

FANTOZEN

Written by

Dave

EXT. WOODED AREA - NIGHT

A vibrant YOUNG WOMAN (20s) steps into a clearing. Long blond hair and a summery dress make this feel like a dream.

A single light beam from above hints at a full moon. The beam cuts between tall trees above and creates a bright central clearing.

We hear RUNNING WATER but don't see it. She wanders into the beam of light. She's THRILLED to find a swirl of glittery white moths dancing in the air. They appear to have glitter on their wings and move magically.

She joins them and dances in their shimmery cloud. They bump into her, she GIGGLES in delight. They softly land all over her body, she SMILES.

She THROWS her scarf in the air, the moths happily swarm and dance around it as it falls. We notice that one of her legs seems oddly misshapen as the light glows behind it. The muscle has been eaten away and bone shows. We see just a flash of gristle as she SPINS and TWIRLS.

TITLE: LONG RANGE TRANSPORT UNS SKYFOREST 3, ONE DAY FROM SKYFOREST BASE ARRIVAL.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 COMMAND DECK - DAY

Clean and functional. A crew taps efficiently at shiny black panels.

Captain BARB TELCY luxuriates proudly in her command chair. 40s and trim, her blond hair is bound up but seems ready to flow down over her shoulders.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Status?

She looks proudly over her crew. Especially at her XO, TALDEGA MORRIS. His 32 year old frame is buff, the result of hours in the ship's gym. A tight haircut that would make us think of Marines, if they were still a thing.

Yep, her eyes LINGER on those arms, just for a moment. He catches her look and SMILES BACK politely.

Outside the windows, the BLUR of Faster Than Light travel, everything blended into a white haze.

XO TALDEGA

All good, no anomalies, no red lights.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Engineering, I want an extended diagnostic on all flight and docking systems.

Engineering Officer BHAREET DANGI, late 20s, dark skin and hair. Her words are professional, even when she's annoyed.

BHAREET

We ran a complete check two days ago. All perfect. In my opinion, there's no need at this time.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Advise me when you've completed the full diagnostic.

Bhareet grimaces for a moment, might say something. Doesn't, instead brusquely taps a few buttons.

BHAREET

I'll return upon completion.

CAPTAIN TELCY

If I'm not on duty, deliver your report to XO Taldega. Thank you, Engineering Officer.

BHAREET

Yes, Captain.

Bhareet gets up stiffly, leaves the bridge.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Note her reluctance in the log.

XO TALDEGA

Captain?

CAPTAIN TELCY

Safety is not the top priority, it's the ONLY priority.

XO TALDEGA

Noted.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Great. My duty shift is over. The bridge is yours until 0600.

She gets up, Taldega obediently waits to take command.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Keep it warm for me.

She gives him a tiny wink.

As she exits, Taldega looks over the bridge then takes the captain's seat. The mood RELAXES ever so slightly after she's gone.

DOCTOR ALYSSA (30s) walks in and sits comfortably yet competently at the medical station.

Taldega addresses the bridge crew.

XO TALDEGA  
This ship will be at one hundred percent when we drop out of faster than light tomorrow. Let's make our Captain happy.

ALYSSA  
I've taken the initiative and run diagnostics on all environmental systems, sir. All good.

XO TALDEGA  
Thank you Doctor. Oxygen filters?

ALYSSA  
Swapped out this morning.

XO TALDEGA  
Patients in Med Bay?

ALYSSA  
None today, why I'm up here bugging you fine folks.

XO TALDEGA  
Williams, any news from Waypoint X-93?

Communications Officer BURT WILLIAMS (late 20s), a fresh recruit. Likes doing things by the book. Sandy hair crops his boyish face.

WILLIAMS  
Just the standard reports since our departure last week. No news from Earth.

He taps some keys, looks over a screen.

WILLIAMS

Last two reports were a little on the sloppy side. Not crossing all their "T"s.

Taldega's mildly surprised.

XO TALDEGA

Log it.

WILLIAMS

Copy, sir. Running a standard comms diagnostic sweep for our arrival.

Taldega nods, Williams knows his job.

INT. ENGINEERING CENTER - DAY

Walls of GLITTERING LIGHTS and screens. Large WHIRRING machines and vast pipes that run into the ceiling. Several STAFF check and log readouts. Bhareet walks in stiffly. Her staff JUMPS belatedly to attention.

Her assistant, ROGER VINELAND, meets her near the entrance. Mid 30s, his red hair is slightly unkempt and his shirt isn't tucked in.

BHAREET

Any surprises?

ROGER

Nothing out of the ordinary. Some reagent levels are a touch low.

BHAREET

Track it down. Captain doesn't want to end up like her Dad.

ROGER

Ma'am?

BHAREET

He was the commander on that Jupiter moon thing.

ROGER

Oh, Jeez. How many died?

BHAREET

The whole colony, nearly two thousand people.

ROGER

Then I understand why she likes to  
run diagnostics.

Bhareet snorts. Sits at her desk and plays with a geometric  
puzzle.

BHAREET

Manufacturing defect, the seals  
decomposed due to a unique gas mix  
they used there. Which has created  
HOURS of extra work for us on EVERY  
run we make. Now. Today. Thirty  
years later.

ROGER

Better safe than sorry?

BHAREET

Busy work. I'm gonna take a nap,  
grab me when the diagnostics  
finish. And the reagents get back  
up.

She drops the puzzle, tilts her head back and closes her  
eyes. Roger looks at her a couple times, resumes his work.

TITLE: LONG RANGE TRANSPORT UNS SKYFOREST 3, SKYFOREST BASE  
ARRIVAL.

The same bridge, but busier.

Looks over her smoothly working staff, smiles.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Talk to me.

XO TALDEGA

All systems nominal, superluminal  
drop out point in 1 minute.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Williams, remind them.

Williams keys an open channel.

WILLIAMS

Attention. Exiting superluminal and  
returning to normal space  
IMMINENTLY. Get to your accel  
couches.

He keys a system that sends BLASTING ALERTS in audio and RED FLASHING LIGHTS. The bridge crew's chairs all extend and inflate to accommodate the crew. They click their harnesses closed.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Hit it.

Taldega works the panel. Lights FLASH and DANCE around them. Screens and outputs spool reams of data.

XO TALDEGA

Deceleration sequence has begun,  
we're on auto.

The ship ROCKS gently, but what we notice is OUTSIDE. The white blur SNAP into a small sun and planets. The crew is relieved.

THE VAST EMPTINESS OF SPACE

Cold. Timeless. And very lonely in the backwaters.

TITLE: B AGNACIOUS GALAXY. 107 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH.

The Skyforest 3 at the outer edge of a galaxy like ours. Seven planets orbiting a central star. Skyforest 3 makes its way toward the fourth, home to Skyforest base. We can't see the base yet as it's on the far side.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 COMMAND DECK - DAY

The crew has released their harnesses. Some eagerly look out the windows, happy to see SOMETHING out there.

CAPTAIN TELCY

All good?

XO TALDEGA

At the outer rim of B Agnacious.  
Arriving Skyforest base within the  
hour. It seems we lost our main O2  
tank.

CAPTAIN TELCY

What?

XO TALDEGA

Bhareet reports a meteor strike  
caused a rupture.

Telcy bangs her fist on a panel. Bhareet's face appears.

BHAREET

Number 3 Oxygen tank ruptured on exiting superluminal. Was nearly empty anyway.

CAPTAIN TELCY

And?

BHAREET

We lost our comfort cushion, but we still have 73 hours of Oxygen, as we pull up to 43 Billion Liters of it. We'll be fine.

CAPTAIN TELCY

"Ruptured O2 Tank" And "Fine" don't go together. Get it fixed.

Bhareet leans in to respond to her hologram but Telcy has already moved on.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Loadmaster? Ready?

A skinny and nervous DAN RAMA (30s) approaches Telcy with his comm pad. Cargo is his gig. After 20 months, he finally has something to do.

RAMA

Well, if all parameters...

Telcy winces.

RAMA

Ready to go.

She SMACKS her hand down on the armrest.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Thank you! Go play with your ratchet straps or whatever.

RAMA

Yes, Ma'am, I'll go verify...

CAPTAIN TELCY

Great!

(points)

Hold's that way.

She watches him SCURRY off the command deck. Gets Taldega's eye and shakes her head.



CAPTAIN TELCY

Let Base Commander Jarls know we're here. Tell him to roll out the red carpet and a keg of that hazy beer they make.

HIGH FIVES in the deck crew. Williams taps controls nonchalantly. Nothing happens. He tries again.

WILLIAMS

No response on auto. Trying old school.

He taps a switch and pulls a microphone close.

WILLIAMS

Skyforest Control, UNS Skyforest 3 here. At outer marker and on approach. Copy?

Crew activity on the deck quiets as everyone listens for a welcoming voice. There is NONE.

Williams turns the volume up, we hear the static of space. Quasars, pulsars and dying suns create POPS and CLICKS and BUZZING SOUNDS. But nothing else comes across.

WILLIAMS

No response, Ma'am.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Boost the signal.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 CARGO CONTROL - DAY

Rama STOMPS in, incensed. The cargo area is generally well maintained, except for Rama's desk, which is messy. And sitting at Rama's desk is KLAUS REYES, 20s and unkempt.

RAMA

Someday she won't be queen.

Klaus jumps up, whilst juggling some things with his hands. At first Rama is transfixed with anger at the Captain, but finally looks at Klaus for a moment.

KLAUS

Do you mean that...?

Rama notices some glittery particles on Klaus. Rama knocks things off his desk, digs up a bag and vaporizer machine that Klaus has hidden. He holds them up, FURIOUS.

RAMA

What the fuck is this? On my desk?

Klaus tries backing away, holds his hands out.

KLAUS

It's just some spark...

RAMA

Just some sparkle?

Klaus gives him a goofy smile.

KLAUS

The stuff is everywhere on Earth  
now. And harmless.

Rama QUAKES with anger. He tosses the items into an  
incinerator, they FLARE BRIGHT. Now it's Klaus who shows some  
anger.

KLAUS

Hey, that was like...

He's counting in his head, knows it was a LOT of money.

RAMA

THIS TIME, I'm not filing a report.  
This time. We don't do sparkle in  
my department.

KLAUS

Whatever...

He starts walking away, Rama throws a flashlight and HITS  
him.

RAMA

We don't do sparkle on this ship,  
do you understand? We're too close  
to...

KLAUS

What, space? Jesus, get over  
yourself. Pretty sure I saw you...

Rama grabs a paper weight from his desk. Klaus sees it, RUNS  
from the office. Rama HURLS it as Klaus clears the doorway.  
It SMASHES into the door frame.

RAMA

No sparkle!

INT. SKYFOREST 3 COMMAND DECK - DAY

Williams CRANKS the transmitter power to MAX. No way they won't hear it this time.

WILLIAMS  
Skyforest Dome Control, this is the  
UNS Skyforest 3. At the outer rim  
on approach. Copy?

Silence on the command deck, EVERYONE listens. NADA. Williams looks at the Captain, afraid to report what they can all hear, or NOT hear.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Equipment?

WILLIAMS  
Ran basic diagnostics yesterday.  
All good.

Telcy looks at her unnerved crew. Crunch time.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Engineering!

Bhareet's image snaps to attention. Her dark skin betrays a bead of sweat, in the hot seat.

BHAREET HOLOGRAM  
Yes Ma'am?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Our comms are down, or the base's  
are. I want an answer in 30  
seconds.

Bhareet's hands tap and swipe while her eyes dart around the readouts.

BHAREET HOLOGRAM  
Ship Comms swapped to redundant  
backup array. Starting complete  
diagnostic cycle on primary.

Telcy NODS, turns back to Williams. He knows what to do.

WILLIAMS  
Skyforest Dome Control, this is  
Skyforest 3. Please respond.

After fifteen more seconds of SILENCE Captain Telcy JUMPS UP from her seat and goes to the comms station.

BHAREET HOLOGRAM  
Ma'am, primary systems have  
passed...

Telcy gives her a "shut up" glare, turns back to Williams.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Get me X-93 Relay Base. Maybe  
Skyforest base reported technical  
issues before system failure.

Williams confidently taps his panels.

Lights flash, it looks good. But then the frown returns.

WILLIAMS  
Relay Base X-93, this is Skyforest  
3. Seeking status report for  
Skyforest base.

Hope fades quickly, NO ANSWER.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
The relay base has gone silent too?  
What the FUCK's going on?

BHAREET HOLOGRAM  
Absence of response from both X-93  
and Skyforest base suggests...

She doesn't know how to finish. Telcy DISCONNECTS Bhareet.

SHOCK and CONFUSION on the Command Deck.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
XO, get us to visual range on  
Skyforest Dome.

XO TALDEGA  
We can image the geothermal station  
now. The base itself won't be  
visible until we cKlaus inside the  
orbit.

On the main view screen is the dark side of the planet. At  
the very edge, a small building sits with a smattering of  
glowing lights. A few empty but lit windows, nothing to see.

XO TALDEGA  
All looks OK, not much happens  
there. Looks...normal?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Williams?

WILLIAMS  
Already tried. Also completely  
silent.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
XO, Let me see the main base the  
second we're clear.

TITLE: PLANET SKYFOREST DOME BASE. B AGNACIOUS GALAXY.

EXT. SKYFOREST BASE ORBITAL APPROACH - DAY

The Skyforest 3's great bulk is dwarfed by the emptiness  
around them. The planet shows its dark side as they finally  
clear the edge.

XO TALDEGA  
Visuals in 30 seconds Captain.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Williams?

WILLIAMS  
You'll be the first to know.

Telcy taps nervously at her armrest. Everyone's eyes are  
glued to the main view screen.

REVEAL: EXT. OFF EDGE SHOULDER OF PLANET SKYFOREST BASE

Stunning rings of orbiting ice, lush green habitat enclosed  
in shimmering glass

The Skyforest 3 appears from the sea of darkness. It crosses  
to the inner orbit, a speck against the large brown planet.  
Hard to tell the ship is nearly a KILOMETER LONG.

XO TALDEGA  
Visuals confirmed. Base is intact.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Prepare to land, with or without an  
invite.

XO TALDEGA  
Aero surfaces engaged and  
functional. Hold on.

He jolts in his chair. Something is REALLY WRONG.

XO TALDEGA  
SKYFOREST 1's still on deck.

The Skyforest 3 levels off. Telcy checks a readout.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
What? They left 6 months ago. They reported their departure before entering superluminal. Expected on Earth in thirty seven days.

XO TALDEGA  
And yet...

Taldega shakes his head, sends the image to the large view-screen. Indeed the Skyforest 1 is still there, with various loading vehicles unmoved and unmoving. Crates and containers litter the area.

A candy wrapper blows around. Nothing else moves.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Get me SOMEONE. Try the Skyforest 1, they must have had issues and returned for repair.

XO TALDEGA  
Pad 3 looks clear.

Williams hits a variety of keys. Shakes his head.

WILLIAMS  
Still no response from anyone down there.

There's something ominous in the deserted scenes on their viewers. All the people are missing.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Doc Alyssa, how long can we continue on stored O2?

ALYSSA  
72 hours.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Is Skyforest Dome Station still pressurized?

