

RENAISSANCE

Written by  
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EXT. SERENE LAKE IN THE ADIRONDACKS - DAY

A brilliant spring morning. High, puffy clouds. Trees rustle, sparrows trill. Geese honk and land near a FLOATING RAFT.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)  
*I wandered lonely as a cloud that  
floats on high o'er vales and hills  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;*

Daffodils shift in the wind, surrounded by butterflies.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
*Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the  
breeze.*

A GRANDFATHER and TWO GRANDDAUGHTERS fish in a small rowboat at the center of the lake. As all-American as a Rockwell.

DAMIEN PROPHIT (70), close-cropped fringe, leathery face, ramrod posture, wears khaki pants, a polo shirt with a BUTTERFLY INSIGNIA and a GOLD STAR U.S. NAVY COMMAND PIN.

Damien's radiant eyes and deep, engaging voice exude the personal magnetism that has gotten him so far.

LUCY DONNELLY (9), is chubby and freckled with messy curls. She wears RED SNEAKERS. She snuggles with Damien and silently recites along.

She puts a fish lure in her STUFFED BUNNY'S sweater pocket.

MARKITA DONNELLY (15), has a high forehead and black Irish features. She wears eyeglasses, a pony tail, and no make-up. Her only jewelry is an ATOM SYMBOL pendant necklace.

True to form, Markita is engrossed in a COMPUTER TABLET.

The girls' dresses are a patchwork of patterns and colors.

DAMIEN  
*For oft when on my couch I lie in  
vacant or in pensive mood, they  
flash upon that inward eye which is  
the bliss of solitude; And then my  
heart with pleasure fills...*

Damien prompts Lucy by squeezing her closer.

LUCY  
And dances with the daffodils!

Damien chuckles. Tousles Lucy's hair.

DAMIEN  
That was your mom's favorite when  
she was your age.

Markita still stares at the tablet. Damien touches her chin.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)  
Mind that starboard line, mate.

Markita flinches out of her trance.

MARKITA  
Sorry, Pop Pop. Trying to fix my  
algo in time for Founders' Day.

LUCY  
So she can impress Patrick.

MARKITA  
No, stupid, so I can make JSPs.

DAMIEN  
Can't believe you're almost 16.

There's a sudden tug on Markita's line.

LUCY  
Kita!

DAMIEN  
Looks like a big one. Be patient.

LUCY  
Don't hurt him.

Markita lets out a dismissive tsss. Slowly reels in.

She holds up a bass; leans into Damien. Lucy takes a picture.

Damien throws the fish back.

The sounds of nature cease. A voice intones from above.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)  
Admiral Proffit, it's 9.

MARKITA  
Shoot!

Markita grabs her tablet.

INT. SIMULATION ROOM - DAY

Damien, Markita and Lucy lie on recliners wearing simulators  
that look like motorcycle helmets.

Above them is a neon sign: *Palladium Theater*.

The room is filled with movie poster-like images that show Damien at different stages of his career: a navy pilot; an astronaut; an Admiral shaking hands with a President.

Markita yanks her helmet off. Damien, Lucy remove theirs.

MARKITA  
Gotta zip. Thanks Pop Pop.

She gives Damien a kiss and runs out. Lucy does the same.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE (SIMULATION) - DAY

Markita hurries through what appears to be Times Square. Lucy lags behind.

An MEGA SCREEN shows two leggy FEMALE NEWS ANCHORS with a PATHFINDERS CHANNEL LOGO and a time display:

YEAR 9 DAY 3642 HOUR 9 MIN 5 SEC 23

Markita's phone shows a TEENAGE GIRL AVATAR named CHLOE.

CHLOE  
Ooh. A GQ with an IQ.

MARKITA  
I'm gonna catch him after class.

Lucy sees a police horse; points.

LUCY  
Kita, look.

Markita ignores her. Lucy sulks.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
Always talking to Chloe.

NEWS ANCHOR #1  
The annual Founders' Day address will be given by Admiral Prophit, navy aviator, astronaut, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, father of the Renaissance Project...

NEWS ANCHOR #2  
And mighty handsome too.

The News Anchors giggle. The Screen Crawl: *Watch Founders' Day (FD IX) live on the Pathfinders' Channel.*

Lucy runs toward the horse.

CHLOE  
It's a sure thing, Brosephina.

Markita winces at the avatar.

MARKITA  
Brosephina?

CHLOE  
Hey, you programmed me.

Markita sees a MAN ON HOVERBOARD speeding toward Lucy.

MARKITA  
Lu!

Hoverboard Man passes through Lucy. He's a hologram.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
C'mon!

Lucy waves to to the horse; runs after Markita.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

WINSTON KAHALE (30), a huge Hawaiian man in Navy Whites with a Butterfly Insignia, stands with ZEKE, a German Shepard.

Winston salutes as EVE GREENHOUSE (40) strides toward him in a haute couture dress with a Butterfly Insignia and ankle-high stiletto boots.

Eve's unforgiving demeanor and officious bearing compliment her iron-fisted command as Chief Mission Officer (CMO).

Eve is accompanied by her Assistant, JUDY TAYLOR (35). JUDY wears a white skirted Navy Uniform with a Butterfly Insignia and black half-frame glasses.

Eve pinches Winston's belly fat. She holds on as he winces.

EVE  
Too much poi, Kahale.

Zeke growls. Eve glares at him. Winston rubs Zeke's ear to quiet him. Eve turns to Judy.

EVE (CONT'D)  
Cut his rations by 25%.

Judy makes a note; then follows Eve into the office.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Damien jogs up. Winston salutes.

DAMIEN  
At ease, my friend. How's your son?

WINSTON  
Much better, Admiral. We can't  
thank you enough.

Damien grins, pats Winston's shoulder.

INT. DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

American and U.S. Navy flags hang on poles behind a large desk. Judy punches a tablet. Eve paces, pulls a rubber band.

DAMIEN (O.S.)  
(In Hawaiian)  
Best to you and your family.

WINSTON (O.S.)  
(In Hawaiian)  
God bless you.

Eve looks at a digital clock - 9:15. Snaps the band.

Damien trots in. Eve and Judy perk up, all smiles.

DAMIEN  
Sorry to be late.

EVE  
You're never late, Admiral. You're  
looking particularly well today.

DAMIEN  
I spent a lovely morning with my  
granddaughters.

EVE  
How nice. You'll be pleased to know  
I've arranged special math and  
science sessions for Markita.

DAMIEN  
I am pleased. Let's begin.

Judy hands him the tablet displaying the title *Daily Brief*.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Students in patchwork clothes sit at flip-top desk with monitors.

A video plays, which all of them ignore.

Markita sits by herself, shoots a glance at:

PATRICK CASSIDY (16). He has shoulder-length hair, a TREBLE CLEF EARRING, and puppy-dog eyes - a real heartthrob.

Patrick, earbuds in, composes music on his laptop.

PENELOPE (PENNY) CASSIDY (15), broad-shouldered, athletic, sits with her long legs extended. She works on her reflexes by tapping a touchpad in response to visual commands.

Next to her are the cool girls: ANDREA DIMICCO (16) sports a multi-colored pixie, nose ring and beaded eye shadow.

LYNN BAXLER (17) wears her faux white hair in an undercut with a blue streak and Cupid's arrows in her ear lobes.

Lynn nods at the video and whispers to Andrea.

LYNN

Seen this a quadrillion times.

Andrea pulls out a well-thumbed copy of COSMO from 2035. Andrea points to an article: *Tease Him and Please Him*.

LYNN (CONT'D)

Zetta (slang for "cool" or "mega").

They shoot a glance toward Patrick and giggle.

Video: Damien addresses the U.N. General Assembly.

NARRATOR

Prophit Industries championed the exploration of Second Earth - a planet capable of sustaining a large percentage of the world's population and lessening the increasing burdens on Earth...

An image of an ORANGE AND BLUE PLANET appears with the caption *SECOND EARTH*.

Classroom: ANDREW GIDEON (45), squat, two pairs of glasses, and a TURQUOISE INFINITY RING, sits by himself, paging through a textbook, oblivious to the video and his students.

Above his head is a picture of Churchill with a quote:

*"Never, never, never give up."*

Video: Workers in spacesuits operate cranes and large transports in a spaceship construction yard.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The Renaissance is the largest spacecraft ever constructed outside Earth's atmosphere with minerals extracted from orbiting asteroids.

Mining equipment operates on an asteroid's surface.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The craft can transport an exploratory group of 200 settlers on an 8-year journey to colonize Second Earth; fueling itself with periodic asteroid mining missions.

MAX LEDBETTER (36) a sandy-haired surfer type in a Hawaiian shirt, sits in a Pilot's Chair mock-up. He gestures, talks about the control panel configuration.

PAUL DONNELLY (36), a tall, boyish nerd with a high forehead that bears small burn scar from a childhood experiment gone wrong, listens intently.

Paul removes a laser tool from his shirt pocket full of devices. He takes some measurements.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Paul Donnelly and Max Ledbetter, lead designers of the Renaissance, died tragically during a rocket booster test a month before the original launch date.

Classroom: Markita's eyes are drawn to the monitor.

MARKITA

(to the video)

You'da known how to fix this algo.

Video: Max takes one of Pauls' pocket tools; pretends to smoke it. Paul breaks into a warm smile and easy laugh.

Classroom: Markita absorbs the image of her father laughing.

Gideon makes notes in his book. He folds some pages.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Markita looks up when Gideon raps his ring on the desk. He points to *Sub Rosa* on a white board.

GIDEON

Today's phrase. It's Latin for "under the rose." The rose was a symbol for secrecy.



Markita looks at Patrick.

MARKITA  
 (rehearsing to herself)  
 Are you... I mean, would you wanna  
 go with me...?

"Anchors Away" plays on the PA system. Markita jumps up.

GIDEON  
 And I just dropped your graded term  
 papers into your class files.

Markita sees Patrick approach Gideon. She takes a step,  
 sighs. She quickly checks tablet for her grade.

PATRICK  
 Yo Mr. G, I checked out that Jazz  
 Messengers album. Real tight.

Gideon hums the first phrase of "Moanin'". Patrick joins him  
 for the last two notes. They smile.

Markita frowns at her *B* grade; looks up as Patrick is  
 leaving. She slaps her tablet shut. Gideon looks at her.

GIDEON  
 It was pretty superficial, Kita.

MARKITA  
 It's all based on the archives.

GIDEON  
 Good historians don't just recite  
 the official record. Does it hold  
 together? Are there unexplained  
 gaps? Use that big brain of yours.

Markita nods in partial understanding.

GIDEON (CONT'D)  
 I'll give you a list of some solid  
 historical writing.

MARKITA  
 If I read those and try...

GIDEON  
 Yes, you can resubmit for a better  
 grade. But you have to dig deeper.

Markita's eyes brighten.

## INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

Currently not in use are ping pong tables, basketball hoops, soccer net, gymnastics equipment. Pre-schoolers play on jungle gym.

4 PARENTS raise 2 Large Banners to the ceiling: *Founders' Day IX* and *RENAISSANCE* with a Butterfly Insignia.

Eve walks briskly, Judy in tow. Eve looks up; snaps her fingers and signals for banners to be adjusted.

Beneath the banners, Parents decorate a BANDSTAND: hang *FD IX* signs; tie butterfly balloons, wrap ribbons around columns.

## INT. TRAINING AREA - DAY

Markita, Penny on treadmills in running clothes. Each breathes into a tubular mouthpiece. Markita, glasses fogged, struggles. Penny has strong, confident strides.

A wall monitor shows their avatars on oval track. Penny pulls ahead and crosses the finish line 10 yards ahead of Markita. She throws her arms up in victory.

The runners slow, then straddle the treadmills. Markita huffs and puffs. Penny controls her breathing.

DR. MYLES PALY (55) approaches. He's grey, has bushy brows and the scruffy look of an old-school country doctor.

PALY

Impressive, ladies. Both of you increased your lung capacity. Next time we'll try some microgravity.

Paly nods at a transparent floor-to-ceiling wall with lettering: *Microgravity Center*. Markita wipes her glasses.

People in the Microgravity Center float on tethers and play horizontal badminton, volleyball; throw frisbees; footballs.

Penny hops off the treadmill. Markita still huffs and puffs.

MARKITA

Nice... race...

PENNY

Save your breath, Princess Leia.

Penny struts off. Markita leans on the rails.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

SCHOOL-AGED KIDS play ping pong, other sports. They smile, nod, point with excitement at the banners and the bandstand.

Markita, back in patchwork clothes, walks past large CLIMBING CUBES. Lucy jumps off the cubes like an attacking animal.

LUCY

Roar!

Lucy lands on top of Markita, knocks her over.

MARKITA

What the what?!

Markita stands up; finds a torn seam in her dress.

MARKITA (CONT'D)

You're such a zetta dork.

LUCY

You're no fun.

JACOB GREENHOUSE (19) walks up with a basketball. He's tall, thin and pale with delicate features and a slight head tic.

JACOB

Hi.

Markita inspects the tear.

MARKITA

Hey, Jacob.

Markita sees Patrick approaching. She puts on a sweater to hide the tear. Jacob take a shot. Air ball.

LUCY

Hiii, Paatrck.

PATRICK

Yo, Dr. Doolittle.

Jacob's basketball bounces over. Patrick scoops it up; hits a long jumper. Markita is impressed. Jacob is not.

MARKITA

Gotta sec?

PATRICK

Sure.

Lucy pulls on Patrick's sleeve. He bends down.

LUCY

Did ya know that the female praying  
mantis bites the male's head off  
when they... do it?

MARKITA

Actually, not always.

PATRICK

Once is enough.

He smiles. Markita laughs. Markita points, takes a few steps.

MARKITA

Can I ask you something?

Patrick follows. So does Lucy. Markita, annoyed, glares at  
Lucy and signals with her thumb for Lucy to scam.

Penny comes running up and grabs Patrick by the arm.

PENNY

Hey Bro, time to dip.

Patrick gets pulled along; waves to Markita and Lucy.

MARKITA

Why can't I be an only child.

LUCY

Meany.

Markita stalks off. Lucy runs toward the Climbing Cubes.

INT. SHUTTLE - DAY

Markita sits in a compartment the size of a subway car,  
working on her tablet.

Next to her is a DISPLAY OF SHUTTLE STOPS that shows a column  
of Levels: *Research, Concourse*, 1 through 10. Each numbered  
level has horizontal rows broken into Blocks A to G.

Lynn, Andrea stand together, whispering.

Markita looks up; sees an AD flashing above the seats: *FD IX:  
GAMES! CONTESTS! TREATS! MUSIC! DANCING IN THE STARS!*

Markita removes her glasses, rubs her eyes.

INT. RECREATION AREA - NIGHT

Markita, Patrick, bathed in an ORANGE HUE, slow-dance at the  
Founders' Day Dance to a rock ballad.

INT. SHUTTLE - DAY

A sudden jolt brings Markita around. Patrick and Penny board. Markita redoes her pony tail.

Andrea and Lynn approach Patrick. Lynn touches his earring.

LYNN  
Cute stud.

The girls laugh. He looks down. Lynn makes a waggle motion with her index and pinky fingers between her and Patrick.

LYNN (CONT'D)  
You, me, FD?

Patrick hesitates. Markita braces; waits for the answer with her heart in her mouth.

PATRICK  
Uh, sure, I'd be down.

The girls dap up. Markita shuts her eyes. The shuttle stops.

PENNY  
Don't forget Tommy's medicine.

Penny, Lynn and Andrea get off. Markita's and Patrick's eyes meet. She jumps off as the doors are closing.

INT. DONNELLY APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

RACHEL DONNELLY (45) shoots an annoyed look at a wall clock. She has short, gray hair and a cheerless expression. Widowed young, her daughters are her life's sole purpose.

Rachel tosses patchwork clothes into what appears to be a washing machine with a long tube attached. Markita walks in.

RACHEL  
Where have you been? Where's Lucy?

Markita gives a "what's your problem" shrug.

MARKITA  
Hello to you, too. Eve arranged a special math session for me.

Rachel shakes her head; grits her teeth.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
And no idea where little ditzy is.

RACHEL  
 You were supposed to help your  
 sister with her math. I make the  
 rules here, not Madame Greenhouse.

MARKITA  
 She's helping me with JSPs. More  
 than you're doing.

RACHEL  
 I told you. I don't want...

MARKITA  
 What about what I want?

Lucy trots in. Her smile turns to worry as she is greeted  
 with angry looks from Rachel and Markita.

INT. DONNELLY APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lucy hops from one foot to the other as Rachel tries to hold  
 a scanning device next to her.

LUCY  
 I don't need math to be a  
 vet'narian.

Markita brings in patchwork clothing; throws them in machine.

MARKITA  
 Great career choice.

RACHEL  
 Of course you do. And hold still so  
 I can get your new measurements for  
 the clothes regenerator.

Markita turns to leave.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
 Kita, come back.

MARKITA  
 I gotta work on my goddamn algo.

RACHEL  
 And we have to get your goddamn  
 Founders' Day outfits made.

Markita trudges over.

LUCY  
 Mmm. FD ice cream. Can't wait.

RACHEL  
 I can.

Rachel holds up scanner. Signals to Markita to spin.

MARKITA  
You're such a black hole.

Rachel notices the rip in Markita's dress.

RACHEL  
You're growing so fast.

