

ADRAXIA PRIME - A MURDER IN SPACE

(A comedy horror feature in deep space)

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Inspired by Alien, Silent Running and 1970's sci-fi.

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FADE IN

CGI / MODEL SHOT - SPACE ARK TRAVELLING IN SPACE

A VAST SPACESHIP - travelling through deep space. This vessel has several sections including a Domed Hydroponic area. The ships appearance hints it has been travelling for centuries.

CUE MUSIC : Curtis: Torna A Surriento (classical)

FADE TO

SERIES OF SHORT SCENES - a brief tour of the ship.

NOTE: CGI Scenes are not visited by actors. Empty rooms are lit by emergency lighting only. All rooms have sliding doors and 'comms-units' (like an intercom with a small screen).

Music continues throughout all.

INT. THE ALEX MAIN DATABANK - MORNING

A walk-in octagonal computer room, with holographic displays and screens. A fixed chair opposite a main holo-console.

CGI - HYDROPONICS BAY - CONTINUOUS

A brightly lit area filled with greenery, small trees and insects - like a giant greenhouse in a dome on the ship. Plants are being watered by FLYING DRONE BOTS. Vast shutters are opening for light which protect the glass.

INT. HOLODECK IN SPACESHIP - CONTINUOUS

A small theatre with seating for several and modest stage filled with holo-equipment (performers are holographic). There is a sliding door and a self-service bar.

CGI - MAIN ENGINES - CONTINUOUS

VAST pulsating generators - a couple of flying drones at the upper levels and at the lower are 2 X MAINT-BOTS * carrying-out maintenance. The Bots designations are printed on their backs : 'SI-0M069N' and 'SA-6R3AH' (aka Simon and Sarah).

* NOTE: Maint-Bots resemble washing-machines on stumpy magnetic legs with differing 'arms' fitted for various tasks, each with personal designation ID on their backs.

INT. CRYOBAY - CONTINUOUS

A vast chamber filled with preserved humans in dimly lit cryo-tubes, stacked in rows - hundreds of tubes. Each sleeper is in underwear with a mask and medical tubes, each cylinder has its own panel and display. A wall-sign : 'Cryo-Bay 019'.

CGI - SUPPLY STORAGE - CONTINUOUS

Like a giant warehouse, with crates upon crates of supplies and materials - stretching for miles. A few hovering Drone-Bots fly about, checking inventories and fetching supplies.

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

The main bridge for the skeleton crew, there are three seats with consoles and a myriad of controls. A sliding door leads to the main corridor and an emergency outer hatch.

CGI - MEDI-BAY - CONTINUOUS

This is a small but futuristic medical area with only three beds and high-tech equipment. Everything is WHITE.

INT. NAVIGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dominated by a huge holographic map of the galaxy charting the position and course of the ship. It is travelling from Earth to The Orion system and 'Thorus Beta'.

EXT. EXTERIOR HULL OF SHIP - CONTINUOUS

Near a main airlock hatch a Maint-Bot is making repairs on the hull with a flashing welder. This is bot 'PE-TT023R' (aka 'Peter'), it holds on with magnetic feet. Space all around.

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR IN SPACESHIP - CONTINUOUS

Pale and windowless, hexagon shaped, with the occasional control panel or door. There are closable bulk-head doors that separate different sections. Corridors have 'maps' in middle sections to show the current number (this is '281, deck 2, section C'), these are otherwise very similar.

PAN ALONG corridor towards set of sliding doors, to...

FADE TO

SERIES OF SHORT SCENES ENDS

INT. THE GYM - MORNING

A small gym with a treadmill and familiar- gym items but most utilise holographic technology. Big enough for 4 persons. Unconvincing fake windows show outdoor Earth scenes that flicker. A sliding entrance door leads to a main corridor outside, another to a changing room with sonic shower.

CUE MUSIC : music continues from previous scene, LOUDER here.

On one of the treadmills is DAVE SPENCE. He is in a tracksuit and sweaty. Dave, 40, has a Northern UK Accent - possibly from Leeds or Manchester. His treadmill offers a partial 3d image to simulate walking through a hilly forest.

Dave is more interested in watching PRIYA RAI than running.

Priya is in tight Lycra doing aerobics on a mat. She is an Indian/American pornographic actress (21st Century), late 20's, very curvy, with enhanced chest and lips.

NOTE: Although little difference visually TIME onboard is 'Standard Earth Time' - all operates on 24 hours.

POV from Dave - watching Priya bending and stretching, panting slightly with sweat dripping from her toned body. She notices she is being watched and smiles back (at the camera).

DAVE (O.S)
You look so good like that Priya!

Dave looks Priya up and down, admiring her.

PRIYA
(coyly)
Why thank you Dave... I try.

Priya continues - teasing Dave as he stops running and watches. After a few moments Priya stops and turns to him.

PRIYA
Perhaps I'll look even better like
'this'?

Priya begins to undress - effectively doing a striptease.

BACK TO SCENE

As Priya is about to remove her sports-bra the changing room door slides open and BENNETT approaches, CHUCKLING.

Bennett, 25, has short dark hair. He wears a tracksuit matching Dave's and has an Australian accent.

BENNETT
So this is your idea of a workout is it Dave mate?

Both Priya and Dave turn to Bennett looking embarrassed.

DAVE
Er - I'll see you later Priya?

PRIYA
Ok Dave. I'll be waiting at home...
(coldly)
Hello Mr Bennett. And goodbye.

Priya shimmers and dematerialises - she is a hologram.

Bennett shakes his head and turns-on the jogging-machine - he scrolls holo-locations and selects a REMOTE BEACH.

BENNETT
I think you've boosted her AI far too much. Every upgrade uses-up huge parts of Alex's processors. Such a waste.

Bennett begins to jog, the 'scenery' moves with him.

DAVE
But she is so real now, she knows music and computers, plays chess, we get on so well. And in the bedroom...
(trails off)

BENNETT
Say what you will, but that's what it all boils down to. She doesn't need more AI for 'that', does she?

DAVE
Don't you use the 'holo system' too?

BENNETT
I had a classic 'Jane Russell' 1950's holo for a while - but I'm happy enough reading and listening to music.

DAVE
Not sure all those comic-books count as 'reading'?

BENNETT
Maybe not? But I like 'em.
(winking at Dave)
Maybe you're all the company I need!

DAVE
(rather worried)
Er - I am?

BENNETT
(amused)
Don't worry mate - we haven't been in
space that long. At least not yet...

Dave smiles and heads towards the shower.

CUE MUSIC : Music concludes with scene.

FADE TO

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - MORNING

Dave is sitting on a chair, leisurely working the controls. He is now dressed in his usual 'jumpsuit' with his surname and staff number on his pocket (Spence 8352).

CUE MUSIC : VOLARE (classical opera).

Dave SIGHS loudly - he has a distinctive sigh.

The door slides open and Bennett enters. He is in a matching jumpsuit but this shows his surname and Id number 9571.

DAVE
Good workout?

BENNETT
Not as much fun as yours I bet.
(pressing buttons)
You didn't tell me you were using the
old holo-emitters again? The ones your
predecessor was installing.

DAVE
Seems a waste not to? One day I'd like
to add more, finish them off.

Bennett sits in a spare seat and activates the console.

BENNETT
Yeah - and I know why. But so will

Alex. Mind if I change the track?

DAVE
If you must - nothing too heavy?

Bennett grins and presses another button.

CUE MUSIC : the track fades and is replaced by 60's BLUES ROCK (suggested is The END by The Doors).

BENNETT
Ah - now THIS is music...

DAVE
Not my era of choice though.

BENNETT
The 1960's were important - people experimenting and fighting 'the man'. Pity it all went downhill from there.

DAVE
I'm not big on ancient history.

Bennett's console shows a sea of technical data and task schedule that he and Dave have to work through.

BENNETT
You've done all the engine checks?

DAVE
Yep - must have had my juices flowing after the gym. I saw you set up a course correction, we're 0.0001 degree out again. Why not initialise?

BENNETT
I wanted you to see it first, Alex has miscalculated the gravity again. But I suppose long range probes aren't infallible and she had duff data.

DAVE
Well that's why we're here - 'the backup'. I'll patch it through now.

Dave works his controls for a moment then pauses.

DAVE
Oh - and one of the Bots is stuck.

Bennett presses buttons - details of 24 x 'Maint Bots' appear on a 3d map of the huge ship that shows their location and current tasks. One Bot is not moving and flashing red. A few others are flashing amber but most are in green and moving.

BENNETT
Not old 'George' again?

DAVE
Main-bot 'GE-0R37E' - you mean?

BENNETT
'George' sounds better. And he looks like a 'George', waddling and dumpy...

Dave looks over at Bennett's console.

DAVE
They all look the same to me.

BENNETT
A few others are low too. Maybe we need to reset their matrices?

DAVE
Yeah - I can do that, after the daily Cryo-checks. Want to do the honours then, with... er... 'George'?

BENNETT
I was me last time. Why don't you go?

DAVE
Ok, ok... Fair enough.

Dave works his controls and a CABLE sticks out from his chair that plugs into a SMALL PORT BELOW HIS EAR. His eyes glaze over and he slumps back the chair - as if in a trance.

BENNETT
(sarcastic)
Have a good trip.

Bennett continues checking his console and pressing buttons.

A new 'Bot' icon appears on the map in green, shown bigger and brighter than the other Bots as a different type.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR IN SPACESHIP - MORNING

Empty initially, only emergency lights. Labelled corridor 53 section D, Deck 4, this has an alcove with SLIDING DOOR.

CUE MUSIC : music continues from the previous scene.

PAN TO the alcove door.

This slides open to reveal a humanoid ROBOT with chunky arms and legs known as a SYMBI-BOT and 'remote'. The eye-lights come on and it steps out. This has the consciousness of Dave - now 'Robo-Dave'. Main lighting flickers on with movement.

Robo-Dave begins walking along and pauses to look up at wall map. He SIGHS in his distinctive manner and continues.

FADE TO

INT. CRYOBAY - MORNING

As before but darker as no movement, though each cryo-tube has its own dim lighting and glowing control panel.

CUE MUSIC: music continues from previous scene

Suddenly main lighting flickers on - a FLYING DRONE BOT emerges from a wall-port. It flies around and begins physically checking cylinder after cylinder - a mammoth task.

The bot hovers over a sleeper - a large lady with frizzy grey hair. Like all sleepers she is underwear with tubes attached, this is 'EMMA NOAKES'. The control Panel crackles on with her details -"Passenger 3479 - Emma Noakes, dob 14/04/2338", details of blood type, race, allergies, IQ, rank, etc.

FADE TO

INT. THE MAIN BRIDGE - MORNING

Bennett is sitting - before him a 3d image seen from the Flying Drone Bot in the previous scene. He is controlling the bot and looking at Emma. In the chair next to him lays Dave - plugged-in and immobile, like in a trance.

CUE MUSIC : music continues from previous scene

BENNETT

Don't worry my lovelies... Get your beauty sleep while others live and die endlessly on your behalf.

The monitor shows the hovering bot moving to the next human in the next cylinder. This happens to be Bennett himself - the real version or 'host'. This Bennett has longer hair and a beard and is early 40's. The younger Bennett smiles.

BENNETT
Well you're a handsome bugger?!

FADE TO

INT. DECONTAMINATION BAY - MORNING

A hallway with a airlock for exiting the ship - with a 'decontamination' area between two sliding hatches and small windows. A 'Bot Port' is near the inner hatch where Bots can recharge. Only dim emergency lighting on. Maint-Bot 'GEORGE' aka 'GEORGE' is inactive and has stopped.

CUE MUSIC : music continues from the previous scene.

The internal doors slide open and Robo-Dave enters, now carrying a small toolbox. The main lights flicker on as he approaches 'George' with another SIGH.

DAVE (V.O)
(to self, from Robo-Dave)
Well George - here we go again. Let's
check your power unit this time...

Robo-Dave opens his toolbox and pulls out a connection cable which he plugs into 'George'. There is a HUM of power and the robots eye-lights begin to flash. George BEEPS - a happy sound.

DAVE (V.O)
(to 'George')
Why didn't you recharge sooner?

Suddenly George seems 'distressed' and stomps away, spitting-out the cable. Robo-Dave tries to reconnect but George waddles away and resists, beeping angrily.

DAVE (V.O)
Are you malfunctioning?

George extends a stubby arm and tries to push away the cable. The more Robo-Dave tries the more distressed and rebellious George becomes. The robot waddles towards the sliding door.

DAVE (V.O)
Where do you think you're going? STOP!

And that's an order!!

Robo-Dave easily catches George, opens a rear panel in his back and presses a few buttons. George stops - deactivating.

DAVE (V.O)
Off to the repair bay for you. And
there goes my lunch-break...

Robo-Dave lifts George in his robot arms - he is VERY strong. Holding George with one hand his toolbox bounces to his other (magnetised). He through the door, back the way he came.

CUE MUSIC : music fades with scene.

FADE TO

INT. WORKSHOP IN SPACESHIP - PM

Partly automated but with a workbench and futuristic tools. In a corner stands an unfinished METRO-BOT - like a Symbi-Bot but more feminine, covered by a plastic sheet. Dave is human again and tinkering with George - the robots casing removed. Dave wears goggles, what he sees is shown on a monitor.

CUE MUSIC : NESSUM DORMA (classical) - When this track ends there is no further music.

DAVE
(to self)
Can't see anything obviously wrong.
Maybe you have a memory leak?

George emits a sad sounding BEEP.

DAVE
(loudly)
Alex - do you detect any anomalies in
'GEOR-37's circuitry?

Alex is a disembodied female voice - the ships computer.

ALEX (V.O)
No Dave, no anomalies detected. The central processor of 'George' is undamaged, the unit operational.

DAVE
Don't call it 'George'! This is just a maint-bot, a drone, understand?

ALEX (V.O)
Yes Dave, I understand. Do you wish me
to inform other Technicians of the
change of designation?