ALYSSA  
Internal sensors report all good. No seal failures. A normal breathing atmosphere.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
But it looks like nobody's  
breathing it.

Taldegia zooms in on the Skyforest 1. Now the crew sees that the windows show no movement or people. Just dust blowing.

XO TALDEGA  
Captain. Where is everyone?

EXT. LANDING PAD 3 - DAY

SIX ASTRONAUTS walk across landing pad three. Despite the light duty EVO suits they cover the distance in slow motion.

The permanent sunlight illuminates everything in sharp detail. Plenty of time to contemplate what may lie ahead.

Telcy leads the team as they close on the base. High above them the glass dome reflects and radiates a green aura. Thousands of plants thriving in the generous light of Skyforest base's star, Minerva 12.

The comms in each helmet let them stay in touch. But for most of the walk, all they hear is each other BREATHING.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Almost there.

SECURITY CHIEF BICKEL (LATE 40s, no smile) is right behind her, a large RIFLE at the ready.

BICKEL  
Copy that.

His TWO GUARDS stay close to the Captain. CORPORAL MILES PALAS and PRIVATE SASCHA RILEY march proudly behind Bickel. They each carry a PLASMA RIFLE as well.

As they cKlaus the landing pad they're dwarfed by the Skyforest 1 at dock. It looks a lot like the Skyforest 3. A thick layer of dust covers the ship and dock.

Alyssa has a sealed lab cage with her, the rats inside sniffs NERVOUSLY.

ALYSSA  
Why didn't the AutoDock extend?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
No one to flip the switch inside.  
At this point we're better off not connecting anyway.

ALYSSA

Why?

CAPTAIN TELCY

Somethings wrong. No need letting  
it loose inside our ship.

ALYSSA

Could just be bad comms. All  
sensors...

CAPTAIN TELCY

Sensors? Look in those windows.  
Should be three hundred crew  
staring out at us.

They both look up at the oddly empty windows of the station.  
Dust has covered parts of them. Deserted. Empty of life.

Alyssa stops to check readings on her comm unit.

ALYSSA

All our crew readings nominal so  
far. Internal sensors report  
standard gases, temp, and pressure  
on the base.

CAPTAIN TELCY

As soon as we're in, open that cage  
up.

ALYSSA

The animals have to be given time  
for baselines, before we move to...

CAPTAIN TELCY

I wasn't offering a suggestion.

ALYSSA

(asshole)

Of course, Captain. The first test  
animal will be exposed as soon as  
we're inside.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Perfect.

Bickel smiles. His kind of Captain. He doesn't care much for  
mealy mouthed scientists either.

TITLE: PLANET SKYFOREST AGRICULTURAL BASE "LITH 13". OUTER  
AIRLOCK.



EXT. CARGO AIRLOCK SKYFOREST DOME BASE - DAY

The group reaches the manual airlock. It entices them with GREEN LIGHTS. They can see in windows, nothing going on, a few lights flicker, old bulbs maybe? But all good otherwise. No people but lots of dust.

Wind sets small debris WHIRLING around them.

The security team keeps rifles drawn. Captain Telcy has her ion pistol out.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Taldega, we've reached the exterior  
loading dock. Nothing moving here.  
Entering now.

XO TALDEGA (OVER RADIO)  
Copy that Captain. Be careful.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Yeah.

She pulls her hand up and hits a green button to open the airlock. A WHOOSH as the port cycles. The door opens to reveal...nothing out of order. Guns DRAWN, they enter the airlock.

Captain Telcy gives the door seals a curious glance as she passes by.

INT. CARGO CONTROL ROOM SKYFOREST BASE - DAY

The airlock cycles them inside. The Security team enters first, eagerly covering all possible doors and corners. But there's no opposition. No anything. Everything's running normally, just no people.

BICKEL  
Room clear. Moving ahead.

The security team advances.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Doctor?

Doctor Allyssa uses an air scanner, shakes her head.

ALYSSA  
Atmosphere normal. No pathogens or  
noxious compounds. No decomposition  
gases.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
So, no poison or viruses, THAT you  
can detect.

ALYSSA  
Correct. The air is most likely  
breathable.

Captain Telcy spins to face her crew and gives a stern  
warning.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
HELMETS STAY ON UNTIL I SAY  
OTHERWISE!

ALYSSA  
We have four hours of Oxygen.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Exactly. Rama, get the Oxygen  
system ready to refill our ship.  
Flowing as soon as our tank is  
repaired.

RAMA  
Bhareet said two hours.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Get on it. Bickel and I will look  
around.

Rama walks to the cargo control systems.

RAMA  
On it.

He holds a thumb up. Weakly. She shakes her head in disgust.  
Definitely getting a new loading guy when she gets back to  
Earth.

Captain Telcy and the other crew head further into the base.

Rama finds a terminal and pulls up the Skyforest 1's loading  
docs.

He shakes his head at the unprofessionalism. Unplugs his  
headset.

RAMA  
These entries are a mess.

Rama waits until nobody is watching him. He flips open a old  
mechanical ASCII keyboard, types.

WTF?

A cursor blinks, then-

THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND

Rama responds

NO SHIT. WHERE'S THE-

A SHADOW moves across the floor. He stops, slams the keyboard shut.

Bickel TAPS him on the shoulder.

Rama WHIPS AROUND, sees lips moving. He plugs his comms back in.

BICKEL  
...since we lost you, I came to  
verify.

RAMA  
Oh, I'm good. Flipped the headset  
off by accident.

BICKEL  
All members of the team need to  
remain in contact. At ALL times.

RAMA  
And I will, from now on. I promise.  
You can return to your patrol, or  
whatever.

BICKEL  
Nervous?

RAMA  
Could you goose-step over that way?  
I've got work to do.

BICKEL  
I'll be checking back. Soon.

Rama catches Bickel's eyes doing recon on the old ASCII keyboard.

Bickel is suspicious, knows Rama has secrets.

Rama smiles on the outside. Thinks bad things inside.

INT. SKYFOREST DOME BASE SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

Just down the hall from the cargo area is Security.

Bickel navigates a security console. He and Telcy access the system cameras. They view dozens of facility video feeds.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Anything out of the ordinary?

BICKEL  
Nobody home. And no bodies.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
They have to be somewhere.

BICKEL  
We'll find them. That's not gonna help.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
What?

BICKEL  
All cameras are on "Live Loop", not recording. No records remain.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Somebody's fucking with us. Set them to record and find the old feeds.

Bickel checks the panel. Checks again.

BICKEL  
Captain? There's no oxygen.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
What?

BICKEL  
The hydroponic plants are creating plenty, but the outer vents are open.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Close them!

He taps the controls, sends an image to a large display. It shows the vent doors wedged open with metal beams and chairs.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
How'd that happen?

BICKEL  
Not an accident.

Telcy approaches the screen, looks carefully at the image.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
How do we get there?

Bickel taps a variety of controls. Nods.

BICKEL  
Other side of the dome, at the roof  
junction. Elevator shows as  
functional.

Rama bursts in.

RAMA  
The Oxygen's all gone. Someone  
vented it.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Day late and fifty credits short.

She shakes her head, Rama's useless again. She looks at  
Bickel.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Take Riley with you.

RAMA  
What did I miss?

BICKEL  
I'll purge the system with super  
heated steam. Start fresh with no  
biohazards.

Bickel taps some more surfaces then walks to the window.  
Above them a giant steel ball shimmers behind the glass dome.  
A cloud of steam BLASTS up from the ball then quickly cools.  
Ice crystals form and fall back down toward the surface.

RAMA  
Look, it's snowing.

Captain Telcy winces, jerks her arm, knocks a rack over.  
BANG.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
No, it's not fucking snowing!

All are AGHAST, unsure where THAT came from. Bickel checks  
more data.

BICKEL

Generating enough oxygen to get back to Earth will take three to four weeks, minimum. Once we get the vents closed.

RILEY

If we don't all vanish by then.

Despite the tense scene inside, outside the window the water vapor keeps falling as ice crystals. The star light glints and shimmers through it. BEAUTIFUL.

Some collects on the window ledge before evaporating away.

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT OF A MOON BASE

A small base on Jupiter's moon. Looks older than Skyforest base. Similar, but no glass dome full of plants. Fonts and logos on signage are different, OLDER.

INT. EUROPA BASE CONTROL ROOM - DAY

A LITTLE GIRL (5), who will later be known as Captain Barbara Telcy, holds her father's hand. Lets call her YOUNG BARB for now.

They're in the main control room. COMMANDER RICK TELCY proudly walks his daughter past his staff. His Captain hat says "TELCY."

YOUNG BARB

Why do I have to go home?

RICK TELCY

Because your mother's waiting for you back on Earth, Barbie dear.

YOUNG BARB

But I wanna stay here. With you.

She pouts and STOMPS her feet. Rick's amused and torn at the same time. A STAFF WOMAN approaches.

STAFF WOMAN

Commander Telcy, your daughter's shuttle arrival will be visible from here.

She points to some large viewing ports to their left. They walk toward it.

RICK TELCY

I wish you could stay. But I've got work to do. And your mother and I have a deal.

He stops to confer with another STAFF MEMBER.

YOUNG BARB

A deal about me? For credits?

Rick and the staff member LAUGH.

RICK TELCY

Of course not, Barbie. You'll understand when you're older.

YOUNG BARB

I wanna understand now! I don't wanna go.

Outside the window, EUROPA TRANSPORT 1 comes into view. A space bus.

RICK TELCY

There's your ship, Barbie. Monitor the landing while I talk to these people, OK?

He leaves her at the large view window and walks to look at some readouts.

She watches the ship moving in. JETS FIRE sporadically to guide it.

There's a CRACK then a PUFF near her, she looks down. Vapor forms in the air between the two panes of the viewing window. It freezes, then falls down inside, between the panes. Sparkly ice crystals.

YOUNG BARB

Daddy, daddy, it's snowing!

She points to the window. Rick and the others glance outside. Dust is kicking up while the transport lands.

RICK TELCY

Oh, honey. That's just moon dust. I guess it looks like snow. Kind of.

She's the only one to have seen the odd behavior inside the window.

YOUNG BARB

No daddy, it was snow. Like in movies.

Rick's busy looking at displays again. He waves absently at the ship.

RICK TELCY

OK, Barbie, maybe it was snow. Get your bags, they're almost ready for you.

She looks down at the bottom of the window at the thin layer of ICE CRYSTALS. Points. Nobody pays attention to the little girl. Nobody sees the ice crystals.

With a soft POP, the next window over does the same odd thing. She points again, nobody's watching. They're too busy to hear the soft CRACKING sound.

She gets her small bag as her father grabs a larger rolling one. They head for the airlock.

INT. EUROPA TRANSPORT 1 - DAY

Barb's in her seat, surrounded by other passengers. Rick Telcy WAVES to her from inside the base. The passengers watch the base sink below them as they begin the trip to Earth.

Suddenly the windows on the base all SHATTER OUTWARDS silently. The air inside the base comes out as clouds of vapor. The moisture quickly freezes and forms SPARKLY ice. Pretty in the starlight.

YOUNG BARB

Look! More snow!

GASPS inside the transport, the rest of the passengers understand this was a CATASTROPHIC BREACH. That with the air all GONE, it's doubtful anyone has survived in the base. Some passengers WEEP, Barb is confused.

TITLE: PLANET SKYFOREST AGRICULTURAL DOME BASE "LITH 13".  
PRESENT DAY

INT. SKYFOREST 3 BRIDGE - DAY

Taldegas sits in the Captain's chair, monitoring a reduced staff. Williams fidgets at his station.



WILLIAMS  
Incoming from Captain Telcy.

XO TALDEGA  
Put her through.

Williams massages the panel, frowns.

WILLIAMS  
She wants you to take it in the mission room. If you prefer, I can just...

Taldega jumps up, heads for the side door off the bridge.

XO TALDEGA  
In there.

WILLIAMS  
Yes sir.

Williams sends it through. He discreetly pops in a headphone bud as Taldega exits.

INT. MISSION ROOM - DAY

Taldega enters the small, but tastefully furnished room and sits at the Captain's desk. Three empty chairs in front of him. An unimpressive space, but not many weighty decisions have been made on Skyforest 3.

Telcy's face appears in front of him. Tense.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Are you alone?

XO TALDEGA  
Yes, Captain.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
It's bad. Someone opened the oxygen vent valves. So the stored O2 is gone. Nothing left. Bickel's going to close them.

XO TALDEGA  
Jesus...

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Not gonna die, we're just stuck here awhile. At least three weeks.

XO TALDEGA  
Who opened the valves?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Probably the same asshole who set  
the security cameras to loop  
instead of record.

XO TALDEGA  
Hydrazine?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Plenty of fuel. I need you to get  
the farm teams up to speed, we may  
need them soon.

XO TALDEGA  
What do I tell them?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Just get them ready. I'll make an  
announcement when I'm back on  
board.

XO TALDEGA  
Which will be...?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
When Doc Alyssa says we're safe.

XO TALDEGA  
Copy that.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Miss me?

XO TALDEGA  
I'll bet you miss us more.

She nods and closes the link. Taldega's unsettled.

INT. BASE SKYFOREST BASE MEDICAL BAY - DAY

The medical bay is well provisioned and in good shape. No  
blood or disorder. Bright lights and open spaces. Two dozen  
sick beds. All empty and neat.

Doctor Alyssa checks the rat cages. One rat runs on it's  
wheel, the other eats. Telcy enters with Palas.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Any good news?

ALYSSA  
The rats are still alive.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Anything else?

ALYSSA  
No pathogens detected. A variety of  
unidentified organic compounds,  
likely from farming activities.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
What sort of organic compounds?

Doctor Alyssa shrugs.

ALYSSA  
When they added water and oxygen to  
the surface here, some novel  
organisms appeared. Most were  
benign. Some have been cataloged.  
I'm going through their notes.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Please go through them faster. We  
can't stay in these suits much  
longer.

ALYSSA  
It might be a form of fungus, we're  
about to nail down some  
pharmacology.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
And you're sure that's what it is?  
That caused...this?

ALYSSA  
No.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Doctor, we really need answers.  
Please keep looking.

Telcy BANGS on the rat cages, they race around in fear.

Telcy's comm unit glows, she TAPS it and the image of Bickel  
appears.

BICKEL (OVER RADIO)  
Meet us in farm area EL-93.

TELCY  
What is it?

BICKEL (OVER RADIO)  
Easier if you see for yourself.

INT. DOMED FARM AREA EL-93 - DAY

Telcy enters the farming area with Palas. Plants stretch dozens of meters toward the domed orange sky. Some on metal frames, others grow free. The rows extend into the distance as far as the eye can see.

A hundred meters above them, a glass dome keeps the noxious atmosphere out while allowing the constant sunlight in.

It takes a moment for Telcy's visor to adjust to the overpowering sunlight. She sees Bickel and Riley near a water tower. She and Palas join them.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Bickel?

Water SEEPS from a pipe. It's soaked the ground. Mud.

BICKEL  
On our way to the valves, saw this.

He points to a large, fresh gaping hole in the ground.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
A hole?