MARKITA  
My growth rate is typical for my  
age and sex, factoring in  
atmospheric conditions.

RACHEL  
Who are you, Chloe?

Rachel puts her finger in the tear, tickles Markita. Markita jumps; slaps at Rachel's hand.

MARKITA  
Quit it.

Both are surprised by slap. They lock eyes.

Lucy opens the window blinds. A beautiful mountain sunset.

RACHEL  
Close that!

LUCY  
Sorry Mommy.

Lucy closes blinds. Rachel sighs, checks the machine.

RACHEL  
Need more material. From my closet.

Lucy runs out of the room.

INT. RACHEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lucy stands in front of the closet; looks at several dresses. She touches a RED FLORAL DRESS.

LUCY  
Not the one that Daddy gave you.

RACHEL (O.S.)  
No, not that one.

Lucy grabs a different dress.

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lucy dances on the bed with stuffed elephant. Markita bangs her forehead, puts on noise-cancelling headphones.

INT. DONNELLY APARTMENT LIVING ROOM

Rachel pours a drink; opens the blinds to reveal a sunset. She presses a button. The sunset's replaced by INKY DARKNESS.

EXT. RENAISSANCE SPACE CRAFT - NIGHT

Rachel's face stares out window. The girls appears through the next window. Markita types. Lucy jumps on her bed.

Rachel, her daughters and the RENAISSANCE, a SPACECRAFT the size of a jumbo cruise ship, recede into blackness.

INT. ARCHIVES - NIGHT

Markita sits at long table with reading lamps. She stares at a translucent monitor; a Page entitled: *Archives Index*.

She highlights: *Δ Second Earth climate, water, arable land*.

RACHEL (V.O.)  
I don't want Cruella de Vil  
programming my daughter's life.

DAMIEN (V.O.)  
Eve's just giving her a leg up on  
the junior space pilot program.

Markita looks at tablet; a page heading: *Algo Inputs*.

INT. DAMIEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

A warm fire. A large digital frame above the mantelpiece shows Markita playing GO and Lucy playing with Zeke.

Display cases bristle with medals. Trophies fill the shelves.

A galaxy model is suspended from the ceiling.

Damien places miniatures on a model aircraft carrier.

Rachel frowns at a LIFE-SIZED REPLICA OF DAMIEN.



RACHEL

You know how I feel about JSPs. Her life is dangerous enough as is... This thing gives me the creeps.

DAMIEN

The Bioprinter is amazing. A little DNA and the Research team can replicate anyone, right down to your retinas.

RACHEL

Like I said, creepy.

The digital frame shows Damien and Markita on the lake with the fish she caught.

Rachel points at the photo.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

And you shouldn't be filling their heads with a bunch of make-believe.

DAMIEN

Make-believe? One day Second Earth will have beautiful lakes.

Damien spins the orange and blue globe on the galaxy model.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Don't be so negative.

RACHEL

Kita calls me a blackhole.

Rachel gives the whole galaxy model a spin.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

But hey, dead husband, daughters who may never grow old and the end of the world as we know it. Other than that, Mrs. Lincoln...

He puts his arm around her. Looks at the Digital Frame, which now shows MARIAN PROPHIT (37) in a rowboat with Damien (37) and Rachel (12).

DAMIEN

You have your mother's eyes.

Rachel wipes away a tear.

INT. CASSIDY BOYS' BEDROOM - DAY

TOMMY CASSIDY (12), small and frail in a soccer jersey, sits up in bed. A vital signs monitor and oxygen tank are nearby. He plays *FIFA 2050* with Penny, who sits on the other bed.

Patrick sits at a keyboard, playing jazz.

PATRICK  
I guess Lynn will be fun, but was  
hoping maybe Markita...

PENNY  
Zetta wretch.

BLANCHE CASSIDY (45) brings in pills for Tommy. Anxiety and a perpetual look of worry show through her sunken eyes.

TOMMY  
Mom, can I go to Founders' Day? I  
want to see Patrick and Penny.

Blanche smiles, unsure. Tommy presses the controller.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
GOALLLL!!!

He starts coughing. Blanche thumps his back, shakes her head.

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Markita sits at a computer which displays: *Habitability Capacity of Second Earth*.

RACHEL (O.S.)  
Kita. Dinner. For the third time.

Markita, totally engrossed, stays focused on her work.

INT. SMALL SERVING AREA NEXT TO BOARD ROOM - DAY

Judy inspects a tray: coffee service, 3 bowls of jelly beans. Jacob stands next to the tray in a maroon waiter's jacket. Eve pushes through the swinging door. Jacob stiffens.

EVE  
Everything in order?

JUDY  
Yes, Chief. Your son did great.

Eve looks at Jacob, sees his head twitching. She grabs his chin hard. His eyes widen.

EVE  
Keep your damn head still.

Eve nods toward the door.

EVE (CONT'D)  
Especially in there.

She loosens her grip, sighs.

INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

A Transparent Triangle rises from the table; it shows an image of the Renaissance on route to Second Earth.

EVE  
Our estimated remaining travel time  
is 4,320 hours - or 6 months.

Damien finishes the jelly beans in his bowl.

ON THE TRIANGLE: 2,160 is superimposed at a spot halfway between the Renaissance and Second Earth.

EVE (CONT'D)  
And at our current numbers,  
provisions will run out in 2,160  
hours - or three calendar months.

Click. The next slide : *Pathfinder Population: At launch - 200; Current - 190; Sustainable to Arcadia Station - 188.*

Damien, agitated, pushes back and rises quickly.

EVE (CONT'D)  
Progress was slowed by subpar fuel  
extractions on our last two  
asteroid probes.

Damien spins, glares at Eve.

DAMIEN  
I thought you said the last time  
would be the last time.

EVE  
That's what the model showed.

DAMIEN  
Can't we tap into the stockpile?

EVE  
That would leave us undersupplied  
at Arcadia Station.

PALY  
 Could jeopardize the whole mission.

Eve nods to Paly to continue.

PALY (CONT'D)  
 You've brought us so far, Admiral.  
 Hard sacrifices are necessary. For  
 the greater good.

Eve takes Paly's jelly beans; pours them into Damien's bowl.

DAMIEN  
 How will I explain?

EVE  
 Say there was a viral outbreak on  
 the Research Level. Like we've  
 discussed.

Damien squeezes his forehead.

EVE (CONT'D)  
 I've listed the culling candidates  
 in the Hedonical Ratings database.

DAMIEN  
 After Founders' Day.

Eve is about to speak again, but holds her tongue.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

Markita kneels behind a *SCIENCE FAIR* booth. She gnaws a fingernail. *Upload in progress* blink on a computer monitor.

"Hail to the Chief" can be heard.

Around the perimeter of the area are automated double doors with green lighted signs above: *HALLWAY LIFE SUPPORT ENGAGED*.

Beneath *RENAISSANCE* and *FOUNDERS' DAY* banners little kids run around a *BANDSTAND* waving butterfly flags.

People in *FD IX* tee-shirts crowd around, smiling, chatting.

Lucy stands atop the climbing cubes, blowing soap bubbles.

Beside the bandstand, Patrick and Gideon play "Hail to the Chief." Sentries in Navy Whites stand at attention.

Lynn, Andrea giggle and gawk at Patrick.

Damien stands on the bandstand, surrounded by a crowd, waving clasped hands in the air. Eve stands beside him.

Next to the *SCIENCE FAIR* booth is a *SPACE PILOTS* booth run by MICHELLE REILLY (40), statuesque, close-cropped black hair and JOHN FITZROY (40), curly-haired, welterweight.

Reilly and Fitzroy each wear a t-shirt with a SPACE PILOT INSIGNIA - a spacesuit with a propulsion pack. They hand out INSIGNIA PINS to a long line of kids.

Back at the *SCIENCE FAIR* booth, Penny tests hand and foot Sensors that light up and beep when they're touched.

CONNOR KIRBY (45) helps Jacob set up a MODEL OF ARCADIA STATION. A teddy bear with an Einstein hairdo and a SPACE PILOT t-shirt, Connor is cheerful to a fault.

CONNOR  
I'm proud of you, son. Can't wait  
to do our first spacewalk together.

JACOB  
Yeah, when Venus freezes over.

Connor gives Jacob an encouraging pat.

Markita, still kneeling, grips her forehead. *Upload in progress* still blinking. "Hail to the Chief" ends to cheers.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

Damien stands, mid-speech.

DAMIEN  
And I'm proud to share with you, my  
fellow Pathfinders, that the  
mission is right on schedule!

A big screen over the bandstand shows a SPACE MAP with a Renaissance image 3 months out from Second Earth.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)  
We'll reach Second Earth in three  
months time.

Damien holds up three fingers. Cheers and applause.

At the Science Fair Booth, the monitor shows *Run time error. Upload not completed.*

MARKITA  
Shit!

Markita jerks her head; bangs it on the booth.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
Ow!

Penny peers at Markita.

PENNY  
Trouble in braniac land, Princess?

Markita shakes her head; tries the upload again.

DAMIEN  
Our journey has been a long one.

The big screen shows a press conference with caption: *World Leaders Approve Renaissance Project.*

In the crowd, Lynn sneaks a flask to Andrea who takes a sip. Rachel sees this, nudges Andrea. Gets the flask, takes a hit.

Markita gets another error message. She jumps up and hurries through the crowd.

She passes Blanche and Paly. Blanche is agitated. Paly makes a "calm down" gesture.

Eve gives Blanche a disapproving look from the Bandstand.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)  
Thanks to the hard work of all of  
you and many others who won't be  
there to share our triumph...

The big screen shows Paul, Max with a scale model of the Renaissance. Rachel sighs, bites her lip.

Markita reaches the climbing cubes. Calls up to Lucy.

MARKITA  
Lu! Come down!

Lucy elbows the kid next to her, points at the screen.

LUCY  
That's my Daddy!

DAMIEN (O.S.)  
We are near the end of Phase 1.

Markita wriggles her way to the top of the cubes.

MARKITA  
Lu, run back and get my laptop.

LUCY  
Can't miss the three-legged race.

MARKITA  
I gotta stay for the booth. C'mon.  
I need to reload my presentation.

LUCY  
Get Chloe to do it.

Markita bangs her fist and climbs down.

DAMIEN  
Just think, my next Founders' Day  
address will be delivered at  
Arcadia Station!

Cheers and applause.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)  
So enjoy this celebration and then  
let's get back to work. Because we  
have promises to keep and miles to  
go before we sleep.

Markita runs to the double doors under *Life Support Engaged*  
sign. She hits a button; doors slide open. She runs through.

INT. ALCOVE BETWEEN RECREATION AREA AND HALLWAY - DAY

Markita runs through a second set of doors to the hallway.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

Lucy, Connor in a three-legged race. Eve looks on with scorn.

INT. TIMES SQUARE (SIMULATION) - DAY

Markita runs by crowds. The mega screen shows Patrick playing  
jazz keyboard. Caption: *Pathfinders Channel Talent Contest*.

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Markita grabs her laptop; runs out.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

Penny smiles proudly as Patrick plays. Markita rushes up, out  
of breath.

On the bandstand, Patrick scans the crowd. He finds Blanche  
with a questioning look.

Blanche shakes her head, signaling Tommy didn't make it.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

The big screen displays: *FD IX Science Fair*.

Damien, Eve, Paly, Reilly and Fitzroy sit on the bandstand and watch Penny demonstrate her lighting fast reflex trainer.

She dribbles a basketball. As sensors light up, she taps them with her hands and feet without losing the dribble.

Jacob sits with his Arcadia Station Model.

Rachel, concerned, looks for Markita.

At the Science Fair Booth, Markita bangs rapid-fire on the laptop. *Upload in progress* appears. She bites her knuckle.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

A series of complex equations appear on the big screen

Markita stands on the bandstand and addresses the audience.

MARKITA

The algorithm refines habitability calculations for Second Earth based on food and water generation and consumption.

Markita clicks; brings up a new slide titled *INPUTS: A Second Earth climate, water, arable land*.

MARKITA (CONT'D)

I found this data file in archives.

Eve's head jerks up. She scowls.

MARKITA (CONT'D)

It can be synthesized once the algo is ready. It will give us projections for years 1 through 20.

Markita beams, her eyes light up with the thought. Damien smiles proudly. So does Rachel. All applaud, except Eve.

INT. HELM - DAY

The back of a MAN SITTING IN A PILOT'S CHAIR.

He watches a monitor: Markita smiles, nods at crowd applause.



INT. RECREATION AREA - NIGHT

Markita is in the crowd. She wears a First Place Ribbon.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)  
 Across the country we follow your  
 progress with pride and amazement  
 as we prepare for the next waves.

Gideon approaches Markita.

GIDEON  
 Way to flex, Lady Donnelly.

She gives Gideon a hug.

MARKITA  
 Thanks, Mr. G.

GIDEON  
 I'll have that list of history  
 books for you manāna.

She nods. Gideon leaves. Jacob, with a Third Place ribbon, is about to approach. Patrick beats him to it. Jacob skulks off.

PATRICK  
 Congrats. That algo sounds zetta.

Markita beams.

MARKITA  
 It's not finished. Your set was  
 dope. And you made the next round!

Patrick smiles; wipes his forehead in mock relief.

On the big screen is GENERAL BRADEN (60), crew-cut, a chest full of medals. Caption reads: *Earth Link - Mission Control.*

GENERAL BRADEN  
 Thanks to valuable information from  
 your mission, we can substantially  
 reduce travel time between Earth  
 and the Arcadia Station.

Damien nods with approval.

Markita tries to think of something to say to Patrick.

MARKITA  
 Guess they recalibrated the  
 trajectories and vectors...

PATRICK  
 Yeah, that must be it.

Patrick smiles, shrugs. Markita blushes, embarrassed.

DAMIEN (O.S.)  
I'll be the first to greet you upon  
your arrival, General Braden.

Pathfinders cheer, applaud.

Dance music starts, the room dims, Galaxy lights surround the Pathfinders as they begin to dance.

Lynn throws her arm around Patrick, pushing Markita aside.

LYNN  
Let's grind, hunkster.

PATRICK  
Uh, sure. I guess.

Lynn slaps Patrick's ass on way to dance. Markita winces.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

Markita stands alone by Science Fair booth. She stares at Lynn hanging all over Patrick as they slow dance.

Markita, dejected, packs up; stuffs her ribbon in a backpack.

INT. EVE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Eve shoves Jacob's Model into a DISPOSAL CHUTE and presses an *EJECT* button.

EVE  
What an embarrassment.

Jacob cringes. Connor stands by him, arm on his shoulder.

CONNOR  
Why'd you do that? He worked hard.

EVE  
Pathetic. The old man's  
granddaughter was going to get  
first no matter what, but...

JACOB  
She's right, Dad. It all sucked.

He stalks out.

CONNOR  
Can't keep beating him down, Eve.

EVE

No! Not that again! I told you,  
hard is all that's left. We're in  
the fucking life boats here.

Connor takes her hand; tries to be comforting.

CONNOR

Everything'll be okay.

Eve pulls her hand back.

EVE

You're a fool.

She picks up a tablet and turns her back on Connor.

INT. DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Damien sits at his desk. He taps the top of it.

A screen rises and displays: *Hedonical Ratings Database.*

It shows names; headshots; other personal information.

Damien is first on the list: *Mission Value: 100.*

He clicks a link for *Culling Candidates.*

*ANDREW GIDEON. Age: 45; IQ/Skill Set: Mediocre; Sperm Count:  
Low; Mission Value: 35*

Damien scrolls. Rears back, distressed at the next entry:

*THOMAS CASSIDY, JR. Age: 11; Muscular Dystrophy; Limited Life  
Expectancy; Genetically Compromised. Mission Value: 30*

Damien shakes his head, clicks. An X crosses out Gideon.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Students settle in. Judy stands at the front.

JUDY

Mr. Gideon's been reassigned.

Markita, Patrick look up in surprise. Others don't care.

Markita opens her desk to stow her backpack. She finds *The  
Rise and Fall of the Third Reich.* There's a sticky note on  
the cover: *Kita - Dig deeper - Mr. G.*

Markita closes her desk quickly. Looks. Nobody else saw it.

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Markita, at her desk, works on her algo.. Lucy sketches Zeke on a tablet. Rachel stands with a highball glass of scotch.

Rachel squints.

RACHEL  
Andy in research?

Markita shrugs.

MARKITA  
Got me out of a paper rewrite. She said it's fine as is; gave me an A.

Lucy holds up her sketch. Rachel smiles.

RACHEL  
Remember. Lucy's math homework right after school tomorrow.

MARKITA  
Have a science session with Connor.

RACHEL  
Damn that woman!

Rachel slams her glass down. It spills on Gideon's book.

MARKITA  
Watch it! That's Mr. G's.

RACHEL  
Sorry. It'll dry.

Rachel stands the book up and spreads the pages.

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucy sleeps. Markita works on her algo. Her shoulders droop.

She rubs her eyes; rests her head on the desk.

Gideon's book is eye level. She notices some folded pages.

She opens the book to the first folded page. Unfolds it.

*Cracking the Enigma Code*. She skims the page: *Nazis, Great Britain, code, danger*.

The last word is in red. Her eyes widen, jaw drops.

LUCY  
Oh no.