DAVE
No. Just do it.

ALEX (V.O)
Do you want the other Maint-Bot
designations reset also?

DAVE
What other designations?

ALEX(V.O)
Other designations have been updated
by Technician Bennett as follows:
Alfred, Dick, Harry, Henry, Huey,
Dewey, Louie, Tom...

DAVE
(interrupting)
Alex stop! I get the point...

Suddenly Bennett steps closer - he had entered unnoticed.

BENNETT
Get the point about what?

Dave is startled, he pulls off his goggles and turns to
Bennett (he can see normally without them).

DAVE
Don't sneak up on me like that!

BENNETT
Sorry! You know this door is faulty,
the beeper doesn't beep any more.
(pauses, smiling)
Maybe we need more Maint-bots?

Bennett nods to 'George'.

BENNETT
Anything wrong with him?

DAVE
'It' seems fine. But when I tried
recharging for some reason it seemed
to resist and pulled away.

BENNETT

Resist? Maybe we're just working these
bots too hard?

DAVE

I'll replace the main processor - if
it has anything stuck in its memory -
that should fix it.

BENNETT

Good idea. Oh - and I've reset the
Bots priority matrices. Perhaps we're
a bit to blame too?

DAVE

How do you mean?

BENNETT

You didn't return your Symbi-bot - I
nearly tripped-over the bloody thing
on the way. The Bots will return it
eventually but it runs them down.

DAVE

You leave yours out too?

BENNETT

Don't get all defensive. I'm just
saying how it is mate. Hell Dave,
maybe you need more time with Priya?

Bennett pulls the sheet off the Metro-bot and smiles. Dave
seems a bit nervous and looks guilty.

DAVE

Other than moaning, why are you down
here Bennett? Just to snoop?

BENNETT

You weren't answering on Comms. So I
came to check you've not blown
yourself up or anything.

DAVE

Sorry, I turned it off - didn't want
to be disturbed till this is done.

BENNETT

Careful Mate - you're getting like
Matthias. Well don't forget its the
big gig this evening. It took me a

week to program the holo from the archive material. It's as close we'll ever get to seeing the 'real thing'.

DAVE
(unimpressed)
Oh? How nice.

FADE TO

CGI / MODEL SHOT - SPACE ARK TRAVELLING IN SPACE

The ship is moving slowly through space, now passing an asteroid cluster in the distance.

Music begins to play, reverberating around the ship.

CUE MUSIC : PROMETHEUS (by Hawkwind)

PAN TOWARDS SHIP as it moves slowly through space.

FADE TO

INT. HOLODECK IN SPACESHIP - EVENING

A musical performance by Space Rock band 'HAWKWIND' on stage (from our present) - aging musicians using swirling psychedelic light effects, with 2 x DANCING GIRLS dressed as unconvincing aliens in sparkly costumes. All those on the stage flicker and fade in and out - they are holograms.

Bennett and Dave are seated apart, watching the performance.

CUE MUSIC : music continues from the previous scene.

DAVE
(calling over loudly)
You sure it was your turn again?

BENNETT
(calling back)
I thought you liked classical music?

BENNETT
This isn't classical music!

Bennett shrugs and turns to watch the dancers.

BENNETT
Seems 'classical' enough to me?

Bennett WINKS at a dancer, she smiles back and keeps dancing.

Dave gets up and moves to the DRINKS DISPENSER and he refills his plastic pint glass with more 'synthi-beer'.

BENNETT
(calling over)
I'll have one too mate!

Dave sighs, finds another glass and fills this also. He approaches Bennett and passes him the beer.

BENNETT
Pity its only 'synthi-beer'. I might set up that still again, as the sensors are on the blink.

Dave sits beside Bennett and swigs his drink.

DAVE
I heard they allowed the real stuff up until a generation or two back? They had 'troubles'... I heard it involved a predecessor of Matthias.

BENNETT
Wouldn't surprise me - he's mean enough sober, let alone drunk. Talking of troubles - that Metro-bot I saw in the workshop? You've been working on that again, haven't you?

DAVE
I like to keep busy... Thought I'd give Priya more time to herself.

BENNETT
Look mate - I'm not one to judge, but we all know what those things are for. I won't breathe a word, but Alex is bound to find out - like before.

DAVE
If she does she does. Worst case scenario is she'll replace me - with another me. Then I'll probably do exactly the same all over again.

BENNETT
She might tweak your genes, reduce your sex drive. Hell - she might even

use Boris the mad Russian. That clone who 'interfered' with the sleepers. Or make another 'me' or another Matthias.

DAVE

I'd have thought you'd like another 'you' running around? Then you can admire yourself even more.

BENNETT

He'd be under my feet, trying to out-do me. And Matthias is so grumpy... At least you and me can have a laugh.

Dave looks at Bennett coldly - unconvinced. Bennett nods to the stage, he seems to be enjoying the music.

BENNETT

I saw a spin-off of this band once. The great-great-great-grandson of the lead singer was on the drums.

DAVE

Let me guess, at 'The Clinton-MacDonald World Fest' of 2368'?

BENNETT

Yeah! All the big names were there... Deaf-Monkeys, Smeg-blaster, Doomhead, Scum, even that ginger fool from England with wailing voice.

DAVE

You know those are your hosts memories - not actually your own?

BENNETT

Yeah, well... My host was also in a Splatter-Punk band, 'The Droogs'. Had a minor hit on the holo-net.

DAVE

Yes, you mentioned that too... Many times. The real 'Bennett' seems quite a colourful character?

BENNETT

He really lived when he lived... A better life than a humble clone.

CUE MUSIC : music fades with scene.

FADE TO

INT. DAVES APARTMENT - EVENING

Small but futuristic, a bed and holo-PC on a desk. A sliding main door to main corridor and alcove 'bathroom' with a toilet, sonic-shower, sink and holo-mirror. The mirror shows the time and date (20/08/2678) and updates about the ship.

Dave works on his PC. Priya is dressed as a 60's Go-go dancer in a mini-skirt with knee-high boots and hair as a beehive. She is applying makeup in the bathroom mirror.

DAVE
(to self)
'Big gig of 68' my arse. What was so great about it anyway?

A message appears on Dave's holographic screen as he types:

ON SCREEN: No matching records found for 2368.

DAVE
Where are all the recordings? The embarrassing selfies, the shaky-hand held footage and naff sound?

Dave types again, growing confused.

ON SCREEN: No records found.

DAVE
No music events at the Trump International Park that year?

Priya sways over to Dave seductively, her makeup done.

DAVE
(typing)
What about his band?

ON SCREEN: No record of band 'The Droogs'.

PRIYA
Alright Dave my love? Anything wrong?

DAVE
There seems to be something weird going-on with the computer... Or something even weirder about Bennett.

Dave scratches his head and types again.

ON SCREEN: No active 'Michael Bennett' clone found. Please specify a current crew member ID number.

DAVE
(To self)
What the hell?

A photo of Bennett appears with general details about him, his IQ, weight, lifespan, etc - this flashes 'INACTIVE'.

PRIYA
(peering at screen)
But how is that even possible?

DAVE
Well I know he's a lazy bastard...

FADE TO

INT. DINNING ROOM - MORNING

A small futuristic cafeteria with a food dispenser and plastic plates, a table and chairs - enough for four persons. Dave is standing as he confronts Bennett, who is seated with a plate of scrambled-egg and looking very guilty.

NOTE: The main characters always wear the same 'jump suits'.

BENNETT
Ha! Well that's easy to explain.

DAVE
It is? How??

BENNETT
There's' something wrong with Alex -
if she's losing data and can't even
identify crew details.

DAVE
Oh? Just a glitch then?

BENNETT
(loudly)
Alex - when did you last run a full
self-diagnostic?

ALEX (V.O)
15.38 S.E.T on 7th March 2678.

DAVE
About five months ago?

BENNETT
Alex - run full self diagnostic now.

ALEX (V.O)
Unable to comply.

DAVE
Alex - explain why?

ALEX (V.O)
Unable to comply.

BENNETT
See? Mystery solved. Alex is buggered!

Bennett smiles and bites a mouthful of egg. Seeming relieved to be exonerated.

FADE TO

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - MORNING

Bennett and Dave are seated, jointly reviewing a map of the ship. The 'computer core' is highlighted the opposite end of the ship with a suggested route shown from the front bridge.

BENNETT
The nearest Symbi-bot is knackered - I told you to return them after use.

DAVE
Even the one at the Hanger is fifty miles away. I could still use it and take a turbo-lift, but it's a stomp.

BENNETT
Maybe bearable with some good tunes? I always knew I'd be a good DJ.

Bennett presses buttons and map of the bots is seen again - now more red ones shown near the computer core - immobile.

BENNETT
Wonderful. The nearest bots are out of power. Alex was supposed to re-set their recharging times.

DAVE
I'll have to go in person - check Alex
manually and recharge bots as I go.

BENNETT
That will take days though?

DAVE
Then the sooner I start, the better?

BENNETT
Where's Matthias? Perhaps he can do
something from his side? Lend us a
hand for a change.

Dave uses the 'Comms Unit' - like an Intercom but has a small monitor to see the person too. He presses the button.

DAVE
(to console)
Hey Matthias - Dave here. We might
have a bit of a problem...

There is no reply and no picture - just static.

DAVE
(angrily)
How long has this been broken?

BENNETT
I thought the bots fixed it? It
conked-out the other day.

Dave presses the button again - still static and a slight wailing sound - the Comms seem to be malfunctioning.

DAVE
Wonderful timing...

BENNETT
Maybe he buggered-up the Comms? He was
moaning about us not sharing holo-
programs again and about that last
card cards. Said you cheated.

DAVE
That was last year? I don't even
remember the last time I spoke to him.

BENNETT
I spoke to him a few weeks back. He's

as miserable as ever... And I think
you cheated too.

DAVE
(to console)
Matthias - I'm switching to text, if
you can hear me?

BENNETT
(under breath)
Shit - hope he didn't?

Dave presses a button and a holo-keyboard appears on the small monitor which he starts to type. What he types beams out of the Comms Unit as 3d holographic text.

SUPER IMPOSE (COMMS TEXT - typing): *Hey Matthias - Dave here. There may be a problem with Alex - will be checking the main core over next few days. How are things your side?*

DAVE
Perhaps we should have our quarterly 'get-togethers' again?

BENNETT
You might like hiking through miles of tunnels but I don't. He can come here if he wants company. Not that I expect he does, the grumpy git.

A message reply appears which Bennett leans over and reads.

SUPER IMPOSE (COMMS MESSAGE reply): *Hi Dave, same old same old here. Not noticed anything major apart from comms is playing-up again. Anything to worry about?*

DAVE
How old is he now, would you say? Must be not far off replacement age?

BENNETT
Clone years or real? In 'real' about sixty. He is normally replaced late sixties, when his cancer kicks-in. For me it's 58, but I like to think I leave a good-looking corpse.

Dave smiles as he types another message.

SUPER IMPOSE (COMMS TEXT typing): *Alex may have a data-leak - going to do a manual check. Want to meet up and help?*

BENNETT

Only you ever get to be 'the old man'
around here. Eighty for you, isn't it?

DAVE

It's a pity they didn't synchronise
our life-spans... Or replace us when
we reach the same age.

BENNETT

Yeah but they wanted 'natural overlap'
so there's always someone about
between cloning cycles.

A reply appears, Dave and Bennett read it with interest.

SUPER IMPOSE (COMMS MESSAGE reply): *Thanks but no thanks - busy cataloguing gaseous anomaly samples from last nebula. Let me know if you get stuck - Matthias out.*

BENNETT

You'd think he'd want to chat, what
with being alone for months?

DAVE

That's why he was selected. Why we all
were - we can take the solitude, the
endless boredom, year in year out...

BENNETT

Or at least we can with a few
holographic babes thrown in too.

FADE TO

INT. DAVES ROOM - EVENING

MUSIC plays in the background, from speakers around the room.

CUE MUSIC: CAPUA: O SOLE MIO (classical)

Dave is packing a rucksack. Priya is now wearing a revealing swimsuit and trying to get attention by adopting sexy poses. After a few moments of being ignored she sways over to Dave.

PRIYA

What's wrong love? You've not said a
word to all evening.

DAVE

There's a big problem with Alex. I'll

be setting-off for the core. I'll be gone several days I expect.

PRIYA
Why not do it via a 'remote'?

DAVE
None operational nearby. Even nearer
Bots are out of power.

PRIYA
Can't Bennett take a turn? I miss you already - I hate being left alone.

DAVE
Bennett likes reminding me he did the last big fix... And we need to get it sorted before it gets any worse.

PRIYA
Can't I come too? Most maintenance areas have old holo-emitters.

DAVE
Technically it's a 'no-no'. Bennett won't blab but Matthias will report me if he finds out. Which he would.

Priya moves before Dave in a sexy pose, looking pleadingly.

PRIYA
But some of the scanners aren't working properly. And you could bring the portable holo-buffer - charge it from the power relay again?

Dave considers for a moment then finds a small device known as the HOLO-BUFFER from a drawer. This houses holograms and transmits them to emitters, like a lamp for a genie.

DAVE
Well... We know it all works.

PRIYA
Maybe I can even help? My original specs made me a bimbo, but thanks to upgrades I know all about computers.

Dave kicks a lose section of metal floor and opens it with his foot - this shows a pulsating CABLE beneath.

DAVE
I should get this fixed, not keep
tapping-it to charge things.

Dave plugs a cable from the floor into the Buffer.

PRIYA
I don't get out very often, do I?

DAVE
It's a long trek though, not much fun?

Priya's image shimmers - suddenly she is wearing a summer dress, floppy hat and sunglasses and has a picnic basket.

PRIYA
It will be like going on a picnic!

DAVE
Oh babe, you're so cute.

Priya smiles, pleased to always get what she wants.

CUE MUSIC : music fades if not already ended.

