

LIVE, FROM THE MILKY WAY

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - THE BIG BANG

A pinpoint of light twinkles through the void of space -- BOOM! An explosion ripples in all directions sending stars flying. Galaxies, moons and planets shoot past.

A world zips by, slowing down just enough to catch a glimpse of salamander-like fish wriggling onto beaches.

Globes rocket past -- we peek at a planet where green gecko-like cavemen dance around bonfires before it scoots away.

An Earth-like world with rings whizzes by -- a starport in orbit. A mix of aliens enjoy the view and music at the bar.

The barrage of planetoids slows to a crawl. Earth sails towards us out of the darkness -- the moon jets in front. A city is being built under dome-like structures as it zooms straight at us--

INT. COMPLEX - LAB - DAY (THE MOON - 2074)

BOBBY AKLIM (33), scruffy face, long hair, donning jeans and plaid under his lab coat, fiddles at his work bench littered with tools in this one man lab.

He hums a tune from The Wizard of Oz as he assembles the MATRIX, a basketball sized hexagonal sphere encasing a cylinder. He jumps in with the lyrics. Badly.

BOBBY

(singing)

Picture me. A balcony. Above a
voice sings low. "Wherefore art
though? Romeo?"

(makes a 'thump thump'
sound)

I hear a beat.

(thump thump)

How sweet.

He continues his hum as he sets the last piece in place.

Slides the matrix into a contained machine in the corner.
Inserts a tube with blue gel into the matrix core.

He sets his finger on the ignition switch set at a console.

BOBBY

This is for a brain. A heart. And
a whole lot a courage.

He flicks the switch. The matrix lights up with a hum -- powers back down. Bobby sighs.

LUCY, the computer, speaks over the system.

LUCY
System failure.

BOBBY
Of course it failed. Why would it work?

He flops down at his desk. Taps his data pad --

A holographic chemical compound projects into the air.

Bobby gazes deep within it.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK - EARTH - 2044)

A YOUNG BOBBY (5), gazes at the same chemical projected before him and his MOTHER, ELORA (23), hair tied back.

ELORA
All I need is to think of a way to deliver the charge.

YOUNG BOBBY
Can't an ion engine polarize the charge?

ELORA
I suppose if you could construct-- don't start talking like that.

She picks Bobby up and hugs him tight.

ELORA
Mommy's little man is growing up way too fast.

INT. APARTMENT - BOBBY'S ROOM - NIGHT

The ceiling twinkles with a holographic galaxy. Elora tucks Bobby under the covers who snuggles with his teddy bear.

YOUNG BOBBY
What's the engine for?

ELORA
To journey past the stars.

YOUNG BOBBY
What's past the stars?

ELORA
New friends await.

She kisses him on the forehead.

ELORA
Good night, Bobby.

YOUNG BOBBY
Good night, mommy.

DR. FIORE (O.S.)
Bobby, wake up.

INT. COMPLEX - LAB - DAY (2074)

Bobby's eyes flutter open to DR. FIORE (60), complete with lab coat, standing before him.

DR. FIORE
Bobby, daylight may last for two weeks on the moon, but that doesn't mean you can't go home and sleep in your bed.

BOBBY
What time is it?

DR. FIORE
Quarter to nine. In the AM.

Bobby whips off his lab coat. Slides on his leather jacket and dashes out the door.

BOBBY
I gotta go, doc. I'll be back!

DR. FIORE
You always are.

EXT. LUNAR CITY - STREET - DAY

Earth hangs over the city. Sunlight pours through a network of domes encompassing various buildings.

Electric vehicles putter along asphalt roads, exiting through a series of tunnels connecting domes to each other.

SUPER: "THE MOON - LUNAR CITY - 2074"

EXT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Bobby exits a tunnel on his electric motorcycle and enters an apartment complex filled with trees lining the streets.

A few JOGGERS race past a park.

INT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Bobby enters the open two bedroom apartment. Heads into the kitchen where JADE (17), cute and spunky, eats pizza.

BOBBY

You're eating pizza for breakfast?

JADE

I'll be eighteen next month, Bobby,
I can decide what to eat for
breakfast.

Bobby pushes a button on the food synthesizer, a new age microwave. A cup of coffee materializes from the bottom up.

BOBBY

I don't wanna argue.

JADE

Who's arguing? You're the one
still treating me like a child.

DING. Bobby takes the coffee. Jade places her half empty glass of orange juice and plate with pizza crusts into the synthesizer. Hits the button -- the items dematerialize.

JADE

Sleep in the lab again? You could
always just move in there. You
only surface to eat anyway.

BOBBY

Matrix still won't stabilize.

JADE

Are you using fresh gel?

BOBBY

Yes I'm using fresh gel. The first
thing I do is use fresh gel.

JADE

You need to take a break.

BOBBY

I need to get this done.

JADE

You've completely isolated yourself
from everyone. That's not normal.

BOBBY

I can't stop now.

JADE

Mom would be proud of you for bringing her work so far. But maybe you can let someone else finish.

BOBBY

And have them take the credit for the work I did?

JADE

Is this about your ego?

BOBBY

This is about me finishing something I started!

JADE

And what if you never do?! Are you just gonna spend your whole life alone in that lab? Aren't you tired of breathing artificial air? Or having artificial gravity pulling down on you? Don't you wanna feel the sun again?

BOBBY

Do you realize what first contact would mean to the world? We could find new medicine. New technology. New vacation getaways. That was mom's dream. And I'm not just doing it for her, but for you. For me.

(points to the Earth
outside)

For the entire human race.

JADE

It's admirable that you wanna help the world, but you're basing everything on a belief. If aliens are out there with their advanced technology, then where are they?

BOBBY

This isn't just a job, Jade. This is my life.

JADE

Yeah, well, we only moved up here because of your job. And when I go to college, I am not coming back. You can come see me if you want.

She marches into her room, SLAMS the door behind.

INT. COMPLEX - LAB - DAY

Bobby flicks the ignition switch on the console.

The matrix shorts within the machine -- smoke rises.

Bobby gasps. An ALARM buzzes.

LUCY

Contamination breach. Initiating safety protocols.

A sprinkler system activates -- white goo rains down over the matrix, quickly solidifying and encasing it within.

LUCY

Contamination contained.

Bobby lets out a drowned out sigh. A DING rings out.

LUCY

Reminder. It is now five PM. Jade is scheduled to perform.

Dr. Fiore races in.

DR. FIORE

Bobby, what happened this time?

BOBBY

Same old same old. I'll be back, doc.

He whips off his lab coat and grabs his leather jacket.

DR. FIORE

Bobby, the board is breathing down my neck. They want a working engine for Nimbus.

BOBBY

They'll get it. Trust me.

He darts off. Dr. Fiore lets out a drowned out sigh.

INT. COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

PATRONS enjoy coffee, a view of the Earth through the tinted roof, and live music. A BAND finishes to AUDIENCE applause.

Next to the stage, Jade brandishes a guitar as she awaits with her PUNK ROCK BAND MEMBERS.

JADE

You said we could play my song.

BAND MEMBER

Look, Jade, it's just not ready.
Keep working on it.

The STAGE HOST takes the mic.

STAGE HOST

Let's keep the applause going
for... The Neutrinos!

The punk rock band step onto the stage. Jade marches off.

Bobby has witnessed the event, unnoticed from the back.

INT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

A glass of chocolate milk, cheeseburger and fries materialize from the food synthesizer.

Bobby takes the completed order to the set table where his burger and chocolate milk await.

Jade enters with guitar case in hand.

BOBBY

How'd it go tonight?

JADE

Same old same old. You?

BOBBY

Same old.

Jade plops down at the table. Takes a bite of her burger--

BOBBY

Did you wash your hands?

Jade glares at him.

INT. COMPLEX - LAB - DAY

Bobby slides the matrix into the diagnostic machine. Inserts the tube of blue gel into the matrix core.

Folds his hands in prayer, bows his head and closes his eyes.

BOBBY

Dear, God. It's me... Bobby. I know we don't talk much, but... I just want you to know that... this here... everything that led to this moment... it's time, God. Dear, God, it's time.

He puts his finger on the ignition switch at the console.

BOBBY

Oh, and uh... this one's for the kittens who lost their mittens.

Flips the switch -- the engine hums to life. His jaw drops.

BOBBY

Lucy, confirm. Is matrix online?

LUCY

Affirmative.

Bobby thinks quickly.

BOBBY

Lucy, what time is it?

LUCY

Current time is eleven fifty three PM.

Bobby pulls the matrix out of the diagnostic machine.

EXT. SHUTTLECRAFT SERVICE BOOTH - DAY

Bobby, with a bulging backpack slung over his shoulder, runs up to an unmanned booth. Taps an icon on the window.

A holographic ATTENDANT appears as if behind the counter.

ATTENDANT

I'm sorry. Passage to lunar space station will resume at six AM. Shuttlecraft destinations to Earth are open. Would you like to try for another destination?

BOBBY

No.

ATTENDANT

Goodbye.

The attendant dissolves away. A thought strikes Bobby--

BOBBY

Shane.

INT. BAR - DAY

Music thumps. The tinted roof allows lights to dazzle the full dance floor.

Bobby, backpack in hand, approaches SHANE STITCH (30), clean cut with a charm in his smile, enjoying drinks at a table with a couple of cute girls, SAMANTHA and TAMMY (24).

SHANE

Bobby! You found your way out of the lab!

BOBBY

Shane, I--

SHANE

Ladies, this is Bobby Aklim. He's building the star drive engine that's gonna send us flying across the galaxy on Nimbus.

The girls "ooh" in reply.

SHANE

Sit down, Bobby. Have a drink and tell the girls all about it.

He holds a drink up for Bobby.

BOBBY

I don't really drink.

SHANE

Drink. Then we can talk.

Bobby gulps back the drink. Winces.

BOBBY

I need you to access a shuttlecraft for me so I can get to lunar station.

SHANE

Bobby, don't let that sun fool you.
I'm off the clock. And so are you.

BOBBY

In and out. Real quick.

SHANE

That's what I'm hoping.

TAMMY

We're bored.

SHANE

I'll get some more drinks. Bobby,
whatever it is can wait 'till
tomorrow. Now have a seat and take
care a the girls for me.

BOBBY

But--

Shane dashes off. Bobby plops down into a chair.

SAMANTHA

You don't look like a scientist.

BOBBY

Thank you.

TAMMY

You look like the homeless guy with
the squeegee back home.

SAMANTHA

Oh yeah, the guy with the bugs in
his hair.

The girls shiver at the thought.

BOBBY

Thank you.

TAMMY

What's in the pack?

BOBBY

Uh... the matrix.

SAMANTHA

What's a matrix?

BOBBY

It creates a spacial bubble around
the ship allowing the propulsion
system to warp space.

The girls stare at him with blank looks on their faces.

BOBBY

It'll make Nimbus fly across the
galaxy.

SAMANTHA

That ship looks so cute on TV.

TAMMY

So cute.

BOBBY

You wouldn't wanna visit Nimbus,
would you?

SAMANTHA

For real?

BOBBY

Just gotta convince Shane.

Shane arrives with drinks in hand. Plops back down.

SHANE

Alright, who's thirsty?

Tammy leans in really close to Shane.

TAMMY

Can we go see Nimbus? Please?

EXT. LUNAR STATION - MOON ORBIT

A small shuttlecraft flies past Lunar City to a space station
orbiting the moon.

NIMBUS, a retro 50's style split-level rocket spaceship,
complete with three fins on her back end, sits docked.

INT. NIMBUS - ENGINE ROOM

Bobby slides the matrix into the star drive engine,
reminiscent of a big block engine, set in the middle of the
room. It clicks in place.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT

Bobby sits in the pilot seat. Samantha in the copilot seat beside him. Bobby flips a switch, power flicks on.

NIMBUS responds with a sexy female voice.

NIMBUS
Hello, Bobby.

BOBBY
Hello, baby.

Shane and Tammy stumble in.

SHANE
Bobby, the champagne's gone. You done or what?

BOBBY
Just about to run a test now.

He punches in a command on the console.

EXT. LUNAR STATION - MOON ORBIT

Docking clamps release Nimbus.

INT. LUNAR STATION - CONTROL CENTER - MOON ORBIT

COMMANDER LIEN LAM (30), trim and proper, observes her station next to ALITTA HAYES (27), smart as she is cute. Their screens flash.

ALITTA
Captain? I think someone's stealing Nimbus.

CAPTAIN DION REEVES (45), with a perfect poker face, looks out to see Nimbus moving away from the station. A shimmering bubble encompasses her.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT

SHANE
You never said you were taking her out for a spin!

BOBBY
How else am I gonna test the engine?

He slides back a lever -- stars bend towards them.

Space ripples behind Nimbus as she zooms away.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

Bobby checks readings on his console. Shane paces.

SHANE

We are gonna get in so much trouble. And I'm drunk. Wait, that's it. I'm drunk. I'm not responsible. I was taken advantage of...

(points to Bobby)

By you!