Markita jumps; spins. Just Lucy talking in her sleep.  
 Markita turns to the next folded page. Unfolds it: *submarine*.  
 She quickly flips to the last folded page. Unfolds it: *rose*

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

*Sub Rosa* as written on the white board by Mr. Gideon.

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Markita shuts the book. Processes, eyes darting.  
 She jumps up and shoves the book under her mattress.  
 Her chest heaves. She slides into bed; pulls up the covers.

INT. DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Markita sits at desk, reads on her tablet about *Alpha-Numeric Cyphers*.

Lucy stands, face glued to a terrarium with GUINEA PIGS.

Animals are separated into 3 compartments - a spinning wheel in one, plastic balls in the second, and a treadmill in the third.

LUCY  
 Seymour moved to plastic balls.

DAMIEN  
 They just had their assessment.

LUCY  
 How's Otto's bone density? He looks  
 a little thin.

Damien takes one of the Guinea Pigs out, inspects it.

DAMIEN  
 He's fine.

LUCY  
 Can I hold him just for a second?

DAMIEN  
 I'm afraid not, but you can help  
 with the next compartment transfer.

Markita spins in Damien's swivel chair.

MARKITA

Pop Pop?

DAMIEN

Yes, sweetheart?

MARKITA

Why was Mr. G. transferred to the Research Level? He's not a scientist.

Uneasiness flashes across his face. He lowers the Guinea Pig.

DAMIEN

Mr. Gideon has much to contribute to the Research Level.

Markita looks puzzled.

LUCY

Not in that compartment, Pop Pop.

Damien checks, sees his mistake. He moves the Guinea Pig.

INT. SALON WITH *YANKEE CLIPPER* WRITTEN ON DOOR - DAY

Markita, Lucy sit at what look like Beauty Parlor Hair Dryers with Hoods off. Rachel stands behind them.

Markita stares at a wall monitor showing Patrick's Founders' Day performance: *Watch Talent Contest Semi-Finals*.

RACHEL

He was always so talented.

Markita looks down quickly at Tablet in her lap.

LUCY

Tommy never comes to class anymore.

A worried look flashes across Rachel's face. Then she brightens, gets ready to lower Lucy's Hood.

RACHEL

Ready to blast off?

Lucy nods. Rachel lowers Hood and it starts to whir.

Markita presses a tablet; an image of her with undercut and blue streak a la Lynn appears.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Hideous... I worry about Tommy.

MARKITA

You're a doctor. Help him.

RACHEL  
An ophthalmologist. And Blanche  
wouldn't let me near him.

MARKITA  
She acts like I have COVID 50.

RACHEL  
Wasn't always like this. We used to  
take stroller walks with you and  
the twins. Tom Sr. and your father  
played basketball together.

MARKITA  
No joke? Was Dad good?

RACHEL  
No. But very enthusiastic.

They share a soft laugh.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Then Tom got taken off the Project  
and Blanche blamed me. But there  
was nothing I could do.

MARKITA  
You say that a lot.

RACHEL  
Don't be such a smart ass.

MARKITA  
Were you friends with Mr. G then?

RACHEL  
Not really. Why?

MARKITA  
No reason.

Rachel furrows her brow.

Markita stares at the image of herself with the Lynn hairdo.

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Markita is at her desk, headset on. She squeezes a stress  
ball. She recites code into a voice-activated program.

Lucy plays under blanket tent with stuffed animals.

MARKITA  
Change subsequence 235 to C-a-1  
equals i-n-t paren...

LUCY

Run! Run!

Lucy scurries out from the blanket with bunny. The Algo starts to run. Markita bangs the keyboard.

MARKITA

Cancel!

The Algo stops. Markita throws off her headset.

MARKITA (CONT'D)

Moron!

Chloe's avatar lights up on Markita's phone.

CHLOE

Someone with a mental age of 12.

Lucy gives a big grin.

LUCY

Thanks for the compliment.

Markita throws the stress ball at her.

INT. DONNELLY APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rachel, with a full highball glass, pulls *Great American Poetry* from a bookshelf and opens to an inscription:

*Happy Anniversary to the one I love with a love that is more than love. You are the best person I know. Paul*

Rachel presses the book to her lips.

INT. MICROGRAVITY CENTER EXERCISE ROOM - DAY

Pathfinder adults, including Blanche and Rachel, balance on one foot in a half-lotus position. MALE YOGA INSTRUCTOR (35), shirtless, white yoga pants, leads the group.

MALE YOGA INSTRUCTOR

Maintain positions as gravitational force increases.

Instructor presses a remote control to change the g-force from .01 to 03. The group braces against the added weight.

EXT. MICROGRAVITY CENTER - DAY

Blanche rushes out. She lets the door close on Rachel.



RACHEL  
Blanche, wait. Please.

Blanche stops, turns toward Rachel with an icy stare.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Don't know if it would help, but if  
I could examine Tommy maybe...

BLANCHE  
Thank you, no.

RACHEL  
Well just tell me are they...

BLANCHE  
We're done here.

Blanche hurries off with an angry grimace. Rachel sighs.

INT. MICROGRAVITY CENTER SPACEWALK CHAMBER - DAY

Markita, Penny and Jacob float near the top of a 20-foot high chamber with bungee cords around their waists.

Eve stands in the control room with Connor. He wears a Jump Suit with the Space Pilot and Butterfly Insignias.

Other Pathfinder teenagers, including Patrick, Lynn and Andrea, observe. Connor talks into a headset.

CONNOR  
Our final round Junior Space Pilot  
qualifiers will undergo a series of  
mental and physical trials.

Markita, nervous, clutches her cord, maintaining a sitting position. Penny spins like a propeller. Jacob twitches in fear. He gets a leg tangled and turns upside down.

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
We'll test their endurance, lung  
capacity, bone density,  
mathematical and scientific  
knowledge, mental acuity and...

EVE  
Tolerance to gravitational changes.

Eve turns dial labeled *G* to 1. The three plummet down.

The crowd gasps. Markita, terrified, holds on for dear life. Jacob falls head first and screams in fear. Penny maintains a perfect free-fall position.

PENNY  
KOWABUNGA!

The cords stop their fall. They bounce just above the floor.

The audience points and laughs at Jacob. Connor gives Eve an incredulous look. She shakes her head in disgust.

Markita, bouncing, slowly focuses and sees Patrick. He gives her a thumb's up, shielded with his other hand.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Markita sits with her laptop, looks at a class picture. Patrick and Penny stand together. She zooms in on Patrick.

BEEP. Markita jerks her head toward door. It's Patrick. They smile at each other.

PATRICK  
Hey.

MARKITA  
Hey. He gave you the keycode too?

PATRICK  
Yeah. Tough to find a quiet place.  
What ya workin' on?

Markita fumbles to switch from Patrick's picture.

PATRICK (CONT'D)  
Top secret stuff, huh?

MARKITA  
No. Just my algo.

Patrick opens laptop. Plays music.

PATRICK  
This gonna bother you?

MARKITA  
Oh, no. Not at all.

PATRICK  
Really miss Mr. G.

MARKITA  
Me too.

Markita considers her next move.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
So the day Ms. Taylor took over...

Judy opens the door; gives them a surprised look.

JUDY  
What are you two doing in here?

MARKITA  
Well, uh, Mr. Gideon...

Patrick nudges her with his knee under the desk.

PATRICK  
Hi, Ms. Taylor. The door was open.

Judy stares at Markita. She backs Patrick up with a nod.

JUDY  
Strange. But you can only be in  
here during class time.

Markita packs ups. Looks at Patrick. He gives her a wink.

INT. CASSIDY BOYS' BEDROOM - DAY

Patrick plays keyboard. Penny, Tommy and Patrick sing  
"Michael Row the Boat Ashore." Tommy coughs; turns very pale.

PATRICK  
MOM!

Blanche runs in, administers oxygen.

BLANCHE  
Call Dr. Paly.

A round plaque with a Butterfly Insignia lights up.

AUTOMATED WOMAN'S VOICE  
Calling Wellness Center.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)  
Wellness Center.

BLANCHE  
We need Dr. Paly right away.  
Tommy's had another attack.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)  
He's in surgery. Is Tommy stable?

BLANCHE  
Yes, but very weak. I think...

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)  
He'll call as soon as he can.

Blanche shakes her head; checks the EKG; puts a blood oxygen monitor on Tommy's finger. Looks at Patrick.

BLANCHE  
Get Rachel... Markita's mom.

PENNY  
Are you nuts?

BLANCHE  
DO IT!

Tommy breathes heavy with his eyes closed.

INT. CASSIDY BOY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Tommy stands with arm braces. His color is back. Penny holds his arm. Markita, Patrick stand at the foot of the bed. Blanche, Rachel (with stethoscope), stand on opposite sides.

TOMMY  
I'm fine, sis.

BLANCHE  
Had no choice but to call you.

RACHEL  
Wow. Such props. Sitting up or standing should help in the future.

Rachel points to a tablet on his bed.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Does that have his medications?

Blanche nods. Markita takes a step, reaches for the tablet.

CRACK! She steps on a game controller. Penny barks at her.

PENNY  
Watch it, klutzo.

Markita reddens, bends to pick up the CONTROLLER.

MARKITA  
My bad. Really sorry.

Patrick holds up a hand to silence Penny. Takes controller.

PATRICK  
It's fine. No harm done.

TOMMY  
It was already cracked from when Penny threw it against the wall.

Penny gives Tommy a fake punch to the chin. He laughs.  
Patrick does too. Markita gazes at Patrick.

INT. DR. PALY'S OFFICE - DAY

Myles squeezes a *Protein* Tube into a thermos; shakes it.

PALY  
I'm afraid patient confidentiality  
precludes me from...

RACHEL  
Don't give me that, Myles. You're  
the expert. But it's pretty clear  
the disease is damaging his heart.

She pushes a tablet with EKG readings in front of his face.

PALY  
I can assure you Tommy is receiving  
the most efficacious treatment.

NURSE (O.S.)  
Doctor, you have a call from the  
Research Level.

PALY  
Be right back.

Paly steps out through automated door. Rachel rushes to the  
pill cabinet, searches different bottles. She finds what  
she's looking for. She puts a BLUE PILL BOTTLE in her pocket.

She hears the door activate. She reaches for another bottle.

RACHEL  
Thought I'd pilfer some Ibuprofen.

Rachel turns to find Eve smiling.

EVE  
It's good for hangovers.

RACHEL  
Cute.

Rachel heads for the door.

EVE  
Heard you examined the Cassidy boy.

Rachel spins, gives Eve a suspicious look.

EVE (CONT'D)  
 Myles told me. It's kind of you to want to help, even if it's not your area of expertise.

RACHEL  
 Know a lot more about it than you.

Eve holds up her hands. Rests one on Rachel's arm.

EVE  
 Absolutely you do, Rachel. I just don't want to add to Blanche's distress by giving her mixed messages about Tommy's condition.

Rachel considers this, gives a slight "fair point" nod.

EVE (CONT'D)  
 Or false hope.

Rachel bumps into Paly on the way out. Eve snaps her fingers. Points to pill cabinet.

EVE (CONT'D)  
 She was in there.

Paly heads to the cabinet to inspect.

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Markita at her desk with a computer. She clicks on Second Earth  $\Delta$  file. *Access Denied*. She tries again. Same result.

MARKITA  
 Weird.

She sighs. Kneels by her bed. She takes out Gideon's Book. She pulls out a Reading List sheet. The entries are:

*A Bright Shining Lie - Vietnam: 23, 118, 45, 2, 76, 90, 89, 5*

*The Price of Glory - WWI: 16, 153, 98, 56, 134, 9, 152, 12*

*Fiasco - Iraq: 88, 19, 95, 101, 200, 3, 289, 6*

*Follow the Drinking Gourd - Moanin'*

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucy is asleep. Markita studies the Reading List. Her laptop shows numbers from the list in different permutations, equations. Her phone vibrates.

A text from Chloe: *Page numbers?*

Markita types back: *Tried that. Nothing highlighted on any of those pages. Might be mixed number letter crypto.*

Chloe responds: *Mr. G have that kinda gray matter?*

Markita shrugs, shakes her head.

INT. SHUTTLE - DAY

Markita stands by the display of the different shuttle stops. *Research* lights up. The shuttle doors open.

INT. RESEARCH LEVEL FOOD PROCESSING ROOM - DAY

Eve, TWO TECHNICIANS, all in Hazmat Hoods, observe LARGE VERTICAL TUBES labelled *CARB* and *PROTEIN* emitting pastes.

Nearby are squeeze tubes and vats labelled *SOY*, *BEAN*, *CHIA*.

Room lights flash. Eve checks a monitor. It shows Markita at the entrance.

EVE

What's that little shit want?

She leaves.

EXT. RESEARCH LEVEL ENTRANCE - DAY

Two sentries, a MALE REDHEAD (40) and a BALD WOMAN (35), guard the entrance. Both give Markita a slight bow.

BALD WOMAN

Good afternoon, Lady Donnelly.

Markita smiles brightly.

MARKITA

Hi. Came by to see Mr. G.

BALD WOMAN

You know access is restricted.

Eve comes bounding out with a big smile.

EVE

Markita, how nice.

MARKITA

I, uh, had a question about an assignment for Mr. Gideon.

EVE

He's in quarantine, of course.  
Something I can help with?

MARKITA

No thanks. Thought maybe we could  
do a face link.

Eve puts an arm around Markita; walks her toward the shuttle.

EVE

Ask Ms. Taylor. She'll be able to  
help you with any homework issues.

MARKITA

Yes, but...

EVE

Connor tells me you're really  
excelling at astrophysics.

MARKITA

He's a good teacher.

Eve guides Markita inside the shuttle.

MARKITA (CONT'D)

I tried accessing that archive file  
for my algo. Got access denied.

EVE

I think they're updating the  
system. It ought to be fixed soon.

MARKITA

Good, cuz...

Eve presses button; turns away as the doors close on Markita.

INT. DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Winston, Zeke walk in. Winston sees Damien returning a GREEN  
PLASTIC BALL to the terrarium and replacing the lid.

Damien hands Winston a slip of paper.

DAMIEN

Please deliver the Daily Codes.

WINSTON

Yes sir, right away.

Damien pats Winston's shoulder, pets Zeke's head.



INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Markita sits on bed with Mr. Gideon's book. Lucy comes in.

LUCY  
It's almost on!

MARKITA  
Just a sec.

Lucy shakes her head.

LUCY  
If I had a nano for every word you  
read, I'd be rich as Pop Pop.

Lucy skips out. Markita looks up, thinks. Hurries to desk.  
Pulls out the Reading List.

RACHEL (O.S.)  
Don't want to miss the show.

Markita texts Chloe: *Try alternating page/word counts.*

INT. PATHFINDERS CHANNEL STUDIO - NIGHT

Patrick sits at a keyboard in front of two cameras. Behind  
him, unlit, are two News Anchor desks.

Eyes closed, feeling the music as he plays.

INT. CASSIDY BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tommy's in bed. Blanche, Penny sit beside him. All smiles as  
they watch Patrick play.

Screen crawl: *Patrick Cassidy - Semi-Finalist.*

INT. DONNELLY APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rachel, Markita, Lucy sit and watch Patrick from the couch.  
Markita's device vibrates. There's a string of texts with  
Chloe - different word/number combos. She reads the last one:

*It worked - mostly. First three books spell out "concourse  
supply green 12 5." But couldn't find the last one - there's  
no "Moanin/D Gourd in chives.*

Markita thinks, shrugs, goes back to watching Patrick.

INT. RESEARCH LEVEL - NIGHT

Patrick's performance shows on Monitor.

Gideon, a terrified look on his face, is strapped to a bed. He's naked, except for a small bedsheet.

He trembles, cries. He taps his turquoise ring on the bedrail.

INT. HELM - DAY

Patrick's performance shows on a monitor.

The back of the Man in Pilot's Chair. He wears a turquoise ring that vibrates. He jots dots and dashes on a pad.

He stops; stabs the pen into the pad. Scribbles over notes.

INT. CASSIDY BOYS' BEDROOM - DAY

Dr. Paly holds a BLUE PILL BOTTLE.

PALY

His readings are strong, Blanche.  
Maybe Rachel was right.

He musses Tommy's hair.

BLANCHE

I only called her...

PALY

I'm just happy the boy is better.

BLANCHE

Can I get you something? Tea?

PALY

That would be wonderful.

Blanche leaves. Paly walks over to a medical bag.

With his back toward Tommy, Paly empties the blue pill bottle; fills it with pills from another bottle.

INT. MICROGRAVITY CENTER - DAY

Blanche leaves a yoga class. Without looking back, she pauses to hold the door so it doesn't close on Rachel.

INT. CONCOURSE LEVEL HALLWAY - DAY

Markita stands in a long hallway with different colored doors - red, yellow, blue, green.

She looks at scrap paper: *concourse supply green 12 5*.

She tries the green door. Locked.

She punches 1-2-5 on a keypad. Nope.

CHLOE

Try...

MARKITA

Got it.

Markita tries *M-O-A-N-I-N* on the keypad. Still locked. She keeps punching keys, trying the door. Still locked.

CHLOE

Maybe backwards.

Markita keeps punching and trying.

MARKITA

Nope.

CHLOE

How's about every other?

MARKITA

That's dumb. There's a million permutations.

CHLOE

Only 815,730,721. Don't be bustin'.