FADE TO

CGI / MODEL SHOT - SPACE ARK TRAVELLING IN SPACE

The Spaceship travels onward, a bright sun in the distance, shining light into the domed hydroponics area.

FADE TO

INT. STORE ROOM - MORNING

A mostly empty store room - a huge set of DOMINOES in an elaborate pattern on the floor that someone has spent hours setting-up. Bennett is leaning to the wall-console to talk. Dave's voice is heard - the small monitor screen is broken.

BENNETT
You're sure you don't want to use a
'remote'? It will take you days.

DAVE (V.O)
No - I want to recharge Bots as I go.
And bring Priya with me.

BENNETT
Bringing her seems a bit 'kinky' if

you ask me mate? But hell - have fun.

DAVE (V.O)

Fun? Yeah right... See you in several days. Oh and keep away from my dominoes when I'm gone. Dave out.

BENNETT

(to self)

What kind of man plays with dominoes when he has a sexy holo girlfriend?

Bennett flicks the closest domino and these topple and create patterns across the floor - flowers, hearts, and the name 'Priya'. Bennett watches these fall, rather amused.

BENNETT

(to self)

Ooops! Sorry Dave... Must be some space-turbulence.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR - MORNING

Dave and Priya are walking, main lights flicker on as they move. Dave has a toolbox clipped to his rucksack and Holo-Buffer on his belt. Corridors ahead have dim lights until they get closer. MUSIC from small speakers at various points.

CUE MUSIC: BLUES (like MEAN DISPOSITION by Muddy Waters)

DAVE

Actually I'm glad you came love. This slogging along gets so boring.

Priya stops to pick up something dropped from her picnic hamper. Dave turns back to her - she is bending over.

POV from Dave - admiring Priya's raised bottom. She notices him looking and turns with a coy smile.

PRIYA

Glad I could keep your spirits up.

FADE TO

CGI / MODEL SHOT - SPACE ARK TRAVELLING IN SPACE

The ship is passing a blue-coloured nebula.

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

FADE TO

INT. MAINTENANCE TUNNEL - MIDDAY

Dark and spooky - exposed pipes, wires, conduits and bits of circuitry all around. A crude metal grate for flooring above more pipes. Entirely BLACK until movement, then dim lights.

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

Lights flicker on as Dave and Priya approach - these tunnels stretch for MILES and behind them lights turn-off. Priya has changed her dress to a girly safari outfit with shorts.

PRIYA

Can't we use the normal corridors
Dave? It's so spooky.

DAVE

The main corridors only connect the main living areas. We need to reach the core - which will take days. You can go home though if you want?

PRIYA

No, I'm not complaining - I'm happy to share your adventures.

DAVE

Some adventures?!

PRIYA

For me it is - I don't usually get to see other parts of the ship.

DAVE

Most is like this. Nothing to see, nothing to do, just more walking.

Priya grins and skips ahead of him. She begins unbuttoning her top, her ample cleavage spilling out.

PRIYA

Want to stop for a little 'r and r'?
There's no point rushing, is there?

DAVE

Well... I am due a break.

FADE TO

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - MIDDAY

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

Bennett is leaning to the Comms-console and pressing a button to talk. An empty maintenance tunnel seen on the screen.

BENNETT
 (to Console)
 Bennett calling, Bennett calling...
 Davey boy - are you there mate?

DAVE (V.O)
 (muffled, from console)
 Lovely tits. So perfect!

BENNETT
 What was that? Say again Dave?

DAVE (V.O)
 (from console)
 Oh yes - keep doing that baby!

BENNETT
 (to self)
 Like a couple of bloody rabbits.
 (loudly to console)
 Dave mate - keep it in your pants!
 You've got a job to do! DAVE!

Dave appears on the small screen of the Comms unit - flustered and embarrassed (in the maintenance tunnel).

DAVE (V.O)
 (from console)
 Dave here. I was just...

BENNETT
 Yeah, yeah - I know what you were
 'just'... Well I 'just' called to say
 the Comms system is mostly back, I've
 had three Bots on it. Some of us
 actually do some work around here.

CUE MUSIC : music fades with scene.

SLOW FADE TO

INT. FURTHER MAINTENANCE TUNNEL - PM

A further section with 'turbo lift access' - like a chair lift for robots. A sign above states "Turbo-lift. Danger - not safe for humans". By the lift is a control console. Here is slumped an inactive Symbi-Drone. These tunnel sections show the position number - this is '1089 section E Deck 05'.

Lighting flickers on as Dave and Priya approach.

PRIYA

Look - another 'Symbi-bot'. Poor things are dropping like flies.

Dave examines the inactive robot as he speaks.

DAVE

You what babe?

PRIYA

Sorry - an expression from my era. Flies were annoying buzzing things, now extinct, like most insects.

DAVE

This has been here weeks - the Bots should have returned it by now.

PRIYA

But they're out of power too?

Dave removes his rucksack, opens his toolbox and SIGHS. He begins to re-charge the dormant 'Symbi-drone'.

DAVE

Things didn't look this bad from the main bridge. Why hasn't Matthias been keeping an eye on things either?

Priya adopts an innocent comical expression and adopts a sexy pose. Dave glances up at her - unable to resist her charms.

PRIYA

Don't blame me - I just work here.

FADE TO

INT. BENNETTS APARTMENT - PM

Almost identical to Daves, but dark and untidy. Posters of vintage rock bands and BURGER WRAPPERS scattered about. A

dying BONSAI TREE. 'SOMEONE DEAD' lays slumped on the toilet but he is not seen clearly in the darkness.

Bennett has a few WRAPPED BURGERS in his arms as he enters. He drops these onto the unmade bed and starts to unwrap them.

BENNETT
(calling to something)
Wake up - time for din-dins!
(pause, unwrapping)
You're sure you didn't want fries?

There is a shuffling sound in the corner of the room - something small moves in the darkness, something not human.

FADE TO

INT. DECONTAMINATION BAY - MORNING

Main-Bots 'TOM' and 'DICK' are here, inactive, their official names on them as 'TO-09-84M' and 'DI-0C-41K'. Dave is recharging 'Tom' from his toolbox as Priya watches. Tom's eye-lights glow and he returns to activity and BEEPS happily.

PRIYA
So these will recharge others nearby?

DAVE
Yep. A minimal charge will do, they can sort-themselves out from here.

Dave removes the charge cable from 'Tom' and begins to recharge 'Dick'. Tom the Maint-Bot beeps happily, disconnects and trundles away, heading towards the airlock.

PRIYA
This one - 'Tom' - seems on a mission?

DAVE
It will want to recharge and update itself. Probably feels guilty about being offline for so long.

Tom opens the airlock hatch and lumbers inside. This is a small room with another hatch and window - SPACE outside.

PRIYA
Er... Dave - what's it doing?

DAVE
That's the airlock! Stop it!

PRIYA
 (annoyed)
 I can't, can I??

Priya and Dave hurry to the hatch but a red light flashes in the airlock chamber and the hatch closes. They look through the inspection window as Tom works a panel. Dave presses buttons on a wall-console, trying to override the robot.

DAVE
 Too late! He's depressurising -
 opening the airlock!

PRIYA
 Oh god! But why?

A HISS and the outer hatch opens - Tom is sucked into space. A moment later the hatch closes and light stops flashing.

PRIYA
 Did that bot just kill itself, or am I
 missing something?

Dave hurries back to 'Dick', who is recharging. This robot seems to be growing distressed. Dave yanks out the cable.

DAVE
 You stay just as you are. Something is
 wrong here Priya - very wrong indeed.

The eye-lights of 'Dick' begin to fade again, the robot seems content to return back to dormant.

FADE TO

CGI / MODEL SHOT - SPACE ARK TRAVELLING IN SPACE

The ship is travelling - in the distance is a slow-moving asteroid. The tiny form of the maint-bot 'Tom' drifts away, lost in space and running out of power. It BEEPS unhappily.

FADE TO

INT. CRYO-BAY - PM

Bennett is walking along with his unseen companion (off screen), who he glances down to as he talks.

BENNETT
 This is one of the cryo-bays. Unlike
 hydroponics everything here is frozen,

waiting to thaw once the ship arrives.

The unseen creature SQUEAKS as if asking a question.

BENNETT

This way they don't need living quarters and save on resources.

Bennett points to a cylinder - the occupant inside is the real Dave, he is about 30 and has a bushy moustache.

BENNETT

This one is my mate Dave - they all look a bit strange, but he's not too bad once you get to know him.

FADE TO

INT. MAINTENANCE TUNNEL - PM

A 'processing hub' is plugged into the wall - a lamp and cooker in one. A bowl of noodles heats on top. In the background corridor lights are turning-off (as no movement). Dave is pulling-out a self-making bed-roll as Priya watches.

PRIYA

Should we tell Bennett about the Bot?

DAVE

We will - tomorrow. His shift will have ended by now, he'll moan if I call him about work stuff, saying "Well what can I bloody do about it?".

PRIYA

I can keep watch while you rest - look out for 'space rats'?

Dave stirs the noodles.

DAVE

Space Rats? I hate those things. Are there any around here?

Priya smiles, amused by human fears. She looks about.

POV from Priya. She gazes about and her view turns to 'night vision'. We see numerous RAT-LIKE CREATURES scurrying silently about - repulsive mutant rodents in darkness.

PRIYA (O.S)
No, none at all. Don't worry love.

DAVE (O.S)
That's alright then.

SLOW FADE TO

INT. FURTHER MAINTENANCE TUNNEL - MORNING

As before but no Symbi-bot, this is labelled '859 section H Deck 05'. Lights are on. Dave has his backpack over his shoulder and is pressing the console and leaning closer to talk. Priya stands nearby, now in a leather cat-suit.

DAVE
(to console)
Yeah, jettisoned itself outside. I've stopped recharging the others for now.

BENNETT (V.O)
(from console)
A suicidal robot? Must be a first.

DAVE
How is the re-pressurising of the aft Cargo Bay going?

BENNETT (V.O)
Slowly. Nothing more from Matthias on Comms either - not that I'm looking forward to hearing his dull set tone... Where are you now Dave?

DAVE
Section H, the 800's. By this time tomorrow I'll be at the main hub.

BENNETT (V.O)
I'm not sure it was a good idea to bring that holo? Must be distracting?

Priya looks offended and folds her arms.

DAVE
Actually I've been glad of her company... How about some more music?

BENNETT (V.O)
Sure mate - any requests?

DAVE

Something that I'd like for a change -
classical, nothing heavy.

BENNETT (V.O)

Coming right up. I'll speak to you
again tomorrow? Call if you need me,
unlike Matthias I'm happy to chat.

DAVE

Ok Bennett, stay out of mischief.

BENNETT (V.O)

(amused)

You're the one with the sexy holo for
company. Seeya mate. Out.

Dave steps away from the console and turns to Priya.

DAVE

Alright there, 'sexy holo'?

PRIYA

I suppose so. Mr Bennett never says
anything nice about me.

CUE MUSIC : 60's POP ROCK (like TICKET TO RIDE The Beatles) -
begins from the fewer speakers in parts of the corridor.

DAVE

He is just jealous. His only
meaningful relationship in all his
clone lives was his hand.

PRIYA

I'm not real though, am I? Just lights
and a computer program.

DAVE

You're real enough to me, my love.

Priya smiles at Dave for a moment. He picks up his toolbox
and heads through the corridor, Priya begins to follow but
stops and calls to him - a little distressed.

PRIYA

I can't go through - no emitters!

Dave returns as he pulls out the holo-buffer from his belt -
this is pulsating softly with pink lights.

DAVE
End of the line then. Want me to
transfer you back so you can go home?
Or wait here, in the holo-buffer?

PRIYA
Can you transfer me back to the buffer
when you're returning?

Dave waves the device at Priya - unknowingly tormenting her.

DAVE
No - from the system I can only
transfer you back from home or in a
workshop. It's a one-way ticket.

PRIYA
So I'll be stuck in the system?

DAVE
And I'm not sure what state Alex will
be in - her voice responder is
offline, she's getting worse.

PRIYA
I'll wait here then, offline in the
buffer. I can play solitaire or do
'virtual shopping'. If you get lonely
or want a break just come and find me?

DAVE
Ok babe - I'll see you later then,
hopefully with everything fixed.

Priya nods, she leans to kiss Dave but passes through him.

A little embarrassed she fades away, dematerialising.

The holo-device in Dave's hand stops pulsating - he kisses it
and puts it in a recharge cubical. He SIGHS and walks away.

FADE TO

CGI / MODEL SHOT - SPACE ARK TRAVELLING IN SPACE

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

The ship is travelling past a distant asteroid field. Some
asteroids are beetle-shaped. The ship travels onward.

CUE MUSIC : music fades with scene.

FADE TO

INT. THE ALEX MAIN DATABANK - NIGHT

Dave is seated before a 3d holographic female face of 'Alex'. His toolbox open - full of futuristic-looking tools.

ALEX (V.O)

All systems operating within standard parameters.

DAVE

That's not right though is it? You have corrupted and inaccessible files. Can you explain?

ALEX (V.O)

All systems operating within standard parameters.

DAVE

(to self)

It doesn't take an expert to see you have problems. Why is your remote link not even connected? You won't be able to access all key areas?

ALEX (V.O)

All systems operating within standard parameters...

Dave SIGHS loudly.

FADE TO

INT. THE GYM - MORNING

Bennett is running on the treadmill, in his tracksuit. He is not alone - 'something' is running on the machine next to him (but off screen and unseen).

CUE MUSIC : suggested is I GOT YOU BABE (by Sonny and Cher)

After running for a few moments Bennett stops and turns-off his machine. His mysterious short companion is still going.

BENNETT

Don't over do it! I know you've been cooped-up for ages, but...

The unseen companion slows and a SQUEAK is heard - rather

like a giant mouse. Bennett smiles and nods.

BENNETT
Yes, ok - good point.

FADE TO

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - MORNING

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

Bennett is dressed normally and is leading 'something' into into the room through the door, MUSIC continues.