Bickel shines a light down. They can't see the bottom. Telcy grabs a rock, walks to the edge to drop it. The ground beneath her CRACKS and opens up, she starts to FALL IN.

BICKEL  
Captain!

He GRABS her just in time to keep her from FALLING. A brief flash of fear is replaced by gratitude.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Nice work, Sergeant. Expect a commendation.

RILEY  
We just saw a flock of moths fly down there.

Telcy isn't sold.

RILEY  
It was like a flock of birds, they were in formation.

BICKEL

Not standard protocol for insects.

Telcy flashes a fake smile. ***Nobody's scared of moths.*** She examines the now larger hole, takes Bickel's flashlight to probe the darkness.

CAPTAIN TELCY

I don't think all three hundred missing crew fell in that hole or ran off chasing synchronized dancing moths.

BICKEL

Well, no Captain. But there's no record of subterranean exploration here.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Not surprising, since most of the records seem to be missing. The people too. There's a geologist on Sky 3. Once we clear...

Bickel SINKS down, SWALLOWED by another new hole in the ground. Telcy frantically GRABS his hand. TRIES, but can't hold him. His eyes DART AROUND, he wants to tell her something.

BICKEL

Rama...

IN AN INSTANT HE'S GONE.

The rest of them stand in shock, then RACE back to the steel floor by the entrance. Telcy madly works her comm unit.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Sergeant Bickel! Do you copy?  
Sergeant Bickel report.

No response. Then it beeps, a call from Doctor Alyssa.

ALYSSA (OVER RADIO)

Ma'am, I just lost life signs from Sergeant Bickel.

CAPTAIN TELCY

He's fallen into a hole. A cave.  
Current status unknown.

ALYSSA

Should I bring medical gear?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
I'll be in touch.

RILEY  
Ma'am?

Both wide eyed and in shock, she and Riley make eye contact.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Your mission remains. You and Palas  
continue up to clear those  
obstructions. I'll get climbing  
gear and rescue your boss.

Palas and Riley are unsure. They look toward the distant  
yellow elevator tube.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Stay on constructed flooring.

PALAS  
Copy that.

Riley and Palas join up and head for the elevator.

Telcy looks around her, threats encroaching. Memories swirl,  
she GASPS softly.

The edge of the muddy hole pulsates a little, some kind of  
WORMS squiggling about. But nobody notices.

INT. EUROPA TRANSPORT 1 - DAY [FLASHBACK]

It's the terrible scene from her childhood. Telcy watches her  
father's base POP like a BALLOON again. But this time she  
understands that everyone dies as a result.

The shattered glass and ice vapor slows down and floats. Time  
has stopped.

INT. DOMED FARM AREA EL-93 - DAY

She SHAKES from her brief brush with the past. She watches  
the hole, nothing moves. She KEYS her headset.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Rama? Grab climbing gear and meet  
me in Farm Area EL-93.

INT. DOMED FARM AREA EL-93 - DAY

Rama and Telcy gather near the hole in the ground. They're linked with safety line.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Do it.

Rama tosses a small metal ball in the air, it hovers for a moment, then ZOOMS DOWN into the hole. He taps spots on a wrist controller. The expected image doesn't appear.

RAMA

Something in the ground here must interfere with transmission.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Would explain losing touch with Bickel.

RAMA

The drone will map and record. Then return to us and report.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Hope so. But we can't wait.

They stand with rope and climbing gear by the mysterious hole. The unsettled mood has grown.

RAMA

Being here means I'm not monitoring the security cameras.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Nothing to monitor. We just lost Sergeant Bickel and we're going to retrieve him. Now.

Rama looks down into the dark hole, his flashlight beam vanishes into the darkness. Can't see a thing.

RAMA

It's only fair that I mention my limited cave experience.

CAPTAIN TELCY

We're in space, I don't expect cave experience. I'll go first.

She DROPS over the edge and down INTO the hole. Rama gets a solid footing and feeds rope to LOWER HER DOWN.

INT. EL-93 FARMING AREA CAVE - DAY

A large space, light pierces from two holes above. Telcy shines her light around. Not much to see, rocks and dirt.

She continues dropping, thirty, forty, fifty meters. Just rocks and dirt. She finally reaches the bottom, sixty meters down. Not a survivable fall.

CAPTAIN TELCY

At the bottom. No sign of him.

She examines the floor carefully.

RAMA (O.S.)

Could he have walked away?

She traces the floor with the flashlight. Nothing.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Nope.

A couple white moths flutter around her flashlight tip. Jeweled crystals glitter on their wings. She shoos them away.

She JUMPS, did she hear something?

CAPTAIN TELCY

What was that?

Her motions are quick, nervous. Something isn't right.

RAMA (O.S.)

Captain?

They're interrupted by a COMM REQUEST.

FROM SERGEANT BICKEL.

She smiles, THRILLED to answer. Taps to accept, but no video appears, just AUDIO.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Sergeant, please report. We're attempting to rescue you.

BICKEL (OVER RADIO)

Rescue? Don't be absurd. I'm fine.

Palpable relief. She looks around again.

CAPTAIN TELCY

That's great news! Are you here in the main cave or elsewhere?



BICKEL (OVER RADIO)  
What are you talking about? I'm at  
my station. On the bridge.

Telcy stops. Considers this for a moment. Taps another button  
to mute Bickel and call Taldega.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Taldega, has Sergeant Bickel  
returned to the Skyforest 3?

TALDEGA (OVER RADIO)  
What? You left standing orders.  
Nobody comes back on board until  
YOU clear it.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
So he's not at his station?

A video feed pops above Telcy's wrist. Taldega swivels a  
camera around the bridge, stopping at Bickel's station. It's  
empty.

TALDEGA (OVER RADIO)  
Is everything all right Captain?

She tries to compose herself.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
No, it isn't XO. I'll be in touch.

She closes Taldega's channel, her hand hovers over the button  
to reconnect Bickel. She hits it.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Sergeant Bickel. Can you verify  
your location?

BICKEL (OVER RADIO)  
As I previously reported, at my  
post onboard. Attending to my  
duties. Bickel out.

Telcy looks around.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Sergeant Bickel?

There's no response.

She pulls her gun out. Gives a YANK on the rope to signal  
Rama.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Haul me back up.

INT. DOMED FARM AREA EL-93 - DAY

Rama helps her out of the hole.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
OK, at this point I'm open to suggestions. What in the high holy hell is going on here?

RAMA  
Maybe he hit his head, somehow wandered onboard the Skyforest 1? Could be on the bridge there, and confused?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Makes as much sense as anything. We need to clear and check it anyway. Let's go.

RAMA  
Should we wait for the drone?

Telcy looks down the hole.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Something tells me Godot will bring it.

RAMA  
I don't recall a Godot on the crew roster?

Telcy walks briskly away, shaking her head.

EXT. ELEVATOR ENTRANCE IN FARM DOME - DAY

Palas and Riley walk up uncertainly. Palas has the rifle at his shoulder.

RILEY  
What are you planning to shoot?

PALAS  
He was there, then he wasn't. Gone.

RILEY  
Yeah.

Riley stretches out to hit the elevator call button. Palas blocks him with the rifle.

PALAS  
We haven't cleared the elevator yet.

Riley hits the call button.

RILEY  
Can't clear it until it gets here.

With a WHOOSHING sound the elevator DESCENDS in the large yellow tube on the wall.

PALAS  
We don't know what might be in that elevator.

The door opens, Palas points his gun around the interior. But there's nothing inside.

RILEY  
He was a careful man. Didn't save him.

PALAS  
The Captain might find him, if anyone can, she can.

Riley leads the way in to the elevator.

INT. SKYFOREST 1 BRIDGE - DAY

Telcy and Rama walk in, guns drawn. There's nothing to aim at. Most displays are dark, just a few lights on.

They go straight to check the security desk. Same as Bickel's station on the Skyforest 3. An undisturbed layer of dust is on everything.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
He hasn't been here.

RAMA  
Nope. Nobody has.

Telcy closes her eyes for a second. A memory passes by.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
This is going South.

She makes her way to the Captain's chair, sits down.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Entering the control codes.

She taps them in, the controls awaken. She BLOWS dust off the panel in front of her.

Telcy checks the Captain's logs. Frowns.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
All logs erased. Maybe we get a tech down here. Might not be overwritten yet.

RAMA  
Don't count on it. Someone covered their tracks well.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
We have to find out what happened here.

Rama checks some displays.

RAMA  
No fuel or O2 on board. What next?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Back to medical at the base. Talk to the Doc.

As she stands something FALLS to the floor with a CLANG. She picks it up. It's a ring with the stone missing.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Captain's ring, from the academy.

RAMA  
The Captain dropped his ring?  
Clumsy.

Telcy bags it, drops it in her pocket.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Let's get to Medical.

EXT. DOME WALL - DAY

The elevator car RACES up the yellow tube to the roof. We can just make out Riley and Palas inside as it WHIPS by.

INT. VENT CONTROL ROOM - DAY

The small room we saw from below via cameras. Oxygen comes from the purifiers in the floor and should be feeding into the collector outputs.

Instead, it's being allowed to bleed out into the atmosphere from the wedged open valves. Palas and Riley carefully make their way in. Palas keeps aiming his gun at various things.

A chair is JAMMED into one of the vents to keep it from closing. Riley walks up and YANKS it out. The valve slowly closes. Air flow in the room speeds up.

PALAS

Hold on. You don't know if it's safe.

Riley carefully sets the chair down. SMILES at Palas.

RILEY

It's either safe or it isn't.

Before Palas can complain again, Riley YANKS the beam out of the other opening. It too closes. Air flow in the room switches to upward, all going to the collectors.

PALAS

You're reckless.

RILEY

Mission accomplished. You're welcome. Let's go.

Riley motions to the elevator door. It's still open, waiting.

PALAS

Right.

RILEY

She's cracking up, you know.

PALAS

We aren't gonna be friends.

RILEY

It's the dad thing.

Palas jerks his gun toward the elevator.

Once they're both in, the door closes. As the car begins it's descent, Riley sees something.

A small white moth or butterfly. Glistening like a jewel. It lands on the outside of the door, then vanishes in an instant.

RILEY

Did you see that? I think it saw me.

INT. OXYGEN LOADING CONTROL - DAY

Telcy and Palas do a HIGH FIVE. The oxygen pressure gauge is finally up off ZERO and going back up. The mission was a success.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Good job Mr. Palas. Now you and I are going to go back down that hole and find Bickel. He wasn't on Sky 1.

PALAS

OK, but I've known the man a few years, that wasn't him on the comms.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Then who was it?

Palas sucks air through his teeth, shrugs.

CAPTAIN TELCY

We're going to figure it all out. By finding Sergeant Bickel.

PALAS

We need more O2 canisters for our suits.

Riley points to one on a counter.

RILEY

Those things? There's like a million of 'em down on the dock.

Everyone looks at her.

PALAS

From this base?

RILEY

No, they came in on the Skyforest 1.

PALAS  
So they're safe?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Shouldn't you be telling us this,  
Mr. Rama?

Rama gives Riley a dirty look.

RAMA  
I was about to tell you. Right  
after I mentioned the jump packs.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Jump packs?

RAMA  
Archaeological survey packs on the  
same load. Saw'em on the manifest.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Let's see them.

Telcy turns to go, Rama stops her.

RAMA  
Can you enter the command codes to  
get us out of lockdown?

She hits a terminal and starts typing. Rama has the faintest  
hint of a smile.

After everyone leaves, he finds one of the old ASCII  
terminals. He looks around again, alone. He starts typing on  
the dusty keys.

HEY?

The cursor blinks, then-

CAN YOU TALK NOW?

Rama responds

NO SECURITY GUY ANYMORE. SPARKLERS GOT HIM, LIKE EVERYONE  
ELSE I GUESS. WHAT HAPPENED?

There's a long time spent watching a blinking cursor. Rama  
impatiently paces, taps his fingers, etc. Finally kicks a  
case on the floor and is about to type some more when the  
answer comes.

THE LIGHTNING GOT OUT OF THE BOTTLE.

The ambiguity makes Rama even angrier. He rage types.

DUH. ANY MORON CAN FIGURE THAT OUT.

The cursor blinks as Rama waits.

WHAT AND HOW AND WHY DON'T MATTER NOW. WHAT'S NEXT?

Rama glances around nervously. Types.

I HAVE CUSTOMERS WAITING BACK HOME.

No wait this time.

AND I NEED MY FINAL PAYMENT.

Rama cracks his knuckles. Thinks.

GET IT TO USUAL SPOT, I'LL BE THERE AT 19:00.

Rama is ready to end the convo, he starts to close the keyboard. More text appears.

WHAT HAPPENS TO ME?

Rama finally smiles.

DON'T CARE.

He closes the keyboard. Hears a BEEP as apparently another message has appeared. He tries to walk away, but gives in and checks out the screen.

DO YOU BLOW THE PLACE UP OR ARE YOU PAYING ME TO?

Rama BANGS his fist on the counter, kicks something over.

THE EVIDENCE IS AGAINST BOTH OF US, IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO DO IT AFTER WE LEAVE THE SYSTEM

Rama pants, he's furious. He waits. The answer floors him.

DUH. BUT WHAT IF YOU NEVER LEAVE?

Rama loses it, smashes the console up with a steel bar.

Finally triumphant, he starts to walk away.

Not what he expected, a video screen pops open, and we meet...



LEO (O.S.)  
Hey asshole.

LEO is a younger guy, wearing some pirate looking garb. He's spent way too long by himself in dark places.

RAMA  
What are you...? I mean who are you? I don't know you.

LEO (O.S.)  
You can drop the horseshit, this is quadruple encrypted, by the time anyone gets a look, you and I will either be very dead or very unfindable.

RAMA  
I have no knowledge of any...

Leo starts laughing.

LEO  
Video cameras spooling footage from an hour ago.

RAMA  
Not sure why...

LEO (O.S.)  
Okey doke, Rama McClaren of Hampstead, Maine. Oh, wait, that isn't the name you used. My bad.

RAMA  
You FUCKER!

LEO (O.S.)  
Oh, now you remember me?

RAMA  
Why do this?

LEO (O.S.)  
Let's face it, we had a nice thing going, but it's off the tracks. And not getting back on.

RAMA  
Not sure what you mean.

LEO (O.S.)  
Okey doke, scaredy cat. Been  
watching you guys on the cams. Fun  
times.

RAMA  
Those cameras are supposed to be on  
loop. No output.

LEO  
I know, and there are no copies  
anywhere on the base.

INT. GEOTHERMAL BASE - NIGHT

Dark inside and out, forever. Leo sits by a loaded electric  
pallet as he chats with an image of Rama. In his hands a  
small memory chip.

RAMA  
Huh, sounds like you're telling me  
that there might be copies of the  
video logs elsewhere.

LEO  
There could be.

He flips the memory chip up and catches it so Rama sees it.

RAMA  
Asshole.

INTERCUT CONVERSATION

LEO  
You mentioned that. And I should  
mention that there may be some  
medical logs that didn't get  
erased. Off line ones.

RAMA  
What?

LEO  
The medical lab has three handheld  
exam terminals. They weren't online  
when the master erase went through.

RAMA  
Once the base is blown up, what  
difference will it make?

