembered which docking port we parked at.

ELDORADO  
Port three. Where else?

They run for the door and turn left.

INT. HALLWAY

Nefargon runs for the elevator and pushes the button.  
Looking up, he sees the display showing it at floor 13.

NEFARGON  
Hellmox! There is no floor 13!

He turns and runs for the stairway. He pushes the door  
open and runs through it.

NEFARGON (O.C.)  
Waaaaaaaaaaaaah!

There is a crash. Nefargon sits at the bottom of the  
stairwell. He wipes a finger on the floor, holds it up,  
and stares at it cross-eyed.

NEFARGON  
Torpedo tube lubricant. At  
least I wasn't carrying  
scissors.

He slowly rises to his feet and proceeds downstairs.

INT. DOCKING BAY

Hendrix, Eldorado, and Amyl rush into the space bus, and  
the door closes behind them. As they they sit, Eldorado  
pushes buttons.

ELDORADO  
We are out of here!

Amyl stares out a window in amazement.

AMYL  
An SDI-22 space based missile  
with warhead. That could have  
blown up Philadelphia and half  
of New Jersey.

HENDRIX

Did you take care of the escape pods?

ELDORADO

Done deal. I hacked the computers in the first two, but only had time to cut power to the third.

HENDRIX

Good. I'll overload the drive unit in 30 seconds.

INT. ESCAPE POD BAY

Nefargon enters the bay and runs to the pod on the left. He punches a code into the keypad.

FEMALE COMPUTER VOICE

I'm sorry, Dave. I can't do that.

NEFARGON

Dave? Who the florgon is Dave?

FEMALE COMPUTER VOICE

Would you like to play a game of tic-tac-toe?

NEFARGON

Bite me, you old computer hag!

He slams the keypad with his fist, then moves to pod number two, trying the keypad several times.

MALE COMPUTER VOICE

I'll tell you the new locker combination if you give me your lunch money, freshman!

Nefargon mumbles, then moves to pod 3. It opens before he even pushes one button. With a sigh of relief, he enters the darkened pod. The doors close behind, and he faces a control screen.

A harsh white light comes on overhead and a message pops onto the screen: LORIANNA'S MOTHER SENDS HER REGARDS. Nefargon drops to his knees and stares upwards, the single ceiling light illuminating his face.

An explosion rips through the space headquarters. Inside the space bus, Amyl, Hendrix, and Eldorado watch the explosion. The debris particles slowly fade into the blackness of space.

INT. SPACE BUS

Amyl bows her head.

ELDORADO

Death in space. Scary thought.

AMYL

Death is never a good thing,  
but he had it coming.

HENDRIX

It was the only way. Lorianna  
would have felt the same about  
it.

AMYL

Lorianna. Somebody should tell  
her family.

ELDORADO

Yeah, that space king. You've  
got to feel bad for the guy.  
She was all he had left.

AMYL

It's our duty to notify the  
next of kin.

ELDORADO

Then we need to find him.

AMYL

Sure. A space king is going to  
talk to US.

ELDORADO

Then we'll find that Brawndo  
guy. Look for a palace, and  
find the nearest stadium.

Hendrix points to the screen.

HENDRIX

Right here - 55 degrees by  
minus 75.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - REXICON STADIUM

Amyl, Hendrix, and Eldorado walk down the hall, faces  
toward the ground. They stop and face each other in front  
of a large window. Behind the window a game of goalsball  
is being played on the court, with weightless players  
trying to hit a floating yellow ball into a goal.

AMYL

Who's going to tell him?

ELDORADO

I don't know. Hendrix?

Hendrix kneels and puts his hands to his head.

AMYL

Uh-oh.

ELDORADO

Hey, don't take it so hard. If  
you can't do it, I'll find him  
and tell him.

HENDRIX

I can't keep it inside any  
more. It's going to come out.  
Now.

AMYL

Hendrix...

A light fills the hallway. A figure of a woman forms in a hazy cloud. The cloud dissipates, revealing Lorianna.

LORIANNA

What just happened? I was shot  
by the squad, and then I saw...

Lorianna points at Hendrix.

LORIANNA (cont.)

You!

Hendrix falls backwards and sits on the floor.

HENDRIX

Hello.

LORIANNA

This is impossible! I was dead!

AMYL

I wouldn't complain if I were  
you.

LORIANNA

I don't know why you did it or  
even HOW you did it, but thank  
you.

ELDORADO

We also took care of Nefargon  
for you.

