

COSMOSIS

By

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FADE IN:

SPACE

A space ship floats.

INT. SPACE SHIP - COMMAND DECK

DARIUS, 6, bald, bright-eyed, wrapped in an oversized shirt stares out the window into space.

JARTA'S QUARTER

JARTA, 40, a man, also bald and skinny, tethered to a cot on the wall, sleeps.

GARDEN ROOM

PEONY, 40, a woman, bald and hunched over, tends hydroponic vegetables that grow in columns. She wears a plastic suit with hood and transparent face mask.

She pushes a button and releases a mist of water.

Droplets float around her. Some drops splash harmlessly on the face mask and dissipate into smaller drops while others converge in the air to become larger ones.

Bees and butterflies hover and flit around her.

COMMAND DECK

BULLDANCER, 32, bald, pasty and gaunt, hunched over, carries a book.

He watches Darius and hovers from behind.

BULLDANCER

What do you see, Darius?

DARIUS

A star.

BULLDANCER

What is it about this star that has grasped your attention?

DARIUS
It is different.

BULLDANCER
Is it? How so?

DARIUS
It's bigger.

Bulldancer joins Darius at the window.

They stare curiously.

DARIUS
Is it the Sun?

Bulldancer gazes at the star. The wonder in his eyes catapults his memory to his youth, when BULLDANCER, 7, awes at a 3 dimensional hologram model of the solar system that floats above him in the

MAIN CABIN - FLASHBACK

Where JARTA, 15, youthful, bald, and PEONY, 15, pretty, bald, both flank Bulldancer as they teach him.

Bulldancer wears an oversized shirt. Jarta and Peony's clothes fit better, but still sloppy and large on their gaunt bodies.

JARTA
Most of the orbits are relatively round and steady, but some, like the comets, are parabolic. You understand?

BULLDANCER
Parabolic is oval.

PEONY
That's right Bulldancer.

BULLDANCER
So they only come close to the Earth when they get close to the Sun.

JARTA
Now you're catching on. And the Sun is what?

BULLDANCER

A star.

JARTA

And because the Miracle Five is on a parabolic orbit this ship will return to the Sun when . . . ?

BULLDANCER

Two hundred years?

Jarta ponders the model solar system.

JARTA

That is correct.

Peony agrees solemnly.

PEONY

Yes, it is.

BULLDANCER

Do we have to go to the Earth? Why can't we go somewhere else?

PEONY

When Generation Nine turned the ship around, it made it so that we can't go anywhere else.

BULLDANCER

What if we turned the ship again?

Jarta and Peony giggle. Jarta gently rubs Bulldancer's scalp.

JARTA

It wouldn't matter Bull. No matter which way we go, we will never get there. We won't get back to Earth until at least Generation Twenty-Five.

BULLDANCER

What generation are we, Jarta?

JARTA

Seventeen.

PEONY

Maybe when you are very old, you will get to see the Sun. Before the ship gets there.

BULLDANCER

Will we ever get to leave the ship?

JARTA

No, Bulldancer. We will be here for as long as we live.

COMMAND DECK - CONTINUOUS

Bulldancer, 32, runs his hand over Darius' scalp as they stare out the window.

DARIUS

Bulldancer? Could that be the Sun?

Bulldancer squints hopefully at the distant blinking light.

MAIN CABIN

HEART, 15, a girl, bald, smooth skinned, pushes a chess piece forward.

The magnet on the bottom of the chess piece snaps to the board.

HOLLAND, 27, bald, blotchy skin, scoffs at the move.

HOLLAND

Hah, I knew you would do that.

He moves a knight and takes a pawn.

Heart captures the knight with a rook. She smiles slyly.

HOLLAND

Ah! Someday, Heart, I am going to put you in checkmate.

Bulldancer floats in and calls to the crew.

BULLDANCER

Everyone, come and see. Darius has discovered a star. Where is Peony?

Heart points toward the garden.

Bulldancer floats down a corridor to the

GARDEN ROOM

Peony waves to him through the glass.

BULLDANCER
Peony. Come and see the star.

COMMAND DECK

At the window, Jarta and the others stand behind Darius.

JARTA
It could be a supernova.

HOLLAND
Maybe it is the Sun.

Heart gasps and clutches Bulldancers shoulder.

BULLDANCER
Yes Heart. It could be the Sun.
Earth may be right in front of us.

HOLLAND
How long will it take us to get
there?

Bulldancer somersaults away excitedly.

BULLDANCER
We can calculate it. Yes, we can
calculate it.

He jumps upward through a portal in the ceiling.

PEONY
Bull. What are you doing?

LIBRARY COVE

Bulldancer opens a cabinet.

Hardcover books and tablets are sturdily strapped inside.
Tablets have titles handwritten on the spine.

Older hardcovers are Huckleberry Finn, The Bible, To Kill a Mockingbird, Cosmos, textbooks, etc.

He wrenches out a hardcover physics book.

BULLDANCER
We can calculate it.

PEONY
Bully, come here.

Bull floats back into the

MAIN CABIN

BULLDANCER
What is it Peony? That measurement we can make? Light from a star?

PEONY
Spectral analysis. But calm down, Bulldancer, there is no hurry. It will be years if we even get close to that star.

BULLDANCER
Then we have time.

PEONY
And what will you do when know how close we are to that star?

BULLDANCER
Then I will know. And if it is the Sun . . .

PEONY
Then what?

BULLDANCER
Then we can go to Earth.

PEONY
Possibly.

BULLDANCER
And what would life be without possibility?

COMMAND DECK

Darius, Holland, Jarta and Heart stare out the window.

Heart whispers into Darius' ear. He nods in reply.

DARIUS

How big are stars?

JARTA

Enormous. Nothing is bigger than a star.

HOLLAND

Bulldancer sounds excited.

JARTA

He wants to find a planet. To explore it. When Miracle returns to Earth our mission will be complete.

DARIUS

When we get closer to the Sun won't we be able to see the Earth?

JARTA

Perhaps. If your star there is indeed the Sun.

GARDEN ROOM

Peony bags leafy vegetables, baby corn and tiny tomatoes together.

A tiny bee floats by.

It flies up to the hive, a honeycomb built on plastic mesh.

Heart reaches up and snaps off some of the honeycomb.

MAIN CABIN

The crew sit in a circle and pass the plastic bag of food.

Each takes a small handful and eats.

BULLDANCER

I think I know the distance to the Sun.

Nobody responds.

BULLDANCER

Would anyone like to know how far away the Sun is?

PEONY

Tell us Bulldancer.

BULLDANCER

It is about 7.6 billion kilometers.

PEONY

And what does that mean?

BULLDANCER

As we get closer we can search for planetary objects. We could find the Earth.

DARIUS

How will we know if something is a planet or not?

JARTA

(sarcasm)

Yes, Bull, how will we know?

BULLDANCER

They're round of course. You know that. They will be orbiting the star so we will recognize them by relative motion. I believe we will know them when we see them.

JARTA

Then what?

BULLDANCER

We follow the protocol. We complete the mission. We land.

JARTA

Land?

BULLDANCER

Yes, land. That is our mission.

JARTA

Our mission is to maintain course until we return to the solar system and we are not going to be the ones who -

BULLDANCER

If nothing else we could at least go into orbit.

JARTA

Around the planet that might exist?

BULLDANCER

No. Around the star that does.

JARTA

Orbit the star? What for? We don't have any proof that star is the Sun. What if it's not?

BULLDANCER

What if it is? Miracle Five is on course for Earth. That is what we know.

JARTA

On a projected course, based on stories handed down for eight generations, with all proof of calculation lost with the hard drive. We are not even due to arrive for another 175 years. With that being the case I don't see how that star out there could be the Sun.

BULLDANCER

Perhaps we have arrived sooner. And I don't believe you have proof that there ever was such a thing as a hard drive. If that is not the Sun, then where are we?

JARTA

I don't know. There is no way to know, Bull - you know that.

(MORE)

JARTA(cont'd)

If Generation Nine did in fact turn this ship around and back toward Earth, there is no possible way that we would be able to see it at this point in time. So that can't be the Sun.

HOLLAND

If it is not the Sun, what is it?

JARTA

Just a star.

BULLDANCER

It is not just a star. It is Darius' Star. For the first time in our lives, one of us has made a unique discovery and you are being complacent about it.

JARTA

I am being realistic. That can not be the Sun. Wherever we are, we are not heading toward Earth, and since that is not the Sun, it is just a star.

BULLDANCER

It is not. You said yourself the stories were handed down, they may have calculated wrong. There is no reason to think that Darius' Star is not the Sun.

PEONY

Bully, calm down.

BULLDANCER

No. I don't want to be calm. I want to say something. I'm tired of being here. I want to see something. Something different. Is that so bad?

PEONY

Is it so bad here? We have food and good friends. We all love you.

Heart reaches out and hugs Bulldancer.

HOLLAND

Yes, we do.

BULLDANCER
You just don't understand.

Bulldancer jolts up and floats toward the doorway.

JARTA
Understand what?

BULLDANCER
Look around you. We live in a spaceship. We look out the window and the one new thing that's out there doesn't get you excited? Not in the least? Have you learned nothing from our history, our tablets and computer and books? The Earth was a brilliant place and we never even knew it. Don't you want to see something different? Something new?

DARIUS
I want to see something new.

BULLDANCER
Darius wants to see something new.
Thank you Darius.

Bulldancer boosts himself away in a huff.

The crew look to each other contemplatively.

PEONY
There really was a hard drive.
Once.

They continue to eat.

LIBRARY COVE

Darius searches through books.

Heart stands below him and beckons to Darius for a book.

DARIUS
This one?

She nods and flexes her fingers.

He sends the book down to her with a slight push.

Heart catches it and Darius floats down to join her.

Heart opens the book and reads out loud to him, but whispers as she speaks.

HEART

Earth is 12,756 kilometers in diameter.

DARIUS

How big is that?

HEART

It's very big, but it is also very small. Hard to describe because we don't have anything to compare it to. You're a meter in length, from eyes to feet, so it's 12,000 times 1,000 - twelve million times longer than you. In a circle.

The textbook shows our solar system.

DARIUS

How big is the Miracle?

HEART

One hundred forty meters including the store.

DARIUS

Are we going to see the Earth?

HEART

Oh, Darius. If we see a planet, we'll be very fortunate.

DARIUS

There's no way we can see Earth?

HEART

It is doubtful. Jarta is right. Your star is probably not the Earth's Sun. However, Bulldancer is also right. If we are ever going to see another planet in our lifetime, it will have to be in orbit around this star.

DARIUS

What if we don't see a planet?

HEART

Then, we never will.

DARIUS

Heart? How did we get here?

INT. MISSION CONTROL - DAY

NASA engineers focus at their stations.

The monitors reveal the rocket awaiting liftoff.

Several voices crackle through the radio transmissions.

MONTAGE

The rocket steams on the launch pad. Ice forms over it. Astronauts sit buckled into place. Mission control ENGINEERS watch controls and wait with stern faces.

RADIO CONVERSATION (V.O.)

Mission control Houston - this is Miracle Five - we have green on all indicators and are prepared for liftoff. T minus 17 seconds to liftoff. Miracle Five you are cleared for a go on T zero. Roger Houston. Clear for go T zero. T minus 12 seconds to liftoff. Initiate firing sequence. Roger, Houston, initiating firing sequence.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD - DAY

The massive rocket fires up.

RADIO CONVERSATION (V.O.)

We have ignition.

INT. LAUNCH VEHICLE

A space suited crew of six astronauts, three men, three women, smile as the cabin rumbles.

RADIO CONVERSATION 1 (V.O.)
T minus seven.

RADIO CONVERSATION 2 (V.O.)
Miracle Five, you are good to go. Roger that Houston.

RADIO CONVERSATION 1 (V.O.)
T minus six. Miracle Five,
fire main thrusters.

RADIO CONVERSATION 2 (V.O.)
Main thrusters engaged.

EXT. LAUNCH PAD

The rocket lurches upward.

RADIO CONVERSATION 1 (V.O.)
Five. Four. Three. Two.
One.

RADIO CONVERSATION 2 (V.O.)
Houston, we are hoppin' and
poppin' and we ain't
stoppin'. Roger that Miracle
Five, we have liftoff.

The rocket blasts into the sky. A beautiful launch.

INT. MISSION CONTROL

The engineers cheer.

INT. LAUNCH VEHICLE

The astronauts cheer.

RADIO CONVERSATION (V.O.)
Fly strong Miracle Five, you're
going to Mars.

SPACE

Miracle Five soars away from Earth, now only a small disk
behind them. The moon, much closer, reveals massive craters.

INT. SPACE SHIP - COMMAND DECK

The spaceship now pristine and shiny new.

A man, HALSEY, 45 and a woman, SAUNDERS, 32, hover and smile
at the window of the command deck.

The moon floats behind them as STELLA, 29, eyes them through
a digital camera and snaps a photo of them with the moon.

STELLA
 What do you think that thing is
 made out of?

HALSEY
 Cheese.

SAUNDERS
 Cheese.

Stella looks at the camera screen for the results.

Halsey looks out the window at the moon.

HALSEY
 Look at that.

A man, MARTY HELLER, 30, sits back at a rear seat and
 watches. A man, VITTERHEYD, 40, blond, sits beside him.

A blond woman, KAREN, 45, floats in and moves to the window.

KAREN
 God, the moon is huge.

Halsey stares out with her.

INT. EARTH TO MARS SHUTTLE

The cabin of a luxury spacecraft. An expansive first class
 cabin seats a few dozen people.

COLONEL DOUGLAS PLEUS, 35, seated at a window, watches Earth
 and the moon shrink from sight.

FLASHBACK - OCEAN BEACH - SUNSET

Pleus shuffles beside his aged FATHER, 70, who walks with a
 cane.

PLEUS
 Do you want to come to Mars to
 watch us take off from Deimos?

DEIMOS

A huge space ship points skyward like a needle from the
 surface of the tiny moon.

FLASHBACK - OCEAN BEACH - SUNSET

FATHER

No. I've been to Mars. How long is this trip going to take?

PLEUS

Seven years.

FATHER

How come they said on the news it takes five hundred?

PLEUS

Five hundred Earth years. It's only seven for me.

FATHER

So when you come back. . .

PLEUS

I'm not coming back.

His Father stops short and huffs, then bolts away as best a man with a cane can do. Pleus follows a pace behind.

FATHER

What do you want to do that for?

PLEUS

I want to see the universe.

DEIMOS

A blue flash of exhaust envelopes the satellite briefly and the space ship bolts and burns away past Mars.

FLASHBACK - OCEAN BEACH - SUNSET

Father looks up to the twinkling stars.

FATHER

I can see it from here.

PLEUS

Not the same.

INT. DEIMOS LAUNCHED SPACE SHIP

The cabin rumbles and hums, then settles quietly. Pleus and the crew unbuckle themselves to float about the cabin.

FLASHBACK - OCEAN BEACH - SUNSET

FATHER

They already took pictures. With robots. Why do you have to go?

PLEUS

Because I can. I want to. I need to. I am responsible for the store.

Pleus Father plods away.

FATHER

Spaceships do get lost, you know.

INT. DEIMOS LAUNCHED SPACE SHIP

Pleus removes his helmet and looks out the window. Like his previous view of Earth, Mars now shrinks away into the black. The sun fades in size and luminosity to become a distant, cold, shiny dot of light.

INT. MISSION CONTROL

FIFTY ENGINEERS watch on the big screens above them a series of viewpoints of the Miracle Five. One shows the outside of the ship with Mars in the distance. Another shows the underbelly of the ship. The others reveal a series of interior shots of the living quarter, the garden and the command deck. The crew sits at the command deck.

A light hum of conversation among the ENGINEERS fills the room.

A chubby engineer, BO, 55, watches from his chair. He sits back and receives a microwave bag of popcorn from HANCOCK, 38, mustached and thin.

HANCOCK

What did I miss?