LEO

Just be sure they don't get hooked  
into the system before that.  
They'll auto upload to the relay  
station.

RAMA

Any more of your screw ups I need  
to fix?

LEO

Point fingers all you like, if  
those med logs get out they'll  
remember our names for a hundred  
years. Or more.

INT. DOMED FARM AREA EL-93 - DAY

The remaining astronauts gather at the edge of the hole. A  
shipping container of jump packs sits open. Telcy and Palas  
stand by the hole, packs strapped to their backs.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Any sign of that drone?

PALAS

Sorry. MIA.

Telcy pages through instructions on her wrist viewer.

RAMA

Are you sure you can use that?

CAPTAIN TELCY

We'll figure it out. We're getting  
Bickel back.

RAMA

I hope you do.

She SNORTS.

CAPTAIN TELCY

You probably hope I don't. He never  
liked you.

Rama smiles slyly.

RAMA

Sure?

Telcy SNORTS again.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Doctor Alyssa, have there been any  
updates on Bickel's bio readouts?

Alyssa shakes her head sadly.

Palas tests the controls on his jump pack. He slowly lifts  
from the floor, dust BLASTS around him. He eases the controls  
back and forth.

PALAS  
Easy. Easy.

He maneuvers above the hole and slowly descends. Telcy fires  
hers up and follows him down.

INT. EL-93 FARMING AREA CAVE - DAY

Palas and Telcy hover over the empty floor. She points to the  
largest opening in the wall. They lightly finger the controls  
and enter.

Their bright lights shine down the dark hole. Something  
SPARKLES at the end of the tunnel.

INT. TUNNEL UNDER EL-93 - DAY

Palas and Telcy follow the tunnel, it's four meters across,  
plenty of maneuvering space. Their lights find a flutter of  
SHIMMERING WHITE in the distance.

As they approach, they notice something on the floor. The  
moving cloud pulses and swirls randomly around it.

The cloud begins moving as a SINGLE ENTITY as they approach.  
Like a flock of birds or school of fish, all moving together  
as one.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Hold it.

She stops two meters away. They settle softly to the floor,  
not sure what they're looking at.

It's those pretty moths. Lots of them. They obscure a DARK  
SHAPE on the floor. And won't be shooed away.

PALAS  
Is it him?

They struggle to see.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Can't be. Barely a meter long.

Palas pulls a cutting torch from his belt. He brings it near the moths, a few BURST into flame and DROP to the floor.

The rest ZOOM away in formation, ZIP around them a few times then VANISH into a hole in the wall.

They stand in shock and examine the pulpy mess on the floor.

It is Bickel.

PALAS  
No.

At the sound of a voice, the partial remains MOVE, jerk around on the floor. They're STUNNED that he's still alive. A creaky voice EMERGES.

BICKEL  
All indicators green. Ship secure.

They shine their lights on him. Both legs and an arm are gone. The remaining arm twists nonsensically in the air.

PALAS  
Sergeant?

BICKEL  
Secure your station soldier.

They're too disgusted and shocked to speak. His face is GONE, reduced to bone and tendons. Chewed away by the myriad worms crawling around his remaining flesh.

As they watch, tiny drops of blood appear at the edge of the flesh. The worms sop it up, squiggling happily.

PALAS  
They kept him alive.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
If you can call it that. Let's get him to Doc Alyssa.

Palas digs into his pack, gets out a med kit.

They both look at what's left of Bickel, the small med kit seems inadequate. He pulls out a roll of bandages. As he leans down, a SWARM of moths returns. Telcy and Palas DUCK to avoid them.

They can't see each other or anything while the white cloud ENGULFS them. Telcy points at the torch.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Fire that thing up. Now!

The swarm CARRIES BICKEL AWAY. In seconds the moths and Bickel are gone.

PALAS  
I guess we know what happened to  
the others.

They stare at the stain where Bickel was. Silence and staring.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Thoughts?

PALAS  
We're fucked.

Telcy leans down, takes out some tweezers. She finds two partially burned moths and puts them in a small clear bag.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Perhaps. Let's see the Doc.

INT. MISSION ROOM - DAY

Telcy and Palas watch as Alyssa examines a blackened moth under a microscope. She stares intently and only breaks free when a loud BEEP breaks her concentration.

She looks up and wheels her way over to a machine labeled "Wernlund Spectrophotometer".

ALYSSA  
It's sparkle.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
What?

ALYSSA  
Your mystery bugs are chock full of  
sparkle.

PALAS  
The party drug that's been all over  
the docks?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
How'd it get here?

Palas thinks hard for a moment.

PALAS  
That's backwards.

Telcy whirls, not to be contradicted.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Explain?

PALAS  
Someone here has been harvesting it  
from these bugs. And bringing it  
back to Earth.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
How does it get...

PALAS  
I'd say Skyforest Fleet has been  
hauling more than oxygen and plant  
batteries. Could be someone on our  
crew.

Alyssa watches the readouts in front of her. Shakes her head.

ALYSSA  
There's more here we don't know.  
Sparkle first appeared on Earth 3  
years ago, but all it's done is  
cause lethargy and extended  
euphoria. Somehow HERE the drug and  
insects together cause...

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Cause what?

PALAS  
The mess we're in.

ALYSSA  
The flock formation you described  
is extremely unusual. Similar to  
ants or bees, but they don't kill  
humans normally.

PALAS  
I've served under Bickel on  
multiple missions. That wasn't him.

Alyssa slides back to the microscope and sends an image to a  
large screen. It centers on the mouth parts of one of the  
moths. She points at a strange shaped object.

ALYSSA

They have a hypo pharynx. Tiny little piercing tube that injects a microscopic drop of sparkle, or rather the concentrated version of it.

CAPTAIN TELCY

They turned this base into a bunch of junkies.

ALYSSA

These moths contain DNA from multiple human sources.

PALAS

A little taste of sparkle and you don't notice or care while they merrily chomp away.

CAPTAIN TELCY

They couldn't have eaten everyone.

PALAS

More than a thousand crew were here.

They all stare at the screen.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Is there an antidote?

ALYSSA

None I know of. The effect is similar to the original Opioids derived from poppies centuries ago.

PALAS

It never led to addicts being eaten by poppies.

CAPTAIN TELCY

So there's another element we don't know about. Yet.

ALYSSA

Bring me a live one.

Palas and Telcy shudder.

CAPTAIN TELCY

You mean like...Bickel?

Alyssa holds up the clear envelope with the second moth.



ALYSSA

Live one of these. Or the larval stage. Worm or caterpillar type thing.

Palas and Telcy look at each other.

CAPTAIN TELCY

The farm. The plants.

PALAS

We saw one fluttering on the elevator tube by the upper valves.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Meanwhile we need to refuel and resupply our ship with oxygen and get the hell away from here.

PALAS

What if they get aboard?

CAPTAIN TELCY

These can NOT get back to Earth. With the existing sparkle problem, we'd be fucked.

PALAS

So?

CAPTAIN TELCY

Maybe we end up stuck here.

Telcy and Palas move toward the door. Alyssa stops them for a moment.

ALYSSA

Don't ever let them touch you. The drug is incredibly powerful. The street version on Earth has been diluted hundreds of times. But from what I can tell, this drug requires physical contact, you can't just breathe it in the air.

CAPTAIN TELCY

We keep our suits on until I say different. And we need a way to kill or neutralize these things.

ALYSSA

Then I need a live one.

She leans across the counter and hands them a trap device she's been working on.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
What's this?

ALYSSA  
A better moth trap.

Telcy holds the device skeptically. Alyssa points to the opening at the end and a switch.

ALYSSA  
When you see some nearby, flip the switch, it turns on a vacuum fan.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Where do we look?

Alyssa points out a section of the blown up image, the eyes.

ALYSSA  
Judging by these optical adaptations, light sources in the dark should attract them.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
I've got an idea.

INT. MAINTENANCE TUNNEL B - DAY

A dreary place under the base. Pipes, tubes and wiring, the guts that make the station run. Rama waits impatiently, checking the time on his comm unit. A port ahead of him CREAKS. The manual door latch starts spinning.

RAMA  
About FUCKING TIME !

The door swings open. Leo stands behind a rolling cart stacked with cases.

LEO  
If you're in a rush, we can meet later.

He reverses the cart, back where he came from.

RAMA  
Stop! It's difficult for me to be free from Captain Worrywort. I can't just wander off at will. Is it all here?

Leo stops, smiles.

A tiny worm has fallen off the cart and crawls toward Rama, drawn to him. Leo pushes the cart toward Rama again, inadvertently CRUSHING the worm. Neither of them notice.

LEO

And my...?

Rama pulls a small but heavy case out. He hands it to Leo, who opens it and admires some shiny metal inside.

RAMA

All there, and a nice bonus to blow this dump up as soon as we superluminal back to Earth.

Leo WHISTLES. Rolls his eyes.

LEO

How long?

RAMA

Two weeks. If you hadn't let the sparklies open the Oxygen valves, we'd already be gone.

Leo closes the case and pushes the loaded cart toward Rama.

LEO

Like they asked my opinion? When they doll you, you do what they want. They wanted those valves open.

RAMA

But why?

LEO

You keep snacks handy?

Leo opens his face shield, reaches into a pocket and pulls out a handful of nuts. He CHOMPS on them.

RAMA

But they couldn't know that we'd wait here two weeks for that. They're just dumb bugs.

LEO

Two weeks you say? Good luck.

Rama gets the gist of Leo's speech.

RAMA  
I'd say 'nice knowing you' if I  
meant it.

LEO  
You didn't ask about the grow room.

RAMA  
I have no use for that information.

LEO  
Fifty of the little fuckers before,  
now thousands. Magnetically  
suspended before, on the loose now.  
And hungry. Think about it.

Leo chomps on more nuts then walks away. Waves.

RAMA  
What do I need to know?

LEO  
Keep your suit on, Sparky.

RAMA  
That's silly. Gold is the only  
thing they can't eat.

LEO  
Fine, get a gold suit.

EXT. EL-93 FARMING AREA - DAY

Telcy, Doc Alyssa, Riley, Palas and Rama walk cautiously  
toward the place Bickel disappeared. No sign of the moths.  
The plants keep growing majestically around them.

Doc Alyssa carries her odd trap device, looking around as she  
walks.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Everything seems green and healthy.  
What's the word on the Oxygen  
generation?

Riley walks to a console by the door, checks on the farming  
setup.

RILEY  
All the auto systems are still  
running. The circadian shutters  
still cycle every 24 hours.  
(MORE)

RILEY (CONT'D)

Hydration systems remain functional but have calcium buildup. Not sure how long they'll go on if we don't spend some time on maintenance.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Yeah, those light shutters you mentioned? Close'em.

Everyone looks at her for a moment. Palas starts LAUGHING.

PALAS

Of course.

Riley gets it, massages the controls. Motors high above CLACK and GRIND as they cycle the shutters. The enormous chamber gradually darkens as they close.

There's a final BANG as the panels seal shut. The entire farm plunged into darkness while a lone beam from above brings an nearby AREA to their attention. They walk toward it.

EXT. WOODED AREA - NIGHT

They walk into the open area. A colorful object on the ground attracts their attention. At first it's tough to see as the grass has grown around it. A bright colored piece of fabric, we've seen it before. A SCARF.

RAMA

Not sure why we're out looking for litter. Should be bots for that...

Telcy reaches down and grabs the scarf. Runs it through her fingers. Like she feels that dancing girl somehow.

She notes something under Rama's foot, tries to grab it but his foot remains planted.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Move!

He does. She excitedly yanks up a Comm unit, dark and dusty. Rama tries to grab it.

RAMA

I'll check it out for you...

Telcy yanks it out of his grasp.

CAPTAIN TELCY

No thanks. I'll be taking care of this personally.

Rama is rebuffed, not happy.

RAMA  
Pretty sure I have more  
experience...

Telcy wipes the dirt and mud from the screen. She futilely presses the power button. No response at all.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
This could hold the only remaining  
record of what happened here. It  
won't be leaving my sight.

Everyone crowds around her looking at the unit.

RAMA  
It got watered. Likely shorted out.  
Junk.

Telcy slides it into her pocket. Suspicious.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
I'll let you know.

The light shining down has become cloudy. A dusting of glitter appears, falling softly around them. Doc Alyssa gathers samples.

RILEY  
It kinda looks like snow.

Telcy perks up at the phrase. She looks at the silvery cloud in the light, it swirls like a tornado. Working it's way down and accelerating, growing. Telcy glances nervously toward the exit.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Time to go! Doc, get that doodad  
ready. Riley, prepare to reopen the  
shutters.

Swatting and ducking they fight their way toward the door. The cloud ROARING down is now clearly a SWARM of the white and silver moths. Riley stands at the console, ready.

The cloud spins down around them. Too many to count, the moths coat their space suits, searching for a way in. Palas swings his lighted torch around but it's too small to do much damage. Doc Alyssa fires up her trap, it quickly fills.

ALYSSA  
Got'em.

RILEY  
I can barely see the controls.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Open those shutters! We are  
leaving.

The shutters start opening, the darkness BREAKS. The moth  
swarm reacts INSTANTLY, they pour into holes in the ground.  
The team BOLTS for the door.

RAMA  
This was a bad idea.

They get out of the door and close it. Then watch through the  
windows as the moths swirl and dive for escape from the  
light. Some are struggling, the sunlight confuses them.  
Alyssa watches, shoots video.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Well?

They look at Alyssa's trap, it's full.

ALYSSA  
I wish we'd found the larval stage.  
Probably down in those tunnels. Or  
in the plants themselves. We need  
to...

PALAS  
We need to craft a flame thrower.  
Big.

RILEY  
I like how you're thinking.

Telcy smiles.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Craft a couple. Let's get to Med  
lab.

Her wrist comm unit glows. She swipes it and Bhareet appears  
in front of them.

BHAREET (O.S.)  
We've got problems.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Yeah, I know.

INT. OXYGEN TANK MANIFOLD AREA ON SKY 3 - DAY

Bhareet and a REPAIR TEAM fix a gaping hole in the ship. GRINDING and WELDING fill the air with SPARKS and NOISE. She stands to the side to talk to Telcy.

BHAREET

That meteor went through gas control. Took out both main valves. We carry one in spares, but we need two.

INTERCUT CONVERSATION

CAPTAIN TELCY

Can't you repair them? Or fabricate one?

BHAREET

Too complicated, lots of fine parts we can't print.

CAPTAIN TELCY

So...?

BHAREET

We need to grab the one from the Sky 1 spares.

PALAS

The ghost ship?

BHAREET

Only way home.

CAPTAIN TELCY

We'll get it. Send the info to Riley, gonna be her mission. Captain out.

They look out the window, the farm area is once again quiet. Full sun and everything mostly back how it was. The ground has some sparkle to it though.

ALYSSA

They took their injured and dead.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Doctor?



ALYSSA

The moths took their casualties  
with them. Either evidence of  
intelligence...

CAPTAIN TELCY

Or good old hunger. Riley and Rama,  
go get that valve off Sky 1. Palas  
can get started on his science  
project.

Alyssa shakes the trap.

ALYSSA

I'm looking forward to figuring out  
these little guys.

