

EXT. NEW PLANET - DAWN

A new world. The oceans are pure as rain. The sky is full of clear clouds. The lands lush with green vegetation. The trees stand frail and young. Beasts walk the lands and birds fly the air.

The birds scatter as they give way to something incoming at intense speed. The clouds light up as a ball of flame rips through them. Two drones (SR-91 aurora and X47a) disintegrate in the atmosphere as they try to push through.

SPACE -

A ship, with a B2 bomber design, but assembled by several cylindrical pods, falls through the ionosphere and into the clouds, flaming as it does. The flames break apart into several little spots of flame as they tear through the atmosphere.

As it approaches the planet's surface, flaps are deployed to reduce speed. The ship crashes into the water, slowly ejects a tail and then swims, under water, towards the shore, like sperm ready to fertilize the planet. They surface near the beach, reach land and open up.

HISS---

The men and women open their eyes and step out onto land. They wear artificial skin, white with circuitry all over that checks their bio-signs. They mostly have white hair, some grey, and are in great shape.

The last pod arrives and a man step out. A general, he wears his dog tags, as do the others. The sun rises behind him as all the men move closer to their leader, awaiting their orders.

NINE YEARS EARLIER. YEAR 2053

INT. ZHAO RESIDENCE - DAY

A young woman, JENNY ZHAO, 31 but looks in her early 20's, single. A twin, silk dark hair with an intimidating appearance. Probably due to her being a replica of, and always playing the role of her ever absent titanic father. Always looking strong and calm. She sips coffee from a mug. She pulls up the morning papers on the touch screen kitchen table. She flips through them with her fingers like a real paper. She looks strong and calm.

The paper headline reads "OKINAWA JOINS HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI", implying the destruction caused by an earthquake.

JENNY

We're doomed.

DAMIEN ZHAO, Jenny's twin brother. He's more of a weaker version of his twin sister due to never having to be the man in the house, walks in, passes behind her to get coffee. He looks upset.

JENNY

Having problems with H.I.S again?

DAMIEN

One of these days---

JENNY

(interrupting Damien)

Here we go. Admit it. You love a little morning brawl with the computer. Probably to kick start your adrenaline.

Damien ignores her. He blows the hot coffee to cool it as he walks to the couch and sits.

DAMIEN

(to H.I.S)

T.V, On, News, All.

NEWS CASTER

---evacuation was incomplete before the earthquake hit. The seismic data center warns it's not over, but the AEIC suggests the worst is gone. The council is meeting today again, to discuss the condition of the planet. We also received information, last night, that a major eruption is expected in the early hours of tomorrow. The area is to be evacuated. We have inside sources claiming General Zhao will be overseeing the operations himself---

JENNY

Always looking for distractions since mum.

DAMIEN

It's not his mother refused the cellular regeneration treatments. She chose to leave.

JENNY

Some people see death as part of life.  
Rejecting life extension is not a  
crime.

Damien rolls his eyes, looking to change the topic.

DAMIEN

I know. It doesn't matter anyway. I'm  
going back home. Mike will be here soon.

JENNY

You never invite him in.

DAMIEN

On the contrary; he chose to stay  
outside these walls, and you know why.

Damien ties his wrist comm device (A personal assistant and  
communication device). He checks his schedule on it. He taps away  
at the screen. The car HONKS.

H.I.S

Major Thomas has arrived.

DAMIEN

I'm not deaf!  
(to Jenny)  
Later sis.

EXT. ZHAO'S RESIDENCE - DAY

Damien steps out of the house and heads for the car, zipping his  
bag. He gets in the car. MICHAEL THOMAS, 48 but looks in his 30's,  
blonde hair. He's been alone since he lost his entire family in  
the great war, but still manages to be a bit of a clown since  
free of responsibilities. "More than enough time" he always says  
to justify his bachelor lifestyle. Thomas looks at Damien.

DAMIEN

What's good?

THOMAS

Nothing. Just pure mayhem.

DAMIEN

Tell me about it.

THOMAS

Superdad taking off again?

DAMIEN

Hey, what's the cape for?

THOMAS

When you're right, you're right.

He takes a short breath, looking at the house briefly.

EXT/INT. THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER - DAY

Reporters swarm around the entrance of the building.

REPORTER 1

Roy. Got confirmation on the general's mission status?

REPORTER 2

No need. We all know he's going.

REPORTER 3

No, he's not. It won't be wise.

SENATOR KADAYA, 75 - looking in her late 30's but with silky grey hair and a childish, playful attitude despite her impeccable service record. She was in the intelligence game prior and during the war. She passes by the reporters, through to the lobby and stares a bit. She wears a coat over high heel boots, holding a motorcycle helmet.

REPORTER 1, 2 & 3

Morning, Senator.

Kadaya nods at them and walks up the stairs, through the lobby and to the elevator. She walks in and hits the top floor button. She comes out at the top floor and heads for the head councillors office.

INT. PALACE OF WESTMINSTER: RECKITT'S OFFICE - DAY

WILLIAM RECKITT, 130 but looks in his early 70's with full white hair. A world renowned British philosopher. A political genius and a perceptive man - very good at reading people. He sits at his desk. Kadaya heads straight for a cup of tea, throws her coat on a chair. They speak in a British accent.

KADAYA

Anything new?

RECKITT

Good morning to you too.

KADAYA

Sorry father. Good morning. What's new?

RECKITT  
The General wants to go to Chile.

KADAYA  
Why?

RECKITT  
He likes making the news I presume.

KADAYA  
Come on father, he's got a lot on his shoulders - he can't help it if the cameras can't get enough of him. His track record is impressive. Even I can't boast, half what he's got on file. Besides, I think he's probably getting bored.

She sips her cup of tea. Reckitt watches her. Kadaya sits on Reckitt's table, kicking her feet, watching the news on the projected screen.

RECKITT  
You are a grown woman, Kadaya, and a senator, a well-respected one. Try acting like it.

KADAYA  
I'll see what I can do.

She speaks with a care free attitude. Reckitt's phone rings and Kadaya gets off the table. Reckitt presses a button and a big screen appear on the table. Dr RICHARD STONE, 109 but looks in his 60's with full white hair, is on it. An American scientist. He lacks discipline, quite a cheeky fellow and a womanizer, but his genius mind ensures his seat on the head council table.

RECKITT  
Morning, Richard.

STONE  
Morning councillor.

KADAYA  
Morning Doctor Stone.

Stone's face lights up and a big smile appears on his face.

STONE  
Senator Kadaya. How are you today?

KADAYA  
I'm fine, Councillor.

STONE

But of course you are. Is anyone disputing that?

RECKITT

(interrupting Stone)  
Can I help you Councillor?

STONE

Straight to business. OK. We have more seismic activity around your areas. You might wanna alert your people to pay more attention.

RECKITT

Our scientists say it's nothing to worry about.

STONE

Your scientists are morons.

RECKITT

I'll let them know.

STONE

About the seismic data, or that I think they are morons?

KADAYA

We'll only have to tell them one. They'll figure out the other part.

STONE

Good, good. Business number two - we'd like to have your opinion on a matter. Hologram please.

Reckitt taps on the table screen. A hologram generator attached to the ceiling lights up, and a hologram of Doctor Stone's office pops up to cover a quarter of the round office.

GENERAL SAM ANDREW ZHAO, 80 but looks in his 40's, overly serious and pretty looking guy with full white hair and bright blue eyes. Very intimidating and strong guy, always away on duty, leaving his family behind, walks into the image parameter, wearing his field gear, ready for Lascar.

RECKITT

General. I see you're taking Lascar seriously.

SAM ZHAO

The job won't take long sir.

KADAYA  
Father, I have work to do.  
Excuse me.

Kadaya heads for the door and walks out of the room.

STONE  
She's something---

Reckitt interrupt Stone again, speaking to Sam.

RECKITT  
- you can't go. Sorry but nothing is  
certain, lately. Your men can handle  
the evacuations.

SAM ZHAO  
They're already briefed and ready to  
go.

RECKITT  
Re-brief them. Take the day off. Get  
some rest. We have no one else to call  
on in times of trouble.

SAM ZHAO  
Very well sir.

The general exits the hologram image of Stone's office.

STONE  
What a guy. I reckon he's getting bored.

RECKITT  
I know. So what's our situation right  
now?

STONE  
Not good. We've got activity  
everywhere, the plates are unstable,  
and nothing works. We did some real  
damage with that war - off planet might  
be our eventual option.

RECKITT  
We don't have the energy requirements  
for interstellar travel. Think of  
something else.

The room is silent for a second.

RECKITT  
Spoke to Zhao?

STONE  
Not yet. Needed your opinion about  
something first.

Stone sits in his chair slowly, staring at Reckitt. He rubs his  
very short beard with the back of his hand.

STONE  
We're getting a huge reading.

Reckitt is concerned about Stone's last statement. He leans back  
in his chair.

RECKITT  
How big?

STONE  
Massive.

RECKITT  
How long do we have?

Reckitt appears nervous. Stone stares at him, looking a little  
confused. Suddenly, his face lights up in understanding, and then  
laughs.

STONE  
No. It's not the planet.  
You should have seen your face.

RECKITT  
For God's sake, don't play games like  
this, Richard. This is not the time.

STONE  
(still chuckling)  
OK. I'll do my best to be boring too.  
We picked up a massive energy reading  
somewhere around the moon's orbit.

Reckitt squints, appears confused.

STONE  
Don't worry. We are baffled too. You  
should see this thing. I'm sending you  
pictures now.

The pictures pop up on Reckitt's table screen.

STONE  
That is one impressive phenomenon.  
Whoever owns that thing---

Reckitt looks up at Stone. Looking shocked.

RECKITT

Owns?

STONE

Yes. It just appeared out of nowhere about two days ago. Our satellites around the area are going crazy due to its presence. We don't understand what we're seeing; all we know is that it's moving. And this is the beautiful part - it's moving so fast, we can't see it move. And the energy level is infinite.

RECKITT

How many people know about this?

STONE

My personal team alone. For now.

RECKITT

Good. Keep it that way.

Reckitt taps away at the screen on his table. He sends the data to the third member of the high council. The leader of the three.

STONE

We have a probe ready to go. Let me know when to launch.

The hologram shuts off. Reckitt looks at the picture closer. The entity throws huge wave rings of energy out from the center with each pulse.

INT. CAPITOL HILL - DAY

The general walks smartly through the lobby towards the exit, tapping at his wrist device. Everyone greets him and give way. He ignores them, holds up his wrist and speaks.

SAM ZHAO

Sarah. Prepare a list of previous objectives.

SARAH (O.S.)

Lascar?

SAM ZHAO

Not approved. Contact the men. Back to the drawing board. Let Dalgano know to meet me there.

SARAH (O.S.)  
New commander for Lascar?

SAM ZHAO  
It's a surprise he's not gonna like.

Sam hangs up and heads for the exit. Other soldiers join and escort him across the lobby. A very attentive man catches up with them, Cantonna, 68 but looks in his 30's, absolutely brilliant guy, Dr Stone's protege, and a great fan of Sam.

DR. CANTONNA  
General. My apologies. We have something for you.

Sam looks at him, intensely. The man's eyes, wide open like a child, absorbing every detail. Not intimidated by Sam's shadowing presence.

SAM ZHAO  
(to soldiers)  
Carry on to the car.

SOLDIERS  
Yes sir.

The soldiers move on to the exit, towards the car. Cantonna stares at him with respect in his eyes, and a smile on his face. Cantonna hands the general the file.

DR. CANTONNA  
Here. Data included. Very interesting stuff, I guarantee you. Let us know what your thoughts are.

Sam takes the file, stares at him briefly without an expression, turns to the exit. Cantonna calls after him.

DR. CANTONNA  
We also sent a prototype of the latest in military fashion. You're going to love it, I assure you.

Sam ignores him and heads for the car.

INT. SAM ZHAO'S CAR - DAY

Sam sits in the back, flips through the file Cantonna gave to him. He squints hard in disbelief, flips through the flexible screen as each page slides on with his finger.

He receives a call on the communication screen. He puts the file in hiding from the caller and accepts the call. Sophie appears on the screen. They speak mandarin.

SAM ZHAO

Mother.

SOPHIE

I haven't seen you in a while.

SAM ZHAO

Been too busy, mother. I apologize.  
I'll schedule a visit soon.

SOPHIE

No need. I'm calling a meeting of the council a week from now. I'll be there to see you, your children, and a Major.

SAM ZHAO

Major?

SOPHIE

In time, son.

The councillor terminates the call. The general's screen displays "CALL TERMINATED". Sam squeezes his face thinking hard, where a Major could fit in anything. His car pulls over at the pentagon. He steps out and heads in.

INT. SAM ZHAO'S OFFICE - DAY

Sam walks into his office and throws the file on his desk. The desk screen turns on and copies the file to the office computer. He closes the file and leaves the room.

INT. PENTAGON BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Sam walks into the briefing room. Everyone stands and salutes him.

SAM ZHAO

At ease, gentlemen. We have a change of plans - Colonel Dalgano will be leading the operation to Lascar. Apparently, I'm in need of a long overdue nap.

The soldiers laugh.

SAM ZHAO (CONT'D)

This is an evacuation operation, not a rescue, you shouldn't have many problems. Nevertheless, stay sharp - time is the only enemy we have. Have a safe trip gentlemen.

He steps off the pedestal and exits the room. The men get up and salute him.

INT. PENTAGON - CORRIDOR. DAY.

He walks down the corridor to his office. Colonel Dalgano comes along. He is a big black guy, over six feet tall. He speaks in a very deep voice.

COLONEL DALGANO

Sir.

SAM ZHAO

I know. Sarah and I already had this conversation on your behalf - it ends something like this. "Sorry colonel. Orders came from above." I was already geared up to go, but I was told to give the job to someone I can trust.

COLONEL DALGANO

Sir, I -

SAM ZHAO

- according to the data, things could get bad while on the ground. Get the job done and pick any assignment you want.

COLONEL DALGANO

Thank you, general.

Dalgano runs back to the briefing room.

INT. SAM ZHAO'S OFFICE - DAY

The general enters his office. Kadaya sits in his chair, legs crossed, with the file open on his desk screen, while she watches the news. The general heads for the water dispenser in his office for a drink.

SAM ZHAO

That's classified.

KADAYA

It's OK. I got my own copy.

She keeps her gaze on the screen. She's very focused.

KADAYA

What do you think they'll do if it gets out.

SAM ZHAO

No need hiding it. We can trust them to be civilized.

Kadaya looks at the general briefly, turns back to the screen.

KADAYA

Our council still argue blindly. The end of war and transition from separation doesn't prove anything.

KADAYA (CONT'D)

We require a mental upgrade to be civilized.

Sam walks to the window and looks out, not minding Kadaya's doubt. He squints his face as he looks around thinking about things.

SAM ZHAO

A little over six million people left on the planet. They'll evolve into it. All we need is time.

KADAYA

Time we don't have.

Sam walks to the desk and points to the picture of the entity.

SAM ZHAO

That may solve our problem.

KADAYA

You know what it is.

Sam ignores her and drinks from his cup. Kadaya waits for more information from him. The general says nothing.

KADAYA

Well?

SAM ZHAO

What are you doing in my office?

KADAYA

Came to see if you are indeed resting.  
Tell me what I need to know.

SAM ZHAO

That reminds me. It's time for my nap.

KADAYA

Fine. I've got a little Major I need  
to keep an eye on, anyway.

Kadaya, aware that Sam desires the information, gets up from the  
chair and heads for the door.

SAM ZHAO

Alright. You win. I think it's a  
space-timemanipulation device of some  
kind. The probe will tell us more in  
about a week. So--- Who's the Major?

KADAYA

How's Jenny doing? She's grown up fast.  
Look at the time. 2:30 al---

Sam interrupts Kadaya. He pushes a button on his phone.

SAM ZHAO

- Sarah! Get Jenny on the phone.

Kadaya giggles and leaves the office.

SARAH (O.S.)

I assume you've heard.

SAM ZHAO

Sarah! (interrupting her)

SARAH (O.S.)

Dialing sir.

Phone rings. Jenny picks up.

JENNY (O.S.)

Hello.

SAM ZHAO

Honey. How is your day going?

JENNY (O.S.)

Good. Arrived at Lascar yet?

SAM ZHAO

Lascar got cancelled. Lunch?

JENNY (O.S.)  
Now? I'm in the middle of something.

SAM ZHAO  
I'm a busy man. We might not get the chance again. Come on. Just tell me where you are.

The line is silent for a while as Sam wait for a response attentively.

SAM ZHAO  
Jenny?

JENNY (O.S.)  
Cabrianna.

SAM ZHAO  
I'll be there in a second, Okay?

The line goes dead. Sam picks up his comm device and locks his computer.

