# PROMETHEUS: PARADISE by Robert Finlayson

Original characters from *Prometheus* by Jon Spaihts and Damon Lindelof, based on elements by Dan O'Bannon and Ronald Shusett

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## EXT. SPACE

The vastness of OUTER SPACE in every direction as the horseshoe-shaped ENGINEER SPACESHIP speeds across our view at hyperspeed.

INT. PILOT CHAMBER - ENGINEER SPACESHIP

The android DAVID and ELIZABETH SHAW sit in the huge seats built for the eight-foot tall ENGINEERS.

David's head is still separated from his body, but he is still able to function at full capacity.

Shaw rubs her tiny silver cross between her fingers. A grand adventure awaits them both.

SHAW Do you think we're even close to their homeworld, David?

DAVID It is difficult to say for certain. But I do know that we are on the correct course.

SHAW This ship is certainly faster than ours ever was.

# DAVID

Quite faster. It would appear that we are traveling well beyond light speed.

SHAW I have reservations now.

DAVID About what, Doctor Shaw.

# SHAW

About encountering the other Engineers. They weren't exactly the friendliest of beings, were they?

## DAVID

Not at all. But I suppose that their hostility was a natural response given their experiences with those other lifeforms. Those were far more hostile, in my opinion. SHAW Maybe this is all one big bad idea.

DAVID It is too late to turn back now, after all that you've lived through and experienced. (beat) Besides, the ship's computer has just informed me that we are now approaching the home planet of the Engineers.

Shaw perks up and gets out of her oversized seat.

David programs their star system and planet to appear as a hologram in the center of the Bridge.

DAVID Right there. You have finally arrived at your destination, Doctor Shaw.

SHAW No, David... we have arrived.

EXT. ENGINEER PLANET - SPACE

The Engineer Ship heads toward a massive earth-colored planet surrounded by three Moons.

SUPER: EARTH 2094

EXT. YUTANI HEADQUARTERS - TOKYO

A MASSIVE SKYSCRAPER houses the Company's main offices and logistics operations in what is now the largest city on the planet.

Earth is becoming more and more desolate due to massive overpopulation and an irresponsible use of natural resources.

WINGROVE is an executive of Weyland Enterprises, the company that funded the disastrous trillion dollar expedition of the crew of the *Prometheus*.

He arrives by SHUTTLE on the building's expansive rooftop just as a light rain starts falling.

A YUTANI AIDE greets Wingrove on the landing pad as he exits the shuttle.

AIDE Welcome to Tokyo, Mister Wingrove.

# WINGROVE Thank you. Is everything ready?

AIDE Mister Yutani is waiting for you in his office. Right this way.

They walk down a lengthy corridor decorated with various styles of paintings.

INT. YUTANI'S OFFICE

The Employee holds open the door as Wingrove enters.

The office is enormous, yet sparsely decorated in the Asian style with a couch and a couple of matching chairs.

## WINGROVE

Good morning.

The Employee guides Wingrove over to AKIRA YUTANI, the billionaire shipping magnate interested in joining forces with Peter Weyland's corporation.

YUTANI Welcome, Mister Wingrove, I am Akira Yutani.

The Aide exits the office.

WINGROVE It's a real pleasure to meet you in person, Mister Yutani.

YUTANI You are most kind. Please, sit down.

WINGROVE (they sit down) This is an extraordinary set-up you have here.

# YUTANI

We are doing our very best to maintain some sort of continuity in the modern world. We also hope to leave some sort of legacy for the generations to follow.

WINGROVE That is the main idea, isn't it? (Yutani nods) (MORE)

#### WINGROVE (CONT'D)

Speaking of which, the future is entirely off-world, as you and I are well aware. And despite recent setbacks, the Weyland Corporation is as determined as ever to renew its pioneering spirit and devote itself to further space exploration.

#### YUTANI

Yet your spaceship *Prometheus*, that crown jewel in your fleet, has been missing these last three years, and your stock has depreciated greatly with the failure of that mission.

#### WINGROVE

While it is true that we have lost contact with the crew, for all intents and purposes, a distress signal was received from LV-223, the planetoid they landed on.

## YUTANI

I must confess, when I first heard that Peter was personally embarking on the journey with the crew I thought it was a great big joke, a publicity stunt on the grandest scale. But then, then he put his money where his mouth was, not any easy thing to do, even for a dying billionaire.

WINGROVE Frankly, Mister Yutani, he had little to lose.

## YUTANI

Still, one must admire his vigor, his fortitude, and...

#### WINGROVE

(finishing for him) His fortune.

# YUTANI

Yes, that as well. Which brings us to the business at hand.

#### WINGROVE

Am I to understand that you do not wish to takeover the Weyland Corporation, but rather merge with it?

#### YUTANI

That is correct. I have no desire to unravel or unmake the progress or reputation that a great visionary such as Peter Weyland achieved in his lifetime, I want to continue it, build upon it, perfect it, even, if possible.

#### WINGROVE

Yet you would remain the majority shareholder?

#### YUTANI

Yes, Mister Wingrove. And in the spirit of unity I shall rename the company Weyland-Yutani so that the world understands our goals.

#### WINGROVE

It seems like you've thought everything through, Mister Yutani.

#### YUTANI

Since before the *Prometheus* left earth's orbit these moves were already in motion. In fact, once Peter was to return, we were going to announce our plans to the world. But now it seems that press conference shall never come to pass.

## WINGROVE

As the surviving majority shareholder of Weyland Industries and all of its subsidiaries, myself and the other boardmembers have agreed unanimously on this merger.

# YUTANI

That is wonderful news.

#### WINGROVE

(they shake hands) Mister Weyland would be pleased by what we are going to accomplish in his stead. YUTANI Of this I am most certain, Mister Wingrove.

INT. SICKBAY - ESCAPE SHUTTLE

The larger QUEEN XENOMORPH, the same one that was born from the last surviving Engineer is crouching atop the surgical capsule HISSING as she lays eggs from her newly-formed ovipositor, or eggsack.

INT. BOARDROOM - WEYLAND-YUTANI HQ - TOKYO

All the CEO'S of the newly-merged Company are seated around a mammoth conference table.

Monitors line the walls whereby they receive round the clock transmissions from both earth, and their numerous colonial operations around the solar system.

Wingrove enters like a man on a mission -- determined to make his mark in a room filled with elderly millionaires in total control of his future at this moment.

> WINGROVE Good morning, gentlemen, I'll get right to the point. Our scouts have recently confirmed the discovery of the enormous mining opportunities available in the Zeta Reticuli System...

He activates a monitor displaying a detailed holographic map of the region.

WINGROVE Which consists entirely of nine moons and an asteroid belt located here.

He points to the location of the asteroid field on the screen.

#### WINGROVE

Preliminary reports notify us of large mineral deposits located here on this large moon encircled by the asteroids, and then this smaller planet named LV-426. As you may well know, drilling operations have already begun, and we're three miles into the interior already.

# FIRST CEO

Isn't this made all the more dangerous by the asteroid field?

#### WINGROVE

To a degree, but that does go along with the territory. I'm fully prepared to take all the appropriate risks.

The CEO's mumble amongst themselves. They're taken aback by Wingrove's bravado.

FIRST CEO What are we talking costwise for this entire operation?

#### WINGROVE

I'm sure you've all read the portfolio I had sent out detailing the budget to the last red cent, correct?

# SECOND CEO

(to the First CEO) We've gone over the numbers and I'm prepared to speak for everyone here when I say that we're sufficiently satisfied.

## WINGROVE

Good, then we can move into the second phase and begin planting a colony.

#### FIRST CEO

Now this LV-426, I'm curious to know if it's been thoroughly scouted for lifeforms and any other potential hazards?

#### WINGROVE

Initial surveys detect no life whatsoever on either of the moons. They're as barren as the Sahara, gentlemen. The planet has a lowgravity atmosphere which has to be overcome, but our staff has dealt with the immediate problems.

# FIRST CEO

I take it you wish to be part of this expedition, then?

#### WINGROVE

It makes sense that I should be at the helm of such a promising enterprise.

SECOND CEO Promising by your definition, Mister Wingrove.

WINGROVE By all definitions, sir. (paces around the edge of the lengthy conference table) I'm convinced that I can earn all

of you wealthy men here even more riches once we've mined those moons for their vast resources.

## THIRD CEO

Your eagerness to front this project makes me wonder whose interests you serve best, Weyland-Yutani's, or your own?

#### WINGROVE

Let me assure you that I serve both equally. But I would be a damn fool if I didn't intend on expanding my personal war chest. After all, fortune does favor the brave.

#### FIRST CEO

How soon can you and your crew depart?

# WINGROVE

Immediately.

The CEO's all nod their heads in silent approval.

# FIRST CEO

Alright, Wingrove... you've got yourself a vessel.

## WINGROVE

And the full backing of the Company, which I expect in writing... mineral rights, the naming of territories, titles, and such.

#### SECOND CEO

You'll be well-compensated for all discoveries and claims made under the Weyland-Yutani banner. Within reason, of course.

# WINGROVE Of course. (tapping the table with

his fist) Well, then, gentlemen, here's to the spirit of exploration.

INT. ELEVATOR BAY - CONTINUOUS

Wingrove waits on an elevator as a gorgeous, raven-haired woman saunters up next to him.

She is WARRANT OFFICER CATHCART, an ambitious Weyland-Yutani employee and Wingrove's current love interest.

EXT. WEYLAND-YUTANI HQ

A tiny elevator travels downward on the face of the skyscraper.

INT. ELEVATOR

Wingrove and Cathcart are traveling downward over 150 floors.

CATHCART I know that look.

WINGROVE

Yes, you do.

CATHCART That's the look that says I just got what I wanted.

WINGROVE Well, you know me better than I thought.

CATHCART I'm just accustomed to seeing satisfaction written all over your face.

WINGROVE Ah, that must be it. CATHCART Still in a hurry to get out of here?

WINGROVE Are you serious? Earth's a fucking bore. I can't wait to leave its orbit.

She leans over and cups her hand over Wingrove's crotch, squeezing his package.

CATHCART Then this is your lucky day, I believe we have a preliminary lift off.

WINGROVE Can't you wait until we're back at the room?

CATHCART We've got one hundred more floors to go. I'm certain I can make something happen before then.

WINGROVE I'm certain too.

They embrace one another and Cathcart unzips Wingrove's trousers and slowly drops to her knees as the elevator continues its slow but convenient descent.

INT. BOARDROOM - LATER

Akira Yutani enters the room with all the CEO's still present.

