

"THE TRAPPIST-1 COLONY"

By

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FADE IN:

EXT: SPACE SHIP

SUPER: "Launch"

A large cylindrical craft with "Caroline Herschel K" emblazoned on the hull enters a wider cylindrical craft. The craft spits out of the other craft at a much higher speed.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "1 Day After Launch - Population 7"

DR. ZARA HUSSEIN, 26, collar length hair, above average height, and average looks, sits at a console with a view screen. She reads and answers questions.

ZARA

I will not entertain any personal questions about the crew. TRAPPIST-1 is 40.66 light years away. The journey will take 225 years. Time dilation will be negligible. This is a multigenerational flight. Yes, to enable a healthy gene pool we are taking 922 sperm samples and 594 ovaries, the best of thousands of volunteer donors. Our mission is to establish a permanent presence on the habitable worlds in the TRAPPIST-1 system.

EXT: SPACE SHIP

SUPER: "30 Days After Launch"

The craft has about half its original width and has "Caroline Herschel A" emblazoned on the hull. A narrower craft, "Caroline Herschel", of similar length spits out at a much higher speed.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "31 Days After Launch - Population 7"

ZARA sits at the console.

ZARA

The last high acceleration phase completed successfully. The flight workload should be the normal system checks. Births will be our next items of interest. That won't be for a year.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "1 Year After Launch - Population 7"

ZARA sits at the console.

ZARA

We will delay birthing. This is by consensus. All systems are nominal. We decided we could delay the extra use of resources.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "3 Years After Launch - Population 8"

ZARA sits at the console.

ZARA

There were no complications with the birth. I and the child are well. Sending child's image concurrent with this message. The donor was Ibe Metu. He has the appropriate skills.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "6 Years After Launch - Population 9"

ZARA sits at the console.

ZARA

There were no complications with the birth. Deng Feng and the child are well. Sending child's image concurrent with this message. The donor was Jalil Javidnia. He has the appropriate skills.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "10 Years After Launch - Population 10"

ZARA sits at the console. Seven pieces of paper with drawings of the crew are hung on the bulkhead. An untalented 5-year-old made the drawings.

ZARA

We decided since our children will never see a male, all references to males will be encrypted and the computer network will not decrypt these references until the ship reaches TRAPPIST-1. All future voice transmissions must be made by females and males not be referenced. Camilia Corinthians is in her third trimester. Everything is nominal with her.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "20 Years After Launch - Population 14"

ZARA sits at the console.

ZARA

Tameka Micah gave birth today. There were no complications. The donor was from specimen batch 537.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "27 Years After Launch - Population 15"

ZARA sits at the console.

ZARA

I have successfully given birth to my clone. We did this as a live test of the technique. Thank you for keeping us abreast of the latest reproduction and other medical advances.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "35 Years After Launch - Population 16"

ZARA sits at the console.

ZARA

My elder daughter has produced an embryo from two ovaries. Thank you for

transmitting the data that made this reproduction option available to us. The embryo will remain frozen until our replacement generation has each bore a daughter by the primary option.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "50 Years After Launch - Population 18"

ZARA TWEE, 23, ZARA'S clone, sits at the console.

ZARA TWEE

We are delaying birthing to keep our population below the target maximum of 20. All systems are functioning properly. This is my inaugural report.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "53 Years After Launch - Population 17"

Zara Twee, upbeat, sits at the console.

ZARA TWEE

We have the first birth from a two-ovary embryo. The experiment is a complete success.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "70 Years After Launch - Population 17"

Zara Twee, subdued, sits at the console.

ZARA TWEE

We discovered our 17-year-old, Yaichniki, was attempting to access the encrypted data. The board decided to go against our instincts and explained to her the folly of unchecked curiosity. The board also reluctantly decided, out of an abundance of caution, to erase the encrypted data.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "73 Years After Launch - Population 18"

There is a memorial plaque for the original crew members.

Zara Twee, weak but upbeat, sits at the console.

ZARA TWEE

Announcing our latest arrival, my clone
Zara Tri.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "113 Years After Launch - Population 16"

Zara Tri, 40, no makeup, hair undone.

ZARA TRI

This will be our last report. We will
receive no more reports. We decided Earth
reports serve no purpose. As a courtesy
our ship will continue transmitting
telemetry data. Farewell.

Zara Tri powers down the transmitter.