MARKITA

Sorry.

She drops the scrap paper. She bends to pick it up. Notices the square floor tiles. She looks down the hall.

INT. PAUL DONNELLY'S OFFICE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Markita, age 7, sits on Dad's desk, swinging her legs.

Paul points to a white board showing an X and Y axis.

CONCOURSE LEVEL - HALLWAY (PRESENT)

Markita bangs her fist on her chin.

MARKITA

Maybe a grid. There's five across.

She paces out 12 tiles.

CHLOE

Ahh! You go girl.

Markita reaches row 12. She kneels; tries the floor tile. Sealed tight. Tries a tile near the other wall. Also tight.

She takes off her glasses; pinches her nose.

Floor level air vents turn on and blow her hair.

That gives her an idea. She reaches under a vent. Feels around. Her eyes widen. She pulls out a FLASH DRIVE.

She jumps to her feet; takes off running.

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Markita rushes in, locks the door behind her. Turns on her computer. Types in the password: *Pat&Kita*.

Someone tries to open the door. Then bangs on it.

LUCY (O.S.)

Hey, lemme in.

MARKITA

In a minute.

She inserts the flash drive. Δ pops up on screen.

MARKITA (CONT'D)

Zetta.

LUCY (O.S.)

C'mon. I gotta go.

Markita, eyes wide, pauses a finger over keyboard. Click.

*Enter Passcode* appears. Markita slumps.

LUCY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Mommy. Kita locked me out again.

Markita bangs her forehead with the heel of her hand.

EXT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CASSIDY APARTMENT - DAY

Rachel, Markita, Lucy approach. Markita holds a new GAME CONTROLLER. Lucy holds a STUFFED CHIMP.

LUCY  
I'm lending Tommy Mr. Chimps.

MARKITA  
He's a little old for that.

LUCY  
He's my age.

MARKITA  
Ya.

They reach the Cassidy apartment. Rachel pats Lucy's head.

RACHEL  
I think...

The door flies open. Patrick, white as a ghost, rushes out, sprints down the hall. Rachel calls after him.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Patrick. What's wrong?

Patrick keeps running. Calls back.

PATRICK  
Tommy.

Rachel and the girls run after him.

INT. WELLNESS CENTER EXAM ROOM - DAY

Blanche lies face down on a bed over Tommy's lifeless form. She sobs. Eve, Paly have hands on her shoulders.

Judy has her arms around Patrick and Penny as they cry.

Rachel, Markita come in. Penny sputters with rage.

PENNY  
You?! What? Got more pills for my  
little brother?

Markita and Rachel recoil. Eve and Paly glance at each other.

JUDY  
Sweetheart, it's nobody's fault.

Markita looks at Patrick, but he stares at the bed, crying.

RACHEL  
I'm so sorry.

Rachel and Markita leave.

Damien rushes in. He gives a mournful look at the bed.

He takes Patrick and Penny by the hand. Penny stares past him. Patrick makes eye contact, nods.

Damien takes Eve's place, puts a hand on Blanche's back.

Damien nods to Paly. They both gently lift Blanche.

PALY  
Here, Blanche.

They raise Blanche to a sitting position. She jerks her arms away. Throws herself back down on the bed.

BLANCHE  
Leave us alone! Leave us alone!

Damien crosses himself.

DAMIEN  
The Pathfinders are a family...

He places his hand again on Blanche's back.

EXT. DECK OF NAVAL SHIP - DAY

Damien stands next to a pallet draped with a Butterfly Flag.

DAMIEN  
...a family of explorers on an  
incredible journey for the  
betterment of Humankind.

Blanche in black mourning clothes, veil, stands next to him with Judy, Patrick, Penny, arms around each other, crying.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)  
But sadly, the journey has ended  
far too soon for one of the dearest  
and youngest members of our family.

Rachel, Markita, Lucy stand nearby, solemn, tearful.

Eve, stoic, stands next to Connor, who bawls unrestrained with his arm around Jacob. Jacob stares at Markita.

The deck is crowded with Reilly, Fitzroy, Paly, Pathfinders.

SIX SENTRIES surround the pallet.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)  
Thomas Cassidy, Jr. has embarked on  
a new pilgrimage, one free of fear  
and pain...

Lucy wipes away a tear with one of Bunny's ears.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)  
 ...one that leads to a better  
 place; a place where all of our  
 paths will one day cross again.

Two Sentries shoot rounds in the air as the pallet is tipped. Tommy's SHROUDED BODY slides off the side of the ship.

Another Sentry plays *Taps* on a bugle.

EXT. RENAISSANCE - SPACE

The shrouded body is jettisoned from the spacecraft; tumbles in space as *Taps* continues.

EXT. DECK OF NAVAL SHIP - DAY

Blanche, carrying a folded Flag, Patrick, Penny are led away by Damien and Judy as *Taps* continues.

Rachel holds hands with Markita and Lucy. She stares over the side of the ship, shaking her head. *Taps* ends.

BAM. Rachel suddenly lurches backward. Her upper body and head slam into a beam on the ship deck. Markita and Lucy look at her, shocked, as Rachel bangs against the beam again.

INT. SIMULATION ROOM - DAY

Rachel and other Pathfinders are reclined with simulators.

Blanche, no longer wearing a simulator, is on top of Rachel, shaking her violently, slamming her into the recliner.

BLANCHE  
 Why?! Why?!

Other Pathfinders remove simulators; exchange stunned looks.

Damien and Judy pull Blanche off. Markita rushes to Rachel. Rachel, shaken, pats her arm, signaling she is okay.

INT. BLANCHE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Blanche stares vacantly; a picture of Tommy in her lap. Judy stands, checks an IV bottle attached to Blanche's arm.

JUDY  
 Ah, finished with breakfast. How  
 are you feeling, Blanche, honey?

Judy runs her fingers through Blanche's hair. No reaction. She hears raised voices from the other room.

PENNY(O.S.)  
Shouldn't of let that Donnelly  
quack anywhere near Tommy.

PATRICK (O.S.)  
She was just trying to help. Doc  
Paly signed off on the medicine.

Judy hurries out.

INT. CASSIDY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Patrick squeezes a protein tube into a blender. Penny, in work-out clothes, wraps her hands with tape.

Judy rushes in.

PENNY  
You're just defending her cause you  
have the hots for that Kita bitch.

Patrick, angry, throws the tube against the wall.

JUDY  
Kids, come on. Your mom doesn't  
need to hear this.

PATRICK  
Neither do I.

Patrick storms out.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Lights off. The door opens. Markita steps inside.

MARKITA  
Patrick?

No answer. She leaves.

EXT. CASSIDY APARTMENT - DAY

Markita stands at the front door.

Judy, with a sympathetic smile, shakes her head no.



INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

Markita surveys the area while talking to Chloe.

CHLOE  
Gutsy going by his apartment.

MARKITA  
Yeah, Penny probably would've  
vaporized me if she'd been there.

Markita looks around; sees Jacob shooting hoops with BOY #2  
(14), in gym shorts and a Butterfly tee-shirt.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
Hey, Jacob.

Jacob brightens.

JACOB  
Markita. Hi.

MARKITA  
Seen Patrick?

JACOB  
Uh, no.

BOY #1  
We just saw him in the locker room.

Jacob turns red.

MARKITA  
Thanks.

She heads toward the locker room.

EXT. MEN'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Markita, awkward, stands at the door. Gives it a push.

MARKITA  
Patrick?... Patrick?

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Patrick is tying his sneakers. He looks up. Doesn't answer.

EXT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Markita listens. No response.

CHLOE (O.S.)  
T minus 240 hours to JSP Orals.

MARKITA  
Such a zetta nag.

CHLOE  
Well...

MARKITA  
I know, I know. I programmed you.

Markita waves her arm, annoyed.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The lights are off. Markita works on her laptop. She hears the door. She hides behind a white board.

She hears Patrick singing.

PATRICK (O.S.)  
*Michael, row the boat ashore...*

Markita steps out from behind white board.

MARKITA  
Hi.

Patrick, startled, jumps. Markita puts her hand up.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
It's just me.

PATRICK  
Must be a little jumpy.

He turns to leave. Markita hurries toward him.

MARKITA  
Wait up. Been lookin' for you.

She pulls out a DISK with a picture of Tommy on it.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
Here.

Patrick takes the disk and examines it.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
Pulled it together from archives.

PATRICK  
Zetta sweet. Don't have my...

MARKITA  
No worries. Use mine.

She gestures to her laptop. They sit by it. She taps the disk on the trackpad. A montage of Tommy starts to play.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

As Tommy montage ends, Patrick wipes his eyes.

MARKITA  
Don't know what to say...

Patrick touches her hand.

PATRICK  
Like Judy says, no one's fault.

Their eyes meet. Then he turns away.

PATRICK (CONT'D)  
But it's sure messin' with my head.  
Think I'm gonna duck the contest.

MARKITA  
No way. Don't quit.

PATRICK  
You sound like that Churchill guy.

He looks at the wall. The Churchill poster is gone.

PATRICK (CONT'D)  
Hey, Judy must've taken it down.

Markita's eyes widen. She slaps the desk.

MARKITA  
Churchill!

She closes Tommy montage; pulls out the flash drive and plugs in into the computer. She looks Patrick in the eyes.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
Gotta promise. Don't tell a soul.

He nods, intrigued.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
But first let me try something.

She types: *Churchill*. A video file appears.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
YAHTZEE! Good one, Mr. G.

She claps her hands. Patrick makes a "what gives?" gesture.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Markita and Patrick watch a video:

A TELEVISION REPORTER (35) on Senate steps. Protestors with signs: *Save First Earth; No More Profits for Prophit.*

TELEVISION REPORTER

The final stages of the historic Renaissance Project are expected to be approved by a wide margin later today when the Senate reconvenes. Still, a small but vocal minority are hoping to block the Project. One such protestor is with me now.

A MALE ACTIVIST (36) in a suit and tie with shoulder-length hair and a TREBLE CLEF EARRING, steps into the frame.

TELEVISION REPORTER (CONT'D)

Dr. Thomas Cassidy, an eco scientist, is a former Renaissance Project team member.

PATRICK

What?

Patrick and Markita exchange amazed looks.

TELEVISION REPORTER

Dr. Cassidy, tell us why you now oppose the Renaissance Project.

DR. CASSIDY

It's a sham; it won't work and it will divert precious resources and energy from fixing the problems here, on the only Earth we have, and ever will have.

B Roll of Prophit Industries factories spewing smoke.

DR. CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Companies like Prophit Industries are killing this planet. Instead of curbing their destructive practices, they are selling us a Second Earth fantasy. But there's no other planet in the galaxy that can sustain even a small fraction of humanity.

TELEVISION REPORTER

Doctor, some question your motives.  
Are you now a naysayer because you  
were taken off the Project?

Cassidy looks at reporter with contempt.

DR. CASSIDY

Ask me that again in 30 years, if  
any of us are still alive.

The video stops. Freeze frame on Cassidy.

Patrick sits back, a dazed look on his face.

Markita stares at him, worried and uncertain.

INT. BLANCHE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Patrick and Penny sit on either side of Blanche, who still  
stares vacantly with the Tommy photo on her lap.

PATRICK

He was protesting the Renaissance  
Project. Why, Mom?

No response.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

What did he know? How did he die?

Blanche doesn't move. Tears flow down her cheeks.

Penny puts her finger to her lips; signals Patrick to stop.  
He nods. They rest their heads on her shoulders.

INT. JACOB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Spartan furniture. The only thing on the walls is a poster of  
Munch's *The Scream*. Connor, Jacob sit at a desk, hunched over  
a laptop, reviewing the results of a *JSP Practice Quiz*.

Eve walks in. She looks at the laptop showing three  
consecutive answers marked: *Wrong*. She grimaces.

CONNOR

Here, you need the differential...

Eve slams the laptop closed. Connor and Jacob rear back.

EVE

I'm pulling you from JSPs.

Jacob jumps up. His head is in full twitch mode.

JACOB  
Fine with me.

CONNOR  
Now wait a second...

EVE  
It's only highlighting your  
inferiority.

Jacob winces.

JACOB  
Love you too, Mom.

He stalks out.

CONNOR  
Damn it, Eve.

Connor goes after him.

JACOB (O.S.)  
I wish I was never born.

EVE  
Then I wouldn't have to worry about  
how you'll ever survive without me.

Eve regards the open mouth of the poster. She methodically  
removes the tacks. Takes it down. Folds it.

INT. DAMIEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Markita looks at photos of Damien on a spacewalk. Damien adds  
figurines to his MODEL AIRCRAFT CARRIER.

MARKITA  
Pop Pop, do you ever get scared?

DAMIEN  
Of what, sweetheart?

She points to spacewalk photos.

MARKITA  
Uh, like that.

Damien chuckles, He points to a picture of him and his wife,  
in front of a theatre with a sign: *Palladium*.

DAMIEN  
When your grandmother got sick.  
Then I was scared.

Markita nods.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)  
That was our first date.

MARKITA  
She was awesome looking.

DAMIEN  
Just like you.

He touches the tip of Markita's nose. She laughs.

MARKITA  
What happened to Patrick's dad?

Damien tilts his head.

DAMIEN  
Why do you ask?

MARKITA  
Just with Tommy dying...

DAMIEN  
Such a sad story. A great  
scientist. But he became erratic.  
Turned out he suffered from mental  
illness; and a bad drug habit.

MARKITA  
Was he taken off the Project?

DAMIEN  
Yes. Had to be done. He was trying  
to sabotage it; spouting a bunch of  
wild theories that we were trying  
to ruin Earth instead of save it.  
When his mental illness and drug  
abuse became public, he was  
discredited. He got even worse.

MARKITA  
How did it, become public I mean?

Damien looks away; adjusts a statuette on the shelf.

DAMIEN  
Don't know.

MARKITA  
How'd he die?

Damien still has his back to her.

DAMIEN  
He committed suicide.

MARKITA

Ouch. That sucks.

Damien turns, stares in Markita's eyes with a serious look.

DAMIEN

I don't think Patrick or Penny know. And you must not tell them. That's for Blanche to decide.

Markita holds up her hands to signal that she won't tell.

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucy jumps on her bed. Markita plops down at her desk. She feels something in her pocket. Removes the flash drive.

Markita opens a bottom desk drawer crammed with old toys, computer stuff. Lucy jumps down from her bed.

LUCY

Ooh. The junk drawer.

Markita tosses the flash drive in the drawer.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Can I play with Neutrino Dog?

Markita looks in the drawer, hesitates.

MARKITA

Don't get snot on him.

LUCY

Yay!

Lucy pulls out Neutrino Dog. Digital chimes.

CHLOE

T minus 200 hours to JSP Orals.

Markita nods. Opens laptop: *JSP Prep Materials* appears.

CRASH! The door flies open. Sentries storm in.

Markita spins in her chair. Lucy runs to her.

Eve stalks in; serious. Hands behind her back. She glances at the junk drawer as Markita pushes it closed.

Markita and Lucy tremble in fear as Eve stands over them.

EVE

With the authority vested in me as Chief Mission Officer of the Renaissance, I hereby proclaim...



Eve pulls out a plastic crown.

EVE (CONT'D)  
...this LADY DONNELLY DAY!

Eve puts crown on Markita's head. Damien enters, smiling. Rachel, Connor, Jacob and Judy stream in with *Happy 16* hats and balloons. They all sing "Happy Birthday."

Markita gives a big sigh of relief. Lucy jumps on her bed.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

The bandstand is decorated with streamers, balloons.

Markita sits at a round table with Damien, Rachel, Lucy, Connor, Jacob, Judy, Dr. Paly. Eve stands at a podium.

Pathfinders circle the bandstand with pieces of cake.

EVE  
I know it's difficult to celebrate  
given the recent tragedy...

Somber looks, head nods all around.

EVE (CONT'D)  
But we needed to mark this special  
occasion.

Eve holds up a piece of cake. The crowd cheers.

EVE (CONT'D)  
And I have an announcement. The JSP  
Committee has decided this year's  
JSP trainee should be a woman.

Oohs and aahs. Reilly pumps her fist in the air.

REILLY  
Word!

EVE  
In keeping with this sentiment, our  
son, Jacob, has graciously agreed  
to withdraw from consideration.

Markita brightens, looks at Jacob.

MARKITA  
No joke?

He nods, gazes at her intently. No twitch.

DAMIEN  
That's very good of you, Jacob.

Rachel whispers something angry to Damien. He shrugs.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)  
I had nothing to do with it.

Penny and Patrick walk toward the locker rooms. She ignores the party. He glances toward the bandstand.

EVE (O.S.)  
That means our two JSP finalists  
are Markita and Penny.

A stray balloon with a Markita photo floats by Penny's feet.

She stomps on it. Balloon pops.

Markita walks over to Damien and gives him a hug.

INT. RACHEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rachel stands in front of closet; ties a robe around herself. She takes hold of the floral red dress and feels the fabric.

LUCY (O.S.)  
Mommy, hurry. It's about to start.

Rachel wipes away a tear.

INT. DONNELLY APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rachel, Markita and Lucy watch the Talent Contest.

ANNOUNCER  
Earlier today one of the finalists,  
Patrick Cassidy, withdrew from the  
competition for personal reasons.

Markita is stunned.

MARKITA  
He didn't.

RACHEL  
What a shame. I'm sorry, Kita.

