

# TRANQUILITY

by

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T R A N Q U I L I T Y

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE "T R A N Q U I L I T Y" (minus quotes) one letter at a time over...

...a serene view of the stars from space, which is interrupted by a transport ship coming INTO VIEW, traveling at high speed...

...WIPING THE LETTERS OFF-SCREEN.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE - NIGHT

GONZO, Hispanic, late 20s, pilots Tranquility. First mate QUANIKA (NIKA), Oriental, 30ish, occupies the navigator's seat, with VALERIE (VAL), Caucasian, mid 30s, in the captain's chair.

VAL

How long 'til we reach the rendezvous point with the Syndicate rep?

Nika makes some quick calculations on the screen in front of her.

NIKA

Two hours four minutes, Captain.

GONZO

Why not just say about two hours?

NIKA

Because it's two hours and four...make that three minutes. Captain likes precision.

VAL

That I do. And ya know what else I like...nay, love? The kind of job - this one comes to mind - where we pick up the cargo; deliver the cargo; get paid.

As Val speaks, ZEBULON (ZEB), African-American, 40ish, enters the bridge while the others nod in agreement with Val's sentiment.

ZEB

Speakin' o' getting paid - my favorite thing, by the way - why we collectin' such a hefty fee for so little work?

VAL

C'mon, Zeb. You know why the Syndicate hires us - we ask no questions. So to answer yours - don't know - don't care - long as we get the bling.

ZEB

Makes me a bit suspicious, that's all. Well...that, and a mite curious as to what's in them two pods we're carryin'.

VAL

Zeb, the less we know, the better ...trust me. But hey, if you need something to take your mind off it, there's always inventory to do in sickbay.

Zeb smirks at Val and shakes his head.

ZEB

Think I'll just grab 40 winks.

Zeb leaves the bridge.

EXT. SPACE

A different ship - a PT-9 Battle Cruiser - glides through space.

INT. MISCOV'S SHIP - BRIDGE

Bounty hunter MISCOV, Russian, mid 40s, and his crew are engaged in video communication with an agent from a shady organization known as the Syndicate.

AGENT

...and you are sure Brennar has the cargo?

MISCOV

We have confirmation of this, yes.

AGENT

Good. Once your ships dock, take every necessary precaution to ensure a safe transfer of the cargo from his ship to yours. If all goes well, pay them their due and depart without incident.

MISCOV

And if all does not go well...?

AGENT

Kill them all and destroy their ship. Just make sure the pods are intact.

MISCOV

(smiling evilly)

Yes, sir.

EXT. SPACE

Tranquility speeds along toward its meeting with Miscov's ship.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Val nods off in the captain's chair. Gonzo stares out the window.

GONZO

Man, I never tire of that view. All I ever wanted to do was pilot a ship and here I am, livin' the dream.

Nika seems lost in thought and doesn't respond to Gonzo.

GONZO (CONT'D)

Earth to Nika. Come in. Over.

Nika snaps out of her daze. Val begins to stir.

NIKA

Sorry. Just thinking about this job. Something doesn't feel right.

GONZO

Nika...just be thankful we have a job that goes this smoothly and pays this well. I mean...c'mon ...what could go wrong?

Val is fully awake now. He and Nika stare at Gonzo.

GONZO (CONT'D)

What?

EXT. SPACE

CAMERA PANS AWAY FROM TRANQUILITY AND ZOOMS IN ON A METEOR STORM APPROACHING THE SHIP.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE - NIGHT

OPENING CREDITS (one name at a time) are SUPERIMPOSED at the bottom of the screen as Val and Nika continue to stare incredulously at Gonzo.

NIKA

I can't believe you just said that.

GONZO

Said what? What're you talkin' about?

VAL

The four words you never say on a ship in our line of work.

GONZO

Seriously? So what...I just jinxed us?

As Val and Nika nod, Gonzo responds with a "ya right" expression.

Just then, the radar alarm goes off. Gonzo spins around and stares at his screen, mouth agape.

GONZO (CONT'D)

You've got to be kidding me... dozens...maybe hundreds of bogies.

Gonzo spins back around to face Val. His expression is grim.

GONZO (CONT'D)

Meteor storm...headed straight for us.

NIKA

See!

VAL

Now would be a good time to show off those expert pilot skills I've heard so much about...from you.

Gonzo nods, turns back around, and preps for evasive maneuvers.

EXT. SPACE

Tranquility moves away from the first wave of small meteors. Amazingly, none strike the ship.

INT. TRANQUILITY CARGO BAY

The rocky ride has jostled the pods just enough to dislodge one. It slips from its resting place onto the floor.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Gonzo engages an ongoing complex series of side engine firings and steering to stay clear of the meteors but they keep coming.

GONZO  
Damn, I'm good.

VAL  
Humble, too. One of your better qualities.

Nika is monitoring the situation on her screen as well.

NIKA  
Second wave...less in number...bigger in size.

GONZO  
Nature keeps throwin' 'em...I keep side-steppin' 'em.

EXT. SPACE

One of the smaller meteors glances off the hull of the ship.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

The bridge is rattled by the meteor impact, though it does no damage. Val addresses Gonzo.

VAL  
You were saying?

GONZO  
Oops...can't dodge 'em all.

VAL  
No more oops.

GONZO  
Then strap in...this might hurt a little.

Gonzo gets on the comm to LIZZY, late 20s, their tough-as-nails Irish engineer.

GONZO (CONT'D)  
Lizzy, you there?

ENGINE ROOM

Lizzy, grease on her face, a half-smoked cigarette dangling from her lips, grabs the comm handset and answers.

LIZZY  
 (over the comm)  
 Was just about to hail you. What's  
 with all the ruckus?

INTERCUT BETWEEN GONZO AND LIZZY

GONZO  
 Meteors. Can only dodge 'em just so  
 long. You need to take us to  
 hyperdrive ASAP.

LIZZY  
 Gotcha...I'm on it.

Lizzy makes the necessary adjustments, throwing switches and pushing buttons, then straps herself to the wall.

LIZZY (CONT'D)  
 Ready when you are.

BRIDGE

Gonzo, still engaged in evasive maneuvers, addresses the captain.

GONZO  
 Your call.

VAL  
 Do it!

GONZO  
 (over the comm)  
 Now, Lizzy!

ENGINE ROOM

Lizzy engages hyperdrive.

EXT. SPACE

Tranquility's main engine glows bright yellow. The ship suddenly zooms ahead at a speed exponentially faster than it was going, getting clear of the meteors.

INT. TRANQUILITY CARGO BAY

The dislodged pod is sent flying to the back of the cargo bay. It crashed against the bay door with enough force to break the seal of the lid. A counter suddenly lights up, counting down the seconds from one minute.

BRIDGE

The g-forces are obviously affecting the crew as they zip along.

VAL

Gonzo...we're in...the clear. Shut it...down.

GONZO

Aye, Cap.  
(gets on the comm)  
Lizzy...ease off.

LIZZY (V.O.)

Disengaging hyperdrive.

The ship slows to regular speed as witnessed by the view out the front window and the posture of the three. Nika checks the instrument panel in front of her, holding and rubbing her neck.