SAM ZHAO  
Sarah, hold my schedule for an hour. And get the car ready. I'll be back in no time at all.

SARAH (O.S.)  
She's gonna hate you, sir.

SAM ZHAO  
She'll get over it.

Sam heads out of the office.

INT. RESTAURANTE CABRIANNA - DAY

Jenny sits at a reserved table near the window. She throws her comm device on the table. She has been waiting for thirty minutes. She's getting upset as her day is not going well. The Major walks up behind her.

THOMAS  
Ordered anything yet?

Jenny turns round; ready to bite his head off. The Major is in his official uniform, looking neat. She is speechless. Thomas walks around the table and sits opposite Jenny, picks a bread stick from the appetizer stand and eats it. He appears to be very calm and in control. Jenny looking puzzled.

THOMAS

Why are you looking at me like that?  
Say something.

JENNY

Nice uniform.

THOMAS

Thanks. I was gonna wear my combat gear  
and prepare for the worst. But then I  
thought, it doesn't have to be war. Does  
it?

Jenny is silent for a while, still looking at Thomas, thinking  
he has no clue her father is on the way.

JENNY

No it doesn't. Let's order.

THOMAS

You should probably go first. You're  
about to witness why Ellsworth air  
force base mess hall is always coming  
short.

He signals the waitress. The waitress walks to them.

THOMAS

Start with her.

JENNY

I'll have the confit fillet of organic  
salmon with tomatoes, olives,  
cucumbers. Jersey royal potatoes and  
salsa, verde creme fraiche.

WAITRESS

Nice choice. And you sir?

THOMAS

Give me a plate of all three main menus  
and a double cheese burger from across  
the street, if it's not too much to ask.  
Thank you.

Thomas is being very polite. The waitress stands there for a moment,  
shocked.

THOMAS

We're expecting company.

The waitress looks relieved. She walks away smiling.

JENNY

Company?

THOMAS

Yeah. The fish is for the General.  
Everything else is for moi.

Jenny appears confused.

JENNY

You're talking about my father, right?

THOMAS

You should try the bread. It's nice.

JENNY

I'm confused. What's going on?

THOMAS

I don't know much. We'll call the lady  
with the master plan after all this is  
over.

JENNY

The what? Who?

THOMAS

Your grandmother. Something about  
getting your father off the treadmill  
for a while. She said, and I quote, "call  
me when the General is done with your  
head."

JENNY

OK. This is gonna be a hell of a day.

THOMAS

Tell me about it.

Thomas stares at her. She's looking beautiful as she stares out  
the window. She's not happy her lunch has been turned into a therapy  
session.

THOMAS

Can I ask you something?

JENNY

What? You wanna eat my food too?

Jenny, still looking out the window, ignores Thomas. Thomas laughs  
a little.

THOMAS

No. It'll be nicer if you don't starve to death. I was gonna ask. Can we do this for real sometime soon - if that's OK with you?

Jenny smiles, gazes at him with interest. She's happy Thomas is really interested in her.

JENNY

That would be nice.

Thomas smiles back and holds her hand across the table.

THOMAS

Your father will be here any minute now. I'm not a chicken or anything, but I don't think there are enough witnesses to prevent him from blowing me away and covering it up.

Jenny laughs. Thomas gets up from his seat.

JENNY

Where are you going?

THOMAS

Like I said. I need to go take a leak. Let me know when this place gets a little crowded.

JENNY

Chicken.

THOMAS

Yeah, whatever. It's our first date. I'm not ready to die for you yet.

Jenny laughs, watches him with interest as he walks away. She's happy. The waitress brings a couple of plates to the table.

WAITRESS

Quite an appetite your boyfriend has.

JENNY

Oh, he's not my boyfriend. We're just having lunch.

WAITRESS

Wanna bet? With the way you lit up just now? Don't waste your time, honey.

They both smile. The waitress appears shocked, stands with her mouth open, looking at the entrance.

JENNY

What?

Jenny follows her gaze, turns back right away. Sam, dressed in his combat uniform, stands at the entrance.

JENNY

Here we go.

The waitress moves quickly towards the general with a big smile on her face. The restaurant manager intercepts her and sends her off to the kitchen.

MANAGER

Afternoon general. Welcome to the Cabrianna. We're honoured to have you.

SAM ZHAO

Thank you ma'am. I'm here to meet a lovely young woman.

Sam looks around for Jenny. The manager checks her comm device for reservations.

MANAGER

I apologize. We have no reservation under the name of Zhao...

Sam spots Thomas exiting the gents.

SAM ZHAO

Never mind. Thank you.

The manager bows and leaves. Thomas spots the general and changes course to meet him, saluting upon arrival. Sam salutes back.

SAM ZHAO

At ease.

THOMAS

General. We've been expecting you, sir. This way, sir.

Both men walk to the table where Jenny is waiting. Sam tries to get the Major to loosen up.

SAM ZHAO

You don't have to call me sir.

THOMAS  
I'd rather do sir.

SAM ZHAO  
How long has this been going on, Major?

THOMAS  
First, sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Do you know what broken legs feel like,  
soldier? Lie to me again.

Sam speaks firmly with no facial expression at all.

THOMAS  
I've broken them a couple of times sir.  
It won't be a new experience... Sir.

Sam growls quietly at the back of his throat as they arrive at  
the table.

SAM ZHAO  
Hello Jen. How's your day going so far?

JENNY  
I'm having lunch with a friend and you  
crashed it. What do you think?

The waitress shows up with the other dish.

THOMAS  
Thank you miss.

WAITRESS  
Your cheese burger will be over in a  
minute.

THOMAS  
Thanks, miss...

WAITRESS  
It's Laura.

Sam looks at Thomas wondering how a fit soldier could eat so much.  
Thomas catches him staring.

THOMAS  
High metabolism sir. The burger is a  
take away, and the second fish is for  
you, sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Good. Let's eat.

Sam's wrist comm device beeps. He checks it quickly.

SAM ZHAO  
Duty calls.

JENNY  
(sarcastically)  
There it is! Can't say I'm sorry.

SAM ZHAO  
Don't be dramatic. People are dying.  
Sorry I have to go.  
(to Thomas)  
Major. You're coming with me. We need  
to test those legs.

THOMAS  
Yes, sir.

Both men stand up. Jenny throws her hands up in protest.

JENNY  
What? Wait! I thought we we're having  
lunch?

THOMAS  
It's OK. I'll call you soon.

Thomas touches her shoulder briefly then follows Sam.

EXT. LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE - DAY

The car pulls over near the landing strip. Both men get down from the car. They are met by squadron leader Taggart. The young soldier salutes the general. Sam nods in response.

SAM ZHAO  
We're ready to fly?

TAGGART  
Seven planes, loaded, waiting for your  
command, sir.

SAM ZHAO  
I'm taking Hungary. The Major is  
mopping up Cyprus. Move out.

Thomas and Sam head for their cargo craft. Kadaya catches up with the Sam, wearing field gear. They keep walking.

KADAYA  
Have room for one more?

SAM ZHAO  
Sure. You can strap yourself to the  
landing gear.

KADAYA  
Funny. I see you brought your homework  
with you. Throwing him to the sharks  
are we?

SAM ZHAO  
Sharks gotta eat too, right?

KADAYA  
He can handle it.

SAM ZHAO  
Wanna bet?

KADAYA  
I'll take it. I win, we spar.

SAM ZHAO  
I don't have the time.

KADAYA  
Take the bet. You've got nothing to  
lose.

Sam ignores her. They climb in the rear of the massive cargo craft.

INT. PLANE. DAY.

They both take their seats, strap in while the plane heads for  
the runway. Kadaya stares at him, smiling excessively. Sam turns  
away.

SAM ZHAO  
Fine. Drop it.

Kadaya smiles and looks away, imagining the thrill.

INT. COUNCIL HALL: MOROCCO - DAY

The ancient architecture is vast. The high council's seats are  
surrounded by the council member's seat like half a stadium. They  
argue about the failure of the scientists to predict the disasters  
in Europe.

SOPHIE

Things are getting worse. We need to conceive new ideas in approaching this. Fortunately, we may have been offered a way out.

Sophie taps the screen on her table. The data report regarding the entity appears on everyone's screen. The councillors whisper - "What is this" from those who don't understand, "it can't be" from those who do.

As Sophie sits, Stone stands up to explain.

STONE

Silence.

The hall obeys as everyone pays attention.

STONE

An opportunity has presented itself to solve our problem, if we have what it takes to use it.

SPACE - WITHIN THE ENTITY

A screen shows Stone explaining the phenomenon. The screen is surrounded by a blurry mist. A humanoid figure walks past screen.

STONE (V.O.)

The entity has some rather interesting properties. And when I say interesting, do not underestimate the potency of that word. First, the part we are interested in. The energy readings.

COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD (V.O.)

Energy is not our current need. Fixing this planet is. I fail to see how a ball of energy in space will do that.

INT. COUNCIL HALL: MOROCCO - DAY

RECKITT

The head council has concluded, repairing this planet is not feasible anymore.

COUNCILLOR CORNELIUS

We don't understand.

RECKITT

The rate at which the planet is deteriorating, measured against our attempts to reverse the process, marks the effort as futile. In two years, we'll probably be dealing with disasters every day. There's no point trying to fix it. We need to get off this planet.

The hall explodes in protest as the parliament turn against the head council.

COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD

That's not possible! We have been working for the better part of the decade trying to fix this planet! We may be close.

STONE

We're not. We're talking about a cataclysm here. This might be our only chance. We wouldn't bring it to you if there were other options.

COUNCILLOR NARAYAN

And how do we accomplish this?

STONE

Orion is equipped with the FTL prototype. We just can't meet the energy requirements to test it. The entity can provide the power we need.

COUNCILLOR ODUWA

FTL can't guarantee we'll find a planet that can sustain our life form.

STONE

No. But it increases our chances of survival. We need to look into this. It's worth it.

COUNCILLOR TRUMAK

Fine. How?

STONE

We have a probe at the institute, ready for take-off. Only your vote is required.

SOPHIE

We vote now.

All the council men turn to their screens to vote. The hall interactive system (H.I.S) calls the council member's name and their vote, randomly, as they touch the screen.

H.I.S  
Councillor Reckitt votes yes.  
Councillor Stone votes yes. Councillor  
Zhao votes yes. Vote unanimous. Probe  
launch approved. Probe launches in  
Ten.. nine.. eight...

EXT. LAUNCH STATION - NIGHT

A small rocket launches off. In mere seconds, it tears through the clouds and continues to gain speed.

INT. COUNCIL HALL: MOROCCO - DAY

H.I.S  
Probe launch successful. Probe will  
reach destination in T minus 35  
minutes...

The council whispers, discussing the possibilities ahead, while some explain the data presented to the others. The computer continues to count the time.

CUT

H.I.S  
Probe at destination.

The hall goes silent as they all settle down. They pay attention to H.I.S for analysis result.

H.I.S  
Collecting data.. Streaming data..  
Data stream error.. Data stream  
error..

The council starts mumbling. Doctor Stone taps his screen a few times to identify the problem.

STONE  
Run probe systems diagnostics.

(waiting)

H.I.S

Error.. Satellite link to probe systems, lost..

STONE  
Boost signal strength.

(waiting)

H.I.S  
Error.. Probe missing.

The councillors start mumbling again.

SOPHIE  
Could it have been damaged?

STONE  
I don't know! I don't think so... The satellite can't detect the probe. The entity must be shielding it.

RECKITT  
How do we fix it?

STONE  
It's not a system malfunction. For some reason, we lost access to the probe. Someone will have to go up there and get it.

COUNCILLOR CORNELIUS  
Are you joking? Look at the readings on that thing. The probe probably got fried by radiation of some kind.

STONE  
We can sit here and keep arguing, or go get the probe. Our best chance of survival is up there. We need that data.

COUNCILLOR CORNELIUS  
Who will risk going up there?

Everyone in the hall turns their gaze to where Sam is sitting. Sam is aware he is their first choice. He stares at his screen, contemplating the possible risks and how to approach the problem. He looks up at the hall, all staring back at him. He stands up.

SAM ZHAO  
Prepare Orion. Set mission for 21:00 hours.

He heads for the exit.

H.I.S  
Mission installed.. Orders delivered  
to appropriate departments..

SOPHIE  
We owe you too much, General. Thank you.

Sam nods gently avoiding eye contact with his mother, heads for the exit.

EXT. COUNCIL HALL: MOROCCO - DAY

Sam walks to his small private plane and climbs in. The pilot salutes. The general pats his shoulder.

SAM ZHAO  
Harry. Looks like we're going to space.

HARRY  
Sir?

SAM ZHAO  
Relax. I'm going alone. Unless you feel  
like holding my hand to my doom.

The pilot presses buttons and prepares the craft for take-off.

HARRY  
I don't love you that much, sir.

Sam straps himself in.

SAM ZHAO  
I figured. Let's go. I have a few hours  
to prepare.

HARRY  
Sir. Looks like our flight is being  
delayed.

Sam looks out of the window. He sees a group of soldiers coming towards the plane. One of them climbs in the plane while the others wait outside. He salutes at arrival.

SOLDIER  
Sir. You have been requested on the  
floor sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Problem?

SOLDIER  
We don't know sir. But it's urgent.

Sam gets off the plane, heads for the council building, led by the soldiers.

INT. COUNCIL HALL: MOROCCO - DAY

The soldiers walk ahead of the general. They open the massive wooden doors as Sam walks through. Everyone turns to him then back to the center of the room.

Sam slows his steps as he walks to the center of the hall to see two humanoid figures standing at the center of the hall.

Both their heads turn 180 degrees to watch Sam coming behind them. The general, staring in their much larger eyes with massive pupils, shows no fear.

SAM ZHAO

To what do we owe this honour?

RECKITT

We are being offered help.

SAM ZHAO

Why?

ALIEN 1

You still have difficulty trusting.

SAM ZHAO

Old habits die hard.

ALIEN 2

It probably won't for you, Sam.

Sam is uncomfortable with their response and knowledge of him.

SOPHIE

They appeared out of nowhere and asked for you.

Before Sam could ask the next question, the visitors respond. They seem to be able to read his mind.

ALIEN 2

From your previous destination. Through the fourth dimension - and you are important.

SAM ZHAO

Important.

ALIEN 1

It's a matter of choice.

ALIEN 2

Nothing else matters, other than who we are and what we have to offer.

The aliens turn away from Sam, facing the hall.

ALIEN 1

We come from one of the children of the star Sargas, to document the rebirth of this planet. We have been watching - your evolutionary process has suffered a lot of collision along the way during your metamorphosis, and you have fought hard to retain your humanity.

ALIEN 2

You have succeeded in transcending violence and separation. Many other species across the galaxy failed to accomplish what you have, with less hardship than you have had to endure. Unfortunately, you have broken this world in the process and you have not advanced your technology enough to solve the catastrophic problems you are facing.

ALIEN 1

That is why we have decided - you may have earned what it takes to live in a multi species society, although it will not be as easy as you might think. But you will understand the requirements.

SAM ZHAO

You speak of meeting and joining other worlds.

ALIEN 2

It is a rite of passage.

ALIEN 1

Every self-aware species goes through the process.

ALIEN 2

However, you will need to complete a task along your way to your new home.

STONE

Anything.

ALIEN 2

You will be tasked with seeding a planet  
on your way to the new world.

RECKITT

Seeding?

ALIEN 2

Yes. The same was asked of us. It will  
also be a second chance for you to make  
it to the grand colonies. Your arrival  
to the new galaxy might spark an  
imbalance in the system if you fail to  
evolve fast enough to fit in.

ALIEN 1

Your seed will ensure your species do  
not perish with your failure.

SAM ZHAO

Perish?

ALIEN 2

If you are becoming a problem to the  
balance, you may be removed.

KADAYA

Removed?

ALIEN 1

Sent away. But we have faith in your  
kind - we chose this specific planet.  
One of your neighbors there is at the  
next stage, they can guide you forward  
so you do not have to start over.

STONE

How do we make this journey?

ALIEN 1

All will be revealed. Do we have an  
agreement?

The head council thinks about it for a moment and agrees.

RECKITT

Yes.

SOPHIE

Yes.

STONE

Yes.

The aliens turn to Sam, waiting for his answer.

ALIEN 2

Sam Andrew Zhao. Do you consent?

Sam hesitates, reluctant to agree so easily with complete strangers. Finally...

SAM ZHAO

Yes.

ALIEN 1

It begins.

SAM ZHAO

What now? Do we get new power systems for our FTL engines?

ALIEN 1

No. Your ships cannot survive the trip. FTL drive will take forever - you will need a new vessel.

STONE

New ships? The planet cannot sustain us long enough to build new ships.