Rachel pats her on the leg.

INT. BLANCHE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Patrick sits in the dark with Blanche, holding her hand.

INT. RESEARCH LEVEL - NIGHT

Patrick's prior performance replays on the monitor.

ANNOUNCER

Patrick gave an impressive  
performance in the semi-finals.

The bed where Gideon was last seen is empty. His turquoise ring rests on a metal table beside the bed.

EXT. SERENE LAKE IN THE ADIRONDACKS - DAY

An orange sunset. Patrick, Markita, in swimsuits, lie on their backs next to each other on a floating raft.

She wears his treble clef earring. He wears her atom necklace. He rolls on his side; leans in close.

She gazes at him. Slowly nods. This is it!

DAH NAH!! A digital alarm explodes with chords from Also Sprach Zarathustra (2001: A Space Odyssey theme).

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Markita lurches up from her desk, scattering her tablet and work papers to the floor. She shakes her head. Rubs her eyes.

CHLOE

Rise and shine. JSPs at 9.

Markita stumbles toward the bathroom as she struggles to pull her shirt off. She nudges Lucy, who is still asleep in bed.

INT. SHUTTLE - DAY

Patrick and Penny sit, stare at tablets. She lets out a yawn.

PATRICK

Maybe try sleeping some time.

Penny grunts. Keeps reading.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

Hoping Markita can help us get more  
info about this.

Penny glances at his tablet.

PENNY

Enough with that freakin' video.  
Anyway, it's probably Fakebook.

PATRICK  
Looks real enough to me. Don't you  
care what happened?

PENNY  
All I care about is kickin' Lady  
Donnelly's bony little ass.

Lynn and Andrea board. They walk over to Patrick and Penny.

LYNN  
This seat taken?

Lynn plops down on Patrick's lap.

PATRICK  
YOW!

The girls laugh. Patrick turns red.

EXT. MICROGRAVITY CENTER - DAY

Markita fast walks toward the entrance. Talks to herself.

MARKITA  
Average velocity, fuel mass...

ANDREA (O.S.)  
Kill it today, Galaxy Girl.

Markita looks up and sees Penny flexing her bicep. Andrea and Lynn, with her arm around Patrick's neck, stand next to her.

Markita turns away. Rushes inside. Patrick sees her, slips out from Lynn's grasp.

PATRICK  
Hey, Markita.

Too late. She's inside.

INT. MICROGRAVITY CENTER - DAY

Markita, Penny float in spacesuits, tethered to a large metal column. Intense light simulates the sun's glare and heat.

Connor, with headset, gives a play-by-play from the control room to onlooking Pathfinder teenagers.

CONNOR  
This exercise involves replacement  
of a heat shield; something I did a  
lot when I fit into my space suit.

Connor pats his stomach. The onlookers laugh.

Markita unscrews bolts with a drill. Penny holds a replacement heat shield.

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
The EMUs, or spacesuits, protect against the extreme heat and cold of space and provide a comfortable work environment.

Connor shines a laser pointer on a wall monitor: *ATM TEMP - 250; SUR TEMP - 250.*

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
Compare the atmospheric temperature and the surface temperature of the heat shield...

Connor points to separate Monitors for *EMU#1* and *EMU#2*. Both show *EMU TEMP 75.*

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
...to the EMU temperatures.

Connor points to bar gauges for each EMU.

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
The EMUs also provide oxygen and filter out what would otherwise be lethal amounts of carbon dioxide.

*OXY UTIL* bars for each EMU fluctuate near 27%. The 80-100% range at the top is RED. *CO2* bars fluctuate slightly near 40 mm/HG. The 45-50 range at the top is RED.

Each EMU monitor displays *Heart Rate*. Penny's is 85, Markita's is 110.

Markita loosens the last bolt. Penny hands her the replacement shield; tries to remove the existing one.

It's stuck.

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
It takes skill, dexterity and patience to work in space.

Penny tugs on the shield; bangs it with her fist. Connor shakes his head. He presses a button on his headset.

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
Easy Penny. Less brawn, more brain.

Markita positions herself horizontally over the heat shield; she signals Penny to do the same next to her.

Connor nods. Addresses onlookers.

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
 A little shade from the sun's  
 intense glare and the components  
 will cool and contract.

The *SUR TEMP.* drops to 150. Markita nods toward the shield.  
 Penny grabs it. It slides off easily.

INT. MICROGRAVITY CENTER SPACESUIT ROOM - DAY

Markita and Penny stand in leggings and tee-shirts by lockers  
 on opposite sides of the room. On the wall above Markita is a  
 BUTTERFLY FLAG; on the wall above Penny an AMERICAN FLAG.

Spacesuits hang next to each of their lockers.

Connor walks in.

CONNOR  
 Quick thinking out there, Kita.

Penny gives her the finger. Markita frowns.

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
 Remember to replace your CO2  
 filters and buddy check each  
 other's suits.

He leaves. Penny turns. Markita gives her the finger.

Each girl removes TWO RED CANISTERS from the front pouch of  
 their spacesuit. They draw a black **X** on them and toss them in  
 a bin labeled: *USED CO2 FILTERS*.

INT. HELM - DAY

TWO CO-PILOTS (40) and a MALE PILOT, whose face is not shown  
 at first, stare at screens.

Monitors show the flight path to Second Earth.

Jacob is admitted by a sentry. A DRINK HOLDER hangs around  
 his neck. A LARGE BAG is slung over his shoulder.

Jacob puts drinks down by the Co-Pilots; then by the Pilot.  
 The Pilot looks up at him.

It's MAX LEDBETTER (45). HE'S ALIVE! Older, more gaunt than  
 in videos. Has a full beard and still wears a Hawaiian Shirt.

Jacob opens the bag. Multiple compartments hold vitamin packs  
 with nametags; squeeze tubes; Scissors.

Jacob takes vitamin packs, squeeze tubes to the Co-Pilots. He  
 gives Max squeeze tubes, then searches the bag.

JACOB  
Must've forgot your vitamins.

MAX  
You wait here. I'll get 'em.

Jacob shakes his head, alarmed.

JACOB  
But...

The Sentry laughs. Jacob's head twitches.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
Be right back.

Jacob mopes out. Max eyes the bag and scissors.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Lucy sits with classmates. Reilly and Fitzroy are up front.

FITZROY  
What a treat to visit your class.

Lucy's hand shoots up. Reilly nods at her.

LUCY  
My sister's gonna be a space pilot.

Reilly and Fitzroy chuckle.

REILLY  
Let's see what she'll get to do.

An instructional animated video starts. It shows Space Pilots operating mining equipment on the surface of an asteroid.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Reilly and Fitzroy sit up front. An animated video plays.

It shows Space Pilots operating mining equipment on the surface of an asteroid.

Drones tow rectangular containers from the asteroid.

REILLY  
Once the minerals are loaded, the  
Tow Drones transport them to the  
Processing Barge.

A drone with one of the containers enters a Barge - a combination of circular and silo-shaped compartments attached to solar panels and a satellite dish.

INT. SHUTTLE PLATFORM - DAY

Patrick sees Markita board the shuttle. He calls after her and runs. The doors close before he gets on.

INT. DONNELLY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Markita sits at a counter. Her phone displays Chloe avatar.

MARKITA

I really want to be with him but  
really want to avoid the DAD  
subject.

CHLOE

Awkward, for sure.

Markita opens a VITAMIN PACK with her name on it. She finds a slip of paper inside.

Her eyes widen. She flings the paper like a hot coal.

MARKITA

I'm so done with this.

On the slip of paper is an equation:  $V/I = \Delta$ .

INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

Damien, Paly, Eve sit at a circular table. Judy sits behind Eve, laptop open, typing away.

DAMIEN

The woman has been through hell.

EVE

Her hedonical mission value...

Damien slaps table.

DAMIEN

Enough!

EVE

Very well, Admiral.

DAMIEN

How is she, Myles?



PALY  
Her outbursts are being managed  
through anti-depressants.

Paly pops a Jelly Bean into his mouth.

INT. WELLNESS CENTER OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Blanche lays on bed, her head inserted in a circular device.  
Paly stands, looks at an MRI image of her brain.

PALY (V.O.)  
The grief extraction should provide  
a more permanent correction.

Paly adjusts the device; presses a control. ZZZ - a low buzz  
is heard as a pinpoint flash lights up on the brain image.

PALY (V.O.)  
It deadens sensors associated with  
the maternal bond. It will allow  
Blanche to move past Tommy's death.

DAMIEN (V.O.)  
Is it safe?

PALY (V.O.)  
Yes, if done gradually. The sooner  
the patient responds, the fewer  
neurons we need to erase.

ZZZ. Another flash and buzz on the brain image.

INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

Eve and Judy are alone. Eve reads tablet.

JUDY  
Blanche was like a mother to me.

EVE  
So you hate her guts?

Judy puts her hand on Eve's arm.

JUDY  
Jacob doesn't hate you. And he'll  
understand when he gets older.

EVE  
I hope he does. He's like his  
father. Zero survival instincts.

JUDY  
And Blanche, I feel sorry for her.

EVE

Don't. We'd all be better off with  
our sensors deadened.

Judy stands, walks up behind Eve.

JUDY

Not all of them.

Judy kisses Eve's neck, caresses her shoulders. Eve exhales.

EVE

Whooo. Right. Not all of them.

Eve turns. They embrace, kiss deeply.

The door between the Board Room and the side room pushes part  
way open. They don't notice.

Jacob with a pushcart stands in the doorway.

He witnesses the kiss, his head twitching.

INT. EVE'S OFFICE - DAY

Eve, Paly sit at a monitor. Eve inserts her finger in a tube.  
It makes a clipping sound. She removes her finger and  
examines her nail.

A Butterfly flashes above *DNA Match*. Eve pours herself a  
glass of wine. Offers Paly some. He declines.

*Secure Earthlink Enabled* scrolls across the monitor. THREE  
MEN IN SUITS appear, seated at a circular table.

INT. EVE'S OFFICE - DAY

Eve finishes the wine in her glass while MAN IN SUIT#1 talks.

MAN IN SUIT#1

We've cross-referenced Census data  
with financial, genetic, health and  
occupational information to compile  
a list of candidates who can afford  
the Second Earth entry fee.

MAN IN SUIT#2

And that fee increases with every  
pandemic, wildfire and bomb  
cyclone.

EVE

And Braden?

MAN IN SUIT#2

He still thinks the selection of subsequent waves of Pathfinders to Second Earth is based solely on Mission Value, regardless of the ability to pay.

PALY

Good. And the land assessment?

MAN IN SUIT#3

Our model identified the most viable geographic areas on Earth over the next 50 years. We've been gradually acquiring them.

EVE

Why 50 years?

MAN IN SUIT#3

That's when the model predicts Earth will no longer be habitable.

EVE

Got it. Over and out.

The monitor goes black. Eve sees her reflection staring back at her. She studies it for a moment before shutting her eyes.

#### MONTAGE OF MARKITA AND PENNY IN JSP COMPETITION

-- Markita is on a steeply inclined treadmill. She wears an oxygen monitor on her head. She grips the bar and walks fast, struggling to keep up with the ramp speed.

CONNOR (V.O.)

Coming down the home stretch.

-- Penny does handstand push-ups; watches a science lecture.

-- The Microgravity Center. Markita, Penny and Connor wear PROPULSION PACKS. Connor smoothly elevates. Penny spins out of control. Markita runs straight into a wall.

CONNOR (V.O.)

The last stages of the JSP competition includes the oral exam and a final trial by fire.

-- The classroom. Judy lectures. Markita and Penny nod off.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Markita sits outside double doors. She stares at the paper with the  $V/I = \Delta$  formula. She has added notations.

MARKITA  
Focus, Kita.

She stuffs the paper in her pocket and opens a *JSP OUTLINE* on her tablet. Patrick walks up.

PATRICK  
Up next?

Markita nods; does some mock breathing exercises. He laughs; puts a hand on her shoulder. She gives him a big smile.

PATRICK (CONT'D)  
You'll do great.

He sits next to her.

PATRICK (CONT'D)  
About that video, was thinking  
maybe your mom remembers....

Markita shakes her head, looks down at her tablet.

PATRICK (CONT'D)  
Or your grandfather...

Markita, alarmed, becomes emphatic.

MARKITA  
No. Please. I can't do this now!

He holds up his hands.

PATRICK  
Sorry, sorry. I know you're...

MARKITA  
No, I'm sorry, it's just...

The doors swing open. Paly ushers Penny out.

PALY  
That was aces, Penny. Ready, Kita?

Markita gulps, gets up as Penny and Patrick leave. She looks after Patrick, frustrated, before going into the Exam Room.

INT. ORAL EXAM ROOM - DAY

Eve, Paly, Connor, Reilly and Fitzroy sit behind a long table. Markita sits in a hardback chair with pen and notepad.

CONNOR  
 Kita, tell us how Ohm's Law impacts  
 navigation during a meteor storm.

MARKITA  
 Under Ohm's Law, voltage divided by  
 current...

She scribbles  $V/I$ .

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
 ...equals the resistance...

She looks up. A light goes on.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Her hand holds paper with  $V/I = \Delta$  and notations.

INT. ORAL EXAM ROOM - DAY

Markita drops her pad to the floor as she blurts out:

MARKITA  
 Resistance!

The judges exchange looks.

PALY  
 Huh?

Markita bends to pick up her pad. Thinks quick.

MARKITA  
 Sorry, just a mnemonic device.  
 Anyway, under Ohm's Law...

She writes *Resistance* on her pad; continues her answer.

INT. ARCHIVES - NIGHT

Markita scans the area. She places her bag next to a monitor  
 to block the view of any passers-by.

She clicks: *Second Earth*  $\Delta$ . Types *Resistance*. The file opens.

MARKITA  
 Lit!

Markita scans the area again while inserting a flash drive.

INT. MARKITA'S AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Markita sits at desk; Algo open on computer. Lucy sleeps.

Markita raps her knuckles on her forehead. She texts Chloe:  
*Must have f'd up one of the sequences. This habitability %  
can't be right.*

INT. DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Lucy nuzzles a Guinea Pig. Eve leans on Damien's desk.

LUCY  
Sure Pop Pop won't mind?

EVE  
Positive.

LUCY  
Doesn't Otto look skinny to you?

Lucy holds the Guinea Pig toward Eve. Eve recoils.

EVE  
Back to your sister, has she said  
anything about her algorithm?

Lucy shakes head; examines Otto.

LUCY  
She doesn't tell me anything.

EVE  
Are you sure?

LUCY  
Yup.

Eve sighs, pushes off the desk.

EVE  
Alright. Let's put that thing...

LUCY  
She's always talking to Chloe  
instead of me.

EVE  
Chloe?

Eve sits back on the desk; crosses her arms.

INT. MARKITA'S AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Markita sits at computer. A knock. The door opens. Rachel and Patrick walk in, but Markita doesn't turn around.

RACHEL

Kita.

MARKITA

Busy.

PATRICK

I'll come back later.

His voice jolts her head up.

MARKITA

Oh crap.

She jumps up, spins around.

MARKITA (CONT'D)

No, no, no, no, no. Now's fine.

Rachel smiles, leaves. Markita closes the door.

PATRICK

Just wanted to bring by a birthday present; a little late, I know.

He fishes in his pocket. Pulls out the TREBLE CLEF EARRING.

Markita's eyes open wide. She clutches her face.

MARKITA

Oh my god!

He gives her a curious look. Pulls a flash drive from his pocket while sliding the earring into his ear.

PATRICK

Not that big a deal. Just dropped some jazz on this for you.

She falls into her chair. Faces the desk, tries to recover.

MARKITA

Zetta.

He points the flash drive toward her desktop.

PATRICK

Can I?

MARKITA

Yeah, totally.

PATRICK  
Needs your password.

He looks over her shoulder. She glances sideways.

She quickly types in *PAT&KITA*; wonders if he saw it.

He did. Patrick raises his eyebrows; pleased.

He bends down, reaches across her to insert the drive. She inhales deeply. He presses play.

As he pulls back, his cheek brushes hers. They turn their heads, almost touching noses.

The music starts to play.

He leans a little closer with a question in his eyes.

She nods slowly, closes her eyes as he kisses her.

He pulls back; waits for the review. She opens her eyes. Leans in for another kiss. This one lasts a while longer.

MARKITA  
Wow.

PATRICK  
Wow squared.

She laughs, then glances at the computer.

MARKITA  
That's nice.

PATRICK  
Mmm.

MARKITA  
I meant the music.

PATRICK  
This track's called *Moanin'*.

He goes in for another kiss. She jerks her head back.

MARKITA  
What?

Patrick gives her a confused look.

PATRICK  
*Moanin'*, by the Jazz Messengers.  
It's one of Mr. G's favorites.

She yanks open the junk drawer, causing Patrick to step back.



PATRICK (CONT'D)

Whoa!

She rifles through the drawer.

INT. MARKITA'S AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Markita and Patrick sit on her bed. She holds the Reading List. Points to *Follow the Drinking Gourd - Moanin'* entry.

MARKITA  
Drinking Gourd's the only book  
that's wasn't in archives.

PATRICK  
Not a book, it's a song, used by  
slaves on the Underground Railroad.  
It was code for follow the Big  
Dipper to the North Star.

Markita slaps her forehead.

MARKITA  
Genius!