NIKA

I will never get used to that.  
(beat)  
We used up a lot of fuel, Captain.

VAL

Well...it was that...or get pulverized by some big-ass rocks. No offense to your piloting skills, Gonzo.

GONZO

Hey - none taken...just glad we're all in one piece.  
(looks around)  
By the way, where the hell is Zeb?

ZEB'S QUARTERS.

Zeb lays on the floor, wincing and rubbing his head.

BRIDGE

VAL

Still asleep in his quarters, maybe?

GONZO

You've always said he could sleep through a meteor storm.

VAL

I meant that figuratively.

CARGO BAY

The timer on the dislodged pod continues to count down. 5...4...3...2...1...0. A loud alarm sounds.

ENGINE ROOM



Lizzy hears the alarm and, not recognizing it, heads out to investigate.

BRIDGE

The alarm is just faintly heard on the bridge but still gets everyone's attention.

GONZO

Hear that?

VAL

Ya...where's it coming from?

NIKA

I'd say the cargo bay.

VAL

Not a sound I recognize. Nika, you and I best take a look-see. Gonzo - rouse Zeb. Have him meet us in the cargo bay.

GONZO

Will do.

INT. TRANQUILITY CARGO BAY

Val and Nika enter the cargo bay and climb down the stairs. Lizzy is already standing by the errant pod, its alarm still sounding, annoying all within earshot.

LIZZY

Here's our culprit.

VAL

(hands over ears)

Any idea how to shut that thing off?

LIZZY

I can try. Nika, give me a hand.

NIKA

Sure.

Nika and Lizzy examine the seal breach, the box on the side to input a code, and the timer, which is inside the lid.

LIZZY

Cap'n...only way to shut off the alarm is to open it up so I can get to that timer.

VAL

Just once...I'd like a job to go according to plan...no hick-ups. Our contract specifically states not to mess with the pods.

NIKA

The meteor storm already voided  
that part of our contract...sir.

VAL

Well...we can't have this the rest  
of the trip...open it...if you can.

Nika and Lizzy experiment with the code box - it won't work.

LIZZY

Cap'n...the code box is busted.  
Only way now is to pry it open.  
Grab me that crow bar over there.

Lizzy points to it - Val retrieves it and hands it to her.

Lizzy and Nika jam the crow bar between the lid and the  
frame and apply leverage. After much grunting and pushing,  
the lid suddenly springs open, spewing fog.

Lizzy quickly analyzes the timer box (attached to the lid),  
grabs her wire cutters from her overalls, and cuts a wire  
leading to the timer box. The alarm stops.

LIZZY (CONT'D)

Well...that's that.

NIKA

Time to find out why the Syndicate  
wants these pods so badly.

VAL

Honestly, I don't even want to  
know. Let's just put the lid back  
on and...

NIKA

Sir, the pod has been opened. Our  
contract is already voided. Might  
as well find out what's inside.

VAL

Fine...since we just forfeited our  
fee, platinum bars would be nice...

As the three peer into the pod, the fog partially clears,  
revealing a mostly naked adult male human!

VAL

...or a naked body. This day just  
keeps gettin' better and better.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. CARGO BAY - NIGHT

Zeb trudges into the cargo bay, grunting and rubbing his head.

ZEB

Ya might warn a fella 'fore doin' a quick-burn. So...what's all fuss?

VAL

Come see for yourself. Suffice it to say, you no longer need be curious about the contents of this pod.

Zeb joins the three as they peer into the pod.

ZEB

Holy mother-o'-god. Ain't we got rules against running human cargo, especially the naked kind?

LIZZY

Aye...as in...we don't do it.

VAL

Least not if we know about it.

ZEB

Guess that accounts for our big payoff.

NIKA

Which we won't get, now that a pod has been opened. You know how the Syndicate is about...

Just then, the male human in the pod comes to, sitting straight up and gasping for air. The others rear back, startled by the event.

The man - SUKIO TANAKA, Oriental, 50ish - looks around, disoriented, trying to get his bearings.

SUKIO

Where am I? Who are you?

Everyone is speechless for a moment. Then Val speaks up.

VAL

You are aboard the transport ship, Tranquility. I am its captain, Val Brennar. This is first mate, Nika...my engineer, Lizzy...and this is Zeb, our...did we ever give you a title?

JEB

Enforcer.

VAL

Ya...ok...

(turns to the man)

...would you mind reciprocating  
...if you can, that is.

SUKIO

My name is Sukio Tanaka. I am a  
scientist. I work at a top secret  
facility...I can't tell you where.

VAL

Lest it no longer be a secret. I  
get that. Continue. Why does the  
Syndicate want you so badly?

SUKIO

Before I continue, could I impose  
upon you for some clothes? It's  
dreadfully chilly in this pod.

Val nods and turns to Zeb.

VAL

Ok, Mr. Enforcer, how 'bout you go  
find some clothes that will fit our  
guest?

ZEB

(scowling)

I ain't no errand boy.

VAL

But you are under my command so  
please do as I ask.

SUKIO

And if it's not too much trouble,  
some female clothes...about her  
size.

Sukio points to Lizzy. Val puts two and two together.

VAL

(sighs)

Do I even need to ask why?

ZEB

Bet there's some hot lab assistant  
in the other pod...or maybe his  
concubine.

SUKIO

Or maybe...my wife.

ZEB

Or that.

VAL

Lizzy...Jeb...off with ya.

LIZZY

Aye, Cap'n.

Lizzy walks by Zeb and grabs him by the ear. Jeb whines as he stands up. The two walk toward the stairs.

LIZZY (CONT'D)

Let's go, Mr. Enforcer. And don't be sassin' the captain.

ZEB

Ow. You can let go a that ear now.

LIZZY

And spoil my fun? Not a chance.

Lizzy continues to lead Zeb by the ear as they exit the cargo bay. Val then turns to Sukio.

VAL

You know how to get your wife outta that pod?

SUKIO

I'd better...the whole cryogenics technology associated with these pods? My invention.

INT. MISCOV'S SHIP - BRIDGE - NIGHT

The formerly seen agent hails Miscov's ship. Miscov puts it on-screen.

AGENT

My boss grows impatient.

MISCOV

Tell your boss he'll have his prize. We rendezvous with Brennar's ship in 28 minutes.

AGENT

Fine...but not a minute later. You know what happens to those with whom the boss is displeased.

MISCOV

I do. Tell him Miscov will deliver the cargo...on time.

Miscov motions to the navigator to end the transmission. He does.

MISCOV (CONT'D)  
Greedy bastards...I hate them.

NAVIGATOR  
Then why do we work for them, sir?

MISCOV  
We don't! We are independent  
contractors. Miscov slaves for no  
man!  
(sighs and pauses)  
That said...they have a job for  
us...we do it. They pay us well.  
That is the extent of our  
affiliation.

INT. TRANQUILITY DINING ROOM

All are present except Gonzo, who is still on the bridge.  
Sukio and Autumn, now fully clothed, relate their story as  
the others listen intently.

SUKIO  
Captain, you asked why the  
Syndicate wants me...us...so badly.  
It's complicated. I'll streamline  
it as best I can. I assume we're  
running out of time before you have  
to turn us in.

Nika checks her timepiece.