SAMANTHA

This... is... amazing!

TAMMY

We should go back. No one knows we're out here.

SAMANTHA

Nothing's gonna happen.

BOBBY

We'll turn back. I just wanted to test--

A blur out the window zips past, Nimbus shakes and veers.

NIMBUS

Collision avoided.

SHANE

The hell did we almost hit?

NIMBUS

Warning. Collision imminent.

Bobby pulls the lever.

NIMBUS

Star drive shutting down.

Nimbus drops out of star drive. Streaks and blurs zoom past.

SAMANTHA

What are those?

A light blips on the console. Bobby taps it -- alien voices and sounds overlap through the hailing system.

BOBBY

Hello?

ALIEN VOICE (V.O.)

Tee-kee tee-kee?

Nimbus powers down. Lights go out -- Tammy SHRIEKS. Bobby pushes buttons to no avail.

A GALACTIC FLEET SHIP, a sleek looking alien cruise liner with numerous stacked decks, glides in, dwarfing them.

SAMANTHA

Oh. My. G--

A beam of light shoots out of the ship, bathing the cockpit.

EXT. LUNAR STATION - MOON ORBIT

Nimbus gently docks.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT

Bobby, Shane and the girls are passed out on the floor. Bobby wakes. Two STATION SECURITY OFFICERS loom overhead.

BOBBY

Oh crap.

INT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Bobby rushes in. Raps on Jade's door.

BOBBY

Jade, wake up!

JADE (O.S.)

Bobby?

BOBBY

The matrix works!

Jade's door flies open revealing Jade in her pajamas.

JADE

Shut up.

BOBBY

Jade, we flew out of the solar system. Stars were zipping by. And then... I passed out. We all did. We were drinking when it happened.

JADE

We?

BOBBY

Shane and a couple a girls. Real cute. We woke up back at the station. Nimbus was on autopilot. I don't even remember setting it. All I keep hearing is "tee-kee tee-kee".

JADE

What does that mean?

BOBBY

I have no idea.

JADE

Well I'm glad you're finally getting out. I mean this is amazing. You know what this means?

BOBBY

I got suspended.

JADE

You what?

BOBBY

It doesn't matter. They're going ahead with the mission. I'm appealing to the board on Monday. Then galaxy here I come.

JADE

I wanna go too.

BOBBY

You're out a yer mind, little girl.

JADE

That's not fair, Bobby. I deserve to be a part of this.

BOBBY

You're going to college.

JADE

I just graduated from high school. I need a break. But you wouldn't know anything about that.

BOBBY
I'm your legal guardian. What I
say goes.

JADE
Don't treat me like a child. I can
take care of myself.

BOBBY
That's why you're staying here.

JADE
Fine! See if I care!

She stomps back into her room, SLAMS the door behind.

Bobby sighs. Behind him, a basketball sized TRANSLUCENT ORB,
flies past unnoticed.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

A snail-like alien, DIRECTOR MUI TANDE, oversees his snail-
like STAFF operating various stations.

Holographic monitors show Jade slamming her door shut.

MUI TANDE
Filo, get me a second camera on
Jade. Doyle, hide the first camera
before Bobby sees it!

INT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT - JADE'S ROOM - DAY

A ship in a bottle rests on a shelf. A goldfish swims in a
bowl. Bobby's childhood teddy bear sits on the bed.

Jade, backpack in hand, grabs her guitar case and exits.

INT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

Jade marches to the front door.

Bobby peeks out the kitchen.

BOBBY
Are you going somewhere?

JADE
Wow, you are a genius.

She EXITS.

EXT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Bobby rushes out to find Jade striding past the park.

BOBBY
Where are you going?!

JADE
Catching a shuttlecraft back to
Earth with my student travel pass!

BOBBY
And then?!

JADE
I'll find out when I get there!

Bobby runs after her. Steps in front of her to stop her.

BOBBY
Wait, hold on.

JADE
Get out of my way, Bobby.

BOBBY
Why are you making such a big deal
out of this?

JADE
You're getting on with your life,
I'm getting on with mine.

BOBBY
By running away?

JADE
It's called travelling.

BOBBY
You don't have any money.

JADE
I have my college fund.

BOBBY
It's for college.

JADE
It's my money. And my life.

She steps away, Bobby stops her.

BOBBY
Tell me why you're doing this.

JADE
What if something happened?

BOBBY
Nothing is gonna happen.

JADE
You'll be billions of miles away.
Anything can happen. Don't go.

BOBBY
Jade--

JADE
Please, Bobby. You don't have to
go.

BOBBY
I have to finish this.

JADE
Go find your precious aliens.

She marches away.

EXT. SHUTTLECRAFT TERMINAL - DAY

Shuttlecrafts fly to and fro as PASSENGERS enter the gates.

Jade strides along. Bobby races up, huffing and puffing.

BOBBY
Jade, wait!

JADE
What do you want, Bobby?

Bobby collapses into a nearby bench.

BOBBY
Let me just sit down... catch my
breath.

Jade plops down beside him.

JADE
I've been telling you to exercise
more.

BOBBY
I will... I promise.

He takes a moment to catch his breath. They enjoy the view of the Earth and the busy lunar traffic bustling about.

BOBBY

When I was born, mom was your age. My dad didn't stick around. And her parents didn't like the idea. So, it was just us. And I was fine. Even when guys came and went. I didn't care. Until Daniel showed up. I hated him. All he ever did was be nice. Then you were born. He handed you to me and said "This is your sister." And I was happy.

He pulls out a small jewelry box from his jacket pocket. Places it on the bench.

BOBBY

I'm gonna miss your birthday when I'm gone. Wish me luck with the board.

He walks away.

JADE

Bobby? You're gonna need more than luck.

INT. COMPLEX - BOARD ROOM - DAY

Bobby speaks before BOARD MEMBERS seated along a conference table. Including TOM (55), presiding.

BOBBY

I know I should have alerted doctor Fiore to my actions, but it was late and I only--

BOARD MEMBER TOM

Mr. Aklim, even with Nimbus's joyride aside, the objective of this mission is to explore systems with possible Earth-like worlds, in an attempt to ascertain the existence of interstellar life. You are not a trained astronaut. The realities of space travel--

BOBBY

You wanna talk about reality, let's talk about Nimbus. How much money went into building her?

BOARD MEMBER TOM
Two point four billion dollars.

JADE (O.S.)
That's a lot of bubble gum.

Jade, Dion and Dr. Fiore observe from the empty seats.

BOARD MEMBER TOM
Your point, Mr. Aklim?

BOBBY
I hand built the engine from
scratch. I hand forged every
single piece. What do you think
will happen if even the tiniest
thing goes wrong?

Board members whisper amongst themselves.

JADE
Take a minute.

BOARD MEMBER TOM
Mr. Aklim, seeing as this is
Nimbus's official maiden voyage,
the board feel that it would only
be proper if you would escort the
crew safely on their journey. If
of course you pass the fitness
training.

BOBBY
I eat my Wheaties everyday.

INT. LUNAR STATION - PHYSICAL TRAINING - MOON ORBIT

Bobby runs along a hovering treadmill, huffing and puffing.

The TRAINER, LINDA (35), last year's bodybuilding champion,
observes her holographic data pad displaying his life signs.

BOBBY
I'd like to stop now.

TRAINER LINDA
Thirty more seconds.

BOBBY
Can't do it... can't do it.

TRAINER LINDA
You can do it, Bobby.

Bobby collapses to the ground exhausted.

TRAINER LINDA

Well done. You can take a breather
and we'll start on weights. Unless
you'd rather quit now? You can
save us both a lot of time.

BOBBY

No... I got this.

INT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Night has fallen. Nothing but stars out the window. Jade
plucks away on her guitar. Frustrated, she swipes away the
holographic musical notes emanating from her data pad.

Bobby enters. Crosses slowly to the sofa.

JADE

Hello, Mr. Astronaut. How was your
first day of training today?

Bobby collapses face first into the sofa.

BOBBY

I just died.

INT. LUNAR STATION - MESS HALL - MOON ORBIT

PERSONNEL shuffle about. Bobby plops down at the table with
his food tray where Alitta, Lien and Shane eat lunch.

ALITTA

How do you like training with
Linda?

BOBBY

She's not human, is she?

SHANE

Terminator they call her.

LIEN

Who calls her?

SHANE

You know, Lien, it could get real
lonely when we get out there.

LIEN

I'll have my woobie to cuddle with.

SHANE

I'm always at your service.

LIEN

Your services are neither required
nor desired. Lieutenant.

And with that she takes her tray and leaves the table.

BOBBY

Am I sensing a little tension?

ALITTA

They used to date.

SHANE

She still wants me.

BOBBY

Is, uh... is that your perfume,
Alitta?

ALITTA

Do you like it?

BOBBY

Yeah. I think you smell good.

ALITTA

Good. If you boys will excuse me.

She leaves the table.

SHANE

Smooth, Romeo.

BOBBY

What?

INT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT - BOBBY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Bobby zips up his regulation jumpsuit. The holographic TV projects the ANCHORMAN reporting the news.

ANCHORMAN (ON TV)

Nimbus is set to launch today on a
historic thirty day journey,
exploring new worlds, and
hopefully, new civilizations.
Here's Julie Storm live from lunar
station.

Bobby's attention turns to the corner of the room --

The orb peeks out from inside his travel bag.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Holographic monitors show Bobby staring at the camera.

MUI TANDE

Doyle, get the camera out of there!

INT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT - BOBBY'S BEDROOM - DAY

The orb hovers into the air, flies through the closed window.

Bobby stands, stunned.

INT. LUNAR STATION - CONTROL CENTRE - MOON ORBIT

Reporter JULIE STORM (30), interviews Dr. Fiore as busy personnel scatter about. A hovering spherical robotic news camera, basketball size, adjusts for a shot.

Jade, a backpack slung over her shoulder and guitar case in hand, quietly observes.

DR. FIORE

The distance between us will make communications impossible. The crew will be pretty much on their own.

JULIE STORM

What can you tell us about the star drive engine, Dr. Fiore?

DR. FIORE

It can travel up to one light year a day. We've prepared an animation clip to demonstrate.

(glances off)

Do we have that ready? Yes?

A holographic animated simulation projects from a monitor.

DR. FIORE

Ah, here it is. The star drive engine enables surrounding space to be warped and pulled towards her as she moves forward, and releases behind her as space snaps back to normal while the resulting wave carries Nimbus along. We have now traveled faster than light over a very great distance.

INT. NIMBUS - ENGINE ROOM

Jade looks over the star drive engine. Bobby enters.

JADE

Is that what you're wearing?

BOBBY

I saw something in my bag. Like a ball of light.

JADE

You're just starting to get back out into life, Bobby. You don't want everyone to start thinking you're crazy.

The intercom activates.

DR. FIORE (V.O.)

Bobby, it's time. And, Jade, if you're done touring Nimbus, I must ask you to join me here.

JADE

OK, doc.

BOBBY

You gonna be alright on your own?

JADE

I'll probably just chill out on a beach somewhere before college starts. Figure out what I wanna do with my life. Maybe even find some inspiration for my song.

BOBBY

Enjoy blossoming.

JADE

You're such a dork.

Bobby strides off.

JADE

Hey, Bobby. Little advice from your little sister? Don't forget to smell the roses.

Bobby flashes her the "peace" sign and EXITS.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT

Dion sits at the helm, Lien co-pilots. Alitta on the side at the science station. Bobby and Shane seated in the back.

LIEN

Destination Eridanus system.
Distance seven light years. All
systems ready.

DION

Lunar station, this is Nimbus.
Request permission to disembark.

OPERATOR (V.O.)

Nimbus, you are clear to depart.
God speed.

Dion slides a lever -- stars bend towards them.

Nimbus zooms away.

EXT. NIMBUS - OUTER SPACE

Space ripples around Nimbus as she soars along making it seem as though she were sailing on water.

SUPER: "MISSION DAY 3"

INT. NIMBUS - ENGINE ROOM - OUTER SPACE

The air vent opens. Jade plops to the ground, an electric force field formed around her, crackling with energy -- the field flickers off.

She checks her data pad; a drained battery icon is lit.

JADE

Uh oh.

INT. NIMBUS - MESS HALL - OUTER SPACE

Jade eagerly watches a cheeseburger materialize in the food synthesizer. She snatches the completed burger, engulfs a bite -- lights flick on.

SHANE

You don't look like a mouse.

LATER

Dion stands before Jade and Bobby. Alitta and Lien, both in regulation robes, enjoy their tea at the table.

Shane hands Jade's data pad to Dion.

SHANE

She avoided our sensors by
fashioning a static dampening field
with this until the power died.

DION

A holographic data pad?

SHANE

Clever really.

BOBBY

I'll take full responsibility,
Captain.

DION

Mind telling me why you pulled this
stunt, young lady?

Jade looks at him with sad puppy dog eyes.

JADE

I'm sorry, Captain.

DION

Don't you give me those eyes.

ALITTA

She can stay with me, Captain.