PATRICK  
Do I get another kiss for that?

Just then, Lucy bursts in. Markita glares at her.

MARKITA  
Knock, Lu!

LUCY  
Hey, Patrick. Didya know lions can  
mate up to 40 times a day?

Patrick sighs.

PATRICK  
They must not have little sisters.

Markita turns beet red. She gets up from the bed.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Markita and Patrick sit behind the white board. Lights off. They huddle over laptop.

MARKITA  
Play those first notes again.

He reaches around her, pulling her closer. She rests her face against his. He plays the first bars of "Moanin'".

The screen shows piano keys that light up with note letters.  
She jots them down:

*F F A A F C E F F F.*

PATRICK  
Spells face, sort of.

She bobs her head, dubious.

MARKITA  
That's possible.

PATRICK  
Not really.

She gives a sheepish shrug. He starts kissing her face.

MARKITA  
Maybe it's...

She gets lost. He talks through the kisses.

PATRICK  
What?

She has trouble concentrating.

MARKITA  
Ordinal. Maybe the ordinal values.

PATRICK  
Come again?

Markita writes letters, then numbers on the white board.

MARKITA  
You know, like F is the 6th letter.

She totals the numbers, writes 46 and underlines it.

PATRICK  
46 what?

MARKITA  
Not sure.

He stands, glances at a Periodic Table on the white board.

PATRICK  
What's Pd stand for?

Markita still studies the numbers.

MARKITA  
Huh?

He nods toward the Periodic Table. She looks. Elbows him.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
Yeah!

PATRICK  
Ow.

MARKITA  
Sorry, but you did it. Palladium!  
It must be a Simulator File.

PATRICK  
Zetta. How do we get to it?

Markita thinks, shakes her head.

INT. WELLNESS CENTER OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Blanche is in the grief extraction machine. Paly stands with Judy. He checks the readings. Clicks his tongue.

PALY  
A difficult case.

He walks out. Judy pats Blanche's arm, bends and whispers.

JUDY  
Don't fight it, honey.

Blanche, jaw set, face tense, looks in Judy's eyes.

INT. RACHEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rachel sits on her bed. Markita walks in.

MARKITA  
I'm going to do it, no matter what  
you say, but I wanted to tell you  
cause Pop Pop might freak.

Rachel furrows her brow, not sure what to think.

INT. RACHEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Markita sits next to Rachel.

MARKITA  
Can't get past the retinal scan,  
but maybe I can sneak in when...

RACHEL  
No.

MARKITA  
I already told you...

RACHEL  
Got a better way we can get in.

MARKITA  
We?

Markita shakes her head, amazed.

INT. EVE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Eve sits at computer and sips wine. She scrolls through a long list of chats between Markita and Chloe. Stops on the following:

MARKITA: *must have f'd up one of the sequences. This habitability % can't be right.* CHLOE: *whaddy a get?*

MARKITA: *only 1%.*

Eve darkens. She grips the glass. It cracks. She tosses it in the trash; wipes blood off her palm with a handkerchief.

INT. DAMIEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

RACHEL (O.S.)  
Hello? Dad?

Rachel and Markita walk in. They hurry to the replica of Damien. Rachel removes the right eyeball with a scalpel. Puts it in her pocket. Inserts a replacement eye.

RUFF! They jump. Winston, Zeke enter.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Winston. Just looking for my dad.

Zeke smells Rachel's pocket. Markita leans down to pet him.

WINSTON  
He'll be here soon.

RACHEL  
I'll find him later.

She and Markita hurry out of the apartment. Winston shrugs.

EXT. SIMULATION ROOM - DAY

Markita and Patrick look to see if the coast is clear. Rachel holds the eyeball to a retinal scan. Green light. Door opens.

INT. CASSIDY LIVING ROOM - DAY

Blanche and Paly sit in chairs, holding tea cups.

PALY  
You're doing fine, Blanche.

She smiles, nods, sips her tea. Penny walks in.

PENNY  
Hi, Doc.

She kisses Blanche on the cheek.

BLANCHE  
Penny, dear. I need help taking  
these boxes to the Jettison Room.

Penny notices 5 boxes against the wall. Peers into one. She takes out Tommy's soccer jersey. She digs deeper and pulls out a FRAMED PICTURE of Tommy.

BLANCHE (CONT'D)  
Be nice to get rid of the clutter.

Penny gives Paly a WTF look. He responds with a solemn nod.

INT. SIMULATION ROOM LOBBY AREA - DAY

Markita stands at a console and scrolls through an index of Simulator Files. Rachel and Patrick look on.

She comes to a list of constellation names.

Markita points to *Ursa Major*.

MARKITA  
The Big Dipper.

She reaches her hand back, daps up with Patrick.

INT. RENAISSANCE PROJECT HEADQUARTERS (SIMULATION) - DAY

A long, rectangular "*Renaissance Timetable*" is on the wall.

Damien is at the head of a conference table. Eve to his right. Paul Donnelly and Max sit to his left. Damien, Eve and Max look nine years younger than present day.

THOMAS CASSIDY stands opposite Damien, points at a graph.

Everyone in the room is frozen.

LIFELIKE AVATARS of Markita, Rachel and Patrick appear. The simulation unfreezes.

The images of Damien, Eve, Paul, Max and Cassidy are slightly pixilated. The avatars are clear.

CASSIDY  
Admiral, this is insanity! I keep  
telling Eve, the habitability  
projections are way off.

Paul and Max shoot Eve a look of surprise. She scoffs.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
Only a small fraction of Earth's  
population will survive, if that.

EVE  
My team has gone over the numbers.  
Nobody agrees with Dr. Cassidy.

Damien gives Cassidy a sympathetic nod.

DAMIEN  
Thomas, you're a brilliant  
mathematician, but you've been  
working so hard...

Cassidy throws laser pointer on the floor.

CASSIDY  
WAKE UP FOR FUCK SAKE!

All heads jerk, startled. Eve stands.

EVE  
That's quite enough. Must be time  
for Dr. Cassidy's meds.

CASSIDY  
This isn't some delirium dream.

He implores Paul.

CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
Paul, look at it yourself. The  
numbers don't lie. Please. Please.

Cassidy's eyes start to tear. Paul nods, concerned.

Patrick's avatar rushes over to his father's image.

PATRICK  
It's okay, Dad. It'll be okay.

Cassidy doesn't hear. He flops in a chair, head in hands.

INT. DAMIEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Damien mops his brow, fresh off a workout. Addresses Winston.

DAMIEN  
Wonder why they didn't wait.

Damien passes by his REPLICA. He notices the right eye looks funny. He touches it. It slips out of place.

INT. RENAISSANCE PROJECT HEADQUARTERS (SIMULATION) - DAY

Cassidy is gone. The others remain.

EVE  
He's lost it.

PAUL  
Are the projections sound or not?

Eve starts to answer. Damien touches her arm, stands.

DAMIEN  
They're close. We had to tweak them  
a bit to get the project approved.

Eve shakes her head. Paul and Max pull back in their chairs.

PAUL  
What?!

Rachel and Markita avatars look at each other in disbelief.

DAMIEN  
Just a few percentage points.

Paul jumps up.

PAUL  
That's hundreds of millions of  
people!

MAX  
While we're at it, the travel time  
estimates are way too rosy.

EVE  
Not that again.

PAUL  
Damien, we need to pump the brakes.  
Recheck all of our assumptions.

EVE  
That's impossible.

She walks to the TIMELINE. She stands in front of Rachel and Markita avatars as if they're not there.

EVE (CONT'D)

The launch date is a month away.  
And the delegates are all here for  
the rocket booster test tomorrow.

Paul and Max look at each other; shake their heads.

PAUL

We'll do the test, but then we're  
going to scrub the numbers on this.

Rachel's avatar covers her eyes.

MARKITA

No, Dad, don't!

Damien's voice comes down from the ceiling.

DAMIEN (V.O.)

He can't hear you, Kita.

The meeting room images of Paul, Max, Damien and Eve freeze.

INT. SIMULATION ROOM LOBBY AREA - DAY

Patrick sits, distraught. Markita rests a hand on his shoulder. She and Rachel stare in disbelief at Damien.

Damien crouches before Patrick. Eve stands behind him.

DAMIEN

You need to understand, son...

Patrick flinches. Shakes his head.

PATRICK

Don't call me son.

Patrick walks out. Damien turns to Markita and Rachel.

DAMIEN

His father, you know, had issues...

RACHEL

What have you done?

DAMIEN

I did what had to be done. For us.  
For the greater good.

Markita steps in, stares straight in his eyes.



MARKITA  
Pop Pop, you lied.

DAMIEN  
Kita, it's not what you think.

MARKITA  
Then why does my algo show 1%?

RACHEL  
1%?

DAMIEN  
It must be a mistake, sweetheart.

EVE  
Of course it is.

DAMIEN  
The habitability is much higher.

MARKITA  
But still, you lied. I heard you.

DAMIEN  
It's not that simple, Kita.

He goes to put his hands on her shoulders. She shuns him for the first time in her life and walks out. He gives Rachel a desperate look. She shakes her head at him and leaves.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE SIMULATION ROOM - DAY

Markita types a text to CHLOE: *Rerun algo.*

Screen flashes: *Error. Invalid recipient.*

Markita frowns, makes a "huh?" face.

INT. STAGING AREA - DAY

Large control room with monitors, video screens, gauges. Connor, Reilly and Fitzroy lean on counters, yuck it up.

Damien hurries in. Reilly sees him first; jumps to attention. The others follow suit. Damien waves them down.

DAMIEN  
At ease. Commander Kirby, a word?

CONNOR  
Sure thing, Admiral.

They step into an alcove.

DAMIEN  
I want you to examine Markita's  
algorithm. See if it checks out.

CONNOR  
Absolutely.

DAMIEN  
Keep it to yourself. Tell no one.

Connor gives him a thumbs up.

INT. GREENHOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Connor, laptop open, hears the front door. Eve walks in and  
tosses him a Large Envelope Labeled "*JSP Final*."

EVE  
It's been approved.

Connor grins, rips envelope open. Removes "*JSP Spacewalk*."

CONNOR  
Far out! When do we go?

EVE  
Tomorrow.

CONNOR  
I'll send out the notice.

EVE  
No spectators. Too distracting.

Connor shrugs.

INT. MICROGRAVITY CENTER SPACESUIT ROOM - DAY

Penny and Markita stand in front of each other's spacesuits.

PENNY  
Guess Gramps ain't such a saint  
after all.

Markita gives an angry look. Texts Chloe: *Invalid Recipient*.

MARKITA  
Grrr.

PENNY  
Eyes on the buddy check, Princess.

Connor trots in as Penny and Markita check the front pouches  
of each other's spacesuits.

CONNOR  
Top of the morning, JSPs. Finish  
your pre-check cause this is it!

They both give him an inquisitive look.

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
The final test. A real spacewalk!

Penny grins, slaps a locker.

PENNY  
Zetta. Let's go!

Markita looks petrified. Eve walks in.

EVE  
Are they ready?

CONNOR  
Just told them the good news.

Connor waves for the girls to follow him.

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
Let's head to the staging area.

EVE  
I'll have the suits brought over.

Markita takes a deep breath. Follows Connor and Penny out.

Eve opens the front pouch of Penny's spacesuit - the one Markita was standing next to. She removes canisters and replaces them with canisters from the *USED* bin.

INT. AIRLOCK - DAY

A small compartment with circular benches; a portal window. Markita, Penny, Reilly, Fitzroy sit in spacesuits.

CONNOR (O.S.)  
After you oxygenate for 30 minutes,  
Reilly and Fitzroy will escort you  
to the Processing Barge.

Markita looks out at the BARGE. Swallows hard.

SPACE - DAY

Markita and Penny are each tethered to Reilly and Fitzroy.

CONNOR (O.S.)  
 Once you're checked out on the prop  
 packs, you can lose the leashes and  
 do you own driving.

Reilly and Fitzroy wear PROP PACKS; tow the girls.

EXT. PROCESSING BARGE - DAY

Markita and Penny are tethered to the Barge. Markita holds on for dear life. Penny floats freely. Riley and Fitzroy propel toward an asteroid with mining equipment on its surface.

CONNOR (O.S.)  
 You'll remain at the Barge while  
 Reilly and Fitz deploy to the  
 asteroid surface.

Penny is all smiles. Markita is ashen, gnaws her lip.

INT. STAGING AREA - DAY

Connor stands behind Jacob and Technician #1, both seated with headsets. EMU Monitors 1-4 display on the wall. All show *OX UTIL* at 22%; *CO2* at 40 (normal).

CONNOR (O.S.)  
 Remember, stay calm. Let your  
 training kick in.

A SPLITSCREEN shows Reilly and Fitzroy approach the asteroid; Markita and Penny at the Barge.

INT. DAMIEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Damien paces, broods. He looks at the photo of him and Markita with the fish on the lake. Picks up his phone.

INT. STAGING AREA - DAY

Connor's phone rings. He sees a picture of Damien. Answers.

CONNOR  
 Hello, Admiral. . . I sure did. The  
 habitability inputs must be off,  
 but Kita's algorithm is rock solid.

Connor checks the splitscreen.

INT. DAMIEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Damien cradles the Second Earth Globe.

                          CONNOR (O.S.)  
And she's doing great on the  
spacewalk.

                          DAMIEN  
What!?

Damien runs toward the door.

INT. STAGING AREA - DAY

EMU 1 shows CO2 at 42, higher than the other three.

                          JACOB  
Hey Dad?

Jacob points to EMU 1. Connor nods.

                          CONNOR  
Looking good, ladies. Penny, just  
check your CO2 filters. Make sure  
they are both lodged in place.

Connor pats Jacob on the shoulder.

EXT. BARGE - DAY

Penny opens her front pouch with other. Checks a canister.  
It's snug. But wait.

She sees a Black **X**. She gives Markita a worried look.

                          MARKITA  
What?

                          PENNY  
One of my filters is spent.

Markita shakes her head in disbelief.

                          MARKITA  
I checked it.

                          PENNY  
Me too.

Markita looks in Pouch as Penny turns the other canister.  
Another Black **X**.

MARKITA

Oh shit.

Penny looks toward Ship.

PENNY

Connor, got a problem here.

Fear grips Markita's face.

INT. STAGING AREA - DAY

EMU 1's CO2 has crept up to 44, the bottom of the Red Zone.

CONNOR

Breathe normally, Penny.

He presses a button on his headset.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

Reilly, Fitz. Back to Barge, ASAP.

EMU 1 starts to beep.

Damien bursts in. He pushes Connor aside and looks at the splitscreen of the spacewalk.

DAMIEN

What in hell is going on?

Damien eyes dart from the EMU 1 monitor to Connor. The CO2 level is at 46. It beeps louder, more rapidly.

CONNOR

It's Penny. Her filters are spent.

DAMIEN

Kita's filters?

CONNOR

They're good. And Reilly and Fitz are 15 minutes out.

Damien shakes his head.

DAMIEN

No good. Two fresh canisters.

Damien snaps his fingers. Connor is alarmed by this.

CONNOR

You'd have to oxygenate for at least 30 minutes, Admiral.

DAMIEN  
I know what I'm doing.

A technician hands Damien two canisters. He opens the Airlock door. He jabs his index finger toward Connor.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)  
I'm going to want explanations.

Damien hurries through to the Airlock.

EXT. BARGE - DAY

Penny's eyes are closed. She sweats, trembles. Markita looks at her with panic.

MARKITA  
Connor. Do something!

DAMIEN (O.S.)  
Kita, it's Pop Pop. I'm coming.  
Connor, what's her reading?

Markita looks toward the ship. Sees someone in a spacesuit.

INT. STAGING AREA - DAY

Connor looks at EMU 1. CO2 is 48, almost at the top of the Red Zone. BEEP, BEEP - loud, in rapid succession.

CONNOR  
48, Admiral.

Connor presses a button to talk to Reilly and Fitzroy.

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
Mayday, guys. What's your eta?

Rachel runs in; overhears mayday. She grabs Connor's arm.

RACHEL  
Oh god, what's wrong?

REILLY (O.S.)  
8 minutes, 32 seconds.

Eve walks in with two sentries.

CONNOR  
Penny's CO2 filters. We're on it.

Eve gives him a stunned look.

EVE  
Penny's?

Jacob shoots her a "that's weird" look. Eve doesn't notice.

EVE (CONT'D)  
How is that possible?

RACHEL  
Where's my father?

Connor points to the splitscreen. Damien, in a spacesuit and prop pack, floats toward the Barge. Rachel's jaw drops.

Eve holds out her hands as if she's about to strangle Connor.

EVE  
What the fuck are you doing?

EMU 1 CO2 is 50. BEEP, BEEP, in rapid succession.

EXT. BARGE - DAY

Markita looks at Penny. Eyes closed, sweating, trembling.

CONNOR (O.S.)  
She's at 50!

DAMIEN (O.S.)  
Kita, you need to swap one of your filters with Penny. I'll be there soon with new ones.

Markita quivering, tries to open her Front Pouch.

MARKITA  
I'm shaking all over.

Penny's hand slips from the barge. She floats away. Markita reaches for her. Starts to float away with Penny.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
Can't do this.

DAMIEN (O.S.)  
Yes you can, sweetheart. I'll talk you through it.

Markita clenches her eyes closed, shudders in fear.