BO
Nothing. Still running their
checks.

The display on screen enhanced by crackled voices tells the story. The astronauts don't move much but push buttons and turn dials.

VITTERHEYD (V.O.)
Tell me when we have all levels
aligned.

SAUNDERS (V.O.)
Give it a minute.

MARTY (V.O.)
Are the butterflies secure?

KAREN (V.O.)
They are.

Bo and Hancock and other ENGINEERS chuckle.

MARTY (V.O.)
All levels aligned. We're ready.

HALSEY (V.O.)
Open them up Marty. Tell me when
you're at a hundred percent.

KAREN (V.O.)
Something wrong?

MARTY (V.O.)
Not opening.

KAREN (V.O.)
Try it again.

VITTERHEYD (V.O.)
Is that the right command sequence?

MARTY (V.O.)
Looks like it.

HALSEY (V.O.)
Don't jerk us around Marty.

MARTY (V.O.)
The sequence isn't working. I
don't have a go. The doors to the
boosters aren't opening.

Bo and Hancock slow their enthusiasm for popcorn.

All FIFTY ENGINEERS quiet down to hushed tones.

HANCOCK
He's kidding right?

BO
Not the right time for him to be
making wisecracks.

Two astronauts unbuckle and float into the cabin.

STELLA (V.O.)
We'll see if we can get a visual.

Hancock refers to the shot of the ships underbelly.

HANCOCK
That view is real time like the
cabin right?

BO
It is for us. For them that was
twenty-two minutes ago.

Hancock surveys his computer screen.

HANCOCK
Well, if our delay on this feed is
twenty-two minutes, they've got
about an hour left to get that
thing open or else they'll have to
go into a wide orbit.

Bo trashes his popcorn and stands up.

BO
Wide orbit? They don't get that
hatch open and fire that booster,
they'll have a hell of a bigger
problem than a wide orbit.

KAREN (V.O.)
They're not open.

MARTY (V.O.)
I'm not playing around here. This
sequence is not working.

The ENGINEERS emit a frenzied hum filled with disappointment and fear. They rush to pick up phones and change computer screens.

VITTERHEYD (V.O.)
I've verified it six times. Is
there a way to circumvent this?

Halsey looks into the camera.

HALSEY (V.O.)
Ground Control Houston - we need
some help up here.

INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

Five MEN and four WOMEN hurry around the long conference table and take seats.

Bo and Hancock enter behind and stand at the head of the room.

COLONEL CAPSHAW, 50, gruff, in charge, in uniform, enters last and slams the door.

CAPSHAW
It's been forty seven minutes those
astronauts haven't been able to
open the gates to the boosters. We
now have less than thirty to make
that happen.

Bo writes on the dry erase board. He draws circles to represent Mars, Earth, the Sun and a sloppy rectangle for the Miracle Five. He illustrates with dashes to show the flight path of the ship and moves Mars forward a fraction of the way around it's orbit to show the intersection.

BO
Without those boosters we'll lose
the gravitational pull of Mars.
When that happens, you've got
nothing but the vacuum of space to
deal with and any orbit we can put
them into to push them back toward
Mars won't intersect with the
planet again for another six
months.

Hancock takes the marker and draws dashes that miss Mars and head back toward Earth.

HANCOCK

It's not that they can't survive for another six months, but if we don't get the boosters up today and get them back on track, that window of opportunity changes tremendously every second. Example, if it doesn't happen until tomorrow, orbiting Mars no longer becomes an option. They have to come home and we've blown it.

Argument grows into frenzy as they talk over each other.

MAN 1

How can there be that much diversion?

MAN 2

Can't we fire the boosters more than once to put them back on course?

HANCOCK

They're moving at a tenth the speed of light, it's not like banking a race car on a track. It can't be steered without gravitational assistance.

WOMAN 1

What about rebooting the system?

BO

That's last ditch. We'll do it if we have to.

HANCOCK

Let me tell you something. Excuse me. Can I say something?

MAN 3

When?

BO

Soon.

CAPSHAW

Damn it! People! Let the man talk!

They shut up.

HANCOCK

Right now, it's looking like they're going to need an extensive EVA just to get in there and at this point we don't have the time we need to do that properly and get everybody back inside.

MAN 3

Why don't we just try it anyway?

Bo snags the marker from Hancock and draws a line on the dry erase board that takes the ship past Mars and keeps going. He draws a line off the dry erase board onto the wall and halfway around the room. He draws the line over everything in his path, the pictures and posters.

WOMAN 2

What are you doing?

BO

This is where they'll end up if we can't fix this.

MAN 1

Where?

Bo stops at a blank spot on the wall.

BO

Nowhere. They'll be gone.

Bo hurls the marker away. It bounces off the wall.

CAPSHAW

Put your heads together and solve this stinking problem right now. Let me be clear. They're not just going to turn around and come home. You people will deliver that ship to Mars. Miracle Five is the store. Without that ship, everybody on Mars will die and we will not let that happen. Nobody here sleeps until we're back on course. That is your mission.

TV NEWS BROADCAST

A handsome REPORTER, 40, clean cut, delivers news.

People around the world are glued to their TVs. In bars, airports, homes and offices, their faces sink in depression.

REPORTER

It has been only forty-eight hours since the Miracle Five failed to fire its booster rockets and go into orbit around Mars.

(MORE)

REPORTER(cont'd)

At this time, the ship is now on a trajectory that has taken it past the planet and if not corrected within the next twelve hours, we are told, the Miracle Five will continue traveling toward the asteroid belt and the outer solar system.

News clips include the astronauts entering the ship, the liftoff, Cape Canaveral, mission control and photos of Mars.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Since blasting off from Cape Canaveral last November, Miracle Five has traveled nearly 80 million miles toward Mars and early yesterday came within 500 miles of the planet surface. The Miracle Five is the fifth nuclear powered rocket in the Newtonian series and is designed for deep space flight. It was intended to be the fourth station to permanently orbit Mars. Here on Earth, the Miracle Five is better known as The Store, so named for the vast warehouse of dry goods and live vegetables that were to serve as the literal seeds of Martian farming to aid in colonization, as well as computers, clothes and other daily necessities unable to be manufactured on the Mars outpost. Miracle Five's orbital boosters were originally designed to work as the ships braking system. If attempts to correct the boosters are unsuccessful, the Miracle Five will not only be unable to reach Mars on a second attempt but also, sadly, will be unable to return to Earth.

INT. SPACE SHIP

The crew of the Miracle Five float around the main cabin and ponder options.

Halsey seriously takes votes.

HALSEY

Tell me what you want to do.

Saunders shakes with eyes sunken, devastated.

SAUNDERS

Do we even have a choice now?

Vitterheyd, soft-spoken, answers.

VITTERHEYD

There are only two options. To live or to die.

HALSEY

I vote we live. Fix the boosters. Turn it around. Do whatever we can. Marty, Karen, what do you say?

Marty shakes his head.

MARTY

I . . . I can't talk about this.

Marty floats away.

Karen bolts toward him, concerned.

KAREN

This can't be ignored Marty.

Marty spins about and returns quickly.

MARTY

It wasn't supposed to be this way.

HALSEY

Well, it is. Let's deal with it. We're here.

MARTY

Where? Where we are? Where? No where! We're not even on the ecliptic anymore! We are gone! Our lives are over. Look at Stella! She's catatonic!

Stella floats a few feet away, curled up in a ball, her knees to her chest.

Karen reaches to her and rubs her back.

HALSEY

Okay. Be cool, Marty.

MARTY

Be cool? Be cool! We are leaving the solar system! We don't even exist anymore! No pension, no kids, no home! They already carved our tombstones! Don't you get it man? There's nothing out here. This is the void.

HALSEY

I know. I get it! Not dealing with it won't make it better. Let's make a new plan.

VITTERHEYD

What kind of plan? The orbital boosters are only at twenty percent now. Without gravity, there's no way to change course.

HALSEY

I'm not talking about changing course, I'm talking about changing the mission.

KAREN

To what?

HALSEY

To survive. We go on. We live.

SAUNDERS

For how long?

HALSEY

For as long as we live. I'm not going to just lay down and die, here. We have years and years of supplies. Hydro replenishment, recycling air filters, the fuel cells can last for a thousand years. We can live here. We can make it. We can even send back reports.

MARTY

Reports? Report what? We're lost in space, man. It's over. We're insignificant. We're not even as important as those bees! You know what's out there? Take a look, buddy. Nothing!

(MORE)

MARTY(cont'd)

We are going nowhere. Nowhere!
Let me paint a picture for you.
This is prison and we're on death
row.

Stella screams and Karen holds her.

MARTY

You want to live with that? Do
you?

HALSEY

Stop it.

MARTY

Just pop open the door man, that's
all you've got to do. We won't
even feel it. 27,000 miles a
second. The vacuum. Quick.
Painless. You'll never know what
hit you.

Their eyes lock. Marty's glare shifts from Halsey to the
latch and back again.

Marty and Halsey bolt at the same time. They struggle.

Marty pushes for the hatch.

Vitterheyd jumps on top of Marty.

Saunders grabs Marty by the hair as the men beat him.

Stella screams while Karen hugs her.

Vitterheyd pounds Marty into the wall.

Marty fights, kicks and screams.

Halsey pounds him in the face and chest until blood spurts
from his mouth.

Saunders wraps her arm around Marty's neck and squeezes.

The trio detain Marty until his lifeless body stops the
struggle.

Blood floats around the cabin and trails along the wall.

STELLA

Oh God! Oh God! What are we going
to do?

Karen holds her and turns Stella away.

HALSEY
We are going to live.

SPACE

The Miracle Five soars away from the sun and Mars.

INT. SPACE SHIP - LINEAGE WALL

Heart and Darius float along the ceiling.

A flow chart of names and dates, some written with marker, others scrawled with pencil, form a time line.

At the start are Halsey and Vitterheyd.

HEART
This is our family tree.

DARIUS
I know. This is me - Darius. And
this is you - Heart.

HEART
Do you understand how it works?
This is Rachel. She was your
mother. Like Peony is my mother.
And this is Bulldancer, our father.
Do you know what that means?
That's what makes us brother and
sister. You follow the lines, you
go all the way back to Captain
Halsey and Science Officer
Vitterheyd, and they are our great,
old grandfathers. You count the
generations and it goes back four
hundred and forty two years.
Seventeen generations. And these
are our great, old grandmothers.
These five people were born on
Earth and everyone after them was
born here, on the ship, in space.
Like us.

DARIUS
Rachel died when I was born?

HEART

Not right when you were born, but
a few years later. When you were
three.

DARIUS

Three years ago?

HEART

That's right.

DARIUS

I don't remember.

HEART

I know. I don't remember when I
was little either.

DARIUS

And you're fifteen?

HEART

That's right.

DARIUS

How old is Bulldancer?

HEART

Look here. We'll calculate. He
was born in 2925 and now it's 2957,
so how old is Bully?

DARIUS

Thirty-two. How old is Rachel?

HEART

She was . . . 2942, she was twenty-
two.

DARIUS

How long will we be here?

HEART

I don't know

MAIN CABIN

Holland and Jarta study the computer tablet held by
Bulldancer as he fingers through digital pages of an
operations manual. Peony hovers above them.

BULLDANCER

Now that we have a star to orbit we need to start training on the landing craft.

Jarta hangs his head in disgust.

HOLLAND

To land where?

BULLDANCER

Earth. If that is the sun.

Jarta scoffs and rolls his eyes.

HOLLAND

What if it is not the sun and we don't find Earth?

Bulldancer rolls his eyes, gnashes his teeth and turns away.

JARTA

At the rate we're approaching that star, it'll take a hundred years to slow down enough to stop. You want to orbit the star, well, that is fine, I don't care. It won't make a difference to me. This space is that space as far as I am concerned and if you think you are going to find a planet, find Earth, that is, well . . . the most optimistic thing I have ever heard. Whatever you do, you have to control your orbit. Going one tenth the speed of light you need to plot a trajectory or else you'll just end up flying off into space again.

HOLLAND

How do we do that?

JARTA

Read the directions.

Jarta taps the computer tablet.

PEONY

What? You can't seriously consider using the last of the fuel in the boosters to orbit this star.

BULLDANCER

What else would we use it for?

She pops down to eye level.

PEONY

Bully. There is no planet out there. You don't know that's the Sun - or how to find Earth.

BULLDANCER

We don't know if we don't look.

PEONY

We won't get there for years!

BULLDANCER

But we will get there.

HOLLAND

To alter our direction, we don't have to burn all the fuel, just enough to change course.

JARTA

Make sure you don't or the ship will never be able to make another correction.

COMMAND DECK

Jarta glides into his seat and straps himself in.

BULLDANCER

Is everyone ready?

DARIUS

I'm ready.

BULLDANCER

Good Darius. Let's run the checklist, shall we? Everybody secured everything?

JARTA

I checked every hatch. Everything's locked.

BULLDANCER

Holland, can you think of anything? Something we may have forgotten?

PEONY
Bully. The ship is ready.

DARIUS
Are you scared, Bull?

BULLDANCER
Scared? I don't know Darius.
Maybe. I'm not sure what scared
really is. I'm excited.

DARIUS
I'm excited too.

BULLDANCER
Begin the protocol.

As Bulldancer issues commands, Jarta, Peony and Holland push buttons and flick switches.

JARTA
Commencing orbital sequence. Check
plasma shield.

HOLLAND
Plasma shield current at nine
million joules.

JARTA
Check. Orbital thrusters
registered? Number one?

BULLDANCER
Orbital thruster one reading at
400,000.

JARTA
Number two?

BULLDANCER
Orbital thruster two reading at
372,000. Will that make a
difference?

PEONY
No.

JARTA
Position thrusters for a bearing of
three-nine-five at twelve degrees.

EXT. SPACE SHIP

The thruster jets gear into position.

COMMAND DECK

Bulldancer checks his safety belt.

Heart glances at each of her family.

Jarta winks at Heart.

HOLLAND

Thrusters three-nine-five at twelve degrees.

JARTA

Captain, we are in position. Will engage thrusters at your command.

BULLDANCER

All systems are go?

HOLLAND

All systems are go.

JARTA

Check.

PEONY

Check.

DARIUS

Check.

Heart nods to Bulldancer. He smiles back.

Bulldancer removes the safety latch and fingers the button.

BULLDANCER

On my count, in four, three, two, one.

Bulldancer pushes the button.

EXT. SPACE SHIP

The thrusters shoot a tremendous white jet of gas.

The ship changes course.

INT. SPACE SHIP

The cabin trembles. The crew grip their armrests.

Through the window the star shifts from left to center.

The rumbling stops a moment later.

The crew stare at each other in subdued fear and then breath a sigh of relief to cheer ecstatically.

A moment later outside the window brilliant streaks of light flash over the ship.

EXT. SPACE SHIP

Asteroids burn up as they touch the ships plasma shield and the void around the ship flickers with each hit.

INT. SPACE SHIP - CONTINUOUS

The joyous laughter halts. They stare out the window.

PEONY

What is that? Bully?

BULLDANCER

I . . . don't know.

JARTA

It's dust. Space dust. Just tiny debris. Burns up when it grazes the plasma shield. We must be at a better angle to see it.

Intermittent flashes of light are all around them.

HEART

It's beautiful.

INT. DEIMOS LAUNCHED SPACE SHIP - EXERCISE ROOM

A bearded Pleus builds up sweat working out with elastic bands against the floor.

CHANDLER, 30, floats in from beneath him and pops onto one of three bicycles connected in the center. As he rides the two bikes connected pedal themselves.

CHANDLER
Halfway there.

PLEUS
Ten million more of these and I'll be the strongest guy in the galaxy.

CHANDLER
I was just thinking. About the time since we left. Two hundred years already on Earth.

PLEUS
Right. Don't let it get to you. Drive you crazy.

CHANDLER
Been at least eight or nine years already for the first fleet ships.