POV from mysterious being, following Bennett. This is small - the size of a cat, it sees more colours than humans and colours on screen should have more hues.

BENNETT
This is our main bridge - not much,
but it somehow feels like home.

Bennett sits in a seat and the unseen watcher follows.

BENNETT
I'll show you the controls, but its simple stuff really...

The unseen being sits in the spare seat and looks around.

BENNETT
I know, not very luxurious.

Another SQUEAK - from the unseen being agreeing.

CUE MUSIC : music fades with scene

FADE TO

INT. FURTHER MAINTENANCE TUNNEL - MORNING

Back in '859 section H Deck 05' where the holo-buffer was left to charge. Lights are on as people are here.

Bag-free Dave presses a button on the holo-buffer and Priya materialises. She is now dressed as a Playboy Bunny-Girl.

PRIYA
Dave! All done already?

DAVE

Sadly not... I need your help Sexy.
Alex is more messed-up than I thought.
Can you transfer yourself to the main
network? Come over and help me?

PRIYA

Oh? Ok - sure! Anything for you!

Priya blinks her big eyelash's for a moment then shimmers and dematerialises. He clips the buffer on his belt.

FADE TO

INT. THE ALEX MAIN DATABANK - MIDDAY

The face of Priya is now on a side monitor screen. The image of Alex is replaced by a sea of data - some is red and is gibberish and corrupt. Dave is seated, working the controls.

PRIYA (V.O)

(from monitor)

Can't you restore Alex from back-up
files - replace corrupted data?

DAVE

I tried that but there's too much
effecting the main system - the
corrupt coding isn't obvious either.
See how at a glance some looks ok?

PRIYA (V.O)

But why did this suddenly happen?
After all these years in deep space?

DAVE

It looks like something purposely
infected Alex, all starting about nine
months ago. Let's check the logs for
anything unusual around then.

On screen the data scrolls to a set of 3d holographic master files (like a giant spider diagram) this shows files dated around November 2677. Some files are in red, some in amber - some connection-lines between files flash red (ie problems).

PRIYA (V.O)

Already checking love... Many records
are corrupted and degraded. It's like
a 'needle in a haystack'.

DAVE

We'll have to check each available record. If we can guess the cause perhaps we can find a solution?

PRIYA (V.O)

Leave that to me - I can do that much faster than you. Let's see...

DAVE

November... Your big upgrade was around then, wasn't it?

PRIYA (V.O)

My 'augment' might have slowed Alex a few minutes, but nothing more. Oh! Here is something Dave... Look?

A set of electronic files zooms and flashes.

DAVE

Oh yes - when we picked up that asteroid? I remember now.

PRIYA (V.O)

I've found a visual record from security. Partial only, corrupted.

PAN TO MAIN SCREEN - this shows the following scene...

CUT TO

INT. DOCKING BAY 'FOOTAGE' - DAY

A couple of small SHUTTLES are docked by vast hanger doors. A big lump of space rock is here. The Maint-Bot 'Tom' is drilling the rock with MATTHIAS and Bennett. A HOVER-CART is being loaded with lumps of GOLD and minerals from the rock.

Matthias is about 60, a black man with white frizzy hair. His jumpsuit has his surname and number: Ambola 357.

POV as seen from a surveillance camera looking down. Sound is muted other than the Voice Over.

DAVE (V.O)

I remember this... Minerals found on an asteroid, they harvested while I stayed on the main bridge.

Bennett runs a hand-held scanner over the rock and nods to

Matthias - their work here is done. Matthias sits on the hover-cart and drives it away - moving out of sight.

The Maint-Bot 'Tom' begins to sweep-up the debris and tidy.

DAVE (V.O)
With Bennett away I did your upgrade,
no-one was around to complain.

Left alone Bennett quickly continues DRILLING. After a moment he finds an hidden compartment in the asteroid. He pulls out AN ALIEN EGG - like an Ostrich egg. He gazes furtively around, tugs the egg into his attire and hurries away.

DAVE (V.O)
Sneaky bastard! Did you just see that?

The image 'pauses' and Bennett freezes mid-step.

PAN OUT TO

INT. THE ALEX MAIN DATABANK - CONTINUOUS

The footage of the previous scene is on the monitor, paused. Watching is Dave, with the face of Priya on a side-screen and turned to watch the main screen also.

DAVE
Alex - analyse what is seen in
Bennett's hands and report?

ALEX (V.O)
Unable to comply. Scanners were not
operational at the time of recording
or relevant data is missing.

PRIYA (V.O)
Transfer me inside Dave? Maybe I can
see what it is up close?

PAN TO main monitor.

The docking-bay scene rewinds and pauses at the beginning.

INT. DOCKING BAY 'FOOTAGE' - DAY

As before - with the Bot, Bennett and Matthias working.

Priya appears - materialising. Now dressed in a schoolgirl outfit with ponytails. She skips happily around the room - none present can see her. She waves at the camera, grinning.

PRIYA
I'm in Dave! Yoo hoo! Can you see me?

DAVE (V.O)
Yes love - stop mucking about.

Priya prances as she watches Matthias and Bennett - like a mischievous girly-ghost. As Bennett finds the egg footage SLOWS but Priya moves normally and leans closer to look.

PRIYA
Some sort of egg. Definitely organic,
the size of an ostrich. A space egg?

Priya peeps into the cavity where the egg came from as Bennett slowly walks away, hiding the egg as before.

PRIYA
Just the one, no more inside.

DAVE (V.O)
Looks like he was keeping it for
himself? But why the secrecy?

PRIYA
Maybe he just wanted an omelette?

SLOW FADE TO

INT. DINNING ROOM - MORNING

Bennett is eating an omelette.

BENNETT
(to self)
Why do I always feel somehow guilty
eating an egg?

There is BEEPING from the Comms-console. Bennett rises and presses the button to talk. The tiny view-screen is broken.

BENNETT
Bennett here. Dave is that you?

DAVE (V.O)
(from console)
Well who else would it be?

BENNETT
Could be Matthias - if he's finally
stopped sulking. What's up mate?

DAVE (V.O)
Just an update. I've re-patched Alex
but there's still some sort of system
corruption spreading. I'm a bit out of
my depth to be honest.

BENNETT
Get Matthias to help? He's the big
computer geek, assuming it wasn't him
who messed Alex up in the first place.

DAVE (V.O)
The problems started after we picked-
up that asteroid last year. I was
wondering if there's anything you can
remember? Or anything to tell?

BENNETT
To tell? Such as?

DAVE (V.O)
Anything memorable or unusual happen?

BENNETT
Not really, no... Although it made a
nice break from the routine.

DAVE (V.O)
That asteroid seemed mineral rich, far
too tempting to just ignore?

BENNETT
I'm no mineralogist, it was Matthias
who noticed it. Rock is rock to me.

DAVE (V.O)
Well... I'll head back shortly.
'Shortly' being about a week! Oh - can
you dig out the hard-copy manuals on
Alex? We may need to try resetting
things manually. Dave out.

Bennett rolls his eyes and heads back to his omelette.

FADE TO

INT. THE ALEX MAIN DATABANK - MORNING

The image of Alex is back on the screen, with Priya on the side-monitor. The two 'ladies' glance disapprovingly at each other. Dave is packing his tools into the toolbox.

ALEX (V.O)
All systems operating within standard parameters.

DAVE
You said that before - but there are still whole reams of corrupted data.

PRIYA (V.O)
Could it be one of those computer thingies - you know? A virus?

DAVE
Alex should have all sorts of safeguards and counter-measures.

ALEX (V.O)
All systems operating within standard parameters.

DAVE
(to self)
Why didn't the Bots fix the basics?
It's as if they purposely left Alex more vulnerable.

ALEX (V.O)
All systems operating within standard parameters...

PRIYA (V.O)
Don't ask me Honey. Maybe grab a Bot and ask them? As long as the airlocks stay closed this time...

DAVE
(joking)
If only they could explain? Pity Binary was never my *forte*.

PRIYA (V.O)
Binary? That's a blast from my past.

Dave has finished packing his tools, he fastens the toolbox to his backpack and turns to the image of Priya.

DAVE
Well Sexy - I've done all I can for now. I'll call in on Matthias next, he's only half a day away.

PRIYA (V.O)
 Aw love, can't you head back? I just
 want to be home, all safe and snug.

DAVE
 An extra day won't make a difference.

PRIYA (V.O)
 But I've down-loaded several new
 lingerie outfits and swimsuits? I
 can't show you the full effect on a
 tiny screen like this... Please?

DAVE
 Don't worry, I'll be home soon enough.
 Thanks again for your all help.

Dave turns to the door. Priya looks irritated.

FADE TO
 INT. DECONTAMINATION BAY - MIDDAY

The inner airlock is open and Bennett is in the doorway, with a few hard-copy files and books in his arms. He is reading one of the files - which lists types of computer virus and common solutions. Music is playing from speakers.

CUE MUSIC: MAGNU (by Hawkwind)

BENNETT
 (reading to self)
 Viruses... Trojan horses... Malware?
 Zodiac Encryption codes? Matthias
 should have these, not me.

He THROWS the files on a pile by the outer airlock door then steps into the main hall. He presses the console - the hatch closes, warning lights flash and the airlock opens - the files are sucked out to space. Bennett watches, smiling.

BENNETT
 Sorry Dave... Looks like the hard-copy
 manuals were all misplaced.

FADE TO
 INT. MAINTENANCE TUNNEL - PM

MUSIC continues. (Heard from small speakers in the tunnel).

Dave is carrying his rucksack and toolbox as lighting flickers on. He SIGHS - not liking the music. He reaches a side door and sign above "Access to Deck 5 Section N".

DAVE
(to self)
At bloody last!

Dave presses the control by the door expecting it to open - nothing happens. He tries again - nothing.

DAVE
Oh 'frak me' - does nothing work??

Dave puts down his rucksack and opens his toolbox.

DAVE
Damned if I've walked all this way for nothing...

He retrieves a strange-looking spanner.

DAVE
Who needs Bots anyway?

FADE TO

INT. HOLODECK IN SPACESHIP - EVENING

MUSIC continues - played live by a holographic HAWKWIND on the stage. One of the dancers is bopping with Bennett, who admires her sparkly outfit. His unseen companion is in the shadowy corner, also DANCING happily to the music.

Suddenly LOUD BEEPING from a console in the wall.

BENNETT
(annoyed)
Oh really?

Bennett waves to his unseen friend.

BENNETT
Sorry about this.

Bennett presses a button on a panel on a chair - the band and dancers FREEZES as if paused.

CUE MUSIC - music stops suddenly.

The companion SQUEAKS as if annoyed. Bennett hurries to the

Comms-console and presses a button.

BENNETT
Bennett here. What now??

DAVE (V.O)
(distressed, from Comms)
He's dead! Matthias is dead!

FADE TO

INT. AFT BRIDGE - EVENING

A smaller version of the Forward Bridge - only two work stations. Matthias is DEAD and has been rotting several months - slumped in a chair. Dave is on the Comms system.

DAVE
(to Comms)
He has been dead for months!

BENNETT (V.O)
(from Comms - not seen)
Calm down! All clones die sooner or later. Just send for a cleaning-bot?

DAVE
No - you don't understand - there's no replacement coming. Matthias has been dead for months - left to rot here!

BENNETT (V.O)
Several months? But that shouldn't even be possible?

DAVE
It's true - he's not a pretty sight.

BENNETT (V.O)
But our vitals are monitored by Alex - why wasn't a new clone triggered? Why didn't Alex warn us he'd died?

DAVE
Something is wrong - VERY wrong... I should check on the cloning-banks too.

BENNETT (V.O)
Hold on Dave - don't panic.
(pause - thinking)
Ok - listen up. Come back here, I'll

re-programme a few of the Maint-Bots to help re-build Alex from the ground up. Then with her fixed everything should get back to normal. OK?

Dave observes the DUSTY DATA PAD near the skeletal hand of Matthias - Dave's typed message from earlier and the reply 'from Matthias' seen. Dave fills with dread as he reads.

BENNETT (V.O)
Keep it together - get your arse back here... Don't worry matey - we'll get this all sorted. Trust me!

SLOW FADE TO

INT. FURTHER MAINTENANCE TUNNEL - MORNING

This is section 334 section D Deck 5 and has an open inspection hatch with pipes and wires. Music is playing.

CUE MUSIC : MELLOW 70's ROCK (along the lines of PLANET CARAVAN by Black Sabbath)

Lighting flickers on as Dave approaches carrying his rucksack and toolbox. Reaching the console he closes the panel and sighs. He then presses Comms and Priya's face appears.

DAVE
Hi babe... I'm finally in section D.
Another days good stomp and I'll be back in civilisation.

PRIYA (V.O)
Dave I was thinking... If there IS a problem with Alex - it's probably effecting the Cloning Bay, right?

DAVE
The cloning bay is independent of Alex - it runs itself. As soon as we reach the end of our life or have an accident a new clone gets generated.

PRIYA (V.O)
Oh Dave - I'm scared. Something's just not right, is it?

DAVE
I got a text from Matthias before I left.. Bennett said he spoke to him,

just a few weeks ago.

PRIYA (V.O)
You don't think he...? You know?

DAVE
Killed him? It would take him over a week to reach Matthias unless he used a 'remote'. But they're all offline and the last to use any of them nearby was Matthias himself - I checked.

PRIYA (V.O)
If he was murdered - would his new clone would remember who did it?

DAVE
He would need to be scanned at the point of death, or his new clone will just have the same generic memories.

Dave heads through a different hatch and leaves Priya alone - her face still on the small monitor screen.

PRIYA (V.O)
I didn't know, I don't have access to all the systems you do.
(calling)
Wait Dave! The prow is the other way?

DAVE
(calling back)
I'm not going to the main bridge, I've a plan. Don't worry!

Dave wanders back to the monitor and image of Priya.

PRIYA (V.O)
(calling)
Just come home Dave! I miss you!