ALIEN 1

You are right - even if we give you the schematics to build the ship required for a hard journey like the one you're about to embark, you will not be able to complete the task before the planet reaches a critical deterioration point. Besides, some base elements unknown to your world are required. Because of this, we have already assigned the task to the Gellac.

KADAYA

Gellac?

ALIEN 1

A race of beings in the Sombrero galaxy. A hybrid race.

ALIEN 2

The vessel will be here in 406 days. Gather your dearest items, you will need them to keep you at home on your journey. Everything else will be provided.

ALIEN 1

One last thing we will need to demand of you. Stay away from our vessel. It is dangerous - for everyone.

SAM ZHAO

Understood.

STONE

Can we have our probe back?

The aliens turn to Stone.

ALIEN 1

Longitude 11.75, Latitude -1. We must leave now. We will be back to witness your departure.

SOPHIE ZHAO

Thank you.

The aliens fade out like a mirage right in the middle of the hall. Sam taps his wrist comm device and speaks.

SAM ZHAO

Go fetch the probe. Transport it to the fringe science institute.

SOLDIER (O.S.)

Yes sir.

Sam puts his wrist comm away and turns to the head council.

SAM ZHAO

What now?

RECKITT

We'll wait for the probe. The head council will discuss this. We're done here.

The hall empties out as the council members discuss what happened. Sam walks up to his adopted mother. Sophie holds the general by his shoulders. There is pride in her eyes. A great leader in the making. They head for the exit.

SOPHIE

You shouldn't risk so much for us.

SAM ZHAO

We have fought too hard and too long  
to let it end like this. We deserve  
better.

Sophie nods while staring at Sam with a smile on her face.

SOPHIE

Can you believe it? This same  
civilization of ours has done it all.  
From economic warfare, to outright  
war, and yet we didn't turn out as  
animals.

Sam keeps his gaze on her as she wanders off in thoughts for a  
short moment.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

An open mind is a gift. Discard the fear  
and ego, and the mind is divine.  
Remember that son.

Sam nods. His mother look at him with love, kisses his cheek,  
heads for her plane.

INT. FRINGE SCIENCE INSTITUTE - DARK

WEEKS LATER

Doctor Stone walks along the corridors. Several other excited  
scientists walk with him, trying to keep up. One of the scientists  
approaches Stone. He scratches his bald head and shift his glasses.

SCIENTIST 1

--- this is remarkable. The findings  
are overwhelming!

SCIENTIST 2

The probe has been there for a while  
sir.

SCIENTIST 1

By a while he means four thousand  
years...

SCIENTIST 2

We were lucky to find it. The power cells  
have been depleted, as you can imagine.

SCIENTIST 1

It had been buried in the mountain the local tribe worshipped. According to their legends, a fire spear fell from the heavens and landed in the mountains thousands of years ago. That was why we checked it out.

SCIENTIST 2

And the data. Tell him about the data.

SCIENTIST 1

If this data is correct -

Stone stops immediately, scaring the scientists.

STONE

- Hand it over and stop acting like a couple of kids at Christmas.

SCIENTIST 1

Here sir.

The scientist hand him the tablet. He takes a look at it, slides through with his finger aggressively.

STONE

That's impossible!

SCIENTIST 1

Yes sir. Everyone is really freaking out. Nobody should go near that thing, they could end up rewriting existence.

Stone is disgusted by the statement. He hides his feelings by turning away.

STONE

Thank you. I'll take the findings to the head council.

SCIENTIST 2

Yes sir.

Stone walks away to his office.

INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY: RECKITT'S OFFICE - DAY

Stone's hologram displays an image of the entity. He holds the image and stretches it, the image enlarges. Reckitt leans forward on his chair, looks at the pulsing, glowing blob.

RECKITT

What is that?

STONE

An act of God. All I can tell you is that everything can be rewritten in there without any consequences, just as we want it to be. All our problems... will never have existed.

RECKITT

They can solve our problems?

STONE

Without breaking a sweat.

RECKITT

Let me guess. You want to know why they chose to send us away.

Stone rubs his face, looking disappointed. Reckitt shows no interest in the new discovery.

STONE

William. Look at that.

RECKITT

I did. Graceful, some will say. But we just got offered membership to the club, a rare offer, and our best minds are already scheming. Come on, Richard, hold the curiosity and let your humanity suffice!!

Stone walks to his desk and lean over it, he laughs a little.

STONE

Tantalus.

RECKITT

What?

STONE

Nothing. It's just---

He turns around and sits on the edge of his desk, looks up at the ceiling.

STONE (CONT'D)

A certain brilliant mind once tried to open new doors by proposing the world was round. Do you remember what happened to him?

RECKITT

Yes. I admit we ran into walls a couple of times. What child wouldn't?

STONE

WE'RE NOT CHILDREN ANYMORE!!

Stone yells in anger. He calms down.

STONE

William, this is too big to ignore.

RECKITT

You think I've not thought about this?

Reckitt taps his communication device and calls Sophie . He transfers it to hologram as a conference call. Sophie's office hologram joins the meeting. The offices are identical in shape and size, except the desk location for the three offices are different to form a circle when in conference or hologram meetings.

RECKITT

We need a quick meeting. Doctor Stone has some concerns.

SOPHIE

I know. I already requested a council meeting to discuss the probe. You'll get your chance.

RECKITT

When?

SOPHIE

Two days. Or would you prefer to discuss it now, doctor.

Stone hesitates.

STONE

It can wait.

SOPHIE

Send me the full report on the findings.

Stone lean on his table and taps the screen a few times. Immediately, Zhao's desk receive the file.

STONE

Done.

SOPHIE

Thank you, councilmen.

Zhao's hologram shuts off as she leans over her communication device to terminate conference call. Stone does the same.

INT. COUNCIL HALL: WASHINGTON D.C - DAY

Stone stands in the center, trying to sway the council to reason with him.

STONE

---We found it in the mountains in central Africa. The probe is about four thousand years old.

COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD

What probe?

STONE

Same.

KADAYA

Time travel properties.

STONE

That's only the icing on the cake. Remember, the energy was our concern. I apologize, it was due to my limited perception, we were aware it was moving but couldn't calculate the velocity. Now, we can confirm it's in another galaxy, probably multiple, simultaneously.

COUNCILLOR CORNELIUS

Tachyon properties.

STONE

Catching on fast. Well done. There's more. I believe you all know what a wormhole is.

KADAYA

Tunnel between bent space-time.

STONE

Yes. Well, this is not a wormhole per say, it's more of a - hydra.

KADAYA

Hydra?

STONE

Multiple wormholes originating from the same point, at the same time, thereby allowing existence in many places at that same time. And they are one entity. In other words, it's four dimensional.

The council members turn to each other in confusion. Stone waits for a response from the council, showing amazement.

COUNCILLOR NARAYAN

What does that mean?

STONE

Most of my people almost lost it when they saw the data.

SAM ZHAO

It means omnipresence. It's physically impossible as far as we know.

STONE

Exactly. It is an impossible phenomenon. We couldn't accept it either, until we started looking at things from higher dimensions. It is very... elegant.

COUNCILLOR ODUWA

I'm sure it is. But how does that concern the council?

Stone rolls his eyes in frustration.

STONE

I'll try and make this as simple as possible. What we know about time-line, in theory, is that if we meddle with the past, the future outcome becomes unpredictable, due to the ripple effects we cannot control. With that thing, they can change anything in the past and control the ripple effects through space-time simultaneously, inherently achieving the desired results all through time. That means our problems can be taken away without us going anywhere.

COUNCILLOR ODUWA

Why don't they just do that?

SAM ZHAO  
That's why we're here.

COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD  
I see. Why won't they help us?

STONE  
The question is why would they want us to leave?

COUNCILLOR TRUMAK  
Like they said - to seed the other planet and join a galactic colony while they revive this one.

STONE  
They don't need us to seed anything - they can fix this planet without us even knowing it, and we can join or form a colony here.

COUNCILLOR YU  
It could be a test.

STONE  
It could be a ruse.

KADAYA  
Beings that advanced don't need to deceive - if they want our home, they'll take it.

STONE  
Why make the effort? The planet is about to do the job - time is all we have to work with. Their offer takes that off the table.

COUNCILLOR CORNELIUS  
That is not definite. We can trust them.

Stone laughs calmly.

STONE  
If history has taught us anything, it's that the big boy always wants the little boy's lunch money - and he takes it by squashing the little one.

The hall is silent for a moment.

COUNCIL MAN 7  
What do you propose, Doctor Stone?

STONE

We need an alternative plan, just for back up. We need the energy source for our FTL drive, or we can rewrite our fate.

KADAYA

This is some kind of joke, right?

The hall fails to support Kadaya's protest as she looks around for backing.

KADAYA

You can't be seriously considering this - we were specifically told to stay away. Besides, no one is qualified to go near that thing.

COUNCILLOR CORNELIUS

It's a backup plan - the offer is questionable, considering what we now know. We need a plan to fall back on, just in case.

KADAYA

Bollocks! They could retract their offer if they find us there!

STONE

They should understand we are desperate, and with our history, we can't trust our lives on the words of a stranger.

Kadaya is appalled. In frustration, she turns to her father.

KADAYA

Father, I urge you. Put an end to this.

The hall erupts against Kadaya's attempt to sway the head council's decision by blood. Sophie raises her hand and the hall goes silent.

SOPHIE

Contingent. We have too much to lose with the wrong decision. We need the FTL systems, but the energy source is placed out of reach. If we disobey, we may lose the helping hand, and our fate will lie on those FTL drives. Nevertheless, the plan depends on the success of attaining the energy source, which cannot be guaranteed.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

If we fail we will have no FTL systems and we will probably lose the offer - and that doesn't even consider the dangers of tampering with time. That is too much risk to take. I'm sorry, but I vote to deny the proposition.

RECKITT

I vote proposition denied. Council arrive at decision to stay with the offer. Meeting adjourned.

Stone buries his head, disappointed.

STONE

(whispering)

This is our species survival. You're making a mistake.

The council clears out after the head council. Stone follows Sophie to persuade her.

STONE

Sophie.

SOPHIE

The decision is final, Richard, you know that.

STONE

You must reconsider.

SOPHIE

I can't. Kaday is right - no one is qualified to operate that thing. The probability of success is too low, the price of failure is too high. We can't risk it.

Sophie heads for the exit, leaving Stone behind. Stone watches her leave.

STONE

Nothing perceived by man is impossible, my friend.

INT. SAM ZHAO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Sam walks in, locks the door and walks to his desk. Leaning over it he brings up a message from Doctor Cantonna with a file attached.

The file name reads "Nimrod". He opens it - it contains a more detailed analysis of the entity, with a list of potential uses and applications, and how to harvest it.

Dangerous methods, but possible. Sam walks to the window, thinking hard, looking for reasons not to get involved. His mobile comm device rings.

SAM ZHAO  
I'm in my office, Sarah.

SARAH (O.S.)  
When did you---? Never mind. News channel. And councillor Kaday is on the way, something about pay date.

SAM ZHAO  
(to H.I.S)  
T.V-- News-- All five-- Audio by priority.

The five images are projected on the wall side by side.

NEWS CASTER  
---the mudslide claimed 36 lives, with hundreds missing. The historical city that has existed for over a millennia is almost buried---

SAM ZHAO  
Not now.  
(to Sarah)  
Contact Dyess and have them prepare. Have my car ready in five... Wait! Scrap that. Get me Thomas on the phone.

SARAH (O.S.)  
Pushing him in the mud, sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Not today, Sarah.

SARAH (O.S.)  
Yes sir. Sorry sir.

INT. THOMAS'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Thomas and Jenny are on the bed, having sex and breathing heavily. Thomas's mobile comm device rings repeatedly.

THOMAS  
Hell no.

JENNY  
Just ignore it.

THOMAS  
I can't.

JENNY  
Yes you can. Just let it keep ringing.

THOMAS  
I'll get rid of them quick.

Thomas stops and stretches for the phone on the side table.

JENNY  
No, Mike, don't, just---

THOMAS  
Hello.

Thomas is still breathing harder than normal.

SARAH (O.S.)  
Major Thomas? The general wants a word  
with you.

THOMAS  
Oh oh.

SARAH (O.S.)  
Wait. Is Jenny there with you?  
(giggling)  
He is gonna gut you if he finds out  
you're---

THOMAS  
Do me a favour and don't say that out  
loud.

SARAH (O.S.)  
Oh boy, am I gonna listen in on this  
call. Hold on.

INT. SAM ZHAO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

SAM ZHAO  
Major.

THOMAS (O.S.)  
Yes sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Next assignment is on the news. Gear  
up and head for Dyess, twenty minutes.

THOMAS  
Yes sir.

Thomas still breathes harder than normal. The line is silent for  
a moment.

SAM ZHAO  
Where are you?

INT. THOMAS'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

THOMAS  
Gym sir. Treadmill.

Thomas holds his breath. The general hangs up. Thomas breathes  
out with relief.

THOMAS  
I gotta go.

JENNY  
I know. Take the train, it's faster.

Thomas holds her face and smiles kisses her.

THOMAS  
I love you.

JENNY  
Like you have a choice.

Jenny smiles with love written all over her face. He kisses her  
again, jumps up to prepare for his trip.

INT. SAM ZHAO'S OFFICE - DAY/INT. STONE'S OFFICE - DAY

The general gets up to locks the door, calls Stone.

STONE  
General. I've been expecting your  
call. You have the report?

SAM ZHAO  
Yes.

STONE  
We need that thing for plan B.

SAM ZHAO  
No - you need it to satisfy your  
curiosity. We need it for plan B. Too  
bad the council won't sign off on it.

STONE  
General -

SAM ZHAO  
- Why do you think they want us to stay  
away despite our desperation. A test?

STONE  
I thought about that too. Not sure.

SAM ZHAO  
Obedience then sacrifice?

STONE  
Abraham?

SAM ZHAO  
Yes. But Abraham had something we  
don't.

STONE  
And what might that be?

SAM ZHAO  
Fear.

STONE (V.O.)  
General. You're one of a kind.

EXT. AIRPORT - NIGHT

An aircraft lands vertically. The door opens; Kadayya walks out  
in a full tight leather gear, boots, and a long coat, unbuttoned.  
She heads straight for the car.

INT. SARAH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Kadayya barges in, heading for Sam's office.

SARAH  
Councillor!

KADAYYA  
Where is he?

SARAH  
He's not in the office.

Kadaya stops and leans on the door. She bumps her head gently on it, repeatedly. She looks upset.

SARAH

He said to tell you he's at the combat training facility.

Kadaya turns to Sarah. Sarah smiles. Kadaya ignores her, leaves.

INT. PENTAGON TRAINING FACILITY - NIGHT

Kadaya flings the doors open, marches in, but slows down, stops as she sees the hall. It has been cleared out, all that is in there is a table, dinner for two at the center of the floor. Sam walks round the table.

SAM ZHAO

There she is. You look--- deadly.

Kadaya walks to the table.

KADAYA

You must really be desperate to avoid an ass kicking.

SAM ZHAO

No hurry, we'll get to that in time.

KADAYA

You're trying to butter me up.

Sam smiles cunningly while keeping a gaze on her. She shifts, appears uncomfortable or nervous.

KADAYA

That didn't come out right.

SAM ZHAO

Sounds like music. But before we get to the buttering, let's talk about you. Like, why you like lifting bulldozers?

She laughs to ridicule Sam's arrogance.

KADAYA

And you're the bulldozer, right?

SAM ZHAO

In a manner of speaking.

KADAYA

And you mean taking you on is impossible?

The room suddenly goes silent for a short while as she thinks about her statements.

KADAYA  
That didn't---

SAM ZHAO  
Do you say things like that all the time?

KADAYA  
What can I say? I'm British.

SAM ZHAO  
Good excuse.

Kadaya notice she's losing control of the situation. Her expression changes to a stronger one. Sam notice.

SAM ZHAO  
Looks like you wanna get on top.

KADAYA  
On top?

SAM ZHAO  
Of the situation.

Kadaya keeps a straight face, stares at Sam.

KADAYA  
I see. So, are we going to do this or what?

Sam smiles. He reaches across the table to touch her hand - she grabs his hand and twists it. Sam is pinned to the table.

KADAYA  
Sorry, but I don't date losers.

SAM ZHAO  
You should have mentioned that.

Sam grabs her arm and pulls her to ease her grip on his arm, turns her round and pushes her back. Both of them stand opposite each other across the table.

The flower vase on the table falls. They both look at it. Kadaya attacks Sam, trying to catch him off guard. He sways to avoid the hit, defends himself without attacking.

INT/EXT. FAIRBANKS AIR FORCE BASE ALASKA -

Stone walks through the corridor, and out through the back door to the hangars. He wears a squadron leader's uniform and a face cap to hide his face. He heads for hangar S18 code named "Orion's Cradle".