JADE

Sweet.

DION

Everyone here has a duty to
perform. You'll earn your ride,
crewman.

INT. NIMBUS - MESS HALL - OUTER SPACE

Jade, complete with jumpsuit, hums a Beatles tune as she mops
the floor with an old fashioned mop, unaware of the observing
orb hovering behind her.

She jumps in with the lyrics, sounding like an angel.

JADE

(singing)

Words are flowing out like endless
rain into a paper cup. They
slither wildly as they slip away
across the universe.

She stops in her tracks -- the orb zips through the wall, avoiding her shooting glance behind.

She realizes she's mopped herself into a corner.

JADE

This sucks.

INT. ALIEN BASEMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT (SPECTATING WORLD 1)

Wisps of smoke swirl about the dimly lit room. Two green, fat aliens, SPOG and VERN, with tentacles for arms and a huge single eyeball glazed and red, sit slumped in chairs watching their holographic television project Jade.

JADE (ON TV)

This sucks.

The show switches to LETODA STEKINA, a reptilian hottie with scales in the style of a Mohawk who addresses the camera.

LETODA STEKINA (ON TV)

Aww, cheer up Jade. Things are bound to look up. Remember, only your vote will decide if we should let the humans out. Or just keep them quarantined. See you next time on "First Contact; Nimbus".

She winks. Credits roll.

SPOG

Letoda is so hot.

His tentacle wraps around a can of Tasty Cola. Cracks open the tab and gulps it back.

VERN

Those Earth girls are pretty cute.

A shrill voice calls from upstairs; their MOTHER.

MOTHER (O.S.)

Spog, what's that smell down there?!

SPOG

It's incense, ma! And shut the door!

(whispering)

Vern, light some incense.

Vern quickly moves his limbs and does as he's told.

MOTHER (O.S.)
 There's a whole universe waiting
 for you boys out there!

SPOG
 Shut the door!

The door SLAMS shut. Vern waves the incense stick around.

SPOG
 God, I can't wait to move.

INT. ALIEN APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY (SPECTATING WORLD 2)

ARORA and DANA watch rolling credits with their boyfriends
 JOJO and BULO, green with round heads complete with antenna.

ARORA
 Did you see Jade's cute shoes,
 Dana?

DANA
 Weren't they cute, Arora?

ARORA
 The cutest!

The girls squeal with joy.

JOJO
 They'll get themselves killed the
 first planet they land on.

Bulo chuckles.

ARORA & DANA
 Shut up, Jojo!

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

The crew are seated at their stations as stars zip by. Jade
 sits in the back with Bobby and Shane.

Alitta rushes in. Jumps into her seat.

ALITTA
 Sorry, had to pee.

JADE
 Oh my God, now I gotta pee.

LIEN
 We've entered the Eridanus system,
 Captain.

Dion pulls back the lever.

NIMBUS
Star drive shutting down.

The bending starlight turn into specs of distant stars as
Nimbus drops out of star drive.

ALITTA
(off her monitor)
This can't be right.

DION
What is it, Alitta?

ALITTA
I'm getting some kind of
interference with the scanners, but
I'm reading thirteen planets. Only
four were recorded in the Eridanus
system.

JADE
What does that mean?

ALITTA
This isn't the Eridanus system.

Lien punches commands into her console.

LIEN
According to my readings, we should
be at Epsilon Eridani.

ALITTA
None of this information matches
up. I'm telling you, we're not
there.

DION
Can you match this system with
anything in the data base?

ALITTA
I'm trying, but I can't find
anything. We've traveled further
than our deepest probes have ever
been.

LIEN
We have to reverse course and make
repairs to our navigational sensor.
We won't be able to map our course
without it.

SHANE

Figures. Roll it off the lot,
straight into a garage.

JADE

At least you guys get to come back.

BOBBY

You're not supposed to be here
anyway.

JADE

I do more work than you around
here.

BOBBY

I earned my ride. You're still
paying off your ticket.

ALITTA

Captain? I'm reading two planets
in the Goldilocks zone.

SHANE

You know what that is, Jade?

JADE

It's when a planet is not too close
and not too far from the sun, but
at the right distance that it can
support water on the surface. We
like learned that in grade school.

Alitta's screen flashes.

ALITTA

Oh wow.

Bobby jumps out of his seat, peeks over her shoulder.

BOBBY

What are you reading?

ALITTA

The first planet barely has any
life. Only microbes and single
celled organisms.

BOBBY

And the second?

Jade nudges Bobby aside for a better view.

JADE
You're hogging space.

ALITTA
The planet is in an early
evolutionary state. Most of all
the life I'm reading is in the
ocean. Climate is mild and warm
world wide. It's a greenhouse with
a breathable atmosphere.

DION
Let's make the most of this
situation. Launch two probes.
We'll scan both worlds.

Alitta taps away at her console.

ALITTA
Probes initialized, Captain.

DION
Let 'em fly.

EXT. NIMBUS - OUTER SPACE

A hatch underneath Nimbus slides open. Two metallic,
spherical probes shoot out and zoom towards their targets.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT

ALITTA
Probes successfully dispatched.

JADE
What are they gonna do?

ALITTA
Within twenty four hours we'll have
a complete topographical scan of
both worlds.

EXT. YOUNG PLANET

Nimbus soars towards a lush green planet.

SUPER: "MISSION DAY 7"

INT. NIMBUS - BAY DOOR - DAY

The crew, sporting sleek spacesuits, prepare to exit.

JADE

Magnetic boots and anti-gravity
belt. I read the suit specs,
Bobby.

BOBBY

Don't go messing around with your
force field. It's easy to
overload. And stay close to me.

JADE

Will you chill out already?

QUINN, a yellow spherical probe, basketball size with a lens
for a face, hovers right up to Jade's face.

JADE

Whoa, who's this?

DION

This is Quinn. He's a sensor
probe.

JADE

How about a little space, Quinn?

Quinn moves back. Darts around Bobby.

BOBBY

You're a curious little guy.

Quinn zips around Alitta, she waves. Lien politely smiles.

Dion hands Jade a small remote.

DION

Since you've shown responsibility
with your duties, and a knack for
devices, you'll be in charge of
him. He'll record everything. All
you need to do is bring him along.

Jade slides the remote into her wrist bracer, it clicks in
place. She beams with pride.

JADE

Thank you, Captain.

Shane, the only armed member, enters with a high-tech rifle.

SHANE

Rifle's charged.

JADE
Do I get a gun?

SHANE
Well now, let's see. Are you
trained with laser fire arms?

JADE
No.

SHANE
Then no, you won't be getting a
gun. Will you?

Jade scowls at him. Shane shoos Quinn away from him.

DION
Nimbus, open bay door.

NIMBUS
Opening bay door.

EXT. MARSHY FOREST - DAY

Nimbus sits surrounded by giant fern trees and green, swampy
land. A staircase unfolds to the marshy ground.

The bay door slides open revealing the crew.

JADE
Oh my God, do you feel that sun?!
(takes a deep breath)
And smell that fresh air.

ALITTA
This is incredible. Do you realize
what this means?

SHANE
Let's be cautious, Captain.

DION
Force fields.

A shimmering layer of blue light surround the crew as force
fields activate. Bobby reaches for Jade's controls --

JADE
I got it, Bobby.

She activates her force field.

Dion steps down the staircase, the crew follow behind.

JADE
There's no way I'm walking through
that stuff.

BOBBY
Who's walking?

He hits his anti-gravity belt and rises off the ground.
Everyone follows suit.

A DRAGONFLY with six foot wings, flutters over a huge VENUS
FLY-TRAP -- its jaws snap shut, trapping the dragonfly.

JADE
Eww!

ALITTA
I need a sample of that plant.

JADE
How do you expect to get it?

She's snatched out of the air by a fly-trap.

Quinn watches as the ground comes to life -- fly-traps pluck
the crew out of the air, swallowing them whole.

EXT./INT. STARPORT - BAR - ORBIT (SPECTATING WORLD 3)

An Earth-like world with rings can be seen through the clear
roof allowing the many mix of aliens to enjoy the view and
the holographic screens broadcasting the show.

All eyes are glued to screens as fly-traps pluck the Nimbus
crew out of the air. Show cuts to a commercial.

MURRAY, with bulging bug eyes, sits down amongst his friends.

MURRAY
Sorry I'm late. Did I miss
anything?

RALPH, short, stocky and furry, laughs heartily as he slaps
the table, rattling glasses.

MAYA, a red demon-like cutie with horns, sighs to herself.

INT. FLY-TRAP - DAY (MARSHY FOREST)

Bobby's force field illuminates the interior. Slime secretes
from pulsating veins lining the mouth of the plant.

BOBBY
Can anyone hear me?

DION (V.O.)
I hear you, Bobby.

JADE (V.O.)
This is disgusting!

ALITTA (V.O.)
My force field is holding up.
Until the power runs out.

SHANE (V.O.)
I'm gonna blast my way.

LIEN (V.O.)
Careful, Lieutenant.

The sound of laser fire muffles through.

EXT. MARSHY FOREST - DAY

The fly-trap's mouth peels back revealing Shane who sends a final BLAST to its guts.

SHANE
I'm out.

JADE (V.O.)
Would you mind getting us out now?

SHANE
Hang on, darlin'.

He fires at a fly-trap -- the laser bounces off.

SHANE
Seems their guts are squishier than
their outsides. Laser bounced
right off.

BOBBY (V.O.)
I'm gonna try something.

ALITTA (V.O.)
What are you doing, Bobby?

BOBBY (V.O.)
Overloading my force field.

JADE (V.O.)
Are you crazy!

BOBBY (V.O.)
Quiet.

JADE (V.O.)
Don't tell me to be quiet!

Energy crackles around the plant, it bulges outward until it finally EXPLODES sending green goo flying.

DION (V.O.)
Bobby?

A slimed Bobby sits up, wipes the slime from his mouth.

BOBBY
I'm fine, Captain. You can pop
your fields.

Shane helps Bobby to his feet.

SHANE
Don't you love this job?

Fly-traps EXPLODE revealing a slimed crew.

Jade slaps a wad of goo in Alitta's hand.

JADE
There's your sample.

BOBBY
Are you OK?

JADE
I'm fine, Bobby.

BOBBY
We're going back to the ship.

JADE
You're over reacting.

BOBBY
You're my responsibility.

JADE
Let me stop you right there, big
brother. I turn eighteen today.

ALITTA
Happy birthday.

BOBBY
If you think--

JADE

I believe the words you're looking for are "Happy birthday, Jade. Congratulations on blossoming into a beautiful young woman".

SHANE

As security chief, I'll protect her.

JADE

Great job so far. Moron.

She marches off.

LIEN

I like her.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Bobby and Alitta gaze out at the florescent lights skipping on the water from the night life under twin crescent moons.

ALITTA

Those lights are so pretty. I know it's just the bioluminescence of the aquatic life, but still.

Bobby nods.

ALITTA

You don't talk much. Me? I talk all the time. But you? Not so much.

BOBBY

Just enjoying the view.

A splash near the shore grabs their attention. Two large SALAMANDER-LIKE FISH wriggle out of the water on their fins. They stop to catch their breath. Scurry into the trees.

ALITTA

I've always believed we were part of something bigger than just us.

BOBBY

I just thought it would be a little different.

ALITTA

We are not alone, Bobby Aklim. And your engine is going to prove that. What would you say to them?

BOBBY
I don't know. Hello?

JADE (O.S.)
That's original.

Jade strolls past with Quinn. Her force field offers a dim blue glow under the moon light.

BOBBY
Where you going?

JADE
Walking Quinn.

BOBBY
You know you look like a freaky glowing alien right now?

JADE
And to my left, Quinn, you'll notice a boy and girl engaged in the act of courtship.

Quinn hovers over to Bobby and Alitta. Alitta waves at him.

JADE
The boy in this case has been completely outclassed. And one wonders why a girl would even take interest other than pity.

She doesn't break stride as she strolls on.

JADE
Come on, Quinn.

Quinn flies back to Jade.

BOBBY
Don't go far. And stay away from the jungle!

JADE
Yeah, yeah!

ALITTA
She'll be fine.

BOBBY
She almost got eaten by a plant.

ALITTA
You have to learn to let her go.

BOBBY
She's my little sister.

ALITTA
She's a young woman.

BOBBY
She's also a pain in the ass.

ALITTA
It must not have been easy taking care of her by yourself. And building a star drive engine at the same time?

BOBBY
They were my world. The engine became my life.

ALITTA
I admire your passion. Your dedication. You committed yourself to something and you saw it through. Girls like that.

She looks at him with dreamy eyes in hopes of a kiss.

INT. ALIEN APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY (SPECTATING WORLD 2)

Arora and Dana watch on the edge of their seats.

DANA
Do you think he'll kiss her, Arora?

ARORA
He has to, Dana.

JOJO
Only girls get excited whenever--

ARORA & DANA
Shut up, Jojo!