NIKA  
Twenty-six minutes.

SUKIO  
For some time now, at the behest of  
the Coalition of Planets, my  
research has almost exclusively  
been in the field of teleportation.

VAL  
Really? You mean like "Beam me up,  
Scotty"...that kind o' thing?

SUKIO  
If that is a Star Trek reference,  
then, yes, that sort of thing.

AUTUMN  
And it's closer to being a reality  
than you might think, thanks in  
large part to my husband.

VAL  
I'm guessing the Syndicate wants  
that technology all to themselves.

SUKIO  
It would seem so.

NIKA  
And you ended up in those pods how?

INT. SUKIO'S RESEARCH FACILITY - DAY [FLASHBACK]

The following events unfold as they are described...Sukio in his lab with Autumn...both are knocked out, injected with a serum, and dragged into another room, where the pods await them.

AUTUMN (V.O.)  
Kidnapped...with the assistance of Sukio's own staff. Apparently, the Syndicate had infiltrated his research complex. He was working late. I stopped by for a visit. We were in his lab when suddenly, everything went black.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. TRANQUILITY DINING ROOM - NIGHT

LIZZY  
But why both of you?

SUKIO  
My wife is an gifted surgeon, one of the Coalition's finest. I'm sure the Syndicate greatly values such services. Plus, she would be insurance to make sure I do as I am told.

NIKA  
Captain, we can't turn them over to the Syndicate. We've already forfeited our payoff anyway.

ZEB  
You don't know that for a fact. Long as they get these two, what does it matter if they're in pods or not?

NIKA  
Because we violated the contact. They will use that as an excuse not to pay us!

ZEB  
Oh...so we go on the lam from the Syndicate...that's real smart!

VAL  
Nika! Zeb! Enough!

Nika and Zeb settle back into their chairs with Zeb sporting that familiar scowl once again.

VAL (CONT'D)

As captain, it is my decision. I will do what's best for this crew...and my ship.

Just then, Gonzo's voice is heard over the intercom.

GONZO (V.O.)

Captain, the syndicate ship has hailed us.

Val walks over to the dining room comm and picks up the handset.

VAL

(over the comm)

Be right there.

(to the others)

Well...I guess it's showtime.

NIKA

Captain...what are you gonna do?

It's obvious from his facial expression and posture that the Captain is agonizing over this decision and has yet to make it.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO



ACT THREE

INT. TRANQUILITY DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Val struggles with his decision as the others wait for it.

VAL

Let me chat with the Syndicate rep. Perhaps I can reason with him. If not...Lizzy, I'll need you back in engineering, just in case we need to do another quick-burn. Zeb, you're with me. Nika, stay here with the Tanakas for now. I'll call for you if and when the time is right.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Gonzo has a very impatient Miscov on the video screen.

MISCOV

Where is your captain? Where is Brennar?

GONZO

On his way to the bridge as we speak. He should be here momentarily.

MISCOV

You realize tardiness will result in a forfeiture of your commission.

A wide-eyed Gonzo does not respond. Val and Zeb enter the bridge. Val makes his way to a Gonzo, who stops him and speaks in a hushed voice.

GONZO

Doesn't make a good first impression.

VAL

Thanks. That's...helpful.

Val sits down at the navigator's chair. His face sours when he sees Miscov on-screen, having had previous dealings with him.

VAL (CONT'D)

Miscov. What an...unpleasant surprise.

MISCOV

Well...Mr. Brennar...the sentiment is mutual.

Gonzo and Zeb watch from a distance. Gonzo looks surprised that they two know each other. Zeb does not.

GONZO

(quietly)

The Cap'n knows this piece o' work?

ZEB

(hushed)

Cap'n's had dealings with Miscov before. He ain't to be trifled with.

VAL

I'm afraid we've run into a bit of a snag as it pertains to the cargo.

MISCOV

Why am I not surprised. What is it this time, Brennar? Chip a nail trying to pry a pod lid open?

VAL

Still got that sense o' humor, I see. No, actually, one of the pods was damaged when we came through a meteor storm. We had to open it to shut off the alarm.

MISCOV

So I take it you have discovered the pod's contents?

VAL

We have.

Val turns and mouths "Nika" and "go" to Gonzo. He "gets" it and heads for the dining room.

MISCOV

And I assume the Tanakas have spun that cockamamie story about teleportation and being kidnapped?

VAL

Yes...how do you know about that?

MISCOV

Because they were Syndicate scientists who defected to the Coalition to further their own careers. They are con artists, Brennar, and the sooner you are rid of them, the better for you!

Val hesitates, not knowing what to believe.

VAL

If that is true, why does the Syndicate want them back so badly?

MISCOV

That is not your concern, Brennar.  
(beat)

The Syndicate's patience grows thin, as does mine. We dock...you deliver the Tanakas to my men...I let you live. If not...we will take the Tanakas by force, and kill you and your crew.

Gonzo reenters the bridge, followed by Nika, Autumn, and Sukio.

Val motions for Gonzo to take his pilot seat.

VAL

Kinda leanin' toward a third option, actually...  
(Terminator impression)  
...hasta la vista, baby!

Val ends the transmission. He turns to face the Tanakas.

VAL (CONT'D)

You two have some 'splainin' to do...but for now...we run. Gonzo...set a course for closest Coalition outpost. Nika...raise Lizzy; find out how soon we can quick-burn.

Nika and Gonzo both nod and carry out their orders.

EXT. SPACE

Tranquility's side engines do a gradual quarter turn as the ship slows, then heads away from Miscov's ship.

INT. MISCOV'S SHIP - BRIDGE

The crew await orders from Miscov, who doesn't seem upset.

NAVIGATOR

Your orders, sir.

MISCOV

Pursue them...and send a communique to our agent...there's been a delay...

The communications officer sends the message as the navigator plots a course. The gunner notices Miscov's lack of anxiety.

GUNNER

Sir, you don't seem upset.

MISCOV

Why should I be? Had everything gone according to Hoyle, we would have the Tanakas, yes, but Brennar would still be alive. Now...we still get the Tanakas - a little later than we planned - and I get the pleasure of killing that miscreant and his crew. We tell the Syndicate that Brennar's payment was lost in the destruction of his ship, and we keep it for ourselves ...what could be better?

The crew nod and cheer as they perform the necessary tasks to pursue the Tranquility.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE | NIGHT

Gonzo has set course for Alpha 7, the closest Coalition outpost. Nika, who has been corresponding with Lizzy, addresses Val.

NIKA

Captain, Lizzy says we can do a quickburn any time but, since we have to circumvent the radiation field, if we do so too soon, we will run out of fuel before we make it to Alpha 7.

VAL

And if we don't do it soon, Miscov will catch us for sure.

Sukio speaks up to break an awkward silence.

SUKIO

Captain, I'm sorry you and your crew got mixed up in all this. It's not the best time I'm sure...but Autumn and I wish to thank you for not turning us over to those barbarians.

VAL

Save your gratitude. If we all live to tell about our little joy ride here, you'll be thankin' us with more than just words.

ZEB

Ya, like enough platinum to cover what we ain't gettin' by not turning you over to them goons what be chasin' us.

