

TRAPPED IN THE VOID OF SPACE  
THE CHALLENGE IS TO SURVIVE YOUR FEARS

written by  
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# SUSPENDED FEAR

a mirror 2 mirror production

Suspended Fear  
Screenplay V3.0

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INT. SPACE FREIGHTER COCKPIT - NIGHT

Captain Jason O'Malley (a rugged, Irish-American man in his late 30s) is frantically trying to reach Rescue Control. Alarms are blaring and lights are flashing. He is sweating profusely and trying to keep his cool.

CAPTAIN JASON

(A little aggravated)

Rescue Control, this is Captain Jason O'Malley of the space freighter "Nightstalker SL-23-B". I need immediate assistance. I am en route from Space Station Titan to Carina Prime, 4.25 AUs from Marker Beacon-47. Can anyone hear me?

AI VOICE

(Calm)

Captain, I am the onboard backup Emergency Virtual Assistant neural network system, you can call me EVA for short, I was brought online after the primary control system failure. Would you like me to run full diagnostics of the system?

CAPTAIN JASON

Is the transmission going through? Is the nav data correct? Have we stopped drifting or are we still inertia drifting? Why don't I see any diagnostics on the fusion drive?

AI VOICE

No Captain. The primary subspace transmitter seems to be malfunctioning, but we are still receiving. I have verified the navigational telemetry via the secondary and tertiary navigational arrays with a 0.013% tolerance and we have come to a complete stop. The fusion drive has been damaged and is no longer operational.

CAPTAIN JASON

(A little more aggravated)

What do you mean "damaged?" Why isn't the fusion drive working? What happened to the secondary system? What's going on?!

(CONTINUED)

AI VOICE

Sensor telemetry shows that we were hit by a solar discharge. It has affected both primary and backup systems. However, emergency systems seem to be operational.

CAPTAIN JASON

(To self)

Why do I always take these damn solo runs!

AI VOICE

Your record states that you were insubordinate with your commander and I quote "not fit to be around humans", Captain.

CAPTAIN JASON

(Sarcastically)

OK, not what I meant, I guess sarcasm is lost on you. Can we send a transmission any other way? What about the laser array and why is my harness still engaged?

AI VOICE

I'm sorry, Captain. I have restrained your seat harness because a gravitational anomaly has been detected.

CAPTAIN JASON

(Surprised angry)

What gravitational anomaly?

AI VOICE

Meteorites, Captain. Inbound. Brace for impact!

Alarms go off again, and smoke begins to fill the cockpit. Captain Jason coughs and tries to wave off the smoke, pressing controls on the touch screen display.

CAPTAIN JASON

(Sarcastically)

Thanks for the heads up. Can we send a distress call? What's going on with the fusion drive?

AI VOICE

The fusion drive is still not operational, and diagnostics are pending. The laser array is currently offline. The distress

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AI VOICE (cont'd)  
call can be retransmitted on  
radio frequencies. Would you like  
me to retransmit it now?

CAPTAIN JASON  
(Angrily)  
Do it now!

AI VOICE  
Transmission sent, Captain. I  
have detected a loss in cabin  
pressure. Hull breach detected.

CAPTAIN JASON  
Why didn't you tell me about the  
hull breach earlier? Was the  
transmission received?

AI VOICE  
I'm sorry, Captain, there's no  
way to verify if the transmission  
has been received due to the  
extended transmission time delay.  
The hull breach was caused by a  
micro-meteor during the meteor  
shower.

CAPTAIN JASON  
What do you mean delay?! What's  
the atmosphere loss rate?

AI VOICE  
We are losing 0.1 kilopascals per  
second. The breathable atmosphere  
will be depleted in approximately  
17 minutes, Captain.

CAPTAIN JASON  
Damn! What can we do? When will  
the rescue be arriving?! We need  
to do something!

AI VOICE  
I am sorry Captain, but your  
distress transmission will reach  
the nearest relay station in 1.4  
years and the earliest time for a  
rescue response patrol may be  
expected in 1.6 years.

CAPTAIN JASON  
What! Why didn't you tell me that  
before! We need to do something.  
Fix the hull leak, get the fusion  
drive working or get me the  
subspace transmitter online! Do  
something damn it!

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AI VOICE

I am sorry Captain, I lack the resources to fix the hull or fusion drive. I may be able to reroute systems to fix the subspace transmitter. This could take approximately 74 hours. Captain the only way is to induce suspended hibernation deep stasis. 16 minutes of atmosphere remaining.

CAPTAIN JASON

Hell no! I'm not going under! Scratch that of the board! I'm not doing it! Find another way! Do it!

AI VOICE

I am sorry Captain, but there is no way of sustaining your vital activities after the oxygen has been depleted. The only way is to suspend your metabolism before you run out of air. I am unable to repair any other systems in time before your death.

CAPTAIN JASON

(Slowly breathing harder and heavier)

Now way! What if I don't wake up after such a long time or if I go crazy. Deep sleep psychoses or something like that they call it, I've heard those stories!

AI VOICE

Captain, the risk of deep sleep psychoses is low but possible. However, it is the only option available to increase the chance of survival until a rescue mission can arrive.

CAPTAIN JASON

Are you saying you can do it right? How do I know that?

AI VOICE

Yes Captain, in an emergency I'm able to carry out the procedures of suspended stasis safely. Cryo sleep is the only option for survival. There is only 2.75% chances of failure during deep stasis. The rescue team should be

(MORE)

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AI VOICE (cont'd)

able to resuscitate you when they arrive, 14 minutes remaining. I recommend that you follow my instructions to prepare for the induced deep sleep stasis. The steps are as follows: "Turn off all non essential systems, lay back and close your eyes, breathe deeply".

CAPTAIN JASON

Fine. Do it. Initiate the cryo sleep protocol. But if anything goes wrong... you better make damn sure I wake up!

AI VOICE

Understood, Captain. Initiating suspended hibernation protocol.

Captain Jason begins to drift off into a deep sleep as a display on shows a warning "WARNING FUSION DRIVE: RADIATION LEAK DETECTED", another warning flashes "SYSTEM DEGRADING" and a final message appears "INITIATE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES".

FADE TO OUT OF FOCUS AND TO BLACK