INT. ALIEN BASEMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT (SPECTATING WORLD 1)

Vern is out of his chair, yelling at the TV projecting Bobby and Alitta on the beach.

VERN
Bobby, kiss her!

BOBBY (ON TV)
Do they like ice cream too?

ALITTA (ON TV)
You read my mind.

VERN
Bobby!

Bobby and Alitta stroll off down the beach. A Tasty Cola commercial plays. Vern collapses into his chair.

SPOG
He's a moron.

INT. NIMBUS - ALITTA'S QUARTERS - OUTER SPACE

Jade plucks away on her guitar. Alitta lays on her bed searching through holographic data on her data pad.

ALITTA
The data we've collected on those two worlds will keep scientists busy for years. Who knows what else is out there just waiting to be discovered.

Frustrated, Jade drops her guitar.

JADE
How am I supposed to find inspiration if we're going home?

ALITTA
Maybe you can find another way to hide.

JADE
You've been buried in that data since we got it.

ALITTA
As the ship's biologist and astrophysicist, it's my responsibility to--

JADE
You sound like Bobby.

ALITTA
Shane would have been all over Lien on the beach.

JADE
Bobby's been isolated for so long he forgot what a girl looks like.

ALITTA

So there isn't anyone...

JADE

God no. He gave up everything trying to build that engine. And he also had to look after me.

ALITTA

It must not have been easy for either of you.

JADE

Should a been there when I got my first period.

INT. NIMBUS - ENGINE ROOM - OUTER SPACE

Bobby looks over a console displaying a schematic of the engine. Jade marches up to him.

JADE

What happened with you and Alitta on the beach?

BOBBY

Nothing.

JADE

That's what I'm talking about. You're not smelling the roses.

BOBBY

What roses?

JADE

Girls love romance. And you had the most perfect setting, perfect mood, and perfect time to kiss her. You ruined what could have been the most romantic night of her life.

BOBBY

She wanted me to kiss her?

Jade shakes her head in disbelief.

BOBBY

Well, what do you want me to do? I barely know what I'm saying sometimes. You know how long it's been since I've even been on a date?

JADE

Be confident. Girls love that.

INT. NIMBUS - STAIRWELL - OUTER SPACE

Bobby and Alitta pass each other in the narrow passage.

BOBBY

Tight fit. On the stairs.

ALITTA

Little bit.

BOBBY

You smell nice. Different perfume?

ALITTA

I'm not wearing any.

BOBBY

Oh. Well, if you could just bottle yourself and sell it. You'd be rich.

ALITTA

I'll think about that.

She continues on. Bobby shakes his head in disbelief.

INT. NIMBUS - MESS HALL - OUTER SPACE

The crew are seated around the table as they finish dinner.

DION

Did you know that a female sea turtle will instinctively return to the exact same beach she was born, even after thirty years of absence to lay her eggs?

JADE

Wow, that's... boring.

BOBBY

You know I was thinking, I got a lot more free time on my hands now.

LIEN

You must be going stir crazy.

JADE

Maybe you can write a book.

ALITTA
I love reading a good book.

SHANE
I'll wait for the movie.

LIEN
Why am I not surprised?

BOBBY
Speaking of movies--

JADE
We could totally watch a scary
movie tonight.

BOBBY
Yeah, that's what I was thinking.
Uh, what do you think, Alitta? Up
for a movie or something?

ALITTA
We'll be reaching Earth tomorrow.
I think I'll go over some more of
the data we've collected. You guys
enjoy.

She strides off. Shane pats Bobby on the back.

EXT. BLUE SUN

Empty space swirls around a blue sun.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT

Everyone is at their stations. Lien checks her readings.

LIEN
This can't be right. We should be
back at Earth.

ALITTA
(off her console)
I'm not reading any planets in the
system.

JADE
We're lost?

LIEN
We should reverse course and head
back to our last known nav point.
We can retrace our steps there.

JADE
We just did that.

DION
Easy, crewman.

EXT. GONKU WORLD - ORBIT

A blue Earth-like planet quietly spins.

SUPER: "MISSION DAY 21"

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT

Alitta checks the readings at her station.

ALITTA
I'm still getting some kind of interference with the scanners, but this isn't the first system we arrived at. I'm reading nine planets.

JADE
Oh my God, we are lost.

LIEN
Our navigational sensor is unreliable.

SHANE
How are we supposed to find our way home without it?

ALITTA
Oh wow.

Bobby peeks over her shoulder at her console.

BOBBY
What do you got?

ALITTA
One planet in the zone. And its evolution is millions of years ahead of the first world we found. There's life everywhere.

LIEN
I'm not reading any technology, Captain.

BOBBY
We have to check it out.

JADE

We're lost, Bobby. Is this really the time to go exploring?

DION

We still have a mission to complete. Launch a probe, Alitta.

ALITTA

Aye, Captain.

INT. NIMBUS - BAY DOOR - DAY

A suited up crew prepare to exit.

Bobby slides Quinn's remote into his suit's wrist bracer.

JADE

What do you mean I can't go?!

BOBBY

This isn't like the last world. You'll be safer on Nimbus.

DION

Jade, as a safety precaution--

JADE

You're taking his side?

DION

We need someone to stay back and keep an eye on Nimbus for us.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Nimbus sits surrounded by lush blue forest.

Shane brandishes his rifle as the crew step down the staircase with Quinn.

DION

Force fields.

Force fields activate around the crew.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - DAY

Jade slumps into the pilot seat.

JADE

This sucks.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Mui observes the monitors playing different angles of Jade seated at the cockpit and of the Nimbus crew as they hover along the open fields.

MUI TANDE

This is boring, Yori. What was I thinking bringing them here?

Assistant YORI wriggles over.

YORI

I'm sure it'll pick up once they meet the gonku. One of them has already spotted the Nimbus crew.

He points to a monitor displaying a GONKU, a green gecko-like caveman in a fur loin cloth, hiding in a bush.

YORI

It's only a matter of time before he alerts the others.

Mui's eyes light up at an idea striking him like lightning.

MUI TANDE

Yori, shut down their devices. Quickly.

YORI

But the gonku are a primitive species, the crew would be exposed to danger.

MUI TANDE

That's the whole point! Without it there's no drama!

YORI

But, sir--

MUI TANDE

Just do it!

YORI

Yes, sir.

Yori taps away on his data pad.

EXT. BLUE GRASSY FIELD - DAY

The crew hover along. Alitta's force field flickers.

ALITTA

Bobby, my force field isn't stable.

Everyone's force field flickers. Bobby checks his readings.

BOBBY

Everyone land!

Force fields shut off; everyone crashes to the ground.

DION

Is everyone alright?

SHANE

I think I broke my ass, Captain.

LIEN

All power to my suit is gone.

Bobby helps Alitta easily to her feet.

ALITTA

Thank you.

BOBBY

Been working out.

Quinn hovers towards the gonku hiding in the bush, thin and only three feet tall. His big, round eyes move independently as he keeps an eye on everyone.

Alitta spots the little gecko.

ALITTA

Oh my God, Quinn found... a lizard person. This is amazing. This is incredible. I gotta breathe.

Shane's rifle BEEPS uncontrollably and powers off -- the little gonku takes off running.

SHANE

My rifle's dead, Captain.

Quinn shakes and vibrates with an eerie WHINE -- plops to the ground. Bobby scoops him up.

BOBBY

Something drained his power.

LIEN

What about Nimbus?

BOBBY
She is shielded better.

DION
Since we can't call Jade, we'll
have to hoof it back. Double time.

INT. NIMBUS - BAY DOOR - DAY

Jade stands suited before the exit.

JADE
Nimbus, open bay door.

NIMBUS
Opening bay door.

EXT. BLUE GRASSY FIELD - DAY

The crew tread along. Shane's attention is drawn behind them as he hears the buzzing of wings.

SHANE
Uh, Captain?

Dozens of DRAKES, giant flying beetles, zip towards them. Each carry a GONKU WARRIOR, 5 feet tall with toned muscles.

ALITTA
Oh wow.

BOBBY
They're, uh... they're coming right
at us.

SHANE
Run!

The crew race towards the forest.

One by one, they're plucked off the ground by nets.

Jade hovers along the open field with force field active.

Spots Quinn laying on the ground.

She lands, scoops him up. Her force field flickers off.

A drake zips past, inches from her head. Jade SHRIEKS -- takes off like a shot.

A huge lizard-like saber-toothed boar jumps out of the brush.

Jade freezes in her tracks.

JADE

BOBBY!

The boar ROARS with a high pitched squeal; Jade covers her ears. The boar charges --

A GONKU WARRIOR leaps on top the great beast -- plunges his crude dagger made of sharpened stone complete with bone handle. The boar collapses to the ground.

A frightened Jade does the only thing she can -- bolts through the thick brush.

The warrior watches her run, his other eye on the beast as he twists his dagger; putting it out of its misery.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Jade slides down a muddy hill --

To a running stream.

She picks up Quinn feet away. Glances around.

JADE

Which way to Nimbus?

Sounds in the forest grab her attention. She scurries off.

An orb follows from behind a tree.

EXT. STREAM - DAY

Jade carries a walking stick in one hand and Quinn in the other as she follows the shallow stream. Her stomach growls.

A crab-like creature, a foot wide and a foot long, stares at her with its beady eyes from the edge of the bank.

JADE

Mmm, sea food.

The crab HISSES revealing razor sharp teeth. More crabs pop out of the water. They charge.

JADE

Oh shit.

She throws her stick at them and runs for it.

EXT. WATERFALL - DAY

The stream leads Jade to a waterfall. The only way out is to jump into the raging river below.

A dozen crabs are almost on top of her.

Jade leaps into the rapids; the current carries her away.

She loses Quinn as she struggles to remain afloat.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

The river calms. Jade swims to shore, slumps to the ground exhausted. Notices --

Surrounding trees covered in very large intricate webs with unfortunate victims wrapped in cocoons.

JADE

Eww.

A realization hits her. She bolts up. Her eyes dart all over until they find--

A huge SPIDER with a three foot abdomen and long smooth legs. It watches her with its 8 beady eyes and sharp fangs. Its body arches as it sets to pounce.

JADE

Please, God, don't let it eat me.

The gonku warrior plucks her off the ground in his net. Flies off on his drake.

JADE

Thank you!

ON THE RIVER

Quinn floats to the shore. The little gonku pulls Quinn out of the water. Notices a spider with its attention on him. The gonku dashes away.

EXT. GONKU CAVES - DAY

The sun sets across from a fuming volcano. Gonkus scale out of caves in the mountainside to the ground.

The OLD CHIEFTAIN, donning a cloak of feathers and carrying a gnarled staff, curiously looks over the nervous crew being guarded by TRIBAL WARRIORS with spears.

SHANE

I feel like a mongrel at the zoo.

ALITTA

A primitive society. This is amazing.

The warrior tosses the net holding Jade to the ground.

Gonkus mob around as they try to untangle her.

JADE
Watch those hands!

BOBBY (O.S.)
Hey!

Gonkus freeze, all eyes on Bobby.

BOBBY
(to the Chieftain)
I'll rip your heart, I swear to
God.

The Chieftain gazes at him curiously. He coos at the gonkus, waving them away from Jade. They step away.

Bobby marches over to Jade. Untangles her from the net.

BOBBY
He took you from the ship?

JADE
Uh... yeah.

The warrior motions them towards the crew with his spear and a grunt. They're all lead into a cave.

The Chieftain coos. A warrior's spear stops Bobby.

JADE
Bobby?

A massive rib cage serves as a makeshift door. A single warrior pushes it in place securing the crew inside.

BOBBY
It's OK, Jade.

The warrior leads Bobby to the Chieftain.

A female gonku pours red powder along the ground, encircling Bobby and the Chieftain in an infinity loop.

She strikes the powder with flint -- it ignites with a brilliant flash, snaking around the loop. Red smoke rises.

Gonkus begin a deep rhythmic chant.

INT. PRISON CAVE - DAY

Everyone peers out the rib cage.

JADE

Don't you hurt my brother!

EXT. PRISON CAVE - DAY

Chieftain's eyes close. Bobby's eyes close.

DREAM SEQUENCE

Scenes of Bobby's life flash before him.

ALITTA

We are not alone, Bobby Aklim.

JADE

Go find your precious aliens.

ELORA

Good night, Bobby.

EXT. PRISON CAVE - DAY

Bobby drops to his knees in exhaustion. The Chieftain lays his hand gently on top Bobby's head. Turns and shuffles off.

The female gonku offers Bobby a crude bowl of water. He gulps it back.

BOBBY

Thank you.

The gonku coos in reply.

INT. PRISON CAVE - DAY

Bobby steps inside as the rib cage closes behind him.

JADE

What happened?

BOBBY

My whole life flashed before me.

He slumps down against the wall. Shane peers out.

SHANE

Something's stirring.

Jade peeks out to see the little gonku cooing excitedly to the crowd as he holds Quinn above his head.

ALITTA

It's that little one we saw earlier. He must be a child. And he's got Quinn.