EXT. SPACE

Tranquility zips along with Miscov's ship in hot pursuit, the latter gaining on the former.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Gonzo and Nika monitor the other ship.

GONZO

Miscov's ship is gaining on us. We can't outrun it.

NIKA

What kind of weapons does that ship possess?

VAL

Not certain, but if it's a standard Syndicate issue PT-9 class: plasma turret...maybe an EMP cannon.

Nika checks her instrument panel.

NIKA

Then they will be in range in... thirty-seven seconds.

AUTUMN

And what kind of weapons does your ship have, Captain.

Val turns to face Autumn and pats his holster.

VAL

We're wearin' 'em.

SUKIO

Then how do we escape?

VAL

Have a little faith, Tanakas...not my first rodeo.

Gonzo turns to face Val.

GONZO

Captain, sensors show a blast of plasma energy headed our way.

VAL

Reckon it's time to remind me why I pay you the big bucks.

GONZO

You don't.

VAL

Then consider this an audition.

Gonzo grins, nods, turns back around, and fires off a quick burst from the right engine, taking the ship to the left.

EXT. SPACE

The plasma energy blast ZOOMS past the ship, BARELY missing her.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

VAL

Nicely done. Can you keep that up for the next...two hours or so?

GONZO

Do we have a choice?

VAL

Not if we all want to stay at 98.6.

EXT. SPACE

Miscov's ship fires more plasma bursts. Tranquility continues to dodge them.

INT. MISCOV'S SHIP - BRIDGE

Miscov and his crew grow frustrated with Gonzo's ability to steer the Tranquility as it eludes their attack.

GUNNER

Sir, the Tranquility is too agile. Their pilot is...extraordinary.

MISCOV

Are we in range to use the EMP cannon?

GUNNER

Just now, sir.

MISCOV

Then fire away.

EXT. SPACE

Miscov's EMP cannon fires, sending a wave of EMP energy toward Tranquility. It widens and accelerates as it nears Tranquility.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Gonzo has turned around and is monitoring the activity of the other ship.

GONZO

Uh-oh.

VAL

Don't say uh-oh. What's uh-oh?

GONZO

Incoming EMP wave. There's no gettin' out of the way. Impact in five seconds.

VAL

Damn. Brace for impact, people.

EXT. SPACE

The EMP wave strikes Tranquility, rocking the ship. Parts of it go dim as some of the ship's power is lost.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

The bridge heaves upon impact, tossing the Tanakas to the floor. Sparks fly from various control boards and some panel lights go out. Gonzo assesses the damage.

GONZO

Captain, navigation's hangin' by a thread. Same for life support. We get hit with another burst like that...

VAL

Gonzo...I get the picture, and it's not a pretty one. Doctors...you ok?

The Tanakas pick themselves up off the floor and nod.

SUKIO

I believe so, Captain.

Val grabs the handset of the comm.

VAL

Lizzy - damage report!

INT. TRANQUILITY ENGINE ROOM

Lizzy is feverishly working to repair damage caused by the energy blast. She stops to grab the comm handset.

The grease on her face can't hide its dour expression as she answers the captain.

LIZZY

Captain, all engines still online - barely - but another hit like that and they won't be.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Val pauses to think. As he does, Tranquility is hailed by the other ship. Val puts the transmission on-screen.

MISCOV

Captain Brennar. All this unpleasantness could have been avoided. All you had to do was turn over the cargo to me, as per your contract.

VAL

Well, contracts were made to be broken.

MISCOV

And breaking this one is about to result in serious consequences for you and your crew.

VAL

Wouldn't be the first time...

MISCOV

But it just might be your last. You still can hand over the cargo. It's not too late...but in mere moments, it will be. Mr. Brennar, the Eiler's Radiation Belt lies before you. There is nowhere to run.

GONZO

He's right, Captain. We head into the radiation belt - we're fried. We get hit with a second EMP wave - we're fried.

VAL

I don't suppose there are any options available to us that don't involve frying?

MISCOV

Your one and only option, Mr. Brennar, is to honor our agreement, unless, of course, you wish the black of space to be your grave.

Val looks first at his crew, and then at the Tanakas.

VAL

Miscov, I rather suspect the black of space will be my grave. Kinda prefer it not be today, though...

(beat)

...you win. I'll prepare our ship for docking and boarding. We'll reestablish contact as soon as we're ready. Out.

Val turns off the video screen and turns to face his crew and "cargo". Zeb smiles and nods in agreement.



Everyone else stares at Val, somber and disappointed. Sukio shakes his head solemnly, seemingly resigned to his fate, as he embraces his teary-eyed wife.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. MISCOV'S SHIP - BRIDGE - NIGHT

Miscov chats, via the video-comm, with the formerly-seen Syndicate agent.

AGENT

I understand there has been a delay. This is totally unacceptable.

MISCOV

Sir, Brennar's crew opened the pods and, upon discovering their contents, chose to flee. Having pursued and incapacitated their ship, we are about to board and retrieve the Tanakas.

AGENT

See that you do...and no more excuses!

MISCOV

Yes, sir.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Everyone continues to stare at Val, finding it hard to believe that he would actually surrender.

ZEB

'Bout time ya came ta yer senses, Cap.

NIKA

You can't be serious, sir. There has to be another way.

VAL

Relax everyone. I have no intention of turning our esteemed guests over to Miscov and his henchmen...

(glances at Zeb)

...sorry Zeb.

(to everyone else)

Just had to buy us a little time.

Zeb shakes his head and scowls. Val turns to Sukio.

VAL (CONT'D)

Doctor...time to put all that fancy learnin' o' yours to good use. This EMP energy we got blasted with. Is there any way to turn it to our advantage?

Sukio thinks for a moment.

SUKIO  
Theoretically, yes.  
(beat)  
How...capable...is your engineer?

VAL  
More than. Why?

SUKIO  
What I'm about to propose carries  
with it tremendous risk. It would  
require great skill, steady hands,  
and impeccable timing.

VAL  
I trust Lizzy with my life...and  
our options are limited.  
(beat)  
What do we need to do?

INT. SYNDICATE HQ - OFFICE OF "THE BOSS"

A door opens. Into an ornately decorated room steps the  
previously seen Syndicate agent. He walks gingerly toward a  
desk, behind which sits "the Boss", his BACK TO THE CAMERA.  
The agent stops about three feet from the desk, obviously  
apprehensive about why he has been summoned.

AGENT  
You wanted to see me, sir?

BOSS  
I understand complications have  
arisen in the retrieval of the  
Tanakas.

AGENT  
I'm afraid so. You see, sir, the  
crew of Tranquility opened the pods  
and discovered their contents so...

The Boss interupts, raising his voice.

BOSS  
Do not placate me with your flimsy  
excuses!

AGENT  
I'm sorry, sir. I just spoke with  
Miscov. He claims to have disabled  
Tranquility and is about to board  
it to reclaim our cargo.

BOSS  
You had better be right. You hired  
the Russian. You will be held  
responsible should he fail.

AGENT

Yes, sir. I will notify you the moment I have confirmation the Tanakas are back in our possession.

BOSS

See that you do. Dismissed.

The agent bows and nods slightly to the Boss, then departs his office. The boss then uses the office intercomm to speak to someone else.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

Hello?