INT. STAGING AREA - DAY

Rachel grabs her face, horrified. Jacob's head twitches.



EXT. BARGE - DAY

Markita uses tether to pull Penny, herself back to the Barge.

DAMIEN (O.S.)  
 Loop your arm through the barge  
 handle. Once you stabilize, loosen  
 one of your canisters.

Markita manages to open her front pouch. She loosens a  
 canister. It starts to float away. She corrals it.

MARKITA  
 Got mine out.

DAMIEN (O.S.)  
 Good. Now take out one of Penny's  
 and close it in your front pouch  
 for now. Insert the good one in  
 Penny's suit.

She opens Penny's front pouch. Complies.

MARKITA  
 Okay. It's in.

DAMIEN (V.O.)  
 Now tighten the used filter in your  
 front pouch. It still might have  
 some juice left. I'm almost there.

Markita screws the used filter into her front pouch.

INT. STAGING AREA - DAY

The CO2 level for EMU1 drops, the beeping slows. Connor gives  
 a sigh of relief. Not for long. EMU 5 starts to beep.

TECHNICIAN #1  
 It's the Admiral's heart rate.

EMU 5 heart rate reads 160.

EXT. BARGE - DAY

Penny's eyes open. No trembling or sweating. Penny nods at  
 Markita to say she's okay.

Damien nears Markita and Penny. He grabs the Barge with one  
 hand. The girls stare at him. His face is white as a ghost.

CONNOR (V.O.)  
 Admiral, you need to get back to  
 the Airlock right away.

Damien doesn't answer. His hand slips from the Barge.

PENNY  
Holy shit!

Penny lunges, grabs Damien just before he floats away.

INT. STAGING AREA - DAY

Eve stands next to Connor. Wraps her knuckles on the desk.

EVE  
Fix this, you idiot.

Connor shakes his head, not sure what to do.

JACOB  
Increase his oxygen?

CONNOR  
That's not the problem.

Rachel, in tears, shakes Connor by the arm.

RACHEL  
Then what?!

CONNOR  
Decompression sickness.

Eve rips Connor's headset off. Connor throws his hands up.

CONNOR (CONT'D)  
What the?!

Jacob hands his headset to Connor.

EVE  
Reilly, Fitzroy, this is Chief  
Greenhouse. Where the hell are you?

REILLY  
4 minutes, 31 seconds away.

EMU 5 shows heart rate at 170.

EXT. BARGE - DAY

Markita uses her tether to clip Damien to the Barge. She puts her visor up to Damien's. He's got red blotches all over his face. His eyes are bloodshot.

MARKITA  
I've got you, Pop Pop.

Damien smiles weakly at Markita. Then winces in pain. Markita's eyes blaze, jaw locks. Think. Think.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
Penny, put on his prop pack.

PENNY  
I can't fly that thing.

MARKITA  
Better than I can.

Markita starts to take the PROP PACK off Damien.

INT. STAGING AREA

Rachel, Eve and Connor watch the splitscreen:

Penny wears the prop pack, tethered to Damien. Markita holds onto Damien, visor to visor. Penny jerks all over, causes tether to slacken, then tug hard on Damien.

CONNOR  
Smooth it out. You'll rip his suit.

Eve picks up the phone.

EVE  
Myles. Get to the Airlock. Stat.

Rachel stands, glued to the screen, squeezing her temples.

EXT. SPACE - DAY

Penny eyes the prop pack controls in left hand, right hand. She manages to keep the tether taut; moves more smoothly.

CONNOR (O.S.)  
Much better.

They approach the exterior of the Airlock entrance. Markita looks in Damien's eyes.

MARKITA  
You're good, Pop Pop. We made it.

He blinks slowly, wets his lips. Can barely mouth the words.

DAMIEN  
I'm... sorry.

His eyes go DEAD. His face freezes.

Markita tries to summon him.

MARKITA

Pop Pop! You're good! We're there!

He doesn't respond.

MARKITA (CONT'D)

POP POP!

Markita, hysterical, tries to shake him.

INT. STAGING AREA - DAY

EMU 5 heart rate is 0.

MARKITA (O.S.)

Please, Pop Pop!

JACOB

They're in!

Paly rushes in wearing a Hazmat Suit. Eve nods to the Airlock. He goes in.

Eve's eyes dart side to side as she calculates her next move. She presses a button on headset.

EVE

Reilly, Fitzroy. They're back on board. Return to the asteroid surface.

Connor grabs Eve's arm.

CONNOR

Hold on, this is my mission.

Eve pulls her arm free.

EVE

I wouldn't brag about it.

Connor looks wounded. Jacob gives Eve an angry stare.

INT. STAGING AREA - DAY

Markita, crying, steps out of the Airlock. She runs, hugs Rachel. Sentries roll a gurney, followed by Penny and Paly.

Rachel, Markita, arm in arm, walks over to the gurney and lower a sheet to reveal Damien's face,

Rachel puts her hand on Damien's cheek. She and Markita sob.

PALY  
Markita and Penny need to come with  
me for observation.

Rachel kisses Markita on the head.

RACHEL  
I'll be right there.

Markita and Penny walk out with Paly.

Rachel turns on Eve, enraged, SLAPS her hard across the face.  
Eve reels back. The Sentries grab Rachel. Eve rubs her cheek.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
A spacewalk? Are you insane?

EVE  
The Admiral approved it.

RACHEL  
Liar! He had no idea.

Connor raises his eyebrows, surprised to hear this.

EVE  
Confine her to quarters.

RACHEL  
Let me go. I have to go to Kita.

The Sentries pull Rachel out of the room.

CONNOR  
That wasn't necessary. And what's  
this about the old man's approval?

EVE  
Stop whining. Let me think.

Eve stands by gurney, ponders Damien.

EVE (CONT'D)  
You were a tough old bird.

She removes the COMMAND PIN from Damien's chest.

EVE (CONT'D)  
Guess it's time for Plan B.

Eve puts the PIN on her shirt.

INT. RESEARCH LEVEL HALLWAY - DAY

Markita and Penny follow Paly. Markita hangs her head.

Paly opens a door. Ushers them in.

PALY

I'll be back in a minute.

He closes the door. Markita faces the wall, wipes away tears.

Penny tries the door. It's locked. She spots a ledge near the ceiling with a strip of glass over it. She jumps, grabs the ledge, pulls herself up and looks through the glass.

Her eyes bug out.

PENNY

Whaaa.

She falls to the floor and convulses with dry heaves.

MARKITA

Why the freak out?

Penny shakes her head, points toward the glass. Markita tries to jump up. Can't reach. Penny gives her a boost.

Markita looks in horror at the FOOD PROCESSOR. Technicians feed a HUMAN HAND into a Large Tube labeled *Protein*.

INT. DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Lucy plays with the GREEN PLASTIC BALL in the terrarium.

She hears someone coming and replaces the lid. She grabs Bunny and hides behind a partition. She realizes she still has the green ball and sticks it in Bunny's sweater pocket.

Eve strides in with Winston, Zeke and TWO SENTRIES. She heads for a WALL SAFE behind a portrait of MARIAN PROPHIT.

As Eve plugs in combo, Zeke wanders toward the partition. Winston sees Lucy's RED SNEAKERS. He pulls Zeke away.

Eve opens the safe. It's empty. She slams it shut.

EVE

Where's the scrambler?

She rifles through desk drawers. Barks at Winston.

EVE (CONT'D)

Check his quarters.

Winston and Zeke leave.

Eve walks near terrarium. The Guinea Pigs start to squeal.

EVE (CONT'D)  
Strangle those rats.

The Sentries remove the terrarium lid.

Lucy peers around the partition in horror as the squealing becomes more frantic, then turns to silence.

Sentries open a CHUTE labeled: *Jettison* and shove the terrarium inside.

INT. DONNELLY APARTMENT - DAY

Rachel watches the Pathfinder Channel.

NEWS ANCHOR #1  
A true hero, the Admiral risked his own life to save others.

NEWS ANCHOR #2  
He's in serious but stable condition. His family is in seclusion as he convalesces. In the meantime, Chief Greenhouse is in charge.

A SPLIT SCREEN of Rachel and Max at HELM.

RACHEL	MAX
That bitch.	That bitch.

INT. RESEARCH LEVEL ROOM - DAY

Penny, on Markita's shoulders, stretches toward a ceiling vent. Markita tear-filled eyes, runny nose, grits teeth.

MARKITA  
She must've mixed up the suits.

PENNY  
But why?

MARKITA  
My algo. She killed Pop Pop trying to take me out, wicked piece of...

Penny swipes at vent. Markita staggers.

PENNY  
Easy, Princess. Lemme down.

Penny dismounts onto the desk. They begin to push it under vent. A drawer opens.

Penny pulls out Gideon's TURQUOISE RING. They glance up at ledge, then at each other. They shiver in disgust.

The door opens. It's Jacob with food & drink gear. He locks the door and turns to find Penny and Markita in his face.

Penny jacks him up, forearm under his chin, spilling squeeze tubes and vitamin packs on the floor.

PENNY (CONT'D)  
Card key, asshole.

Markita searches his clothes. Jacob gurgles, unable to speak.

Markita grabs a tube and holds a sharp corner up to his eye.

Jacob chokes out words.

JACOB  
Here...to...help.

Markita nods to Penny, who releases pressure a little while Markita keeps her weapon poised.

Jacob reaches into his shirt, pulls out a card key.

INT. RESEARCH LEVEL HALLWAY - DAY

Jacob, rubbing his throat, leads Markita and Penny to a freight elevator. Penny wears Gideon's ring on her thumb.

JACOB  
She put your mom on house arrest.

MARKITA  
Where's Lucy?

PENNY  
How about my mom and Patrick?

JACOB  
Don't know.

He presses the elevator button. Doors open. The girls get on.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
This'll take you to the Concourse.

He hands a PURPLE MICRO DRIVE to Markita.

JACOB (CONT'D)  
Watch this. It explains a lot.



Markita gives him a grateful look. He smiles. Doors close.

INT. CONCOURSE LEVEL HALLWAY - DAY

Markita and Penny hear sentries. Try two doors. Locked.

A hand grabs Markita by the shoulder. She shrieks.

Penny swings, lands a punch on Max's face.

Max, in his Hawaiian shirt, staggers back.

MAX

Ouch.

Markita and Penny give him a bewildered look.

PENNY

Who the hell?

MAX

One of the good guys.

Something registers on Markita's face.

MARKITA

That shirt.

PENNY

Yeah, pretty fugly.

SENTRY #1 (O.S.)

I think it came from there.

Max signals them to hurry. Markita nods to Penny that it's okay. Penny shrugs. They follow Max.

INT. CONCOURSE LEVEL - DAY

Two SENTRIES look around. No sign of Markita or Penny.

INT. SERVICE CHANNEL - DAY

A 5-foot-high passageway with pipes, ducts and fans. Max and Penny peer through a vent. Sentries' boots are at eye level.

Markita stares at Max, astounded.

The boots walk away.

MAX

Service channels on each level.  
Know this bucket inside and out.

MARKITA

But I thought you were dead?

Penny squints at Max, not understanding.

MAX

Call me Max.

He points and walks. Markita and Penny pause, stunned.

INT. GREENHOUSE APARTMENT - DAY

Eve paces with her phone. Connor wears a backpack.

EVE

How the hell did they all get out?

Jacob strolls through the apartment smiling.

EVE (CONT'D)

Just capture them. And did you  
locate the scrambler? We need the  
daily flight codes.

Eve grits her teeth, holds phone mic close to her mouth.

EVE (CONT'D)

Find it!

CONNOR

I'm gonna bunk with Fitz.

EVE

Suit yourself.

He stares at her, not comprehending. She starts another call.

INT. SERVICE CHANNEL - DAY

Markita and Penny follow Max.

MAX

Was knocked out in the turbine  
explosion. When I came to, Eve and  
her friends had me tied to a bed.  
I had no choice. It was pilot this  
crate or else my family...

He makes a slashing motion across his throat.

MARKITA

My grandfather?

MAX

He drank the Kool-Aid about Arcadia Station. But I don't think he knew it's all a pipe dream. Greenhouse conned him good, the others too.

He points for them to take a left.

INT. HELM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Max holds scissors to a Sentry's throat.

MAX (V.O.)

Then when I saw what happened to the Admiral, I figured...

Runs out door.

INT. SERVICE CHANNEL - DAY

MARKITA

Gotta stop Eve.

MAX

Amen, sister. You figured it out once I got you the Delta password.

PENNY

You sent her the video of my dad?

Max and Markita shake their heads.

MAX

That was Gideon.

MARKITA

How'd you know about Mr. G?

Max lifts Penny's hand with Gideon's ring. Max taps his ring. Gideon's ring buzzes, startles Penny.

MAX

Pretty nifty, huh?

MARKITA

Why me?

MAX

You're your father's daughter.

Markita takes this in. They come to a vertical channel with rungs. Max points to Penny.

MAX (CONT'D)  
Up two levels. Take it slow.

PENNY  
Got it.

She moves quickly up the rungs. Max points.

MAX  
The Rec Area's this way.

Markita and Max head in that direction.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE RECREATION AREA - DAY

Markita and Max press the button to open the double doors.

MARKITA  
Who's flying the ship?

MAX  
Auto-pilot 'til the flight codes  
expire.

They step through doors.

INT. VESTIBULE BETWEEN HALLWAY AND RECREATION AREA - DAY

Max presses the button to open second set of doors.

MARKITA  
Then what?

MAX  
Then we're space junk.

They walk through the second set of doors.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

Lucy, at the top of the climbing cubes, hides in a corner with Bunny. She hears someone. A flash of fear.

It's Markita. She scurries over. They hug.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

Markita and Lucy come out of the climbing cubes and find Max.

LUCY  
Who's he?

MAX  
I get that a lot.

MARKITA  
A friend. I'll explain later.

LUCY  
News lady said Pop Pop was sick.

Markita takes her by both arms. Looks in her eyes.

MARKITA  
Lu, he's gone.

Lucy's eyes widen from shock. Her face collapses in sobs.  
Markita holds her close.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
He died saving Penny and me.

Markita puts her forehead against Lucy's.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
Lu, we need to be strong. That's  
what Pop Pop would tell us. We  
can't stay here.

Lucy wipes her face with her sleeve, nods.

INT. PATRICK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Penny and Patrick sit on his bed. Tommy's bed is gone.  
Patrick grimaces in shock and disgust.

PATRICK  
Say what?

PENNY  
Some evil shit. How's Mom?

PATRICK  
Still a zombie.

They hear a knock on the door. Penny dives behind the bed.

INT. CASSIDY APARTMENT ENTRYWAY - DAY

Blanche opens the door to find Judy with two Sentries.

BLANCHE  
Please come in.

They step inside.

JUDY  
Blanche, we're looking for Penny.

BLANCHE  
She's not here.

Blanche gives Judy a penetrating stare.

SENTRY #1  
We'll need to check.

Judy holds her hand in front of him.

JUDY  
That's not necessary.

Judy tips her head at Sentries to say "let's go."

INT. SERVICE CHANNEL - DAY

Penny and Patrick scramble, hunched over.

PENNY  
Need to find Max and Markita.

PATRICK  
Got an idea.

He takes out his phone. She shakes her head.

PENNY  
She doesn't have her phone.

Patrick pauses to think, then types.

INT. SERVICE CHANNEL - DAY

Markita, Max and Lucy make their way. Lucy's phone vibrates.

LUCY  
Kita, look.

She shows Markita a message from Patrick: *CHURCHILL*.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Patrick and Penny huddle behind white board. They hear something in the ceiling. A tile opens. They see Markita.

Patrick runs over, catches her in his arms. They hug.

LUCY (O.S.)  
Hey. What about me?

Penny takes Lucy as Max lowers her. Max jumps to floor.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Markita, Patrick, Penny, Max and Lucy watch a laptop behind White Board. The Purple Micro Drive is inserted.

MAX  
Gotta get this to Braden. There's  
an Earthlink at the Helm, but can't  
exactly go waltzing in there.

PATRICK  
The Admiral's office?

Max shakes his head.

MAX  
Greenhouse.

He snaps his fingers.

MAX (CONT'D)  
But maybe the old man's residence.

They hear the door. Max puts finger to his lips.

Markita gestures for them to raise their feet. They do.

They hear footsteps. Then nothing.

The White Board is shoved away. It's Winston and Zeke.

Max lunges at Winston. Winston puts him in a headlock.

Zeke growls.

WINSTON  
Heel.

Winston nods to Patrick as Max struggles.

WINSTON (CONT'D)  
Close that door.

Patrick does it.

WINSTON (CONT'D)  
Take it easy, Commander.

Max still wriggles under Winston's vice-like grip.

MARKITA  
It's okay, Max.

Max stops struggling. Winston lets him go.

INT. DAMIEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Max is at a computer. Markita, Patrick look on.

Penny admires the fireplace, furnishings.

PENNY  
Pretty cush.

Winston and Lucy hold hands, stand by the Damien Replica.

MAX  
Shit! Earthlink has Optical recog.

Markita and Patrick both nod toward the Damien replica.

Winston guides Lucy over to Zeke.

MARKITA  
Need a knife.

Max hands scissors to Markita. She pries out the eyeball.

Penny spins away, hand over mouth. Gags.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
Hang tough, Wonder Woman.