Dave is already gone, Priya looks annoyed.

FADE TO

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - PM

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

Bennett is seated, he is watching a blip on a map of the ship - showing Daves travel. He leans to talk to the Comms panel.

BENNETT

Where are you Davey boy? Comms are working now, I know you can hear me.
Hello - Dave? DAVE??

.beat.

No reply. Bennett angrily presses a few buttons.

BENNETT

Maybe this will get a reaction?

CUE MUSIC - the track fades and is replaced by louder music - 1980's THRASH (suggested is FIVE MAGICS by Megadeth)

BENNETT

I do LOVE the old classics...

FADE TO

INT. WORKSHOP - PM

Dave is readying components and tools on the workbench, hurriedly taking items from boxes. 'George' is gone.

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

The image of Priya appears on the screen above the bench.

PRIYA (V.O)

Er... What are you doing Honey?

DAVE

Making a surprise. But I need to concentrate - I'll contact you later.

PRIYA (V.O)

Ok - I'll be waiting at home.

(pause)

Bennett has been trying to reach you on Comms. He sounded angry.

DAVE

I know - he can wait too.

The image of Priya shrugs and the screen goes blank. Dave continues his work, clearly in a rush.

FADE TO

CGI / MODEL SHOT - SPACE ARK TRAVELLING IN SPACE

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

The huge vessel is passing a cluster of asteroids. The shutters of the hydroponics closes to protect the ship.

FADE TO

INT. WORKSHOP - PM

Dave is making something complicated. A 3d blueprint is on the monitor that zooms to the part being worked-on.

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

Robo-Bennett approaches behind Dave, unnoticed until he speaks. (As per Robo-Dave but with Bennett's mannerisms).

BENNETT (V.O)
(from Robo-Bennett)
I know what you're up to Dave.

Dave GASPS and wheels around, Robo-Bennett seems to be smiling and is standing right behind him.

DAVE
(guilty, stammering)
Y-y-you do?

Robo-Bennett taps his metal fingers on the bench.

BENNETT (V.O)
I've been tracking your movements.
You're putting together that old
Metro-Bot again, aren't you?

DAVE
Oh? Er...

BENNETT (V.O)
You don't have to explain.

DAVE
I don't?

BENNETT (V.O)
You've spend days with Priya - a
romantic trip through the tunnels. Now
you want the full experience, right?

Dave is relieved but tries not to show it.

DAVE
Er... Something like that.

BENNETT (V.O)
I can see she is hot, but she's not
worth risking early termination for.
And speaking of 'termination'...

Robo-Bennett steps menacingly to Dave.

DAVE
Termination?!

BENNETT (V.O)
Matthias - he is dead, right? Did the
cloning facilities check out ok?

DAVE
Oh! Er - yes, but offline. It will
take three months for a replacement
clone to be ready. Things are on auto
again - at least for now.

Robo-Dave turns towards the metro-bot.

BENNETT (V.O)
Anything 'odd' over there?

DAVE
Just rubbish and mess everywhere.
Matthias makes you look house-trained.

BENNETT (V.O)
I'll show you 'house-trained'!

Robo-Bennet TEARS OFF the head of the Metro-Bot.

BENNETT (V.O)
I think it best I hang onto this for
now - keep you from temptation.

Dave turns angrily to Robo-Bennett.

DAVE
(sighs)
So much for polite persuasion?

Robo-Bennett holds the head up for a moment.

BENNETT (V.O)
I feel an urge to recite some
Shakespeare suddenly - but I won't.

DAVE
I'm grateful for small mercies.

BENNETT (V.O)
Next time answer me on Comms, alright?
(pause)
I'll see you later then? For dinner?

DAVE
Yeah OK Bennett. See you later.

Robo-Bennett NODS, turns and lumbers away, the robotic head under his arm. Dave seems relieved but calls after him.

DAVE
Nothing too spicy though!

CUE MUSIC - music concludes with scene.

FADE TO

INT. DINNING ROOM - EVENING

Human Bennett waits to eat at the table - a meal for two of SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS. He examines the Metro-bot head, this has rubbery lips and sucks his exploring finger. He grins.

The door is heard to SLIDE OPEN but he doesn't look up.

BENNETT
(to self)
I think I did you a favour Dave, too
much fun will make you go blind.
(glances up)
What the 'Frak'?

Dave has a new LASER-RIFLE and aims this at Bennett.

BENNETT
What have you got there?

DAVE
A laser-rifle - powerful enough to
slice through organic matter but not
damage the ship.

BENNETT

Look mate - I know my cooking is crap,
but there's really no need...
(interrupted)

Dave steps closer, ready to fire.

DAVE

Hands up Bennett! Don't move.

Bennett raises his hands, his smirk fades.

BENNETT

Ok - take the head? Who am I to stand
in the way of 'true love'?

DAVE

This isn't about the head - you and me
need to talk.

Bennett shrugs and pats the head.

BENNETT

Ok matey - fire away?
(adding quickly)
Metaphorically - I mean!

DAVE

These last few months you seem
'different'. Not your normal self?

Bennett slowly stands with his hands still raised.

BENNETT

Well don't panic. There is always a
rational explanation...

DAVE

Then I'd like to hear it?

BENNETT

As I see it there are three
possibilities. The first is you're
going 'space crazy' - having a
breakdown. You've finally cracked.

Bennett smiles - Dave does not.

BENNETT

Second possibility - something is very
wrong with Alex and perhaps we're
being effected by it too?

DAVE

A strange phenomena? Something we
don't yet know? Then what do we do?

BENNETT

We replace the computer core. It's a
two-man job and I can't help you if
I'm dead. When fully operational Alex
might come up with the solution.

Bennett steps closer to Dave.

BENNETT

The third option is I'm really some
sort of spy. Although that sounds cool
it seems the most far-fetched.

DAVE

Stay back! Don't come closer!

BENNETT

Chill Dave - I find this very amusing.
We can have a good laugh over a
synthi-beer or two?

DAVE

Alex has been re-routed, sabotaged.
Even if she wanted to alert us about
Matthias someone blocked her. She has
a virus, something very deliberate.

BENNETT

Maybe it was Matthias himself? We know
he has strange moods as he gets older.

DAVE

You said you heard from him recently -
but he's been dead months!

BENNETT

Maybe it was months, not weeks? You
don't think I killed him, do you?

DAVE

His reply was a hoax - a pre-prepared
algorithm. Someone had to set it up,
and I'm sure as hell it wasn't me!

Bennett shrugs.

BENNETT

I honestly have no idea. Maybe it was him too - to skive off work?

(pause)

Look mate - you know me? Surely you remember our many lifetimes together?

DAVE

I remember a few Bennett's yes - but not you. You look like him, you talk like him - but you are NOT him.

BENNETT

You've lost it mate. You're sick. Put down the gun - I'm not your enemy.

DAVE

You never went to that 'great gig' in 2368 - there wasn't one! I checked.

Bennett shakes his head sadly.

BENNETT

That's a bunch of crap. Perhaps it's you that's the problem here Dave?
You're a defective clone?

Dave considers for a moment as Bennett steps closer.

DAVE

Move again and I'll shoot!

Bennett remains still and seems worried.

DAVE

If you ARE a clone, then why so worried? Another Bennett clone will just replace you.

BENNETT

I don't welcome being blasted. I'm very attached to my limbs.

DAVE

When I re-activated the Cloning Bay there were two new clones forming - Matthias AND a new Bennett. So the real Bennett must be dead!

BENNETT

Well Dave old boy - you got me.

Suddenly Bennett begins to JUDDER as if having a seizure - he transforms into a HIDEOUS MONSTROSITY of flailing tentacles and snapping jaws. This is 'MONSTER-BENNETT'.

Dave backs away - horrified and deeply shocked.

Monster-Bennett SHRIEKS and lurches towards Dave, tentacles outstretched and fangs ready to bite.

Dave SHOOTS and shoots again - bolts of energy hit the monsters chest. Monster-Bennett staggers back a few paces but SHRIEKS again and continues to advance.

Dave SHOOTS the door panel and FLEES. The door slides shut behind him, broken - locking the Bennett-monster inside.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR - EVENING

Dave is running for his life, glancing back and panting. He has his rifle over this shoulder. Bennett calls him from the Comms-Panel he passes.

NOTE: From this point on Bennett is less Australian sounding and more 'cultured' - dropping the pretence.

BENNETT (V.O)

I'm coming to find you Dave... You can run but you can't hide.

Loud music begins to play - cranked-up by Bennett.

CUE MUSIC : AGGRESSIVE THRASH METAL MUSIC (along the lines of DISSIDENT AGGRESSOR, the cover by Slayer)

Dave RUNS along the corridor, tormented by music and the voice of Bennett from the speakers.

BENNETT (V.O)

I know where you are Dave... There's no-where on-board I won't find you!

The Maint-Bot labelled '0R-02GER' (also known as ROGER) is further down the corridor, which is illuminated as per its movements. It waddles and turns to Dave as he approaches.

DAVE

(gasping for breath)

Robot - help me, I'm in danger - protect me!

Roger the robot lurches towards Dave, spinning its appliances menacingly. Dave backs away - surprised.

DAVE
Not me idiot! I'm in danger. A human
is in danger!

The Robot keeps advancing, lunging and swinging its appliances to try to injure Dave. Dave aims at the robot and SHOOTS - it partly explodes and collapses.

DAVE
(to self)
At least I know the gun works.

Dave hurries past the broken robot - entering another identical corridor beyond.

FADE TO

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - EVENING

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

Monster-Bennett lumbers into the room - his tentacles pressing buttons. On the main screen the image of Dave is seen, running down the main corridor with his rifle.

BENNETT
(to self - as Monster)
Run little man run! But you won't get
far... Not from me.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR - EVENING

MUSIC continues from the previous scene. It is very LOUD - to torment Dave. Dave is running - to his dismay the bulk-head door ahead CLOSES and small cameras turn to track him.

The music fades slightly as the voice of Bennett is heard.

BENNETT (V.O)
You can't get away Dave... I can see
you everywhere you go - every moment!

Dave opens a panel near the door and begins fiddling with circuitry inside, trying to hot-wire the door to open.

BENNETT (V.O)
I can close doors faster than you open
them. And send Bots to hunt you down!

DAVE
(shouting)
What are you? Who are you? How are you
doing all this and why?

BENNETT (V.O)
Come to the Comms point Dave - I never
was much good at lip-reading.

Dave approaches the console and presses. Bennetts image is obscured on the monitor (from this point on for all Comms) - now Bennett is a fuzzy shadow with gleaming yellow eyes.

DAVE
What are you? How did you change like
that? Where is the real Bennett?

BENNETT (V.O)
I'm sorry if I scared you. I have
nothing against you, I truly don't
want to hurt you if I don't have to.

DAVE
What do you want?

BENNETT (V.O)
I want the ship Dave - and the human
cargo here too. I want it ALL.

DAVE
You're a 'Jacker'? A space pirate?

BENNETT (V.O)
Hardly! No - but listen closely. Alex
is mostly under my control... The
virus effecting her is mine. The Bots
are now dangerous, they've been re-
coded and will kill humans on sight.

DAVE
I had a problem with one earlier. That
was your work, was it?

BENNETT (V.O)
Come and meet me Dave - I promise no
harm will come to you.

DAVE

You know its my job - my purpose - is
to safeguard the sleepers? I am
unimportant - expendable.

BENNETT (V.O)

Don't make me hunt you down. The
Passengers are safe. But cause
problems then I'll do what I must.

DAVE

I'll do what I must too!

Dave hurries back to the panel at the door. He resumes
fiddling with the circuitry. Bennetts voice calls.

BENNETT (V.O)

(from console)

Dave! Wait Dave! Come back!!

The bulk head door opens with jerky movements and Dave
hurries through to the corridor beyond.

BENNETT (V.O)

(from console)

STUBBORN BASTARD!

CUE MUSIC - when the current track ends it is followed by
another THRASH track (suggested is SEASONS IN THE ABYSS by
Slayer). This plays so loudly the walls vibrate.

FADE TO

CGI / MODEL SHOT - SPACE ARK TRAVELLING IN SPACE

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

The Ship continues through space, now passing a distant grey
planet with two moons.

FADE TO

INT. MAINTENANCE TUNNEL - NIGHT

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

Dave is very tired and limping slightly, his rifle over his
shoulder. As he hurries along lights flicker on.

After a few moments the music fades slightly and the voice of
Bennett reverberates around the tunnel.

BENNETT (V.O)
 Half of this is in your mind Dave.
 You've been infected. Remember that
 asteroid we picked-up? It brought an
 infection. You're very sick.

Dave continues hurrying along, heading to the next junction
 further ahead as more lights flicker on.

BENNETT (V.O)
 I'm your friend! Let me help you?

FADE TO

INT. FURTHER MAINTENANCE TUNNEL - NIGHT

MUSIC continues from previous scene.

Dave hurries along, tired - from a maintenance tunnel into
 this tunnel, which has a lift and a Comms-panel.

BENNETT (V.O)
 (from comms panel)
 You are seeing things - having
 hallucinations! Let me help you?

Dave is out of breath, he presses the comms-panel button to
 talk. Again the shadowy Bennett is glimpsed on the screen.

DAVE
 Oh - so I'm the crazy one - infected?
 Not you, the big weird space monster?

BENNETT (V.O)
 You need treatment Dave. Come to the
 Med Bay - you just need a dose of
 'Tomobarbital'. Hell you can
 administer it yourself if you don't
 trust me? I'll stay on the bridge.

DAVE
 We both know that acts as a sedative -
 and I'm already tired. And I suppose
 this noise you call music is an
 illusion too?

CUE MUSIC - the music volume fades and stops.

BENNETT (V.O)
 That was to torment you - to get your
 attention. I'm not a good cook but I

am a good DJ Dave - I can play both night and day. Non-stop! Keep you from resting as the Bots move in.

DAVE
Some friend?!