EXT. PRISON CAVE - DAY

The volcano RUMBLES, the earth SHAKES. Gonkus tremble.

The warrior takes Quinn. Coos forcefully at the gonkus as he motions to the volcano.

Gonkus glance at the Chieftain who thinks quietly to himself. Finally, he coos at the gonkus.

The warrior drops Quinn to the ground, backs away. Gonkus glance amongst each other.

The little gonku steps forward and coos. The Chieftain coos in reply. The little gonku glances at his people. Coos firmly at the Chieftain.

The gonkus cheer.

DRUMS BEAT. Gonkus dance around a bonfire.

INT. PRISON CAVE - DAY

JADE

How bad can it be? They're throwing a party.

SHANE

They could be preparing to toss us into that volcano and sacrifice us to God.

JADE

I don't wanna get sacrificed!

EXT. BONFIRE - NIGHT

The bonfire, smaller, burns as gonkus continue their dance.

INT. PRISON CAVE - NIGHT

Dion and Shane gaze out the rib cage.

SHANE

They have amazing stamina.

DION

And strength. They carried us with one hand.

EXT. BONFIRE - DAY

Drum music stops. The gonkus raise their arms in exhaustion to the new day sun, rising as if through the volcano itself.

INT. PRISON CAVE - DAY

The rib cage slides away. A warrior motions them out.

DION
Don't do anything aggressive.

JADE
What if they do?

EXT. PRISON CAVE - DAY

A warrior hands the reins of a very large drake to the little gonku. He scurries up to position on top the drake's head.

The Chieftain hands him Quinn. The little gonku holds him high. Gonkus cheer.

The Chieftain coos at the crew, pointing to the drake.

ALITTA
He wants us to get on.

JADE
That little shit's gonna fly us
into the volcano!

BOBBY
We can take control when we get up
there.

DION
Agreed.

SHANE
How strong can the little pip
squeak be?

Warriors urge them with spears raised. The crew climb on.

The drake takes flight. Gonkus wave goodbye.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Mui and Yori watch the crew being flown towards the volcano.

YORI
We must return their power, Mui.

MUI TANDE
Preposterous.

YORI
But the gonku means to sacrifice
himself and the crew to the
volcano.

MUI TANDE
That's life, Yori. And think of
the ratings.

EXT. VOLCANO - DAY

The drake flies towards the volcano.

JADE
When's the part when we take
control?!

Shane grabs the gonku's arm, he SCREECHES -- flings Shane
over the drake, but Shane has a firm grip on him.

SHANE
Don't let go of that little shit!

With the combined efforts of the crew, everyone helps wrestle
the gonku down pulling Shane up with him.

Lien grabs the reins and steers the drake to safety.

Quinn rolls along the drake's shell towards the edge -- Jade
catches him before he rolls off.

Notices gonku warriors on drakes flying towards them.

JADE
Guys? We got company.

A drake zips up close, the warrior leaps over -- Lien veers
away, the warrior plummets to the trees below.

LIEN
I'm getting the hang of this!

EXT. NIMBUS - DAY

The crew race up the staircase. The little gonku moans.

JADE
It's very rude trying to sacrifice
people to God!

The gonku cradles his injured arm, a small cut bleeds blue blood. He whines.

JADE
 You're hurt.
 (motions him over)
 Come here. I can help you on
 board. Come on, don't be scared.

The gonku approaches her.

JADE
 Good boy.

The gonku follows her up the staircase. The familiar buzzing of wings catches Jade's attention.

JADE
 Uh oh.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - DAY

Dion and Lien take the helm.

LIEN
 Systems online, Captain.

Jade runs in with the gonku.

JADE
 Captain.

The gonku coos.

BOBBY
 Why did you bring him here?

JADE
 He's hurt, Bobby.

Alitta grabs a Medkit and pulls out a small spray can.

ALITTA
 Can I see your arm?

The gonku shows her his injured arm. Alitta sprays the wound -- a layer of artificial skin forms over it.

ALITTA
 There. That wasn't so bad, was it?

The gonku hugs her.

ALITTA
Not so tight.

Drakes buzz around the ship.

LIEN
We've got more company.

JADE
That too.

EXT. NIMBUS - DAY

Warriors are camped around Nimbus. The staircase unfolds to the ground startling them except the Chieftain.

The bay door slides open revealing the little gonku. He runs down the staircase.

He coos to the others as he shows them his healed arm. The Chieftain's eyes examine it closely.

The staircase retracts spooking the warriors. Nimbus rises.

The little gonku waves goodbye to Jade waving back through the cockpit window.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT

Nimbus enters space.

BOBBY
Captain, our equipment power drain?
I think it was deliberate.

JADE
What? You think aliens did it?

Alitta taps away at her station.

ALITTA
I'm not seeing anything unusual in the atmosphere or geographical makeup of the planet that would have accounted for it.

JADE
Just because you saw that ball of light in your bag, Bobby--

ALITTA
Ball of light?

BOBBY

It flew off once it caught me
looking at it.

ALITTA

People have reported seeing similar
objects in the past.

BOBBY

What if they're watching us with
those things?

JADE

For what reason?

SHANE

Reconnaissance. That's what I
would do. Lay low. Gather
intelligence. Then strike.

LIEN

We don't know they're hostile.

SHANE

They could be the reason why we're
lost in the first place.

DION

Let's not start jumping to any
conclusions.

JADE

So what do we do?

Lien checks readings on her console.

LIEN

Engine power supply is at fifty
five percent. That gives us less
than three weeks to find our way
home before we're stranded on the
side of some system somewhere.

DION

How far is the nearest system?

Alitta taps away at her computer.

ALITTA

Five light years away.

SHANE

We're just gonna pick a star and
hope for the best?

JADE
You have a better idea?

SHANE
Let's ask your genius brother.
Maybe he can come up with a genius
solution.

BOBBY
You want me to find polar north for
you? Well, I'm gonna need a sled a
team. Six-- no eight sled dogs--

Shane yanks him to his feet.

SHANE
You think this is a joke?

Dion bolts up.

DION
Lieutenant! We won't get anywhere
by losing our composure.

Shane releases Bobby.

SHANE
I'm sorry, Bobby.

BOBBY
It's OK.

DION
Commander, reset the navigational
sensor. Mark this world as our
return nav point. Then set course
for the nearest system.

Lien taps away on her console.

LIEN
Ready, Captain.

DION
Punch it.

Lien slides the lever -- a BUZZER sounds.

NIMBUS
Error. Star drive offline. Matrix
has collapsed.

INT. NIMBUS - ENGINE ROOM

Bobby and crew gather around the matrix set on a work bench.

BOBBY
I don't get it, everything checks
out. It should work.

JADE
Did you try using fresh gel?

Bobby quickly places the matrix into the engine. Hits a
button -- liquid is ejected with a whizz and a whir.

SHANE
What's going on?

JADE
Nimbus had to pee.

Bobby inserts the same cylinder with blue gel into the
engine. Pushes the button -- the engine hums to life.

NIMBUS
Star drive online.

JADE
Consider my ticket paid in full.

DION
Good work. Both of you. Alitta, I
want you to draw up a complete
physical scan for everyone
tomorrow. I'll set course for our
next destination.

ALITTA
Aye, Captain.

Dion EXITS.

LIEN
I'm taking a hot shower.

JADE
A hot shower sounds good.

Shane intercepts Lien.

SHANE
You know, Commander, going through
an experience like that can change
a man.

INT. ALIEN APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY (SPECTATING WORLD 2)

Arora and Dana watch on with Jojo and Bulo.

SHANE (ON TV)
 Makes a man think of what's really
 important in his life. His future.
 His mortality.

LIEN (ON TV)
 Is that so, Lieutenant?

SHANE (ON TV)
 If we have a boy, we'll name him
 Alexander.

LIEN (ON TV)
 After Alexander the Great?

SHANE (ON TV)
 No, my grandpappi. He was mediocre
 at best.

Bulo chuckles.

LIEN (ON TV)
 Good night, Lieutenant.

SHANE (ON TV)
 Good night, Commander.

Lien walks off. A commercial plays.

Jojo reaches for the remote--

ARORA
 Turn and I will hurt you. Badly.

Jojo opts for leaning back into the couch instead.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Crew member FILO shows Mui a series of holographic worlds
 displaying on his data pad.

MUI TANDE
 No, no, no. These worlds are
 useless, Filo. We want to elicit
 emotions from the viewers. Not for
 them to fall asleep! The next
 world must contain more drama.

FILO
 Yes, sir. Drama, sir?

Mui slaps his forehead, letting out a drowned sigh.

FILO
Drama. Right away, sir.

We wriggles off. Mui turns, bumping into Yori behind him.

MUI TANDE
Yori!

Yori holds up his data pad.

YORI
Nimbus is number ten on the
galactic charts, Mui! We're a hit!

MUI TANDE
Of course we are. I am a genius.

YORI
I've never been part of a show this
successful before.

MUI TANDE
That's because you're a fool. I've
directed films that topped the
galactic box office. I was number
one! And now? Reality television.

He collapses into in his chair.

YORI
Cheer up, Mui. Letoda is
broadcasting a special show before
voting opens. She wants to
interview you. I'm sure we'll pick
up even more viewers.

Mui's snail-like eyes stretch, lighting up at an idea.

MUI TANDE
That's it, Yori.

YORI
Sir?

MUI TANDE
Imagine the amount of viewers that
would tune in if we interviewed one
of the humans. Bobby Aklim.

YORI
It's never been done before.

MUI TANDE
That's why it'll work.

YORI
The producers would never--

MUI TANDE
The producers have given me
complete artistic control. We'll
put him in an induced state for his
interview with Letoda, then wipe
his memory afterwards.

YORI
Memory wipes aren't always
reliable.

MUI TANDE
The greater the risk, the greater
the reward, Yori.

EXT. NIMBUS - OUTER SPACE

Nimbus comes to a stop. A circular space ship descends on
top of her. Engulfs her in a bright beam of light.

INT. NIMBUS - BOBBY'S QUARTERS - OUTER SPACE

Bobby is asleep in bed. Light pours in through the window.

A pinpoint of light appears in the middle of the room,
growing larger as a portal blooms open.

A metallic bed hovers through. Shadows creep in.

INT. ALIEN STUDIO - STAGE - OUTER SPACE

Letoda Stekina stands on a circular stage surrounded by her
STUDIO AUDIENCE made up of an array of aliens.

An orb moves across the stage, filming her.

LETODA STEKINA
Welcome to a special "Nimbus". I'm
your host, Letoda Stekina.

Audience members applaud.

LETODA STEKINA
First contact. A magical time when
a sentient species discover that
they are not alone.
(MORE)

LETODA STEKINA (CONT'D)

When life first sprang forth
throughout the galaxy eons ago, new
friends, and enemies, were met. A
community was built. And the
galaxy became just a little
smaller.

Audience members chuckle.

LETODA STEKINA

Emergence has since slowed to a
crawl as we await new civilizations
ready for contact. But not all
societies would succeed.

Holographic monitors pop up around her displaying images of
warring aliens and destroyed cities.

LETODA STEKINA

Some would prove too volatile to
even attempt communications. While
others would not have the wisdom to
avoid their shortcomings. And are
never seen. Yet some worlds manage
to avoid their foibles. And squeak
by. Like our next world...

A single monitor plays beside her displaying Earth. Clips of
some of its historic moments play.

LETODA STEKINA

Earth. At least that's what the
natives call it. The first time
they captured the galaxy's
attention was twenty five hundred
years ago during the trial of Jesus
of Nazareth. And now this
controversial species has captured
our attention again as the first
humans attempt to find, well... us.

Audience chuckles.

LETODA STEKINA

Are humans ready to be unleashed
upon the galaxy? I've asked some
special guests to join us to help
us answer that question.

Holographic monitors surround her displaying ALIEN GUESTS.

LETODA STEKINA

Hi all.

DR. SMOT, bird-like, looks confused.

DR. SMOT (ON MONITOR)
Hello? Are we on?

LETODA STEKINA
Hello, Dr. Smot. Yes, we're on.
Are you a fan of the show?

DR. SMOT (ON MONITOR)
Oh yes, I've been watching the
first contact series since I was a
child.

LETODA STEKINA
Do you believe humans are ready for
contact?

DR. SMOT (ON MONITOR)
Absolutely. There's no reason for
humans to be isolated from the rest
of the galaxy.

PROFESSOR POKER, jellyfish-like, smirks. Squiggly tentacles
flutter around his mouth as he talks.

PROFESSOR POKER (ON MONITOR)
That's absurd.

LETODA STEKINA
Professor Poker, you disagree?

PROFESSOR POKER (ON MONITOR)
Humans are savages. As proven by
their history. They'll wreak havoc
wherever they go, claiming
everything for themselves. We
should take away their ability for
space travel and vote to keep them
quarantined. It's all in my book.

A gooey alien, MYXL, bubbles, pops and fizzes.

LETODA STEKINA
I'm sorry Myxl, we seem to have a
problem with the translator.

ANAXIA, a sexy feline, purrs.