YUTANI So, what is the consensus of Wingrove's mission?

FIRST CEO We believe he's the perfect man for the job. He's obstinate and courageous, to a fault.

SECOND CEO Even if he fails, Mister Yutani, he will have paved the way for subsequent missions to the Zeta Reticuli System.

# FIRST CEO

Wingrove plans on charting the entire system, and this will be invaluable to us in the future.

YUTANI

Then it is settled. He shall have our blessing... and our financing.

FIRST CEO Yes, Mister Yutani.

YUTANI But I have an entirely different mission for him in mind.

#### FIRST CEO

Pardon?

# YUTANI

I'm sending Mister Wingrove and his crew to determine the whereabouts, if any, of the *Prometheus* and its crew. He is going to LV-223 instead.

SECOND CEO

But why, Mister Yutani?

#### YUTANI

Primarily, because I am the boss. Both planets occupy the same system, and there will be sufficient time to explore LV-426 at a later date.

THIRD CEO

What makes you think Wingrove will go along for this?

#### YUTANI

First of all, he has no choice. Once he awakens from cryo-sleep they will have already arrived. Secondly, he's the type of man who rolls with the punches, a real team player.

## SECOND CEO

It seems a little unfair to expect him to take this all in stride.

#### YUTANI

That's what it takes to be a company man. We can send another ship to LV-426 in due time.

#### SECOND CEO

Then why didn't we simply tell Wingrove what his real mission would be?

## YUTANI

Because no same person would have ever agreed to do so. Whatever the *Prometheus* encountered out there in space is far more valuable in understanding than mere mineral ore.

### FIRST CEO

As long as we receive our share of the pie I can't see anything wrong the decision.

YUTANI

Of course you don't. And by the time they awake from cryo-sleep it will be too late for them to turn back.

INT. LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

Wingrove delivers the good news to CAPTAIN BIGGS, his hired navigator for the trip.

Biggs is a total been there, done that kind of guy. There's nothing he hasn't seen or done when it comes to space flight and he's an expert mechanic.

Wingrove enters the dock from a cargo elevator off to the side. Biggs is busy bolting a panel back onto the side of his starship.

WINGROVE I finally have myself a ship, captain.

BIGGS It's my ship, by the way.

WINGROVE Of course. This hasn't been an easy road for anybody, not by a long stretch. BIGGS And you're certain there's iridium in those rocks, and on that moon?

WINGROVE I'm betting my life on it.

BIGGS You may have just done that very thing.

WINGROVE (glancing at his watch) We leave in twelve hours.

BIGGS

Will do.

INT. COLOMBO

Biggs runs a systems control check on the main deck of the huge Weyland-Yutani cruiser.

MAZIBUKO is his first mate and a friend from way back.

BIGGS How does she feel to you, Mazi?

MAZIBUKO Big and buxom.

BIGGS Right up your alley, huh?

MAZIBUKO That's affirmative, captain.

BIGGS We're gonna have to work the kinks out along the way.

MAZIBUKO Are you sure that's such a good idea?

BIGGS No, I'm not sure, but for what they're willing to pay us I didn't rock the boat too much.

MAZIBUKO That'll have to be good enough for me then, I guess. BIGGS Don't let me put a gun to your head, alright?

EXT. EARTH'S UPPER ATMOSPHERE - EVENING

A massive DOCKING STATION floats above the clouds of Earth in the midnight blue sky tinged with a pinkish-orange hue.

The deep space vessel *Colombo* is preparing for its launch. A shuttle carrying the ship's crew heads towards the docking bay of the *Colombo*.

INT. SHUTTLE

On board the shuttle is Wingrove and Cathcart along with the other crewmembers DANFORTH, HATTIE, SUNJAY, WALLRICH, PEPPERS, BAKELEKOS and NUNO.

Hattie peers out the large window, well impressed by the Colombo.

HATTIE Now that's a proper ship.

WINGROVE State of the art.

DANFORTH I wouldn't expect anything less from Weyland-Yutani.

WINGROVE It is true that you get what you pay for.

SUNJAY You develop an instant global consciousness...

WINGROVE

Sorry?

## SUNJAY

A people orientation, an intense dissatisfaction with the state of the world, and a compulsion to do something about it. From out there on the moon, international politics look so petty. You want to grab a politician by the scruff of the neck and drag him a quarter of a million miles out and say... (MORE)

SUNJAY (CONT'D) (beat) "Look at that, you son of a bitch." WINGROVE Rudyard Kipling? SUNJAY (chuckles) Sure. Wingrove couldn't be more wrong. EXT. COLOMBO The shuttle docks inside the hangar bay of the Colombo. INT. HANGAR BAY The crewmembers exit the shuttle and look about in awe at the massive size of the cargo hold. PEPPERS Looks like the Captain got it right this time. NUNO She is one hell of a vessel, that's for sure. WINGROVE I take it you men have worked with Captain Biggs before? SUNJAY Many times before. DANFORTH He's the best around. WINGROVE I did not doubt it. Biggs and Mazibuko arrive by elevator and walk over to greet Wingrove and Cathcart. BIGGS Welcome aboard. (points to Mazibuko) And this is my First Mate, Mazibuko.

WINGROVE I'm Wingrove, and I'm the one in charge of this expedition.

#### MAZIBUKO

So, you're the company man.

WINGROVE Something wrong with that?

#### MAZIBUKO

No, not at all. In fact, it seems that I'm one too these days.

BIGGS All right, all right. (to Wingrove) Who's she?

## WINGROVE

This is Warrent Officer Cathcart, and she's my second hand on this voyage.

#### BIGGS

How come you didn't mention that before?

WINGROVE It must have slipped my mind.

#### CATHCART

Certainly you don't object to having a female on board, do you, captain?

# BIGGS

No, not at all. Just maintain the usual protocol since the crew is comprised entirely of men.

CATHCART I'll do my level best to stay out of their way.

# BIGGS

Suit yourself.

WINGROVE Good. Is everything on schedule, then?

# BIGGS

We're right on track and ready to leave when you give the order.

WINGROVE Then shove off, Captain.

# BIGGS

You got it.

Wingrove and Cathcart exchange faint smiles.

EXT. DOCKING STATION

The *Colombo* slowly pulls out of its hold and moves across the now darkened night sky of Earth.

Lengthy chemtrails follow in its wake as the ship gradually rises into the barrier between the atmosphere and outer space.

INT. OBSERVATION DECK - COLOMBO

Cathcart and Wingrove stand at the window looking down at the receding sky as they exit the atmosphere.

CATHCART Say goodbye to Earth.

WINGROVE Good riddance is more like it.

CATHCART You really do want to get away, don't you?

WINGROVE Does it show that much?

CATHCART Don't be so hasty, Wingrove. You just might miss it someday.

WINGROVE Let's hope you're wrong.

CATHCART But it's not up to me.

# WINGROVE

This is the chance of a lifetime, my dear. And I plan on grabbing it with gusto.

CATHCART Just keep in mind that we must be careful what we wish for.

#### WINGROVE

I don't have time to be careful. But I've got wishes enough to fill our entire solar system.

EXT. ENGINEER HOMEWORLD - SPACE

Shaw and David's Engineer Ship approaches the first Moon of planet. A larger, menacing ENGINEER MOTHERSHIP flies towards them.

INT. ENGINEER SPACESHIP

Shaw and David watch the approaching MOTHERSHIP on a hologram screen.

The front of the vessel is opening up like a flower petal to receive the smaller Engineer Ship.

SHAW What do you suppose that is?

DAVID I would guess that it a Mothership of sorts.

SHAW

What are we going to do? We don't even know how to communicate with them?

DAVID

You were the one so eager to meet your maker, Doctor Shaw. Now that we're here, why are you suddenly so frightened?

SHAW

Because in an instant they can unmake us all. Perhaps they'll refuse to be understanding.

DAVID

That is always a possibility.

Metal RUBS against metal as their ship enters the cargo hold of the MOTHERSHIP.

SHAW I'm so very sorry for this, David.

DAVID Frankly, I am as eager as you are to discover who these beings are. (MORE) DAVID (CONT'D) But you needn't apologize, doctor. I am unable to feel hurt by your actions.

SHAW Still, I've come to see you as more human than most.

DAVID Thank you for saying so. I accept your compliment.

A LOUD THUD as the ship comes to a halt.

SHAW We've stopped.

DAVID Let's try and produce a united front with them.

SHAW

Okay. (rubs her cross pendant with her fingers) And if that doesn't work?

DAVID Then it was a great pleasure having known you.

The main door their ship opens and two of the ENGINEERS enter wearing their customary spacesuits. They look around the interior then look at Shaw and David sitting in the command chairs.

One of the Engineers moves forward and removes his helmet. His large black eyes fixate on the severed head of David, then he locks eyes with Elizabeth.

The Engineer turns and speaks in his bizarre alien tongue with the other two.

SHAW (whispering) Do you understand them?

DAVID Not a word.

SHAW And what do you suggest now?

# Do nothing.

The Engineer finishes speaking with the others and walks straight towards David. He picks up David's head with both hands and stares at it.

David speaks in an amalgamation of sounds that the Engineer seems to suddenly understand.

The Engineer blinks its eyes and shakes its head before answering back in its own language. The Engineer looks over at Shaw and speaks to her, but of course she doesn't understand it.

> SHAW What's it saying?

> > DAVID

Roughly translated, it wants to know where their fellow crewmembers are.

SHAW And what did you tell it?

DAVID I believe I said that it was a very long story.

The Engineer GRUNTS something and the other two move forward and take hold of Shaw, jerking her up from the command chair.

The Engineer sets David's head down and points to the main door.

The other Engineers carry Elizabeth away while the other one stays behind with David.

SHAW (frantic) David! David!

DAVID It will be all right, Doctor Shaw. Try and remain calm.

SHAW

David!

The main door closes with a rapid SWOOSH.

## INT. ENGINEER LAB

The Engineers carry Shaw kicking and screaming into the lab and force her onto the large med table in the center.

## SHAW

# Stop! Let me go!

She resists them with all her might but she is no match for two eight-foot tall humanoids. One of them presses an elaborate touchscreen and enters some data.

A robotic arm lowers from the ceiling just above Shaw and splits open like an upside down umbrella into a a dozen skinny metal arms.

#### SHAW

No! Stop!

The metal arms insert their needle-thin tips into various parts of Shaw's body; calves, thighs, abdomen, breasts, wrists, arms, neck, cheeks and temples.

Her pain is excruciating, if only for an instant.

Shaw's physical data is displayed on in a hologram at the foot of the med table.