HENDRIX

It's good to have you back,  
Lorianna.

LORIANNA

I feel like we've been close,  
and I feel that I owe you my  
life - but I am engaged to  
someone...

HENDRIX

Brawndo. Yes, I know.

LORIANNA

He's in there, I'm sure. I must tell him that I've returned...safely.

ELDORADO

Did I mention that we destroyed Nefargon's base?

AMYL

El!

Lorianna walks toward the goalsball court.

LORIANNA

Thank you again. I am forever grateful...

Lorianna opens the door to the goalsball court, looking back as it closes, then walks up to a large man who is facing the playing area holding a large yellow ball under his arm. She puts her hand on his shoulder, he turns toward her, and they embrace.

Hendrix once again drops to his knees and holds his head.

ELDORADO

Hey! Bro! Come on! There are lots of other princesses in these galaxies. I'm sure we'll find more planets, and more people, and they'll have daughters, and, you know...

AMYL

Sure, Hendrix! You're a great guy. You'll find someone else soon - I know it.

HENDRIX

It's still inside me. It's still here.

AMYL

I know, it takes a while to get over these things.

HENDRIX

No - it's still inside me.  
I've got to...

Again the hallway fills with light, and again a cloud forms and a woman begins appearing.

ELDORADO

Did I just jump back in time or something?

A second Lorianna appears from the cloud.

LORIANNA 2

What just happened? I was shot by the squad, and then I saw...

Lorianna 2 points at Hendrix.

LORIANNA 2 (cont.)

You!

Hendrix rises and stands in front of Lorianna 2.

HENDRIX

It's REALLY good to see you here, Lorianna.

AMYL

Oh brother.

LORIANNA 2

This is impossible! I was dead!

ELDORADO

Did I mention that we - aw, never mind!

LORIANNA 2

I don't know why you did it or even HOW you did it, but thank you.

HENDRIX

You're welcome. Now, there's something I have to tell you.

LORIANNA 2

I feel like we've been close,  
and I feel that I owe you my  
life - but I am engaged to  
someone...

HENDRIX

I know. Brawndo. But there are  
two of you.

LORIANNA 2

How did you know that?

AMYL

Um, he sees two of you...

LORIANNA 2

Nobody knows that I was a twin.  
My sister died at birth, and my  
family kept it a secret.

HENDRIX

I know.

LORIANNA 2

Even Brawndo doesn't know.

(voice wavering)

He's in there, I'm sure. I  
must tell him that I've  
returned...safely.

ELDORADO

I don't think you need to do  
that...

She walks toward the goalsball court, looking back at  
Hendrix.

LORIANNA 2

Thank you again. I am forever  
grateful...

She stops at the door, turns, and stares. Inside, Lorianna  
1 is kissing Brawndo.

LORIANNA 2

What in the creators' name is going on?

ELDORADO

I guess now would be a bad time to mention that Earth is safe.

Amyl grabs Eldorado's arm and drags him down the hallway.

HENDRIX

Lorianna, you still are twins. You have always carried the life force of your sister, and when you were re-created, you were separated again.

LORIANNA 2

But how could you re-create me? Nobody has that power. When someone dies, their life force and telekinetic power passes to the person nearest them - but there is no power of re-animation!

ELDORADO (O.C.)

He's a special guy, Lorianna! Don't let him go!

LORIANNA 2

I cannot let him go, whoever you are. My engagement to Brawndo seems to be fulfilled, and I could never leave one who has held my life force. Wherever you are going, you must take me.

HENDRIX

I - I - don't know what to say.

ELDORADO

"Yes" would be good...

HENDRIX

I can't say no.

Hendrix takes Lorianna's hand, and they walk down the hallway together. As they pass, Eldorado takes Amyl's hand, and they walk beside them, exiting through two sets of double doors at the end of the hall.

INT. SPACE BUS

Eldorado, Amyl, and Hendrix are seated at consoles. Lorianna sits next to Hendrix.

ELDORADO

Well guys, we saved Earth,  
destroyed the bad guy, rescued  
the princess, and made the  
galaxy safe once again.

HENDRIX

Reminds me of those turn of the  
century games on low density  
CDs.

ELDORADO

What's next?

AMYL

I want to go home.

ELDORADO

We already went through this,  
Aim.

AMYL

No, this is different. I want  
to finish my last year in  
college. This whole thing has  
given me a new sense of  
direction.

LORIANNA

I also have a strong feeling  
that you want to work things  
out with your father.