Telcy walks around and sees another moth clinging to Alyssa's  
back. It's chewing it's way into her suit.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Give me the fancy Hoover.

She quickly fires the device up and removes the clinger.

ALYSSA

Check everyone.

They carefully inspect each other, no more found.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Intelligence or hunger?

They stare at the moths trying to chew their way out of the  
trap.

ALYSSA

I don't know but we need to get  
back, not sure how long this'll  
contain them.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Let's go.

INT. SWANKY NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Lights FLASH, smoke machines PUFF and the beat never ends in  
this high end night club. PRETTY YOUNG PEOPLE are everywhere,  
what little clothing they wear is bright, colorful and  
trendy. Pastel neon glows around them.

A very handsome young man, ARCHIE BISHOP, walks among the other patrons. He makes his way to the bar, smiling at every pretty girl he sees.

His name is sewn onto the UNS uniform he's wearing. Yes, he's the only one wearing a uniform in a sea of near nakedness.

He walks to the bar, a GORGEOUS BARTENDER meets him there. She smiles, seems not to notice his uniform.

BARTENDER

What will it be, oh fierce one?

Archie briefly looks around, realizes she meant him.

ARCHIE

What've you got? Give me your best shot.

Her hands move fast, a WHIRL of ice, bottles and glasses. In seconds he has a luscious tropical drink and a shot in front of him.

BARTENDER

How's that?

He looks over the concoctions. Smiles.

ARCHIE

What about you? Don't make me drink alone.

In a flash she's holding a shot like his, they DOWN them. He winces from the liquor sting, then SLAMS the glass down. They smile, sharing a moment. He reaches for his comm.

ARCHIE

How much...

A BEAUTIFUL GIRL appears at his side. She looks at the tropical drink, then him.

BEAUTIFUL GIRL

I see something I'd like to put in my mouth. Should I?

Archie can't believe his good fortune. The bartender stands by and smiles as well. He looks from one to the other.

ARCHIE

Well, I, uh...

BEAUTIFUL GIRL

I'm Carla.

Wearing jeweled gloves she daintily shakes his hand.

ARCHIE

Well I'm Archie, and I'm still  
negotiating for the first round...

Before he can finish, the bartender has more tropical drinks ready for them, as well as three more shots.

BARTENDER

Bottoms up!

BANG! The shots are down.

ARCHIE

How much for our little party?

She holds a hand up to block him, walks away. Carla takes his hand and leads him to the dance floor. He floats behind her.

INT. DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

It's a Madonna video come to life. Beautiful people of every flavor WHIRL and SPIN and JUMP and HOP to the outrageous beat. SMOKE shoots and LIGHTS flash then a BANG followed by CONFETTI and GLITTER.

His POV goes blurry, those drinks have kicked in. Incredible sexy people crowd in from every direction, the lights blind him with their colors and pulses.

He gets a strange tinge from his neck, and swats at it a few times.

ARCHIE

Mosquitoes or fleas in here.  
Something bit me.

Carla frowns. She takes his hands and places them on her breasts. She looks straight into his eyes, then moves his hands around to her perfect butt. She smiles. Now he REALLY can't believe his good luck.

CARLA

Interested?

ARCHIE

Well, uh...

She shuts him up by leaning in. He fixates on those perfect red lips. Glossy and GLOWING with the brightest gloss ever seen. He can't take his eyes away from those lips.

She keeps leaning in slowly and finally KISSES him. For a moment there's nothing else. Just those lips, that feeling of HER right there. Ready. For him. As she pulls back the world returns.

CARLA

Let's get out of here.

She leads him off the dance floor, he glides behind her. He finds a drink in his hand again, guzzles it down as she leads him out the BACK DOOR into...

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND CLUB - NIGHT

A perfect night. A clean and inviting alley, leafy trees and subdued lighting. He follows her to a little grotto. A fresh white couch with soft sheets of flowing fabric awaits them.

ARCHIE

I uh, I'm not sure if...

EXT. COUCH GROTTTO IN ALLEY BEHIND CLUB - NIGHT

With very little effort she pushes him down on the couch. He dreamily looks up at her.

All around them, gauzy white curtains float on a light breeze. The fabric moves softly, seductively. Providing privacy in this public space.

She tugs at one of her jeweled gloves, pulls it off. He notices the sparkly gems, all white or silver, shining as it falls on the couch next to him.

CARLA

Happy birthday.

He smiles again, then looks puzzled, confused.

ARCHIE

It's not my...

She leans down to him, rests her bare hand on his inner thigh. They both look at her hand. It glides slowly toward his crotch.

CARLA

Yes, it is.

He watches as she tugs at his belt, then zipper. ZZZZRRRIIPPP it slides down. He tilts his head back, in heaven.

ARCHIE

I'd swear it's still like...

She leans those lovely red lips down, down, down. He shuts up. All SMILES as he sinks further into that couch.

INT. GEOTHERMAL BASE - NIGHT

In his grungy control room Leo sits watching his screens. Several show members of Telcy's team as they split up to go do their tasks. He zooms in on Telcy's pocket where the dead comm unit went.

LEO

We will have that.

He reaches in his pocket and pulls out another handful of nuts. Chews enthusiastically.

One of his screens shows a group of squirming bodies, covered in worms with moths fluttering above. The bodies are woven through some girders and support beams somewhere on the base. Leo swivels the camera to a half consumed youth. What's left of him smiles and moves as if dancing.

LEO

Enjoy the dance my friend. It's almost over. Such a pretty face, I hope they leave it for last.

He reaches into his space suit.

On the screen we see the consumed youth again. We get a glimpse of the tattered remnants of his uniform. The tag "Archie Bishop" briefly shows as he squirms about. Like he thinks he's dancing...

His remaining fingers swat at a bleeding wound on his neck.

INT. MEDICAL BAY - DAY

Doc Alyssa stares into a crystal cube. A tiny worm works it's way toward her. She turns the cube and the worm adjusts course toward her again. She makes a note on her medical pad.

Telcy solders some parts inside the dead comm unit. Driven.

INT. SKYFOREST 1 AIRLOCK BASE SIDE - DAY

Riley and Rama approach the airlock to the Sky 1. Guns drawn.

RILEY

Do you know how to use that?

RAMA

What difference does it make? If I shoot a couple it won't even slow them down.

RILEY

Agreed. But I'm guessing you're a lousy shot and I don't want to die just yet.

She presses some keys, the airlock opens. Still nothing.

RAMA

Telcy and I came here before, nothing scary happened.

RILEY

You found the Captain's ring. At the time it seemed like he dropped it. Now we know he was probably eaten right there. The whole ship is probably full of rings and whatever.

RAMA

Or their Captain was a klutz and dropped it.

Riley takes a hard look at Rama.

RILEY

Before I thought you were just a moron. Now I know it's something else. More than a thousand people vanished here. Got any more glib one liners to explain that?

He pushes a button, the next door opens.

RAMA

After you.

INT. MEDICAL BAY - DAY

Alyssa has one of the rat cages and the collected moths inside an isolation area. The rat is jumpy, moving around quite a bit. Using control gloves she opens the top of the rat cage and carefully drops a moth in.

ALYSSA

This should be interesting.

The rat and moth eye each other, circle. The moth tries to land on the rat but the rat is too fast. CHOMP! It's eaten, in seconds just some sparkly wing bits left in the cage.

ALYSSA

Ok.

But then she hears some BEEPING. Looks up at a screen, it shows the life signs for the rat. They're trending down. Heart rate and BP are dropping. She looks at the rat, it's calmed down and sits still.

ALYSSA

Let's try that again.

She uses the control gloves to drop a second moth in the cage. The rat gives it a bored glance, looks away. The moth easily lands on the rat and bites it. The heart rate and blood pressure go down some more, the rat seems to slide into a nap.

ALYSSA

Huh.

INT. ENGINEERING CENTER - DAY

Telcy and Palas work at separate workstations in engineering. She has the dead comm unit in parts on a counter. Palas rigs gas cylinders into an odd contraption. He flicks a switch, a tiny pilot light FIRES UP at the end of a wand. He tilts it up, ready to test.

Telcy holds her hand up.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Did you turn off the fire suppression system?

He sheepishly sets the wand down.

CAPTAIN TELCY

That foam would make a mess. And no janitors anymore.

They laugh weakly, try to enjoy this moment of levity. She opens a screen on a nearby console. Types in codes. Turns off the fire detection.

PALAS

Sorry boss.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
No need to be sorry, try the  
barbecuer now.

He points the wand to an open area with a high ceiling.  
WHOOSH ! A massive flame ROLLS out. Some papers get caught in  
the flow and start burning. He stomps them out.

PALAS  
That'll do. How's your repair  
going?

She walks to a cabinet, finds a new, unused comm unit. Sets  
it down next to the dead one and starts taking it apart.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Will be better when I swap the  
power board out. Rama's an idiot,  
but he was right, water got in.

He motions to a console.

PALAS  
Why not just plug it in to the  
system?

She shakes her head.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
I have a feeling there's a "Master  
Erase" command floating out there,  
in there. Wherever. Keeping it off  
the grid is best choice.

PALAS  
You think someone is still  
manipulating the system?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
I'm not sure if it's a "ghost in  
the machine" but there is someone  
or something out there.

PALAS  
The moths?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Maybe. Or they have friends.

There's a BEEP from Telcy's comm unit. She taps it.

ALYSSA (O.C.)  
Captain? I have something to show  
you.



Telcy nods.

CAPTAIN TELCY

On our way.

She carefully wraps the dead comm unit up and pockets it. They head out, Palas has his new toy at the ready.

INT. SKYFOREST 1 PARTS AREA - DAY

Rama and Riley walk into the parts area. Rows of shelves line the walls. Riley looks at the info she got from Bhareet.

RILEY

We're looking for part number  
RS\_2884. You take the right, I'll  
go left.

They split up and look, shine flashlights to read the part numbers on the shelves.

INT. SKYFOREST 1 PARTS AREA RIGHT SIDE - DAY

Rama walks into a dark area. He hears a muffled GURGLE and walks toward it. He can hear the sound coming from above him but doesn't see anything. He climbs up the shelving unit.

At the top, the SQUELCHING is getting louder. He contorts himself and is able to squeeze in.

Once he's in, he turns. A GHASTLY HUSK GURGLES and MOANS at him. It's a mostly consumed crew member still barely alive, and covered with worms. Dozens sense Rama getting close and wriggle toward him.

He CONVULSES in disgust and LEAPS off the shelf.

RAMA

Jesus Fucking Christ!

He lands hard on the floor with a CRASH, looks up at the hidden spot. Still hidden, no worms following him. Riley RUNS to him and helps him up.

RILEY

Are you OK?

He's annoyed at her concern.

RAMA

Yeah, I'm fine.

He points to the opposite wall of shelves, away from the dying crewman's remnants.

RAMA

Thought I saw it up there, was climbing to check and fell down.

Riley motions back where she came from.

RILEY

Well, I found it. Kinda heavy so we'll need a cart. Come on.

As they turn to get a motorized cart, there's another SQUELCH sound from the ghoul on the top shelf.

RILEY

What was that? Did you hear something?

RAMA

I heard it. Ventilation system, got some bad vac pods or stepper motors. Someone else's problem.

She picks his flashlight up off the floor, he takes it from her and walks away. She shines her own flashlight up where he really just was. Nothing. She walks away, suspicious.

INT. MEDICAL BAY - DAY

Riley and Rama roll the cart in with the needed RS\_2884 valve. Telcy, Palas, and Alyssa look into the sealed testing area.

RAMA

Got it.

RILEY

Yes, WE did.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Good job. And good timing. Alyssa was about to show us something.

They leave the cart by the door and join the others by the observation window. Inside are two rat cages.

ALYSSA

I think I have the mechanism figured out. The moths secrete a substance similar to opium. The "sparkle" we've seen on Earth.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Nobody on Earth's getting eaten  
alive though.

Alyssa nods, puts on the control gloves. We watch her demo on one of the screens.

ALYSSA  
Because the insects are only here.  
As long as the drug and the bugs  
are far apart, the stuff just makes  
you lazy.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
But...

On the screen a worm crawls near a victim, their brain waves go into synch.

ALYSSA  
Get them near each other and you  
have a very different situation.  
Once the drug is in your system,  
you became extremely suggestible to  
a signal the insects give out.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
What does the signal do?

ALYSSA  
It's a generalized control signal,  
I can't define it beyond that yet.  
It modifies your will.

The human in the demo moves in concert with the worm.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Can you isolate it?

ALYSSA  
No, but watch this. The rat on the  
left was exposed three hours ago,  
the one on the right just ate a  
moth before you got here.

She carefully lifts the left side rat with the glove control, underneath we see that it's hind limbs are CRAWLING with the worms, bones already showing.

The rat is lethargic, doesn't seem to notice that it's being consumed. She sets it back down in the center of the cage, it crawls into the corner and stops moving.

ALYSSA

It actively hides itself in a quiet place for easier feeding.

RILEY

Disgusting.

CAPTAIN TELCY

So the base and Sky 1 crews...

ALYSSA

Likely scurried off into some dark corners to be quietly eaten.

Rama looks around nervously.

RAMA

Shouldn't we be getting this valve to the Sky 3? So we can all get the hell out of here?

Telcy gives him a look.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Any contact with Sky 3 has to be conducted with extreme caution. Since this drug is all over Earth already, if these THINGS get back there, it's over.

Alyssa nods her head.

ALYSSA

It gets worse. Brain wave patters suggest that the rat is in a dream state. It believes it's doing something else, something normal.

PALAS

While it sits there and waits patiently to be eaten alive. Can I?

He motions to his flamethrower.

CAPTAIN TELCY

No, and you need to make another one of those.

RILEY

Two more.

PALAS

Hold it there, Tex. Only so many parts to scrounge here.

Alyssa is annoyed, she drops a metal tray to regain the focus.

ALYSSA

The good news is I think I have an  
antidote for the drug itself.

PALAS

You said that like there's some bad  
news that goes with it.

She nods her head as she drops a small syringe into the controlled area.

ALYSSA

I call it Sparisys. I'm pretty sure  
that for anything but a fresh  
infestation, the loss of the drug's  
anesthetic effects will cause  
excruciating pain. Crippling, off  
the charts pain. Let's see.

She uses the gloves to grab the syringe and hold the lethargic rat. She points to the panel with it's bio signs.

ALYSSA

Watch the heart rate and blood  
pressure.

She injects the rat, in a second it starts thrashing. It fiendishly bites the worms eating it. It looks RABID and FRANTIC. The medical monitor starts blinking, many of the numbers go into the red.

RILEY

Poor fucking thing.

ALYSSA

It appears the hallucinations stop  
at the same time the pain receptors  
started working.

RILEY

You wake from a lovely dream into  
living hell.

ALYSSA

Quite literally.

They watch the numbers peak as the rat THRASHES. It SCREECHES, convulses, spasms, scratches at the sides of it's enclosure. Trying to escape the inescapable.

The heart beat indicator FLAT LINES. The rat jerks a few times then stops moving altogether.

PALAS

Wonderful. The cure is horrible and kills you.

CAPTAIN TELCY

So there's no point finding the missing crew anymore.