BOSS

The Tanakas should be returning to the confines of our facility very soon.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

Should we continue experimentation with the serum?

BOSS

Of course. And no slip-ups this time.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

Understood.

The Boss disconnects the call. THE CAMERA ANGLE CHANGES to reveal a computer screen on his desk. Pictures and bios of the Tanakas are on-screen. The Boss stares at them.

BOSS

Very soon, Tanakas, you will be back where you belong.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE - NIGHT

Val, Zeb, and Gonzo discuss Sukio's plan.

ZEB

Flying into the radiation belt? That's suicide, Cap'n. All that gobbledygook about the EMP energy gettin' ionized - it don't make no sense. I still say we take our chances with Miscov's men.

GONZO

Easy for you to say. You're good with weapons...and your fists. I'm neither...which means I'm as good as dead if they board the ship.

VAL

Sukio's plan, however risky, is our best option for escape. Gonzo, reestablish contact with Miscov.

(Godfather impression)

I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse.

Gonzo looks back quizzically at Val. Val motions for him to turn around and send the transmission. Soon Miscov appears on-screen.

MISCOV

Well, Captain...we don't seem to be docking. Must I make good on my threat?

VAL

Relax - you'll get your precious. That EMP blast knocked out most of our navigation control. While we make repairs, how about you stew on this....we hand over the Tanakas and forgo payment. In return, you let us go on our merry way.

MISCOV

I am a reasonable man. I will consider your terms. But I am also an impatient man. You have ten minutes, Brennar. After that, your next incoming...will be your last.

Val switches off the video feed and changes channels.

VAL

(over the comm)

Lizzy, penny for your thoughts...

LIZZY (V.O.)

Dr. Tanaka filled me in. Ain't so sure this is gonna work but I "get" what needs to be done. It's the doin' it that's got me in a tizzy.

VAL

Well, we have ten minutes 'fore we become a floatin' scrap heap, so find a way out of that "tizzy" and get back to bein' the Lizzy I know and trust.

ENGINE ROOM

Lizzy answers the captain, Sukio and Nika by her side.

LIZZY

(over the comm)

Yes, Cap'n.

Lizzy switches off the comm, then mumbles to herself...

LIZZY (CONT'D)

Great...I do everything right, we all live. I don't...we all die...no pressure...could really use a smoke about now.

NIKA

Lizzy...you know the rules...

Lizzy looks Nika in the eye, dead-serious.

LIZZY

You want me to save our asses or don't ya?

Nika thinks for a moment, then nods and grabs Lizzy's pack o' smokes.

She holds them in front of Lizzy and flicks her wrist, causing one to extend out of the pack farther than the rest.

Lizzy takes it with two fingers and grins.

TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Val, Gonzo, and Zeb ready the bridge for the getaway. Another transmission comes in. Val puts it on-screen.

MISCOV

Time's up, Captain. I can't help but notice we are still not docking. After our next EMP blast eliminates all power to your ship, we will be coming for the Tanakas. By the way, I found your Schwarzenegger impersonation lacking. Perhaps you should practice more. See you soon!

The transmission ends. Val is stunned momentarily.

VAL

How could he...? At least he got it...

(over the ship-wide channel)

Everyone, fasten your seat belts. It's going to be a bumpy night. Lizzy - we gotta go! Take her to hyperdrive - now!

ENGINE ROOM

LIZZY

Aye, Cap'n!

Lizzy gives a nod to Sukio and Nika, who strap themselves to the wall. Lizzy does the same and engages hyperdrive.

EXT. SPACE - JUST OUTSIDE TRANQUILITY

Tranquility's engines burn brightly, but only for a moment, and then go dark.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Gonzo, Zeb, and Val exchange bewildered glances as the ship briefly accelerates and then loses power.

VAL

Gonzo - raise Lizzy.

Gonzo nods and grabs the comm.

GONZO

(over the comm)

Lizzy...what gives?

ENGINE ROOM

Lizzy is performing an engine diagnostic when she is hailed.

LIZZY

(over the comm)

That EMP blast musta burned out just enough circuits to cause an overload when I threw the switch.

GONZO (V.O.)

Is the damage repairable?

LIZZY

(over the comm)

In the next sixty seconds? Not likely.

BRIDGE

Val scrambles to the comm and yanks it from Gonzo's hand.

VAL

(over the comm)

Girl - you best find way to expunge not from your vocabulary. In less than sixty seconds, Miscov will hit us with another EMP wave.

EXT. SPACE

Miscov's ship fires another EMP wave. It quickly gains on Tranquility.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Gonzo is monitoring his screen and becomes alarmed.

GONZO

And here it comes. Impact in...  
eight seconds.

VAL

(over the comm)

Lizzy...if we all die, I'm dockin'  
your pay!

ENGINE ROOM

Lizzy, Nika, and Sukio work diligently to get hyperdrive fixed. Nika and Sukio finish replacing a bad part.

SUKIO

Try it again, Lizzy!

Lizzy pulls the lever.

EXT. SPACE - JUST OUTSIDE TRANQUILITY

Just as the EMP wave reaches Tranquility, the engines come back online and, burning bright yellow, scoot the ship out of harm's way just in the nick of time.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

The sudden jolt in speed sends Val flying to the back of the bridge while Zeb and Gonzo remain strapped in their seats. Zeb snickers but Gonzo is aghast.

ENGINE ROOM

Nika, Lizzy, and Sukio are thrown against the wall by the ship's brief acceleration. The new part shorts out and hyperdrive disengages on its own. The three fall to the floor and then slowly recover.

LIZZY

Damn...that was our only spare.

SUKIO

I expected it to fail. Hopefully,  
the temporary acceleration is  
sufficient to get us to the  
radiation field before the EMP wave  
contacts us.

BRIDGE

Val gets up slowly, grimacing and holding his hip. Gonzo and Zeb have unstrapped and are helping Val to his feet.

VAL

Next time I'm foolish enough to  
chide Lizzy, make sure I'm strapped  
in.

Gonzo looks at the front window and points.



GONZO

Cap'n...radiation field's almost upon us.

VAL

Then we best get back into position.

ENGINE ROOM

Sukio has Lizzy and Nika where he wants them to perform the necessary tasks and is schooling them one last time.

SUKIO

Let's review...on my go, Nika, you reverse the engine's polarity. Lizzy, make the core element modifications we discussed. Nika, bring the main engine back online.

NIKA

Then what?

SUKIO

Then we pray my theory is correct.

Just then, a call comes in from the bridge.

VAL (V.O.)

Lizzy, we are almost to the radiation field, and the EMP wave will be on us in a matter of seconds. Are you ready?

SUKIO

(over the comm)

Captain, this is Sukio. Lizzy has her hands full at the moment. Both she and Nika know what to do and are in position.

VAL (V.O.)

Peachy...we go on my mark...

EXT. SPACE - JUST OUTSIDE TRANQUILITY

The EMP wave arrives, just as Tranquility glides into the radiation field.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

VAL

(over the comm)

Now!!

ENGINE ROOM

SUKIO

Go!!

Nika pulls the lever, reversing the engine's polarity. Lizzy makes the necessary core element adjustments. Nika then brings the main engine back online.