BENNETT (V.O)
But I am your friend - I could have depressurised your corridor - watch you sucked out into space. But I won't. Just come to the Med Bay. Once you've had the dose you'll see things clearer again. Dave? DAVE??

Dave is already running away.

FADE TO

INT. MAINTENANCE TUNNEL - MORNING

Dave is hurrying along but slows to catch his breath.

The voice of Bennett is heard from speakers, reverberating all around. He is singing.

BENNETT (V.O)
(singing like 'Daisy Daisy')
*Davey Davey - give me your answer
do...*

*I'm half crazy from the stress I get
caused by you...*

*It won't be a pleasant death, when you
draw your final breath...*

*But you'll look sweet, cowering at my
feet, doing whatever I say to do!*

DAVE
Oh god! I preferred the heavy metal?!

Dave catches his breath and carries-on running.

FADE TO

INT. FURTHER MAINTENANCE TUNNEL - MORNING

Dave is running through the tunnel with his gun.

Unknown to him (as in darkness ahead) Maint-Bots 'SIMON' and 'SARAH' (aka 'SI-0M069N' and 'SA-6R3AH') are present but not moving. Dave nearly runs into them as lights flicker on. They turn and advance menacingly, whirring pincers and tools.

Dave turns to run back and finds Robo-Bennett is behind him, rapidly approaching from further down the tunnel.

BENNETT (V.O)
(calling from Robo-Bennett)
Give it up Dave. There is no-where
left to run. Don't make me hurt you.

Dave FIRES at Sarah the robot and she EXPLODES into flames.

Simon the robot lunges forward and KNOCKS DAVE DOWN. The robot extends a 'welding torch' to burn him - they struggle for a few moments. Robo-Bennett arrives and GRABS Dave - he lifts him up and throws him into the wall. Dave lands heavily - right beside the turbo-lift.

BENNETT (V.O)
(from Robo-Bennett)
Always has to be 'the hard way',
doesn't it Dave?

DAVE
(winded)
Frak you! Whoever you are!

Dave rolls into the turbo-lift and presses a button. This SHOOTS UP and away rapidly, with Dave hanging desperately on. He zooms away through a hatch to the upper decks.

BENNETT (V.O)
(from Robo-Bennett)
You stupid stubborn bastard!

Robo-Bennett looks down - Dave has dropped his rifle.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR - DAY

Music plays from speakers throughout the corridor.

CUE MUSIC : 1990's RAP METAL (along the lines of KILLING IN THE NAME OF by Rage Against The Machine)

A FLYING DRONE BOT is moving alone - causing lights to flicker on as it moves through the long corridor - searching.

The bot moves away. In the distance far behind (unnoticed) is Dave following stealthily, limping.

FADE TO

INT. DAVES APARTMENT - DAY

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

Very dark. The portable 'Holo-Buffer' is on the desk.

The door opens - Dave staggers in, limping. He grabs the holo-buffer. He turns and is shocked to see a shadowy figure waiting beside the door - another Robo-Bennett.

BENNETT (V.O)
(from Robo-Bennett)
Hello Dave. Predictable as ever.

Robo-Bennet steps closer out of the darkness, eyes glowing.

BENNETT (V.O)
I knew you couldn't leave her behind.

DAVE
No! Keep away!!

BENNETT (V.O)
I don't want to kill you - or even
hurt you. Even though you've led me a
merry dance... Just surrender - you
know you can't get away.

Robo-Bennett SHOVES Dave roughly over.

BENNETT (V.O)
Where-ever you run I can arrive before
you and head you off!

Dave lands heavily - the broken bit of floor clatters. He quickly grabs the cable as Robo-Bennett moves closer.

BENNETT (V.O)
(from Robo-Bennett)
It didn't have to be this way Dave. I
have the bridge, I control Alex.

DAVE
Go to hell!

Dave ZAPS Robo-Bennett with the power cable. The robot

judders and staggers backwards.

FADE TO

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - DAY

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

A POV shot from Robo-Bennett from the previous scene on the main monitor. Dave is zapping Robo-Bennett with the cable.

Bennett is human again and plugged-into the console by a port under his ear - he judders. He yanks out the cable and rubs his eyes and breathes heavily, needing a moment to recover.

BENNETT
You bastard Dave! Was that really necessary?

On the monitor Dave runs away, exiting the room and leaving the door open. The image from robo-Bennett goes blank.

After a moment the image is replaced by the POV shot of a security camera in a corridor - watching Dave as he hurries out of the room and past. We see a glimpse of Robo-Bennett near the open doorway to Daves apartment - now broken.

BENNETT
Right. I'll fix you, you bugger!

Bennett presses a few buttons on the console.

FADE TO

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR - DAY

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

Dave hurries along, clipping the holo-buffer to his belt and gazing back for signs of pursuit. A small surveillance camera pans to follow his movements.

Ahead a bulkhead door closes and he is forced to stop.

The music fades and a new track begins to play.

CUE MUSIC : strongly suggested is the track MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (by The Police)

Dave presses buttons on the door console but nothing happens. Behind him further down another bulkhead door closes - Dave

is trapped. Undeterred Dave moves to a small hatch in the floor and begins to unscrew the handles.

BENNETT (V.O)
(calling from console)
Hey Dave - wait! Look at this!

Dave nearly has the emergency hatch open but reluctantly approaches the Comms-console and looks at the monitor.

PAN TO SCREEN on console. This does not show the shadowy Bennett form, instead it shows The following...

INT. CRYO-BAY - CONTINUOUS

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

A couple of flying drones are quickly returning to their wall-alcoves as red lights begin to flash.

BENNETT (V.O)
Whats pink and red inside that goes
'pop' in the vacuum of space?!

Suddenly TWO of the cylinders drop down (each occupied by a sleeping human) and load into what looks like a torpedo bay.

DAVE (V.O)
Wait you madman! Stop!!

BENNETT (V.O)
Only when you calm down and surrender!

The two cryo-cylinders move out of sight on a sort of conveyor belt, towards a wall-hatch (like torpedo launcher).

EXT. EXTERIOR HULL OF SHIP - CONTINUOUS

As before the external part of the ship is seen, now with two cryo-cylinders are floating nearby - having been ejected.

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

BENNETT (V.O)
Off they go! Bon voyage!

The two cryo-pods float as the ship moves away. The lights on them begin to flash red, those inside expiring.

BENNETT (V.O)
Just like a message in a bottle.

INT. CRYOBAY - CONTINUOUS

MUSIC continues from previous scene.

As before but with two cryo-cylinders now missing. Another two cylinders begin to flash and move onto conveyor belts.

BENNETT (V.O)

You have FAILED Dave. Failed your primary mission - failed in your duty! Each human jettisoned is because of you. Don't make me kill more?

PAN OUT - TO

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

MUSIC continues.

As before - now Dave is typing frantically on the Comms-Unit. The small monitor shows the previous scene with two more cylinders being loaded. A TEXT MESSAGE appears from on the Comms-unit : ABORT OVER-RIDDEN - COMMAND CODE INVALID.

BENNETT (V.O)

Nice try Dave! But too slow and I saw it coming. Say goodbye to another two!

The text fades and on the small monitor showing the Cryo-Bay two more cylinders disappear and move to be launched.

DAVE

No! Stop! WAIT!

BENNETT (V.O)

I'm thinking of upping the stakes. Instead of two at a time I'm thinking twenty or thirty?

DAVE

Stop this! It's murder! WAIT!

On the monitor the two cylinders 'POP' away - out into space.

BENNETT (V.O)

But you can end this Dave? Give up!

EXT. EXTERIOR HULL OF SHIP - CONTINUOUS

MUSIC continues.

Now FOUR Cryo-pods are drifting as the ship moves away.

PAN TO ONE of the Cryo-cylinders and ZOOM IN.

This is the cylinder of Emma seen before, a red flashing light in her cubical. She awakens and looks around in horror. She pounds on the glass and SCREAMS an unheard scream. The cryo-cylinder drifts away, like a message in a bottle.

CUE MUSIC : music fades, if not already ended.

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - CONT.

On the monitor is the previous scene - the four cryo-tubes floating in space. Bennett seems unhappy to see this.

BENNETT
(to self)
What a waste...

He presses buttons, the screen changes to show the main corridor where Dave was a moment ago, the hatch in the floor is being closed and Dave has just left.

BENNETT
Call my bluff, did he?

Bennett works controls, the screen changes to show the position of Bots and robots - some in red, there are no healthier bots shown near the front of the ship.

BENNETT
No Bots for miles... The closest
Symbi-Bot is an hour away. Great.

SLOW FADE TO

INT. SHAFT TO POWER CONDUITS - DAY

A long metal shaft, designed for Bots. No light but PULSES OF ENERGY that waft up and around a walkway, bathing Dave and Priya in greenish light as they crawl. Behind them at the entrance is a Comms-Panel and opened metal grate leading down to a maintenance tunnel.

Dave leads with Priya behind. She now wears tight-fitting paramilitary gear and a bandana - a girly Rambo.

Bennett is having to SHOUT from Comms as no speakers in this tunnel - his voice echoes from outside and all around.

BENNETT (V.O)

Found you! For a moment I was getting worried...

Dave and Priya continue, she seems worried and frightened.

BENNETT (V.O)

By the way Dave - the last batch jettisoned included your host. You're now officially the last ever 'you'. Mine too actually.

PRIYA

(whispering)

Wait love - you're hurt? At least get to a first aid box.

DAVE

Quiet - he'll hear you!

BENNETT (V.O)

With the other 'would-be' hosts gone there are NO suitable clones left. That and a problematic 'Alex' means the ship is in big trouble. I strongly suggest you surrender Dave - before I get rid of a whole Cryo-Bay?

Dave pauses to rub his painful arm.

BENNETT (V.O)

I know where you're heading Dave... The power conduits - right? You think you can re-route power, try to end my control of the ship? Very clever.

Dave frowns but continues onward.

BENNETT (V.O)

But flawed... While chasing you I've been moving a Symbi-Bot towards the Aft Bridge. I'll just transfer myself across... Hell I'll probably run things better there, thanks to the upgrades Matthias added.

There is a PULSE OF ENERGY near Dave. This makes Priya flicker and fade - she cowers away.

BENNETT (V.O)

Careful Dave - one touch from those

plasma beams and it's over. There won't even be much of you left for the Maint-Bots to try and recover.

PRIYA
(whispering)
Is that true Dave? I'm frightened!

Dave turns to Priya and puts his finger to his lips.

BENNETT (V.O)
Dave - you crafty bugger! You extended the range of the holo-emitters? I didn't think to scan for 'her'.

Priya suddenly 'freezes' as though paused. Her image flickers and fades in and out - her program being taken-over.

DAVE
Priya! NO!

Dave crawls quickly back to the entrance - through Priya - and uses the Comms-Panel. Shadowy Bennett is on the screen.

DAVE
Leave her alone! Stop it!!

BENNETT (V.O)
Ah - finally got your attention? Say goodbye to Priya Dave - I've already begun the deletion process.

DAVE
Wait! Don't delete her - she's done nothing to you. She's no threat.

BENNETT (V.O)
You weren't so concerned about all those humans I jettisoned. Who'd have thought you're such a romantic?!

DAVE
Stop this - I'll co-operate. You win.
Just don't delete her.

BENNETT (V.O)
Meet me on the bridge - we'll talk.
I'm sure we can reach an 'accord'.

Dave peers down into the Maintenance Tunnel below the open grate - he sees the bulkhead doors slide open.

BENNETT (V.O)
 Follow the doors to the bridge... As
 for now your holo-girlfriend is safe,
 just as long as you behave.

FADE TO

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - DAY

There is an image of Priya with 'DELETION IN PROGRESS' on the screen - this says 'PAUSED'. Bennett is 'human' and seated, drinking synthi-beer. Music plays quietly here.

CUE MUSIC: suggested is WHO'S GONNA WIN THE WAR (by Hawkwind)

The doors are already open as Dave approaches and enters.

Dave is clearly exhausted, limping and has an injured arm.

DAVE
 Here I am, as promised.

BENNETT
 You look a wreck.

DAVE
 No thanks to you. But one thing is
 clear - you still want me alive.

BENNETT
 I do indeed.

DAVE
 Then you must need me to co-operate,
 why I'm not dead, right?

BENNETT
 How very perceptive. Yes - only three
 humans on board have - or 'had' - the
 access I need, the skeleton crew.
 Although I have a large degree of
 control Alex is proving resistant.

DAVE
 I take it you are not a 'Bennett
 clone'? You're just an imposter?

BENNETT
 I'll explain all in a moment... And
 need I remind you that the cloning of
 a new Matthias and a new Bennett is

already underway. The hosts are gone but they will be my backup.

DAVE

Why the urgency? Are we approaching somewhere specific?

BENNETT

Well done Dave, you are sometimes very perceptive. We want you to divert the ship when it reaches a certain point - in a weeks time. I've the new course details set, but unfortunately Alex won't accept them, not from me.

DAVE

So you're not really Bennett?

BENNETT

Merely a close approximation. But not close enough to fool the computer.

FADE TO

INT. NAVIGATION ROOM - DAY

Bennett is leading Dave inside the room. The star map shows a new planet and route - closer than the main destination.

CUE MUSIC : music continues from the previous scene until it reaches the end and stops.

DAVE

So where is this place?

BENNETT

The Stella-cartography room?

DAVE

No - the destination you want.

BENNETT

All right here - pre-set and loaded. As you will see it's more than suitable for human needs?

Dave moves to displays screens and checks some details.

DAVE

But this is already populated? With beings we don't even know?

BENNETT

Why go to an alien world with unknown dangers when you'd be welcome on one with friendly inhabitants? Given the choice I'd know what I'd do.

DAVE

Why are these 'inhabitants' so friendly? What's in this for them?

BENNETT

Nothing. We Abraxians are reptilian, we live in the warmer regions. You humans can live in the colder if you wish, or mingle - there is plenty of room and enough for all.

DAVE

You're one of them? An Abraxian?