They all stare forlornly at the dead rat. The worms crawl off it trying to get to the other rat and living humans.

PALAS

I REALLY want to kill those.

He taps his flame thrower on the glass. Telcy shakes her head "no."

ALYSSA

Now watch this, the second rat has only just ingested the drug. He isn't being consumed yet. Well, not much anyway.

She picks the second rat up with the control mechanism. We see it only has one or two small worms chewing on it so far.

Alyssa injects the second rat. It springs to life, and quickly eats the worms off it's foot. The bio readouts go up, but not as dramatically as the first rat. It keeps licking it's chewed leg.

ALYSSA

So the effects can safely be reversed early in an infestation.

She points to a series of direct inject pods on her desk.

ALYSSA

I've made one for each of us. The trick is that the second you get bitten, you'll instantly forget you were bitten.

CAPTAIN TELCY

What do you mean?

Alyssa points to another screen. An animation shows a bite happening.

ALYSSA

When you are bitten by the moth,  
two things happen. Sparkle, the  
drug, goes right to your brain. You  
feel no pain from the bite right  
away. The mind control begins then.

CAPTAIN TELCY

What's the second thing?

Alyssa zooms in on some tiny circles.

ALYSSA

Eggs. They travel to your  
extremities and hatch in moments.  
And start eating. As they eat they  
seal off blood vessels, close veins  
off. And excrete more sparkle.

RILEY

They keep you from bleeding to  
death so they get more blood. And  
play Dr. Feelgood.

Palas stares hard at the screen.

PALAS

We need to get the fuck out of  
here. Like now.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Our top priority is to keep these  
things from getting to Earth.

ALYSSA

Good news is they emit a marker.

PALAS

A what?

Alyssa uses the gloves to pick up the enclosure with the dead  
rat and dumps it in a chute. A few worms are still on it as  
it pops onto their side of the glass.

ALYSSA

Oh, and high doses of gamma  
radiation kills them.

She hits a button, a small emitter flashes over the rat. The  
remaining worms squiggle once or twice and emit smoke.

PALAS

So you can kill them?

Alyssa shakes her head.

ALYSSA

Not effectively. If that rat wasn't dead already, it would be now. The level of gamma needed is lethal for all life.

RILEY

Another killer cure. Great.

Alyssa gets a small hand flashlight and walks to the dead rat enclosure.

ALYSSA

I've modded this flashlight to emit a certain UV frequency. Reacts with sparkle in the blood.

She shines the light on the rat, there's a slight blue glow. But when she gets to the eyes, they glow BRIGHTLY.

RILEY

Will that work on us?

ALYSSA

Oh yeah.

Telcy grabs the light, shines it in everyone's eyes one by one. All clear.

CAPTAIN TELCY

We're good.

ALYSSA

For now.

CAPTAIN TELCY

We stay in suits. We stay good.

Alyssa looks around.

ALYSSA

Problem comes when you open up to eat or drink or relieve yourself. One gets in, you won't know. It won't let you know.

Telcy thinks about this.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Right now I'm going to finish repairing the comm unit.

(MORE)



CAPTAIN TELCY (CONT'D)

Palas is going to make another  
flame thrower...

RILEY

Or two.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Rama, Palas, and Riley need to get  
this part to the Sky 3 as soon as  
you have another flame unit. Make  
sure we don't infect them with this  
scourge. Speaking of, what do you  
call these things?

ALYSSA

I kind of like "The Scourge".

CAPTAIN TELCY

I want a gamma emitter big enough  
to cleanse the valve before we hand  
it off.

Alyssa pulls a unit out from a cabinet.

ALYSSA

Just needs a battery recharge.

PALAS

Will we be staying on Sky 3?

CAPTAIN TELCY

Not a fucking chance. Not until we  
have control.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 COMMAND DECK - DAY

Taldega looks over some mundane reports. His comm unit shows  
a private string of text from Captain Telcy. It tells him to  
get to a secure space and contact her.

TALDEGA

Daustin? Take command. Anything  
more important than cabin  
temperature, contact me.

Fresh officer recruit DAUSTIN HARVEY(31) takes the Captain's  
seat as Taldega leaves the bridge.

DAUSTIN

Yes sir.

Williams watches suspiciously as Taldega departs.

INT. TALDEGA'S QUARTERS - DAY

The spartan cabin does very little to reveal it's owner's character. Taldega bolts in, hits a panel that says "Full Encryption"

TALDEGA  
Go for Taldega.

INT. 10 AFT LOUNGE - DAY

Telcy has snuck off to a small cocktail lounge on the base. Neat and orderly, but drab. This provides her with a private space.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
You alone?

INTERCUT

TALDEGA  
Yes Ma'am.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
We'll be delivering the valve in the next few hours.

TALDEGA  
OK, but I doubt you wanted a private line for that.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
I wish it was for better reasons. We're in serious trouble. I don't want to tell you much yet, but under no circumstances is anyone else from the ship to come down here.

TALDEGA  
But Captain...

CAPTAIN TELCY  
No flexibility on this one. And there's a good chance we won't be joining you. We're assembling an encrypted file for you to return to Earth with.

Taldega is visibly shaken.

TALDEGA  
I, we can't leave you here.

CAPTAIN TELCY

You can if it's an order. And you will. For the purposes of upcoming investigations, it's best if I tell you nothing right now.

TALDEGA

You're worrying me.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Worry about Earth if what killed everyone here gets back home. It's vitally important you only take information back. No samples.

TALDEGA

Ok.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Just before handing you the valve we'll irradiate it heavily. Nothing else must get transferred.

Taldega is truly troubled. But has to ask.

TALDEGA

Is this about what happened to your Dad...

CAPTAIN TELCY

This has nothing to do with my Dad. Right now I need you to follow orders, not question them. Am I clear?

TALDEGA

Perfectly Ma'am.

CAPTAIN TELCY

That being said, this will remain a fluid situation. If we gain more control over things, it may change. But as of now, we'll remain here when you depart for Earth.

TALDEGA

But we could send another mission from Earth. Plenty of supplies...

CAPTAIN TELCY

Supplies aren't the problem. I highly doubt we'll be here when any future rescue arrives.

TALDEGA  
Captain? Where would you go?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Please note posthumous  
commendations for Sergeant Bickel  
and Doc Alyssa in the log.

TALDEGA  
The doctor died?

Telcy shakes her head, confused and hurt about this message.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Not...not yet. Please just do as  
requested should we not return.

TALDEGA  
Yes, Captain.

She makes an effort, pulls herself together.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
We'll send you the formula for a  
medicine. Make one for every crew  
member, have it ready.

Taldega's confusion is mounting, he tries not to show it.

TALDEGA  
OK. How will we know when to use  
it?

She shakes a little, she can't tell him.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
If in the future I order you to  
bring the crew down here, you WILL  
ignore me and end all  
communication, do you understand?

Now he's really confused.

TALDEGA  
What can't you tell me?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
There are likely to be bad actors  
on board. People with something to  
hide and nothing to lose. Watch  
your back.

TALDEGA  
But Captain...

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Captain out.

She taps her comm to end it, and shivers for a moment. Like maybe she'd like to cry but doesn't have time. Looks up.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Dad? What should I do?

She gets up and walks around. Looks at the bar, decides she might like a drink. She walks around to the backside. Just a half finished bottle of vodka left. She opens the bar fridge, some orange juice. She opens and cautiously sniffs it. Not bad.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Screwdriver it is.

She looks for a glass. Finally finds a tropical themed one. Pours one out and sits at the bar, starts sipping. A funny triangular tropical glass, we've seen it before.

FLASHBACK TO MATCH SHOT OF ARCHIE AT SAME BAR

Now again augmented with lights and people. It all slowly vanishes except for that glass. Finally we see that when Archie was here it was just as sad and forlorn as now. All by himself, talking to air. But smiling wide.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 COMMAND DECK - DAY

Taldega strides back onto the bridge. Cranky.

TALDEGA  
Relieved.

Daustin jumps out of the seat.

WILLIAMS  
Sir, what should I put in the log?

Taldega starts to talk, thinks.

TALDEGA  
Posthumous commendation for  
Sergeant Bickel and...

WILLIAMS  
Sir?

TALDEGA  
Just Bickel for now.

An odd moment. Everyone knows he was about to say another name.

WILLIAMS

Sir, regulations require that all shipboard communications be logged...

TALDEGA

You are relieved Williams. Daustin, take comms.

Williams is flustered, confused, and insulted. The rest of the bridge crew is also unnerved. SOMETHING'S UP.

TALDEGA

Security? Lock all exterior doors, inform me of any breaches.

SECURITY OFFICER

Yes sir.

INT. LOAD CONTROL AREA - DAY

Rama stuffs bags of sparkle into the mechanism of the motorized cart. He stuffs and stuffs, can't go back to Earth empty handed. Leo's hologram appears above the cart.

LEO (O.S.)

She's onto you.

Rama JUMPS.

RAMA

Christ!

LEO

Calm down. She's onto someone anyway. I guess the really surprising news is she's planning to hand off that valve, and leave you clowns all here. Herself included.

RAMA

What?

LEO

Still want me to nuke it from orbit?

RAMA

Why would she keep us here?

LEO

She's...smart? It's the only way to be sure.

RAMA

This can't happen. I have to get back to Earth.

LEO

The good news is that hunky Taldega guy has doubts about her sanity. If she had a little accident with some plasma, or fell into another hole... Let's just say he wouldn't be shocked.

Rama gets to thinking as he stuffs more sparkle into the cart frame.

RAMA

She's out of control.

LEO

Give her a little push onto the Cuckoo Bird Express. Probably should make sure to have similar fates befall the rest of your landing party.

RAMA

Why?

LEO

She's told nobody on the Sky 3 any of this. She wants everyone to be able to pass or fail a deception test on their own merits. Easier to say you don't know anything if you really don't know anything.

RAMA

So if she, Riley, Palas and Alyssa don't get back to Earth...?

LEO

You come out smelling like a rose. On second thought, like a moron. But not in Mars Prison for the rest of time.

RAMA

Would be pretty easy to make sure some of our little friends get into their suits. Then off they crawl to dream.

LEO

So disappointing. Don't you see the divine irony if they were to succumb to a bad air seal? Sucked out into space like her Dad. Like father, like daughter. A fitting tribute.

RAMA

You're nuts. But maybe...

LEO

And you knock out 4 annoying birds with one stone. Although, I truly would enjoy watching Palas progress through the stages. The last few days with limbs are always the best, a good watch.

Rama shivers slightly at his creepy partner.

RAMA

I don't wanna hear about it.

LEO

All the original crew is pretty much gone. Few twitching torsos is about all I have to watch anymore.

RAMA

Poor you.

LEO

Better button things up, she's on her way.

Leo's hologram vanishes as Rama tucks a last bag of sparkle into the cart frame. Telcy and Palas walk in.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Let's go.

RAMA

To Sky 3?

CAPTAIN TELCY

Yep.



RAMA  
I'll grab my stuff.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Just the valve goes today. We stay  
here for now.

RAMA  
Wait. You never said this was a  
suicide mission. Not the deal.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Still alive?

RAMA  
Well, yes.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Then shut up and do your job. I'm  
trying to save everyone, not just  
you.

They turn to go, Rama follows them with the cart full of  
sparkle, the spare valve on top.

EXT. SKYFOREST 3 AIRLOCK - DAY

Captain Telcy, Rama, and Palas stand outside the airlock with  
the cart and valve. The door WHOOSHES open and Taldega  
appears with Klaus and another LOADER, all in space suits.  
The Loader steps forward brandishing an item shaped like a  
large flashlight.

Rama WHIRRS the cart to a stop, gives Klaus a funny look.  
Klaus has the slightest of grins as he walks forward with the  
Loader.

KLAUS  
Stand back please, Mr. Rama.

If looks could kill they'd both be dead. Rama gives in and  
eases backward. Furious at his underling.

RAMA  
If you say so.

Klaus motions to the Loader and his flashlight device, which  
he fires up and works around the cart.

KLAUS  
Unless you want a lethal dose of  
gamma rays. Might clear your head  
though, huh?

Rama begins a LUNGE but is held back by Palas.

RAMA

Wait til I'm back on board.

As the Loader continues irradiating the valve and cart, Klaus makes an exaggerated "checking my watch" motion.

KLAUS

And that would be...?

Rama breaks free from Palas and RUNS toward the airlock. A SHOT rings out, a single ion pulse. Rama DROPS to the ground.

All eyes on Telcy as she lowers her pistol back down.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Not today.

Palas runs over and flips Rama over. Searches his pockets.

PALAS

Still breathing. Nothing on him.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Note this is the log, Taldega.

Taldega nods, types into his wrist com unit.

KLAUS

Unusually stressed, I guess.

CAPTAIN TELCY

I'd guess you provoked him. On purpose. Don't like your boss?

Klaus and the Loader wheel the cart back toward the ship.

Taldega rapidly approaches Telcy. She snaps the holster closed over her smoking gun, holds her hand up to stop him at 3 meters.

TALDEGA

What is it?

CAPTAIN TELCY

Insects, moths, a scourge. They work in concert with the drug sparkle.

TALDEGA

The club drug?

Telcy wishes to explain, but can't.

CAPTAIN TELCY

There'll be investigations when you return to Earth. I'll try to send a report before you get back.

TALDEGA

We can't leave now, not without you.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Correction, you can't leave until you get a full load of Oxygen. But unless Doc Alyssa makes an amazing breakthrough before then, I don't think anything beside the Oxygen, and that valve, is going back with you.

TALDEGA

I don't understand.

She hands him a small bundle discreetly.

CAPTAIN TELCY

I can only spare 4 of these.

TALDEGA

What are they?

CAPTAIN TELCY

You'll know if you need them. Hope that you don't.

He tucks the bundle away.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Just hope that the Doc finds a complete answer.

There is a sadness to their parting. She motions him backwards.

TALDEGA

Are you sure?

CAPTAIN TELCY

Trust me. What we've seen here was convincing. We can't risk this problem getting back to Earth.

They part, Taldega shaking his head in consternation.

Palas checks on Rama.

PALAS

He's still alive, but out cold. How  
do we get him back?

Telcy looks around, sees Klaus and the loader near the  
airlock.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Hey, drop the valve inside and  
bring that cart back for Mr.  
Homesick here.

Klaus winces from the harsh bite of KARMA, glances around for  
another way to move Rama. None appears.

He and the Loader roll the cart and valve toward Sky 3.

INT. BRIG CELL - DAY

Palas and Telcy roll the cart and Rama into a simple beige  
cell.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Help me here.

They unceremoniously DUMP him off on the floor before rolling  
the cart out into the hallway.

INT. BRIG HALLWAY - DAY

PALAS

So what do you think happened to  
him?

CAPTAIN TELCY

I wish I believed it was cabin  
fever. Something tells me it's  
more.

She types in a code, a light goes from green to RED. He's  
LOCKED IN.

PALAS

Yeah, something's always been "off"  
about him.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Don't get me started.

They walk away. Seconds after they're gone a camera WHIRRS  
around, the lens zooms in on Rama.

INT. MEDICAL BAY - DAY

Palas and Telcy enter to chat with Doc Alyssa. She's eager to see them. She gets up from her medical research but keeps looking back at the screen.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Got a patient for you in the brig.  
Might need his head examined.