AMYL

I thought you were only  
telekinetic!

LORIANNA

I am. That feeling came from  
Hendrix.

HENDRIX

Sorry.

AMYL

No, don't be. I guess we have  
something in common. You know,  
losing our mothers...

LORIANNA

And distant fathers. Yes.

AMYL

You too?

LORIANNA

When my mother died, my father  
- as you would put it - fell  
apart. He sent me to distant  
schools to hide his grief.  
When I finished school, I left  
to pursue Nefargon in the hope  
of repairing what had been  
disrupted.

ELDORADO

I guess we were all looking for  
something in space. I sure  
would like to find what I was  
after - one of these days!

LORIANNA

Oh, but you have!

ELDORADO

Yeah, right.

LORIANNA

What you search for is right  
here.

ELDORADO

Amyl?

AMYL

Hendrix!

HENDRIX

Sorry. She picked up on that one too.

LORIANNA

It is obvious you both have feelings for each other. You may not see it, but to others it is visible.

AMYL

She's right, you know.

ELDORADO

I didn't want to say anything. I didn't...

LORIANNA

You fear rejection. Your fear is unfounded.

ELDORADO

You better not have told her about the girl across the street, Hendrix!

Hendrix shrugs.

LORIANNA

You have found something too.

HENDRIX.

Yes, I know.

AMYL

Your turn, Hendrix. Spit it out.

ELDORADO

Let's all share the embarrassment here.

HENDRIX

I just wanted to find out if there was life on other planets, that's all.

LORIANNA

No. It was more than that.

AMYL

Here it comes.

LORIANNA

You wanted to be valuable, to do something worthwhile. To make a difference in someone's life. This you have done.

AMYL

Look at him! He's turning dawn-sun red!

HENDRIX

Yeah, yeah. Can we just decide where we're going next, please?

ELDORADO

Re-entry, then home. We'll drop off Amyl, then decide what's next. Me, I still want to see what's out here.

HENDRIX

I'll stay here too. I thought nothing was here - now it seems that everything's here.

ELDORADO

Told you that when we started.

LORIANNA

I will stay with Hendrix.

ELDORADO

Then that's settled. It's going to be a long year though...

AMYL

Leave me a forward scatter  
radio so I can talk to you, OK?

ELDORADO

It's in the garage under the  
tool box.

HENDRIX

30 seconds to landing.

All four watch the clouds drift past the windows as they  
descend.

CUT TO:

INT. NASTA HEADQUARTERS

Alarms are sounding and uniformed people scramble between  
consoles. The sergeant stands behind Smith and Williams at  
the console.

SERGEANT

They are back. Scramble  
everything we've got!

SMITH

Just as expected. Flight  
vector is back toward the -  
wait, they're changing course.

(beat)

They're headed here.

SERGEANT

Security alert!

EXT. NASTA PARKING LOT - DAY

The space bus sits in the middle of the lot and the four  
stand outside. Hendrix holds Lorianna's hand, and Eldorado  
hugs Amyl.

AMYL

Remember - at the time and  
place I told you, next May  
25th. I'll be there.

ELDORADO

I was wrong about one thing  
about space, Aim.

Amyl backs up a step.

ELDORADO (cont.)

Now, everything I need is not  
out there.

Footsteps are heard in the distance, becoming louder.  
Helicopters fill the air above, and they are surrounded by  
soldiers with weapons drawn.

SOLDIER #1

STEP AWAY FROM THE SPACESHIP!

AMYL

It's all right! My father is  
Captain Williams. He works  
here.

Two soldiers come forward and escort Amyl into the crowd.

SOLDIER #1

I REPEAT - STEP AWAY FROM THE  
SPACESHIP!

ELDORADO

Hendrix - I think it's time to  
wave goodbye.

The sergeant stands behind the crowd on the steps watching  
through binoculars.

SERGEANT

Holy shit! An alien girl! Get  
her into isolation ASAP!

Hendrix waves his hand. All weapons go flying by the sergeant, and his binoculars fly off as well.

SERGEANT  
Surround the ship! Don't let  
it take off!

Hendrix, Eldorado, and Lorianna run into the ship, slamming the door. The Space Bus lifts straight off from a crowd of soldiers converging on it, then dodges three helicopters and continues its ascent.

SERGEANT  
(into walkie-talkie)  
Is the Force scrambled for  
intercept?

SMITH (filter)  
Yes sir.

SERGEANT  
This time, we'll get it right.