PLEUS
Yes it has.

CHANDLER
Don't you think about that? When we get there the Admiral and his crew will be twenty years older than us.

Pleus breaks from his exercise, towels off and floats beside the bikes as Chandler lofts past.

PLEUS
About that? I do. I think about it a lot. But I love thinking about it. I really do. We've been flying for four years, they've been there for at least three, in their time, and in three more years, our years, when we get there, there will be 10 year old kids running around who . . . they haven't even conceived yet. That is stunning. Right? And back on Earth, we are in the history books. I mean, right now. As we speak. We are history. They don't have any real idea of where we are yet.

(MORE)

PLEUS(cont'd)

We're time travelers. The real thing. I mean, time dilation, living it, I just think it's the most extraordinary . . . and humbling thing there is. It's about the most amazing thing we'll ever do.

CHANDLER

That's a nice way to think.

PLEUS

Know what I call it? Cosmosis.

Chandler smirks.

COMMAND DECK

Sitting alone at the back of the cabin, Heart draws a picture on her dry erase board of the scene before her - the command deck, the dark of the sky and a single star.

GARDEN ROOM

Peony picks tea leaves. Bees forage through soy blossoms.

LOUNGE

Jarta, Bulldancer and Holland ride exercise bikes anchored to the center of the round room and spaced equally so that they can all be ridden in unison in a big upside-down circle, following one another at the same speed, similar to the Deimos Launched ship.

Nearby, Darius reads a book. The men converse as they ride.

BULLDANCER

What are you reading Darius?

DARIUS

The Grapes Of Wrath.

BULLDANCER

Steinbeck. I've read that one.

JARTA

So have I. How is it coming along?

DARIUS

What is a car?

JARTA

A what?

DARIUS

A car. C-A-R.

JARTA

A car?

HOLLAND

A car is a carriage. A vehicle.

BULLDANCER

Very good, Holland. Have you read that book, too?

HOLLAND

Yes, I have. But not when I was so young. Are you understanding it Darius?

DARIUS

I think so. But how does a car work? It seems these men are always fixing the car.

HOLLAND

How does a car work, Bulldancer?

BULLDANCER

I don't know. How does a car work Jarta?

JARTA

Like a bicycle. But with four wheels instead of two. There are pictures in the archives. I read instructions on how to control one.

BULLDANCER

Is it quite simple?

JARTA

I think so. It sounded simple.

COMMAND DECK

Peony floats in behind Heart carrying two liquid-filled plastic bags.

PEONY
Would you like some tea with honey?

HEART
Oh, yes, please.

They drink the tea through plastic tubing.

PEONY
That's a nice drawing.

HEART
Thank you.

They stare out the window together.

PEONY
It's almost Christmas.

HEART
Really? Will we get new things?

PEONY
Of course. You can't go on wearing
the same clothing two years in a
row.

HEART
I was looking at the archives. On
earth they wear such different
things. I was wondering about
them.

PEONY
How so?

Heart rubs out her drawing and starts over, drawing a black gown with a red bow, the only colors she has.

HEART
They looked - like this - long and
flowing.

PEONY
You mean dresses. They dress in
dresses. I have seen them. Don't
they look silly?

They laugh together.

HEART

It sounds silly. They dress in dresses?

PEONY

Do you know people on Earth change their clothes every day.

HEART

Every day? Why?

PEONY

That's just the way it's done. But don't forget - they have gravity there, so everything gets pulled to the ground. That must get their clothes very dirty.

A light on the Command Deck begins flashing.

The women freeze and stare at the light.

LOUNGE

The men bring the bikes to a sweaty stop.

They float to their towels that are clamped near Darius and dry their faces.

HOLLAND

I would think that a ship on the water would be very much like the Miracle.

JARTA

In some ways, navigation-wise maybe, but a sailing ship, with water motion, would make it harder to steer than this ship.

HOLLAND

What about the landing vessel?

BULLDANCER

The landing vessel is an airship, like this one. It's not made for water.

HOLLAND

The training module has a water landing feature.

BULLDANCER

It does?

HOLLAND

Yes, but it's very difficult.

BULLDANCER

Perhaps if Darius is wise enough to study Steinbeck he is old enough to start his landing module training.

DARIUS

You mean to fly?

BULLDANCER

Not just fly Darius, but to land safely.

DARIUS

Like on a planet?

JARTA

If ever we found a planet with a place to land.

Peony and Heart float in urgently.

PEONY

Bulldancer. Everyone. Come and look. Something is happening.

COMMAND DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Jarta and Bulldancer hover over the dashboard.

The light flashes.

PEONY

It just started going all by itself.

JARTA

That's a radio frequency.

BULLDANCER

Holland. Bring us a helmet.

Holland hurries away.

Jarta pushes a button in the console.

JARTA
This is a volume switch. If we
don't hear anything here, we won't
hear it with the helmet.

PEONY
What would we hear?

JARTA
If it were a signal. Intentional -
maybe a voice.

Holland hands over the helmet to Bulldancer.

Bulldancer reaches inside, flicks a tiny switch and puts on
the helmet.

BULLDANCER
Sssh!

Silence.

They wait a few moments hushed by held breaths.

Bulldancer listens.

The light goes out.

PEONY
What is it?

BULLDANCER
Sssh!

Another moment later Bulldancer sadly bites his lip.

JARTA
What did you hear?

BULLDANCER
Nothing.

JARTA
It's alright Bull. We've never
heard anything before.

BULLDANCER
But the indicator.

JARTA

It could have been a cosmic ray, or
a gamma, anything with a high
frequency.

BULLDANCER

Or a person.

Bulldancer slides the helmet off.

JARTA

Bull.

BULLDANCER

Why is it so hard for you to
believe it? That there is life out
there? Somewhere out there is
something like us.

JARTA

The odds.

BULLDANCER

The odds? What are the odds that
we would be orbiting a star in our
lifetime? That's never happened
before. It could have been a
planet. Some signal - most likely
not even meant for us - but a
signal just the same.

JARTA

It could have been a quasar fifty
light years away.

BULLDANCER

You've seen it flash before.
Haven't you?

JARTA

Only twice.

BULLDANCER

Twice. And you never said
anything?

JARTA

Once when I was ten and once before
you were born. I didn't think it
necessary to mention.

Bulldancer moves nose to nose with Jarta.

BULLDANCER

Jarta!

PEONY

Bull! That's enough.

JARTA

Bull, don't let it get to you.
You'll drive yourself mad if you
keep hoping for something. The
only miracle out here is us. We're
insignificant.

BULLDANCER

We are not insignificant. I am not
insignificant! I mean something.
I have a purpose. I have a reason.
There is a reason that we are out
here!

JARTA

Okay.

BULLDANCER

There's a reason Jarta!

JARTA

Okay.

Bulldancer pushes off and floats away.

He stops before turning the corner at the garden.

BULLDANCER

There's a planet out here. It's
not just a star. It's got a solar
system. It has to. Darius, come
with me. I'm teaching you to fly.

EXT. SPACE SHIP

The ship floats toward the star.

INT. SPACE SHIP

Jarta and Peony float next to a wall.

They open hatches to survey the contents.

Holland writes a list on the dry erase board.

JARTA

Are you sure this is Christmas
already?

PEONY

You could look at the calendar
yourself. It's December twenty-
first.

HOLLAND

On Earth, that's the shortest day
of the year.

JARTA

Only on one hemisphere. On the
other, it's the longest.

PEONY

Jarta, do you see any Vitamin C in
there?

A box sits strapped inside the shelf.

JARTA

Just a small case.

PEONY

We'll need more of that.

Holland writes VITAMIN C on the board.

In the corridor a light flickers wildly.

JARTA

Light rods. We should get those,
too.

PEONY

We have them. About ten on hand.

JARTA

Get ten more. Which of you is
going to the store?

PEONY

I think that's up to Bull, isn't
it?

JARTA

Not everything is up to Bull.
Going to the store is dangerous.
It's strictly volunteer.

PEONY

It's not dangerous Jarta. Not that dangerous.

HOLLAND

I like going.

JARTA

You need to study the map.

PEONY

He will, Jarta.

HOLLAND

I have already. I know where everything is.

JARTA

The clothing?

HOLLAND

Center shelf. Port side. Fourth bay.

JARTA

Marking sticks?

HOLLAND

Top shelf. Port side. Third bay.

JARTA

Very good.

PEONY

Do we even need marking sticks?

JARTA

Heart likes them. When you go to the store, you have to have your list memorized. And know the shelving completely.

PEONY

Jarta, don't be so dire. They'll be able to hear through the helmets. You make too much of things.

JARTA

At least I'm realistic and not on some crusade to find a planet.

PEONY

Bulldancer is not on a crusade.
He's following the protocol.
Completing the mission, as he sees
it. We've all learned to pilot the
landing craft. It should be no
different for Darius. And it will
be no different when he and Heart
have children.

JARTA

And when he finds no planet to land
on? What then?

PEONY

(to Holland)

We will need new bedding this year.

JARTA

I think it would do you good to be
realistic as well.

PEONY

How am I being unrealistic?

JARTA

You need to realize and accept that
we are never going to leave here.
This is all we have. Bully is
wrong. There is no planet for him
to land on.

Holland watches them sourly as if about to cry.

HOLLAND

Please don't argue.

PEONY

You don't know that any more than
he believes there is one. If this
is the one thing that keeps him
alive and helps him cope why would
you want to destroy that?

JARTA

I just want him to be realistic.

PEONY

Shut up Jarta.

JARTA

And you -

PEONY

Stop! Finish the inventory.

Peony lets go of her clipboard and pushes off to fly away down the flickering corridor.

Holland cowers and takes the clipboard out of the air.

Jarta scowls.

JARTA

You know I'm right.

Holland looks at the list.

HOLLAND

Light rods. Ten.

SHUTTLE CABIN

Darius and Heart sit beside each other at steering columns.

Bulldancer sits behind Heart.

Before them the windshield displays a three dimensional screen with a landing scenario. On screen indicators measure velocity, wind speed and temperatures.

The display flies over a brilliant red Martian landscape.

Darius grips the throttle as Bulldancer directs from the seat behind.

BULLDANCER

You're at 278 kilometers an hour.
Bring the vehicle down to 160
Darius.

Darius, confused, pulls back on the throttle.

BULLDANCER

No! Too much! What does he do to
correct it Heart?

HEART

The landing gear?

BULLDANCER

No. The landing gear is already
down. He needs to slow down. How
does he do it? Heart?

The Martian landscape grows closer.

HEART
Reverse motion?

BULLDANCER
Is she right? Darius? Look at
what you're doing. You're losing
elevation. And you have 90
kilometers to the landing strip.
If you keep going this way, you'll
crash.

DARIUS
Then reverse motion?

Darius lifts a lever that sends the screen into an
uncontrollable spin.

BULLDANCER
Does that look right? Right the
craft Darius!

The screen shows a crash and the text FAILURE blinks at them.

Darius releases the throttle.

BULLDANCER
What happened, Darius?

DARIUS
I was going too fast?

BULLDANCER
But you could have corrected that.
What did he do wrong Heart?

HEART
He slowed down too late, too close
to the landing strip.

BULLDANCER
That's part of it, but what about
the reverse engine?

HEART
It should engage sooner?

BULLDANCER
No. You engage reverse motion when
you touch down.

(MORE)

BULLDANCER(cont'd)

You see, if you do that when you're still airborne, that's what puts you into the spin.

DARIUS

I'm sorry.

BULLDANCER

Don't be sorry, Darius. We learn the greatest lessons in life from our mistakes. And you can't land the craft without practice.

HEART

How long will it take?

BULLDANCER

Until he gets it right. Based on what I just saw, I'd say you're due for a refresher yourself. How long did it take for your first successful landing Heart?

HEART

I don't know. At least a year.

DARIUS

A year?

BULLDANCER

A year isn't really very long Darius. We all have so few of them.

COMMAND DECK

Peony flies in and rests her forehead against the window. She scrunches her face up into a scowl as she scans the sky before her. The star flickers normally. She releases a deep breath onto the glass and rests with her face in her hands.

The sky before her maintains stillness and a tiny, brilliant red dot zips toward the star.

Peony gasps. She stares out the window at the star.

The little red dot of light is gone.

She looks out to the corridor as if about to call out, then turns back to the window and stares at the sky.

MAIN CABIN

Peony and Heart hoist the top of a spacesuit over Bulldancer's head.

Jarta and Darius assist Holland with his suit.

Darius secures a latch at Holland's ankle.

JARTA

That's right, Darius, just like that.

(to Holland)

How does it feel?

HOLLAND

Warm. Snug.

JARTA

Good. It should. But it'll be cooler once we turn on the life support.

Bulldancer checks his wrists.

BULLDANCER

Does this look right?

Jarta nods affirmative.

Peony checks his suit.

PEONY

How long do you think it will take?

BULLDANCER

You don't have a very long list. Not long, I imagine.

HEART

You won't forget the marking sticks?

BULLDANCER

No, Heart. First on the list. I promise.

HEART

I hope we find a new color this year.

BULLDANCER
I hope so as well.

PEONY
Jarta, will you check Bully now?

Jarta surveys the fittings on Bulldancer's space suit.

JARTA
You really love going out there.

BULLDANCER
I do, brother.

JARTA
Turn around. You look good.

HOLLAND
We should end up with thirteen cases in all. Will we be able to fit that many into the transfer hold?

JARTA
Oh, yes. We once brought in twenty.

BULLDANCER
Ready?

HOLLAND
Ready.

The others place helmets over the astronauts heads.

JARTA
Be careful out there. Don't cross your tethers.

HOLLAND
We won't.

TRANSFER HOLD - MOMENTS LATER

Bulldancer and Holland float inside the transfer hold.

The door vacuums shut as the crew waves through the window.

Bulldancer tugs at his life line.

Their voices crackle through the helmets radio frequency.

BULLDANCER

Secure?

Holland checks his line.

HOLLAND

Check.

The interlocking doors pull apart and they float into the darkness.

INT. SPACE SHIP

The crew watches through a small porthole. A voice crackles over the intercom.

BULLDANCER (O.S.)

We're ready. Open the store.

Jarta pushes a button.

DARIUS

I can't see them.

JARTA

The lights will go on in a minute.
Tell them to go ahead.

EXT. SPACE SHIP

Two long doors nearly the length of the ship rise up and slide open.

PEONY (O.C.)

All clear.

Lights flicker on inside and flood the warehouse.

Steel crates stacked four high and fifteen long on each side from end to end. Some spaces are empty.

The astronauts float along to the opposite end.

BULLDANCER

We'll start over there and work our way back.

Close to the end of the hull, they unlatch a crate and take it out. A second crate is removed and latched to the first with a carabiner.

BULLDANCER
Doing fine, Holly?

HOLLAND
Yes. I love this. This is being
alive.

Holland drifts near Bulldancer.

BULLDANCER
Indeed. Watch it, keep to your
side.

In the compartment before Holland crates are missing five
deep, like the last box of cereal on the store shelf.

HOLLAND
I will. This is the next one.

BULLDANCER
You'll have to go all the way
inside there to get the protein
packs. Is it empty in there?

HOLLAND
No. Just dark.

Holland loops his tether to the carabiner on the second crate
between he and Bulldancer and waves as he goes in.

INT. SPACE SHIP

Peony, Darius and Heart crowd over one porthole window
watching them.

DARIUS
Where did he go?

PEONY
Into the shelf for a crate. He'll
come right out.

Jarta calls over the radio for them.

JARTA
How is it going out there?

EXT. SPACE SHIP

Bulldancer watches Holland disappear into the dark of the shelf. His outline dimly lit by the light of his helmet.

BULLDANCER
Ten crates to go.

Holland reaches the crate and latches a carabiner to it.

HOLLAND
Going very well. But very dark. I
have crate three, just about to
unlatch it.

Bulldancer looks up to the window and waves to his family.

