

"LIGHT PRISONER JONES"

By

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FADE IN:

INT: SPACECRAFT - MOVING

PRISONER AARON JONES, 35, average height, slim build, appearance of mixed ancestry, paces in his cell. His cell is the habitable section of a spacecraft. The section is a circular corridor 1 kilometer long and 2 by 2 meters in height and width. He is the only person on the craft.

AUTOMATED VOICE

Enhanced deceleration in 5 minutes.

Jones hurries to a set of seats designed for high-g's. Jones locks himself in a seat.

He experiences high-g's. The g-force gradually lessens until the force reaches 1g.

AUTOMATED VOICE (CONT'D)

Normal deceleration has resumed.

The seat unlocks and Jones steps out of it.

DISPATCHER AKAR (V.O.)

L.P. Jones, this is Dispatcher Akar, acknowledge.

AARON JONES

I hear you.

There's a delay.

DISPATCHER AKAR (V.O.)

Good, we'll be doing a quick turn around with you.

AARON JONES

What does that mean?

Jones is impatient during the delay.

DISPATCHER AKAR (V.O.)

Under six hours.

AARON JONES

What?

Jones is impatient and annoyed.

DISPATCHER AKAR (V.O.)

You will be back towards Earth within six hours.

AARON JONES

What's the hurry?

Jones is frustrated.

DISPATCHER AKAR (V.O.)

Protocol, you will have a passenger. The protocol is she be sent back to Earth on the first available craft, yours.

AARON JONES

She? What's the hurry?

A delay.

DISPATCHER AKAR (V.O.)

Protocol, her parent died in a mishap so we have to take all feasible steps to send her on her way.

AARON JONES

A minor?

A delay.

DISPATCHER AKAR (V.O.)

She is 12.

AARON JONES

You know my record?

Jones is a mixture of hope and desperation.

DISPATCHER AKAR (V.O.)

Yes, doesn't matter. You should spend your spare time before you dock stowing and marking all adult materials. That is unless you want to make another round trip.

AARON JONES

Very Funny.

A delay.

DISPATCHER AKAR (V.O.)

Laugh if you like but comply. Here name is Kathleen Rawat. Her bio has been uploaded. Read it.

AARON JONES

Acknowledged.

INT: PERSONAL STORAGE AREA

Jones types on a handheld device. "Adult Material" glows on an overhead locker.

AARON JONES

(Muttering)

Such warnings attract rather than deter children. Adults never learn this simple reality. At any rate I did what is required.

INT: BEAM WAY

Jones stands at his craft's entrance. Kathleen Rawat enters the beam way. She is average height with a thin frame. Her hair is about 1 centimeter all around. She has blue coveralls. She wheels a bag about half her height.

AARON JONES

Kathleen.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

L.P. Jones

AARON JONES

If you wish. My given name is Aaron.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

I like to be called Kat.

AARON JONES

If you wish.

EXT: SPACECRAFT

The craft is a simple disk. It is docked to a space station. The craft is undocked. An array of light beams flash onto the craft. The craft moves away from the station and accelerates.

INT: SPACECRAFT - MOVING

Kathleen Rawat and Jones are in g seats. The g 's drop to $1g$.

AUTOMATED VOICE

Normal acceleration has resumed.

They exit the seats.

AARON JONES

We are on our way.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

It will take 5 years to get to Earth?

AARON JONES

Yes, but it won't feel that long for us.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

Time dilatation.

AARON JONES

That's right Kat.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

How old will I be?

AARON JONES

You'll be 15 here. On Earth your age will be 17 and 9 months.

INT: SPACECRAFT - MOVING

Jones performs system checks. Kathleen enters. Her hair is about 16 centimeters long. It's woven into a series of large curls. Her hair is platinum blond except for one saffron and one green curl.

AARON JONES

Kat, you changed your hairstyle.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

Yes, I'm going to be 15 soon. I decided I should look more grown up.

AARON JONES

I see.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

I'd also like to be called Kathleen.

AARON JONES

If you wish, Kathleen.

INT: SPACECRAFT - MOVING

Kathleen performs system checks. Her hair is a series of tight weaves. The weaves are a mixture of natural colors. Her fingernails and eye makeup have the colors of a rainbow. Jones enters and verifies Kathleen's checks.

AARON JONES

Very good Kathleen.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

It's simple enough.