The pilots salute him on his way to the hangar. He reaches the cradle, enters the security codes and stamps in his palm. The device scans it and grants access.

H.I.S  
Security scan identifies General S  
Zhao. Access granted. Welcome general.

Stone walks in and the lights come on as the door seal shuts. He goes straight for the ship.

STONE  
Orion.

He climbs into the cockpit, sits in the pilot's seat and touches the dashboard, appreciating all the work done to create her. He starts the ship - the engine lights up, emits blue flame. He sets the controls, speaking at the same time.

STONE  
We're going for a quick ride... Opening  
some very large doors... And probably  
saving the planet.

The roof of the hangar door opens. The ship takes off vertically.

INT. FAIRBANKS AIR FORCE BASE CONTROL TOWER - NIGHT

The console of the tower beeps repeatedly. The soldier looks at it.

AIR CONTROLLER 1  
What the hell---

The air control officer activates the communication systems.

AIR CONTROLLER 1  
Unidentified aircraft. This is  
Fairbanks control tower. Come in,  
over--- Pilot. You are not cleared for  
take-off. Return aircraft to base  
immediately. Over---

STONE (O.S.)  
I thought you'd say that.

AIR CONTROLLER 1  
Oh shit. We have a security problem.

The alarm sounds at the base. Soldiers run around, following protocol. Security personnel head for the hangars. The air controller calls air command.

AIR CONTROLLER 2  
Air command. This is air control tower, Fairbanks. Come in Air command.

AIR COMMAND (O.S.)  
This is air command. Over---

AIR CONTROLLER 2  
Air command. We have an unauthorized flight out of Fairbanks, north bound, at 41 knots, increasing speed fast. We assume it's a stolen aircraft sir. Over.

INT. AIR COMMAND - DAY

The air force Major stands by the communication system. A soldier mans the console.

SOLDIER  
That's the cradle's base, sir.

AIR FORCE MAJOR  
Control tower. Can you identify the stolen aircraft? Over.

INT. FAIRBANKS AIR FORCE BASE CONTROL TOWER - NIGHT

AIR CONTROLLER 1  
It's Orion.

AIR CONTROLLER 2  
We have confirmation. It's Orion. I repeat. It's Orion. Over.

INT. AIR COMMAND - DAY

AIR FORCE MAJOR  
Scramble fighter drones to pursue and escort back to the cradle immediately. Over.

INT. FAIRBANKS AIR FORCE BASE CONTROL TOWER - NIGHT

AIR CONTROLLER 2  
Yes sir. Over and out.

The soldier hangs up and calls the drone deploy unit.

AIR CONTROLLER 2  
We have a green light on drone pursue  
- deploy drones. I repeat, drone  
pursuit is a go.

EXT. FAIR BANKS DRONE HANGARS - NIGHT

The drone hangar doors open and three HTV-3X fighter drones pull out; take off as soon as they exit the hangar.

INT. PENTAGON TRAINING FACILITY - NIGHT

The general and Kadaya are still busy with the showdown. Sam's mobile device beeps a couple of times. Kadaya has him in a lock down with her legs around his neck while she pulls on his arm, twisting it. The general is in pain. He's trying not to show it too much.

SAM ZHAO  
Time out. I gotta take this call.

KADAYA  
You're not getting off that easy.  
They'll call back if it's urgent.

Kadaya is laughing because she's winning. Her mobile device rings too. With both gadgets now ringing, she lets him go and they both go for their phones.

SAM ZHAO  
Yes?

KADAYA  
Yes?

They look at each other as they are being told the situation at Fairbanks. They both head for the exit.

EXT/INT. OVER THE ARCTIC OCEAN - ORION'S COCKPIT - DAWN

Stone is in the ship, punching in coordinates for their destination.

ORION  
Destination confirmed.

STONE  
That's it, take daddy to heaven.

The dashboard starts to beep. A radar scan appears on the screen.

ORION  
We are being pursued by three  
HTV-3X drones, equipped with AIM-120  
AMRAAM missiles. Should I engage?

STONE  
Negative. Speed up and lose drones.

The drones are in range of the ship. They relay a message from  
air command.

AIR COMMAND (O.S.)  
This is air command. You have stolen  
an air force property. Your aircraft  
is not cleared for flight. You will be  
escorted back to Fairbanks  
immediately. Failure to comply will  
result in the use of force.

Stone ignores the radio message.

STONE  
Wouldn't you guys like that.  
(to Orion)  
Orion?

ORION  
Sir.

STONE  
Let's go.

ORION  
Yes, Doctor Stone.

The ship increase speed. The drones fall back.

INT. AIR COMMAND - DAY

SOLDIER  
It's picking up speed sir.

AIR FORCE MAJOR  
Christ. Use of force authorized.  
Ensure minimal damage. I repeat, do not  
destroy the ship.

EXT. OVER THE ARCTIC OCEAN - DAWN

The first drone launches a missile after Orion. The missile is catching up.

INT. ORION'S COCKPIT - DAWN

The missile enter Orion's radar. Her dashboard beeps showing the incoming missile.

STONE  
Can you believe the nerve?

The ship fires up its auxiliary engines. Stone is pushed back in his chair as the ship takes off with the missile on its tail. The gap increases between them.

The ship hits supersonic speed. WE SEE AND HEAR THE SONIC BOOM, as the ship tears through the atmosphere. Stone is shaking inside the craft. The shaking eases up as the ship makes it to space.

STONE  
WHOA!! Orion.

ORION  
Yes sir.

STONE  
If you were human, I'd marry you right now.

ORION  
I'm flattered sir.

The ship soars through space towards the entity. Stone presses buttons on the dashboard, checks for readings regarding the entity.

STONE  
Here we go, knocking on heaven's door.

INT. AIR COMMAND - DARK

The general and Kadaya walk in fast.

SAM ZHAO  
Situation update.

AIR FORCE MAJOR  
The ship evaded the drones' attacks sir.  
It's through the atmosphere. It's  
trajectory suggests it's heading for  
the entity. E.T.A two minutes.

SAM ZHAO  
That ship is fast. The pilot?

AIR FORCE MAJOR  
Won't respond, sir.

KADAYA  
Identified?

AIR FORCE MAJOR  
Not yet ma'am.

SAM ZHAO  
Check security access logs to the  
cradle.

SOLDIER  
Yes sir.

He enters commands on the screen. They all focus on the screen.  
The computer brings up the general's profile and log time.

KADAYA  
It's a hack.

SAM ZHAO  
Obviously. Establish radio link with  
the pilot.

SOLDIER  
Yes sir--- You're on sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Pilot. This is General Sam Zhao.  
Abandon mission and return to  
Fairbanks immediately. That is a  
direct order. Over.

STONE (O.S.)  
General. You came to see me save the  
world. I'm honoured.

KADAYA

Stone? You're insane. There are consequences.

Kadaya yells in anger.

INT. ORION'S COCKPIT - DAY

STONE

Relax. You're overreacting. They'll see reason---  
Not too far now. You should see it from here. Wait.

Stone presses a few buttons.

INT. AIR COMMAND - DAY

The image comes up at the operator's screen. She throws it to the main screen for a larger picture. The entity grows larger as Stone get closer. It's burning bright blue.

STONE (O.S.)

God lives here, I'm sure of it.

Kadaya looks at the general. They both notice Stone is not himself; he's acting psychotic and risking everything. Kadaya moves closer to the radio and leans over the console.

KADAYA

Doctor Stone? You saw what happened to the probe, this is dangerous.

STONE (O.S.)

Don't worry about me, gorgeous, I'm smarter than a probe. I'll be home soon.

The ship approaches its destination. Stone's face is illuminated by the brightness. All of a sudden, an energy charge launches from the entity to Orion. The ship is covered by the energy.

The FTL drive in its engine lights up, glowing, spinning and throwing off electric bolts around the engine room. It activates Orion's FTL drive. The ship disappears instantly. The command center watches the feed in shock.

INT. AIR COMMAND - DAY

SAM ZHAO

Doctor Stone!

Silence fills the room. The soldiers watch the screen with amazement, wondering what just happened. Kadaya straightens up from the console she was leaning over.

KADAYA

Well, that's over.

She walks to the exit, pressing buttons on her wrist comm device as she goes.

The general bows his head in disappointment. They had just lost the best scientific mind they had, their best chance of solving their problems.

INT. COUNCIL HALL: WASHINGTON D.C - DAY

The hall is noisy. The parliament probes the high council for information regarding their involvement.

SOPHIE

--- I assure you, Stone did this without authorization from anyone.

COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD

The helpers may retract their offer.

COUNCILLOR CORNELIUS

I agree.

RECKITT

We have no reason to believe they will.

COUNCILLOR NARAYAN

Yes we do. They ordered us not to go near that thing - we did.

SOPHIE

We're not here to shake in fear, we're here to discuss what to do now.

COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD

So tell us. How do we fix this?

COUNCILLOR NARAYAN

Fix it? We don't fix this. They say roll over and play dead, and we do just that.

COUNCILLOR ODUWA

There has to be something we can do?

SOPHIE

Councillor Narayan is right, we can't fix this. They decide, we accept.

RECKITT

For the meantime we are back to our plans prior to the offer. We will also devote the resources of the science institutes to find an energy source for the FTL systems. Meeting adjourned.

COUNCILLOR TRUMAK

Wait. We still haven't discussed another option.

RECKITT

There's none to discuss.

COUNCILLOR TRUMAK

Yeah, there is. Contact the helpers - maybe we can explain what happened?

RECKITT

How?

COUNCILLOR TRUMAK

I don't know - you're the smartest guys in the room - at least look into it.

SOPHIE

We'll direct some resources into accomplishing that.

One of the Aliens appeared like a mirage in the middle of the hall.

ALIEN

That won't be necessary---  
Cygnus is dying. So please, do not interrupt. We are fully aware what happened. The vessel will arrive as planned - some restrictions will be in place to prevent this happening again, as all will suffer for the actions of a few. This will make the journey a little harder.

SOPHIE

Thank you for this. We are indebted to you.

ALIEN

Returns are not expected, but be warned. A repeat of this incident, and we won't be able to help you. Do you understand?

The Alien turns to where the general is sitting. Not too far from the head council's seats. Reckitt notices.

SOPHIE

Yes.

ALIEN

Doctor Stone is safe. I'll leave now.

The Alien fades out.

COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD

Quite an exit. How do they do that?

RECKITT

Looks like we're still on board. I suggest we provide extra security for everything that flies.

SOPHIE

The general will take care of it.

RECKITT

No. Councillor Kadaya will take care of it. The general will still be occupied with the planetary disasters for the mean time.

SOPHIE

Very well. We're done here.

The council men and women get up and head for the exits. Reckitt and Zhao walk together.

SOPHIE

(to Reckitt)

We were lucky. Tell Kadaya this must not happen again. If she sees me near any unauthorized craft, she can shoot me.

Kadaya and the general walk up behind them.

KADAYA

Yes ma'am.

SAM ZHAO

Good day mother. Councillor Reckitt.

Kadaya looks at the general and smiles. The general smiles back. Reckitt notices the exchange.

RECKITT  
Kadaya. Can I have a word with you?

KADAYA  
Yes father.

RECKITT  
Excuse us.

Both of them walk away into the building.

RECKITT  
Interesting turn of events.

KADAYA  
I know. They chose not to judge all based  
on the sins of a few---  
They are superior in so many ways.

RECKITT  
You trust their judgement. Why?

KADAYA  
To reach their state of mind requires  
mental perfection. They can be  
trusted.

RECKITT  
Mental perfection.

KADAYA  
Righteousness due to a heightened  
sense of perception. It's a state of  
mind. You don't govern galaxies with  
mental flaws - if their consciousness  
is even capable of errors anymore. By  
now, mistakes they make will be  
colossal. May be we will be like them  
in time.

Reckitt smiles while staring at her.

RECKITT  
You make me proud. You know that?

Kadaya smiles at her father. She holds his arm as they walk along.

RECKITT  
Can I say something?

KADAYA  
Sure, father.

RECKITT

The helpers seem to pay attention to the general, especially when warning us.

They arrive at a small balcony.

RECKITT

First encounter - they asked the general specifically if he understood the warning. Only the head council's opinion should matter. Second visit. The Alien looked at the general when issuing the warning again.

KADAYA

They probably view him as a potential leader, and his opinion is equally important now, as in the future.

COUNCILLOR RECKITT

I really hope so.

INT. CELESTIAL OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

Aris lies on the table, snoring. He wears a T-shirt that says "life is short. Don't waste it on sleep". His colleague, Hendrick, sits in a chair, reading a book. They both look in their twenties.

Aris's snoring bothers Hendrick - he picks up a small office play ball and throws it at him. Aris jerks awake.

ARIS

Let me sleep.

HENDRICK

Trust me. I prefer it if you do. Quit snoring and let me read.

Aris gets up from the table, stands and stretches hard. Hendrick watches him.

HENDRICK

How can you sleep in a shirt like that?

ARIS

Life extension breakthrough makes the shirt useless.

HENDRICK

No. Whoever came up with the design for that shirt made it useless. That is one ugly---

A radio wave crackles through the speakers, catches their attention. For a moment they are frozen in surprise, then they jump up, run to their computers, press a few keys.

HENDRICK

Shit. It's real.

ARIS

It's coming from Andromeda's direction. It's our cue.

HENDRICK

Already on it.

INT. NASA OBSERVATORY CENTER - DAY

A man picks up the ringing phone.

NASA SCIENTIST

Yeah.

He holds the phone for a second and goes for his computer. He accesses the message.

NASA SCIENTIST

I got it.

He hangs up. He enters the coordinates into the NASA's computers for the space telescopes to find. The command flows through the usual channels.

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

The telescope fires its thrusters and moves to find the coordinates, adjusting its lens to catch a picture.

INT. NASA OBSERVATORY CENTER - DAY

The pictures pop up on the screens as everyone marvels at the image.

NASA SCIENTIST

Holy mother of ---

INT. AIR COMMAND SITUATION ROOM - DAY

Soldiers scurry around to get information flowing to the proper channels. Sam walks in.

SAM ZHAO  
Do we have confirmation?

SOLDIER 1  
They're not certain sir. But something  
is approaching - it's huge, and it's  
fast.

SOLDIER 2  
A radio signal was picked up by NASA,  
probably when it emerged from  
hyperspace into this galaxy. It's been  
getting bigger ever since. They  
estimate it should be here in about five  
days - six tops. And that's just the  
propulsion system.

The general whispers.

SAM ZHAO  
Humbling. I'll brief the head council.

The general heads for the exit. He activates his wrist comm device.

SAM ZHAO  
Sarah? Get me Kaday.

SARAH (O.S.)  
Yes sir. Doctor Cantonna needs to see  
you in the office.

SAM ZHAO  
Let him in. I won't be long.

INT. SAM ZHAO'S OFFICE - DAY

The general walks in. Cantonna sits quietly in a chair.

SAM ZHAO  
You already know, don't you?

DR. CANTONNA  
I have access to Doctor Stone's  
resources. I suppose you know why I'm  
here.

SAM ZHAO  
To match Stone - You need me.

Cantonna smiles.

SAM ZHAO

What now?

DR. CANTONNA

I already mapped out a few options. I need your approval on one.

Cantonna hands the file to the general. The general takes it and flips through it.

SAM ZHAO

File two.

DR. CANTONNA

'Two' will require systems built on silicon based tech.

SAM ZHAO

It will.

DR. CANTONNA

Why so sure?

SAM ZHAO

It wouldn't be on the list if it weren't feasible. Besides - it allows for a lot of back-up plans.

DR. CANTONNA

It's an honour to be working with you, General.

INT. SOPHIE 'S OFFICE - DAY

The general confirms the situation to the high council. He and Reckitt are holograms in Sophie's office.

SAM ZHAO

---Probe has been sent to find an entrance. All ships are prepared, loaded and ready to start transporting.

RECKITT

Well done. Now, the hard part. Let the people know. And tell Kodaya to dump all lethal weapons from the cargo.

The general squints in confusion.

SAM ZHAO

May I ask why?

SOPHIE

It's the head council's decision. We'd rather not appear as a threat to our new neighbors.

The general is puzzled by the request. He wants to say something. He abandons his plan to protest and agrees.

SAM ZHAO

Very well. It'll be done.

RECKITT

Thank you, general.

SOPHIE

It's commander now.

Reckitt approves by nodding. They end the conference. The general dials Kaday.

KADAYA

General.

SAM ZHAO

Ship is here. Off-load all lethal weapons from the luggage. Special request.

KADAYA

Alright. And general - pick a bunk close to mine.

They hang up. Sam speed dials Dalgano.

COLONEL DALGANO (O.S.)

General.

SAM ZHAO

Jahred. The weapons will be off-loaded. Find container 37771. Make sure it gets on that ship.