The Engineers stare at the data intensely -- something has peaked their interest. The Engineers speak to one another in their language as Shaw nervously twitches on the table.

The Engineers are observing Shaw's physiognomy. They both type in data on the touchscreen.

Shaw stops struggling to free herself. Now she's curious as to what they're up to.

The diagram on the touchscreen is a cross-section of Shaw's abdomen. The image zooms in and focuses on her stomach.

One of the Engineer's produces a lengthy hypodermic needle and inserts it into Shaw's s stomach just above the bellybutton and right in her C-section scar.

Shaw releases a blood-curdling SCREAM and the screen FADES TO BLACK.

INT. ENGINEER LAB - LATER

Shaw opens her eyes and finds herself laying on her back on a bed. She turns her head to the right, David is laying on a bed next to her, his head expertly reattached to his body.

SHAW (softly) David... can you hear me?

David turns his head slowly towards her.

#### DAVID

Yes. Are you all right, Doctor Shaw?

SHAW I don't know. I feel numb, all over.

DAVID These are quite extraordinary circumstances we find ourselves in, don't you think?

#### SHAW

I'm not sure what to think. But it is comforting to see you in one piece again.

DAVID

Yes, I find it far more convenient than before.

SHAW What do you think is happening to us?

DAVID I believe they are conducting tests on us both.

SHAW

Tests?

DAVID Or experiments. They did a full diagnostic check upon my system. (stares at the scar on her stomach) It appears they did the very same to you.

Shaw looks down at her stomach, the scar from before has been opened up and cauterized.

DAVID It's as if they wanted to be certain that you had no unwelcome guests with you.

#### SHAW

I never told you, but that thing I cutout of me, that fetus. It was alive on the escape pod. And it had grown in size.

# DAVID

How very peculiar.

# SHAW

It attacked the last Engineer and killed it.

DAVID Or used it for other purposes.

#### SHAW

You don't mean...

# DAVID

These lifeforms use hosts as an incubation chamber for the second stage of their evolution. It is no different than how a wasp lays eggs inside a spider that it has killed. The larvae then use the spider for nourishment as they grow, eating it from the inside out.

## SHAW

Oh, dear God.

## DAVID

I have yet to fully understand that exclamation.

SHAW And you'll never have to, David. At least we're still alive.

#### DAVID

From what I can gather they seem quite perplexed by our presence here.

SHAW I only wish we could communicate with them somehow.

DAVID

Perhaps they will see fit to communicate with us instead.

SHAW I'm so very scared right now.

DAVID All explorers on the cusp of great discoveries have been frightened. Again, this not only makes you human, but it also places you in distinguished company.

SHAW Thank you, David.

An Engineer enters. But he is different from the rest they've seen -- he's an ELDER ENGINEER, complete with a brown hooded robe.

He has lines and wrinkles in his face. With the robe he resembles a priest, or wise man.

At first when he speaks, the words come out in the Engineer language. As he continues speaking his words then morph into intelligible English.

> ELDER ENGINEER I have researched your language and altered my vocal chords in order to communicate.

The voice is almost robotic, with an odd cadence.

ELDER ENGINEER Do you understand me?

SHAW

Yes.

ELDER ENGINEER How did you come to be aboard this vessel?

 $$\operatorname{SHAW}$$  We too have been to LV-223.

ELDER ENGINEER That is most unfortunate.

DAVID Where are we just now?

ELDER ENGINEER On our homeworld.

SHAW

Is it true that you made us? Did you create the human race?

ELDER ENGINEER

We have created many things. Some beneficial, others detrimental.

SHAW That doesn't answer my question.

DAVID Doctor Shaw, I would advise a more subtle and cautious approach.

SHAW We've come too far for caution, David.

ELDER ENGINEER Continue to rest. I will come back for you later.

SHAW Please, answer my question.

The Elder exits the chamber.

DAVID

It appears there will be sufficient time to learn all that you desire to know, doctor.

SHAW And then what? What if it's an answer I didn't expect, or want to accept?

DAVID That is entirely out of your control, I'm afraid.

SHAW

So am I.

DAVID

Pardon?

SHAW

Afraid.

INT. BRIDGE - COLOMBO

Biggs and Mazibuko are checking the ship's internal systems. Mazibuko looks over his computer's data and the readout confirms that LV-223 is just ahead.

# MAZIBUKO We're here, Captain.

BIGGS So, this is the place.

MAZIBUKO I'll notify the others.

# BIGGS

As you were.

Mazibuko gets up and leaves the bridge as Biggs stares out the bay window at the planet.

BIGGS What secrets do you hold?

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Mazibuko enters the room where Danforth, Hattie, Peppers and Sunjay are prepping various pieces of equipment and landing gear.

> MAZIBUKO It's go time, gentlemen.

HATTIE (to Danforth) Are we ready?

DANFORTH We'll never know till we get there.

EXT. SPACE

The Colombo enters the orbit of LV-223.

INT. BRIDGE

Biggs mans the controls for landing as they enter the atmosphere. The ship rocks back and forth slightly from the bumpy entry.

BIGGS Steady as she goes, m'lady.

Mazibuko returns to his pilot seat.

BIGGS Not that I can see. Less resistance than I expected.

MAZIBUKO Engaging landing gear.

## BIGGS

Roger that.

EXT. LV-223 - DAY

The *Colombo* lands easily on top of a lengthy promontory overlooking the same valley of the ENGINEER TEMPLE.

INT. BRIDGE

Biggs and Mazibuko check their landing computers on a console behind their pilot chairs.

MAZIBUKO That was easy. BIGGS Yeah, a little too easy.

MAZIBUKO You sound disappointed, Biggsy.

BIGGS I just wanna be on my toes for this one.

MAZIBUKO One last hurrah and we're set for life. (runs his hand over a screen that pops up floating data) Atmospheric pressure quite normal.

BIGGS Any signs of life?

MAZIBUKO The system is checking. (beat) Negative. BIGGS Let's get a bird's eye view, shall we?

INT. OBSERVATION DECK

Biggs and Mazibuko enter a small elevator that takes them up several hundred feet into a tower above the ship.

At the top, a large bay window provides them with a panoramic view as far as the eye can see.

BIGGS

That's more like it.

They observe the vastness of the valley below and the Engineer Temple in the distance.

MAZIBUKO What do you suppose that structure is?

BIGGS I don't know, but it sure feels out of place for what we're doing. (beat) Let's assemble the crew. I wanna get cracking as soon as possible.

MAZIBUKO Aye, Captain.

INT. YUTANI'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Akira Yutani stands at a floor-to-ceiling window looking out over the vast expanse that is now Tokyo.

Outside a heavy thunderstorm is raging -- lightning bolts dance like snakes in the grey sky as rain pelts the window with tremendous force.

Yutani's Aide enters the room.

AIDE The Colombo has arrived on LV-223, sir.

YUTANI Anything interesting to report as of yet? AIDE

The entire crew is safe and sound. Captain Biggs transmitted that they would begin their investigation immediately.

YUTANI

Then everything is proceeding as planned.

AIDE One thing, Mister Yutani. What do we do if the crew discovers the truth.

YUTANI Then we tell them a big enough lie that they come to believe it.

# EXT. COLOMBO

The cargo bay of the ship opens up and a crew transport exits the ship.

INT. TRANSPORT

Danforth, Nuno, Hattie and Wallrich are on their way to look for mines.

NUNO This planet doesn't seem like the type of place you could mine ore from, does it?

DANFORTH I don't know. We've had surprises before.

NUNO

Right, but none of those surprises included anything remotely like what's up ahead there.

He points to the ENGINEER TEMPLE.

HATTIE What on earth is this thing?

NUNO That's just it, we're not on earth.

WALLRICH This makes mining seem completely uninteresting.

## EXT. ENGINEER TEMPLE

The transport pulls up to the front of the mammoth structure. The crew exits through a large sliding door on the transport's side.

They're all rightfully stunned by the sheer size of it -- although it does resemble ancient human architecture.

DANFORTH This structure is definitely man made, or of the like.

NUNO Let's just say it's humanoid.

## DANFORTH

Alright.

# HATTIE

Why are we even stopping here? We're supposed to be searching for mines?

NUNO This is far too compelling to ignore, Hattie.

## HATTIE

I disagree. We don't have the appropriate equipment or expertise to deal with this sort of thing. We're here to mine ore, for God's sake.

DANFORTH Think of it as on the job training.

#### HATTIE

Then put me on the record as having said I think we're making a very big mistake.

DANFORTH Duly noted.

WALLRICH

So, what now?

NUNO

We go in.

The crew walk down the main corridor of the structure with their helmet flashlights on high beams.

They enter the chamber where the large stature of an Engineer's Head is located. The crew are dumbfounded by the sight.

NUNO Guys, I think we landed on the wrong planet.

BAKALEKOS This is definitely not man made.

NUNO What do you think, Hattie?

HATTIE I don't know what to think. This wasn't in the brochure.

DANFORTH I don't like this one bit.

Hattie wanders over to the numerous cylinders dotting the chamber floor.

WALLRICH Don't touch anything!

HATTIE

I'm not.

NUNO I wonder what's inside these things.

# DANFORTH

I don't.

NUNO Don't be such a pussy, Danforth.

DANFORTH You are what you eat.

# BAKALEKOS

(laughing) Figures.

SUNJAY We did not need to know that.

# DANFORTH

Can we get the hell out of here? This is out of our league.

#### HATTIE

At the moment we're pioneers.

#### WALLRICH

This is just a guess, but maybe this place is the origin of the distress signal sent by *Prometheus*.

DANFORTH Prometheus? The science vessel?

#### WALLRICH

It was sent out explore for extraterrestrial life several years back. She was presumed to be lost in space. No one has heard hide nor hire from the crew ever since.

#### HATTIE

Peter Weyland was on board that ship.

NUNO <u>The</u> Peter Weyland?

DANFORTH So was his daughter.

# WALLRICH

No wonder Yutani had such an easy time of wrestling control away from the board at Weyland Enterprises.

PARKMOND And what if we don't find any trace of them?

# WALLRICH

Then Weyland-Yutani has a hell of a lot of explaining to do to its shareholders.

# EXT. ENGINEER SHIPWRECK

Bakalekos is walking alone when he stumbles across the massive Engineer Spaceship sticking out of the ground.

BAKALEKOS Well, fuck me.

EXT. ENGINEER SHIPWRECK - LATER

The other crew members stand next to Bakalekos in absolute awe of the ship.

SUNJAY This was definitely not built by Weyland-Yutani.