The floodlights blink out leaving Bulldancer in complete darkness.

BULLDANCER
Oh, oh.

I/E. SPACE SHIP

Peony and Heart gasp.

Holland pulls the crate toward him.

HOLLAND
What is it?

BULLDANCER
The lights. Jarta. Where are the
lights?

Jarta rushes to the window and pushes past Peony to see.

JARTA
Oh my!

BULLDANCER
Jarta? Are you there?

JARTA
Yes. Where are you? I can't see
you.

BULLDANCER

We're in the bay. Holly is on a shelf. We need more light.

JARTA

Peony - search for a backup switch.
Heart - bring up the ship schematic. Working on it, brothers.

Holland emerges from the shelf. The only light beams from their helmets, nowhere near as strong as the missing floodlights.

Jarta hovers over Hearts shoulder as she scrolls through information on a large, holographic touch screen.

HEART

Found it.

JARTA

Bull, work on whatever you can find and we will try to get the lights back on.

Jarta removes his headset and covers the receiver with his hand. Peony floats back in.

PEONY

I don't know where to find a switch.

Jarta hushes his tone and expands the hologram, looking at the image of the store.

JARTA

I don't know that there is a switch. But look. If this is the circuit for the lights, do you concur that this is the same circuit as the door?

PEONY

Are you saying we can't open the door?

HEART

What?

JARTA

I am asking you. Look closely and figure out where we access these circuits from.

Peony turns the hologram around as the others inspect.

PEONY

Look. This circuit. It goes between the library and the command deck.

JARTA

We could run a bypass wire, but that is only half a meter wide. It is a tiny space. How do we get in there?

DARIUS

Where?

CRAWL SPACE

Jarta peeks inside with a tiny flashlight. He winces.

MAIN CABIN

Peony outfits Darius with strands of wire, plastic and duct tape.

Heart studies the hologram and draws details on a dry erase board.

HEART

Here is your diagram.

Peony takes the dry erase board from Heart and studies it briefly with Darius.

PEONY

It is a simple repair, just find this coupling, strip the wire and replace it. It's almost at the end of the crawl space. You won't be able to turn around. You have to come back out feet first.

PEONY

Don't be frightened.

DARIUS

I am not.

JARTA

He's not scared. This is his ship.
Right, Darius?

Darius nods. Peony straps a tiny flashlight to the side of his head and kisses him.

Darius dives in to the wall.

SPACE

Holland emerges from the dark and latches another crate to the train.

HOLLAND

One more to go.

Bulldancer sees a tiny dot of red light reflected on the side of Holland's helmet. He jerks to look into the sky.

BULLDANCER

Did you see that?

HOLLAND

What?

BULLDANCER

I thought I saw something. A
light. It was -

HOLLAND

Bull - do you feel alright?

BULLDANCER

Yes, I just - I thought I saw
something.

HOLLAND

Eyes play tricks on you in the
dark.

Bulldancer sighs heavily.

BULLDANCER

Of course.

CRAWL SPACE

Darius squeezes past circuitry and conduits holding the dry erase board out in front of him, looking to match up the wires to the diagram. He turns the board clockwise and studies the wall. He turns his head to look around him, illuminating a crevice above him. His gaze is met by human eyes. Darius gasps, fearful, unable to scream, he pushes away and drops the diagram, hitting the wires along the wall.

MAIN CABIN

Lights flicker within the ship and black out.

PEONY

Darius!

SPACE

Bulldancer and Holland see the lights flicker and vanish.

BULLDANCER

Jarta? Talk to me brother.

MAIN CABIN

Pitch black except for some buttons illuminating the walls.

JARTA

Darius is replacing a switch.
We'll have the lights back on in a
minute.

CRAWL SPACE

Darius catches his breath and stares up at the tiny face of a doll looking back at him. It is a little girl's toy, floating in the crevice with other small trinkets, a teacup, a matchbox car and a tiny shoe. Darius calmly reaches up to the doll and pokes at the face with a finger, caressing it, then pulls it toward him. He marvels at it and the other toys. He hears his name in the distance.

PEONY

(far away)

Darius?

Darius releases the toys and retrieves the dry erase board. The diagram is smeared. He studies the wires across from him and matches them up with what is left of the diagram. He sees wires that he twisted in his fit of fear. Darius pushes them back into place.

SPACE

The floodlights blink on and off in the store. Holland and Bulldancer are momentarily blinded, shielding their eyes.

MAIN CABIN

Lights blink on. Jarta, Peony and Heart share a light cheer.

JARTA

You see, no need to worry.

SPACE

Bulldancer and Holland see the long warehouse doors begin shutting on them from above. They bolt toward the opening.

MAIN CABIN

Heart watches out the window. The doors now halfway shut with no sign of the astronauts.

HEART

Jarta! The doors!

Jarta looks out and gasps. He dives for the control panel and jams switches off.

Doors keep closing.

JARTA

No, no, no.

Peony yells into the

CRAWL SPACE

PEONY

Darius!

Darius disconnects a wire.

SPACE

The doors stop moving.

Holland and Bulldancer glide up between them.

MAIN CABIN

Jarta exhales as the men come into view.

CRAWL SPACE

Darius reconnects the wire.

SPACE

The doors commence closing again. Crates are about to be crushed.

BULLDANCER

Pull!

Holland and Bulldancer tug at the train of crates and they glide up and out of the way, scraping the door as it closes.

The train of crates whips around and coasts toward the window.

Holland jolts his tether around to catch the last crate and lassoes it toward him just as it scrapes the window to bounce back into space.

The transfer hold pops open for their return.

Holland exhales.

BULLDANCER

Let's go home.

MAIN CABIN - LATER

The crates are open and the crew surveys the new goods.

Peony opens the last crate.

She lifts up a new uniform shirt to caress the fabric.

PEONY

Here they are. Finally. New clothes. I always forget how much I like the feel of new clothes.

Bulldancer and Darius huddle over a crate of books.

Bulldancer holds a copy of Doctor Zhivago and flips through it.

BULLDANCER

Look at these. Look at these. Real books. Real old books with pages. This is wonderful. Much better than a tablet. Feel them. And that scent. Paper. Ink. So pure. Written by Boris Pasternak. I wonder what this is about.

Darius holds a copy of Catch-22 by Joseph Heller.

DARIUS

I want to read this one.

BULLDANCER

Read whatever you choose.

Jarta opens a box of medical supplies. Boxes of bandages and gauze float away and he reigns them in.

Heart finds the dry erase markers and draws on the board.

HEART

Look! New colors! Red. Green.

PEONY

You should draw a Christmas tree.

HOLLAND

The tree with the red fruit?

PEONY

No, those are apples. It was a tree they decorated. People put lights on them. And stars.

DARIUS

Stars?

PEONY

Not real stars. On the top they put the biggest light and they would call it the star.

BULLDANCER

You should search images in CloudBank, they are very pretty. They are made of pine trees.

HOLLAND

I found the vitamins.

PEONY

Oh, good.

HOLLAND

And fish paste? What is fish paste?

JARTA

You can eat it if you want. I've never liked it.

HEART

The tree with the lights - what was it for?

JARTA

It was just for looking at.

DARIUS

What was the Christmas for?

JARTA

To give each other gifts. To share.

BULLDANCER

To celebrate good will towards men.

HOLLAND

I thought it was a religious belief.

JARTA

Oh, yes. There's a long elaborate story behind it. Not sure how it goes. But there was a miracle child. He grew up to become a God.

PEONY
No. A child of God.

JARTA
Is that how it goes?

DARIUS
What's God?

JARTA
That too is an elaborate story.

BULLDANCER
A God is a supreme being. It can do anything. There were all kinds of Gods on Earth.

DARIUS
Is there God in space?

BULLDANCER
If you want there to be a God, then there is a God.

DARIUS
Explain.

BULLDANCER
That explanation could take your entire life. You should read the books about it.

HOLLAND
When he does he'll have more questions than answers.

JARTA
(laughs)
Have you read those books?

HOLLAND
Some of them. I prefer songs. The words of rhyme. They are the most fun.

Peony discovers a large bright blue piece of cloth.

PEONY
What is this?

HOLLAND
Unwrap it.

Peony floats up and unfurls a simple blue dress.

PEONY

This is odd for bedding. It has no filling.

Heart floats up to meet Peony and holds it up to her body.

HEART

I know what it is. It's a dress.

MAIN CABIN - LATER

The men sit with the crates around them. They wear new clothes, similar to what they wore before, but clean and new.

Peony calls from around the corner.

PEONY (O.S.)

Are you ready?

HOLLAND

We're waiting. Come out.

Peony and Heart float into view from around the corner.

Heart wears a pink dress and Peony wears the blue one.

The dresses flow around them.

BULLDANCER

Oh, my

JARTA

That's truly something.

Holland and Darius laugh.

PEONY

We look silly.

BULLDANCER

No, you don't. Darius! Holland!

They stop laughing.

HEART

Have you ever seen such a color?

JARTA

Never with my own eyes. Only pictures.

PEONY

At first, I thought they were silly, but they feel so

HEART

Happy.

They smile.

SPACE

The ship floats toward Darius' Star.

A haze of dust gleams in the distance.

LOUNGE

Jarta works a bicycle as two vacant bicycles pedal behind and before him.

MAIN CABIN

Peony and Heart sit in their dresses and play chess.

A small hologram of a Christmas tree floats nearby.

LIBRARY COVE

Bulldancer happily alphabetizes his bookshelf.

COMMAND DECK

A "How To Play Chess" book sits clipped to the dashboard beside Holland as he works a calculator.

He plugs numbers into a formula on a dry erase board.

Darius floats in and sits beside Holland.

DARIUS

What are you computing?

HOLLAND
Distances. That band of dust.

DARIUS
I've been reading something
interesting.

HOLLAND
What is that?

DARIUS
In the CloudBank I found the
archive of our ship. The Captain's
log.

HOLLAND
What part did you read?

DARIUS
I read from the beginning to 2612.
Have you read them?

HOLLAND
Yes, I have.

DARIUS
When they use the word cull - do
they mean kill?

HOLLAND
Yes. It's a nice way to say it.

DARIUS
It made me curious.

HOLLAND
Culling is a difficult subject.
You recall the psychology book you
studied? How to recognize - odd
behavior? The danger it poses for
everyone? There is only one way to
deal with mental illness in space.
You understand that, don't you?

DARIUS
Yes. I understand.

HOLLAND
It's not something anyone wants to
do, Darius. It ensures our
survival.

(MORE)

HOLLAND(cont'd)

When one is infirm, it is our duty,
to cull, for the sake of the ship.
Sometimes newborns with deformities
must be culled. Retardation.
Cripples. Very sad.

DARIUS

I found one.

HOLLAND

Found - What did you find?

CRAWL SPACE

Holland peers inside, staring at Darius little feet floating
back toward him. He grabs him by the leg to guide him out.
Darius has the doll in his hand face down.

Holland shudders and exhales as he takes the doll.

HOLLAND

This is a doll. It's a toy.

DARIUS

It wasn't alive before?

HOLLAND

No. This is - this is what you
were talking about? Thank
goodness. It's not a real person.

DARIUS

What is it for?

HOLLAND

I think it's a - like, a make
believe friend? Children would
keep them and talk with them. I
think. This belonged to my sister.
I had another sister once. Older
than me. She died. My mother went
insane when it happened. So she
had to be culled.

INT. SPACE SHIP

YOUNG JARTA and a MALE ASTRONAUT subdue and hold down
HOLLAND'S MOTHER as another FEMALE ASTRONAUT gags her.

HOLLAND'S MOTHER hisses viciously. Her eyes dart about and her head and shoulders twist and seize as they hold her still.

YOUNG JARTA hugs her thrashing legs as they all float through the Main Cabin away from the Command Deck.

HOLLAND (V.O.)
Jarta did it. He and another
uncle. I don't remember him well.
He died shortly after that.

COMMAND DECK - CONTINUOUS

Holland reflects quietly on his memories.

DARIUS
Was my mother culled?

HOLLAND
No. She died of cancer.

DARIUS
Your mother. How old were you?

HOLLAND
Seven. Maybe six. Like you. They
didn't tell me about it right away.

INT. SPACE SHIP - MONTAGE

YOUNG HOLLAND wanders the ship.

ADULT ASTRONAUTS look at him sadly.

YOUNG JARTA turns away.

YOUNG PEONY reaches out to YOUNG HOLLAND and holds him.

HOLLAND (V.O.)
One day she was missing. I
couldn't find her. Then they
explained. She had been
hallucinating, talking with my
sister even though she wasn't
there. Talking nonsense, breaking
things. She scared everyone, so
they put her outside.

HOLLAND'S MOTHER bashes her fists against the plexi-glass of the Garden Room. ADULT ASTRONAUTS subdue her.

Holland's Mother gnashes her teeth and tries to bite as she is bound with electrical cord.

HOLLAND'S MOTHER

Let go of me. You killed her. I know you did. Jarta. You killed her and you hid her from me. You are murderers!

They gag her as she screams and thrashes and is led into the

TRANSFER HOLD

She bangs her body against the door as Jarta and the others collapse in tears on the inside of the

MAIN CABIN

Three hands push the red OPEN button together.

They sob and hug and huddle together as the door is heard unlatching and the banging stops.

Jarta looks up and sees her body float past the window.

COMMAND DECK

Darius and Holland return to the window.

HOLLAND

Jarta hates himself for it. He has told me many times. I am sure it was the hardest thing he has ever done.

DARIUS

I could do it.

HOLLAND

Darius, that is very - I hope you will never have to.

Holland returns to his calculations at the controls.

DARIUS

Are we getting closer to that dust?

HOLLAND

Every day.

DARIUS

What will happen when we reach it?

HOLLAND

I imagine it will be quite a show.
You know how they burn when they
hit the plasma shield?

Through the window, Darius' Star is eclipsed by a rock.

DARIUS

Where did my star go?

More of the sky, other stars, the dust trail, disappear into
a black void.

HOLLAND

Is that a planet?

DARIUS

It's getting bigger.

EXT. SPACE SHIP

The ship slams into the asteroid and obliterates it.

A shower of sparks envelops the ship.

The ship twists end over end.

A swarm of rocks is left in its wake.

INT. SPACE SHIP

Chess pieces fly.

Peony and Heart bounce into the wall.

Jarta is thrown from his bicycle.

Holland slams into a cabinet door.

Bees and butterflies flit furiously about the garden.

Mushrooms and tomatoes smash into the glass.

Bulldancer crashes into the book shelf.

Darius is pushed into his seat and the sky tumbles past him.

The star goes past the windshield from the base to the top. It is out of sight for a few moments then reappears to go past again.

SPACE

The ship flips end over end like a propeller.

INT. SPACE SHIP

Books pile atop Bulldancer.

Peony and Heart lay among scattered chess pieces.

Jarta lies beside the spinning bicycles.

JARTA

Help!

Darius sees Holland lying against the wall.

He springs up and finds himself restricted, unable to float.

Darius crawls along toward Holland.

LOUNGE

The bicycles sit still against the wall.

Jarta, bewildered, also tries pushing off. He screams in pain and grips his shoulder.

LIBRARY COVE

Bulldancer pushes the books off himself.

BULLDANCER

Jarta!

Bulldancer crawls out of the cove.

He sees Peony and Heart lumped against the wall.

BULLDANCER

Peony.

He tries to push off and can't float.

HEART

My leg.

PEONY

Bully. What's happening?

BULLDANCER

I don't know. Jarta!

LOUNGE

Jarta tries to pull himself along the wall.

JARTA

I'm here!

COMMAND DECK

Holland has a bleeding gash on his forehead.

The blood drips to the wall.

Darius picks him up.

DARIUS

You're bleeding.

HOLLAND

Why does everything hurt?
I feel like I'm stuck.

MAIN CABIN

Bulldancer hugs Peony and Heart.

PEONY

What is it, Bully?

BULLDANCER

I think it's gravity. How can it
be so? Where did it come from?