INT. SPACE BUS

ELDORADO  
I don't get it. Amyl's back -  
what do they want now?

LORIANNA  
It must be me.

HENDRIX  
Must have been the way I waved.

ELDORADO  
Or maybe it's the bus?

The bus jerks backward, then starts descending.

ELDORADO  
This is bad.

HENDRIX  
What?

ELDORADO

Space Force. They've somehow  
locked on to us.

HENDRIX

How? This thing's aluminum,  
right?

ELDORADO

I don't know how.

SQUAD LEADER (filter)

This is Alpha leader to  
control. Positive lock with  
the induction beta unit. We're  
coming down.

HENDRIX

I'm starting to get really  
pissed off at these guys.

He grabs the microphone from Eldorado.

HENDRIX (cont.)

Space explorers to Alpha  
leader. What is your problem?

SQUAD LEADER (filter)

We have orders to return you  
and the alien to NASTA  
headquarters for...examination.

ELDORADO

There's two of them using  
induction - one front, one  
behind.

LORIANNA

I'll get the one behind.

HENDRIX

Reverse the current in the  
external coils. It'll overload  
the turbo generators.

LORIANNA

That won't disable the ships,  
will it?

ELDORADO

No, just the main generators.  
Better hurry up - we're  
entering conventional satellite  
weapons range.

Hendrix and Lorianna make the "OK" signal. Their descent  
continues.

HENDRIX

What happened?

ELDORADO

Something's wrong. It's not  
working.

INT. NASTA HEADQUARTERS

Amyl runs to her father.

AMYL

Dad!

WILLIAMS

Amyl! Are you OK?

AMYL

I'm fine. Everything's fine.

WILLIAMS

Did they hurt you?

AMYL

Hurt me? What?

WILLIAMS

The ones who abducted you.

SERGEANT

And the alien.

AMYL

Alien? Her name's Lorianna.  
I'll explain later.

Amyl points at an overhead video monitor.

AMYL (cont.)

What are you doing?

SERGEANT

None of your concern. Tell me  
about this alien.

AMYL

Leave them alone! They haven't  
broken any laws. Nobody  
"abducted" anyone.

WILLIAMS

Amyl, let's just go home.

AMYL

Not yet. I'm waiting for them  
break away from the space  
force.

SERGEANT

That won't happen, little girl.  
They have the new beta test  
induction units at full power.

AMYL

They'll shut down the turbo  
generators. That's next.

SERGEANT

We anticipated that, and put  
nuclear backup pods in the aft  
naselles.

The sergeant leans toward Amyl.

SERGEANT (cont.)

We are going to get that ship  
either in one piece or in many.  
And when we do, we'll find out  
what makes it run. Got it?

AMYL

Got it.

Amyl quickly leans over and slams a button on the console.

INT. SPACE BUS

AMYL (filter, cont.)  
AFT NASELLE GENERATORS!

ELDORADO

Amyl!

Hendrix waves his hand.

HENDRIX

Got it.

LORIANNA

Likewise.

SQUAD LEADER (filter)  
Turbo gen failure! Backup's  
out too!

SQUAD MEMBER #2 (filter)  
Same here. Switching to manual  
and going home.

HENDRIX

Great. Now let's get out of  
here!

ELDORADO

Wait! The comm link's stuck  
on. I can hear them at  
control. Amyl must have locked  
it on!

SERGEANT (filter)

Captain, take your daughter  
home NOW!

AMYL (filter)  
I want to hear the rest of  
this. What were you going to  
do to them?

WILLIAMS (filter)  
Amyl, go on. I'll handle this.

INT. NASTA HEADQUARTERS

WILLIAMS (cont.)  
Trust me on this. I won't let  
you down...  
(beat)  
my little daughter.

Amyl slowly walks to the door, looking back before leaving.

SERGEANT  
There is nothing to handle,  
Captain.

WILLIAMS  
Yes, I think there is.  
(beat)  
If my daughter says she wasn't  
abducted, then damn it, she  
wasn't. You are not going to  
blow up her friends and dissect  
any aliens.

SERGEANT  
Captain, you are DISMISSED!

WILLIAMS  
Not until I have some answers.

INT. SPACE BUS

HENDRIX  
This is great stuff!

SERGEANT (filter)  
We need that ship. We were  
going to bring them down and  
hold them in...

WILLIAMS (filter)  
Secure confinement. Standard  
procedure. For how long?