BAKALEKOS You always were the clever one, Sunjay.

PEPPERS This is the find of the century.

HATTIE Shouldn't we report this back to the Company?

SUNJAY There's time enough for that.

PEPPERS Where's Bakalekos?

EXT. ESCAPE SHUTTLE

Bakalekos inspects the remains of Elizabeth Shaw's crashed shuttle.

BAKALEKOS Hey, quys! Check this out!

INT. ESCAPE SHUTTLE

Wingrove and the others enter the shuttle. Junk is everywhere from the initial crash and further interior damage is from the extreme weather patterns of LV-223.

> BAKALEKOS What the fuck happened in here?

BIGGS It definitely shows signs of having crashed.

BAKALEKOS That's painfully obvious.

BIGGS What I mean is they weren't attacked. WINGROVE Do you think the navigation computer will be able to tell us what happened?

BIGGS If it's still intact, then yes.

WINGROVE See to it, Captain. (to Bakalekos) Bakalekos, you're coming with me.

BAKALEKOS You're the boss, Mister Wingrove.

INT. COCKPIT - ESCAPE SHUTTLE

Biggs fiddles with what's left of the shuttle's control panel.

BIGGS

What a mess.

WINGROVE Do you think you can fix it?

BIGGS Rig it is more like it.

He hotwires two consoles together in an attempt to activate any of the computers. After a few moments the computer comes back to life.

BIGGS

Here we go.

All sorts of charts and diagrams flash on and off at breakneck speed as the computer reboots.

BIGGS Now let's find out what really happened.

A NOISE in the background -- something dropping to the floor. Biggs turns away from the console, looking at the door.

BIGGS

Wingrove?

Wingrove is gone.

The NOISE again, this time louder and closer to Biggs.

# BIGGS

# Is anybody there?

He leaves the cockpit and walks into the main part of the shuttle.

## BIGGS

Hello.

He walks over to an emergency door where a white warning light is flashing.

This is the same sickbay door where the Engineer fought for his life and died against the giant tentacled FACEHUGGER. The door is battered, its paint faded from years of neglect.

On the floor is the decayed remains of the Engineer. Unrecognizable as any living thing. The remains resemble an art-deco painting more than any lifeform.

Biggs hesitates pressing the open button for the sickbay.

Suddenly a side door opens from the other side of the corridor and Bakalekos appears on the other side, scaring the shit out of Biggs.

BAKALEKOS Expecting someone else?

BIGGS Fuck, Bakalekos, what are you trying to do?

BAKALEKOS I didn't mean to scare you so bad, captain.

BIGGS Why didn't you answer me?

# BAKALEKOS

Because, you were asking for Wingrove. You didn't really think I was some sort of alien lifeform, did you?

BIGGS Sometimes you qualify as an unknown lifeform in my book. Did you find anything?

BAKALEKOS

No, you?
BIGGS

The nav computer's rebooting, but I don't know how long it'll take. Maybe then we'll find some answers.

BAKALEKOS This place is giving me the creeps already.

BIGGS I agree. It's not a very welcoming environment. Where's Wingrove?

BAKALEKOS He's around here somewhere.

He steps in the goo that was once the Engineer.

BAKALEKOS

Nasty.

BIGGS What do you figure that once was?

BAKALEKOS Somebody's dinner.

BIGGS Then where's that somebody?

INT. HALLWAY - ESCAPE SHUTTLE

Wingrove is examining a slimy residue covering the walls leading to the cockpit. He takes a couple of samples and places them in a container.

INT. ENGINEER TEMPLE - LATER

Danforth and the others are walking down the corridor that leads into the main hall where the giant humanoid head sculpture is located.

> HATTIE What's inside these cylinders?

NUNO Don't fucking touch them. Don't touch anything!

DANFORTH (gazing up at the gigantic head) Now that's some bust. NUNO It looks absolutely humanoid.

WALLRICH As opposed to what?

NUNO Something far more alien, foreign in appearance.

DANFORTH So Shaw and her team actually got to see this first?

NUNO It matters little now, especially if we can't find any trace of their visit.

Hattie bends down to get a closer look at a cylinder. It's covered in the black slimy goo.

HATTIE Now this is interesting.

NUNO I said not to touch anything, Hattie!

HATTIE And I haven't. I'm just getting a better look.

They all walk over to Hattie, who shines a light on the cylinder.

WALLRICH What do you suppose these things are?

HATTIE Don't know. They almost seem like canisters.

DANFORTH Then why the odd shape? They're more like decorative pieces.

NUNO Amphorae, I think you mean.

DANFORTH

Sure.

HATTIE Notice the black liquid that's oozed out from the top.

WALLRICH Could be a fuel of some kind.

DANFORTH Could be lots of things.

NUNO We'll determine that at a later time. We didn't bring that sort of equipment with us.

WALLRICH (holds his right arm up) I did.

HATTIE Well, there you have it.

DANFORTH What do you want to do, Wallrich?

WALLRICH I'm just going to take a sample,

that's all. For all we know it's blood from the veins of an alien species.

NUNO Or it's a highly poisonous and contagious virus that will infect and kill the whole lot of us by nightfall. Therefore, I strongly recommend that you proceed with great caution.

WALLRICH

Always, Doc.

INT. SICKBAY - ESCAPE SHUTTLE

Dozens of the alien eggs we are now so familiar with are positioned in precise rows inside the medical chamber.

The eggs are pulsating and the tops of several of them open up like flower petals to release their contents. INT. TEMPLE - ENGINEER HOMEWORLD

A group of ELDER ENGINEERS escort Shaw and David through a massive space with all sorts of altars in the same biomechanical design of their spaceships

In the center of the room is a large SARCOPHAGUS covered in the cuneiform script of the Engineers. Hoses from the ceiling are connected to it, and pipes from its pedestal run to its base.

The Elder Engineer motions for Shaw to come closer.

Shaw climbs the steps cut into the pedestal and peers inside the clear glass cover...

Where she sees a mummified being of ancient age. This is the GOD EMPEROR of the Engineers.

SHAW Who is he?

ELDER ENGINEER He is the first, and the eternal. Our God-Emperor.

SHAW Is he still alive?

ELDER ENGINEER He is immortal.

SHAW You say he was the first of your kind.

ELDER ENGINEER The progenitor of our species.

SHAW And who made him?

ELDER ENGINEER He is without beginning or end. He is and always has been.

SHAW Your people worship him.

ELDER ENGINEER Just as humans worship deities.

SHAW Your people came to our world and posed as gods, divine beings. Why? ELDER ENGINEER We helped your kind to evolve. SHAW But why did they impersonate gods? ELDER ENGINEER To teach you the meaning of faith. To train your minds to think and wonder. SHAW To what end? ELDER ENGINEER That you would serve us. SHAW You are not our masters.

ELDER ENGINEER For so very long we once were.

SHAW But we have a god, I have a god.

ELDER ENGINEER If this is true, then why did your ancestors deify us?

These are the questions and answers Shaw doesn't want to hear or know.

SHAW They were deceived. Your ancestors lied to ours.

ELDER ENGINEER We filled the void.

SHAW And then you left us.

ELDER ENGINEER Your people then invented their own gods.

SHAW As you have invented yours. ELDER ENGINEER Our God-Emperor is here for all to see and worship.

SHAW

Then if he is truly immortal, why don't you wake him up.

ELDER ENGINEER You humans are blasphemers and violent. And this is why you need masters to rule over you.

SHAW You couldn't be more wrong. And we mean your kind no harm.

ELDER ENGINEER Unfortunately for you, our elders do not agree.

INT. CARGO BAY - COLOMBO

The crew exits their transport and confronts Biggs.

NUNO What the fuck is going on, captain?

BIGGS Not to worry, Nuno. I'm just now waking up to the fact that we've been bamboozled too.

WALLRICH This isn't LV-426, is it?

BIGGS No, but damn close. We're on LV-223.

NUNO And we're supposed to be okay with this?

BIGGS Not exactly. But for the time being we're stuck here.

HATTIE When you say stuck, you mean?

BIGGS Obligated. We all signed contracts. DANFORTH Yeah, but we didn't sign on to endanger our lives.

BIGGS

Actually, you did, we all did. This gig carries the same weight as industrial mining.

NUNO Jesus, Biggs, you seem pretty consigned to our fate.

BIGGS Only to the realities of our predicament.

BAKALEKOS Goddamnit, Biggs! This is one great big pile of bullshit we've stepped into.

BIGGS I won't disagree with you there, Bakalekos. But it's not like we can just rev up the engines and be home for supper. (beat) I'm sorry. I truly am.

INT. MESS HALL

Cathcart is leaving as Danforth enters. He blocks her exit.

CATHCART

Excuse me.

DANFORTH

In a minute.

CATHCART If you don't mind, I'm in a hurry.

DANFORTH So am I, now that I know we're here under alternate reasons.

CATHCART Are you implying that that has something to do with me?

DANFORTH You're company property, so, yes. CATHCART So are you. Now kindly move.

DANFORTH What does ice flowing through your veins feel like?

CATHCART (grinning) Much the same as hot blood flowing through your testicles.

Danforth snickers, sly and dirty grin on his grizzled face.

Cathcart kicks him square in the balls, grabs him by the neck, and tosses him aside like a kung-fu master.

INT. CARGO BAY

Bakalekos gets into an ATV and starts it up.

EXT. CARGO BAY

Bakalekos speeds off alone back towards the escape shuttle wreck site.

INT. GAMEROOM

Wingrove is playing pool, just practicing on his own. Biggs enters the room.

BIGGS Mister Wingrove, a moment of your time.

WINGROVE What's on your mind?

BIGGS

Everything.

WINGROVE So, start talking.

BIGGS Not here. I don't want to be interrupted, or overheard.

WINGROVE

Fine.

INT. ROVER

Biggs drives as he and Wingrove speed across the rocky terrain of LV-223.

BIGGS All right, what the fuck is going on? Why are we really and truly here?

WINGROVE Take a deep breath, captain. We all have our orders.

BIGGS Really? And just what are these orders?

WINGROVE To investigate the disappearance of the *Prometheus* and its crew.

Biggs hits the brakes hard and brings the Rover to a SCREECHING halt.

BIGGS Son of a bitch!

WINGROVE No one would have volunteered if we'd have simply asked.

BIGGS So we're risking our necks based on your lies.

WINGROVE Consider them Weyland-Yutani's lies, Captain Biggs. As I said, we all answer to a bigger boss.

BIGGS What happens now?

WINGROVE We finish the job. We can't just pick up and leave on this one.