Tranquility seizes and shudders when the EMP wave contacts the ship but...

EXT. SPACE - TRANQUILITY EXTERIOR

...Sukio's theory is correct. The blast briefly supercharges the engine and rapidly propels Tranquility through the radiation field.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Gonzo, Zeb, and Val watch out the front window in wonderment as they travel through the radiation field, observing an amazing light show as they proceed.

Suddenly, the ship SHAKES and SHIMMIES as the view through the front window goes completely black. This darkness and turbulence persists for a few seconds.

Val and Zeb look at each other with bewilderment as Gonzo stays fixated on what lies before them.

Just then, the shaking stops and the stars reappear, although the patterns seem different. Some power to the ship returns. Gonzo sighs with relief.

GONZO

Holy crap...we did it...  
 (turns to Val)  
 ...didn't we?

VAL

Don't think it's time to uncork the champagne bottle just yet.

Val grabs the comm.

VAL

(over the comm)  
 Dr. Tanaka. Would you kindly grace us with your presence on the bridge, please...so you can explain to us what the hell just happened!

SUKIO (V.O.)

Of course, Captain.

VAL

(to Gonzo)  
 What have we got power to?

GONZO

(jokingly)  
 Intercomm seems to be working!

Val is not amused. Gonzo checks his dashboard, flicking switches.

GONZO (CONT'D)

Well...we're not floatin' around in here so the grav rotor must be functioning...main engine's offline so life support's down. Same for nav control.

VAL

So we're just drifting aimlessly, huh?

GONZO

Oh no...we have an aim....  
(points toward the window)  
...that way...just no control over it.

Sukio enters the bridge.

SUKIO

Lizzy and Nika should have the engines back online shortly. As for what we just experienced...

Autumn enters the bridge as Sukio speaks.

SUKIO

...I'm guessing we passed through some kind of space anomaly in the radiation belt. It sucked us in and spit us out here, which could just be on the other side of it...

Autumn's eyes get wide as she stares out the front window.

AUTUMN

...or, judging from the positions of the stars, the other side of the galaxy.

Val appears flummoxed.

VAL

Whoa...are you sayin' we passed through somethin' like a wormhole?

SUKIO

Yes...or perhaps a rift in the space time continuum.

Everyone other than Sukio and Autumn appear bewildered, Zeb in particular.

ZEB

Hows 'bout you dumb it down some  
for those of us with not-so-much  
schoolin'?

SUKIO

In layman's terms, it's a tear in  
the fabric of space - a portal of  
sorts. Its existence has long been  
theorized but never confirmed. If  
indeed we passed through such a  
thing, no telling where in the  
universe we are....

AUTUMN

...or even what year it is now.

Everyone stares at Autumn momentarily - then at each other,  
not knowing what to make of what they just heard.

VAL

Houston...we have a problem...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. SPACE

Tranquility floats through space, dimly lit, and without sufficient power to change course.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE - LATE NIGHT

GONZO

Val...must you always spout movie quotes whenever we get in a pickle?

VAL

Yes...I must.

GONZO

Well...it can get kind of annoying...

VAL

You know what else is annoying? Having a ship what can't be steered. So how 'bout you commence to fixin' that issue?

Just then, the engines come back online, making a familiar hum. Gonzo's dashboard lights up. He stares in amazement and flicks a few switches.

GONZO

Well...issue fixed!

A relieved and pleased Val grabs the comm.

VAL

(over the comm)

Lizzy...if you were standin' next ta me, I'd kiss ya.

INT. TRANQUILITY ENGINE ROOM

Lizzy stops what she's doing and picks up the comm.

LIZZY

(over the comm)

I wouldn't be puckerin' up just yet if I were you, Cap'n...

INTERCUT BETWEEN VAL AND LIZZY

VAL

Ain't all good news, I take it?

LIZZY

Life support's still down...and repairing it will be no easy task. Plus we're critically low on fuel.

VAL

Ok, so, how much oxygen we got left?

LIZZY

A couple hours...give or take.

VAL

Well...if you wanna keep breathin' | and I know I certainly do - that's how long you've got to remedy this situation. Capiche?

LIZZY

Yes, Cap'n. Could really use Dr. Tanaka's expertise down here.

VAL

(waving to Sukio)

He's on his way.

INT. BRIDGE - MISCOV'S SHIP - NIGHT

Miscov stands up from his captain's chair, staring out the front window in disbelief.

MOSCOV

Impossible! Where did they go?

HELMSMAN

I don't know, sir. One minute they were at the edge of the radiation belt...the next minute they were...

MISCOV

Gunner...how could you miss?

GUNNER

Sir, I have confirmation it was a direct hit.

MISCOV

If that is so, then Tranquility should be floating in space lifelessly in front of us....do any of you see her?!

Everyone trembles silently, shaking their collective heads.

MISCOV (CONT'D)

Do the widest possible scan with our sensors.

HELMSMAN

Already done, sir. No sign of the ship or its crew. That said, the interference from the radiation belt may be giving us false readings.

MISCOV

The Syndicate will have our heads  
if we return empty-handed. Keep  
searching!!

HELMSMAN

Yes, sir.

EXT. SPACE

As Tranquility limps through space, power having been partially restored, an earth-like planet comes into view in the distance.

INT. TRANQUILITY ENGINE ROOM - ONE HOUR LATER

Lizzy, Nika, and Sukio (all wearing coats), have completed repairs on the main engine and are now working on life support. The temperature is right at freezing. Their breaths are visible.

A call comes in through the comm. Lizzy grabs the handset.

VAL (V.O.)

How goes it down there, Lizzy?

LIZZY

(over the comm)

Hey Cap'n. Freezin' our  
you-know-whats off. I'm afraid our  
life support has flatlined. The OGS  
cells are shot and replacements  
are... hard to come by.

VAL (V.O.)

Meaning...?

LIZZY

(over the comm)

I've rigged a way to run  
electricity via our auxiliary  
generator through our remaining  
water supply. That will produce  
enough oxygen to last us another  
hour or so. After that...  
well...need I say more?

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE -

Val, also bundled up, understands the gravity of the situation.

VAL

(over the comm)

You need not. By then, we'll all be  
popsicles anyway - it won't matter.

Val hangs up the comm handset. He blows warm air into his hands and turns to the others.

VAL

Any suggestions on a destination?  
And it best be in our backyard.

Autumn, clad in a heavy coat, stocking cap, and gloves,  
looks out the front window and points.

AUTUMN

How about that dot.

The dot in the front window has become just large enough for  
the crew to realize it is something worth checking out.

VAL

Good plan. Gonzo, magnify the image  
and put it on-screen.

GONZO

Aye, Cap'n.

A planet looking very much like a pristine Earth appears on  
the screen. Autumn and Gonzo stare at the screen in  
disbelief.

Gonzo, shivering, turns to Val and grimaces, expecting some  
cheesy movie one-liner but Val just stares at the screen,  
mouth agape.

VAL

It can't be...

As the others look out the front window, Val continues to  
gaze at the planet, lost in thought.