Markita tosses the eyeball to Max. He holds it to the scanner. *Earthlink Enabled.*

Max sees a HANDGUN on a plaque labeled *Straight Shooter.*

EXT. DONNELLY APARTMENT - DAY

Two Sentries guard door.

INT. DONNELLY APARTMENT - DAY

Markita and Rachel hug each other near an OPEN VENT. Lucy sticks her head out, speaks in a hushed voice.

LUCY  
Hi Mommy.

Rachel smiles at her. Holds finger to lips.

MARKITA  
Gotta bounce.



Hands extend from vent. Rachel grabs them. She comes face to face with Max. Jaw drops. She's dumbfounded.

MAX

I know. Like seein' a ghost.

He pulls her through the vent.

INT. SERVICE CHANNEL - DAY

Max, Markita, Lucy, Rachel, Patrick and Penny single file.

MARKITA

But we gotta tell the others.

MAX

I say lay low, wait for Braden.

They hear an announcement. Stop.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

All Pathfinders must report to the Rec Area immediately. This is not a drill. Life support in all other areas will be suspended.

They exchanged stunned looks.

MAX

Or not.

PENNY

Can she really...?

MAX

Oh yeah. Let's hit it.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Repeat. Life support in all other areas of the ship will be suspended. This is not a drill.

He waves them on; they hurry forward.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE (SIMULATION) - DAY

The good guys rush through. News Anchor #1 on Mega Screen:

NEWS ANCHOR #1

T minus 2 minutes to life support suspension.

RED WARNING LIGHTS flash.

INT. REC AREA - DAY

Warning signs over the doorways flash a RED CIRCLE with a LINE OVER *Life Support*. Timer counts down from 1:30.

Eve is on bandstand, surrounded by Pathfinders.

EVE

With a heavy heart I must report  
that Admiral Proffit, our beloved,  
fearless leader, has passed away.

Gasps, "oh nos." Tears roll down Reilly, Fitzroy's cheeks.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Red lights flash. Good guys run. Markita is last.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Three, two, one.

Max hits button; opens double doors. All pile in except Markita, who trips and falls at the doorway.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (CONT'D)

Zero. Life Support Suspended.

Markita, terrified, starts to float away.

Doors start to close. Max, Rachel struggle to keep them open.

Penny holds Patrick's leg. He stretches, grabs Markita.

Pulls her in. The doors close behind her.

INT. VESTIBULE - DAY

Rachel and Patrick crouch by Markita, who holds a hand over her pounding heart; shakes it off.

INT. REC CENTER - DAY

Eve addresses Pathfinders.

EVE

Before he died, the Admiral asked  
me to take over for him and  
continue the mission so that...

MARKITA, RACHEL IN UNISON (O.S.)

Bullshit!

All eyes turn to Good Guys standing by the doorway.

Eve snaps her fingers. Gestures to Sentries to arrest them.  
Sentries close in. Winston and Zeke step in front of them.

REDHEAD SENTRY  
Give way, Kahale.

Zeke growls.

WINSTON  
What he said.

Redhead shoots Winston with a taser. He winces and pulls the dart out. Zeke attacks, chomps down on Redhead's arm.

REDHEAD SENTRY  
Aarg. Short this fucker.

Bald Sentry shoots taser darts into Zeke. Zaps him.

Zeke falls, body shakes. Smoke comes out of his ears.

REDHEAD SENTRY (CONT'D)  
That fried his mother board.

Winston goes Godzilla. He picks up Redhead and throws him into Bald Sentry. Sends them both sprawling. He raises another Sentry over his head; throws him into the wall.

Max brandishes the GUN from Damien's quarters; holds off the other Sentries.

During the mayhem, Markita spots Jacob by the AV CONTROLS.

She runs to him. Pulls out the PURPLE MICRO DRIVE. Jacob nods, grabs Drive. Plugs it in. Hits play.

A video of Eve and Paly call with the Three Men in Suits starts playing on the large overhead screen.

The fighting subsides as all watch the video:

EVE  
All the delegates still on board?

On the bandstand, Eve looks at her image.

EVE (CONT'D)  
What is this?

Video:

MAN IN SUIT#1  
Yup. They still believe Second Earth will sustain 60% of the population and that Earth can handle the rest.

PALY  
What's the actual estimate?

In the crowd, Paly puts his hand over his mouth.

Video:

MAN IN SUIT#2 (V.O.)  
Roughly 1 percent.

Collective gasp, stunned. Reilly turns to Fitzroy.

REILLY  
What the fuck?

Lynn turns to Andrea.

LYNN  
That sounds low.

On the bandstand, Eve waves her hands in the air.

EVE  
Ridiculous! It's a fake! Turn off  
this nonsense.

Her eyes find Jacob and Markita by the AV Controls. She slashes finger across throat in "stop video" sign.

Jacob smiles and waves. Markita glares at Eve.

Video:

MAN IN SUIT#1  
We've cross-referenced Census data  
with financial, genetic, health and  
occupational information to compile  
a list of candidates who can afford  
the **Second Earth** entry fee.

MAN IN SUIT#2  
**And that fee** increases with every  
pandemic, wildfire and bomb  
cyclone.

Eve signals Judy to go to the AV Controls. Judy runs toward the controls. Penny grabs her. Pins her to the floor.

EVE  
Listen to me. It's all a fraud.

Rachel stand in the crowd, arms around Lucy.

RACHEL  
You bastards.



JACOB (CONT'D)  
You have been deceived. By her.

EVE  
How did you...?

He waves his fingernail in her face.

JACOB  
DNA's a bitch.

She looks at him, stunned by his betrayal.

PATHFINDERS  
What about the 1%?

EVE  
That's totally false.

Markita jumps up on the bandstand.

MARKITA  
Not. My algorithm confirmed it.

EVE  
Oh please. Who's gonna believe a  
kid's science project?

Connor bellows from crowd.

CONNOR  
We are! I checked it myself!

Eve and Connor lock eyes.

EVE  
You idiot.

FITZROY  
This is nuts. Someone tell us  
what's really happening!

MARKITA  
Got just the guy. Commander?

She signals to Max. He makes his way to the bandstand as the crowd murmurs, takes him in.

Suddenly Reilly slaps her chest.

REILLY  
Holy shit. It's Ledbetter.

A collective gasp as others recognize Max.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

Max is on bandstand with Markita and Eve.

MAX  
She threatened my family.

He jabs an angry finger at Eve. Braden appears on Big Screen:

BRADEN  
 Renaissance, we received your  
 transmission. Sentries, arrest  
 Chief Greenhouse and Dr. Paly  
 immediately.

Winston, Redhead and Bald Sentries move toward Paly and Eve.  
 Paly makes a run for it. Blanche tackles him.

PENNY  
 You go girl!

Sentries hurry over. Blanche grabs a taser from one of their  
 belts. Brandishes it in Paly's face. He looks terrified.

PATRICK  
 Mom, it's okay.

Patrick takes her arm, pulls her off Paly. She relents.

Markita grabs Eve's arm. Eve shoves her hard, launching her  
 off the bandstand.

Eve sees the GUN on Max. She grabs it and jumps down.

Eve takes Lucy by the collar and puts the gun to her head.

The crowd backs off as Eve pulls Lucy toward the double doors  
 under *LIFE SUPPORT SUSPENDED* SIGN. Rachel follow slowly.

Lucy cries out, petrified.

LUCY  
 Mommy!

RACHEL  
 It's okay, Lu.

Patrick helps Markita up. They run to where Eve and Lucy are.

Markita's eyes dart. She searches for a solution.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
 Eve, take me.

Eve looks at Rachel. Scoffs. Lowers gun momentarily.

Markita sees her opening.

She charges Eve.

Eve, startled, points the gun at Markita.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
NOOOOOO!

Eve pulls the trigger. No bullets. Markita barrels into Eve.

Lucy, free, runs to Rachel.

Sentries grab Eve. Jacob helps Markita up.

EVE  
Jacob.

He hesitates, then goes to her. Eve looks in his eyes; reaches out. He flinches.

She shakes her head in sadness; then caresses his cheek.

EVE (CONT'D)  
No more twitch.

Eve sneers at Pathfinders, spits out her final words.

EVE (CONT'D)  
Congratulations, Pathfinders. Now  
we're all going to die!

She jerks away from the Sentries and hits the button to open double doors. Connor yells.

CONNOR  
DON'T!

Eve runs through the doors.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

Sentries escort Paly and Judy out the doors under *LIFE SUPPORT ENGAGED* sign.

Rachel stands, arms around Markita and Lucy.

Blanche stands nearby, arms around Patrick and Penny.

LUCY  
How'd you know it wasn't loaded?

Markita takes off glasses and cleans the lenses.

MARKITA  
I didn't.



Rachel's jaw drops.

Lucy goes to Winston, who sits on the floor, near Zeke's robot remains. She pats his shoulder.

Connor sits and cries. Jacob rests a hand on his back.

Max stands with Reilly and Fitzroy.

They, other Pathfinders look as Braden appears on Big Screen:

BRADEN

We're arresting Greenhouse's co-conspirators. The delegates are having an emergency meeting.

MAX

Not goin' anywhere without the flight codes.

MARKITA

His safe?

BALD SENTRY

Looked there. No dice.

Winston glares at the Bald Sentry, then looks at Max.

WINSTON

I think I know where they are.

Max holds out hands in a "so, tell us" gesture.

INT. DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Winston, Markita, Rachel, Lucy, Max, Redhead and Bald Sentry stand where the terrarium used to be.

WINSTON

He kept it with the guinea pigs.

REDHEAD SENTRY

Oh shit. We jettisoned the whole works. Greenhouse ordered us to.

Winston steps toward Redhead like he wants to beat him. Markita touches his arm.

MARKITA

Where else?

WINSTON

Only saw him take it from there, from this Green Plastic Ball.

LUCY  
You mean like this one?

She pulls the GREEN BALL from Bunny's pocket.

Markita opens it. The Scrambler! Markita and Lucy celebrate with a forearm bump.

INT. HELM - DAY

Max sits at a console. A timer for *Flight Codes* runs from 10 seconds. Markita stands behind him and holds the Scrambler.

MARKITA  
17, Ampersand, H, 68, asterisk.

Max plugs in last entry. Timer changes to 24 hours.

Markita gives Lucy a thumb's up.

MAX  
Okay, General, new codes activated.

Braden shows up on a monitor.

BRADEN  
Good work. By the way, Rachel?

Rachel steps up to the monitor.

RACHEL  
Yes, General?

BRADEN  
When we arrested Greenhouse's accomplices, we made an interesting discovery at their headquarters.

Rachel looks confused. Braden steps aside.

PAUL DONNELLY (45), in a wheelchair and with an eyepatch, appears.

PAUL  
Hi, Honey.

Rachel almost keels over.

MAX  
Well I'll be damned. You're a sight for sore eyes, old buddy.

Markita looks at Max, then at the monitor. She gasps.

MARKITA

Dad?

Paul nods, smiles. Markita touches the screen.

INT. HELM - DAY

Markita, Rachel and Lucy are on a video call with Paul.

LUCY

Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order,  
Family, Genus, Species.

Paul gushes, chuckles.

PAUL

That's wonderful, sweetheart.

Braden appears next to Paul.

BRADEN

Sorry to interrupt.

Max, Markita and Rachel move closer.

BRADEN (CONT'D)

They voted to suspend the program.

MARKITA

What does that mean?

MAX

Means we're screwed.

BRADEN

No second wave, or any other wave.

PAUL

That's crazy. They'll need  
replacement batteries and other  
supplemental provisions to survive.

BRADEN

I told them. They want to cut their  
losses.

RACHEL

Meaning us.

Markita blinks, her brain working the problem.

MARKITA

We have to go back.

The others turn and look at her.

MARKITA (CONT'D)  
To Earth.

Max shakes his head.

MAX  
Not enough food, even with Arcadia  
stockpiles. We're 9 years out.

Lucy sticks her head back in front of the monitor.

LUCY  
Daddy?

PAUL  
Yes, Lucy?

LUCY  
When do I get to meet you?

Markita, the others, exchange grave looks.

INT. MARKITA AND LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Markita, in bed, stares at the ceiling, deep in thought. She  
lurches into a sitting position. Jumps out of bed.

INT. HELM - NIGHT

Markita, in pajamas, runs in. Max, Connor and Jacob look at  
her, surprised.

INT. HELM - NIGHT

Markita, Max and Paul are on a videocall.

MARKITA  
Use the Arcadia Station batteries  
to accelerate the half life...

PAUL  
... of the radioactive fuel. We  
could double the cruise speed...

MARKITA  
And cut travel time by 66%

PAUL  
That might just get you back...

MAX  
Before the stockpiles run out.

Markita punches numbers into tablet.

CASSIDY BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Blanche, Patrick, Penny stand where Tommy's bed used to be.

NEWS ANCHOR #1 (V.O.)  
A tumultuous time, for sure  
following Admiral Proffit's death.

Penny hands Blanche Tommy's soccer jersey. Blanche clutches it to her face. They hug.

EXT. DECK OF NAVAL SHIP - DAY

Markita, Rachel and Lucy stand arm-in-arm by flag-draped pallet with Navy Gold Star Command Insignia. Other Pathfinders surround them.

Rachel reads from her poetry book. NEWS ANCHOR #2 is heard over her.

NEWS ANCHOR #2 (V.O.)	RACHEL
The Greenhouse conspiracy uncovered. So many sacrifices made and lives lost.	<i>Oh Captain, my Captain, rise up and hear the bells...</i>

Connor, tearful, stands with his arm around Jacob.

NEWS ANCHOR #2 (V.O.)  
And for what? To find ourselves in  
limbo, between two worlds.

Markita squeezes Jacob's hand. They exchange nods.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Markita and Patrick stand face-to-face.

NEWS ANCHOR #1 (V.O.)  
Many are skeptical of Project  
Return, the plan to get the  
Renaissance back to Earth.

Markita and Patrick exchange her ATOM NECKLACE and his TREBLE CLEF EARRING. They hold the tokens to their hearts.

NEWS ANCHOR #1  
Can we put our fates in the hands  
of a sixteen year-old girl?

Markita and Patrick put the jewelry on.

NEWS ANCHOR #1 (CONT'D)  
But then, she's no ordinary girl.

They lean in for a long kiss, revealing the Churchill "never give up" quote, which is back on the wall.

RECREATION AREA - DAY - MONTAGE OF INTERVIEWS

News Anchor #1 holds mic, interviews Pathfinders.

REILLY  
I thought it was crazy at first.

PENNY  
She seemed like such a zetta dweeb.

LYNN  
She stole my boyfriend.

JACOB  
Damn straight. She can't fuck it up worse than the adults have.

Camera shuts off quickly in response to the curse.

INT. RECREATION AREA - DAY

On the bandstand, Markita and Max are joined by Reilly, Fitzroy and Connor.

PATHFINDER #1  
Will it work?

MARKITA  
It better. It's our only chance.

The others on the bandstand nod in agreement.

INT. HELM - DAY

Max in his chair, Markita stands next to him.

MAX  
Here goes nothing.

A monitor shows a Space Map with the Renaissance heading away from Second Earth and toward Real Earth.

Markita's reflection: She bites her thumbnail. Nods.

INT. DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Markita sits at his desk, types equations.

Rachel stands and looks at a digital frame that displays photos of infant Markita held by Damien reaching for the Earth globe on the GALAXY MODEL.

Rachel gazes at the photo, then Markita. Amazed and proud. She puts the frame down in front of Markita. Kisses her head.

Markita looks up, contemplates photo. Nods, whispers:

MARKITA  
Got this, Pop Pop.

Photo changes: Damien and Markita on the lake with the fish.

CUT TO:

EXT. SERENE LAKE IN THE ADIRONDACKS - DAY

Autumn, late afternoon. Geese take off from the water near a floating raft. Honk. Honk.

Markita (25), Lucy (22), LITTLE RACHEL (4), a GERMAN SHEPARD are in a rowboat. Markita wears Rachel's RED DRESS and the COMMAND PIN.

Lucy wears patchwork overalls, red sneakers. Little Rachel, wears Markita's Atom Necklace and holds Bunny.

Woof! Woof!

LITTLE RACHEL  
Zekey, don't scare them.

Little Rachel pets him. He stops barking, licks her face.

LUCY  
Geese keep the same mate for life.

Markita and Lucy exchange a sad smile.

MARKITA  
Rachel, scootch over to Aunt Lu so  
I can take a picture for G Pop.

She slides over. They pose with Zeke against an orange sky.

EXT. SERENE LAKE BOAT DOCK - DAY

"Follow the Drinking Gourd" plays. The rowboat is tied to the weathered dock.

Water laps the shore. Markita, Lucy and Little Rachel walk from the dock onto a dirt footpath leading into the woods.

Zeke runs from the water, shakes. They recoil from the spray. Zeke runs into the woods. They follow.

LUCY  
*The woods are lovely, dark and  
deep,*

Markita takes Lucy's hand; then Little Rachel's.

MARKITA AND LUCY  
*But I have promises to keep,*

MARKITA, LUCY, LITTLE RACHEL  
*And miles to go before I sleep.*

They enter the woods and disappear.

MARKITA, LUCY, LITTLE RACHEL (V.O.)  
*And miles to go before I sleep.*

Image of the path and woods freezes with a slight pixilation.

BLACK.