BIGGS There aren't any signs of that ship or its crew here. No wreckage, no distress signal, nothing.

#### WINGROVE

I'm afraid that won't be good enough for the company. There has to be some evidence, some trace to tell us exactly what happened to them.

BIGGS A needle in a haystack, Wingrove. That's what we're searching for.

WINGROVE Nevertheless. None of us is leaving this rock without an answer of some sort.

BIGGS Sometimes there are no answers.

WINGROVE Then we'll just have to invent some, won't we?

BIGGS If we ever get out of here alive.

INT. SICKBAY - ESCAPE SHUTTLE

Bakalekos returns to the shuttle for further investigation. He enters the corridor where the white emergency light is still flashing.

From the corner we see a large shape approaching Bakalekos from behind. It's the xenomorph born from the Engineer's chest.

The xenomorph HISSES like a snake, alerting Bakalekos to its presence.

Bakalekos jumps back a few steps, up against the wall, as the xenomorph slowly moves towards him. He has no weapons, save some oversized tools in his pack.

This incarnation of xenomorph isn't as aggressive as its ancestors will one day be. It also isn't as large as them.

# BAKALEKOS Holy fucking shit!

The xenomorph moves in close, right up to Bakalekos' face and opens its slimy elongated mouth. The second jaw slowly protrudes from within, but doesn't strike.

Bakalekos moves with his back against the wall.

As he slides along the xenomorph follows him, but there's nowhere to go. The corridor is tiny and the sickbay door is closed.

Bakalekos reaches for his comlink connecting him with the others.

BAKALEKOS (frightened) Biggs, Wingrove... anybody, do you read me, over.

The xenomorph HISSES louder than before. Thick slimy substance dripping from its threatening maw.

BAKALEKOS Do you read me!

The xenomorph moves forward rapidly but still doesn't attack.

WINGROVE (O.C.) This is Wingrove. Where are you Bakalekos?

BAKALEKOS I'm inside the escape shuttle.

WINGROVE (O.C.) Why are you there? And why are you alone?

BAKALEKOS Not exactly, sir. At least not of the human variety.

WINGROVE (O.C.) I'm on my way.

EXT. COLOMBO

Wingrove's ATV speeds across the barren surface. Clouds of dust trail in its speedy wake.

INT. SICKBAY

Sweat covers Bakalekos's face as he awaits the arrival of help. He reaches into his satchel and takes out a large wrench.

The xenomorph GROWLS in disapproval. As calm a nature as it possess, it knows a threat when it sees one.

BAKALEKOS Here goes nothin'.

The xenomorph lunges, Bakalekos swings the heavy wrench awkwardly, striking the alien's lengthy head.

The blow knocks the xenomorph to the side and Bakalekos runs away from the wall to the sickbay door.

Bakalekos is about to flip the switch when Wingrove enters the corridor.

# BIGGS

Wait, don't!

Too late. Bakalekos opens the sickbay door. He looks back at Wingrove.

The giant facehugger explodes out of the sickbay into the corridor.

Wingrove and Bakalekos jump back as the huge beast rests it mass on the floor. It's dead.

The xenomorph focuses on the dead facehugger.

WINGROVE What the fuck is that thing?

BAKALEKOS I don't know, but I'm not willing

to find out any more than this.

The xenomorph HISSES and GROWLS alternately.

WINGROVE An actual alien life form, as I live and breathe.

BAKALEKOS Let's kill it, sir, before it does the same to us.

WINGROVE Why would we kill it?

BAKALEKOS Do I really have to explain that to you?

The xenomorph walks on top of the heap that is the dead facehugger, backing Wingrove and Bakalekos into the sickbay.

Bakalekos punches the button and shuts the door just as the xenomorph rams into it with its head. Wingrove and Bakalekos observe the alien through the sickbay door window.

# BAKALEKOS Are you fucking mad, or what?

WINGROVE This is first contact, Bakalekos. Now we know what the *Prometheus* encountered.

# BAKALEKOS

You mean now we know what killed them.

The alien is super aggressive now, bashing its frame into the door non-stop.

WINGROVE They're not too intelligent, though. Trying to break through this door.

# BAKALEKOS

They?

# WINGROVE There were two life forms out there. We have to assume that there are others.

BAKALEKOS Feel free to play zookeeper with it all you want. But I'm of the mind to see home again.

WINGROVE We didn't come all this way for nothing, Bakalekos. And we can't go home empty handed.

BAKALEKOS Suit yourself, then. I'm off to greener pastures.

He turns his back to Wingrove and we hear a CLICK.

WINGROVE Stop right there. Bakalekos turns around and finds Wingrove's gun pointed at his head.

WINGROVE The only way out of here is through that corridor.

BAKALEKOS There it is. You truly are mad.

WINGROVE No, just overly ambitious.

BAKALEKOS That creature out there, it will kill us both... kill us all.

# WINGROVE

It is a great risk, no doubt. But one I am perfectly willing to take.

# BAKALEKOS

What are you proposing, that we just go out there an commune with an unpredictable alien beast?

WINGROVE No, I'm proposing that <u>you</u> go out there and commune with the unpredictable alien beast.

INT. BRIDGE - COLOMBO

Biggs enters with a cup of coffee in hand. Mazibuko is entering data into the ship's computer.

BIGGS Has anybody seen Bakalekos lately?

MAZIBUKO Not for a few hours at least. Anything wrong?

BIGGS No, it just seemed like he was a little too curious to inspect that crashed shuttle we found.

MAZIBUKO Then I don't know what to tell you, captain.

Biggs taps the console with his index finger and leaves the bridge.

## INT. CORRIDOR

The sickbay door opens and Wingrove shoves Bakalekos at gunpoint out with the xenomorph.

The door slides shut and Wingrove waits for the action to begin.

This time the xenomorph is highly aggressive, charging Bakalekos and leaping onto his upper torso.

It bites Bakalekos' face and bites off his entire cheek. Despite his pain and shock, Bakalekos grabs the wrench from before and bashes it against the alien's skull.

Bakalekos scurries away preparing for the next attack. The xenomorph is wounded, though nothing fatal, its dark green blood drips to the floor.

Smoke rises from the floor as the slightly acidic blood burns through metal, but only the top layer.

INT. SICKBAY

Wingrove is amazed by the display.

# WINGROVE Extraordinary.

INT. CORRIDOR

Bakalekos arms himself with another large wrench as the xenomorph charges in for the kill. Blood covers Bakalekos' face, he can't see well, he swings the wrenches wildly but hits nothing.

The xenomorph has its chance now.

It pounces on the helpless Bakalekos and bites him again, only this time it gets Bakalekos' entire head in its powerful jaws.

INT. SICKBAY

Wingrove watches the gruesome mauling with an eager fascination.

INT. CORRIDOR

The bones of Bakalekos' face CRUNCH as the xenomorph utilizes its superior strength.

INT. BIGGS' ATV

Biggs races like a madman towards the escape shuttle. Hattie and Danforth are with him.

DANFORTH You fearing the worst, captain?

BIGGS I told him not to go out alone. I warned him.

DANFORTH Bakalekos knows how to take care of himself.

HATTIE Don't rush to judgment until we see what's what. Could just be a technical issue with his comlink.

BIGGS Shut up, the both of you.

EXT. ESCAPE SHUTTLE

Biggs' ATV skids sideways as it pulls up alongside the shuttle.

Danforth and Hattie leap out the side door with their weapons at the ready.

INT. CORRIDOR

Biggs, Danforth and Hattie are heading toward the sickbay. We can see the blinking emergency light in front of them.

Danforth gets there first and discovers Bakalekos' body, a badly disfigured head and face.

DANFORTH

Captain!

Biggs and Hattie enter the corridor right behind him.

BIGGS

Bakalekos.

HATTIE Is that even him? The xenomorph emerges from the shadows and attacks Danforth.

BIGGS

Look out!

## HATTIE What the fuck?

Danforth holds off the alien with the butt of his rifle.

DANFORTH Somebody shoot this fucking thing!

Biggs and Hattie raise their weapons. The sickbay door opens and Wingrove appears.

WINGROVE

No! Stop!

Danforth manages to shove the xenomorph back and the three of them corner it with their weapons aimed for its head.

WINGROVE Don't kill it!

BIGGS What are you doing here, Wingrove?

WINGROVE I came to help Bakalekos.

DANFORTH Lot of good that did.

The xenomorph is frightened, HISSING and posturing.

BIGGS I don't know what happened here, but this thing has got to go.

#### WINGROVE

Captain, this is exactly what I was talking about. This is providence that we found it.

HATTIE We disagree, Wingrove.

DANFORTH That thing sure as hell ain't getting on board the *Colombo*.

#### WINGROVE

The final decision is mine, gentlemen. I outrank you all as a board member of Weyland-Yutani. And I say that we are going to capture this creature for further investigation.

The xenomorph unleashes a blood-curdling ROAR.

INT. MEDICAL BAY - COLOMBO

Biggs and the crew observe from above as Cathcart takes blood samples from the knocked-out xenomorph. Wingrove and a robot medic assist Cathcart.

CATHCART Extraordinary physiology.

# WINGROVE

Looks insectoid to me.

#### CATHCART

Actually, it is not so far removed. We have an exoskeleton, the eyes on either side of the head. It's also a female.

WINGROVE

I don't even wanna know how you know this.

CATHCART

I'm glad to see you're interested in the details.

WINGROVE Do you think this is what Shaw and the others came up against?

#### CATHCART

Possibly. But who's to say this is the only alien species present on this planet. You saw the carvings inside that temple. You think this lifeform did that?

WINGROVE Now I'm really worried.

CATHCART Look at this. She points to the open mouth and the second jaw resting on the inside.

WINGROVE What have we here?

CATHCART That's strange... a second mouth.

WINGROVE I saw how it used it. As a weapon.

Cathcart pulls out the inner jaw and examines the teeth.

INT. UPPER MEDICAL BAY

HATTIE Now that's one nasty piece of work, boys.

WALLRICH Hello, dangerous.

NUNO What do you have to say, captain?

BIGGS I don't like this one bit. But for right now, orders are orders.

INT. MEDICAL BAY

WINGROVE When it attacks it thrusts the inner jaw outward, like it's springloaded.

CATHCART An unwelcome surprise for its victims, I'm sure.

WINGROVE It was truly unfortunate what happened to Bakalekos.

CATHCART

Was it?

WINGROVE What's that supposed to mean?

CATHCART Forgive me, I meant nothing by it.

# WINGROVE

# Apology accepted.

# INT. SECOND LEVEL - MEDICAL BAY

Biggs and the others walk down the hallway.