EXT. SPACE / EARTH'S SURFACE [DAYDREAM SEQUENCE]

A large asteroid HURLS through space. It enters the Earth's  
atmosphere with a FIERY GLOW. The FIREBALL STREAKS toward  
the North American heartland and CRASHES to earth, creating  
a GIGANTIC mushroom plume of fire, smoke, and debris.

END DAYDREAM SEQUENCE.

EXT. SPACE

A well-lit Tranquility proceeds toward the Earth-like  
planet. The Sun is seen in the distance.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE | VERY EARLY AM

Val stares at the screen while Gonzo and Autumn chat, also  
all bundled up. Val snaps out of his stupor and turns when  
Zeb - not bundled up - enters the bridge and speaks.

ZEB

So...what's goin' on?



AUTUMN

We seem to have stumbled upon a planet looking very much like Earth...well, before the asteroid hit.

ZEB

Asteroid?? Guess I shoulda paid more attention in my Earth history class...

GONZO

Hello? The asteroid that slammed into the Earth a couple hundred years ago.

VAL

Between the impact and the resulting nuclear winter, half the Earth's population was wiped out.

AUTUMN

It was in all the papers.

ZEB

Ain't much of o' reader. Cap'n didn't hire me for my book smarts, right Cap?

VAL

That would be safe to say. By the way, why aren't you wearin' a coat?

ZEB

Cuz I'm a tough guy...I don't need no stinkin' coat.

Val is amazed Zeb quoted a movie line (substituting coat for badges), then realizes it was just a coincidence.

VAL

Whoa, Zeb, you just...nevermind.

ZEB

What?

VAL

Forget it...Gonzo, Lizzy's ingenuity has bought us some time. Can we make it to that planet before we run out of oxygen...and fuel?

Gonzo turns, faces his dashboard and, blowing warm air into his hands, turns a couple dials, all the while staring at the screen.

GONZO

I can have us in orbit in about...I mean precisely...1 hour 23 minutes so...possibly...it'll be close.

VAL

Then do the voodoo that you do.

Gonzo, wincing and shaking his head, inputs the coordinates.

EXT. A FARM SOMEWHERE ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE - EARLY AM

An African-American man finishes dressing in his work clothes. He makes his way to and then out of the front door and heads toward his barn. Once there, he goes out into his pasture to shoo his cows into the barn for milking.

EXT. SPACE - EARLY AM

SUPERIMPOSE "1 HOUR 23 MINUTES LATER" at the bottom of the screen.

Tranquility slows its speed and moves into orbit around the planet.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Val queries Gonzo as they carry out Val's plan.

VAL

Gonzo, you have 'nuff fuel and nav control to set us down on that planet?

Gonzo cocks his head back, smirks, and lets out a "pfftt".

VAL

That had better be Spanish for uh-huh.

GONZO

No, that would be "si". Pfftt means "of course I can - did ya forget who you're talking to?"

VAL

Touche. Zeb - navigator's chair. Tanakas - guest quarters. Buckle up good.

(over the comm)

Lizzy...Nika...no tellin' if the ship'll behave herself given what we've been through. Gonzo's takin' us down in five. Be ready for anything.

LIZZY (V.O.)

Aye, Cap'n.

HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE BRIDGE

As Autumn leaves the bridge, she suddenly has a quick vision, which brings her to her knees...

BEGIN VISION:

EXT. HOGBACK RIDGE - EARLY MORNING

A charismatic man leads the charge as a large group of heavily- armed ruffians on horseback descend from a hill upon a town.

END VISION.

Autumn attempts to regain her balance and composure, not knowing what to make of the experience. A very concerned Sukio helps Autumn to her feet.

SUKIO

Honey, what just happened? You ok?

AUTUMN

I...I think so...just a little  
light-headed. Let's continue on.  
I'm fine.

Sukio assists Autumn in keeping her balance as they head to the guest quarters. Autumn seems out-of-sorts, leading Sukio to conclude that this is more than just a little dizziness.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE - EARLY AM

Val, Zeb, and Gonzo are all in position, ready to break orbit.

VAL

Gonzo...take us down.

Gonzo nods, turns around, and performs the necessary tasks to begin the ship's descent.

EXT. SPACE

Tranquility plunges into the atmosphere, glowing fiery red as she descends.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Gonzo struggles to control the ship, as navigation, though operable, is far from ideal.

ENGINE ROOM

Sparks fly from various panels; a pipe springs a gas leak.

Lizzy and Nika deal with the situation as best they can.

CLOSE-UP ON AN ENGINE ROOM TEMPERATURE GAUGE, SHOWING 25 DEGREES CELCIUS AND CLIMBING.

EXT. SPACE

Tranquility continues its downward PLUNGE. Pieces begin to FLY OFF of her as she QUAKES and SHUDDERS.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE

Gonzo realizes he can't control Tranquility much longer. He fires the vertical thrusters but they don't work. He SMACKS the dashboard and pushes the buttons again - nothing. Gonzo grabs the comm and sets it to ship-wide.

GONZO

(over the comm)

Everyone...vertical thrusters aren't workin' and the ship's breakin' up. I can't control 'er much longer. Prepare for a crash landing. And if you're God-fearin' folk, now would be a good time to pray.

Just then, Tranquility passes below the clouds and a decently wide river and lake come into view through the front window.

GONZO (CONT'D)  
(over the comm)  
Hold on, everyone. I'm gonna try to skip us off this river and lake up ahead much like you'd skip a rock off the surface of a pond.

ENGINE ROOM

Lizzy hears this and responds back via the comm.

LIZZY  
So you've done this before?

INTERCUT BETWEEN GONZO AND LIZZY

GONZO  
What answer would make you feel all warm and fuzzy?

LIZZY  
"Yes, many times."

GONZO  
Then...yes, many times.

LIZZY  
How many times?

GONZO  
You probably don't want to hear the answer to that...just hold on and keep the motor running.

EXT. KANSAS FARM - EARLY MORNING

The previously seen unidentified man stops his morning chores to stare upward as a glowing object STREAKS across the sky.

EXT. TRANQUILITY

Tranquility descends slowly and at just the right trajectory. Soon, the ship is over the river and at the appropriate altitude to attempt Gonzo's maneuver.

EXT. KANSAS FARM - EARLY MORNING

That same unidentified man watches the FIREBALL disappear below the treeline. 44.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Gonzo struggles to control the ship as he lowers it ever closer to the water.

## EXT. TRANQUILITY - CONTINUOUS

The ship falls just far enough to catch the surface of the river. It SKIMS off but the FRICTION slows the ship some. This happens again and again, each time DECELERATING the ship a little more.

## INT. TRANQUILITY ENGINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The ship's ROLLER COASTER-LIKE RIDE prevents Lizzy and Nika from contributing anything meaningful to the landing so they struggle to strap themselves to the wall.

Lizzy succeeds but as Gonzo dips Tranquility into the water yet another time, the resulting JOLT sends Nika FLYING. She SMACKS her head on a hard metal railing and slumps to the floor, UNCONSCIOUS. A PANICKED Lizzy unstraps herself and RUSHES to Nika, holding on to her with one arm and the railing with the other.

## GUEST QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Autumn and Sergio weather the rough ride strapped to their chairs.

## EXT. TRANQUILITY - CONTINUOUS

Tranquility runs out of river but a couple more skips over the lake it empties into and the ship's speed has been sufficiently reduced.

## INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

One last time, Gonzo lowers the ship's hull into the water, this time keeping it there.

## EXT. TRANQUILITY - CONTINUOUS

The water begins to TEAR UP the bottom of the hull. Just then, Tranquility exits the lake, SMASHING into the sandy shore and then GRINDING through the grass and shrub-laden ground...

...CARVING OUT a shallow, muddy trench. She finally comes to rest about 40 yards inland, STRIKING a huge oak tree, which UPROOTS and slowly CRASHES to the ground.

## EXT. KANSAS FARM

The previously seen unidentified man stares in the direction of where the ship went down. 45.

He cringes, expecting an explosion. There is none. He then races into his house, grabs his shotgun, and then heads for the barn.

Upon arriving, he slides his shotgun into its saddle sleeve, mounts his horse, and SPEEDS OFF toward the crash site.

INT. TRANQUILITY BRIDGE | MORNING

Val, Zeb, and Gonzo look at each other, amazed they and the ship are still intact.

VAL

Gonzo, you do have a way with this ship - I'll giva ya that. Now how about you check on the others?

Gonzo nods and smirks at Val, then grabs the comm.

GONZO

(over the comm)

Lizzy - report in.

ENGINE ROOM

Lizzy leaves a still unconscious Nika for the comm.

LIZZY

(over the comm)

Captain! I'm fine but Nika took a nasty fall and she's out cold!

VAL

Gonzo, get Autumn down to the engine room right away! Then meet me there!

GONZO

On it.

(over the comm)

Autumn - medical emergency in the engine room.

AUTUMN (V.O.)

Say no more, Gonzo. On my way.

ENGINE ROOM

The engine room is a mess with parts scattered everywhere. Sparks are still flying - the gas pip still leaking steam.

Autumn hurries in with a small pouch of meds to find Lizzy in tears, cradling a still unconscious Nika.

Autumn rushes to them and begins to examine Nika, checking her vitals. She digs through her pouch and retrieves smelling salts...

...just as Val, Zeb, and Gonzo scramble into the room, each sporting a look of concern, especially Val.

VAL

How is she, doc?

AUTUMN

Vitals are stable. We'll know more  
in a few moments.

Autumn holds the smelling salts under Nika's nose. She comes to, coughing and shaking her head. She blinks and squints, trying to get her bearings. She then grimaces and grabs the back of her head.

NIKA

Uuughhh...what happened?

LIZZY

You took a rather unfortunate spill during our descent and decided to have it out with the railing over there. The railing won.

NIKA

Oh dopey me.

(turning to Autumn)

Kinda dizzy...head hurts like hell.  
Am I gonna be ok?

AUTUMN

You have a concussion. Aside from that, you should be fine but I best monitor you for a couple days.

VAL

Autumn, please help Nika to her quarters and stay with her a while. Nika, take it easy. That's an order.

AUTUMN

Of course, Captain.

Nika, still holding her head, nods at Val as the two depart the engine room.

VAL

Gonzo...Zeb. Headin' outside to check the hull damage - I'd prefer not to have any unpleasant surprises. When we were landing, did either of you see any indications of this area being inhabited?

GONZO

There were a few buildings scattered about. Might have been a town behind us. Not sure. Was too focused on setting us down on the water.

VAL

Zeb?



ZEB

Ah...I...I don't know. My eyes...  
were...ah...kinda...closed.

VAL

(snickering)

Well...Mr. Enforcer...why don't you  
go get a taser rifle and meet me in  
the cargo bay?

As an embarrassed Zeb nods and departs, Val takes in the mess, shaking his head.

VAL

Oh, and Lizzy...remind me to fire  
housekeeping.

As Val departs, Lizzy grins and nods, then stares at Gonzo.

LIZZY

You gonna help me or what?

Gonzo acknowledges Lizzy and both begin the clean-up.

EXT. TRANQUILITY - JUST OUTSIDE THE SHIP

The previously mentioned man and his horse arrive at the crash site. He dismounts and ties his horse to a tree trunk.

He slowly makes his way toward the ship, stopping to hide behind some bushes. He raises his gun and cocks the hammer.

INT. TRANQUILITY CARGO BAY - MORNING

Sukio is in the cargo bay with Zeb and Val.

Zeb pushes buttons on the controller box. One opens the cargo bay door. The other lowers the outside hatch door, serving as a ramp once it comes to rest on the ground.

VAL

Dr. Tanaka, you are welcome to come  
but keep a good distance behind us.  
The natives may not be friendly.

Sukio nods as Val unholsters his taser pistol.

INT/EXT. TRANQUILITY CARGO BAY

Val and Zeb cautiously make their way down the ramp.

Val motions for Sukio to stay put for now. He and Zeb then scan the area for anything threatening.

VAL

See any hostiles?

ZEB

Nope.

Val holsters his weapon and motions to Sukio that it's safe to come down the ramp.

As he does, Val looks out again onto the surrounding area, awed by the vast wilderness.

VAL

Toto, I've a feeling we're not in  
Kansas anymore.

Just then, the unidentified man pops up from behind the bushes, and walks toward Val, shotgun trained on him.

MAN

Wrong, sonny-boy...that's 'xactly  
where you is!

Val, Jeb, and Sukio are caught off-guard and look at each other, surprised and stunned, slowly raising their hands into the air.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT SIX

TAG

INT. MISCOV'S SHIP - BRIDGE - MORNING

Miscov and his crew are debating what to do.

MISCOV

If our sensors cannot locate the Tranquility outside of the radiation belt, then Brennar and his crew must be inside.

NAVIGATOR

That would make sense. The interference would not allow us to detect them.

MISCOV

Then set a course through the thinnest part of the belt.

NAVIGATOR

But sir, that would be suicide! We would all be burned to a crisp!

MISCOV

Need I remind you of what the Syndicate will do to us if we return without the Tanakas? I assure you, a jaunt through a radiation field will be a walk in the park by comparison.

Just then, the ship is hailed by the Syndicate.

COMM OFFICER

Sir, our Syndicate contact is hailing us again.

MISCOV

Continue to ignore him. Navigator, is our course set?

NAVIGATOR

Y-yes, sir.

MISCOV

Then proceed - full power!

EXT. SPACE

Miscov's ship enters the radiation belt. It begins to glow and then, after losing power and going dark, suddenly disappears. 50.

INT. SYNDICATE COMM ROOM | MORNING

The previously seen Syndicate agent is obviously upset.

AGENT

Are you sure our communique are getting through?

COMM OFFICIAL

Yes, sir. For whatever reason, they are not responding...

(beat)

...wait...sir...Miscov's ship has... vanished.

AGENT

Vanished? What do you mean?

COMM OFFICIAL

As in one moment, we were tracking its whereabouts. The next...it was gone.

AGENT

Dispatch another ship immediately. If this is one of Miscov's tricks, he will pay dearly for his treachery. The Tanakas must be retrieved and brought back to us alive...at all costs!

COMM OFFICIAL

Yes, sir.

The agent stands, hands on hips, scowling at the screen showing a view of space, shaking his head.

FADE OUT.

END OF TAG

END OF EPIOSDE