ANAXIA (ON MONITOR)
I believe what my distinguished
pile of goo is saying, is that the
commonality that binds us all can
be found within humans as well.

LETODA STEKINA
That's impressive, Anaxia, you
speak Shellian?

ANAXIA (ON MONITOR)
It's all in their body language.

Myxl bubbles and pops.

LETODA STEKINA
While we get the translator fixed,
let's sync up with the director of
"Nimbus", Mui Tande.

Audience members applaud. Mui appears on a monitor.

LETODA STEKINA
Hi, Mui. What is it about humans
that make them so fascinating?

MUI TANDE (ON MONITOR)
Myxl said it beautifully; There's a
bit of human in all of us.

PROFESSOR POKER (ON MONITOR)
That's insulting.

DR. SMOT (ON MONITOR)
You're insulting.

PROFESSOR POKER (ON MONITOR)
At least I have a book.

Myxl fizzes and squirts.

Audience stare, blankly.

LETODA STEKINA
Here's a viewer question for you,
Mui. Roy from the Usha Nebula
writes "How is Nimbus's journey
through open space being handled?"

Roy's question types out as a hologram before her.

MUI TANDE (ON MONITOR)
Good question, Roy. We've been
able to keep an infrascopic bubble
around Nimbus. This allows her to
travel faster than she normally
could as we guide her along her
course. The bubble also serves to
prevent interstellar visuals and
transmissions from being received.
(MORE)

MUI TANDE (ON MONITOR) (CONT'D)

What that means, Roy, is that
Nimbus will see what we want her to
see.

LETODA STEKINA

We'll be right back with a very
special guest. You won't want to
cast your vote until you see my
interview with this human. Don't
touch that dial, Roy.

She winks at the camera. Audience applauds.

INT. ALIEN STUDIO - GREEN ROOM - OUTER SPACE

Bobby, suited in his jumpsuit, awakens on a sofa style seat.

CHANCIE, with a fish-like face, in an elegant business suit,
leans in with a warm smile.

CHANCIE

Mr. Aklim? I'm Chancie. I'll be
your guide today.

Bobby sits up.

BOBBY

Is this a dream?

CHANCIE

The sedative you've been given is
meant to help you relax. That's
why you're feeling a bit... cloudy.
Nanomites have also been injected
into your bloodstream making it
possible for you to understand me.
They'll dissolve in a few days.

Bobby slowly touches her face. Chancie smiles.

BOBBY

You're... an alien.

CHANCIE

My parents are originally from
planet Pescatore. It's in the
south western most quadrant of the
galaxy.

BOBBY

You have beautiful eyes.

Chancie's face glows as she blushes.

CHANCIE
Thank you. We um... we should
probably get going.

She helps Bobby to his feet.

BOBBY
Where are we going?

CHANCIE
You're due on stage for your
interview with Letoda Stekina.
Just follow me. And be yourself.

INT. ALIEN STUDIO - STAGE - OUTER SPACE

Letoda is seated in one of two hovering chairs on stage.

LETODA STEKINA
I am absolutely excited to bring
out our very special guest. This
is the first time a species in
quarantine has ever been
interviewed. So please help me
welcome... Bobby Aklim!

Bobby sways on stage to audience applause. He waves.

LETODA STEKINA
Hello, Bobby.

BOBBY
Hello gorgeous.

He flops into his seat.

LETODA STEKINA
How are you feeling?

BOBBY
Like I'm floating.

Audience members chuckle.

LETODA STEKINA
Can you tell our viewers what first
contact would mean to you?

BOBBY
Vacations on new worlds. Trying
new foods. Maybe even meet a cute
girl like you.

Audience members "ooh" slyly.

LETODA STEKINA
 You have quite the fan following.
 Yet there are those who believe
 that given your people's history,
 you may be too naughty.

BOBBY
 Sins of the father, huh?

LETODA STEKINA
 You believe their fears
 unjustified?

BOBBY
 I believe in The Beatles.

LETODA STEKINA
 The music band from Earth?

BOBBY
 All you need is love.

Audience members chuckle.

LETODA STEKINA
 I love that song.

BOBBY
 It's all you really need.

Audience members applaud. Bobby raises an arm in triumph.
 The audience cheer even louder.

Bobby sweeps Letoda back -- and kisses her. Audience members
 swoon. Bobby flashes them the "peace" sign.

BOBBY
 Peace!

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Bobby is on a monitor, live from Letoda's show.

MUI TANDE
 Prep him and send him back, Yori.

YORI
 Yes, sir.

He taps away on his data pad.

INT. NIMBUS - BOBBY'S QUARTERS - OUTER SPACE

Bobby shoots up from bed. Was it a dream?

INT. NIMBUS - ALITTA'S DOOR - OUTER SPACE

Bobby stands nervously before Alitta's door, repeatedly pushes the bell.

The door slides open revealing an annoyed and half asleep Alitta in her regulation undergarments.

ALITTA
Stop ringing my bell.

BOBBY
I had a bad dream.

Jade peeks over from her cot.

JADE
Oh my God, is that Bobby?

ALITTA
He had a bad dream.

JADE
You're such a child, Bobby.

Alitta steps out of the room, the door slides closed.

ALITTA
Come on before you wake everyone.

She leads Bobby back to his quarters.

INT. NIMBUS - BOBBY'S QUARTERS - OUTER SPACE

Alitta flips over the bed covers.

ALITTA
Climb in.

BOBBY
I can't sleep.

ALITTA
Climb. In.

Bobby climbs in under the covers. Alitta gets in with him.

BOBBY
What are you doing?

ALITTA
Close your eyes.

Bobby closes his eyes. Alitta hums "Hush, little baby."

BOBBY
This isn't gonna work.

Alitta continues her tune uninterrupted. And before he knows it, Bobby is fast asleep. Alitta falls asleep with him.

INT. NIMBUS - MESS HALL - OUTER SPACE

Jade watches a stack of pancakes materialize.

She sets her plate on the table where Shane, Lien and Dion eat breakfast. Bobby and Alitta ENTER, join the crew.

JADE
Well, well, well.

BOBBY
Nothing happened.

SHANE
What'd I miss?

JADE
Bobby shows up at our door in the middle of the night, freaking about some dream he had. And Alitta tucked him in. All night.

SHANE
That's a new one.

ALITTA
He had a bad dream. And I fell asleep with him. That's all.

DION
What was your dream about, Bobby?

BOBBY
It's kind a hazy, but... I was surrounded by aliens.

JADE
You're dreaming about them now? Why am I not surprised? But, I have been feeling like I'm being watched.

LIEN
Being isolated in space can play tricks on ones senses. I'll teach you some meditation techniques.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Mui scolds cameraman DOYLE.

MUI TANDE
I've told you not to get so close,
Doyle!

DOYLE
Filming is an art, Mui. To capture
a moment--

MUI TANDE
I'll send you to the shopping
channel if you get caught again!

DOYLE
Yes, sir.

He slithers off. Mui bumps into Yori behind him.

MUI TANDE
Yori! Where are we in the ratings?

YORI
We're number five.

Mui rubs his forehead in frustration.

YORI
Would you like a neuralizer?

MUI TANDE
No, I don't want a neuralizer.

Filo wriggles over with data pad in hand.

FILO
Mui! I found the dramatic world
you're looking for.

His pad projects a dead holographic world complete with
readouts flashing. Mui's eyes widen.

MUI TANDE
Yes... Yes! Now this is drama,
Filo. Yori!

YORI
Yes, sir?

MUI TANDE
Get me a neuralizer.

EXT. DEAD WORLD

A planet ominously spins with no atmosphere, ocean or life.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT

The crew are at their stations.

ALITTA

I'm reading seven planets in the system. One in the zone.

LIEN

Captain, I'm picking up remnants of structures.

Bobby peeks over Alitta's shoulder.

BOBBY

What do you read?

ALITTA

Nothing.

BOBBY

Nothing?

ALITTA

No life. No water. Not even an atmosphere.

BOBBY

It's in the zone?

ALITTA

Yes.

EXT. RUINED CITY - DAY

Nimbus glides over the remains of buildings that litter cratered streets. A war torn city sits frozen in time.

SUPER: "MISSION DAY 27"

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - DAY

Jade gazes out at the debris with Bobby and Shane.

JADE

Was it a natural disaster?

SHANE

I doubt it.

ALITTA

Without an atmosphere, the sun was able to vaporize all evidence of what occurred here. I can't even say when it happened.

DION

Commander, we'll set course for the dark side.

EXT. NIMBUS - NIGHT

Nimbus rests amongst flattened ruins and decayed buildings lit by the moonlight.

The suited up crew step down the staircase with Quinn.

JADE

I don't like it here.

DION

Easy, crewman.

Bobby treks off. The crew follow.

EXT. DESTROYED STREET - NIGHT

A painted flower sits on the side of a collapsed building, untouched by the rays of the sun.

A teddy bear-like doll rests at its base. Bobby picks it up.

Notices a chunk of wall standing. A shadow etched on the surface, a small hand with four digits outstretched.

Bobby lays his hand gingerly atop the shadow's hand. Hovers away. Jade touches the shadow's hand.

JADE

God bless.

EXT. CRATER EDGE - NIGHT

Sandblasted glass crunches as Bobby steps to a massive crater, teddy bear in hand.

He drops to his knees, defeated.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Mui directs Doyle controlling the camera from his station.

MUI TANDE

Now zoom in, Doyle.

On the monitor, the camera zooms in on Bobby on his knees.

MUI TANDE
There. That's our shot. Our
vanquished hero.

INT. ALIEN APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY (SPECTATING WORLD 2)

Arora and Dana solemnly watch with their boyfriends.

ARORA
I just wanna hug him.

DANA
Me too.

JOJO
You can hug me.

ARORA & DANA
Shut up, Jojo!

EXT. CRATER EDGE - NIGHT

Jade and the crew step to Bobby.

JADE
Bobby?

BOBBY
They're gone. They're all gone.

Dion puts a hand on Bobby's shoulder.

Alitta kneels beside him, takes his hand.

ALITTA
I'm sorry, Bobby.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - DESTROYED STREET - NIGHT

The crew prepare to launch.

SHANE
Doesn't matter where we go. We'll
be out a gas next week. And our
onboard power supply will only last
us a few months.

JADE
Well we can't stay here.

DION

We'll reverse course and head back to our nav point.

JADE

With all those lizard people?

DION

They'll be food and water. We'll send out a distress signal and hope for the best.

LIEN

There's no guarantee we'll get there. We could still be flying blind.

DION

It's a chance we have to take.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Yori looks up from his digital pad.

YORI

We're number three.

Staff look to Mui.

MUI TANDE

It's a start.

Staff cheer.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

Bobby stares out from the pilot seat to the stars zooming by.

A hand comes into view offering a glass of chocolate milk.

ALITTA

Penny for your thoughts?

Bobby takes the glass. Alitta sits in the copilot chair.

BOBBY

My mom shelved her research when Jade was born. I found it after the shuttle accident. I remember thinking I could do it. I could finish it for her. I didn't expect it to take my whole life from me.

Alitta kisses him on the cheek.

BOBBY
What was that for?

ALITTA
The past is gone. The future isn't
here yet. All we got is now.

She sways off. Bobby bolts up.

BOBBY
Alitta? I, uh... I've been
thinking that maybe-- I mean, its
been a long time since... and I
just wanted to thank you. For
being a friend.

ALITTA
Anytime.

She strolls off. Bobby sighs. Flops back into his chair.

INT. ALIEN BASEMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT (SPECTATING WORLD 1)

The show cuts to a commercial. Vern collapses back into his
seat with a groan.

Spog holds out a tentacle. Vern reluctantly passes him a
gold coin. Spog kisses it.

INT. NIMBUS - BOBBY'S QUARTERS - OUTER SPACE

Quinn projects footage of Bobby and Alitta on the beach.

BOBBY (ON VIDEO)
Where you going?

JADE (ON VIDEO)
Walking Quinn.

BOBBY
Mute audio.

Audio mutes.

BOBBY
Lay a grid and rewind clip.

A grid lays over the projection.

BOBBY
Enhance grid A four.

An orb is revealed behind the thick brush, reflecting the
light of the moon. The image distorts -- cuts to blue.

BOBBY
Quinn, replay video.

Holographic writing flashes "NO IMAGE FOUND".

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

Bobby sits at the helm, lost in thought as stars zip by.

BOBBY
Nimbus, how many life signs are
onboard?

NIMBUS
Six life signs are being recorded.

BOBBY
Has anything unusual been recorded?

NIMBUS
Please specify.

BOBBY
Have any energy signatures or
transmissions been recorded since
we left lunar station?

NIMBUS
Negative.

BOBBY
Any spacial distortions?

NIMBUS
Negative.

Alitta enters.

ALITTA
How many pennies are we up to?

BOBBY
Nimbus, music.

NIMBUS
Please specify.

BOBBY
Anything. The waltz.

The waltz plays.

ALITTA
What are you--

BOBBY
Nimbus, max volume.