COLONEL DALGANO (O.S.)

Aye, aye sir.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - NIGHT

Ships are being loaded, taking off for the giant ship in space.

PEGASUS HALLWAY -

The general walks smartly, with a bag in his hand. He raises a tablet, following directions to a location. He passes through doors and corridors and finds himself around the automated laundry room.

It's quiet except for the sounds of the steam washing and drying cloths. Finally, he arrives at a door, touches it and it dematerializes. He walks in the room. Doctor Cantonna is busy setting up a lab.

DR. CANTONNA

General. You found it. Welcome to my super-secret lab.

SAM ZHAO

Isn't there anywhere else that smells different.

DR. CANTONNA

This is perfect, Sam. No one will find this place. Take a seat.

The general puts his bag in one of the holding compartments.

DR. CANTONNA

Looks like we're lucky, it is a silicon based system, quantum processing. We're quite close with our systems on earth - we had a prototype at the institute. I brought it. We have work to do.

SAM ZHAO

Then get started. Let me know when you have something.

DR. CANTONNA

Actually, I do. You see the way the door dematerialized? Nano-tech - the ship's computer controls every single atom that makes up this ship. The core built the whole ship from base molecules - imagine that. Get control of it and you can create anything - within the ship of course.

Cantonna looks awestruck at the concept. The general is not interested in the details. He's more interested in putting it to use.

SAM ZHAO

OK. Get to work.

DR. CANTONNA  
It's not that simple. We need to upgrade  
our systems first, then build a bridge,  
then become friends. And then---

SAM ZHAO  
Get to work.

The general leaves the lab.

EIGHT YEARS LATER

PEGASUS - RECKITT'S CHAMBER -

Reckitt sits at his desk, flipping through the ships information  
systems.

H.I.S  
Councillor Reckitt. Senator Kadaya is  
here to see you.

RECKITT  
Let her in.

The door dematerializes and she walks in.

KADAYA  
That never gets old.

RECKITT  
Kadi. You don't come to see your father  
often enough. Come.

KADAYA  
Sorry father.

They hug. Reckitt holds her tightly, finally let's go.

KADAYA  
I'm here now. What are you doing?

Reckitt speaks with excitement and a big smile on his face,  
indicates the files he's looking at.

RECKITT  
Meeting our new neighbors, they are an  
extra-ordinary species. They have  
known peace their whole lives, no  
conflicts, no competitions, no wars.  
Just progression.

RECKITT (CONT'D)

Simply incredible. They're so far ahead in everything - concepts, perception, everything.

KADAYA

I hope they know how to spar.

RECKITT

Yes they do. But combat is strictly for fun, like dancing. It's a form of art - come see this.

Kadaya walks around the table and looks at the screen.

KADAYA

Wow. It is going to be difficult sparing with these guys. I don't think our anatomy will allow some of these moves.

RECKITT

Yes I know. It's a whole new pattern of existence. Look - you can still manage these ones.

KADAYA

I think I'll pass.

RECKITT

Quitter.

KADAYA

I've got to go; I'm meeting Sam for lunch.

RECKITT

You just got here.

KADAYA

I know father. I'm sorry. I'll come visit again. Soon.

RECKITT

At least give me 20 minutes.

Kadaya stops on her way out. She turns around.

KADAYA

OK. I'm sorry I don't come to see you as often as I would like.

RECKITT

It's OK. I know your thoughts are with the commander.

Kadaya smiles. It is obvious the general made her glow.

KADAYA

He is great, father. With all his strength, he can be sweet. I know he has issues talking about himself - he hardly talks about his children and grandson, but I'm helping him. He'll loosen up.

RECKITT

No, he won't.

KADAYA

Father.

RECKITT

Don't delude yourself, Kadaya. You're stronger than this.

KADAYA

Stop it.

RECKITT

His mother knows he's dangerous, but love makes her turn a blind eye. Don't make the same mistake.

KADAYA

I'm leaving.

Kadaya storms towards the door, angry at Reckitt.

RECKITT

His mother told me how she found him.

Kadaya stops. She's curious.

RECKITT

Sit. The story is not long.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. VENEZUELA WAR ZONE - NIGHT

The night is wet, heavy rain pouring through the trees.

RECKITT (V.O.)

It was during the final war. His mother found him covered in burns and blood. She was a captain then, leading her troops---

A stone rolls over a broken road, covered with rubble and chunks of concrete and wood. The wind whistles through the shattered buildings and burnt cars.

Rocks make a crushing sound under the soldiers boots as they move in a group along the road, a following truck behind them.

They carry O.I.C.W assault rifles, fully equipped. The radio crackles. The soldiers speak mandarin.

SOLDIER 1

Panther 1 to panther 0. Come in. Over.(static) Panther 0. Do you read me. Over (static)

PANTHER 0 (O.S.)

We read you, panther 1. Over. (static)

SOLDIER 1

We need satellite confirmation of target again. Over. (static)

PANTHER 0 (O.S.)

Equipment malfunction again? Over. (static)

SOLDIER

Something like that. We are a bit lost here. Over. (static)

PANTHER 0

Stand by, panther 1. One location map coming up. Over and out. (Static)

One of the soldiers holds a picture of his girlfriend. A friend notices.

SOLDIER 2

How far along is she?

SOLDIER 3

Almost done. Any minute now.

The soldiers are quiet for a second.

SOLDIER 4

Why did an oven pop in my head?

SOLDIER 2  
You were thinking about your mother.

SOLDIER 4  
Hey. Don't mention my mother.

YOUNG SOPHIE  
Silence. This region is still active.  
Stay sharp.

SOLDIER 4  
Yes, Captain.

The soldier's wrist minicomputer beeps. (It's an older version).  
He decodes the message.

SOLDIER 5  
We have the new map, captain.

YOUNG SOPHIE  
Pull it out.

The soldier presses a button and the wrist comm prints out the  
map from the top. The map shows their destination, marked X. And  
a dot to show their location.

SOLDIER 5  
We're not too far off. Need to realign  
with the other side of the highlands  
- there. Captain?

YOUNG SOPHIE  
Quiet!

The captain is trying to listen hard in the heavy rain, fixing  
her sight on one of the three-story buildings around them.

YOUNG SOPHIE  
We're too exposed. We need to keep  
moving. Keep your eyes on that  
building.  
(to soldier 5)  
Show me the map.

SOLDIER 2  
I think we have movement---

An arrow pierces his throat - he falls instantly.

SOLDIER 4  
WE'RE BEING ENGAGED!!!

The soldiers take cover and fire in the direction of the window on the second floor. They switch to night vision. They sweep the building, looking for the enemy.

SOLDIER 1

Where is he?

A soldier sees movement on the second floor.

SOLDIER 5

Over there.

As the soldiers unleash bullets on the window, a rocket propelled grenade flies towards their vehicle from the opposite building. It explodes, throwing everyone off.

All occupants are killed instantly, along with some soldiers on the ground. The captain gets up, picks up a second weapon from a dead soldier and heads for the second building.

YOUNG SOPHIE

Yuan, come with me. The rest of you,  
kill everything in that building.

The remaining soldiers head for the second building. The captain and Yuan run up the stairs, watching the stairs above to avoid a surprise attack.

They watch each other's back as they reach the corridor. They hear gunfire and an explosion from the other building. The volume of fire reduces gradually, meaning their men are losing. Yuan turns back to help.

YOUNG SOPHIE

You can't help them.

As Yuan turns back to follow his captain, a single shot is heard, suggesting an execution.

YOUNG SOPHIE

Let's finish here quickly.

The two soldiers reach the top of the stairs. The corridor is small and dark. The door at the end of the corridor is open.

Yuan walks in first, is stunned by a punch to the throat and a kick to the chest. He flies across the corridor into the opposite room, already unconscious.

Sophie fires the few rounds left in her rifle - the enemy soldier runs back in the room, Sophie drop the empty gun and follow him with the second rifle.

The soldier attacks the captain as she enters the room, but she fires the remaining rounds in the rifle - wasting it.

The soldier tries to hit her. Sophie leans back to protect her throat. She crosses her arm to protect her chest as the soldier try to kick her. She pushes back at him forcefully, they move back into the room, looking at each other.

SUPER SOLDIER  
Agile, vigilant and responsive.

YOUNG SOPHIE  
I do my best.

SUPER SOLDIER  
So. Are we expecting company?

The captain looks at Yuan in the next room, still down.

YOUNG SOPHIE  
I seriously doubt that.

SUPER SOLDIER  
Good. Let's hurry up. I don't have all night.

The captain moves to attack quickly, keeping her distance, trying to use her advantage of speed against his greater size.

SUPER SOLDIER  
Locking me out?

YOUNG SOPHIE  
I like my space.

The soldier rush in to prevent the captain from locking him out, gets in closer, raining blows on her. She blocks and parries, draws him in, hits him hard in the chest with a counter attack. He staggers back, a look of surprise on his face.

SUPER SOLDIER  
I was hoping you didn't know that one...

The soldier attacks again with brute force, catches her off guard, knocks her down. He tries to stamp on her face with his boot, she rolls clear, grabs a piece of broken furniture with nails sticking out - his foot slams down hard on the nails, they pierce his foot.

He cries out in pain and falls to the floor, drags himself to the wall. Sophie stands up slowly, the wood still in her hand, closes in on him.

SUPER SOLDIER  
Looking to end it. Is it a bad time to  
ask for a favour?

YOUNG SOPHIE  
Last request?

SUPER SOLDIER  
Something like that.

She nods.

SUPER SOLDIER  
There's another soldier on his way -  
when he gets here, promise you won't  
kill him.

YOUNG SOPHIE  
I can't do that.

SUPER SOLDIER  
I know you need to defend yourself.  
Don't kill him in the process, that's  
all I'm asking.

YOUNG SOPHIE  
Why is that important?

SUPER SOLDIER  
He's like us, but much stronger.

YOUNG SOPHIE  
That makes him even more dangerous.  
Good people have died by his hands.

SUPER SOLDIER  
And by yours. He is gifted with  
potentials.

YOUNG SOPHIE  
I'm sorry.

The soldier grabs a gun from behind.

SUPER SOLDIER  
Me too.

The soldier pulls the gun and aim for the captain. There's a blast  
from over her shoulder - Yuan stands with his gun in his hand.

YOUNG SOPHIE  
Thanks.

They hear a yell coming from the stairways. Yuan heads for the stairways. The captain follows.

SUPER SOLDIER

Wait. Please. He's just a k---

The soldier stops breathing. The captain waits for a second then heads after Yuan. She steps out of the room - the other soldier is holding Yuan by his shirt.

Yuan is already dead on his knees, his head hanging loosely by his neck. The soldier looks at her briefly then turns back to the corpse in his hand.

He drops him like a bag of waste and walks towards the captain. She stands her ground. The soldier walks past her, towards the body of the other soldier in the room. His head and arms are wrapped in bandages.

SUPER SOLDIER 2

(to super soldier 1)  
Sorry I'm late.

YOUNG SOPHIE

He seems very protective of you.

The second soldier turn to face the captain. She throws the piece of wood out the window.

YOUNG SOPHIE

We should go our separate ways. Out of respect.

SUPER SOLDIER 2

I'm afraid that's no longer an option.

The captain takes a deep breath as she watches the soldier unwrap his hands. They are badly burned.

YOUNG SOPHIE

OK. Fight it is then. Before we start, we should at least know who it is we face.

The soldier says nothing, keeps unwrapping his hands.

YOUNG SOPHIE

Alright. I'll go first. Captain Zhang Zhao of the Chinese Army. First team, Panther.

The soldier looks at her, and starts unwrapping his head, exposing his burned face.

SUPER SOLDIER 2  
Sam Andrew. Second year student,  
Kingsman community college. May we  
begin?

His eyes are dead cold, bright blue, surrounded by burns and scars.  
He stares at the captain without a single emotional expression.  
Captain Zhao stares at the 17 year old boy with shock.

YOUNG SOPHIE  
You're a child. How could you have  
pulled that off?

SUPER SOLDIER 2  
Does that really matter now?

The young man takes a step towards the captain. The captain takes  
two steps back, trying to avoid a fight.

SUPER SOLDIER 2  
Don't be a coward; you already killed  
one good man. What's the difference in  
killing a very bad kid?

YOUNG SOPHIE  
I'm sorry, you're a child, I can't do  
it. We'll have to reach a compromise.

The young man smiles while keeping a very evil look on the captain.

SUPER SOLDIER 2  
Compromise? If you can't fight I  
suggest you slit your own throat where  
you stand, or I'll do it for you.

Sophie hesitates but eventually accepts the challenge.

YOUNG SOPHIE  
Alright then - but just to let you know,  
if I win, I'll let you live.

SUPER SOLDIER 2  
That will be a mistake. If I win, I won't  
be so foolish.

The boy moves quickly towards the captain. They fight for a while.  
He is quick and strong. The captain can't defend herself - his  
punches keep finding their target - Sophie falls to her knees.  
The soldier holds her up by her uniform.

SUPER SOLDIER 2  
Weak.

He hits her in the face, twice.

SUPER SOLDIER

I killed seven of your men. I killed  
your sergeant. And you can't even fight  
for their honour.

She gasps for breath, looks up at him.

YOUNG SOPHIE

There were eight.

The young man realizes his mistake - he hears glass crunching  
behind him, turns, but it's too late, a plank of wood hits him  
in the face.

INT. PEGASUS - SAM ZHAO'S ROOM -

The general wakes up with his arms across his face. Kadaya turns  
on the bed and holds his arm.

KADAYA

It's OK. It's just a bad dream.

The general sits up on the bed. His breathing is erratic. He works  
to slow it down.

KADAYA

You know you can tell me anything?

SAM ZHAO

Not now. I'm going for a walk.

He gets up, put on his joggers and a T-shirt and walks out. Kadaya  
watches him the whole time.

INT. PEGASUS HALLWAY -

The general walks through the empty corridor, enters the big  
meeting hall. He stares out the big windows at the celestial bodies  
as they pass by. The star glows bright red.

He clenches his teeth in anger, roars in frustration, finally  
calms down and whispers.

SAM ZHAO

When does it end?

His comm device rings.

DR. CANTONNA (O.S.)

Sam. Get up.

SAM ZHAO  
I'm up. What is it?

INT. PEGASUS - CANTONNA'S LAB -

DR. CANTONNA  
You need to see this. I think I got it.

SAM ZHAO (O.S.)  
I'm on my way.

INT. PEGASUS - CANTONNA'S LAB -

The general and Cantonna look at the quantum processor, a glass tube of water with a metal ball floating in the middle.

The large ball has neural networks on it, and the lines emit a blue light. Sam moves to the computers and takes a look.

SAM ZHAO  
Command codes.

DR. CANTONNA  
Yes.

SAM ZHAO  
How did you find it?

The general draws up a stool, sits down.

DR. CANTONNA  
We were only taking a shot in the dark previously. As you know, the ship's systems has billions of programs working together to make the merry go round. We only tried codes of our own, hoping the system would recognize a pattern. The ship's computer is built on quantum processing - it should evolve into an A.I, learn from us. But look at this.

The general leans forward at the screen, squints as he reads the screen.

SAM ZHAO  
It's a program preventing it from evolving.

DR. CANTONNA

That's the restriction the - whatever they are - were talking about. We can't be trusted with such tech so--

SAM ZHAO

- they locked the ship's controls and built a contained A.I to run everything through the core.

DR. CANTONNA

The A.I is contained, probably to keep it from learning from us. Due to our --- bad history.

SAM ZHAO

How did you convert the ship's codes?

DR. CANTONNA

Broke it down to binary so we can understand it, hence speak it's language. We just need to go through some very beautiful math.

SAM ZHAO

But we can't communicate with it. It's blocked, remember.

Cantonna giggles in excitement as he looks at the general.

DR. CANTONNA

Scroll down.

The general obeys. He looks at the screen and smiles.

SAM ZHAO

Build the bridge.

DR. CANTONNA

Already done. And, may I add, I could literally feel my brain evolving when solving this problem.

SAM ZHAO

Doc. You exceed my expectations.

Cantonna types in codes to reach the final button to execute the order. The general steps forward, looks at the screen, and then the button, pushes the enter key.

The ship hums as Cantonna's processor fires up, trying to communicate with the ship.

The ship tries to make contact but hits a fire-wall. The ship shakes hard, throws everyone on the ship around.

The ship shakes again and again. The ship's hull begins to fall apart around the engine room, as the molecules fail to hold together. The atmosphere is sucked out, water pours out through the hole. The opening expands.

Everyone runs up and down the corridors, afraid the ship will breakdown in the middle of dead, cold, empty space. The ship slows down. The two men are yelling as the humming increases in volume.

SAM ZHAO

What the hell is happening?!

DR. CANTONNA

I don't know!