HEART

My leg. It hurts.

Bulldancer and Peony inspect her ankle.

JARTA (O.S.)
Bully! Anybody!

BULLDANCER
Jarta!
(to Peony)
Keep her leg straight.

Bulldancer crawls away toward the lounge.

COMMAND DECK

Darius wobbles up from his knees and stands.

He leans against the wall.

HOLLAND
Why aren't we floating?

DARIUS
Look.

They peer at the windshield. The sky pinwheels before them.

HOLLAND
We need to get Bulldancer. Help me
to move.

Darius helps him stand.

LOUNGE ENTRANCE

Bulldancer crawls to a window.

The sky reels past.

He sees Jarta laid out on the wall and keeps crawling to him.

BULLDANCER
Jarta! Are you alright?

JARTA
What happened?

BULLDANCER
I don't know. The ship is
spinning. We have gravity.

JARTA
Gravity. That's impossible.

BULLDANCER

Not any more. Something profound
has happened.

JARTA

I'm hurt. My shoulder. My head.

Bulldancer crawls past the bicycles as they wheel to a stop.

He moves slow.

BULLDANCER

I'm coming. Heart is injured, too.
Her leg. Peony is with her.

JARTA

Your face is bruised.

BULLDANCER

It was a book. A big one.

JARTA

And the boys?

COMMAND DECK

Holland falls into the wall.

Darius helps him sit.

HOLLAND

I can't do it. I've never felt
like this.

DARIUS

If I can do it, you can do it.

HOLLAND

Maybe. But not at this instant.
Go help the others. I'll be
alright.

Darius stares at the view through the windshield.

A dust cloud obscures his star.

HOLLAND

Darius, go!

MAIN CABIN

Darius climbs down a ladder and finds Peony and Heart.

He moves slow toward them and grapples the wall.

PEONY

Darius. Where is Holland?

DARIUS

The command center. He hit his head.

PEONY

Is he conscious?

DARIUS

Yes. He sent me to find everyone.

He reaches the women and they hug him.

Heart cries.

PEONY

Go to the galley. Bring us a cold pack. Heart hurt her leg.

LOUNGE

Bulldancer reaches Jarta.

BULLDANCER

Can you move?

JARTA

I believe I can, but I don't think I want to.

BULLDANCER

Wiggle your toes.

He does.

JARTA

I'm not paralyzed.

BULLDANCER

Indeed.

MAIN CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

Darius places the cold pack on Heart's ankle.

Peony holds it in place.

HEART

Thank you.

Darius stands beside them.

PEONY

Darius. You're standing upright.
I've never seen anyone do that.

Holland falls beside the ladder into the cabin.

Darius rushes to his aid and lifts him.

HOLLAND

What's going on?

PEONY

It's gravity. Look at Darius. He
can stand.

Holland tries to stand but collapses into the wall.

HOLLAND

So can I. Not as well.

Bulldancer calls out from the lounge.

BULLDANCER (O.S.)

Peony. Heart.

HEART

We're okay.

PEONY

Go Darius. Help them.

LOUNGE

Darius walks up the side of the wall.

Bulldancer and Jarta stare at him dumbfounded.

DARIUS

We hit something.

BULLDANCER

Darius. How . . . you know how to
. . . .

JARTA

You're walking.

DARIUS

Yeah.

JARTA

What's it like?

Darius climbs over a bicycle.

DARIUS

It kind of feels numb, in my legs,
but like exercise.

LOUNGE ENTRANCE

Holland staggers in. He drags himself against the wall
determined to stand.

HOLLAND

We hit a planet I think.

BULLDANCER

No, not a planet. We'd see a
planet long before hitting it.

HOLLAND

What then?

BULLDANCER

A rock. An asteroid. Some debris.
Obviously something very big.

HOLLAND

There's more to come. Just before,
I figured that we will reach the
dust cloud in about seventy days.
Maybe my calculation was wrong.

BULLDANCER

It doesn't matter. There's nothing
we can do. At least we know the
plasma shield does what it's
supposed to.

JARTA
I can't believe you're walking.

HOLLAND
He's better at it.

BULLDANCER
I think Jarta has broken his
shoulder.

DARIUS
Will he have to be culled?

JARTA'S SLEEPING QUARTER

Jarta stares out the window into space and watches the stars track past. His eyes flutter to sleep.

JARTA'S MEMORY

A disjointed sequence of events.

A BODY floats before him.

HOLLAND'S MOTHER, bound and gagged, floats away from the ship.

YOUNG JARTA and the MALE ASTRONAUT stare sadly through the porthole as HOLLAND'S MOTHER pounds her head on the hatch for her life. Together, they place their right hands on the same green button and push.

HOLLAND'S MOTHER expels from the ship.

Jarta trembles as he falls asleep.

COMMAND DECK

VIEW THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD.

Stars stream past. They appear to drop slowly. Darius' Star drifts by. Moments later the same stars stream past again.

Holland, Peony and Bulldancer sit at the helm.

A digital clock in the dashboard ticks by the seconds.

HOLLAND
I counted fourteen.

BULLDANCER

Me too. Fourteen.

PEONY

I could say fourteen, but I'm more inclined to say thirteen and a half.

BULLDANCER

Shall we call it fourteen? Holly?

HOLLAND

Fourteen revolutions per minute. I'll work it with that and 13.5 and we can choose a margin of error later.

PEONY

Is it possible that we've sped up?

HOLLAND

I don't think so, but we'll find out.

BULLDANCER

What about our course? Could that have changed?

HOLLAND

It may have. Definitely. I'm sorry, but is this making you sick? My stomach feels . . . bad.

PEONY

Do you feel it too?

BULLDANCER

It's from the gravity. I imagine we'll get used to it.

Peony leans back and closes her eyes.

PEONY

I feel better when I don't look outside.

HOLLAND

Me too. It makes me dizzy.

BULLDANCER

I'm not sure I understand how people lived with gravity.

(MORE)

BULLDANCER(cont'd)

I keep dropping things. They roll off and I am constantly searching for everything. It's bothersome. But I'm sure there is a planet here now. It's highly unlikely this dust ring is the only thing orbiting Darius' star.

HOLLAND

I just wish I could stand to look out the window. With everything moving, I'm not sure how to make an assessment.

BULLDANCER

If there were a planet in front of us, we'd see it. Whatever we hit, on a cosmic scale, was small. A planet, we'll be able to see.

PEONY

And what then? If we find a planet?

DEIMOS LAUNCHED SPACE SHIP

Pleus stares out the window into space.

DIANA, skinny, floats in with a video pad.

DIANA

We got a new transmission from the planet. Want to see some pictures?

She sidles up and clicks on the screen.

PLEUS

What is that?

DIANA

A little primate. Top of the food chain. Herbivore.

PLEUS

Dangerous?

DIANA

They say they're harmless.

PLEUS

Probably true. We're the aliens. Foreign invaders.

DIANA
But no hitchhikers this time.

PLEUS
Wouldn't want to kill another planet.

DIANA
They didn't kill it. Maimed, but not killed.

PLEUS
Okay, maimed. Poor little Titan. Such a nice little moon, it was. How did they ever think introducing insects was logical?

DIANA
Thought they were doing the right thing.

PLEUS
Live and learn.

HEART'S SLEEPING QUARTER

Heart sits with her foot propped up. She holds a hand of worn out playing cards. Darius surveys his cards and places one down.

Heart picks several from the face up stack. She drops a card to the floor and groans in annoyance.

DARIUS
I'll get it.

HEART
I dislike this. Everything falls. All the time.

Darius retrieves the card.

DARIUS
Just hold on tighter.

HEART
You have no idea. You're lucky you adapted so quickly. That you can move. The only reason I'm bedridden is because I can't float anymore.

DARIUS
You're heavy too.

Heart puts down her cards.

HEART
Gin.

DARIUS
Your dress makes you very pretty.

HEART
Thank you Darius.

DARIUS
I'm going to go and practice flying
the shuttle now.

HEART
Thank you for the games.

DARIUS
You're welcome.

Darius steps away and climbs up a ladder. Heart watches him leave. She sits quiet and contemplative and fingers the fabric of her dress. She smiles.

PASSAGEWAY

Darius climbs the ladder.

JARTA'S SLEEPING QUARTER

Darius stops to look inside from the ladder.

Jarta blinks awake and turns from the window.

JARTA
Darius.

Jarta sits up in his bed. His shoulder and his head are heavily bandaged.

DARIUS
Hello Jarta.

JARTA

Come here. Visit with me a bit.
Going to the landing craft to do
your training?

Darius enters the quarter.

DARIUS

Yes.

JARTA

Getting better at it?

DARIUS

I think so. The other day, I
didn't crash at all. I was able to
land it on a hard surface with a
79% survival rate.

JARTA

That's good. Crashing is the last
thing you want to do. But you
should land with a 100% survival
rate.

DARIUS

I know.

JARTA

It's good that you learn it. Bully
wants to discover a planet so
badly.

DARIUS

Do you think we won't find a
planet?

JARTA

I don't know but I don't want to
destroy his hopes. But I'm not
going to help build them up either.
I know how important it is to him.
But we've never seen a planet.
We've never even been this close to
a star before, so he's right, if
there's a chance to find one, this
would be the time. If that does
happen, if we do find a planet, and
if it can even support life, you'll
be the one who commands the lander.

DARIUS
God willing.

JARTA
What's that? God willing? Have
you developed faith now, Darius?

DARIUS
I don't know.

JARTA
What is it you've been reading?

DARIUS
The Koran. All the religions. The
Mormon book. The Bible.

JARTA
My father liked to read the Bible.
And the Torah. Do you like them?

DARIUS
Sometimes. The stories always seem
to be about people fighting,
killing each other, but at the same
time, everyone wants to worship the
God, whose laws are to punish, and
sometimes kill, but not always.
Usually God commands they kill
their own children. But if they
don't, they have done well and the
God is pleased. They praise the
God and live in fear of it at the
same time. Not sure what it is
supposed to mean. It makes little
sense some times.

JARTA
A confused mind is most
entertaining, is it not?

DARIUS
Are the stories true?

JARTA
I don't know. Many people believed
that they were. Most believe in
one book and not another.

DARIUS
How would they decide which ones to
believe?

JARTA

People used to be taught the way their parents believed and then they would read that one book and follow the ways it . . . said. . . does that make sense? Religion is very difficult, it's not like science. You can trust science.

DARIUS

What do you believe?

JARTA

I believe that you should be able to make your own choice. But what do you believe?

DARIUS

That no matter what happens - it's good to be good.

JARTA

You are quite the philosopher Darius. You've got something. When you run the Miracle Five we'll be in good hands. And now, with the gravity, you can be stronger. Stronger than anyone's ever been here.

DARIUS

Stronger how?

MONTAGE

Darius exercises. He rides the bike at full speed. He works with counterweights. He runs in place. He considers tubes of beef and fish paste.

JARTA (V.O.)

You can build muscle. You're young enough to change. Grow differently with the gravity. Strengthen your bone density. Apply yourself, exercise, take your vitamins. You'll see.

SPACE

The ship twirls through space.

The star gleams in the distance beyond the dust ring.

COMMAND DECK

The star reels past out of sight and four seconds later comes around again ten times larger than a moment before.

SUPER: TWELVE YEARS LATER

MONTAGE

Darius, 18, strong and handsome, now with short cropped hair, exercises. He does push-ups. He rides the bike at greater speed. He works with larger counterweights. He lands the shuttle program with a 100% success rate.

JARTA (V.O.)

Eat those terrible high protein meals. Work hard and you'll be able to do anything. Live strong and you'll be strong. You could become a great man. The greatest Astronaut we've ever known.

BULLDANCER'S SLEEPING QUARTER

Bulldancer, 44, sleeps. His face twitches.

Peony, 52, sits beside him on the edge of his bed. She wears a wrinkled and tattered lavender floral dress and caresses his back and neck.

Bulldancer blinks awake.

BULLDANCER

I was dreaming.

PEONY

What was it?

BULLDANCER

It was good. There was a man. Dressed in blue. Saying something. I couldn't understand him.

PEONY

What did he look like?

BULLDANCER

He - I don't know. It's gone. I can't remember. But I could tell he was a good man. Is something going on?

PEONY

No. I just wanted to watch you.

BULLDANCER

You're silly.

MAIN CABIN

The walls are now decorated with murals done by Heart. Dry erase boards are duct-taped to the wall in some places. A mural of flowers with bees and butterflies is drawn on one wall.

Heart, 27, in a white dress with blue polka dots, and Jarta, 52, sit before a holographic screen.

Jarta controls a joystick.

HEART

Now. Jump.

His player dies.

JARTA

This is ridiculous. My wrist hurts.

HEART

You seemed to be getting it.

JARTA

No. I don't want to. It's silly.

HEART

It's only a game.

He hands her the joystick.

JARTA

No thank you. I prefer reality. I'm going to pedal.

Jarta stands, hunched over, shuffles toward the Lounge, starts up the ladder.

HEART

Will you try it again later?

JARTA

No, it's not for me.

Holland, 39, hunched over, but moving quicker than Jarta, enters from the Command Deck.

HOLLAND

I have something to show everyone.

COMMAND DECK

Darius' Star wheels past the window.

All six crew members stare outside.

Jarta and Peony sit.

Bulldancer and Heart stand slightly hunched over.

Darius stands upright and taller than the others.

HOLLAND

There. Do you see it?

BULLDANCER

What are we supposed to be seeing?

HOLLAND

It's a sunspot. Watch. As the star drops past - on the lower left quadrant. It's very small.

They watch the star go past again.

HOLLAND

There.

A dot is visible on Darius' Star.

DARIUS

I see it.

JARTA

I don't see anything.

The star goes by and returns again.

DARIUS
Look closely. It's there.

PEONY
Ooh! I see it now.

BULLDANCER
Yes, there it is.

HEART
What does that mean?

HOLLAND
It's a cool spot on the surface of
the star.

Everyone looks to him for explanation.

HOLLAND
I just thought it was interesting.

BULLDANCER
It is. It's fascinating. Darius,
let's find out everything we can
about a sunspot.

The star wheels past again.

JARTA
(disinterested)
Hhmmph.

LIBRARY COVE

Darius surfs the CloudBank while Bulldancer leafs through a
physics book.

He studies a photograph of Earth's sun with sunspots and
reads from the book.

BULLDANCER
Fascinating. They are regions of
the photosphere where gases are up
to 1500 Kelvin cooler. If they
could be removed from the sun, they
would be seen to shine brightly.

Darius reads from the screen.

DARIUS
Sunspots have been linked with
violent solar eruptions, which can
disrupt power and communications on
Earth and threaten the safety of
astronauts in orbit.

BULLDANCER
Really?

DARIUS
Yes.

BULLDANCER
What could happen exactly?

DARIUS
I don't know, exactly. But we
would never feel it.

Bulldancer speaks softly in a hushed tone.

BULLDANCER
Darius. You know our rule on
secrets?

DARIUS
Of course.

BULLDANCER
Do you think we should keep this a
secret?

DARIUS
Act like we don't know it's a
danger?

BULLDANCER
Exactly.

Darius ponders this momentarily.

DARIUS
We can't even be sure that it is a
danger. There's nothing we can do
in any event.

BULLDANCER
True. Upsetting anyone

DARIUS

Then yes. We will make this a secret.

They firmly grasp each others hands, both left and right into a double-fist and bow their heads in a ritualistic manner.

COMMAND DECK

Peony sleeps in one of the command chairs.

Heart draws a picture of Peony on the dry erase board. The picture is exceptionally detailed, almost lifelike, far beyond the crude sketches she did before.

She notices Holland entering from behind and lifts a finger to her lips to quiet him.

He smiles and she shows him the picture.

Holland nods with admiration and approval.

HOLLAND

(whispers)

Did Bulldancer put you on sunspot watch?

HEART

No. Her.