The sound blares. Bobby pulls Alitta close and whispers something to her. She whispers something back.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Mui watches on as Bobby and Alitta whisper to each other.

MUI TANDE
What are they saying?

YORI
I'm not sure. They're whispering.

MUI TANDE
I'm aware they're whispering!

The music stops.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

Bobby sits back down. Alitta flops down beside him.

ALITTA
If they are watching us, then why aren't they attempting to communicate?

BOBBY
Let's ask 'em.

He flicks on the hailing system.

BOBBY
This is Bobby Aklim.

ALITTA
And Alitta Hayes.

BOBBY
We're coming at you live from the Milky Way. That's what we call it anyway. Maybe you call it something else. Hey, tell you what? Why don't we talk about it?

ALITTA
Go on, send us a hail. You can even just drop on by. We're here to answer all your questions.

BOBBY
 Maybe you wanna know why we like
 spaghetti and meatballs.

ALITTA
 Or salad.

BOBBY
 Or... salad.

Jade strolls up to them.

JADE
 What are you guys doing?

ALITTA
 Sending an open transmission.

BOBBY
 Well if it isn't my little sister
 Jade. Who recently took a job in
 the custodial arts. You're showing
 some real skill by the way.

JADE
 Whatever.

ALITTA
 Jade is currently writing a song
 and hopes to start her illustrious
 music career when she returns home
 to Earth. Is there anything you'd
 like to say?

JADE
 Your kids are gonna be mental.

INT. NIMBUS - ALITTA'S QUARTERS - OUTER SPACE

Jade and Alitta are fast asleep in their beds.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

A gloved hand pulls the lever on the controls.

NIMBUS
 Star drive shutting down.

EXT. NIMBUS - OUTER SPACE

Nimbus floats in quiet space surrounded by distant stars.
 The bay door opens revealing Bobby in his spacesuit.

He activates his belt -- flies out a short distance and stops. Gazes out at the stars around him.

BOBBY

Mom? I'm not sure I can find friends out here.

Something upward catches his eye --

A circular shadow sits as if behind the stars themselves.

Bobby flies towards it.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Mui is asleep in his chair. Yori hurries over.

YORI

Mui!

Mui's eyes shoot open.

MUI TANDE

What, yes? Yes, what?

YORI

Bobby left Nimbus!

MUI TANDE

He what?!

EXT. EDGE OF BUBBLE - OUTER SPACE

Bobby bumps against an invisible field above him.

Pushes it with his hand -- it stretches like a bubble until his hand slides through, the field withdraws around his arm.

He pulls his hand back out. Glances back at Nimbus off in the distance. Jabs his hands through to --

THE OTHER SIDE

Bobby pops his head out of the bubble revealing the shadow above to be a moon complete with a bustling metropolis.

To his left -- the lush, green world with rings. The starport in orbit. Ships fly back and forth.

Bobby flies out of the bubble. Soars towards the starport.

EXT. STARPORT - ORBIT

Bobby flies up to a door hatch of the colossal construction. It dematerializes revealing a lit hallway, another door at the other end. Bobby steps in.

INT. STARPORT - AIR LOCK

The door rematerializes. A red light turns green.

Bobby checks his data pad. His helmet retracts into his suit. Sniffs the air. Treads off down the hall.

INT. STARPORT - PROMENADE - ENTRANCE

The door dematerializes revealing Bobby, his jaw drops --

Vast aliens, weirder than the next, shop and eat in countless stores and restaurants scattered through rows of floors.

A Sasquatch-like child stomps in protest nearby. Her father points and grumbles. The child whimpers. Marches off.

A flower shop with vibrant luminous flowers set out front, catches Bobby's eye. Smells a blue rose.

The bird-like FLORIST, CHIRPS as she points excitedly at him.

BOBBY

I'm just smelling it.

All eyes are on Bobby. Fingers and tentacles point at him, a garble of languages and clicks ring out. Bobby dashes away.

INT. STARPORT - FOOD COURT

Diners feast on colorful foods of all shapes and sizes.

Bobby races through. Stops as he notices TV's playing a commercial for "Nimbus".

BOBBY

Why am I on TV?

Across the way, a kiosk sells T-SHIRTS with images of Nimbus and the crew on them. Including Bobby.

BOBBY

Why am I on a T-shirt?

He finally notices everyone staring at him.

Murray, Ralph and Maya rush out of the bar with the crowd. Ralph laughs in hysterics, slapping his leg.

An orb flies towards Bobby. He's projected live on surrounding TV's as a breaking news story with alien writing.

Bobby waves to himself on camera.

GALACTIC FLEET SECURITY OFFICERS, rhino-like behemoths 7' feet tall, surround the area. Their leader barks a command.

Diners evacuate the area. Bobby has nowhere to go.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Mui watches Bobby on the monitors being led away by the security officers. Yori wriggles over.

MUI TANDE

Yori! He's all over the news!

YORI

Yes, sir. Galactic fleet security have him detained. They wish to speak with you. And uh...

MUI TANDE

And what?

YORI

The producers of the show have requested communications as well.

Mui slaps his forehead in frustration.

YORI

Would you like another neuralizer?

INT. HOLDING CELL

Bobby paces the empty, elliptical room with lit walls.

A glass of water pops out of the floor, a column raises it into the air.

Bobby grabs the glass. Sniffs the water. Tastes it. Gulps it back. Sets the empty glass back down.

The column sinks back into the floor taking the cup with it.

BOBBY

Thank you.

He slumps against the wall, slides to the ground.

Mui appears on a holographic monitor across from him.

MUI TANDE
Hello, Bobby.

Bobby jumps to his feet.

BOBBY
Who are you?

MUI TANDE
I am Mui Tande! Filmmaker
extraordinaire. And most recently
television.

BOBBY
You speak English?

MUI TANDE
The water you drank contained
nanomites. Yada yada.

BOBBY
What's going on?

MUI TANDE
You managed to generate quite a bit
of buzz that day when you flew out
of the quarantine zone. I knew we
had to move quickly if we were to
capture lightning in a bottle.

BOBBY
What's that supposed to mean?

Another monitor appears. Clips of "Nimbus" play.

MUI TANDE
They were with you when you bid
farewell to your sister. They were
with you when you saved your
friends from the jaws of death.
And they were with you when you
missed your chance with Alitta.

BOBBY
You've been watching us? Like a
television show?

MUI TANDE
And they'll continue to watch.
Live as you make first contact. I
believe it's the Burridian's turn
to host the event.

BOBBY
What do you want?

MUI TANDE
For legal matters and other trivial nonsense, I need you to agree to one more season. Why end the show now when there can be so much more? Imagine, more new worlds, more primitive cultures. More dangers. Each more dramatic than the last.

BOBBY
You're insane.

MUI TANDE
I am a visionary.

BOBBY
What if I say no?

MUI TANDE
You'll be sent home. With no data of your adventure. No proof to back your claims. You would be an outcast. Shunned from society. Loathed by all. Is that what you want, Bobby? Is that what you worked so hard for? Is that what you sacrificed your life for?

BOBBY
I want out a here right now.

MUI TANDE
That too can be arranged.

The screen shuts off.

A chair forms out of the ground in the middle of the room.

BOBBY
I'm not sitting in that chair.

A door slides open revealing a galactic security officer.

GALACTIC SECURITY OFFICER
Sit. Down.

BOBBY
Hell. No.

The officer stomps towards him. Bobby darts, the officer grabs him. Forces him in the chair. It illuminates -- Bobby can't budge. The officer stomps out.

BOBBY

Jerk.

The chair retracts and extends into a table with Bobby snug. It lifts into the air.

Alien MEDICAL STAFF enter.

BOBBY

What're you doing?

A medic injects him behind his ear with a hypo-syringe; Bobby's eyes flutter closed.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Mui enters. Yori hurries over with his data pad.

YORI

Mui! Bobby's appearance on the starport has propelled us to number one! The producers are claiming it as part of a promotional stunt for first contact. They're expecting a finale on Burridia.

MUI TANDE

What they expect is irrelevant, Yori.

YORI

But the voting is in. The audience want first contact.

MUI TANDE

I know what the audience wants! And what they want... is more. Now bring up the galactic star charts. It's time to set the stage for our final scene.

YORI

We've already adjusted Nimbus's course for Burridia.

MUI TANDE

Then bring up the Burridian star system.

Yori taps away on his pad -- a holographic solar system projects in the air complete with asteroids moving about.

MUI TANDE

There. That's perfect, Yori.

INT. NIMBUS - MESS HALL - OUTER SPACE

The crew enjoy breakfast as Nimbus zooms along. Bobby, with circles under his eyes, flops down among them.

JADE

You look like crap, Bobby.

BOBBY

I feel like crap.

JADE

I'll get you some chocolate milk.

She activates the food synthesizer.

ALITTA

Bad dream?

BOBBY

More like a nightmare.

Alitta grabs the Medkit. Pulls out a wrist band and slips it around Bobby's wrist.

ALITTA

Let's see what's going on in that system of yours.

She uses her digital pad and taps away.

Jade hands the chocolate milk to Bobby.

JADE

Dream of aliens again?

BOBBY

It was different this time. I don't even remember going to bed. It's like trying to remember something when you were drunk.

SHANE

Good times.

LIEN

What do you remember?

SHANE

A lot of laughing.

LIEN

Not you.

BOBBY

I can remember a tunnel. And then I'm on the other side. Smelling a flower. There's aliens all around me. And I can see screens. With us playing on 'em. Like a TV show or something.

JADE

You're going space crazy, Bobby. That's the dumbest thing I ever heard.

BOBBY

I'm not going space crazy.

ALITTA

Bobby, there's something foreign in your system. Tiny microorganisms. They're dissipating at a slow rate.

BOBBY

Tee-kee tee-kee means hello.

JADE

How do you know that?

BOBBY

I just do.

LIEN

(in Mandarin)

Do you understand what I'm saying, Bobby?

BOBBY

Yes.

LIEN

(in Mandarin)

If I had five apples and I gave you one apple, how many apples would I have left?

BOBBY

Four apples.

JADE

Shut up.

SHANE

He's a freakin' genius. He could a learned Chinese in his sleep.

ALITTA

What about the organisms in his body?

SHANE

A bit of undigested beef.

BOBBY

Are you quoting Dickens?

SHANE

We're in outer space. Maybe he picked up something along the way.

ALITTA

Nothing showed up in our last scans, Shane.

SHANE

So what do you wanna do?

DION

If these aliens are sitting in judgment of us, then let's be damned for who we are.

JADE

You want us to continue on like nothing's happening?

DION

What other choice do we have?

INT. NIMBUS - SHANE'S QUARTERS - OUTER SPACE

Shane gazes out at the stars zipping by. A RING at the door. He doesn't answer. Lien enters.

LIEN

You alright, Lieutenant?

SHANE

No, I'm not alright.

He paces uneasily.

LIEN
Close your eyes and take a breath.

SHANE
I don't wanna meditate.

LIEN
I'm not asking you to meditate.
I'm asking you to calm down. See,
that was your problem. You never
listened to me.

Shane kisses her.

SHANE
What did you say?

Lien kisses him.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Mui slithers up to a control console. Yori right behind him.

MUI TANDE
It's time to create magic, Yori.
Prepare to disengage the bubble
surrounding Nimbus. And give me
remote access to her.

YORI
Sir?

MUI TANDE
Now, Yori!

YORI
Yes, sir.

Yori taps away on the console.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

Crew are at their stations. A light blips on Lien's console.

LIEN
Captain? I'm receiving
transmissions.

DION
From where?

LIEN
From everywhere.

EXT. METEOR SHOWER - OUTER SPACE

A barrage of meteors race through space.

SUPER: "MISSION DAY 33"

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT

Dion and Lien exchange a glance.

DION
I felt a shift.

LIEN
Me too.

DION
Nimbus, confirm. Did we alter
course?

NIMBUS
Negative. Star drive shutting
down.

DION
I didn't tell you to shut down,
Commander.

LIEN
That wasn't me.

EXT. NIMBUS - OUTER SPACE

Nimbus exits star drive -- a meteor slams into her. She spins out of control, her force field flickers.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

An ALARM rings. Automated seat belts secure everyone. Dion and Lien scramble over the controls. Lights flicker.

DION
Switch to thrusters!

Lien hits a switch.

LIEN
Thrusters online!

EXT. NIMBUS - CONTINUOUS

Thrusters fire. Meteorites pelt the force field. It shuts off -- a meteor punches a hole through the side of the ship.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

A second ALARM rings.

ALITTA
We have a hull breach! The force
field isn't stable!

DION
Seal it off!

JADE
Oh my God, oh my God, oh my God.

BOBBY
Be cool, Jade.

JADE
I will not be cool, Bobby!

Alarms silence. Lights go out. Gravity shuts off.

LIEN
We just lost power. And gravity.

ALITTA
Captain, our air will be gone in a
few minutes.

Dion unbuckles his seat belt. Floats to the lockers.