Cantonna tries to activate the shutdown command on the bridge. The ship still shakes as the breached hull keeps sucking out water and atmosphere.

SAM ZHAO

Why won't it stop?

DR. CANTONNA

I don't know!

SAM ZHAO

Fix it!

DR. CANTONNA

I'm trying!

SAM ZHAO

Try harder!

INT. PEGASUS HALLWAY -

People run aimlessly in fear, uncertain what is happening, unsure what to do. Thomas runs against the tide, towards the direction of the problem. He stops and ask a soldier.

THOMAS

Derrick. What's going on?

SOLDIER DERRICK

Their's a hull breach at the engine room. It's bad.

THOMAS

Get Doctor Shiva up here, now.

The soldier nods and runs off.

Thomas continues toward the engine room. He stops on his way in, looks through a glass window to notice the door to the breached compartment materializing and dematerializing continuously. He shuts his eyes.

THOMAS

Please, don't let me die.

He opens the door leading to the malfunctioning door, gets sucked in fast. The vacuum pulls him every time the door dematerializes, let's go every time it materialize.

The process continues until he reaches the wall by the malfunctioning door. He holds on to a ledge and waits for the door to materialize.

When the door materializes, he touches it and the door stops, dematerializes, and then materializes. The malfunction is corrected. The suction stops.

Instantly the breached hull starts to repair itself. The loss of water stops. Thomas lies on the floor with no shirt on, breathing heavily. After the repair is completed the ship's engine fires up and heads for the nearest water planet.

INT. PEGASUS - CANTONNA'S LAB -

Cantonna and Sam watch the system stabilize as the processor cools off. They pick themselves up.

DR. CANTONNA

That was close.

The general glares at Cantonna fiercely.

INT. PEGASUS - COUNCIL HALL -

DR. SHIVA (V.O.)

The ship successfully repaired itself

-

Doctor Shiva stands at the center of the hall.

DR. SHIVA

- and as we speak. It's probably on course to the nearest water planet. We are certain it's to replenish its water reserves as we lost quite a bit during the incident.

COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD

The incident is what we need to understand. What happened? How? And will it happen again?

The hall gets noisy, people shouting "yes", "are we safe?"

SOPHIE

Silence!!

The noise disappears.

SOPHIE

The doctor was just getting to that.

DR. SHIVA

Thank you councillor.

(to the hall)

We can confirm that the ship is not malfunctioning. It fixed the damage almost immediately when given the chance. Whatever the problem is, it is not the ship itself. The ship prevailed and moved on to optimize performance. Like the helpers said - it will protect us from anything out there. And it did.

DR. SHIVA (CONT'D)

The only problem we have, is understanding what caused the glitch that hindered the door in sealing off the breached section in the first place. We might not have made it if not for the brave actions of the Major. We owe our lives to him.

Everyone in the hall applauds Michael. He doesn't like the attention, sits quietly as his colleagues around him pat his shoulders. The clapping stops.

SOPHIE

We will continue to search for the source of the problem, but put your fears aside, we're in safe hands. Thank you for coming.

The hall clears out. The general's wrist comm beeps. He checks his message. The message reads--- "Tough kid". He puts it away.

SAM ZHAO

Yes.

INT. PEGASUS - SAM ZHAO'S OFFICE -

The general sits in his chair, flips through the ship's logs on a tablet in his hand. He squints as he focuses hard on details, his finger clinging to the edge of the tablet like a guitar while he taps the screen with his left hand.

H.I.S

Major Thomas is here as scheduled,  
Commander.

SAM ZHAO

Grant access.

A green light glows outside the door and Thomas touches the door, walks in.

SAM ZHAO

Major. Just a second, please.

He continues on the tablet while Thomas looks at the general's desk. His table computer screen saver is a picture of a B-2 bomber in flight, he also has a wall poster of himself on a B-2 bomber framed on his wall, and a small model of a B-2 bomber on a platform in his office. The general finishes and turns to Thomas.

SAM ZHAO

Sorry about that Major. How's the ship?

THOMAS

Intact sir. According to Doctor Shiva,  
it will be fully restored in about four  
hours.

SAM ZHAO

Thank you Major. You really saved us  
back there.

THOMAS

We were lucky sir.

SAM ZHAO

Luck had nothing to do with it. You did  
good.

THOMAS

Thank you, commander.

Sam stands, heads for the window. He gazes out at the green planet with the ship's tentacles in it. A blue star shines from a far distance.

SAM ZHAO

Look at that.

THOMAS  
Magnificent, sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Can I ask you something?  
Off the record.

THOMAS  
Sure sir.

Sam turns to Thomas, facing him.

SAM ZHAO  
Why did you do that? How did you know  
what to do?

THOMAS  
I didn't sir. Lucky guess. And I don't  
understand the first question.

THOMAS  
You knew you were done if your plan  
failed. You had already sent for the  
expert. Why still jump?

Thomas knows it's not a straight question. He appears confused.

THOMAS  
I'm a soldier sir. I had no choice.

The general is pleased with Thomas's answer.

SAM ZHAO  
Well done Major. Do you have plans  
today? There is something I need your  
opinion on.

THOMAS  
Picnic with the family, sir. Booked the  
hologram room already - but I can  
cancel.

The general smiles.

SAM ZHAO  
Smart. Trying to get Jenny to kill me.

Thomas laughs a little.

THOMAS  
Wouldn't dream of it sir.

SAM ZHAO  
I see. And my grandson?

THOMAS  
Good sir. The little titan is growing  
up fast.

Sam leans back in his chair.

SAM ZHAO  
I'll be brief. We've been told we won't  
have any more problems with the ship  
- I can't accept that. Our legacy hangs  
on this ship - I need people, reliable  
and resourceful.

THOMAS  
What can we do sir? The ship's systems  
are not accessible.

The general smiles while keeping his gaze on Thomas.

SAM ZHAO  
Not entirely true. What I'm about to  
tell you is classified.  
We may be able to gain access to the  
ship's core systems - information and  
base codes to be precise. We can learn  
a lot, and that includes running and  
repairing the ship.

THOMAS  
I didn't think that was possible sir.  
Why is it not in the pipes?

SAM ZHAO  
It's not gonna be easy to get this  
approved.

THOMAS  
The council won't vote for it.

SAM ZHAO  
Not the whole council, but I can confirm  
one that's gonna hit the kill switch  
before any dialogue can begin. Go to  
your picnic before Jenny finds out I'm  
the one keeping you. We'll discuss this  
later.

THOMAS  
Yes sir.

INT. PEGASUS HALLWAY - RESIDENTIAL SECTIONS -

Kadaya walks through the hall way. She gazes through the glass windows into the courtyard as she passes by. People are walking around, talking and playing.

A young man plays his guitar while children sit around him, watching intensely. The general stands in her path, watching her.

KADAYA  
Looking for trouble?

SAM ZHAO  
Already found her.

KADAYA  
Someone needs to be reminded the order  
of things.

They both start walking.

SAM ZHAO  
You didn't win, it was a draw. Besides,  
you cheated.

KADAYA  
You cheated first.

SAM ZHAO  
All is fair in love and war.

Kadaya stops.

KADAYA  
Don't include love in that statement.

SAM ZHAO  
The statement is older than both of us  
combined.

KADAYA  
Let me rephrase. You include love in  
that statement and you won't see me in  
your bed again, ever.

SAM ZHAO  
All is fair in war.

KADAYA  
Good boy.

They start walking again.

SAM ZHAO  
That didn't sound right at all. Do I  
get a present?

KADAYA  
For what?

SAM ZHAO  
Good behavior.

KADAYA  
That's not so hard.

SAM ZHAO  
Yes. But when you're as bad as I am,  
it's not so easy.

Kadaya smiles.

KADAYA  
Looking for Thomas. Seen him?

SAM ZHAO  
Hologram room. Having picnic with his  
family.

KADAYA  
Nice. How's Jenny?

SAM ZHAO  
Happy. Very.

KADAYA  
And the little titan? Did I get that  
right?

SAM ZHAO  
Yes you did. He's great. I was on my  
way to the hologram room to join them.

Kadaya pulls his arm. They stop. She's surprised. She looks in  
his eyes and kissed him.

KADAYA  
I'll see you at yours.

She smiles and walks away. A soldier walks by.

SAM ZHAO  
Soldier.

SOLDIER  
Sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Major Thomas is in a hologram room. Find  
me which one.

SOLDIER  
Yes, Commander.

The soldier runs along. The general calls Cantonna.

DR. CANTONNA (O.S.)  
Commander.

SAM ZHAO  
Job done?

DR. CANTONNA  
Almost. She's a wild one, but I'll get  
her. Got the new repair boy?

SAM ZHAO  
On my way to pick him up.

DR. CANTONNA  
Good. 22.00 hours still?

SAM ZHAO  
No. I have a - prior engagement.

DR. CANTONNA  
She's not gonna get on this horse with  
you, Sam.

SAM ZHAO  
That doesn't concern you. Get your job  
done.

Sam terminates the call. A message immediately arrives on his  
comm device. It reads "Thomas, HR12. Activated 15 minutes ago".  
The general puts it away and turns around, back to the hologram  
room.

INT. PEGASUS - HOLOGRAPHIC BEACH - DAY

People pass by - lovers, dog walkers, people throwing frisbees.  
Thomas sits on the sand wearing white linen, Jenny kneels by the  
picnic basket, wearing a flower print summer dress and a big hat,  
with sunglasses.

Kenneth runs around them. The 4 year old boy laughs hard as his  
father tries to catch him. They are happy. Jenny spots someone  
coming towards them from a distance.

JENNY

I'll be damned. What do you know -  
someone just remembered he has  
children.

Thomas turns to see what Jenny is talking about.

THOMAS

Holy--. Ken? Look who's here.

The boy stops and join his parents watching Sam approach them.

THOMAS

Sir.

SAM ZHAO

Take it easy son. It's not even the real  
world.

(to Jenny)

Jenny.

JENNY

Father.

SAM ZHAO

Is it OK if I join you?

JENNY

Do we have a choice?

THOMAS

(to Jenny)

Not now.

(to Sam)

Sorry sir.

SAM ZHAO

It's OK.

The general looks down on the boy and gets on one knee. He stares  
in the boys eyes. The boy returns the gaze without flinching,  
smiling, blinking or looking away. The general smiles.

SAM ZHAO

Titan indeed.

The general turns to Jenny to show approval. Jenny ignores him  
and looks away at the sun.

SAM ZHAO

Can I borrow your boy for a second?

Jenny turns back at him.

SAM ZHAO (CONT'D)  
I mean the Major.

JENNY  
Come on Ken. Let's Go for a walk.

SAM ZHAO  
You don't have to. We'll take a short  
stroll while we talk, we'll be back in  
a second.

The general stands up and starts walking with Thomas.

SAM ZHAO  
Tough kid.

THOMAS  
You have no idea, sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Haven't been around to watch him grow  
up. Wish my children could understand  
my - obligations.

THOMAS  
I'm sure they do, sir, they just have  
a problem accepting it.

SAM ZHAO  
Hmm.

THOMAS  
How are things coming on?

SAM ZHAO  
The work has begun, we may have a trial  
tomorrow.

THOMAS  
Anything I can do?

SAM ZHAO  
Just be on the lookout for problems with  
the ship, if any, and keep doing what  
you do best.

THOMAS  
Yes, sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Keep the problems under wrap; we'd  
rather not start a panic.

THOMAS  
I understand sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Work awaits. I should leave you guys  
to your family time.

THOMAS  
Thank you for coming, sir.

Sam waves to Jenny and his grandson. The boy waves back without an expression on his face. Thomas heads back to his family as Sam heads off.

INT. PEGASUS - HOLOGRAM CHAMBERS -

Sam's hologram capsule is opened and he is helped out. The neural interface worn on his head is removed.

SAM ZHAO  
What a ride.

SOLDIER  
It's incredible, sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Thank you, soldier.

Sam walks out of the room, taps his wrist comm device, calls Cantonna.

DR. CANTONNA (O.S.)  
General.

SAM ZHAO  
Package retained. Break me my horse.

Sam hangs up and keeps walking.

INT. PEGASUS - RECKITT'S CHAMBER -

Reckitt, Sophie and Kaday are talking. Kaday crosses her legs while lying back in the chair, focusing on everything the councillor is saying.

SOPHIE  
---darkness. His eyes were dead. No  
fear, no love. His intelligence was off  
of scale, and his ruthlessness?  
Heinous.

INT. PEGASUS - HALLWAY -

Jenny walks through the corridors, smiles and waves to her friends. They smile back. She looks happy. She reaches the entrance to the lab.

SOPHIE (V.O.)

A lot of people died, but he feels no sense of guilt, seeks no redemption. He has nightmares, but he speaks of it to no one, nothing prior to the great war. No one knows his family or friends - I've done everything, he won't break.

INT. PEGASUS - CANTONNA'S LAB -

Cantonna is in his lab, busy on the giant touch screen. He shifts from the smaller screens on his computer to the giant glass screen, and back. The small computer has keyboards and the giant one is a touch screen interface.

RECKITT (V.O.)

Our worst fear is, he knows what he's doing. If that's the case, he's even more dangerous. He has perfectly concealed his thoughts, and we can assume it's not for a surprise party. You have to do something - his intentions may be righteous, but his methods...

INT. PEGASUS - THE FRIDGE (DNA BANK) - LAB -

Jenny puts down her bag, puts on her lab coat. She heads towards the fridge to pick up some samples to work on.

KADAYA (V.O.)

I know he's tight, but I can't confirm he's dangerous. He's making progress, I know that for sure. I'll take your words under advisement.

INT. PEGASUS - SAM ZHAO'S OFFICE -

Sam sits in his chair, focuses on the clock on his table, waiting...

RECKITT (V.O.)

Keep an eye on him at least, for his own sake. Can you do that?

INT. PEGASUS - THE FRIDGE (DNA BANK) LAB -

Jenny puts on her gloves to inspect some samples. She walks across the vast door into the fridge and heads for the samples in their cryo tubes.

KADAYA

Alright, I'll see what I can do - don't expect too much though.

INT. PEGASUS - RECKITT'S CHAMBER -

Kadaya gets up from her chair and heads for the exit. Both council members watch her.

RECKITT

Young and naive.

SOPHIE

I don't feel comfortable putting her in this position. She loves him already - she'll have hope of saving him till the end.

RECKITT

She's not that naive - she's strong. She'll deliver.

INT. PEGASUS - CANTONNA'S LAB -

Cantonna completes his work, starts the quantum processor. The system accepts Cantonna's request for access. He looks at the screen.

SOPHIE (V.O.)

Sam's world is a whole new league. Let's hope she can handle it.

A smile appears on Cantonna's face - he has succeeded. He punches in some commands to test run his access. The ship system backfires, shaking the ship vigorously.

Everyone is thrown on the floor. Sparks fly around. People run for safety.

INT. PEGASUS - THE FRIDGE (DNA BANK) -

Jenny is on the floor in the fridge, a sample in her hand. The hull in the fridge starts to dematerialize behind her, the fridge doors pulled shut by the pressure of atmosphere exiting the

breached hull. Jenny and her colleagues in the fridge look for something to hold on to but can't find any. They are sucked out into space, one after the other. Jenny screams.

INT. PEGASUS - CONTROL DECK -

The deck is in a mess as most of the installed systems are damaged. Sparks fly around, medics pour in to assist the personnels. Fear and confusion overwhelms everyone.

Smoke blinds the men and women, making it difficult to control the situation. Medics scout around, looking for people to treat.

Thomas lies on the floor with a cut above his eye, tries to get up. His wrist comm device beeps. He checks it. The message reads:

{Chip 2R164F0 carrier, Jenny Zhao, deceased.}

He climbs to his feet, stares out the window, shocked. Blood drips from his cut - he is in shock.

DAMIEN

Thomas! Look at me. Focus.

(to himself)

His pupils are dilated.

He turns, looks around.

DAMIEN

I need assistance here!

(to Thomas)

Breathe slowly - it's OK. You're going to be fine.

A medic runs over to help. Thomas looks at Damien. He burst into tears, clings to Damien's coat as he buries his face in his chest.

THOMAS

She's gone, Damien. I lost her.

MEDIC

Calm down, Major.

DAMIEN

What? Who? What are you talking about?

Thomas, holding on to Damien, wobbles, slumps to the floor.

THOMAS

She gone...

Damien turns, finds a computer being used by a technician to assess the damage.

He walks up to him and pushed his chair aside. He enters Jenny's chip number into the computer. He waits for the result - the words appear, cold, immutable:

{chip carrier deceased}

INT. PEGASUS - SAM ZHAO'S OFFICE -

Sam stands by the window, his face hardened.

H.I.S  
Commander. Major Thomas is here to see you.

SAM ZHAO  
Let him in.