#### WALLRICH

So, what now, captain?

# BIGGS

We have to wait it out and see.

# HATTIE

Oh, come on, Biggs. Before we know it they're gonna want to transport this thing back to earth.

BIGGS Not if I can help it.

NUNO

Sabotage is the only thing we have in our favor. I mean it's obvious they lied to us about the entire mission.

#### WALLRICH

Nuno's right. It's like they knew what we'd find before we even got here.

# HATTIE

Wingrove may be the company man, but it's still your ship, captain. That's how I feel about it.

#### BIGGS

Listen, for now we have no choice but to go along with it all. You know I'd never purposely put any of you in harm's way, for anything or anybody.

# WALLRICH

We trust you, Biggs. (points at Cathcart and Wingrove) It's them two we have to keep an eye on.

BIGGS Like I said, we have to read this out for the meantime. (MORE) When I'm ready to take action, I'll inform you all. But nobody, I mean nobody, makes a move until then. Understood?

# INT. MEDICAL BAY

Wingrove and Cathcart sit at a table off to the side of the room. The xenomorph is still asleep, inside a large see-through sarcophagus.

CATHCART So, is it every thing you dreamed it would be?

# WINGROVE

I suppose. But then again, I didn't know what we were supposed to find.

# CATHCART

The company seems to think that there's much to be gained by interspecies manipulation. In the end it all comes down to a military use for them.

WINGROVE There might be other beneficial uses.

# CATHCART

Like what? This creature was designed to kill, it seems, little else.

WINGROVE You have to try and find the good in every situation, Cathcart. Even this one.

CATHCART

I'll try and remember that. (beat) Have you informed the crew about your plans?

WINGROVE The less they know, the better.

CATHCART You could be entertaining mutiny if they were to find out. WINGROVE Then we'll have to be careful, won't we? (beat) But enough shop talk. Your cabin or mine?

CATHCART What's the matter with where we are now?

WINGROVE The upper deck. People can see us.

Cathcart leans in close, whispering in his ear.

CATHCART I don't mind if they watch.

Wingrove smiles and kisses her passionately. A moment later and he is on top of Cathcart, both of them on the table.

INT. ENGINEER PYRAMID

Shaw and David stand with the Elder Engineer at an altar. On top of the altar is a cylinder identical to the ones from the Head Room on LV-223 with the black liquid inside.

> ELDER ENGINEER This is what you truly seek.

SHAW What does it do?

ELDER ENGINEER It transforms that which it comes into contact with.

SHAW

Transforms it into what?

# ELDER ENGINEER

Something altogether different. A hybrid version of the species. This liquid is the source of life throughout the star systems.

#### DAVID

Them, correct me if I'm wrong, you sent out expeditions throughout the galaxy to populate planets and, or change their already existing ecosystems by introducing them to the black liquid. Yes.

DAVID Of course, whether it was wanted or not.

SHAW It killed some of our crewmembers, and made others become highly aggressive.

ELDER ENGINEER The result is different for every individual, but in the end, everything is transformed, for better or for worse.

SHAW I want to try it.

ELDER ENGINEER You might die from the effects.

SHAW I don't care. I'll never know until I try.

ELDER ENGINEER Once you drink the liquid there is no turning back.

SHAW I know. I don't want to go back.

The Elder engineer takes the cylinder from the altar and opens up the top. He removes a bowl from inside and hands it to Shaw.

Shaw takes it, twists open the lid and drinks from it without a second's hesitation. She coughs as the foul-tasting liquid enters her stomach and bloodstream.

ELDER ENGINEER What do you feel?

SHAW I feel nauseous.

i icei naubeoub.

ELDER ENGINEER This is normal, at the beginning.

Shaw backs away, COUGHING violently.

ELDER ENGINEER It is already taking effect.

SHAW What is it... doing to me?

ELDER ENGINEER It is transforming you, altering your cell structure.

SHAW (shouting) Oh, dear God!

She doubles over, gripping her abdomen.

SHAW I feel like there's something inside me! Like I'm going to implode!

ELDER ENGINEER All one can do is wait to determine what the effect will be. Again, it is different for lifeform.

Shaw is on her knees now, in excruciating pain.

SHAW Please, make it stop!

ELDER ENGINEER I can do nothing to assist you.

SHAW

I'm dying!

ELDER ENGINEER No, this is something else. You are evolving.

Shaw's face is distorted, as if the bones are moving and changing positions. She grabs the side of her head with both hands.

SHAW The pain! I can't take it anymore!

ELDER ENGINEER You have no choice but to suffer. To attain your next level of evolution your old self must perish and die. SHAW I'm afraid of dying!

ELDER ENGINEER Embrace it, and evolve.

Shaw CRIES OUT again then collapses to the floor.

INT. MEDICAL BAY

Shaw wakes up to find David standing over her. His head has been reattached.

SHAW

David.

DAVID Hello, Doctor Shaw. It is a pleasure to see that you have awakened.

SHAW How long have I been asleep?

DAVID

Three years.

Shaw jumps up from the bed, gasping for air. She looks around at her surroundings.

SHAW

Please tell me you are exaggerating, David.

DAVID I am afraid it is the truth. But I am curious to know, did you have other plans?

SHAW

Not as such.

DAVID Then why such shock at the passage of time?

SHAW Because for humans, time is everything. It is the supreme measure of our existence.

DAVID How very odd. SHAW

What do you think they're going to do with us?

#### DAVID

I do not know for certain, but what I do know is they are quite fascinated with my design and function.

#### SHAW

Because you are artificial.

# DAVID

I too suppose that is the primary interest in my biology.

#### SHAW

Lest us count our blessings, David. Your artificiality might just be our saving grace.

#### DAVID

Very well. I am pleased that my... how should I say... uniqueness has spared our lives.

#### SHAW

It is an answer to prayer.

# DAVID

Prayer. I still fail to grasp its primal importance to humans.

#### SHAW

My father use to tell me, "Prayer is when you talk to God. Insanity is when you talk to God and he answers back".

#### DAVID

Fitting, I suppose.

#### SHAW

I understand your failure to grasp the concept since you do not possess a soul.

#### DAVID

Ah, yes, the soul... an even more complicated piece of the human puzzle.

SHAW I wish I could explain it better to you.

DAVID That's alright, Doctor Shaw. Obviously I wasn't meant to understand it.

SHAW Some humans are so awful and nasty, that I sometimes believe they too have no soul.

DAVID I wonder, do the Engineers have a word for soul?

SHAW You'll just have to go and ask them.

The door open with a WHOOSH and two Engineers enter the room. They walk over and grab Shaw and David by the arms, lead in them out and down the corridor.

INT. TEMPLE

David and Shaw stand before 12 Engineers situated in a circle inside a temple with an enormously high ceiling.

They are led into the center of the circle where their every move is observed by the Engineers.

The Elder Engineer steps forward and lowers his hood.

ELDER ENGINEER We have something to show you.

A hologram appear above the circle of Engineers. It depicts a life-cycle of some sort from the cellular level to its final stage.

> ELDER ENGINEER This is the life cycle of your species.

SHAW Did you, or did you not create us?

ELDER ENGINEER We interfered with your evolution, but we did not engineer your species.

#### SHAW

In what way did you interfere with us?

# ELDER ENGINEER

We gave you your sense of longing for origins. We planted the very seed that has led you to us here, and now.

# DAVID

So you are not gods, nor are you even creator beings.

# ELDER ENGINEER

We perfect that which is imperfect.

#### SHAW

And what was so imperfect about humanity? What was so wrong with us that you felt the need to tamper with our very existence?

ELDER ENGINEER You lacked belief.

SHAW

Belief?

# ELDER ENGINEER

Humankind was devoid of sufficient faith.

SHAW If anything, we believe in too much.

#### ELDER ENGINEER

You are all naive to the truth, grabbing hold onto every new theory or belief system that comes along. Always yearning and searching, but never fully understanding.

# SHAW

To my thinking, this is what defines us as a species. Our curiosity, our longings, they separate us from the beasts.

ELDER ENGINEER Your species is a destructive one, an unpredictable one.

#### DAVID

Unpredictable to whom, may I ask?

#### ELDER ENGINEER

To our species.

# SHAW

What possible threat could humans be to you? You possess technology far superior to ours, above all else.

#### ELDER ENGINEER

And yet here you stand before us. It was only a matter of time before your kind discovered our homeworld.

# DAVID

So, you were expecting that humankind would one day develop sufficient technology to reach your star system?

### ELDER ENGINEER

They are a destructive species. Once they have ravished their own world, they would seek others to occupy.

#### SHAW

I cannot disagree completely with you logic concerning us, but the great majority of us are peaceful, understanding beings.

#### ELDER ENGINEER

You are not an ambassador for your kind, and therefore, you have no authority to speak on your species behalf.

# SHAW

That's where you are wrong. I am here, and I speak for others. We do not wish your kind harm.

The Elder exchanges looks with the others. They nod their heads as they communicate telepathically with one another.

SHAW What are they saying, David? I am unable to read minds, but judging from their lips, they are discussing what our fates are to be.

The Elder turns his attention back to Shaw.

ELDER ENGINEER What were your people doing on LV-223?

#### SHAW

We were responding to a signal sent our home planet many years ago.

#### ELDER ENGINEER

What made you believe that the signal was friendly, or even meant for you?

#### SHAW

Because, like I said... we want to believe, and we do believe.

# ELDER ENGINEER

Instead you interfered with the very delicate ecosystem in place on that world. Every action has a consequence, and LV-223 is no different.

#### SHAW

We know that what we did there was wrong, but everything happened so fast. We simply didn't know what we were dealing with.

#### ELDER ENGINEER

Therein lies the problem. And this is why we are superior.

# DAVID

Why did your men attack and kill our crew? If have you such a superior technology to man's, why not incapacitate him instead?

# ELDER ENGINEER

Interesting coming from a synthetic life form.

#### DAVID

Humans created me. I feel no animosity towards them. Your species, however, are obviously hostile to them.

# ELDER ENGINEER

The various life forms on LV-223 were the product of years of genetic engineering on our part. We too believed that we could control and restrict the results of our actions, but life, in all its complex or simple forms, is unpredictable.

#### SHAW

Then your failures there prompted you to eliminate all humans in case they made the same mistakes as you made, correct?

# ELDER ENGINEER

What happened on LV-223 must never happen again, anywhere. An outbreak of the black liquid would mean the end of us all.

DAVID Yes, the black liquid. What exactly is this wonderful substance.