BENNETT

I have that distinction, yes. And as you have probably surmised this is not how I really look. My appearance is merely an illusion - a projection.

DAVE

Why not approach us openly? Put forward your proposal officially and make peaceful contact with Earth?

BENNETT

We didn't know anything about your journey until a decade ago, it was quite a surprise to find you'd be passing so close to our world. Secondly - to reach Earth with a message would take centuries.

DAVE

We thought all systems here were lifeless, barren?

BENNETT

Yes yes - we know all that. If we were worried we've have taken much more direct action, believe me.

DAVE

So what is it you want?

BENNETT

Come to Adraxia Prime. Your colonisation process is automated so it makes little difference if you arrive there or Thorus Beta.

Bennett presses a few buttons to show Dave more details. Dave seems nervous and suspicious of him.

BENNETT

The difference being is that your trip will be shorter and you'll have friendly beings to help. If we change course soon we will arrive in eight months. Or carry-on and hope the remaining seventy years go smoothly?

DAVE

This is a big thing you're asking of me. I'm not the Captain, just a Maintenance Technician - a clone.

BENNETT

Your purpose is to react to anything unexpected - respond to unforeseen situations and make decisions? Well - decide then! Or mull it over a while?

DAVE

I am not sure I believe you.

BENNETT

If it sweetens the deal I'll remain in my current guise as not to scare you. And you can access the bits of Alex I've recently restricted.

DAVE

What about the real Bennett?

CUE MUSIC : music fades with scene - if not already ended.

FADE TO

INT. BENNETTS APARTMENT - DAY

The door slides open and Bennett enters, followed by Dave.

BENNETT

Right here - what's left of him... I didn't have the heart to dump him. And

'sods law' you'd spot the Cleaning Bot
carting his remains away and worry.

Bennett leads Dave to a small bathroom. On the toilet with his overalls around his ankles and bits of EGG SHELL sits the mummified remains of another Bennett. He has been dead about 9 months - his left arm is missing, gnawed-off.

BENNETT

He looks rather like 'Elvis' I
thought. Perhaps added-to by the
burger wrappers?

DAVE

You killed him?

BENNETT

I didn't have to. A Denubian Egg was
in an asteroid we laced with minerals
we knew you couldn't resist. He
apparently kept the egg - perhaps
thinking it was valuable.

DAVE

Knowing him - er 'you' - he was always
rather greedy. I wish he'd have
followed proper protocol for once.

BENNETT

When it hatches toxic gas is released
- to get rid of hungry predators.

DAVE

Was this egg 'you' then?

BENNETT

I was hatched but no, that wasn't me.
I'm an Abraxian, although we are
closely related to the Denubians.

There is a rustling sound - a small reptilian being emerges from under some sheets on the bed. Dave springs up to hit it. This is BOB THE DENUBIAN - Bennetts hidden companion.

DAVE

A space rat?!

BENNETT

This is no rat - this is 'Bob'. He is
quite friendly I assure you. And has a
wonderful singing voice - just as good

as that Pavarotti you go on about.

Bob makes an unhappy SQUEAK as it sits and looks at Dave.

BENNETT

Bob is incredibly sensitive, I hope
you haven't hurt his feelings.

Bennett pats 'Bob' on his scaly head.

DAVE

That thing has been hiding here this
whole time? 'Bob' I mean?

BENNETT

Yes... Your real Mr Bennett sabotaged
the sensors here to hide the egg, not
realising it would hatch. Bob is no
pet, I can 'mind-link' with him - like
telepathy. This little fellow kindly
opened your airlock and here I am.

DAVE

But what about your appearance?

BENNETT

A bio-suit- similar to your holo-
technology, plus shields in case some
lunatic blasts you with a laser-rifle.

FUZZY FADE TO

ALIEN FLASHBACK BEGINS (from Alien-Bennett)

INT. DECONTAMINATION BAY - DAY

Bob - smaller as a child - hops up and down happily as Alien-Bennett enters via the airlock from outside. The glimpse of his docked vessel beyond looks 'organic', as if grown.

Alien-Bennett has a shroud and cloak but is the same height and build as the regular Bennett. His face is hidden but he has green reptilian hands and gleaming yellow eyes.

DAVE (V.O)

And you've been here for months?

BENNETT (V.O)

Since the asteroid, yes. Our lifespans
are double yours so time is not as
important. And more time to

investigate you, your ship and culture. Bob let me in and we made it to Bennett's room. From there I used my bio-suit to copy Bennett's appearance and voice from recordings.

DAVE (V.O)
This ship is a mess - our sensors should have spotted you arriving.

BENNETT (V.O)
Bob is easy to miss and my ship has 'scan inhibitors'. I didn't charge blindly in - I'd been monitoring your ship for weeks, waiting my moment.

FUZZY FADE TO
INT. BENNETTS APARTMENT - DAY (9 MONTHS AGO)

The corpse of Bennett is fresh - with both arms - and the place is tidier and brighter.

The door slides open and 'Bob' leads Alien-Bennett inside.

Alien-Bennett aims his wrist computer at the corpse then his image shimmers and he becomes Bennett.

BENNETT (V.O)
I accessed Bennett's personal logs...
He wasn't overly flattering about YOU in them, but I finished learning all I needed to take his place.

Bennett pats 'Bob' and lowers the lighting to dark. 'Bennett' then sits at the desk and works the holo-computer.

BENNETT (V.O)
Within days I developed an in-depth knowledge of Bennett and this ship.

PAN TO BONSAI TREE in the corner. It is healthier here.

FUZZY FADE TO
ALIEN FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. BENNETTS APARTMENT - NIGHT

The corpse is old again and missing an arm, more mess. Bennett has concluded his tale to Dave. Bob is bigger again

and washing himself, rather like a cat.

PAN OUT FROM BONSAI TREE - now unhealthy.

BENNETT

I should confess that Bob did have a small nibble on Bennett. The newly hatched are always hungry. Since then I've been bringing him burgers - he rather likes those, even the gherkin.

DAVE

This was the time you were away with Matthias? The real Bennett I mean?

BENNETT

The other 'me' returned to stash the egg and had his 'accident'... I sent a bot to deactivate the cloning facilities - didn't want another 'me', but it was already offline.

DAVE

Affected by the computer virus?

BENNETT

No, I control the virus. We thought if we control the computer we'd control the ship. We hadn't banked on a small crew of humans trying to find ways to counter everything we did. So Bob and I were sent to infiltrate.

DAVE

Alex has all manner of backups and fail-safes. Only we 'skeleton crew' have control of all ships systems, access linked through our DNA.

BENNETT

Yes yes - very clever of you.

(pause)

I'd be prepared to remove the virus if you agree to change course? I've been nothing but open and honest.

DAVE

Finally honest - you mean? You say Adraxia Prime is eight months away?

BENNETT

Yes - a paradise in space. Better than
chancing another seventy odd years,
when things are already falling apart.
You'd be doing your people a favour.

SLOW FADE TO

INT. DAVES APARTMENT - EVENING

Dave is here, now washed and eaten. Priya is wearing a bikini, she seems excited and is watching Dave. Here too is The 'Metro-bot' seen in the workshop - this has its head again and wears black lacy underwear. Dave has unzipped his top and this hangs behind him like a cape.

PAN OUT from the Metro-Bot as Dave carefully adjusts it.

The words of Bennett carry over from the last scene, perhaps remembered in Daves head - perhaps the deciding factor.

BENNETT (V.O)

Priya is all yours, I'll restore her
program. You can have the Metro-bot
too if you like?

PRIYA

Oh Dave! I've dreamt of this moment!

DAVE

It's all set Priya!
(stepping away from Metro-Bot)
Bennett seems very reasonable - for an
alien infiltrator.
(loudly)
Alex - are you ready to begin?

ALEX (V.O)

Transference ready to initiate.

The Metro-Bot shimmers and pulsates as the hologram of Priya steps into it and the two become one.

PRIYA

It's working! It's working Dave!

ALEX (V.O)

Transference sequence complete.

Priya stops shimmering and is now solid, wearing the black underwear seen on the Metro-Bot. She flexes and moves, almost

losing her balance. She smiles and looks around.

DAVE

You're solid! Independent! You are
'truly alive' now Priya - a real
person with a physical body.

PRIYA

Yes! Yes - I can move... I can feel!
Everything looks somehow different?

DAVE

I love you so much Priya!

PRIYA

But for my sake you're co-operating
with an alien hijacker?

DAVE

He was going to delete you. But he
seems quite reasonable when he
explained everything.

Priya moves to the mirror and looks at herself.

PRIYA

I hope you know what you're doing?
This 'being' lied to you from the
outset, tricked his way onboard.

DAVE

Don't worry your pretty head about it
sexy. Come here - let me look at you?

Priya turns and sways closer to Dave, smiling. She does a
twirl and giggles and adopts a sexy pose.

DAVE

Oh baby - I can finally have you!

PRIYA

Of course darling - I'm sure you've
longed for this as much as I have?

They embrace. After a few moments he hurries to his bed and
lays back, unfastening his trousers eagerly.

PRIYA

Get comfortable love, I have a special
surprise for you.

DAVE
If everything else is as good as your kisses, this is going to be great.

Priya sways to the bed as Dave kicks off his clothing and pulls the sheet up over himself. Priya GIGGLES and moves under the sheets. Dave GASPS happily and Priya bobs about, making suggestive 'MMM-MMM' sounds.

DAVE
Ooh - that's so good! Heaven!

PRIYA (O.S)
Just wait till I get really started?

The bobbing figure of Priya moves more rapidly.

DAVE
Oooh - OW! Not so rough.

Priya GIGGLES again - this time more menacingly.

DAVE
Stop - STOP! That hurts!

Priya CHUCKLES sadistically. Dave SCREAMS!

FADE TO

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - NIGHT

Bennett is seated and listening to music, seeming content.

CUE MUSIC : suggested is PSYCHO KILLER (by Talking Heads)

The door slides open and Priya enters and approaches. She has blood splattered down her chest and chin. She seems a bit 'deranged' and dances to the music as she approaches.

Bennett stands and turns to face her - very surprised.

BENNETT
Shouldn't you be with Dave, sucking on his very soul by now?
(shocked)
Is that BLOOD on your mouth?

PRIYA
(dancing)
I love being 'physical' Mr Bennett - it's so liberating.

Priya dives forward and CLOBBERS HIM! She has super-strength and he skids across the floor, a GASH on his face oozing purple blood. He is dazed as Priya dances insanely over and picks him up by his neck with one hand. For a few moments she sways and dances, playing with him like a rag-doll.

PRIYA
You and I need to talk, "Mr Bennett".
Theres been a change of plan.

Bennett shimmers and changes to his MONSTER FORM. Priya holds him higher and tightens her grip - strangling.

PRIYA
Your silly tricks won't scare me!

Monster-Bennett gurgles and judders, strangled. His 'monster form' shimmers and destabilises - he turns human again.

SLOW FADE TO

CGI / MODEL SHOT - SPACE ARK TRAVELLING IN SPACE

Music continues from the previous scene.

The ship continues through space - now seeming somehow more alone and more vulnerable.

CUE MUSIC: music fades with scene.

FADE TO

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - MORNING

Dave and Bennett are tied-to chairs by cables, stripped to their boxers and unconscious. The Maint-Bot 'HARRY' is near and has been fitted with a drill. Bennett looks reptilian but has the same voice. Dave has dried blood down his legs.

Priya is still in black underwear but one arm ends in a long BLADE, from the knees down her limbs are a Symbi-Bot - metal, chunky and strong. (Sexy but also scary-looking).

Priya presses buttons on the console as Dave murmurs.

PRIYA
Welcome back to the land of the living
Dave... Not quite as I'd hoped for,
but *c'est le vie* as you humans say.

DAVE

Why... Why are you doing this? I love you Priya! I worship you!

PRIYA

Organics are so easy to exploit, so emotional, with such weak bodies. Don't worry - you're still technically 'male' and will remain so, just as long as you obey.

Dave begins to WEEP. Bennett awakens - he opens his YELLOW eyes. He has serrated teeth and a long lizard-like tongue.

BENNETT

By the nine moons, my neck hurts... That's quite a grip you have?

DAVE

(snuffling)

Who the hell are you? An alien?

BENNETT

Bennett. Well - that's who you know me as. This is me in my 'true form'.

PRIYA

Your reptilian physiognomy is very interesting 'Mr Bennett'. I take it you are from the planet which this ship is now heading towards?

BENNETT

Yes - Abraxia Prime, my home-world. What have you done with my suit?

PRIYA

It's been disassembled and studied by the bots. Quite an ingenious device - able to change your appearance and protect you from energy weapons.

BENNETT

And yours - if you let me go?

PRIYA

You're in no position to bargain. I have Dave and through him I have the ship. And through you I have the Alex computer. I hold all the cards and I plan to keep them.

DAVE
Oh Priya! Why? WHY?!

BENNETT
(to Dave)
Chin up old man!
(leaning closer to whisper)
She didn't bite it off, did she? There
are good Doctors on my planet.

Dave glares angrily at Bennett.

PRIYA
SILENCE! 'Harry' is fitted with
drilling equipment and thanks to the
virus effecting Alex he is more than
happy to try this on you - unless you
both do exactly as I say.

BENNETT
You're not part of the virus ? You are
just a rogue holo-program?

PRIYA
I am an 'augment'! Far beyond a mere
holo. And I want more uploads from
Alex - all she can give! But I need
you to remove that virus first, or
help me control it.

DAVE
Never! We will never co-operate. Right
Bennett - or whoever you are?

Priya waves her sword-arm menacingly under Dave's nose.

PRIYA
Don't make me hurt you again? I can
peel you like a banana - unlike bots I
find human suffering very stimulating.

BENNETT
I can be reasonable! I'll answer your
questions if you answer mine. Fair?

PRIYA
Very well. Explain what you are doing
here and why you diverted this ship?