Thomas walks in, salutes.

SAM ZHAO  
Sit down, Major.

They stare at each other.

SAM ZHAO  
I don't know what to say.

THOMAS  
You can start by telling me what happened, sir.

SAM ZHAO  
Problems with the ship.

THOMAS  
Bull shit.

SAM ZHAO  
MAJOR!!!

THOMAS  
I just lost my wife. Give me something. Anything.

SAM ZHAO  
I just lost my daughter and eight other people. Anything else?

Thomas calms down.

THOMAS

Tell me you're not responsible for this.

SAM ZHAO

Responsibility is something I've shouldered for a long time, Major. You have no idea what that word means. You're not even concerned about the other lives lost - I don't have that luxury. I can't even mourn my own daughter, I have to stay focused for the sake of the people left on this ship. What about you? Does anything else matter? I loved my daughter, you know that. Should I abandon my duties? Who will do the job? We have sworn our lives to duty, for the sake of everyone else. We are the oath. We are soldiers.

Thomas thinks about what Sam has said. Gradually his face hardens.

THOMAS

Why is this necessary?

SAM ZHAO

We can't risk it. Entering new grounds without back up or defense systems? It's just stupid - we don't have a choice.

Thomas nods with approval.

SAM ZHAO

Ken?

Thomas looks up.

THOMAS

He's with Damien at the medical center. He's fine.

SAM ZHAO

Do you need time off to take care of him? I can find someone to fill in for you.

THOMAS

Won't be necessary sir. I can handle it.

SAM ZHAO

No, you can't.

THOMAS

Yes, I can.

Both men glare at each other for a while, both understanding why the other insists on their choices.

THOMAS

I'll clean up the mess for now. You'll need all your resources in re-calibrating the systems.

Sam stares at him as he speaks.

SAM ZHAO

System re-calibration is complete. Just going through the base codes again to make sure nothing bad happens this time. It will take a couple of hours. Go home.

THOMAS

Tell the guys to be more careful. Anything happens to my son, I'd better be dead--- sir.

SAM ZHAO

You're one hell of a soldier, Thomas, a great son in law, and an exceptional father. But something terrible has just happened to you - you're important to us, and we don't want you broken. You should stay away from this for a while - we'll clean up. Take as much time as you need.

The captain stands and stares at the general. He is shocked.

THOMAS

To us, sir.

SAM ZHAO

Sorry?

THOMAS

Something terrible just happened to us, sir.

SAM ZHAO

Yes. That's what I meant.

THOMAS

No, you didn't. She's your daughter -do you feel anything at all? Pain? Guilt? Remorse?

Sam hits the table in anger.

SAM ZHAO

Major! You weren't there when she was born! You didn't see her pull her brother into this world! You didn't see her watch and protect the family while I was away! (Pause) Don't ask me that again - ever. You're getting time off. That's final.

Thomas is fighting to control himself. His face is hardened - the general is pushing dangerously and risking too much. He turns and leaves the office.

Sam picks up his wrist comm device as he walks out of the office, calls Cantonna.

SAM ZHAO

We have a problem. Double up on time.

INT. PEGASUS - KADAYA'S QUARTERS -

Thomas paces furiously, telling everything to Kadaya.

Kadaya sits in her chair, shocked, her eyes wide open.

INT. PEGASUS HALLWAY -

Kadaya walks quickly around the ship, looking for Sam, pushing people out of her way. She asks everyone if they have seen the general, they all shake their heads. She picks up her comm device and calls Sam.

THE SCREEN CHANGES BETWEEN THEM AS THEY CONVERSE.

KADAYA

Sam. I've been looking everywhere for you. Can we meet?

SAM ZHAO

Sure. I'll be at yours later.

KADAYA

This is urgent. We need to meet now. Where are you?

SAM ZHAO  
I'm busy right now. Can we do this later?

KADAYA  
No, we can't. Where are you?

The line is silent for a moment. Sam's voice changes from normal to very calm. He laughs.

SAM ZHAO  
Kadaya, we both know where we stand.

KADAYA  
What are you doing, Sam? People are dead.

SAM ZHAO  
Somebody needs to defend these people if things get bad. I chose to do my job.

KADAYA  
You need to think this through - more people could die.

SAM ZHAO  
I know. Unfortunately, sacrifices are necessary - when I'm done, the council can crucify me. I know they will, then they will clean their hands of my deeds while enjoying the spoils.

Cantonna whispers to the general.

DR. CANTONNA  
I need you to check this.

SAM ZHAO  
You need to excuse me - the task is heavy, and the duty is undeniable. We'll discuss this at dinner.

The line cuts off. Kadaya stands in the hallway, looks scared.

INT. PEGASUS - CANTONNA'S LAB -

The general stands, thinking.

DR. CANTONNA  
That woman will be the end of you.

SAM ZHAO  
Shut up.

DR. CANTONNA

All I'm saying is you're a wanted man now.

SAM ZHAO

I know. But you must keep working, even when I'm gone. And you'd better provide some good results or we're both done for.

INT. PEGASUS - COUNCIL HALL -

The commander stands in the circle of judgement. His colleagues sit in a curve around him, staring with condemnation. They are shocked, whisper among themselves.

SAM ZHAO

Don't bother with assigning blame. You all know you don't have the right to judge me. I suggest we debate this like intelligent people.

COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD

You know the rules, Commander. We bled too much to get here. We can't devolve, not now.

SAM ZHAO

An intelligent mind is open to reason.

COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD

We've always been open. But not this time.

COUNCILLOR CORNELIUS

It's no one's place to make such decisions - we can't abdicate such powers.

SAM ZHAO

Such powers? You just handed your fate, and that of your children, to strangers from another world. We know nothing about them, their intentions. I'm just trying to give us a little... edge.

COUNCILLOR NARAYAN

You were there when the helpers offered the deal, and you agreed. You heard them - we need to evolve, otherwise we'll not fit in our new home. They warned us, and you broke the rules.

SAM ZHAO

Don't tell me about rules - you broke it first. And what home are you referring to? Do you even have any idea what to expect? You assume that when we reach there everything becomes peachy. If my experience teaches me anything it's that everything that can go wrong will go wrong, ladies and gentlemen. They said we could be removed if we fail. Do you even know what that means? Or how it would be done? You just sit there without giving a thought to what to do if things go south. As usual, you leave that part to me to deal with, without any prior warning. I need to prepare for the worst, that's my job. We have their technology and knowledge to work with - there are so many options to prepare for this problem...

The hall is silent for a second. They start discussing among themselves.

COUNCILLOR ODUWA

Do you understand what you're asking of us? Because I don't think you do.

SAM ZHAO

I'm fully aware - I merely chose not to be a coward, I state my intentions.

COUNCILLOR TRUMAK

We will get to your intentions in a minute - let's start with what we're to work with. You said we have their technology and knowledge. What technology are you referring to? I only thought I should ask considering we can hardly take a shower without giving the good physicist a call. And that's after a good number of years on this ship.

SAM ZHAO

You've always had an interesting way of expressing your opinions. This is important - our lives depend on it.

KADAYA

You are always calm when you have things worked out. What is it?

Sam turns to Kadaya and smiles.

SAM ZHAO  
We're in. We have access.

COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD  
Access to what?

Sam keeps his gaze on Kadaya, waiting for her response. Kadaya sits silent.

RECKITT  
Spill it commander. What have you done?

Sam turns his gaze to the head council.

SAM ZHAO  
We have access to the ship's systems platform - we're already in the process of rewriting some of it to allow us build an interface to run the whole thing.

RECKITT  
Have you lost your mind?

SAM ZHAO  
On this ship, who hasn't? Listen - the ship systems was guarded by some extreme security measures - I'm sure you know what I mean. The hoard was protected to prevent inferior intellect from gaining access - we weren't supposed to have it because we were deemed unworthy. Who knows, maybe we are? But we solved the riddle before reaching our destination, which proves we have the intelligence to integrate ourselves into the colony.

There's a buzz around the room.

SAM ZHAO (CONT'D)  
We've put limits to our pursuit of knowledge, gating ourselves from the fringes, but I can't help but wonder - we may have never needed help. We evolved too slowly, afraid of everything around the corner. We failed to grow up fast enough to clean up after our own mess, and like children, we let the helpers do the cleaning.

SAM ZHAO (CONT'D)

Even with the chance we've been given  
to rise from the ashes of our own demise,  
you still cower. If we don't do this  
now, we don't deserve redemption.

Sam calms down.

SAM ZHAO (CONT'D)

I beg you. If you can't grow a spine  
for yourselves, do it for your  
children. You've always trusted me to  
protect you, this is it - give me the  
chance.

The hall erupts in arguments. Council members express themselves  
freely in support of the Commander. Kodaya sits quietly, staring  
at him.

He is responsible for the death of those people including his  
own daughter, and her eyes fill with tears. She tries to hide  
it as she holds her breath.

RECKITT

SILENCE!!

The hall falls quiet. Everyone takes their seats.

RECKITT

I'm not surprised - you don't get it.  
All this time and you still---  
It's the process. Assistance was  
offered because our humanity was worth  
saving. We're to prove ourselves  
worthy, not by intellect alone, but  
with wisdom. You may have destroyed our  
chance now - I don't suppose your  
enormous mind conceived the  
possibility of the crackable security  
system of a superior race as being a  
test? To see if we can resist the power  
over everything? The wound is deep. The  
objective is to integrate not dominate  
- we need to transcend this or we won't  
make it.

Sam's body language expresses his disinterest in Reckitt's  
opinion.

Reckitt sighs, continues his speech.

RECKITT

I always knew you were stained. Your perception of our teachings has always been too rigid. It was clear you never gave our philosophical ideas a thought, you tried to hide it, but some of us see beyond your wall. Wouldn't you agree? Councillor Zhao?

Sophie's voice quaver in fear for her son whom she loves.

SOPHIE

Son? What have you done?

The general turns away, his face hardens. He nods gently and looks at Reckitt.

Reckitt returns his gaze with no expression. Sam turns his gaze to Kodaya, her eyes already drenched in tears.

Sam presses his wrist comm device.

Colonel Dalgano and a group of soldiers march into the hall with lethal weapons, stand by their general. Sam's gaze is still fixed on Kodaya without flinching. Kodaya stands up and leaves the room.

RECKITT

What is this? Commander, have you gone mad?

Sam ignores him, walks towards his mother.

SAM ZHAO

Someday you'll understand.

SOPHIE

Not like this, son. Please?

SAM ZHAO

No turning back now.

RECKITT

You must stop this before you do more damage.

Sam turns his burning gaze at Reckitt - he is fired up and ready for war. His mother looks at him. The darkness in his eyes has returned.

RECKITT

Sophie! Tell him to stop this now!

Sam holds his hand out to Dalgano, and the colonel gives him his side arm. He looks at the gun and then turns his gaze towards Reckitt.

SAM ZHAO  
You've taken everything.

He points the gun at Reckitt, squeezes the trigger.

SOPHIE  
SAM!

A knife hit Sam's arm and his bullet hit Reckitt's shoulder. Everyone in the hall, scared, panics, heads for the entrance.

Kadaya wears her full combat uniform. She pulls her stunner from the holster. The soldiers point their guns at Kadaya.

She dives for cover as they unleashed a hail of gunfire in her direction. The council members run for cover, the exit.

SAM ZHAO  
CEASE FIRE!!!

The men stop shooting. Sam calls out to Kadaya.

SAM ZHAO  
Kadaya? I'm sorry. I would never hurt you. Come. Stand with me.

Kadaya breathes heavily behind the shelter.

KADAYA  
You're wrong, Sam. This is everything you're gambling with. You've not thought this through, it's dangerous - you're dangerous. I can't allow it.

SOPHIE  
Listen to her, son. She's right. End this now, please.

Sam takes a step back, displays a defiant attitude.

SAM ZHAO  
I see we've all chosen sides. Good. It begins.

With his eyes still fixed on his mother he gives a sign to open fire on Kadaya. The men obeyed. Sophie turns away, closes her eyes in despair.

Sam turns to where Reckitt is hiding. Sophie whispers.

SOPHIE

The fear and the ego, son. Don't let them get you.

The men keep firing at Kadaya as she returns fire with the stun gun, hits a few of them.

Sam heads towards Reckitt, lying on the floor trying to pull himself to safety. Sam follows him slowly, gripping his gun tightly.

A couple of soldiers come in behind Kadaya and open fire on the general's men. Some of them get hit and the others dive for cover as they return fire. The general's men surround him, giving him cover.

COLONEL DALGANO

General - we have to go. This place will soon be flooded with the enemy.

Sam is still fixed on killing Reckitt. The colonel drags him away from Reckitt, by his arm, as they move towards the second exit. Kadaya gets up from her shelter, goes straight to her father.

KADAYA

I need two men to secure my father. Somebody - call a medic.

SOLDIER

Yes ma'am.

KADAYA

Contact the observation deck and ask for Major Thomas. Tell him scenario three, he'll know what to do.

SOLDIER

Yes ma'am.

The soldier runs off, tapping his comm device. Kadaya kneels by Reckitt.

KADAYA

Father? Are you OK?

RECKITT

It's just a flesh wound, I'll be fine. Go after him - but be careful.

KADAYA

I will. (Sighs). You're right - you've always been right...

Kadaya kisses his hand.

RECKITT  
I'm sorry, Kadi, I know you loved him.  
Be strong - for all of us.

KADAYA  
Yes, father.

Kadaya gets, approaches the soldiers.

KADAYA  
I need two groups. Sergeant?

SERGEANT  
Ma'am.

KADAYA  
You'll lead the other group - take that  
exit. Be careful out there -we don't  
know who is with us on this.

Kadaya walks towards the other exit.

SERGEANT  
Cathy, Barlow, Jim, Kawagami, Chloe.  
You're with me.

The other soldiers run after Kadaya to catch up with her.

INT. PEGASUS HALLWAY -

Sam, Dalgano, and the other soldiers walk down the hallway.  
Soldiers come out of their quarters, making eye contact with  
Dalgano. Dalgano returns the gaze and the soldiers follow them,  
their numbers growing.

INT. PEGASUS - CANTONNA'S LAB -

The general and Dalgano walk in. Cantonna is at the corner of  
the room, spraying a plant with water. He had been busy taming  
the ship and building an interface for it.

SAM ZHAO  
Doc! Time's up. Where are we?

Cantonna turn towards the men, speaks calmly, smiling.

DR. CANTONNA  
I saddled your mare. Just a little  
implant and you're good to go.

Cantonna puts the sprayer on the platform and presses a button. The platform absorb the sprayer. Sam smiles.

SAM ZHAO  
Colonel? Find Thomas. Do what you will.

COLONEL DALGANO  
Thank you, sir.

Dalgano leaves the room. One of the soldier throws him an old fashion cowboy holster with an antique nickel plated Smith and Wesson revolver in it. Sam walks to the compartment and pulls out the bag he left there earlier, turns to Cantonna.

SAM ZHAO  
We have work to do.

INT. PEGASUS HALLWAY -

KADAYA (V.O.)  
- and the east side of the ship?

Kadaya walks with Thomas. Some soldiers follow them.

THOMAS  
Soldiers quarters as well. Word of why this is happening is spreading fast - most of the men are tired of the journey, they'll side the general on this. He's offering a way out.

KADAYA  
I know. Keeping the eye on the ball is not as easily said as done.

THOMAS  
And the general?

KADAYA  
What about him?

THOMAS  
Why is he doing this? Surely he's not broken by this journey?

Kadaya slows her pace.

KADAYA

I don't know Thomas. Some believe psychopathy is a by-product of leadership - genius and insanity are closely tied, only perception places one within the parameters of the norm. This is what happens when you lay too many responsibilities on a wounded mind.

Thomas holds her shoulder.

THOMAS

He's just lost - he'll come around.

KADAYA

Don't patronize me. I know him better than anyone. He comes to his decisions by understanding - in his mind, he's doing the right thing, and he'll level this ship to get it done. You should be prepared for the worst - there's no happy ending, only blood.

THOMAS

Blood? We're using stun guns.

KADAYA

They aren't they must have smuggled in the weapons. You need to understand - to him, opposition is not allowed or tolerated. He's got to remove us, so we don't infect others with our--- opinions.

Thomas looks a little scared. Kadaya looks at him briefly.

KADAYA

Return to the control deck, secure it at all costs. He'll need the systems installed on the ship to reach the people who want out - keep it from him. I need to visit the museum.

THOMAS

Yes ma'am.

Thomas jogs back towards the control deck.

MULTIPLE SCENES SHOWING HEAVY BATTLE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

PEGASUS HALLWAY -

Sam walks through the corridors, his face cold, dead. He hears a couple of soldiers running towards him from around the corner. He stops and waits for them as they are blocking his path to the control deck.