ALYSSA  
Did he sustain a head injury?

Telcy holds up the battered comm unit that belonged to the dancer.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Not yet, but the day is young. We  
got the dead comm unit working.  
Turns out our Loadmaster 2nd Class,  
Rama, was a criminal mastermind.

PALAS  
THE criminal mastermind behind this  
entire mess.

Alyssa stops to consider, looks back at the image on her screen.

ALYSSA  
Wait, so our Rama from Earth had  
something to do with the moths  
here?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Can we put an actual name to them,  
please?

ALYSSA  
Yeah, been thinking about that.

She walks them back to her workstation. Images of the moth and its larval form are blown up on the screens.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Either you name it or I do. Yours  
will sound better.

ALYSSA  
Urvola Somniferum.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Gesundheit.

ALYSSA

Urvola Nivalis is a similar moth on Earth.

PALAS

And somniferum, from the opium poppy.

Alyssa smiles, maybe for the first time since we met her.

ALYSSA

A student of botany?

PALAS

I just read "The Poppy Wars".

CAPTAIN TELCY

You two can get a room after we get out of these suits.

PALAS

How do we kill them?

Alyssa looks at his flamethrower.

ALYSSA

Until I get them sequenced and a genetic deconstructor, your method is best.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Get some of the veracity injection ready for your patient, we'll get some answers.

ALYSSA

I have ethical concerns...

CAPTAIN TELCY

More than a thousand dead here, with billions of delicious hosts waiting back on Earth. It has to stop. WE have to stop them here.

Alyssa thinks for a moment, preps a hypoinjector.

CAPTAIN TELCY

And I like "scourge" better. Your name is too clumsy.

PALAS

Let's keep working on that name, while we kill them.

INT. BRIG HALLWAY - DAY

Telcy, Palas, and Alyssa enter the hallway to find Rama's cell door open, the cell empty.

PALAS

What the hell, how'd he get out?

Telcy examines the door, perfect shape, no signs of damage or prying.

CAPTAIN TELCY

He had help.

She looks around to find the nearest camera on the ceiling, looks right at it.

CAPTAIN TELCY (TO CAMERA)

Right? Some dirtbag somewhere who likes watching? Justice is coming, count on it.

PALAS (TO CAMERA)

Hello, my name is Justice. I'll find you.

There is a sudden ROAR OF AIR followed by SQUEALING KLAXONS. Telcy gets an urgent message request from Riley. Telcy holds her wrist up, projects it. Riley's image monitors cameras and readouts.

RILEY

Someone just launched themselves on a jetpack, and left the airlock open. Closing it now.

The AIR stops moving.

CAPTAIN TELCY

It's that jackass Rama. Have you notified the Sky 3?

RILEY

Yes, they've initiated a security lockdown.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Thank you Riley.

She swipes the message over and starts another. Taldega appears.

TALDEGA  
We've secured all airlocks, he  
won't get in.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Don't count on it. Shoot him down.

TALDEGA  
Ma'am?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Now!

INT. SKYFOREST 3 BRIDGE - DAY

Taldega on a tense deck. He leans over his left shoulder to  
Daustin, who's at the Security Console.

TALDEGA  
Security, fire the ship's laser at  
the incoming object.

DAUSTIN  
The guy in a jetpack?

TALDEGA  
Fire!

Daustin springs into action, massaging the various controls.  
Hits a large RED button.

EXT. SKYFOREST 3 OUTERSPACE - DAY

A lone JETPACK flies toward Skyforest 3. An unimpressive ray  
gun tracks and then FIRES. It MISSES badly.

The lonely astronaut continues toward the ship as the laser  
re-aims.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 BRIDGE - DAY

Taldega waits for an update.

DAUSTIN  
It missed! Somehow the targeting  
computer missed.

CAPTAIN TELCY (V.O.)  
Wasn't an error. Our computers are  
compromised. Just concentrate on  
keeping him out. AT ALL COSTS.



TALDEGA  
You heard the lady. Shoot to kill.

DAUSTIN  
Too close now, there's no firing  
solution.

TALDEGA  
Batten down the hatches.

Daustin brushes keys, a RED ALERT goes out over the ship.  
Taldega motions to Williams to go live.

TALDEGA  
Attention all crew. This is Acting  
Captain Taldega. Loadmaster Rama  
may attempt to board. It is vitally  
important that he not do so. Deadly  
force is authorized.

Daustin sees something on his panel, clicks.

DAUSTIN  
An air lock was opened near a waste  
management area. Section B2.

TALDEGA  
Send a security team.

DAUSTIN  
Already heading there. It'll take a  
few minutes, that's a remote  
section.

TALDEGA  
Of course, just enough time  
to...show us.

Taldega looks expectantly to the big screen. Daustin's hands  
fly, but a negative BEEP is all he gets in response.

DAUSTIN  
All section B2 cameras are in a  
maintenance loop.

Taldega turns over his other shoulder.

TALDEGA  
Bhareet?

Her turn in the hot seat. She frantically checks and double  
checks outputs.

BHAREET

I can confirm the cameras are in a loop, I can not ascertain why.

TALDEGA

I thought you ran a full diagnostic?

BHAREET

It appears likely that...

Taldega STANDS UP, furious.

TALDEGA

Does anything on this fucking ship work?

INT. SECTION B2 AIRLOCK - DAY

A dingy, unimportant part of the ship. Functional. Rama in his suit DROPS the jetpack carefully on the floor. Klaus watches him from across the room.

KLAUS

Where is it?

Rama POINTS out the airlock window as he loosens the seals on his helmet.

RAMA

Tethered outside.

Klaus greedily runs to the window and looks.

KLAUS

So one of us has to go back outside and get it?

RAMA

Oh yes.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 BRIDGE - DAY

Daustin sees something surprising on his panel.

DAUSTIN

Sir, that guy in a jetpack just launched again, headed toward the second moon.

TALDEGA

Captain?

INT. BRIG HALLWAY - DAY

Telcy watches a projected feed from her beleaguered ship. She stands quickly, then CHUCKLES.

TELCY

Don't bother shooting it down. Or should I say "him"?

INTERCUTT CONVERSATION

TALDEGA

Loadmaster Rama?

Telcy CHUCKLES again.

TELCY

We're meant to think so and blast him to bits without checking. My guess is you'll find that Rama's assistant, Klaus, will be very difficult to locate now.

Taldega motions to Daustin to start a search.

TALDEGA

That's Klaus? Why would he do that?

TELCY

He wouldn't, voluntarily. He's either already dead or soon will be. Let him go.

TALDEGA

What are your orders?

TELCY

Find Rama and get him off the ship ASAP. I can't emphasize that enough. Telcy out.

INT. BRIG HALLWAY - DAY

The three of them stand in shock. Palas has a look at the cart, various panels have been removed.

TELCY

Come on, we need to get back to medical. Time for that miracle from our Doc.

They head out, Palas still giving the cart a thoughtful look.

INT. MEDICAL BAY - DAY

Doc Alyssa pores over reams of data. Telcy and Palas watch her intently.

PALAS

What can we do to help?

Alyssa points back to the door. "Leave me alone" appears to be the answer. They skulk out of the room.

INT. OXYGEN LOADING CONTROL - DAY

Telcy and Palas check the readings. All still purring here.

TELCY

Enough O2 to get to X-93 yet?

PALAS

Yeah, but not enough to get to Earth.

TELCY

Probably too late anyway.

Palas hangs his head, he knows this already.

PALAS

He's likely to be compromised. So the ship is compromised. What do we do?

TELCY

All depends on the Doc. If she can make a genetic deconstructor, we just need to release it and wait.

PALAS

How do we know if it works?

Telcy looks out the window, some trash blows by.

TELCY

Humans suck.

PALAS

Ma'am?

TELCY

Time will tell if it works.

PALAS

And if it doesn't?

Telcy looks around, makes sure they're alone.

She swipes a RED security protocol from her comm unit over to his. He READS for a moment, SHOCKED.

PALAS

Self destruct? The Skyforest 3?

TELCY

Both 1 and 3, this base, and the geothermal station. I gave Taldega access as well. If things get dicey, one of us has to do it.

PALAS

But Captain Telcy, I have family back home.

TELCY

That's who you're doing it for. It's an order.

PALAS

Yes, Ma'am.

TELCY

Locked to your eye and thumbprint. Just hope you don't have to.

He swipes the destruct screen away.

PALAS

The doc will figure it out.

TELCY

Let's watch some more of that footage, I want to understand our hungry little friends better.

PALAS

It's hard to watch, knowing what happened to her.

TELCY

We're doing it for the people back home.

PALAS

Was this all on purpose? Got the drug to Earth first so they could come later with the red carpet laid out?

TELCY  
Intelligence or hunger?

PALAS  
Yeah.

TELCY  
At this point, does it matter? End  
result will be the same if Rama  
gets his little friends back to  
Earth. Nothing can stop them.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 BRIDGE - DAY

Williams get's Taldega's attention with a wave.

WILLIAMS  
Sir, some chatter on comms, I think  
they caught him in B2. Taking him  
to the brig.

Taldega jumps up, waves to Daustin again.

TALDEGA  
You've got command. I'll be in the  
brig.

Daustin takes the seat, not eager.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 BRIG - DAY

Taldega RUNS in. Surprise! Rama is waiting alright, with a  
gun in his hand and a team of ARMED CREW working with him. A  
few moths flutter around them.

RAMA  
Welcome, Mr. Taldega. From now on  
you can kiss your boss's sorry ass  
from cell 3.

Rama motions with his gun. Taldega BOILS, looks to the other  
crew. Rama nods toward him, an ANGRY WOMAN takes Taldega's  
gun.

TALDEGA  
What are you doing? Why are you  
listening to him?

Rama's crew ignores Taldega as if he isn't talking.

RAMA  
Because we have the right answers.

TALDEGA  
You aren't telling them the truth.

RAMA  
Get in there.

With multiple guns aimed at him, he walks reluctantly toward the indicated cell.

RAMA  
You'll come around. Everyone does.

He sits dejectedly in the cell, Rama is in the process of locking it when Williams shows up with Daustin at gunpoint.

TALDEGA  
Williams?

He SHOVES Daustin into the cell as Rama sets the lock code.

RAMA  
Report?

Williams seems not to notice Taldega, answers to Rama now.

TALDEGA  
What is wrong with you Rama? Don't you know they're gonna lock you up for this? A mutiny?

Rama smiles at him.

RAMA  
I never liked you.

WILLIAMS  
He's almost ready to make the announcement and give orders. We should get back to the bridge.

Taldega bangs his fists on the locked door.

TALDEGA  
What the fuck? Who is "he" and why are you letting "him" run the ship?

RAMA  
You'll find out soon enough. Get in touch if you decide to join the winning team.

The brig clears, leaving Taldega and Daustin in cell 3.

TALDEGA

Did they make you an offer?

Daustin shakes his head slowly. Disgusted.

DAUSTIN

They have bugs.

TALDEGA

What do you mean?

DAUSTIN

What I said. They have bugs all around and in them, but they don't see. A couple bit me.

He looks at a red mark on his elbow.

TALDEGA

We've got to get out of here.

DAUSTIN

But it didn't hurt. Not even a little.

Taldega pulls the bundle out that Telcy gave him. Without a word he JABS one of the syringes into Daustin.

DAUSTIN

What the fuck, dude. NOW it hurts.

He rubs his elbow, the red mark getting bigger. Taldega jabs himself with one of the syringes. It seems to have no effect on him.

There's the sound of the PA system coming on, a microphone being handled, and then a VOICE THEY KNOW.

BICKEL (O.S.)

Attention crew! This is Sergeant Bickel, head of Security. I regret to inform you that I have had to take command of the ship. Captain Telcy has been incapacitated on the planet surface and will not be joining us for the return trip to Earth. In the name of crew safety, we'll be leaving, NOW. Bickel out.

Taldega and Daustin give each other shocked looks.



INT. OXYGEN LOADING CONTROL - DAY

Telcy and Palas watch more of the horrifying footage from when the base was overrun. Several people in the footage have chunks of their bodies missing, but seem unaware of the worms chewing on them as they talk to the camera.

Riley RUNS in the room.

RILEY

Captain Telcy, the Skyforest 3 just released docking clamps. Engines in pre-heat.

Telcy and Palas jump up in shock.

CAPTAIN TELCY

What? But they can't.

RILEY

They have.

PALAS

They'll all suffocate months before they get back to Earth.

Telcy thinks fast. Swipes Doc Alyssa onto her wrist comm.

INTERCUT

CAPTAIN TELCY

Do they breath?

ALYSSA

Captain?

CAPTAIN TELCY

The Novelis Somniferum, do they need oxygen?

ALYSSA

Not at all. They can extract oxygen from CO2. When that isn't available they go dormant.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Any luck with that genetic acid thing?

ALYSSA

I need another few hours.

CAPTAIN TELCY

You've got 15 minutes.

ALYSSA

Captain?

CAPTAIN TELCY

The Sky 3 is preparing to blast off for Earth. And I have a feeling it's only cargo will be a few thousand of those critters.

ALYSSA

I can't help you, not in fifteen minutes.

Telcy swipes the channel closed. She immediately opens the Self Destruct screen for the Sky 3, activates it. A countdown starts at 5 minutes. Over the base's PA system comes the sound of LAUGHTER. Telcy knows the voice but can't place it.

BICKEL (V.O.)

Hello Captain. I see you're trying to blow my ship up. I can't allow that.

Telcy shakes her head. The destruct countdown stops, goes back to 5 minutes and closes itself.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Your ship?

She motions for Palas to work on the computer. She WHISPERS.

CAPTAIN TELCY

(whispers to Palas)

Hack into the Sky 3. Get me an in.

BICKEL

Yes Captain. You don't have our best wishes at heart.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Our? You mean your little wriggling buddies? You know Sergeant, I like looking people in the face when I speak with them. Do you still have a face?

BICKEL

We'll be blasting off for Earth shortly. Do not attempt to interfere with our mission. Bickel out.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Sergeant? Sergeant Bickel?

PALAS  
He dropped the connection.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Can we take control of Sky 3?

He runs his hands over the keys.

PALAS  
I doubt it. I think this was  
planned, all data pathways are  
blocked.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
They can't, they mustn't get back  
to Earth.

PALAS  
If we blow this base up RIGHT NOW,  
it should take them out.

They make brief eye contact. Their last few moments?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Do it.

PALAS  
Entering command codes.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 BRIG - DAY

Taldega and Daustin pace the floor, helpless. A GUARD patrols nearby.

TALDEGA  
If the Captain could get access?

DAUSTIN  
When Bickel took over, he swapped  
all the command codes.

TALDEGA  
Tell me, did he look normal to you?

DAUSTIN  
That's the thing, we never saw him.  
Apparently he's in the mission  
room. He doesn't even use video  
feeds, just audio.

TALDEGA  
I wish she'd told me more.

The guard walks by the cell door again. Taldega JABS him with one of the two remaining syringes. The man stands still for a moment, then COLLAPSES in ANGUISH. He GRASPS at his half eaten leg, dozens of worms fall from the wound. Blood seeps out as he THRASHES on the floor.