SERGEANT (filter)  
As long as it takes.

ELDORADO  
Whoa.

WILLIAMS (filter)  
Not on my shift you don't.  
What do you think the general  
public would think of this?

SERGEANT (filter)  
You know what happens to  
whistle-blowers around here,  
Captain.

WILLIAMS (filter)  
Yes sir. They do talk shows  
and get million dollar book  
deals.

HENDRIX  
Yeah! Kick ass.

INT. NASTA HEADQUARTERS

SERGEANT  
You wouldn't go to the media.

WILLIAMS  
You wouldn't make a 30 year  
veteran of the aerospace agency  
retire, would you? After the  
book, I could take that cross-  
country trip - or maybe I could  
even build a space vehicle in  
my garage.

SERGEANT  
I get your point. I'll back  
off.

WILLIAMS

That's what I wanted to hear,  
sir.

SERGEANT

(aside)

At least officially I will.

INT. SPACE BUS

ELDORADO

Hey! I heard that!

HENDRIX

So now we're outcasts.  
Desperadoes. Varmints.

LORIANNA

We are space explorers. We  
investigate the mysteries of  
space.

ELDORADO

Speaking of mysteries, why is  
that space force fighter still  
hanging around our left side?

Hendrix leans over.

HENDRIX

Yep, he's still there.  
Space explorers to Alpha leader  
- what the heck are you doing?

SQUAD LEADER (filter)

This is Squad Leader Jeffrey  
Crichton.

ELDORADO

Crichton? That sounds too  
familiar.

HENDRIX

Anything that has to do with  
space always has someone named  
Crichton around.

SQUAD LEADER (filter)  
I just wanted to tell you guys  
that you're OK. If I wasn't  
with NASTA, I'd probably be  
doing the same thing as you.

HENDRIX  
That's cool.

SQUAD LEADER (filter)  
Don't go too far. We may need  
your help some day.

ELDORADO  
You already did, and we're  
still hanging around.

SQUAD LEADER (filter)  
Yeah - you wouldn't know what  
happened to a slightly used SDI  
missile, would you?

ELDORADO  
We put it to good use saving  
the universe.

SQUAD LEADER (filter)  
So you found whoever loaded the  
coordinates for Moscow into the  
other one?

LORIANNA  
A more precise explanation  
would be that your missile  
found him.

SQUAD LEADER (filter)  
Good. I like to hear that.

A crackling comes from the radio.

SERGEANT (filter)  
Control to Alpha Leader. Our  
comm channel was locked on.  
What is your status?

SQUAD LEADER (filter)  
Uh, I had a jammed manual  
override switch. I've got it  
now. Returning to base.

Eldorado breathes a sigh of relief.

HENDRIX  
Now that we're stuck being  
space explorers until a certain  
sergeant retires, what do we  
do?

LORIANNA  
Much remains to be done in  
space. There are planets to  
visit that would amaze you.  
Some are like your Garden of  
Eden. Others are run by  
corrupt people.

ELDORADO  
I think we just left that one.

LORIANNA  
A planet that Hendrix is from  
can not be bad.

Eldorado stares at the ceiling, shaking his head.

HENDRIX  
How about another mission?  
Those rumors about aliens  
abducting children - we can  
look into that.

LORIANNA  
Dalvin 3. They have done this  
in the past.

ELDORADO  
Dalvin what?

LORIANNA

The Dalvins have brought children from many planets. They go to extremes to populate their planet with others. They call it diversity.

ELDORADO

On our planet, that's called "perversity."

HENDRIX

Looks like we get to be heroes again.

ELDORADO

Where are they?

LORIANNA

490 of your light years past my planet.

ELDORADO

Is there a fast food drive-through along the way? I'd like to try a space burger and fries.

LORIANNA

Try J and K's House of Burgers. They're not broiled, they're plasma fried.

Eldorado and Hendrix stare at her.

LORIANNA (cont.)

I forgot - they're closed now. Never mind. How about Zorlahan's? Although I hear it's too much of a pick-up joint...

(beat)

I'm not completely lacking a sense of humor.

HENDRIX

If we go there, you're staying  
REALLY close to me.

ELDORADO

And if we see guys with letters  
on their jackets, they better  
be varsity football players.

LORIANNA

And if they're not?

HENDRIX

We just remind them whose space  
they're in.

ELDORADO.

Our space!

Eldorado activates the engines. The Space Bus slowly drifts  
away, eventually disappearing with a burst of speed.

FADE OUT