They snicker. Darius' Star rolls by.

HOLLAND

When will you draw me?

HEART

I've drawn you many times.

HOLLAND

Always when I am asleep. So - how is my sunspot?

HEART

Your sunspot?

HOLLAND

I discovered it.

HEART

I actually thought it was growing for a moment.

HOLLAND

Oh, they can grow.

HEART

They can?

HOLLAND

Oh, yes. On Earth, sunspots helped grapes grow for wine. So I've read.

They look out the window. The star rolls by again.

The sunspot now appears elliptical.

Peony's eyes creak open and she watches Darius' Star.

PEONY

It is different. I noticed it too. Watch.

They watch the star. Besides now being elliptical, there is another tiny dot beside it.

HOLLAND

You're right. It is growing.

MAIN CABIN

The crew eats a meal of fresh vegetables and honey and biscuits from foil packs.

Darius tells a story and the crew listens intently.

DARIUS

Then the rain stopped. And they floated on the water for 150 days. Finally the sun came out from behind the clouds and the air was clear. And Noah sent out a dove to find land, because there was no land in sight. Every week he sent out the dove and the dove would come back, until finally, the third week, the dove came back with an olive branch. And this was a sign that life did exist somewhere and the Earth had dried up.

PEONY

Did they find the land?

DARIUS

Yes. They landed on a mountain in Ararat and God sent the waters back to the oceans and promised never to flood the land again. And Noah and his sons opened the pens and set all the animals free so they could go to every part of the world and populate it.

HEART

So is that a true story? Or a story story?

Bulldancer, Jarta and Holland laugh.

DARIUS

Some people would argue that it's true, but it's more of a lesson than anything else.

HOLLAND

The lesson being that the God destroyed the evil and started over?

DARIUS

Basically. It's about salvation. Good people are saved and evil is destroyed. But do you know what's strange about that story? The ark. Four-hundred-fifty feet long. Seventy-five feet wide. Forty-five feet tall.

The crew look at him quizzically.

JARTA

So?

DARIUS

The same dimensions as the Miracle Five.

BULLDANCER

You're making that up.

DARIUS

No. It's true.

They freeze in wonder and momentarily stop chewing.

BULLDANCER
Fascinating.

PEONY
Quite a coincidence.

JARTA
So the Miracle Five is Noah's ark?
If that means we're all going to be
saved I'm less worried about the
sunspot.

PEONY
Why would you be worried about the
sunspot?

JARTA
They're dangerous.

BULLDANCER
Dangerous? How?

JARTA
Coronal jets. Increased radiation.
Sunspots indicate a higher activity
level for a star.

DARIUS
So the sunspot could harm us?

JARTA
It could. But it won't. If this
is Noah's ark, God will save us.

INT. DEIMOS LAUNCHED SPACE SHIP

Pleus floats along a narrow corridor. Other ASTRONAUTS, men
and women, do the same in each direction. Diana, grinning
ecstatically, calls out to him from behind. He stops.

DIANA
Colonel Pleus. We received a
beacon from the Admiral. They
marked seven Earth years on the
planet today and - they found it -

PLEUS
Found what?

DIANA
(shouts)
They found the Miracle Five.

Everyone in the corridor stops and hushes

DEIMOS LAUNCHED SPACE SHIP - COMMAND DECK

Pleus flies into the command center with Chandler, Diana and several other ASTRONAUTS in tow. Pleus focuses on the control panel.

PLEUS
These are the coordinates?

ASTRONAUT
Yes, sir.

Pleus puts on headphones.

PLEUS
Target a beacon for me, will you please?

CHANDLER
Aye, aye sir.

PLEUS
What should we say?

DIANA
That craft is over two thousand years old. There is probably nobody on it.

PLEUS
Two thousand years for us, not them. For them, it's much less. Maybe only decades.

DIANA
There can't be anyone alive there.

PLEUS
Don't say that. There could be. You don't know. If we were lost for - two thousand years - I'll bet you would like to get a phone call.

DIANA
I would.

CHANDLER

Obviously, our message will get there before us, at least a year. What do you want to say?

PLEUS

Tell them hello - and - tell them where we are going. Now that we know where they are we can just keep sending. See if we get a reply.

CHANDLER

Always wondered if Miracle Five was a myth. A cautionary tale to keep us on Earth.

PLEUS

Either way, it didn't work, did it?

LOUNGE

Darius and Bulldancer exercise opposite each other with resistance equipment.

Bulldancer pushes into Darius.

BULLDANCER

My word, you are a strong man, Darius.

Darius holds him back.

DARIUS

Ha! Can't you push harder than that?

BULLDANCER

Sometimes I miss the days before gravity.

DARIUS

I can barely remember.

BULLDANCER

You are an amazing specimen, my son. Release.

They separate and retrieve plastic water bags and towels.

DARIUS

Why?

BULLDANCER

You're a fully developed human being. You even walk upright, like a real primate. Not all bent over like the rest of us. Someday, when we find a planet, I hope whoever we meet will understand that. That they should judge the human race by your example, your physique, not by the rest of us.

DARIUS

Will we really find a planet?

BULLDANCER

We must.

DARIUS

What if we don't.

BULLDANCER

We must believe that we will.

DARIUS

Why?

BULLDANCER

Because. We must. There's no other way for me to live Darius. We must have faith that a planet - that we will find a planet.

DARIUS

You're describing faith in God.

BULLDANCER

Am I? A man can search for God forever and never find him. I'm searching for a planet. Even if I looked forever and never saw one, do you know what the difference is? Planets do exist. There is proof.

DARIUS

In books?

BULLDANCER

Yes.

DARIUS
Yet you have never seen one.

BULLDANCER
I have faith.

DARIUS
Just as I have read about God in
books yet have never seen him.

Bulldancer smiles.

BULLDANCER
You clever lad.

SPACE

The Miracle Five floats toward Darius' Star.

The sunspot appears elliptical.

COMMAND DECK

Jarta, alone on the deck, stares out the window.

As Darius' Star winds past he watches the sunspot come into focus.

With each revolution he gets a better look.

He focuses sharply and discovers the sunspot is a ringed planet.

JARTA
(to self)
Saturn? Or Jupiter?

LIBRARY COVE

Jarta pops open a hologram. It goes directly to a game. He scoffs and shuts it off. He reaches for a hard cover book.

He fingers over photos of the planets and opens a page to reveal Jupiter and Saturn.

JARTA
Saturn.

Jarta takes the book and climbs down from the cove into the

MAIN CABIN

Bulldancer and Peony hover over the chessboard.

Darius does push-ups nearby.

A few feet away, inside the glass encased

GARDEN ROOM

Holland and Heart tend vegetables and bees.

MAIN CABIN

Jarta stares at them all with a wild grin.

PEONY

Jarta, is everything alright?

BULLDANCER

What's that you're reading? What's so funny?

JARTA

I found a planet!

Bulldancer jolts up and looks Jarta in the eye.

BULLDANCER

A planet.

Bulldancer rushes past him to the Command Deck.

Everyone freezes for a moment to stare at Jarta.

Darius bolts and follows Bulldancer. Then Peony.

Holland and Heart rush out of the Garden Room.

COMMAND DECK

Bulldancer leans into the window. He scans the sky as Darius' Star reels past as if staring into a washing machine.

The others push up behind him.

HEART

Where is it?

BULLDANCER
Jarta? What did you see?

JARTA
Keep looking. Don't you see it?

Bulldancer looks back in contempt.

BULLDANCER
There's nothing out there.

JARTA
Look closer. The sunspot.

They track it.

HOLLAND
The sunspot?

JARTA
Focus.

Darius presses up to the glass.

DARIUS
I see it. Bulldancer, do you see
it?

BULLDANCER
The sunspot?

JARTA
Bully, look here.

He turns to see the page Jarta holds open to Saturn. He jerks back to the window and focuses on the silhouette of the ringed planet before Darius' Star.

BULLDANCER
(teary)
It's a planet. It's a real planet.

Bulldancer hugs Peony and Darius who are closest to him.

They stare awestruck. Bulldancer could not be happier.

SPACE

The Miracle Five tumbles along gracefully.

COMMAND DECK - LATER

The window has been taped to create a grid.

Bulldancer stands back and watches Darius' Star and the planet roll past.

He calls into the Main Cabin to Holland for help.

BULLDANCER
Holly! Heart! We're ready for
you.

MAIN CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Holland and Heart sit face to face in heated chess battle. A few pieces remain on the board.

Holland warily moves a rook and lets go.

HOLLAND
Check? Check. Check. Mate.
That's check mate. I did it. I
won. Did I win. Is that a real
check mate?

Heart's jaw drops as she studies the board.

HEART
I believe so.

HOLLAND
I did it.

BULLDANCER (O.S.)
Holly? Heart?

Holland jumps up and grabs two long rods he carries into the

COMMAND DECK

Holland bounces in ecstatic with Heart dragging behind.

HOLLAND
I did it.

BULLDANCER
What did you do?

HOLLAND

I beat Heart at chess. Check and mate.

BULLDANCER

Congratulations to the victor.

DARIUS

Congratulations Holly.

HEART

It was quite a match.

HOLLAND

Thank you.

BULLDANCER

Yes, very good, Holly. Now, will you hold the batons, please?

HOLLAND

Here they are.

BULLDANCER

Yes, now stand on that mark and hold them each at arms length.

Holland stands halfway to the window grid and faces Bulldancer, his arms outstretched, a stick held vertically in each hand.

Heart stands ready on the right side of the cabin and Darius to the left.

HOLLAND

Like this?

BULLDANCER

Yes, now bring them together until I tell you to stop. Slowly.

Bulldancer watches Holland move the sticks closer together. He closes his eyes, one at a time, shifting back and forth from right to left.

His viewpoint shifts from his position until each stick lines up with the planet, the left stick with his left eye, and the right stick with his right eye.

Heart smiles happily with this activity.

HEART
That's a silly face.

BULLDANCER
(smiles)
Holly, crouch down, out of the way.
Children, take the batons.

Holland hands off the sticks to Darius and Heart and bends down to scoot out of view.

Darius' Star and the planet roll by.

HEART
What now?

BULLDANCER
Keep going. Darius, move slow.
Heart stop. Darius keep going.
Good, a little more. Stop.
Perfect. Don't move. Secure the
batons right there Holly.

Holland moves in toward Darius with duct tape and lashes the rod to the cabin chair at the bottom.

HOLLAND
Hold it right there Darius. Keep
it straight. Is that good?

BULLDANCER
Yes. Come Darius. Stand right
here.

Darius releases the rod as Holland goes to Heart and secures that one.

HOLLAND
Steady, Heart.

BULLDANCER
It's good. Stand on this mark.
You see what we've done? We've
created a parallax. From this
position we can watch the planet
and record it's relative motion to
us.

Heart and Holland stand beside them.

Darius closes one eye then the other.

Heart tries it too.

HEART

And we'll know which way it's
going?

DARIUS

How do we measure it?

HOLLAND

With a great many calculations.

Darius' Star and the silhouette of the planet roll past the
grid.

SPACE

The ringed planet, a giant hazy blue and tan swirled
atmosphere, has a small green moon with white lines.

COMMAND DECK

Darius' Star rolls by again, this time, much farther to the
left of the grid. Tape has peeled away and hangs from the
window.

Both sticks have fallen down. One lays on the floor, the
other propped up beside the windshield on the right side of
the cabin.

The ringed planet rolls into view, much closer now, a hundred
times larger than before, with a small moon beside it, both
lit by Darius' Star with only a sliver of night.

Bulldancer sits on the floor in the dark next to the doorway
and watches the planet go past. He stares solemnly.

Peony tiptoes in.

She crouches down and cuddles beside him. She rests on his
shoulder and looks out with him.

PEONY

Have you made a decision yet?

BULLDANCER

No. A few more weeks I think.
We're catching up with them.

(MORE)

BULLDANCER(cont'd)

The moon orbits the planet every two thousand hours or so. Look. It rose today.

PEONY

Holland has been practicing on the lander. He and Darius are quite good now.

BULLDANCER

And Heart?

PEONY

She tries, but she is not a captain.

BULLDANCER

Are you scared?

PEONY

No. I don't think so. Landing on one of them - I still can't picture it. What do you think they're like?

BULLDANCER

On the surface? That's what scares me. If they're both gas - then . . . I think the moon is habitable.

PEONY

Why?

BULLDANCER

I just do. I feel it. Not the planet, but the moon. The planet, those rings, it looks cold. Still too far for a proper analysis, but the moon, when I saw it, I could feel it.

PEONY

Calling you?

BULLDANCER

I've not heard any voices. That color. That green. It seems to be warmer.

PEONY

Heart thinks it has water vapor. Weather, like rain and snow.

BULLDANCER

Why does she think that?

PEONY

The brightness. The way it changes. The planet just looks the same all the time. It supports a theory of heavy gases.

BULLDANCER

Only one way to be sure.

PEONY

Would you still want to leave the ship even if you knew it would kill you?

BULLDANCER

No. Of course not. Why would you think that?

PEONY

You always wanted to leave.

BULLDANCER

Leave yes. Die? Never. I'm not going to think about dying. The course we're on now is going to give us a perfect option. But if we can't approach that moon or the planet with some certainty of life, we stay here. We have to. Life is our mission.

LIBRARY COVE

Holland calculates a grid on a computer screen.

Darius and Jarta stand over him and watch.

The grid models Darius' Star with the planet, its moon and the Miracle Five.

The model shows converging orbital lines.

Jarta fingers the screen.

JARTA

This is the moon?

HOLLAND

Yes.

JARTA

How long?

HOLLAND

Seventeen days.

DARIUS

Seventeen days for what?

Holland touches the screen.

HOLLAND

The only thing I can predict now is
a collision with the planet.

DARIUS

Maybe it's not that big.

HOLLAND

Darius, it's thousands, millions
times bigger than the asteroid we
hit.

MAIN CABIN

The crew sits in a circle and shares leafy vegetables. Jarta holds out the bag to Bulldancer, who declines. Jarta passes it to Heart.

Holland explains with the aid of a dry erase board.

HOLLAND

At this point I have it down to a
six percent margin of error.

Jarta stands and shuffles away.

Heart sinks down sadly.

Peony chews a blade of grass.

Bulldancer buries his mouth and chin in his hands and stares blankly.

DARIUS

So we land.

Jarta spins back to the group.

JARTA

Land? You don't know what's there.

DARIUS

We know what happens if we don't try.

PEONY

The six percent margin of error - what if your calculation is wrong by that much?

HOLLAND

We would still be within 10,000 kilometers.

BULLDANCER

Wow! Are you sure? That close?

HOLLAND

As sure as I can be.

PEONY

Would we be able to utilize the gravitational pull of the planet at all?

Holland stands and draws on the dry erase board. With little room, he tosses it to the floor and draws on the wall instead. He draws the planet, the moon and the orbit.

HOLLAND

Not with Miracle Five, with our spin, there is no way to control it. But we could with the lander. Look. The lander has fuel. It can be controlled.

JARTA

If everything works right.

HOLLAND

There would be no way to land at this rate anyway. We need to orbit the planet to slow down and we can do that with the lander. When we detach, we maneuver around the planet on an orbital bearing and when we come back around we should be going slow enough to try and land.

JARTA
What about the ship?

BULLDANCER
Miracle Five can't land. You know
that Jarta.

JARTA
You're talking about abandoning
ship!

HEART
(pouting to tears)
He's right. What are we going to
do without the ship? What about
the bees? What's going to happen
to them?

Peony holds her.

DARIUS
We take them with us. That's the
protocol. We need to load the
shuttle.

The crew looks around the ship.

PEONY
(sadly)
So we're really leaving?

JARTA
This is my home.

Jarta shuffles away and climbs up a ladder.

PEONY
(cries)
Bully.

Bulldancer hugs her and Heart.

BULLDANCER
It'll be alright. It's a good
place, that moon. You think so,
don't you Heart?