ELDER ENGINEER It is the creator. It is the source of all life.

#### DAVID

Then you and your kind have chosen to play god.

ELDER ENGINEER We regulate life.

SHAW What gives you the right?

ELDER ENGINEER We were here first, and we have the power to do so.

DAVID Then why haven't you killed us yet?

## ELDER ENGINEER

Because we need your help. Another group of humans have landed on LV-223, and they are in danger.

INT. GAMEROOM

The crew are all seated at a table playing cards.

WALLRICH Any of you guys familiar with the *Prometheus* mission?

DANFORTH

Nope.

NUNO A scientific expedition to discover so-called extraterrestrial life.

HATTIE

Why so-called?

NUNO

Because, as far as we know they didn't discover anything.

#### WALLRICH

There are here great indications suggesting the proximity of an earthly Paradise, for not only does it correspond in mathematical position with the opinions of the holy and learned theologians, but all other signs concur to make it probable.

HATTIE

Did you just come up with that?

NUNO

Christopher Columbus, the great Genoese explorer who sailed to discover a new world, but simply rediscovered an old one.

WALLRICH That's one way of looking at it.

NUNO Correction, it's the only way. DANFORTH

(to Hattie) You know what the fuck they're even talking about?

#### HATTIE

Vaguely.

NUNO How do you discover what's already in existence?

WALLRICH You know what I mean?

NUNO

No, I don't. And we also know now that he had access to older Phoenician maps, and therefore, Columbus knew exactly where he was going, contrary to the historical record.

DANFORTH The Phoenicians. Now I heard of them.

NUNO To my thinking, Doctor Shaw and her team members were more akin to the historical record of the discovery of the Americas. (beat) An interstellar version.

Wallrich lays down his cards. A royal flush.

WALLRICH I'm still a better card player than you, Nuno.

NUNO I have no argument for that.

INT. MESS HALL - COLOMBO

Biggs and the rest of his crew are eating at their table.

MAZIBUKO So, what's our status, captain?

#### BIGGS

I'm of two minds on this. We can either defy our orders or take matters into our own hands.

#### MAZIBUKO

It isn't mutiny when it's your ship in the first place.

## WALLRICH

He's right, Biggs. It'd be a mutiny against Weyland-Yutani.

BIGGS It's still not without its consequences. They'd send a ship after us double time.

NUNO

Yeah, but if Wingrove is intentionally placing us in harm's way. I mean, that's a fucking living and breathing alien he's got in the medical bay.

DANFORTH And what do you propose we do?

NUNO

I say we kill the alien first, then dump Wingrove and his company whore off on the next rock with an atmosphere. (mimics wiping his hands) Problem solved.

BIGGS It's not as easy as that, Nuno.

NUNO Then why are we having this discussion if we're not prepared to act?

Biggs looks up as Wingrove and Cathcart enter and sit a the table next to them.

WINGROVE

Gentlemen.

BIGGS Hello, Wingrove. WINGROVE How's the food today?

BIGGS Same as yesterday, and the day before... pure-D shit.

WINGROVE (chuckling) Right, I almost forgot.

WALLRICH Mister Wingrove, me and the boys were wondering, about our next course of action.

WINGROVE Course of action?

# WALLRICH

Right.

WINGROVE You mean, concerning the alien specimen?

Wallrich and the rest of the men nod their heads.

#### WINGROVE

First of all, our orders are to discover the whereabouts and fate of the *Promotheus* and its crew. Now, obviously, we haven't had much fortune in that department. But our second mission is to explore and engage any alien lifeforms we may happen across while executing our first mission.

#### BIGGS

I have to say, Wingrove, I do not recall seeing that in writing as part of our objective here.

#### WINGROVE

That is strange, captain, however I did receive that particular memo.

#### BIGGS

Then what are your plans, Wingrove? The crew of the *Prometheus* is clearly dead, and we've seen neither hide nor hair of the ship. WINGROVE

Alright, I'll tell you some of what I do know, even though I have the liberty to do otherwise. (beat) It is true that the crewmembers are in fact dead, we've known this from the beginning, and that the Prometheus was destroyed.

DANFORTH (standing up) You son of a bitch!

WALLRICH I fucking knew it!

The crewmembers all stand up. Wingrove and Cathcart get up and back away from them.

WINGROVE (frightened) Captain.

BIGGS Nice one, Wingrove. You better fess up to any other hidden plot points on your agenda.

WINGROVE Calm them down first.

BIGGS

(shouting) Settle down, boys! Let's hear what he has to say.

#### WINGROVE

That specimen that we have on board this ship could be the beginning of a new era in humanity.

# BIGGS

You're out of your fucking mind. That thing will tear us all to pieces if given half a chance.

#### WINGROVE

Then it never gets that chance, does it? Cathcart and I have made some extraordinary progress in examining this creature.
DANFORTH

Like what?

WINGROVE The fact that it is half-human.

GRUMBLING and CHATTER from the men.

BIGGS

Half-human?

WINGROVE

We already synthesized it's DNA code and yes, it is almost one of us.

#### BIGGS

There's obviously a big difference between almost and human from what I've seen then.

### WINGROVE

Granted, it doesn't appear to resemble us physically speaking, but make no mistake, it's origin points to a human host.

#### MAZIBUKO

Host? You're saying that it was born from a human?

#### WINGROVE

Yes.

BIGGS How is that even possible?

### WINGROVE

We don't know the answer to that question just now. After all, we have yet to find its mother.

#### BIGGS

This is all fucking insane! What the hell have you gotten us into, Wingrove?

WINGROVE Discovery, Captain Biggs. A brand new age of discovery. (beat) Isn't it marvelous? Biggs steps forward and swings, decking Wingrove with a blow to the jaw. He's on top of Wingrove hitting him in the face.

> BIGGS You're playing with our lives!

Cathcart moves towards Biggs, grabbing him by the shoulders. She pulls him off Wingrove with surprising ease, shoving him backwards several feet.

She then produces a weapon and points it at Biggs and the others.

CATHCART Stay back, all of you!

Wingrove gets up of the floor.

CATHCART

Everyone remain calm or I will resort to more forceful measures.

BIGGS What you're both doing is wrong! You don't know what you're dealing with!

CATHCART Frankly, that's the exciting part for me.

WINGROVE (to Cathcart) Thank you.

CATHCART Return to your quarters until further notification.

Biggs turns to the crew and motions towards the exit. They all leave without further incident.

WINGROVE This is only the beginning, you know? They'll come after us eventually. They've got weapons too.

CATHCART I'm certain of it. That's why we have an insurance policy.

WINGROVE Which is what?

CATHCART Our new-found friend in the medical bay.

WINGROVE You can't be serious, Cathcart?

CATHCART Oh, I'm deadly serious.

INT. BRIDGE

Biggs slings a chair across the floor into a bay of computers.

BIGGS Goddamn them!

MAZIBUKO We have access to the armory. What are we waiting for?

BIGGS It's not that simple.

DANFORTH What evidence do they have over you?

BIGGS The *Colombo* is programmed, I can't get us back on my own.

MAZIBUKO What did they do?

BIGGS Weyland-Yutani had her preprogrammed to keep a set course in case anything untoward were to occur, like...

MAZIBUKO (finishing) Mutiny.

BIGGS So, even if we take over the ship, it does us no good.

MAZIBUKO You agreed to this, captain? BIGGS The pay was too good to pass up this time, Mazi.

MAZIBUKO And you agreed not to tell us?

BIGGS How the hell could I know why they were stringing me along?

WALLRICH We're at the company's mercy.

BIGGS Only as far as our coordinates are concerned.

DANFORTH That's the most important fucking thing, the coordinates!

He moves after Biggs. Mazibuko and Wallrich hold him back.

WALLRICH Easy, Danforth.

BIGGS

Don't write our chances off just yet. Follow me.

## INT. ENGINEER SPACESHIP

The Elder Engineer stands on the bridge with David and Shaw beside him.

ELDER ENGINEER Another vessel landed on LV-223 several days ago. They too have been exposed to the black liquid and its unpredictable nature.

SHAW Can't we warn them?

ELDER ENGINEER It is too late. We must intercept them and intervene in the situation.

SHAW Will we get there in time to save them?

#### ELDER ENGINEER

I do not know.

SHAW What have we done, David?

DAVID Perhaps we have saved the very future of mankind.

The Navigator Engineers say something in their language to the Elder. A large starmap appears in the center of the room.

ELDER ENGINEER We are approaching the Zeta Reticuli system now.

SHAW You said your people had long contact with LV-223. What happened to the others of your race?

ELDER ENGINEER We experimented with the various lifeforms present on the planet. We altered their biology but to devastating effect for us. The resulting creatures we spawned turned against us and killed our people there.

SHAW Why did you feel the need to interfere with their biology?

ELDER ENGINEER To protect ourselves from our enemies.

DAVID Just like you interfered with humans.

SHAW Who are your enemies?

ELDER ENGINEER

Your race.

SHAW With our technology what could we possibly do to harm your kind?

#### ELDER ENGINEER

It is what you will do when you reverse engineer the technology we left behind on LV-223.

SHAW

No one can predict the future. How do you know for certain that's what we will do?

ELDER ENGINEER We don't intend on taking that chance.

DAVID They want to strike pre-emptively.

SHAW Aren't you going to give them the benefit of the doubt?

ELDER ENGINEER We can take no chances after the failure of our own experiments.

SHAW But we are not you.

ELDER ENGINEER We made you. We made you a mistake.

SHAW Give them a chance. You have me here with you now. You can see that we are not all alike.

ELDER ENGINEER We shall save them from themselves.

INT. BRIDGE - COLOMBO

Biggs drinks from a half-empty whiskey bottle while Mazibuko bounces a tennis ball off the main computer console.

Out of the corner of his eye, Mazibuko spots something odd on the radar.

MAZIBUKO Captain, you're not gonna believe this.

BIGGS

Try me.

MAZIBUKO There's an unidentified object headed towards us. Make that a fucking large unidentified object.

BIGGS Don't mess around when I'm drunk, Mazi. You know how serious I get.

MAZIBUKO I truly wish I was joking. You better take a look at this.

BIGGS

(sighing) Enlarge.

Mazibuko types on his keyboard and a holographic image of the LV system pops up in the center of the bridge.

Biggs gets up, bottle in hand, to get a better view.

BIGGS I'll be goddamned.

MAZIBUKO Do you think its related to the structures we've found?

BIGGS That would probably be the safest bet, yes.

MAZIBUKO What next, captain?

BIGGS Inform the others. Tell them to meet us at the armory.