The men appear, holding their stun guns. They stop a distance away. The soldier speaks with respect and fear.

SOLDIER (TEAM LEADER)  
Commander. We've been ordered to bring  
you in. Please, don't make us resort  
to force. Sir

Sam glares at the soldiers.

SAM ZHAO  
I don't have time for this.

The soldiers held their weapons firmly, preparing to use force. Sam notices, fixes his gaze on them, tilts his head to the side.

PEGASUS HALLWAY -

Thomas runs towards the control deck to carry out his orders. He can hear gunfire ahead. He takes the next turn to avoid the battle, snoops around from corner to corner, trying to avoid detection.

He hears something nearby, raises his stun weapon as he investigates the disturbance in the area.

He comes out slowly from the corner, points the weapon towards the direction of the noise. Someone grabs his gun, drags him out in the open, hits him hard in the ear.

Thomas falls to the ground instantly, holds his ear. Dalgano comes out in the open, rubs his knuckle to ease the pain. Thomas's vision is blurry, as he can hardly get back on his feet. The colonel speaks with his jaws clenched.

COLONEL DALGANO  
I've been looking for you.

THOMAS  
Colonel?

COLONEL DALGANO  
You have no idea how much this means  
to me.

INT. PEGASUS HALLWAY -

Kadaya walks through the corridor with a few soldiers. They hear gunfire ahead. They move faster towards the shots, to get involved.

INT. PEGASUS - SPORTS INSTALLATIONS -

Soldiers exchange fire. Kadaya's men shoot stun blasts while the general's men return fire with live rounds from automatic weapons.

SOLDIER 1

Why do I get the feeling these guys  
are eager?

LIEUTENANT

Just keep firing over the shelter.

A soldier takes position to fire over the counter; suddenly his head gets blown off. The other soldiers look scared. The soldier's voice quaver as he speaks.

SOLDIER 2

Shit, they're gonna kill us all. We  
gotta surrender sir.

LIEUTENANT

They don't like cowards. Neither do I.

The men hear a quick round of stun blast weapons. The shooting stops. They peer over their shelter of lockers and tables, see Kadaya changing the cell in her weapon as she walks in from behind the enemy soldiers. The soldiers are relieved, stand up from behind their cover.

LIEUTENANT

Thank you senator. We were starting to  
think we were corpses.

The lieutenant looks at the scared soldier as he wipes the sweat from his upper lip. Kadaya glares at him.

KADAYA

Seen the commander?

LIEUTENANT

No, ma'am. It's like he just  
disappeared off the ship.

KADAYA

OK. You guys are with me.

LIEUTENANT

Gladly.

Kadaya turns around to give orders to the soldiers following her to the sports arena.

KADAYA

You guys---

She looks around, not finding them there. She is puzzled.

KADAYA

Some soldiers followed me out here,  
right?

The soldiers stare at Kadaya as she turns around, confused.

LIEUTENANT

No senator.

Kadaya raised her gun and starts retracing her steps back to find them. She suddenly flies back across the room. The soldiers watch her fly back and turn to see what hit her. There is nothing.

One of the soldiers neck is seized by someone invincible, his gun raises up, pointing at the other men. The gun fires, stuns all seven soldiers. They fall to the ground. The soldier being held suddenly twists, his neck broken.

Kadaya is still on the ground, trying to retain consciousness, turns around to find everyone knocked out or dead.

She hears the sound of something switching off, a man's image flick in and out of visibility. He finally appears fully and pulls off his mask, looks at Kadaya. It is Sam.

INT. PEGASUS HALLWAY -

Thomas flies across the corridor, lands hard, rolls across the floor. The colonel follows, grabs the Thomas by his neck, lifts him up.

COLONEL DALGANO

I have no idea what he sees in you. He probably favoured you among your peers because of his daughter. This club is for men, not boys.

He drops him and kicks him in the chest. Thomas flies into the control deck, back first, slides to the floor, his body stopped by a soldier's body.

Thomas clutches his chest, looks around to find all the soldiers on the deck are dead.

The colonel walks in after Thomas, looks out the window. He pulls out the revolver from his holster, looks at the weapon with love. Dalgano takes a deep breath.

COLONEL DALGANO

I've been looking to kill someone with this thing for a while now. The time has come.

THOMAS

I wouldn't count on that.

Thomas presses a button on his wrist comm device. A security system he installed, as requested by Kadayaya, pulls out from the ceiling and fires a stun shot at the colonel. Dalgano freezes, looks at Thomas, and then falls to the ground. Thomas lies back down.

THOMAS

Son of a---

INT. PEGASUS - SPORTS INSTALLATIONS -

Kadayaya, still on the floor, looks up at Sam, puzzled.

KADAYAYA

I'd really like one of those for Christmas.

Sam smiles, shoves the mask inside his shirt.

SAM ZHAO

Stone was impressive, wasn't he?

KADAYAYA

Did you have to hit me that hard?

SAM ZHAO

We need to talk.

KADAYAYA

Impressive communication skills. If you're expecting a response, I hate to disappoint you, but I can hardly move my jaw.

SAM ZHAO

Enough with the jokes. You know why I have to do this.

KADAYAYA

Wait. This one I know - it has something to do with you being completely insane.

Sam looks unhappy with Kadaya's attitude.

SAM ZHAO

Don't do that. It's not fair.

KADAYA

Not fair, says the invisible man who just knocked me clean across the room.

SAM ZHAO

Stop being a child!

KADAYA

Funny. My father says that all the time. You two should meet for tea and discuss my attitude. Oh, wait. I forgot. YOU TRIED TO KILL HIM EARLIER TODAY!!

Sam, pissed off, yells at Kadaya. Points his finger at the ground as he speaks.

SAM ZHAO

HE TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME!!!  
You. Mother. Probably Damien. He's making me the bad guy, and all I've done is try to protect everyone - I denied my family to shoulder the responsibility without asking for anything. I sacrificed everything for all those people - I am their protector - it's my job! All i'm asking is something to work with. I have nothing - if things go bad, we're done.

Kadaya detects pride in the Sam's voice.

KADAYA

You flatter yourself. We may have to fight this out the old fashion way.

Sam tries to avoid a conflict with Kadaya.

SAM ZHAO

I can't fight you. We should talk about this.

KADAYA

Well, you talk, I'll kick your ass.

Sam smiles.

SAM ZHAO

We're so much alike when we're angry,  
you have no idea.

KADAYA

I'm nothing like you.

Kadaya attacks him and starts hand to hand combat. Sam is just blocking, avoiding taking a hit from her. Kadaya spins around, pulls a sharp metal hairpin from her hair, turns back at the general and tries to jab it in his face.

The general grabs her wrist, the hairpin only a few inches from his face. His eyes opened wider, he shifts his gaze from the blade to Kadaya.

The general squeezes Kadaya's wrist. She feels the pain and drops the knife. The floor absorbs the knife. Sam lets her loose, takes a few steps back keeping his gaze on Kadaya. He's shocked.

SAM ZHAO

You'll kill me? I've done nothing but  
loved you. I---

Sam rubs his head in confusion.

SAM ZHAO (CONT'D)

Tell me. If you manage to kill me, how  
would you feel?

KADAYA

Relieved.

Sam stands still, stares at her. He closes his eyes, whispers.

SAM ZHAO

OK, you win. We'll do this your way.

Sam clenches his fist and attacks Kadaya in anger. Kadaya doesn't stand a chance. Every hit she blocks inflicted pain on her, while she is weakened by the ones she can't avoid, almost losing her balance on several occasions.

Sam hits her ribs a couple of times then kicks her in the chest. She falls backwards to the ground, doubles over in pain. Sam steps closer to her, consumed by pride and fury.

SAM ZHAO

No one stands a chance against me, not  
even my mother. Only I am strong enough  
to lead these people into the future  
- I am their leader now!

Kadaya stands up, swings a couple of weak punches at Sam. He moves back to avoid them. She swings around, pulls a short sword from her sleeve.

She launched herself towards Sam, back first, and plunge the blade through her chest, pushing it to reach her enemy. The blade stops at her back as Sam's camouflage suit is also fully armored.

She falls to her knees, breathing slowly, accepts failure.

Sam, in shock, watches her fall, drops to his knees after her as she falls to the ground.

He picks her up as he gazes in her eyes. Her pupils are erratic as she struggles to stay conscious. She looks at Sam, talking slowly.

KADAYA

Sam. You risk too much. Please---

Sam, still speechless and in shock, cannot respond. She draws her last breath and dies.

Sam holds her in his arms, his face red he yells at the top of his lungs.

The interface bug Cantonna planted in his head lights up as it transmits his emotional explosion to the ship's A.I. The ship's fire wall reactivates to protect the ship from Sam's emotional transmission.

The implant in Sam's head puts him to sleep, he falls to the ground.

INT. PEGASUS - INFIRMARY -

Sam opens his eyes briefly. He can hear the doctor talking with Reckitt. His blurry vision sharpens up. Medical officers walk by, then he sees Reckitt discussing with the doctor.

MEDICAL OFFICER (V.O.)

He should be fine in no time.

A nurse walks to his bed, checks his bio-readings on the screen.

NURSE

He's awake.

Everyone turns to him. He turns his head in pain, speaks quietly, barely whispering.

SAM ZHAO

Kadaya.

NURSE  
You need to rest.

The nurse increases his drip to sedate him.

RECKITT  
Do not concern yourself with her.

Sam closes his eyes slowly, watches Reckitt walk away. He dozes off again.

INT. PEGASUS - INFIRMARY -

Sam opens his eyes, hears the ship broadcast system. The soldiers guarding the general in the infirmary salute while facing the broadcast system. Everyone watches the big monitor on the wall.

SERIES OF SHOTS OF DIFFERENT PLACES ON THE SHIP. EVERYONE IS WATCHING A CEREMONY.

INT. PEGASUS - HANGER BAY -

Soldiers carry a metal coffin. An image of the earth is engraved on it, along with Kodaya's full name, title and achievements.

The soldiers march slowly. People are gathered in hundreds, as many as the bay could allow. They put the coffin in a stasis chamber.

INT. PEGASUS - INFIRMARY -

Sam, lying on the bed, understands what was happening. He tries not to break down as his eyes move from side to side, thinking how things could have gone this wrong.

He folds, sinks his face in his hands and starts to cry. All of a sudden he raised his head in amazement - he is puzzled at his ability to feel pain or a sense of loss.

Then just as suddenly his face harden up...

INT. PEGASUS - COUNCIL HALL -

Sam stands in the center circle, the hall is filled with council members and witnesses. His hands are bound. Sam keeps a dead cold expression.

SAM ZHAO

Be all my sins remembered. You task me with such a burden. You hold me accountable for failure, and yet you judge me for doing what I must.

SOPHIE

Your actions cost lives. You know better. Why would you do this?

Sophie shakes her head gently, looks scared.

SAM ZHAO

The council was not open to reason. I had to take necessary steps to ensure our survival.

COUNCILLOR ODUWA

You didn't bring it to the floor.

SAM ZHAO

Stone did. You refused.

RECKITT

So you helped him.

Sam glares at Reckitt briefly and looks away.

RECKITT

Stone and his ideologies.

Sophie looks at her son, then looks over her shoulder at Reckitt. Sam looks at him too. Reckitt keeps an eye on Sophie.

SAM ZHAO

How's the shoulder? Sorry about that - the fury took over for a second there.

RECKITT

Yes I'm sure - it doesn't matter though. Councillor Zhao? We need to prepare.

SAM ZHAO

Yes mother, you need to prepare.

Sophie stares at him, looks over her shoulder at Reckitt again. She whispers.

SOPHIE

I can't.

Reckitt and Sam are shocked.

RECKITT  
Of course you can.

SOPHIE  
No. I can't.

RECKITT  
You know the rules.

SOPHIE  
I'm aware of the rules. I said I can't.

RECKITT  
He's not worth it - we need you.

SOPHIE  
I'M DONE!!--- I'm done.

Sophie walks towards Sam, touches his face. She stares into his eyes, almost crying.

SOPHIE  
I'm sorry, Sam.

Sophie walks to the exit, leaves the hall. Sam watches her walk away. He is angry. Reckitt turns to Sam.

RECKITT  
You managed to destroy everything  
close to you. Well done.

SAM ZHAO  
Let's hold the compliments -you're  
still standing.

Reckitt ignores him, walks away, speaks while walking away behind Sophie.

RECKITT  
Prepare the step-down ceremony.

Sam watches Reckitt with hatred.

INT. PEGASUS - HANGER BAY -

The general is lined up with his men by the ship pod systems, Dalgano beside him. They wear white skin suits. Reckitt stands as the only head council left. He passes judgement.

RECKITT

Commander, you have been found guilty of hideous crimes including murder. All who aided the general in executing these crimes will share his judgement.

Sam stares at Reckitt. Reckitt hesitates for a moment.

RECKITT

The punishment shall be exile.

COUNCILLOR TURAK

Exile? Isn't that a little too harsh?

RECKITT

He's too dangerous to keep around - I won't risk him and his men infecting others with their ideas.

COUNCILLOR NARAYAN

We can't throw them out into space... It's not safe out there.

RECKITT

I've been assured they'll be fine.

DR. SHIVA

The ship's pods will get them to a save habitable planet. I checked everything through the firewall's crack.

RECKITT

I'm also sending a pair of drones to escort and protect them, it will make sure they get to the chosen destination. As I said, they'll be fine.

The councillors agree by nodding gently. The judged are marched to their pods as the civilians among them protest the harsh judgement.

An hologram neural interface is worn on their heads to allow a network of holographic experience during their journey to their new world.

The stasis pods hisses when sealed shut. As Sam is being placed in his pod by the guard, he and the guard maintain eye contact.

The guard wear the hologram head gear for Sam and step back. Sam's pod seals shut and he falls asleep. The ship, not stopping, ejects the pods. The pod's propulsion systems light up and head off.

INT. POD SHIP HOLOGRAM NETWORK - ROOM

Sam wakes up on a bed, in a ship. His wrist comms device is beeping. He picks it up and a message appears on the screen.

**{Head for the observation deck. Activate file name "lucid". You know who.}**

Sam gets up from the bed and heads for the exit.

INT. POD SHIP: HOLOGRAM NETWORK - OBSERVATION DECK -

Sam arrives at the observation deck. Some soldiers are already there, activating the ship's systems. They look surprised as the ship responds to their command.

SAM ANDREW ZHAO

What are you doing?

SOLDIER 1

We don't know sir. We received a message to be here and activate these systems.

SAM ANDREW ZHAO

Carry on.

Sam takes a seat in the captain's chair. He activates the ship's files on the keys on his arm chair. The files pop up and he opens the file. A video pops up on the screen. Cantonna is on it.

DR. CANTONNA

I don't have much time, so I'll be quick. I managed to reprogram the hologram system for the stasis pods. That's right, you're in stasis - but I built a bridge for you, general. This entire pod hologram network allows access through your neural link - yeah, I know, I'm really good. So you're back online, you can control the pods through the link, share control of the ship systems as well. Just give it a thought and it's done. Sorry, it's the best I can do with the little time I had - the good councillor was in a hurry to shoot you into space. I managed to retrieve the ship's first destination from the navigation systems - it's not too far off anymore, it might take you about a year and a half with the pod's propulsion systems, but you'll get there. It's all set in the ship's systems. Safe trip.

Sam smiles, impressed with Cantonna.

SAM ANDREW ZHAO

No one touch the controls till I say  
so.

The men look at each other, confused. They obey. Sam closes his eyes.

SPACE

The pods start moving closer to each other. As they touch, they lock together like a powerful magnet. The pods use some mechanisms to hold to each other forming a stronger bond.

This carries on till the pods form a B-2 bomber shaped craft. The craft fires thrusters to change course and the rear pod's propulsion systems fire up. The ship heads for their new destination.

FADE TO:

SEVEN MONTHS LATER

EXT. NEW PLANET - DAWN

A brand new world. The oceans are pure as rain, the land lush with green vegetation. The trees stand tall and strong, a perfect world, peaceful.

Birds fly across the sky, scatter as several spots of flame tear through the clouds.

The pods crash into the oceans, float to the beach.

One after the other, the men step out of the pods onto the beach. Sam arrives last, wearing his dog tags. Colonel Dalgano walks through the crowd to meet the general.

SAM ZHAO

We're here.

COLONEL DALGANO

Yes Sir.

Dalgano smiles. Sam ignores him, looks up at the two distant suns in the sky, and a huge neighboring planet.

COLONEL DALGANO

What now?

Sam turns to his men. They are all eager to follow.

SAM ZHAO  
We claim what's ours.

He walks toward the lands to seek out his enemy. The men follow him.

THE SCREEN BACKS AWAY FROM THEM, OVER THE OCEANS AND INTO SPACE,  
SHOWING AN ALIEN PLANET.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.