HEART
But what if it's not.

BULLDANCER
We can't stay here. We can't.

Darius stands and talks confidentially with Holland.

DARIUS

How long will it take to orbit the planet?

Holland doodles on the wall.

HOLLAND

About a day, I think. We'd separate far in advance and start an alternate course. Fly past the moon, orbit the planet, slow down, come back around and orbit the moon a few times to slow down some more. Hope the radar works okay. Find a place to land.

DARIUS

You keep us on course. I can land anywhere.

SPACE SHIP

Miracle Five spins toward the planet and moon.

Darius and Holland space walk.

They move containers from the cargo bay to the shuttle hold.

CABIN WINDOW

Jarta watches them from inside.

Peony sneaks in beside him.

PEONY

How are they doing?

JARTA

Remarkably well. Faster than I had imagined.

PEONY

Bulldancer is packing his books.

JARTA

And Heart?

PEONY

Much better. Resting. Lots of tea and honey.

JARTA

We still don't know if that moon is habitable.

PEONY

I know.

JARTA

You know, there's a chance we'll just go right past. Just go. Just keep going.

PEONY

The math is too good Jarta.

JARTA

Won't you miss this place?

PEONY

Yes. It's my home too.

Jarta points up to the family tree.

JARTA

You know what I keep wondering? After all this time, how did we become the ones to find a planet?

PEONY

You must be the luckiest man in the universe.

JARTA

Me?

PEONY

It's your planet. You found it.

JARTA

No. Holly found it when he thought it was a sunspot. It's his planet. I'll take the rings.

PEONY

And the moon?

JARTA

Give the moon to Heart.

MAIN CABIN

Heart sits, curled up in a chair, and stares blankly at the butterflies and bees in the garden. She holds a plastic bag of tea.

Bulldancer climbs down from the Library Cove with an armful of books.

BULLDANCER

Heart?

She does not answer, only stares straight ahead.

Bulldancer kneels beside her and takes her hand.

HEART

I will miss the butterflies.

BULLDANCER

No Heart. We're bringing them. They'll be with us. We need them.

HEART

What if there's no life there?

BULLDANCER

I think there is.

HEART

How do you know?

BULLDANCER

Because I want there to be. I need to be alive. We are going to live.

HEART

Are you sure?

He squeezes her hand and holds it to his face.

BULLDANCER

Yes. There is life. There has to be.

SPACE

The hazy green moon floats beside the planet.

COMMAND DECK

The planet and moon are gigantic now - remarkably close.

Holland and Darius study the moon.

Darius stands and peels the tape off the window.

Holland does the same.

HOLLAND

Let's get a good look at it.

Bulldancer sits behind them.

DARIUS

What's going to happen to Miracle
Five?

Bulldancer looks around the ship lovingly.

BULLDANCER

It will disintegrate. Burn up in
the atmosphere. Maybe some pieces
will make impact. I don't really
like thinking about it like that.
I love this ship. I'll miss it.

HOLLAND

So will I.

DARIUS

Me too.

They stare solemnly for a quiet moment.

DARIUS

We can leave any time now. We
should do it in the next six hours.

BULLDANCER

All geared up?

DARIUS

Everything is packed.

HOLLAND

Double-checked by Peony and Jarta
yesterday and today. There's
nothing we're missing.

Bulldancer leans forward and gazes at the moon and planet.

BULLDANCER

Look at that. I've never seen anything more beautiful. I can't believe we're really going there. Do you realize we are making history?

DARIUS

As long as we write it down.

BULLDANCER

All files transferred to the lander?

HOLLAND

Every one. The ship is bare.

BULLDANCER

I suppose we should go now.

HOLLAND

I think Peony wants to have one final meal before we leave.

BULLDANCER

Of course.

GARDEN ROOM

The bare room has only light bulbs and some sticks. Every plant is missing.

A tin case with the word BEES on the side hums with life.

A second tin case with tiny windows harbors the butterflies. Several chrysalis hang from sticks that are wedged inside.

Peony hands Heart a tub of honeycomb.

She carries it out and Heart follows with a clear plastic bag of leaves.

LOUNGE

Jarta sits on a bicycle and pedals slowly.

LIBRARY COVE

The shelves are bare.

MAIN CABIN

The crew shares a meal. They pass a bag of greens and mushrooms around. Each take a few pieces and eat. They pass a wedge of honeycomb and take turns breaking pieces off.

TRANSFER HOLD

Darius in space suit. Geared up to go.

Bulldancer helps Peony with her suit.

Heart snaps Holland's suit into place.

Jarta steps in from around the corner carrying the spacesuit and helmet in his arms.

BULLDANCER

Jarta? Why haven't you put on your suit?

JARTA

I'm not going.

BULLDANCER

Jarta! You can't stay here. We're all packed up. We're taking all the food. You have to go.

JARTA

No. This is my home. This is where I belong. Not out there.

PEONY

Jarta. Please, don't. Put your suit on, please.

(crying)

We have to go now.

Heart cries. Holland holds her.

BULLDANCER

Jarta! Do not make this any more difficult than it already is. Get your suit on and let's go.

JARTA

No.

BULLDANCER

You have to come with us. We are a unit. A team. We act as one.

Jarta shakes his head.

JARTA

No.

BULLDANCER

We are family!

Bulldancer bursts forward and pushes Jarta against the wall. He slaps Jarta in the face.

PEONY

Bulldancer! No!

Holland, Peony and Darius rush to pull Bulldancer away from Jarta.

Jarta, stunned, sinks down to the floor.

Peony holds Jarta.

Holland and Darius hold Bulldancer.

BULLDANCER

Oh, dear. What have I done? My brother. I have struck my brother. Jarta. Oh, Jarta, forgive me.

Jarta stares up at them.

DARIUS

To strike another is a capital offense.

Peony jumps up and holds Bulldancer.

PEONY

(to Darius)

Darius. He didn't mean it. Please, no. He didn't mean it. Please! Don't put him out. Please - Don't.

Bulldancer tears up.

HOLLAND

Bully, why?

BULLDANCER

I just want us all to live. That's all. Captain Darius, do with me what you must. I'm sorry everyone.

HEART

Are you putting Bully outside?

JARTA

Don't!

They all look to Darius for the answer.

Darius releases Bulldancer.

Bulldancer drops to his knees and hugs Jarta.

BULLDANCER

My brother, Jarta, my brother forgive me. I've made a mistake. Jarta. I'm sorry.

They cry together.

Darius reaches down to lift them.

DARIUS

Nobody's putting anyone outside. Stand up. We have to go now. Jarta?

Jarta hands Darius the suit.

JARTA

You've forgotten. Someone needs to command the release from inside the Miracle.

BULLDANCER

No. That's not true. The lander is self contained. We can release the lander. Nobody has to stay here.

JARTA

I do. This is my home. Goodbye Bully.

Heart rushes to Jarta and hugs him.

HEART

No.

DARIUS

This is what you wish, Jarta?

JARTA

It is.

Everyone looks around at one another in a long quiet pause.

DARIUS

Before we go, I wish to say a prayer. I studied the religions. They all believe in a life of some kind after we die. That we will see one another again. Take my hands. Form a circle.

Darius extends his gloved hand to Jarta and the group forms a circle.

PEONY

What are we doing?

DARIUS

We're going to pray. God. You know who we are. You know what we are if you made us. We want to live. But when we are not alive anymore, make us live again. A-men.

HOLLAND

A-men? What does that mean?

DARIUS

Not sure. But, that's how it's done.

JARTA

That's very good Darius.

Darius hugs Jarta.

DARIUS

Jarta, we will see you in another life.

They all take turns hugging Jarta, Bulldancer last.

HEART
Goodbye, Jarta.

JARTA
Goodbye, sweet Heart. Draw good
things.

HEART
I will.

Peony kisses Jarta.

Holland looks into his eyes.

HOLLAND
It's your planet.

JARTA
You keep it.

BULLDANCER
I love you.

JARTA
Put on your helmets.

SHUTTLE DECK

The five suited astronauts face the closing door and watch Jarta through the tiny widow as he snaps into view.

Jarta salutes.

The crew returns the salute.

Jarta steps back into the ship and out of sight.

The crew turns to enter the

SHUTTLE CABIN

The dashboard lights up.

EXT. SPACE SHIP

The tiny shuttle rises out of the belly of the massive ship, bottom first.

INT. SPACE SHIP

Jarta watches the shuttle pivot away from the ship. He stares out a window as the shuttle rises away and shrinks in the dark. The planet sheers past.

SPACE

The Miracle Five rotates before the planet and moon as the shuttle, in the same rotation, pulls away.

SHUTTLE CABIN

The crew watches the Miracle Five appear to fall away from them as the planet sweeps past. They look to one another for comfort, but dread overwhelms their expressions.

INT. SPACE SHIP

Jarta looks about the ship, now scavenged and gutted, and cries.

SHUTTLE CABIN

Holland administers a launch sequence.

HOLLAND

When we fire the booster, we'll break free from the rotation of the ship. This will put us in a parabolic orbit around the planet. I estimate that we'll orbit fourteen times before we slow down enough to land on the satellite.

BULLDANCER

How long will that take?

HOLLAND

I'm guessing, roughly, fourteen hours.

DARIUS

It won't take that long. After the first revolution, we should be slow enough to steer.

HOLLAND

Think so?

The crew peers out the window and sees the Miracle Five, now more of a speck, in the distance.

HEART

Is this the last time we're going to see the ship?

BULLDANCER

Yes, sweetheart.

He reaches over to her and holds her shoulder through the spacesuit. Peony gently leans her helmet on Hearts' helmet and holds her gloved hand.

They watch the Miracle Five shrink away.

DARIUS

Initiate launch sequence.

Holland clicks four switches.

HOLLAND

Launch sequence is a go. Four engines. Four green lights. All indicators are functioning.

Darius unlatches a safety cover.

DARIUS

Get ready.

HOLLAND

We are fixed on bearing one eight one. Commencing countdown in seven, six, five, four, three, two, one.

Darius pushes the button.

DARIUS

Here we come.

SPACE

The four rear engines light up.

INT. SPACE SHIP

Jarta stares blankly out the window, then sees the shuttle light up and propel itself away. He smiles.

JARTA
(hushed)
Go. Go. Go.

SPACE

The shuttle rockets away from the Miracle Five and barrels between the moon and the planet.

SHUTTLE DECK

The crew stares at the moon and the planet. The moon falls out of sight as they sweep around the dark side of the planet.

SPACE

The pitch black planet eclipses Darius' Star and they return to light.

SHUTTLE DECK

Numbers flicker on the dashboard instruments.

HOLLAND
We are at seventy percent fuel
capacity.

DARIUS
Let it burn. We need a steady
bearing before we cut or we shift
orbit.

SPACE

The shuttle rockets past and away from the planet.

SHUTTLE DECK

Bulldancer watches the planet out of the corner of his eye. He sees the moon rise as they bear towards the planet again.

Instruments on the dashboard indicate maximum speed.

HEART

How fast are we going?

DARIUS

Fast as we can.

SPACE

They coast between the planet and moon again and back into darkness.

INT. SPACE SHIP

Jarta sits in a chair on the

COMMAND DECK

And sees the planet veer back into view, this time watching the edge of night.

The planet spins out of view again and back, this time, incredibly closer.

Jarta marvels at the detail of the planet on one rotation and the rings on the next.

He stands at the window to see the planet rings hurtle closer.

Jarta touches his palm to the window and gapes outside.

He smiles.

Sparks stream over and envelop the ship.

JARTA

Bulldancer.

He closes his eyes.

SHUTTLE DECK

The crew watches out the window before them to see a sharp streak of light flame over the planet.

BULLDANCER

What is that?

SPACE

The Miracle Five burns away into a stream of gas and flames. Smoke trails into the upper atmosphere of the planet until there is nothing left to burn.

SHUTTLE DECK

The light diminishes into tiny specks that completely disintegrate.

The crew focuses on the dust trail left in the atmosphere of the planet as they soar past.

HOLLAND

That was Jarta.

BULLDANCER

Jarta?

Bulldancer gasps.

Heart closes her eyes and bows her head.

A long moment of silence as they fly into the shadow of the planet.

DARIUS

Get some rest now. We're going into diminished orbit. In a few hours we're going to land. Everyone needs to be ready.

PEONY

Yes, captain.

SPACE

The green moon dwarfs the shuttle that coasts overhead.

The shuttle closes in on the moon. Details of the planet become visible.

SHUTTLE DECK - LATER

An indicator light flashes and an alarm repeats with a dull tone.

Darius pushes a button to shut it off and the crew awakes.

HEART

We're here.

DARIUS

Yes, we are.

BULLDANCER

Are we going to land soon?

Holland sleeps. Darius pushes him awake.

DARIUS

Yes. Ready to initiate? Holland?

Holland startles when he sees the moon before them.

HOLLAND

Ga - ! Goodness.

PEONY

What's the matter, Holly?

HOLLAND

That - planet, moon, it's so big.
How do we choose a landing site?

DARIUS

We just do. Ready?

Holland shakes awake.

BULLDANCER

It's truly incredible. We are
going to touch a planet.

HEART

It's a moon.

BULLDANCER

A moon, a planet. It doesn't
matter. We've done it.

PEONY
We haven't done it yet.

DARIUS
We will. Holly, let's roll it
over. This is it people.

BULLDANCER
Godspeed, Darius.

Darius looks back to Bulldancer with a grin.

HOLLAND
Planet surface is three-hundred to
three-hundred-fifty kilometers.

HEART
That's all?

HOLLAND
That's all.

DARIUS
We're here. Holland, breach the
atmosphere.

HOLLAND
Aye captain.

Holland moves the joystick and turns a dial.

The dashboard rolls over and the wide horizon comes into full
view.

Sparks pour over the shuttle.

SPACE

The shuttle skids and burns upon entry into the atmosphere.

SHUTTLE DECK

The crew grit their teeth and stare quietly as flames obscure
their view.

Heart, Peony and Bulldancer hold gloved hands together.

HEART
It's hot.

BULLDANCER
I know, sweetheart.

SPACE

The shuttle is enveloped in flames and dust. Tiles fly off.

SHUTTLE DECK

The windshield is obscured by orange flame.

Steel-eyed Darius watches the controls.

Holland gulps.

The flames disintegrate and the sky is now green/blue before them.

PEONY
Where are all the stars?

BULLDANCER
You can't see them from here. They are obscured by the atmosphere. We did it. We're here.

Holland releases the joystick.

HOLLAND
Your command, Captain Darius.

Darius picks up the controls.

Clouds and oceans appear below.

MOON

The shuttle courses across the light green sky.

SHUTTLE DECK

Bulldancer scans the moon before him.

BULLDANCER
It looks like a solid surface.
Uniform.

Holland sees only ocean before them.

HOLLAND

It's all water. Where are you going to land?

DARIUS

Wherever we end up. We still need to orbit once more if not twice. Bring our speed down. We're at 2,600 kilometers an hour right now. Need to be at less than 200 to land.

Through the windshield the horizon slips into night.

HOLLAND

We're going into the dark side.

DARIUS

Maintain this elevation.

SPACE

The shuttle slips into night. Pitch black except for the glow of cabin lights penetrating the windshield.

The shuttle becomes a tiny dot of light in a sea of black.

SHUTTLE DECK

The crew peers out the window into the dark.

PEONY

I wonder what's down there?

HOLLAND

Nothing. There's no light.

BULLDANCER

I didn't expect there would be. Not people, maybe something fluorescent, or volcanic activity.

HOLLAND

There's nothing down there.

Darius switches on a radar screen. The indicator moves in a quiet clockwise circle. It reads nothing.

DARIUS

We need the imaging program. For
the terrain.

Holland pushes a series of buttons. A screen blinks on.

A solid line arcs across the screen.

HOLLAND

What does that mean?

BULLDANCER

Is it broken? Why isn't it showing
anything?