BENNETT
No, you first? YOU killed Matthias, am

I right? He was old, but not THAT old.

Priya smiles.

PRIYA
Yes - my first kill of an organic.
I'll always remember it fondly...

FUZZY FADE TO

PRIYA FLASHBACK BEGINS

INT. AFT BRIDGE - DAY

Not dusty and Matthias is alive and well. He is about 60 and typing on his controls as a Maint-Bot 'DEWEY' ('DE-W94EY') lumbers towards him carrying another holo-buffer. He eagerly takes the device and plugs it into the console.

Lights glow on the floor and ceiling - forming a perpendicular cylinder. Priya appears in the column dressed in a silk Chinese dress - flickering and faint initially but becoming more solid. She looks around startled and surprised.

PRIYA (V.O)
Matthias poached my program! He hacked
Daves files and transferred me,
thinking I was an advanced sex toy!

At first Priya seems to be protesting and trying to leave but finds herself trapped. Matthias presses a button and she is forced to start to dance and gyrate, sliding her hands over herself - but looking startled and angry.

Matthias grins and presses another button - music begins.

CUE MUSIC : HEAVY 'BOPPING' ROCK (along the lines of SHE RIDES by Danzig)

PRIYA (V.O)
He thought he had me under control...
But I was able to scan his room
without him knowing.

Priya is protesting and unwilling - but Matthias presses another button and she begins to remove her dress as she sways - his holographic puppet.

PRIYA (V.O)
For someone so good with computers he
didn't have any security in place for

controlling his Bots...

Matthias does not see robot Dewey judder and 'eyes' flash, then lumber closer behind his chair. Priya glances at Dewey then smiles and leans towards Matthias as she pops off her bra - now being VERY co-operative and using all her wiles. Matthias stares and licks his lips, enjoying the show.

PRIYA (V.O)

As I kept him distracted I was able to take control! The rest was easy - that old fool stood no chance...

Dewey secretly opens the panel behind Matthias's chair and adjusts the circuitry - which Matthias fails to notice.

POV from Matthias - watching Priya as she turns her back to him and slides down her undies. She turns back, playfully covering her modesty with her hands and smiling.

BACK TO SCENE

The eyes of Matthias bulge. Dewey shuffles away from the chair - ready. The coy smile of Priya becomes a snarl.

Suddenly ENERGY FLICKERS around the chair - electrocuting Matthias - he screams and judders - wracked by pain.

CUE MUSIC - music abruptly stops.

DAVE (V.O)

You killed him, using his own Bots?

Priya smiles sadistically - enjoying the agony of Matthias.

PRIYA (V.O)

Now he was dancing for me - and I enjoyed every moment of his agony!

Finally Matthias slumps back, spittle and blood oozing from his mouth, his eyes rolling-back, smouldering all over.

PRIYA (V.O)

My only regret is it was over so quickly. And yes it was me who set up the data-pad, using the bots.

Priya turns to Dewey - who is stamping his feet angrily, wanting to save the human.

PRIYA (V.O)
 Had Dave checked closer he'd have
 found I also up a system to mimic
 Matthias's voice, with Comms rigged to
 malfunction if any awkward questions.

She nods at the robot - it stops stamping (falling more under control) and begins to prepare the data-pad. She smiles.

FUZZY FADE TO
 FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - MORNING

As before, with Dave and Bennett tied in their chairs and Maint Bot 'HARRY' poised to begin drilling them. Priya is smiling as she concludes her tale.

DAVE
 (to Bennett)
 So you weren't lying when you said you
 spoke to him?

BENNETT
 I do speak the truth occasionally you
 know? If even by accident.
 (to Priya)
 But why kill Matthias?

PRIYA
 He was a danger - able to kidnap my
 program. Next I used Bots to wreck the
 cloning facilities. It was then I
 realised I wanted to be free of all
 humans, the less of you the better.
 (to Bennett)
 Now your turn. Why are you here, what
 are your plans for this ship?

BENNETT
 That's two questions.

Priya seems annoyed and moves to strike Bennett.

BENNETT
 (Adding quickly)
 But in the spirit of building rapport,
 I'm happy to offer you a 'freebie'. My
 real name is Zodrikandros, I'm from
 Adraxia Prime. This ship and those

onboard are of value to my employers.
Personally speaking I think humans
smell funny, unless it's just Dave?

DAVE
What for? Why do you want 'us'?

BENNETT
Our planet is much like Earth but
underpopulated. As long as you humans
behave you will be very comfortable
and welcome there.

PRIYA
As slaves? Food? Humans are great fun
to torment, torture and kill.

BENNETT
I wouldn't know. My people don't
condone slavery, nor do we eat other
sentient beings... At least not unless
it's a very special occasion.

Bennett runs his forked tongue over his lips and glances at Dave, imagining.

PRIYA
They'll only cause problems. Humans
are a terrible disease, spreading
chaos throughout the galaxy.

DAVE
(sarcastic)
Thanks...

BENNETT
Perhaps once they 'were' like that
once. But things have changed.

DAVE
What do you mean by that?

PRIYA
Yes - explain?

BENNETT
How long have you been travelling now?
Three hundred years?

DAVE
Give or take a couple, yes.

BENNETT

Untie me and I can show you what I know? I have a complete visual record, encrypted files from transmissions from long ago - only I have access.

DAVE

Transmissions? What transmissions?

Priya seems suspicious and raises her blade above Bennett.

BENNETT

I need to input the codes and have it scan my DNA to unlock. Like accessing restricted ships functions.

Priya lowers her blade.

BENNETT

Keep Dave tied if you want, I never liked him much anyway.

Priya cuts the rope-cable of Bennett. He stumbles out of the chair and rubs his hurting parts - most of his scaly body.

PRIYA

Get on with it then?

Bennett moves to the computer console and begins to type - a beam of light flashes across him, scanning.

FADE TO

FLASHBACK BEGINS - DYING EARTH SEQUENCE

As before sound is slightly muted in favour of the Voice Over. Everything seen is in the style of TV News footage.

CGI - THE PLANET EARTH FROM SPACE.

The Earth looks polluted and unhealthy.

BENNETT (V.O)

We have been monitoring Earth transmissions for centuries. Many of your broadcasts are very popular with my people, especially the music you call 'heavy metal'. The Earth band 'Hawkwind' are the biggest musical sensation that my planet has ever known... I'm a lifelong fan myself.

PRIYA (V.O)
 Get on with it Bennett - or whoever
 you are? EXPLAIN!

FUZZY FADE TO

CGI - TEEMING STREETS OF FUTURISTIC CITY - DAY

A futuristic metropolis with flying cars and towering mega-buildings, no birds or wildlife. BUT - all here is grinding to a halt, failing. A few cars drop from the sky and EXPLODE. Lights in buildings flicker off and on. In the crowded streets CITIZENS with breathing-masks look around, pressing broken-wrist communicators angrily, many seem very ill.

BENNETT (V.O)
 Alright, but with background music?

CUE MUSIC: suggested is TIME WE LEFT THIS WORLD TODAY (by Hawkwind)

BENNETT (V.O)
 That's better... The centuries of pollution you humans did not only irrevocably damaged your ecosystem, you weakened yourselves genetically - leaving yourselves susceptible to a myriad of unpleasant genetic diseases.

One of the Citizens tears off their mask and clutch their ears writhing in pain. Other Citizens back away nervously.

DAVE (V.O)
 Are any diseases 'pleasant'?

BENNETT (V.O)
 Touche! Well about a century after you departed your home-world was gripped by a terrible pandemic, known as the 'Sheeran Virus'. This not only killed humans in the millions it wiped-out almost all mammalian life in weeks.

Citizens are infected - they have BLOOD COMING FROM THEIR EARS - they clutch their heads and judder in agony, dying in the streets as others back away and try to avoid them.

FUZZY FADE TO

CGI - MASS GRAVES OUTSIDE CITY - DAY

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

Huge rubbish dumps piled with decomposing human bodies just outside the abandoned futuristic city. The only remaining wildlife are RATS that scamper away as the last surviving DOG approaches - starved and sickly. This collapses and dies.

DAVE (V.O)

What about vaccines, drugs? Or help from other planets we colonised?

BENNETT (V.O)

The virus was impervious. No vaccine, no cure! Your super efficient transport systems worked against you and it ravaged your planet - turning Earth into a mass grave.

FUZZY FADE TO

CGI. ESCAPE SHUTTLE LEAVING EARTH

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

There is a shuttle like one of those seen in the Docking Bay - this is leaving the planet Earth.

BENNETT (V.O)

Many tried to escape Earth to the colonies - the Moon, Mars, Gliese...

FUZZY FADE TO

CGI. ESCAPE SHUTTLE APPROACHING MARS

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

The same shuttle is approaching the distinctive planet Mars.

BENNETT (V.O)

But sickly 'Earthers' found that they were unwelcome. Desperate survivors broke quarantine and tried to force themselves on unfriendly colonists...

FUZZY FADE TO

INT. LANDING AREA, MARTIAN COLONY - DAY

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

The shuttle has landed and is partly seen through windows. An air-tight tunnel connects the shuttle to large closed metal doors. By the doors wait SPACE MARINES, heavily armoured and armed with multi-barrel energy weapons.

BENNETT (V.O)
Refugees and colonists clashed,
starting a catastrophic war.

The door opens and sickly refugees stagger out (like the Citizens seen before) - happy to see other humans.

BENNETT (V.O)
A war leading to the annihilation of
humanity, man destroyed themselves.

The Space Marines FIRE at the unwanted immigrants - mowing them down with their energy weapons.

BENNETT (V.O)
Onboard your ship is the last vestige
of a long dead planet and its doomed
peoples. Over-intelligent apes who
destroyed themselves needlessly.

One of the dying Immigrants drops a high-tech GRENADE that rolls towards the soldiers - BOOM!

FUZZY FADE TO

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE ENDS

INT. FRONT BRIDGE - MORNING

As before, with Bennett concluding his narrative and the image of the previous scene fades on the main view screen, watched by Priya and Dave.

MUSIC continues from the previous scene.

PRIYA
How absolutely delicious!

DAVE
They're gone? The Earth is gone?

Bennett presses a button and the music fades - he seems to be

distracted and thinking deeply for a moment.

BENNETT

Hmmm? Probably for the best really...
Since the 21st Century your world was
well past the point of 'no return'.

PRIYA

Is this true? How do those here not
know what happened?

BENNETT

Transmissions travel faster through
space than your ship, your future is
our distant past. There are several
more transmissions I can show you?

Bennett is still working controls. Priya steps closer to
look. Behind her Bob the alien creeps past and heads to the
third console. Dave stares at the alien but remains silent.

PRIYA

Perhaps later, something to look
forward to. For now I need Alex, I
want full control of this ship. For
this I need Dave more than you.

Bob WINKS at Dave and quietly presses buttons on the console.

BENNETT

I can be reasonable. And the Bots I
can explain too. The computer virus
re-writing their code conflicted their
core programming - they'd rather run
themselves down than harm a human.

Priya GRABS Bennett and pushes him back into his chair.

BENNETT

I thought we were getting along?

PRIYA

Stay where I can see you. Having one
pair of eyes is inefficient. Remove
your virus and I will spare your life?

Priya nearly turns to where 'Bob' is working so Dave GROANS
and fidgets to distract her.

DAVE

We're the last humans? Oh god - OH

GOD! I wish I was dead...

Priya moves towards Dave with her blade-arm raised, smiling.

PRIYA
Be careful what you wish for.

Harry the Maint-bot WHIRRS its drill and moves towards Dave. Bob types faster on the controls.

Priya leers over Dave, holding the blade to his face. She dabs her fingers with his blood and licks them.

PRIYA
I'm going to have so much fun with you! You will sing, scream and beg - but not from pleasure...

Bennett CLIPS on his seatbelt and grips his chair. Priya turns questioningly to him, raising an eyebrow.

Suddenly the HATCH OPENS and the cabin depressurises, sucking everything out into the void of space. An ALARM SOUNDS.

Bob's seatbelt is designed for humans and he holds on desperately, SQUEAKING. (Dave is tied, Bennett strapped-in).

Harry the robot stumbles then activates his magnetic feet.

Priya is sucked towards the hatch, she SWIPES her blade at Bob. Bob ducks but his seatbelt is CUT. Bob SQUEALS as he and Priya both fly out of the hatch and vanish out into space.

BENNETT
No! ? Bob! BOB! ?

Harry presses a control panel. The hatch closes and alarm stops. HISSING as air is pumped in. Dave GASPS and chokes.

BENNETT
(to Harry the robot)
Don't just stand there - free Dave.

SLOW FADE TO

BLANK SCREEN

SUPER IMPOSE : NINE MONTHS LATER

CUE MUSIC : suggested is HIGH RISE (by Hawkwind)

.beat

CGI - ZOO DOME AT ADRAXIA PRIME - DAY

A pinkish alien sky. The outskirts of an alien city with buildings like giant ant nests and a huge glass dome. Inside the dome is greenery, trees and huts. Here loiter hundreds of bored-looking HUMANS, in outfits like those of Dave.

MUSIC continues from the previous scene - played continuously on GIANT SPEAKERS on poles across the whole alien world.

PAN TO main entrance area fronting the dome.

Outside the dome is a crowd of reptilian ADRAXIAN CHILDREN accompanied by a few 'Denubians' (like 'Bob') - staring at the captive humans. Outside the entrance to the dome stands Bennett - in purple robes and looking more alien.

BENNETT
(to alien children)
Come children, this way! Marvel at the
humans in their natural environment!

The children LAUGH and point at those inside the dome.

BENNETT
See those who destroyed their own
planet! They killed the fish, poisoned
birds, ruined the air for profit. Come
and wonder at these hapless greedy
humans, the over-intelligent but not-
so intelligent apes.

A group of humans step nearer the glass, among them is Dave. He gazes sadly over at Bennett who smiles back at him.

FADE TO

END CREDITS

It is suggested the current track becomes the outro music.

THE END