AARON JONES

It's simple because you're technically savvy.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

Checks complete.

AARON JONES

Results verified, within parameters.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

Aaron, for what crime did they make you an LP?

AARON JONES

Child abuse.

Kathleen runs. Aaron forces himself to stay put.

AARON JONES (CONT'D)

(Whispers)

I knew this day would come.

INT: SPACECRAFT - MOVING

Kathleen ambles along. She sees Aaron in the distance. She turns and strides away.

Kathleen stops at a console and activates it.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

Conviction details on Light Prisoner Jones.

A wall screen shows "Conviction Statement: Showing harmful materials to his minor child."

KATHLEEN RAWAT (CONT'D)

Basic child information.

ON SCREEN:

Daughter, 15 years old.

KATHLEEN RAWAT (O.C.)

My age.

Correct.

KATHLEEN RAWAT (O.C.)

Clear and sleep.

Screen matches the wall's color.

OFF SCREEN:

INT: SPACECRAFT - MOVING - DARK

Kathleen is in bed.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

Minimal lighting.

There is just enough lighting for someone to safely navigate the area.

KATHLEEN RAWAT (CONT'D)

Minimal lighting and track.

Kathleen stands and marches, dim lights turn on where she walks and turn off behind her.

KATHLEEN RAWAT (CONT'D)

Illuminate bins.

Luminous lettering appears on some overhead and under foot lockers.

Kathleen comes to the table marked "Adult Material".

KATHLEEN RAWAT (CONT'D)

I have a right to know.

She points to the locker.

KATHLEEN RAWAT (CONT'D)

Down.

A telescoping pole lowers the locker.

KATHLEEN RAWAT (CONT'D)

Spotlight.

Kathleen and the bin area get average illumination. The rest of the area goes dark.

The bin has the "Holy Bible" and some storage devices. Kathleen rummages through the devices. The device labels indicate they are commentaries on; The Gospels, Revelation, Job, and other Bible books.

KATHLEEN RAWAT (CONT'D)

What are these files? I have to read them.

INT: SPACECRAFT - MOVING - LIGHT

Kathleen is at a console.

JUDGE (V.O.)

Your claims and intentions and, so called, supporting information are meaningless. The prosecution is correct in stating, "the law is the law". You are guilty of breaking the law.

INT: SPACECRAFT - MOVING

A sullen Jones performs housekeeping task on a console. Kathleen approaches.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

Aaron, I watched your case. I was wrong to think you did something wrong.

AARON JONES

I'm a convicted felon. What are you supposed to think?

KATHLEEN RAWAT

Your lawyer quoted the Bible to show your spouse believed she had to be submissive to you. She got off with some mandatory education. You got 10 years in this.

AARON JONES

Yes.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

Why did your attorney do that to you?

AARON JONES

There was no sense in both of us being imprisoned. Our lawyer wasn't a believer. Our lawyer came up with the tactic. It worked.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

You must have loved her very much.

AARON JONES

I still do.

INT: G-CHAIR SECTION - MOVING

Kathleen and Jones are in *g*-chairs.

AUTOMATED VOICE

Normal deceleration has resumed.

Kathleen and Jones step out of their chairs.

EARTH DISPATCH CONTROL (V.O.)

Light Prisoner Jones, this is Earth Dispatch Control, acknowledge.

AARON JONES

I hear you.

EARTH DISPATCH CONTROL (V.O.)

Answer accepted as acknowledgement.

AARON JONES

Automated voice.

EARTH DISPATCH CONTROL (V.O.)

State condition of you and Passenger Kathleen Rawat.

AARON JONES

We're okay.

EARTH DISPATCH CONTROL (V.O.)

Answer accepted as in good physical and mental health. Passenger Kathleen Rawat, please confirm your status.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

I'm in good physical and mental health.

EARTH DISPATCH CONTROL (V.O.)

Light Prisoner Jones, upon exiting craft your sentence is complete. Your spouse is at port to greet you. Kathleen Rawat, you will be taken to you guardians in Nice, France. They sent their regrets they are unable to meet you at port.

Kathleen appears dejected.

AARON JONES

Kathleen, maybe they're planning for a welcome home celebration.

KATHLEEN RAWAT

Maybe. Aaron, can I keep in contact with you?

AARON JONES

Of course.

FADE OUT:

THE END