DARIUS

There is nothing down there. It's
a level surface.

PEONY

A level surface? It's not a gas
planet. Temperature should be
twenty to thirty Celsius.

BULLDANCER

It is. It's all liquid. It's an
ocean.

HEART

It's all water?

SPACE

The shuttle courses into daylight.

The ocean below churns with rough waves.

Clouds issue rain and lightning.

SHUTTLE DECK

Lightning webs across the sky before them.

Heart shrieks.

HEART

Oh, no!

BULLDANCER
It's alright sweetheart. It's only
electricity.

HEART
Are you sure?

BULLDANCER
Yes, it's natural light.

PEONY
Lightning.

BULLDANCER
Yes, lightning. An electrical
charge.

Holland and Darius look to each other.

HOLLAND
Is it safe to fly through there?

DARIUS
We don't have a choice.

SKY

The shuttle flies into a cloud full of thunder and lightning.

SHUTTLE DECK

Lightning booms.

The shuttle rocks back and forth in the turbulence.

Dashboard indicators spin wildly.

Radar remains empty.

The imaging screen displays three dimensional terrain.

BULLDANCER
What just happened? Darius, look
at the screen. What is that?

HOLLAND
That's land.

PEONY
It's getting bigger.

DARIUS
We're getting closer.

Thunder cracks around the shuttle and shakes the crew.

Peony pulls Heart closer to her.

BULLDANCER
Darius, that's a mountain. If the
top of it . . .

The lines on the imaging screen reach beyond the top of the screen. An alarm blares from the dashboard.

DARIUS
I know.

The clouds clear away and they see the mountain before them.

HOLLAND
Twenty kilometers.

DARIUS
Give me a boost Holly.

Holland opens up a safety switch and readies to push a red button.

HOLLAND
You can only do this once.

DARIUS
Then we'll never do it again. Hit
it!

Holland pushes the button.

SKY

A jet of flame shoots from the rear of the shuttle and they soar over the mountain.

SHUTTLE DECK

Mountainous islands are scattered before them.

HOLLAND
All we have left to run on now is
momentum.

DARIUS

I know.

The speed indicator reads 500 kilometers an hour.

It drops. 480. 460. 440.

DARIUS

Find me land, Holly.

Holland controls a series of switches and enhances the indicator screen. The three-dimensional image expands slower than before.

HOLLAND

I'm looking.

BULLDANCER

It needs to be a flat surface.

HOLLAND

There are none.

BULLDANCER

The water. You know how to land on the water, Darius, isn't that so? On the water, you can avoid using the landing gear. Just land on the water. Close to land.

DARIUS

In about eighty kilometers . . .

BULLDANCER

What?

DARIUS

We land.

SKY

The shuttle rips overhead.

A steamy tropical archipelago waits below.

SHUTTLE DECK

Darius spies tiny islands.

SKY

The shuttle banks hard to the left and sweeps into a circle.

SHUTTLE DECK

The crew leans into the turn. Peony and Heart shudder.

Holland glares at Darius.

HOLLAND

What are you doing?

DARIUS

Landing.

BULLDANCER

Where?

A long white beach comes into focus through the windshield. Waves crash onto shore. Rocks are strewn about.

DARIUS

There.

The crew stares into the distance. Bulldancer gasps with exhilaration. Holland sweats. Peony closes her eyes. Heart shakes. Darius gleams with determination, he firms his grip on the control stick.

BEACH

The shuttle races over the waves. Water vapor trails behind.

SHUTTLE DECK

Dials monitor elevation to 12 meters. 11. 10. 9. . .

Water sprays the windshield.

Darius maneuvers around giant rock pillars.

Holland grits his teeth.

Bulldancer grins wildly.

A wave splashes over the windshield.

HOLLAND
Four meters, Darius.

Darius focuses with steely fortitude.

DARIUS
This is it.

BEACH

The shuttle bellies up to the water.

A huge wave crashes over the shuttle.

SHUTTLE DECK

The shuttle slams onto the beach.

Heart belts out a horrific scream.

Darius paralyzing grip on the wheel turn his knuckles white.

BEACH

A boulder rips a wing off the shuttle and sends it into a tumble. The other wing shears away.

SHUTTLE DECK

The crew flips upside down and over again.

The world outside the windshield spirals before them.

Metal screeches and rips a hole in the side of the cabin.

Trees and sand fly past.

Holland screams.

BEACH

The shuttle spins and skips across the sand. It bounces over boulders. Sparks flicker as metal rips away.

The shuttle crashes into a grove of trees.

It tips over to one side and stops.

SHUTTLE DECK

Steam lingers in the cabin.

The crew sits still.

BEACH / WOODS

The fuselage of the shuttle rests against a few trees a few yards from shore.

The trail left by the shuttle is the only mark on the beach.

Waves lap calmly in the lagoon. A slight breeze echoes.

A desolate place.

A furry creature spies the wreckage.

It is small. Reddish-brown. Blue eyes with pinpoint pupils. Bipedal.

There are four of them.

The ANIMALS creep toward the wreckage.

INT. SHUTTLE CABIN

The crew lays silent.

They are all strapped in, tilted over.

Bulldancer opens his eyes to see the shattered glass of the windshield. He takes a deep breath and looks over to Peony.

BULLDANCER

(whispers)

Peony. Peony.

(shouts)

Peony.

He hears Holland.

HOLLAND (O.S.)

Bully? Are you okay?

BULLDANCER

I don't know. I'm so heavy. The gravity. Peony? Heart?

Heart moans.

HOLLAND

I can't move.

Bulldancer lifts his arm to unstrap himself and falls out of his seat, away from the crew, toward the open side of the fuselage. He looks outside.

BEACH

The quartet of ANIMALS group together quickly and stand still beside a rock. They stare at the wreckage and Bulldancer.

INT. SHUTTLE CABIN

Bulldancer sees their heads poke over the rock.

PEONY (O.S.)

Bully?

BULLDANCER

Ssshhhh.

Peony looks around.

PEONY

Bully, where are you?

BULLDANCER

Quiet.

Bulldancer peers outside and watches the ANIMALS.

Holland stirs and unbuckles himself. He falls into Darius and wakes him.

Darius sees the broken windshield and turns to Holland.

DARIUS

See? We made it.

BULLDANCER

Ssshhhh. Something is out there.

Heart awakes. Her eyes pop open. She unbuckles herself.

Heart falls out of her seat onto Bulldancer.

BULLDANCER
 (shouts)
 Ow!

The ANIMALS duck down.

HEART
 Sorry.

BULLDANCER
 Be careful getting out of your
 seat. The gravity. It hurts.

HOLLAND
 (to Darius)
 When you unstrap yourself, we're
 going to fall.

Darius looks at the side of the cabin three feet away.

DARIUS
 One meter to go. Ready?

Holland nods. Darius unbuckles and they topple to the side.

HOLLAND
 Ow. My leg.

BULLDANCER
 Quiet. Nobody move.

BEACH

The ANIMALS emerge from behind the rock. They walk like hunched over, curious, little men. They fan out as they approach the wreckage.

Bulldancer and Heart, curled together at the gaping hole, stare at them.

HEART
 (softly)
 What are they?

BULLDANCER
 Bears? Maybe? I don't know.

The ANIMALS approach cautiously.

INT. SHUTTLE CABIN

Bulldancer instructs.

BULLDANCER

Peony, stay in your seat. Everyone
remain calm. Keep your helmets on.

Peony hangs down and sees a furry creature come into view.

PEONY

Oh, no! No! They eat people.
Bears eat people.

Holland and Darius struggle to crawl toward the hole.

BULLDANCER

Stop moving.

A butterfly flutters onto Darius' face mask.

More butterflies, then bees, fill the cabin.

The crates have broken open.

Bees and butterflies escape from the shuttle.

BEACH

The ANIMALS watch the bees and butterflies all around them.

Some land on them. The ANIMALS react gently, with wonder.

A HUMAN shouts at them.

HUMAN (O.C.)		SUBTITLE
Aller-en. Sortez d'ici. Soyez allé. Allez.	Go away. Be gone.	Get out of here. Go.

The ANIMALS scurry ten feet away and turn back to look.

The HUMAN is a French Man, 30, in a blue jumpsuit. He wears
a small earpiece.

He claps his hands at the ANIMALS.

HUMAN		SUBTITLE
Soyez allé. Allez. Rentrent à la maison peu ceux.	Be gone. ones.	Go. Go home little ones.

The ANIMALS scurry further away, lose interest and retreat to the woods.

FOUR OTHER MEN, also in blue jumpsuits with earpieces, skirt the boulders and debris to inspect the wreckage.

Above the beach, a huge silver vehicle hovers silently. Its shadow casts over the water.

HUMAN 2	SUBTITLE
Que voyez-vous ?	What do you see?

INT. SHUTTLE CABIN

Darius and Holland push to the opening. They see a shadow.

HOLLAND
What is that?

Bulldancer and Heart look up to the HUMAN.

BULLDANCER
It's a man.

BEACH

The HUMAN stoops down and stares into Bulldancer's eyes.

HUMAN	SUBTITLE
C'est un homme.	It is a man.

The Human looks inside the shuttle and sees them all.

They all lock eyes with the man.

Peony hangs sideways and gapes at him with wonder.

Bulldancer and the Human extend their hands to each other.

Bulldancer squeezes.

HUMAN	SUBTITLE
(to MEN)	(to MEN)
Hâte.	Hurry.
(to Bulldancer)	(to Bulldancer)
C'est sûr maintenant.	It is safe now.

PEONY
Hello.

HUMAN

Bonjour.

They smile.

The other HUMANS enter the wreckage.

HUMAN 2

Bonjour.

HUMAN 3

Bonjour.

The crew gapes in fascination.

BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

The MEN carry Bulldancer, then Heart. They help Peony unlatch her seat belt and carry her out.

Two MEN carry Darius carefully by his arms and legs and lift him onto an airborne raft which floats a few paces from the wreckage.

The rest of the crew are already seated on it.

Those MEN step up onto the raft. Human 1 calls through his headset.

HUMAN
Prêt. Amenez-nous vers le
haut.

SUBTITLE
Ready. Bring us up.

The raft silently rises toward the massive ship.

The crew lay on their backs and watch the MEN tower over them as they get closer to the ship that blots out the sky.

RESCUE SHIP - CONTINUOUS

A DOZEN PEOPLE line the interior deck. They watch the life raft rise into the bay. Some wear jumpsuits, others wear white smocks.

The crew lift their heads slightly to look around at their hosts.

The PEOPLE gently help the crew to sit up and take their helmets off.

Chandler rushes toward them. He pushes through the others and kneels down beside Bulldancer. He reads the space suit.

CHANDLER
Nasa. You are from Earth.

BULLDANCER
No. Our ancestors.

CHANDLER
Who are you?

BULLDANCER
I am Bulldancer.

CHANDLER
Where did you come from?

BULLDANCER
A space ship. The Miracle Five.

CHANDLER
How long have you been in space?

BULLDANCER
All of our lives.

PEONY
We were born there.

CHANDLER
Can you stand?

BULLDANCER
No. My legs. My arms tingle. I can't lift them. It's the gravity.

DARIUS
I can.

Darius stands up. He stumbles a bit and the people beside him secure him by the arms.

Chandler orders the PEOPLE around him.

CHANDLER
Apportez chacun à
l'infirmierie.

SUBTITLE
Bring everyone to the
infirmary.

BULLDANCER
What is that language you're
speaking?

CHANDLER

French.

RESCUE SHIP HALLS - MOMENTS LATER

Each Astronaut floats on an individual stretcher escorted by two or three people on either side.

Smiles come from everyone.

RESCUE SHIP INFIRMARY - LATER

Instruments beside the sick bay beds monitor each of the Astronauts conditions. Each of them is hooked to an intravenous tube of fluid.

The crew lay in separate beds close enough to see each other throughout the ward.

A long window looks out over the ocean and lush mountains with the planet looming overhead.

A NURSE assures them and instructs.

NURSE

When you will need something you push the button here - and we will come to help. Food is coming soon.

The Nurse leaves.

HOLLAND

These people are nice.

BULLDANCER

It almost doesn't seem . . .

HEART

Real?

BULLDANCER

Exactly. I know it's real. That we're all here. That everything is truly happening, but - there must be some kind of way to describe it. This odd feeling.

DARIUS

The word you are searching for is surreal. Like it's not really happening, but it is.

HOLLAND

Yes, I feel it as well. Perhaps we are dead now? Could that be it? Darius?

DARIUS

Maybe? Maybe this is our life after death.

PEONY

I don't believe we are dead. I am sure this is real but what do we do now?

BULLDANCER

Live.

HALLWAY

Pleus marches forward, his mouth agape in anticipation as Diana and Chandler trail. They burst into the

RESCUE SHIP INFIRMARY

Pleus stands still and makes eye contact with each CREW member of Miracle Five.

Diana and Chandler stare in dumbfound expression.

PLEUS

You're here. Really here. I'm so pleased to meet you.

The CREW silently stares back.

PLEUS

My name is Douglas Pleus.

They answer together and speak over each other.

CREW

My name is Bulldancer. My name is Darius. My name is Peony. My name is Holland. My name is Heart.

Pleus smiles.

PLEUS
These are my colleagues. Chandler,
Diana, meet the Miracle Five. How
old are you? If I may ask?

DARIUS
I am eighteen years old.

PLEUS
Your name again, sir?

DARIUS
Sir?

Pleus smiles wider.

PLEUS
What's your name?

DARIUS
Darius.

PLEUS
Darius, everyone, can you tell me
what year it is?

BULLDANCER
It's the year 2969. Is it not?

Chandler, Pleus and Diana gasp.

PEONY
Is something wrong?

PLEUS
Not at all. I'm sorry. Please
don't take offense. This is a
highly unusual circumstance.

DARIUS
Is this the Earth?

PLEUS
No. This is not the Earth. We are
light years from Earth. This is
Aquaria, it's over eighty percent
water. A satellite of that gas
giant out there, Kharaam.

(MORE)

PLEUS(cont'd)

We've colonized over the last twenty years, but we left Earth in March of 4726. For us, it's now 4746, but on Earth, with time dilation - it's approximately - the year 5200 or so. Close to that. We came here because of you.

HOLLAND

Because of us?

PLEUS

Miracle Five. Earth focused our space discovery program in the general direction Miracle Five was heading. The primary objective being to establish a colony. The secondary objective, if at all possible, to retrieve your ship. They said it would be a relic - nobody on board - but here you are. I was right. I knew you were there. I was sending signals.

BULLDANCER

I heard a signal once, but it stopped. Jarta thought it was a quasar.

PLEUS

I'm sure our technology is incompatible, but yes, I sent you signals, myself. Our ships went right by you. Almost the speed of light. No way to stop. We calculated your course to Kharaam, so we waited for you. But we didn't have a way to capture your ship. Are you Americans?

DARIUS

We're Astronauts.

PLEUS

I left earth nine years ago. Nine years for me, my years. Centuries on Earth. For you - millennia. You know, Darius, I am twice your age, but a week before you landed, I didn't even exist. I don't know how to feel about that.

HEART

Do you know what happened to our
insects?

PLEUS

Insects?

DARIUS

Yes, they escaped when we landed.

Pleus eyes grow wide. Chandler shocks upright.

PLEUS

Where did you get insects?

HEART

We've always had insects. Bees and
butterflies to pollinate the
vegetables.

CHANDLER

How many?

HEART

I don't know exactly. Maybe . . .

PEONY

Fifty butterflies and a hive of
bees, a few hundred.

Chandler and Pleus exchange looks of dread. Diana stumbles.

BULLDANCER

What's the matter? Is that bad?

FOREST - DAY

Butterflies flit about a bush.

A trio of native Animals watch with wonder.

Above them, in the hollow of a tree trunk, bees gather.

AQUARIA

Kharaam eclipses the edge of Darius star as it sets behind
the archipelago.

FADE OUT.