She stands and removes the memorial plaque. She takes down
the renderings of the original crew members.

She exits the room.

INT: SPACE SHIP TRAINING ROOM

Zara Tri tosses the memorial plaque in a bin marked
"Repurpose."

She hands the renderings to the INSTRUCTOR, 17.

INSTRUCTOR

Thank you. These will be good for one of
our skits.

INT: SPACE SHIP MAKESHIFT STAGE

There is an apple tree hologram. 8-YEAR-OLD makes halting
steps to the hologram. She simulates picking an apple.
She looks at the hologram apple and simulates taking a
bite.

8-YEAR-OLD

Poison!

She fakes an overdramatic death.

11-YEAR-OLD marches to center stage.

11-YEAR-OLD

Curiosity is dangerous.

8-Year-Old stands, bows, and exits stage.

11-Year-Old backs away from center stage as the audience APPLAUDS.

ZARA IV, 5, carrying the original crew renderings takes center stage. She spreads out the renderings on the stage floor. She sits and draws on one of the renderings. 11-Year-Old steps to her.

11-YEAR-OLD

What are you doing?

ZARA IV

I'm drawing.

11-YEAR-OLD

Could you not put your time and resources to better use? There is much to do and resources are too precious to waste on silly things.

ZARA IV

You are right.

5-Year-Old picks up the renderings.

11-YEAR-OLD

Graffiti is bad.

The audience APPLAUDS.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "139 Years After Launch - Population 17"

Zara IV, 31, short hair.

ZARA IV

Erased all non-technical data over 30-years-old. Field experts are going though

technical data to erase outdated
information.

EXT: SPACE SHIP ORBITING A PLANET

SUPER: "225 Years After Launch - Population 18"

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

Zara VII, 23, short hair, indifferent.

ZARA VII

We have reached our destination. Our
craft is orbiting the planet which gives
us the best opportunity for a successful
colony.

INT: SPACE SHIP COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

SUPER: "226 Years After Launch - Population 18"

Zara VII, 24, short hair, sluggish.

ZARA VII

This report is only of self-therapeutic
value and can be deleted anytime. Taking
everything down to our planet took more
time than anticipated. We decided against
using our ship as offsite storage. There
is no guarantee the shuttle craft would
work if these items would be needed at
some unknown time in the future. We are
all weary from the labor. We are dealing
with some organizational issues. Within
minutes we will abandon our ship.

Zara VII shuts off the equipment then lugs it out of the
room.

EXT: COLONY - DAY

SUPER: "400 Years After Launch - Population 98"

There is a cubical building and two small rectangular
buildings.

INT: CLASSROOM - DAY

A TEACHER, 20, is in front of a class.

Holograms appear as she instructs.

TEACHER

The building we're in is a cube. It has the same length, width, and height. It is 100 meters long, it is 100 meters wide, and it is 100 meters high. The other two buildings are each cuboids. They are each 10 meters high and have a width of 12 meters and a length of 30 meters.

INT: LAB - DAY

A WOMAN, covered in protective clothing collects specimen bottles marked "Y".

ZARA XII

It's the council's decision, since y chromosomes serve no useful purpose, all y specimens will be destroyed.

EXT: SPACE SHIP

SUPER: "505 Years After Launch - Population 100"

The ship enters the planet's atmosphere and has an increasing glow.

INT: SLEEPING QUARTERS - NIGHT

A 7-YEAR-OLD sees the burning space ship streak across the sky before it disappears.

7-YEAR-OLD

I saw a streak across the sky.

A MONITOR marches to her.

7-YEAR-OLD

I saw a light streak across the sky.

MONITOR

You shouldn't be seeing anything. You should be sleeping. You have your aptitude test tomorrow. Sleep.

EXT: FARM - NIGHT

SUPER: "1,000 Years After Launch - Population 100"

Some agriculture technicians leave the farm as others arrive. Those leaving walk along a pathway to the three dimly lit buildings.

In the distance mining engineers, with their illumination gear, amble towards a mine.

A 5-YEAR-OLD and her instructor ZARA XXX are among the agricultural technicians going to the buildings. 5-YEAR-OLD looks at the stars.

5-YEAR-OLD

What are those lights in the sky?

ZARA XXX

There is no reason to ask. It doesn't matter to us what they are.

FADE OUT:

THE END