DION
Everyone suit up. It'll buy us a
few hours.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Mui slithers to a terminal operated by Filo.

YORI
What have you done, Mui?

MUI TANDE
What had to be done, Yori. Bring
up footage of impact, Filo.

FILO
Yes, sir.

Clip rewinds of Nimbus being hit by the meteor.

MUI TANDE
Now, I want you to surround Nimbus
in a fiery plasma explosion.
(MORE)

MUI TANDE (CONT'D)

Then remove her image from the scene as if she were obliterated.

YORI

But, Mui, the Burradians--

MUI TANDE

Do you realize what would happen if they made contact, Yori? The show would be over! We would all be out of a job! Is that what you want?

(addresses the crew)

Is that what any of you want?!

The crew glance amongst each other.

YORI

What about the Nimbus crew?

MUI TANDE

What about them, Yori?

YORI

They'll die.

MUI TANDE

The humans will send another ship. They will become the new cast for the second season. Imagine, Yori, an entire series at our fingertips. We'll never have to look for work again.

(off Filo's console)

No, Filo! I want a bigger explosion!

INT. ALIEN BASEMENT SUITE - NIGHT (SPECTATING WORLD 1)

Vern and Spog watch on as Nimbus slams into a meteor -- EXPLODES in a tremendous explosion of fiery gas and flames.

VERN & SPOG

Whoa.

INT. STARPORT - BAR - ORBIT (SPECTATING WORLD 3)

All eyes are glued to the screens.

ANNOUNCER (ON TV)

The following has been brought to you by Tasty Cola. Get your taste on!

Credits roll.

Ralph laughs in hysterics as he slaps the table. Maya sighs.

INT. NIMBUS - ENGINE ROOM - OUTER SPACE

Debris floats about. The crew take in the disaster.
Magnetic boots ensure they don't float away.

A gaping hole indicates where a meteor entered, smashing its way through the engine and exiting out the other side.

ALITTA

Tell us you can fix it, Bobby.

BOBBY

There's nothing left to fix. Once our suits drain... that's it.

JADE

Oh my God.

SHANE

They did this. They rammed us into some goddamn meteors.

LIEN

Shane--

SHANE

What, we're not good enough for 'em? Well to hell with all of 'em.
(shouts into the air)
You hear me?! Screw You!

He marches off.

JADE

And you're all crazy if you think I'm cleaning up this mess!

Her magnetic boots stick to the ground as she stomps out.

INT. NIMBUS - ALITTA'S QUARTERS - OUTER SPACE

Jade sits on her cot embracing her alien teddy bear. Bobby enters. Plops down beside her.

BOBBY

I'm ready to let someone else finish.

JADE

I finished my song. It's about a journey across the galaxy.

BOBBY
I'm sure it's great.

Jade slumps against him.

JADE
How can they just watch us die?

BOBBY
We were receiving transmissions
before we lost power.

JADE
So?

BOBBY
If we can receive, so can they.

INT. NIMBUS - BOBBY'S QUARTERS - OUTER SPACE

Bobby fiddles with Quinn's guts. Jade observes.

JADE
You're gonna fry his processor.

BOBBY
It's the only way to send a wide
transmission.

JADE
You're gonna break him, Bobby.

BOBBY
Just shut up.

JADE
You shut up.

Alitta enters.

ALITTA
What are you guys up to?

JADE
Calling for help.

Quinn hovers into the air.

QUINN'S POV -- Bobby waves to the camera. REC flashes.

BOBBY
Hello? Can anyone see this?

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Mui glares at the monitor displaying Bobby.

BOBBY (ON SCREEN)
Please. We need your help.

MUI TANDE
How is he broadcasting?

YORI
With Quinn, their probe.

MUI TANDE
Can anyone receive this?

YORI
It's being broadcast wide.

MUI TANDE
Block the transmission! Reform the
bubble!

INT. NIMBUS - LIEN'S QUARTERS - OUTER SPACE

Lien gazes out the window. Shane enters. Gazes out with her. She takes his hand.

LIEN
Thank you for being nice to my
parents back on the station.

SHANE
I like them.

LIEN
They like you too.

INT. ALIEN CONTROL CENTER - OUTER SPACE

Yori access a terminal next to Filo.

MUI TANDE (O.S.)
What are you doing, Yori?

Mui slithers up behind him, sporting a top hat and bow tie.

YORI
Just making sure the bubble is in
working order.

Mui eyes him suspiciously.

MUI TANDE

I'm off to have dinner with the starlit Zoe in the Haven Nebula. If there are any more enquiries about the slipped transmission, tell them it was previously recorded footage.

YORI

Yes, sir. Enjoy your meal, sir.

Mui EXITS. Yori taps the console --

A holographic screen plays Quinn's broadcast of the crew from the cockpit. They gasp for breath.

JADE (ON SCREEN)

What's gonna happen... when the oxygen runs out?

ALITTA (ON SCREEN)

We'll pass out.

JADE (ON SCREEN)

That won't be so bad.

Filo and Yori exchange a glance. Yori takes a confident breath. Hits a button on the console --

A screen pops up, message reads "BUBBLE DISENGAGED".

FILO

Ooh, Mui's gonna be mad.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - OUTER SPACE

Quinn hovers around the passed out crew. A GALACTIC FLEET SHIP approaches. Bathes Nimbus in a beam of light.

INT. GALACTIC FLEET SHIP - BRIDGE - OUTER SPACE

CAPTAIN MURDOC, a rhino-like behemoth, sits proud in his seat observing his view screen playing Quinn's live broadcast of the passed out crew bathed in the bright light.

A scraggly jelly-fish like ENSIGN monitors his station.

ENSIGN

Atmospheric pressure stabilizing.
Life signs returning to normal,
Captain Murdoc.

Captain Murdoc snorts.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - DAY (BURRIDIA)

Jade shakes Bobby awake. Quinn hovers before him.

JADE
Bobby, wake up!

BOBBY
Jade, this better be good.

JADE
We're alive!

The crew is already awake, starring out the window.

BOBBY
We're alive?

JADE
Look out the window!

EXT. CELEBRATION SQUARE - STAGE - DAY

Nimbus rests on a stage surrounded by ivory towers and an array of cheering aliens. A holographic banner reads "WELCOME NIMBUS" near fantastic balloons.

INT. NIMBUS - COCKPIT - DAY

JADE
What do we do?

Bobby bolts off. Everyone rushes after him.

JADE
They better not try to eat us!

INT. LUNAR STATION - CONTROL CENTER - MOON ORBIT

Every monitor broadcasts the event.

DR. FIORE
Is this an actual transmission?

TECHNICIAN JULIE
Yes, sir. Live feed being
broadcast on every channel.

EXT. CELEBRATION SQUARE - STAGE - DAY (BURRIDIA)

The staircase unfolds to the ground. The bay door slides open revealing the crew and Quinn.

VIAN, a Burridian with grey skin, four arms, long neck, big blue eyes, a slit for a mouth, no visible ears or nose, glides towards them.

VIAN

I am Vian. Official representative of planet Burridia. We bid you welcome.

JADE

You were expecting us?

An orb flies in, circles Quinn.

VIAN

Since the dawn of time, sentient life stared into the heavens. All with the same question; Are we alone? We are honored to take these first steps with you.

Letoda struts across the stage with a slim microphone.

LETODA STEKINA

Snaps on being the stars of a galactic hit show.

JADE

We really are on TV?

LETODA STEKINA

We're live across the galaxy. Is there anything you'd like to say?

She extends the microphone to Jade.

JADE

Uh... hello.

CROWD OF ALIENS

Hi, Jade!

LETODA STEKINA

(to the camera)

While our humans catch their breath, why don't we take a look back at some of our most favorite moments.

FILM CREW MEMBER (O.S.)

Clear!

LETODA STEKINA

(to Bobby)

You're a great kisser. Let me know
if it doesn't work out between you
and...

She nods at Alitta. Winks at Bobby. Sways off.

ALITTA

Great kisser?

BOBBY

I thought it was a dream.

JADE

Why is everyone speaking English?

VIAN

Captain Murdoc took the liberty of
injecting you all with Nanomites.

Mui, only half a foot tall, hovers up to Vian on a transport
disc. Yori right behind him.

MUI TANDE

Vian, you wanted to see me, my
love?

VIAN

I did, Mui.

MUI TANDE

You no doubt wish to thank me for
being part of a hit show. Well,
think nothing of it. I merely--

VIAN

On behalf of the producers, you're
fired.

MUI TANDE

Fired? Me? I gave them a number
one show!

VIAN

You flew Nimbus into a meteor
shower.

MUI TANDE

Artistic expression.

VIAN

Be grateful no harm came to them,
or you would be incarcerated.

MUI TANDE

Why I never... I won't stand for this. Do you hear me, woman? You have not heard the last of Mui Tande!

He hovers off. Yori doesn't follow.

VIAN

Yori. Good work.

She kisses him on the forehead. Yori blushes.

FILM CREW MEMBER (O.S.)

Back in thirty!

EXT. CELEBRATION SQUARE - DESSERT TABLE - NIGHT

Bobby and Vian talk by a table full of various sweets.

VIAN

I apologize for Mui's actions. He was playing to his own ego.

BOBBY

I can understand.

A large hippo-like ALIEN rumbles over. Picks up a tray of sweets -- and slides its entire contents into his mouth.

BOBBY

Wow.

VIAN

There are wonders and curiosities spread throughout the galaxy. Even more so in others.

BOBBY

You travel to other galaxies?

VIAN

I would be honored to be your guide.

EXT. CELEBRATION SQUARE - GUEST TABLE - NIGHT

A sea of aliens dance to music on the dance floor. Jade and Alitta are seated at a table enjoying a drink.

JADE

They're just talking. I'm sure you have nothing to worry about. She is attractive though, isn't she?

(MORE)

JADE (CONT'D)

I mean, do guys even like that? A sexy, hot alien chick?

ALITTA

Jade? Shut up.

JADE

Someone's grumpy.

Bobby arrives with a bowl of ice cream.

JADE

Well, looky what the cat dragged in.

BOBBY

Where is everyone?

JADE

The Captain's talking up a storm with Captain Murdoc. And Shane thinks he can dance. Good thing Lien has a sense of humour.

Bobby sets down a bowl of ice cream for Alitta.

BOBBY

Found you some ice cream.

JADE

Where's my ice cream?

BOBBY

You're not a child anymore, get your own ice cream.

JADE

Fine. I will. Come on, Quinn.

She scurries off with Quinn. Bobby sits down next to Alitta.

ALITTA

Vian seems friendly.

BOBBY

She's traveled to other galaxies. Can you imagine?

He takes a bite of the ice cream.

ALITTA

Would be incredible.

BOBBY

She offered to take me on a tour.

ALITTA

She did? I mean, it sounds like it would be an amazing opportunity.

BOBBY

I found a better one.

ALITTA

Another universe?

BOBBY

You.

He kisses her. An orb hovers over.

INT. ALIEN APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY (SPECTATING WORLD 2)

Arora and Dana squeal with joy at Bobby and Alitta's kiss.

INT. ALIEN BASEMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT (SPECTATING WORLD 1)

The show cuts to a commercial. Vern holds out a tentacle. Spog passes back the gold coin. Vern kisses it.

EXT. CELEBRATION SQUARE - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Quinn observes as Jade talks to the Burridian BAND MANAGER in a sleek suit complete with styling hat.

JADE

Do you think it would be alright?

BAND MANAGER

The band will be thrilled to do it. They're big fans of the show. Come, I'll introduce you.

He leads Jade on stage.

BAND MANAGER

You're not represented by anyone, are you?

EXT. CELEBRATION SQUARE - GUEST TABLE - NIGHT

Lien and Shane arrive hand in hand. They plop down at the table next to Bobby and Alitta finishing her ice cream.

SHANE

Where's that sister of yours? She said I can't dance.

(MORE)

SHANE (CONT'D)

And, Lien, did I or did I not bust
it on the dance floor?

LIEN

You did something, Shane.

BOBBY

Where did Jade go?

ALITTA

Isn't that her on stage?

ON STAGE

Sully takes the microphone. Behind him, Jade talks with the
Burridian MUSIC BAND, COSMIC JUNKIE.

SULLY

Ladies and gentlemen. Beings from
across the galaxy. Cosmic Junkie,
along with Galacticon's family
brand Tasty Music, is proud to
bring to you, for the first time
from planet Earth... Jade!

Audience cheers. Jade steps to the microphone with guitar in
hand. Nimbus behind her.

She takes a breath. And strums lightly away. She sings with
the voice of an angel, until the chorus when she rocks out
with the band. Audience cheer.

The city becomes smaller the further back we go -- Burridia
zips away. Stars zoom by.

The Milky Way galaxy comes into view, shrinks away.

Galaxies shoot past revealing the universe.

INT. VACANT ROOM

Two ORBS of pure light watch their TV project the universe.

ORB OF LIGHT 1

That universe is so lame.

ORB OF LIGHT 2

What else is on?

FADE OUT.