TALDEGA

Crewman! Do your duty to this ship  
and to Earth. You've got to let us  
out of this cell.

The miserable guard briefly makes eye contact, agony in every inch of his face.

GUARD

The pain...

TALDEGA

Let us out, we need to save the  
ship.

The guard reaches for the digital key on his belt, clicks it. A light goes from red to green. Blood pours from his wound, no longer controlled by the worms. He shudders seconds later, dead. Taldega drops the empty syringe on the floor.

DAUSTIN

What's that stuff?

TALDEGA

Looks like it takes the bug's power  
away, but if they've already got a  
good grip on you...well.

They look at the TWITCHING CORPSE on the floor as they step over it. Taldega grabs the guard's gun and comm unit.

DAUSTIN

Where are we going?

TALDEGA

To save everyone.

They run out of the brig.

INT. SKYFOREST 1 AIRLOCK - DAY

Telcy, Riley and Palas stand outside the airlock. It's closed and locked.

CAPTAIN TELCY

What do you mean it's locked? I'm  
Command level. My codes should open  
anything.

PALAS

Bickel demoted you to Scullery  
Assistant here. Your codes can't do  
much anymore...

Telcy has a look at the glass windows in the airlock.

CAPTAIN TELCY

These suits are all still good,  
yes? They could maintain us on the  
surface?

PALAS

Yes, but...

Telcy grabs the flame thrower and blasts the window. It  
quickly cracks, the inner pane starts leaking. Finally it  
BLASTS outward, letting Telcy into the airlock.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Come on.

She marches into the airlock, Riley and Palas follow.

INT. MISSION ROOM - DAY

Rama enters and speaks to someone at the desk.

RAMA

Sir, all preliminaries are  
complete. Engines ready.

We only HEAR Bickel, we don't see him yet.

BICKEL

Get us to the Superluminal Entry  
point.

RAMA

Yes sir. I just want to say it's  
good to have the right man in  
control again, sir.

As Rama speaks a WORM falls from his ear. He doesn't notice.

BICKEL

Get us there. We need to be  
underway.

We finally see Bickel, very little human is left. A skull loosely supported by some tendons. Various moths and worms hold him together. But if Rama sees this, he shows no sign of it.

RAMA  
Maneuvering now.

BICKEL  
Alert me when we're ready for  
Superluminal Drive.

RAMA  
You'll know the second we're in  
position.

Rama turns and walks back to the bridge.

EXT. SKYFOREST 3 OUTERSPACE - DAY

The grand ship moves away from the base. Behind it we see the Skyforest 1 on the surface, dark and covered in dust.

INT. SKYFOREST 1 ENTRY HALL - DAY

Telcy, Palas, and Riley walk quickly yet cautiously up the hall, guns drawn. Palas and Telcy have their flame throwers at the ready.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
I'd swear we left the lights on.

PALAS  
Someone turned them off.

RILEY  
What's that...?

A RUSTLING SOUND quickly grows in intensity.

Telcy gets both hands on her flamethrower.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Ignition!

She BARELY gets the stream going as a massive WAVE of moths ZOOMS through the area. They catch fire but keep flying as long as they can.

A SPECTACULAR display of BURNING and SPARKING moths surges by them.

THOUSANDS of them pelt the team, trying to keep them from getting to the bridge. Dead and dying carcasses pile up at their feet.

PALAS

We're low on flamethrower fuel.

RILEY

Let's try the Doc's miracle potion.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Knock yourself out.

Riley pulls a vial out, attaches it to a vaporizing device.

A FRESH WAVE of moths pours in. She hits the "Process" button. The contents of the cartridge get sucked in. A slow roll of fog comes out the opposite end.

PALAS

Crank it.

She does, an EVIL GREEN CLOUD erupts out the end. The moths fly through it, don't even notice.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Tell the doc that one doesn't work.

Riley drops the vaporizer, it CLATTERS to the floor.

RILEY

Yours worked better.

Palas and Telcy meet eyes, pull the ignitors again. The second wave of moths INCINERATES in front of them.

INT. SKYFOREST 1 BRIDGE - DAY

They make their way in, with a purpose. They quickly get to stations in a FLURRY of activity.

CAPTAIN TELCY

Riley, get the engines into pre-heat. Palas, get all power couplings connected to internal.

Riley taps keys quickly and accurately.

RILEY

Ready in 17 minutes.

Telcy and Palas look at each other, unhappy.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
They'll be long gone in 17 minutes.

PALAS  
They didn't need to stop us, just  
slow us down.

Telcy looks over the controls.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
No, they'll try to stop us. With  
what we know, we could still help  
Earth...

Riley continues looking over readouts.

RILEY  
Someone has jettisoned most of our  
coolant. This ship will overheat in  
an hour. If we want to get  
anywhere, we need to refill,  
that'll take 4 hours.

PALAS  
There's that other shoe.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
We can't wait. Just means we need  
to stop them another way.

They look at each other. No going back.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Override whatever you have to, we  
need to ram that ship.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 ENGINEERING HALLWAY - DAY

Taldegia and Daustin walk quietly up a hallway. Signs point to  
the ENGINE ROOM being nearby.

TALDEGA  
We shut down the reactor and eject  
the core. Should give Telcy time to  
stop them.

DAUSTIN  
How?

TALDEGA  
That's her job. We just need to  
give her time.



They continue toward the engine room.

BICKEL (V.O.)  
Attention crew. The dangerous  
criminal Taldega and his accomplice  
have escaped the brig. It is  
crucial they be stopped. A large  
reward is offered, dead or alive.

A door opens at the end of the hallway, an ARMED MOB spots them, moths fluttering around them.

MOB  
There they are! Get them!

Despite parts of them being half eaten, they come running.

Taldega and Daustin turn and BOLT! They get to the end of the hallway and find an "Escape Pod" sign. They run in the door and hit the hatch lock. It turns red.

INT. ESCAPE POD - DAY

Taldega and Daustin look through the port at the enraged mob. They all show signs of worms gnawing on them. More moths flutter around them.

DAUSTIN  
Now what?

TALDEGA  
We come up with a new plan.

He sits at the control seat and punches buttons. The escape pod BLASTS away from the Sky 3.

INT. SKYFOREST 1 BRIDGE - DAY

Palas and Riley bang away at the controls, trying to get the ship going.

PALAS  
The docking clamps won't release.

RILEY  
Use the emergency charges, blow them.

Palas runs his hands over the controls.

PALAS  
Disabled. We're stuck here.

A BEEP and FLASHING RED LIGHT grab Riley's attention.

RILEY  
One of our escape pods just  
launched.

PALAS  
The Captain?

RILEY  
Or some homesick worms. Hold on,  
another pod launched from Sky 3.

TALDEGA (O.C.)  
Captain Telcy?

PALAS  
Palas here.

TALDEGA (O.C.)  
We did what we could, but were  
taken prisoner. We had to escape.  
Our plan is to...

SILENCE. Riley runs her hands over the controls quickly.

PALAS  
Jammed?

RILEY  
Yes, by Skyforest 3.

Palas watches his instruments.

PALAS  
Both escape pods are headed into  
deep space.

RILEY  
What? They have no superluminal  
drive. They'll run out of fuel and  
end up lost...?

PALAS  
We need to pursue.

RILEY  
We can, in 12 minutes.

Palas POUNDS his chair in frustration.

PALAS  
Damnit!

INT. ESCAPE POD SKY 1 - DAY

Captain Telcy in a pod by herself. She searches outputs for info on the Sky 3. A small worm crawls out of a console, she SQUASHES it.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
That's not good.

A light flashes, she clicks.

PALAS (V.O.)  
Captain? What are you doing?

CAPTAIN TELCY  
What I can.

PALAS (V.O.)  
It's suicide.

She swats at a moth flying around the cabin.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
In more ways than one.

PALAS (V.O.)  
Come back Captain, please. You  
can't stop them.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
I have to try. Thank you. Captain  
out.

She flips a switch to close the channel. SMASHES a moth on the panel.

She aims her controls toward the Sky 3. A few more worms crawl out, then a dozen or so moths flutter out. She swats at them but can't kill them all.

One lands on the back of her suit, she swats at it as it attaches and starts chewing. She can't reach it.

INT. ESCAPE POD - DAY

Taldega and Daustin in their escape pod. They bang away at the controls. Tense. Not long now.

TALDEGA  
Give me more thrust.

DAUSTIN  
We're already at 110%. We'll  
overheat.

TALDEGA  
If we don't stop them, what  
difference will it make?

DAUSTIN  
We won't make it back to the base.

TALDEGA  
No, we won't.

DAUSTIN  
There's another pod coming from Sky  
3.

TALDEGA  
That will be the Captain and Palas.  
Get them on radio.

DAUSTIN  
Sorry, we're being blocked. Your  
pal Rama.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 BRIDGE - DAY

Rama sits in the Captain's seat. Bhareet smiles behind him,  
finally free of her hated Telcy. She takes a seat at her  
engineering desk.

BHAREET  
Now there are 2 escape pods heading  
this way.

RAMA  
Fire at them.

Bhareet smiles. Taps controls.

BHAREET  
Firing.

EXT. ESCAPE POD - OUTERSPACE - DAY

The laser from the Skyforest 3 BLASTS one of the Escape Pods  
to sparkly bits. An expanding cloud of flaming debris.

INT. SKYFOREST 3 BRIDGE - DAY

Bhareet pumps her fist.

BHAREET

Direct hit, one pod vaporized.

RAMA

Keep firing at the other one. Are we in position?

BHAREET

30 seconds.

RAMA

Charge superluminal drive.

Concern briefly flashes on Bhareet's face. A memory?

BHAREET

Should the crew enter their acceleration couches?

A wave of annoyance, or maybe another old memory, washes over Rama.

RAMA

Yes, of course. Williams?

A worm crawls out of Williams nose as he keys his console. It crawls back in.

WILLIAMS

Attention crew. Engaging superluminal drive in thirty seconds. Enter your acceleration couches now.

There's a beep at Rama's elbow. A flashing light. He hits it.

BICKEL (V.O.)

What's the holdup?

RAMA

Seconds from position. We just need to confirm the crew is all properly restrained for the jump.

BICKEL

The crew will be fine. Make the jump.

BHAREET

Should we tell him...the pod?

Another odd look washes over Rama's face.

RAMA  
Engage the drive, Bhareet.

In front of her a series of red lights are slowly changing to green as various crew buckles in.

BHAREET  
Certainly Captain Bickel. Or Rama.

She glides her hands over controls, and enters an override for the unprotected crew. Dooming anyone not bolted down.

An UNIMPORTANT CREWMEMBER tries to get their attention. He seems partially aware of reality, but sliding into the worm's dream life.

UNIMPORTANT CREWMEMBER  
The last escape pod, I think it..

RAMA  
We don't care about them.

Bhareet begins tapping out the final sequence of controls.

UNIMPORTANT CREWMEMBER  
It's just that they're...

EXT. SKYFOREST 3 OUTERSPACE - DAY

The ship makes final adjustments, lined up in the superluminal lane back to Earth. A little speck nearby FIRES THRUSTERS. Moves right in front of Sky 3.

At the tail end of Sky 3, the main engines light up, the ship begins the jump. As it accelerates past the speed of light, the tiny escape pod burrows a tunnel through it. Deck after deck is pierced, the, bulkheads COLLAPSE. Both ships EXPLODE in a giant FLASH of light.

Pieces of the ship fly outward in all directions. Some careen back toward the base.

INT. GEOTHERMAL BASE - NIGHT

Leo watches his displays. Among the various scenes of crew being eaten a few displays show the exploding Skyforest 3.

LEO  
Ouch, that's gotta hurt.

He laughs, tosses some nuts in his mouth. A light FLASHES.

VOICE

Proximity alert. High speed debris  
inbound.

Leo looks up at the displays. One shows a massive chunk of Sky 3 headed for his geothermal base. He frantically looks around, sees his HELMET far away.

He JUMPS UP and RUNS, but it's too late. The entire room BLASTS out into space from the impact.

EXT. GEOTHERMAL BASE - DAY

Bits and pieces from the remote base fly into space, scooped from the planet surface.

Amid the wreckage we spot Leo, desperately clawing for his helmet as he runs out of air.

He stops moving as his body slowly cartwheels away, never to be seen again. The water vapor ejected from his last breath floats off. A few twitches are his final movement.

INT. SKYFOREST 1 BRIDGE - DAY

Palas and Riley stare in shock at their displays.

RILEY

What? What happened?

PALAS

One of the pods flew into their  
path right before they made the  
jump.

RILEY

Killed themselves?

PALAS

And saved everyone else.

Riley ponders this, sees something on a display.

RILEY

There's a survivor floating in the  
debris.

PALAS

Who is it?

RILEY  
No idea.

PALAS  
Send rescue drones!

INT. MEDICAL BAY HALLWAY - DAY

Palas and Riley confer with Doc Alyssa. They stare into a patient room through the door.

PALAS  
Well?

ALYSSA  
Making a complete recovery.

PALAS  
And?

ALYSSA  
You're still in charge, she won't  
be 100% for a few days.

They see movement, the patient wakes, beckons for them to come in.

INT. TELCY'S PATIENT ROOM - DAY

Palas, Riley, and Alyssa enter. Telcy stirs, uncomfortable, unhappy. Awake and asleep at once.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
Dad? Where am I?

ALYSSA  
Relax, you're back on Skyforest  
Base.

This just makes her worse.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
No! I have to get out there. I have  
to stop Bickel and Rama. I have to  
save everyone.

They smile at her.

PALAS  
You already did. The worms and  
Bickel, Rama. They all blew up when  
you flew into their path.



RILEY  
Brilliant idea, by the way.

Telcy looks out a window at the stars.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
I remember now. My Dad, he was  
there. He helped me.

The rest of the crew looks confusedly at each other.

ALYSSA  
You need to rest Captain. You were  
nearly out of oxygen when we found  
you.

RILEY  
It's a miracle you survived.

Telcy stares out the window. Small crystals fall from the  
sky.

ALYSSA  
The ice is from the Sky 3's  
Hydrogen stores. Oxidized into  
water vapor.

PALAS  
You saved us. All of us. The Earth  
is safe.

Tears form in Telcy's eyes. She reaches for the window.

CAPTAIN TELCY  
My Dad. Me and my Dad. I talked to  
him. He couldn't save his crew, I  
tried...

The remaining crew looks at each other in confusion. Doc  
Alyssa walks them outside.

INT. MEDICAL BAY HALLWAY - DAY

They regroup and look in at the Captain. She seems to be  
fading in and out.

ALYSSA  
She's whacked on Sparkle. A dozen  
or more were in her suit. I'm  
bringing her down slowly.

PALAS  
So she hallucinated her Dad?

ALYSSA  
You tell her that.

They see her through the door. She stares out into space through the window, smiles. She might even be waving to someone.

EXT. SKYFOREST BASE OUTERSPACE - DAY

Bits of Skyforest 3 fall slowly in the limited gravity. What's left of the ship is a cloud of dust and debris.

We follow a small chunk as it falls to the ground near the base.

A worm crawls slowly from the piece and burrows into the soil.

THE END