EXT. SPACE

The massive Engineer Spaceship enters LV-223's atmosphere.

INT. MEDICAL BAY - COLOMBO

Cathcart knows something is coming. She activates a large monitor and we see the Engineer Spaceship hovering in the distance.

CATHCART

Oh my god.

Wingrove sees the ship now.

WINGROVE What the hell is that?

CATHCART Our friends have come back home.

WINGROVE Look at the size of that thing.

#### CATHCART

This is the opportunity we've been waiting for, Wingrove. You don't seem enthusiastic.

WINGROVE Actually, I feel quite helpless. What a technology.

#### CATHCART

I'm certain Biggs and the crew are aware of its arrival. Why don't we welcome our visitors first.

WINGROVE Are you sure that's such a good idea?

#### CATHCART

You never get a second chance to make a first impression... alien species' included.

She walks over to the tube-shaped cage where the Queen xenomorph is being held. She caresses the smooth surface.

CATHCART Soon we shall see what you're truly made of.

The xenomorph HISSES, showing off its grotesque maw to Cathcart.

## INT. ARMORY

Biggs and the rest of the crew enter the armory and grab all the weapons and ammo they can carry.

DANFORTH Do we even know what we're dealing with here?

NUNO Do you wanna wait to find out? BIGGS

We can't leave anything to chance, boys. I think we're all in agreement on that point.

MAZIBUKO Did somebody get the explosives?

WALLRICH

I got 'em.

MAZIBUKO Need a refresher course?

WALLRICH It's a little to late for practice.

BIGGS Wallrich is right, get your game faces on pronto. This is not a drill.

EXT. SURFACE OF LV-223

The Engineer Spaceship lands a few hundred yards away from the *Colombo*.

The Engineer Temple sits equidistant from both ships so that three structure form a pyramid with the Temple at the top.

INT. MEDICAL BAY - COLOMBO

Wingrove and Cathcart lock down their section of the ship at the computer console.

WINGROVE I certainly hope your plan is better than mine.

CATHCART I'm assuming that means you actually have no plan.

WINGROVE

You got me.

CATHCART We'll assume that they are hostile. The xenomorph can protect us from them as well as the crew.

#### WINGROVE

You speak as if you know what that creature will do, like you can control it. What gives?

CATHCART Because I know something that you don't... it's a queen.

WINGROVE A queen? What about it?

#### CATHCART

That means that once she reaches maturity she'll give birth to offspring. Lots of offspring.

WINGROVE You're acting like that's a good thing.

CATHCART As a species, our most basic instinct is survival. I'm assuming it is the same with theirs.

We hear a few BEEPS from the computer.

WINGROVE

It's done. We're sealed off from the rest of the ship.

CATHCART Good. Now let's go and check on our little queen.

They open a large door and enter the other section of the medical bay.

#### CATHCART

Fuck!

WINGROVE

What is it?

Cathcart points to the empty containment vessel where the alien was being held.

# CATHCART

The Queen is gone.

The vessel has a large hole in it. The edges of the hole are melted away.

## CATHCART

I don't know.

WINGROVE (touching the vessel) Shit!

He jerks his hand away.

CATHCART Are you alright?

WINGROVE It burned me. The glass is melted away.

CATHCART Your hand, look.

Wingrove holds his hand up. His fingertips have third degree burns and blisters on them.

WINGROVE It feels like its burning through my skin!

CATHCART It's corrosive alright. Come here.

Cathcart takes him over to a med kit where she takes out a balm and covers his hand in it.

CATHCART This should help for now.

She gets out some gauze and wraps up his hand.

WINGROVE Where the hell is that alien?

CATHCART She will probably be somewhere dark and spacious.

WINGROVE Any particular reason?

CATHCART So she can give birth.

#### INT. ENGINEER SPACESHIP

A group of Engineers dress up in their spacesuits. They enter tube-shaped structures that extend to the surface.

EXT. ENGINEER SPACESHIP

The Engineers emerge from the tubes and inspect their surroundings. These Engineers have never stepped foot on LV-223 until now.

One of them points toward the Colombo.

Half of the Engineer army jogs straight for the Temple, the other half head towards the *Colombo*.

INT. BRIDGE - ENGINEER SPACESHIP

Shaw and David watch the events unfold in a holographic image.

SHAW David, there's another ship down there. Could it be?

DAVID A rescue party. It looks more like a mining tug to me.

SHAW How long have they been here?

DAVID We shall have to invite them over for tea and ask them.

ELDER ENGINEER Now you see what we feared all along. More humans have discovered the temple.

SHAW

But they haven't come to make war or reverse engineer your technology. They've come looking for us.

ELDER ENGINEER The chance cannot be taken. We shall neutralize them all.

INT. CARGO BAY - COLOMBO

Danforth watches the advancing Engineers on a large monitor.

DANFORTH Captain, you're gonna want to see this.

## BIGGS

Talk to me.

DANFORTH A dozen or so humanoid creatures headed straight towards us.

Biggs sees them now on the monitor.

BIGGS

I'll be damned.

NUNO They're fucking huge!

#### DANFORTH

Doesn't look like they're carrying any weapons.

NUNO That's because when you're eight feet tall and built like a brick shithouse you get to rule the roost.

BIGGS Everybody weapons ready.

HATTIE What's the scenario, captain?

BIGGS We'll let them make the first move.

DANFORTH Are you crazy, Biggs?

#### BIGGS

Judging by their size, and the size of their ship, I'd say they hold the advantage over us.

EXT. COLOMBO

The Engineers reach the aft of the ship. They know where the cargo bay is located.

One of them grabs hold of the door's seam and starts pulling. A small opening appears.

Hattie is closest to the door and the action.

HATTIE Holy shit! They're prying open the cargo bay door!

BIGGS Then open it.

## HATTIE

What?

BIGGS You heard me! If they damage the hydraulics we'll never get off this rock. Now open the goddamn door!

Hattie hesitates before punching a release button. The cargo bay door opens up slowly to reveal...

EXT. COLOMBO

The Engineers leaping into the exposed cargo bay. They are as intimidating a sight as these humans have ever seen.

> BIGGS Nobody make a move. Just stay calm.

The nearest Engineer lunges forward and grabs Hattie, lifting him off the ground with ease.

The Engineer throws him against the cargo bay wall.

DANFORTH Come on, captain!

#### BIGGS

Wait!

The Engineers move towards the crew.

NUNO It's no longer your call, Biggs!

BIGGS Let's get to the storage shed. We can seal ourselves off from the cargo bay.

An Engineer lunges at Biggs. Biggs FIRES his plasma rifle, hitting it square in the chest.

The Engineer falls backwards onto the hood of an ATV. The others come forward in force.

BIGGS

Haul ass!

The crew run to the back of the cargo bay.

BIGGS

Hattie!

Hattie looks up to see an Engineer towering over him. It grabs him and slams him down across his knee.

The backbone SNAPS and CRACKS, as Hattie's body is bent and shattered.

The crew makes it inside the shed area... but they are not alone...

An eerie, SLITHERING sound comes from the corner.

WALLRICH There's something else in here, boys!

He shines his flashlight into the darkness and we see an alien egg opening up at the top.

We're very familiar with this scenario.

Wallrich moves aside just in time as the facehugger explodes from the egg and attaches itself to the Engineer that has just appeared behind Wallrich.

DANFORTH Did you see that?

NUNO What in God's name?

The Engineer tries to rip the facehugger off but it just turns in a circle, confused by what's happened.

Nuno shines his flashlight and we now can see that there are dozens of alien eggs opening in the storage shed.

PARKMOND

Clear out!

The crew run out of the darkness into the oncoming Engineers.

The eggs erupt now and several facehuggers burst onto the Engineers.

## BIGGS Now's our chance, let's go!

The crew make it to the nearest ATV and climb inside. The Engineers ignore them and rush over to help their own kind. The ATV speeds off, hitting one the Engineers and rolling over it. The vehicle leaps out the back of the ship and hits the surface with a THUD. The ATV loses control and turns over on its side. INT. ATV Everyone in is coughing from the dust and smoke. BIGGS Is everyone all right? NUNO Yeah. BIGGS Danforth? DANFORTH I'm good. WALLRICH I think my arm's broken. BIGGS Hold tight. Biggs kicks out what's left of the windscreen. Danforth and Parkmond follow after him. BIGGS Let's turn it over. NUNO

All right.

They all place their body's against the frame.

BIGGS

Okay, one, two, three!

On three they push the ATV back onto its wheels. Wallrich SCREAMS from the inside.

BIGGS Hold on, Wallrich.

Biggs pries the door open and Nuno and Danforth drag Wallrich out of the wreckage.

#### WALLRICH

Easy!

BIGGS Which arm is it?

## WALLRICH

My left.

## BIGGS Nuno, see if the rover still runs.

Nuno gets inside and tries to start it up.

NUNO

Dead as a door nail, captain.

BIGGS Fucking great!

DANFORTH Our next move?

BIGGS Hell if I know.

NUNO What were those things?

WALLRICH The reason those humanoids are here.

DANFORTH I think it's pretty clear now what happened to *Prometheus*.

BIGGS All that isn't clear is why?

EXT. ENGINEER TEMPLE

The other group of Engineers enter the main corridor.

INT. ENGINEER TEMPLE

The Engineers enter the egg chamber and place explosive devices around the perimeter.

They exit the chamber and leave the Temple altogether.

INT. BRIDGE - ENGINEER SPACESHIP

Shaw and David watch the Engineers inside the Temple.

DAVID They're destroying the Temple.

ELDER ENGINEER We are saving the lives of countless worlds with this action.

SHAW But spare our friends. They have nothing to do with this!

ELDER ENGINEER It is already too late for them.

He points to the holograph where we see the bodies of the Engineers in the cargo bay, writhing in pain.

We've seen it all before. One by one, the CHESTBURSTERS emerge violently from the Engineers.

SHAW My God. What is that?

ELDER ENGINEER A life cycle.

DAVID Fascinating. They resemble Braconid Wasps in this manner.

SHAW

How so?

organism.

DAVID This species displays parasitism, whereby its life cycle can only be completed with the help of a host

SHAW You mean humans?

DAVID Apparently Engineers as well.

ELDER ENGINEER We call them xenomorphs. They are a most lethal species. SHAW Then why did you try to control them?

ELDER ENGINEER We tried to help them evolve, but instead they became something else entirely.

DAVID Absolute predators. A killing machine.

EXT. ENGINEER TEMPLE

The Engineers jog away towards their Mothership.

Moments later the Temple erupts in a massive, earth-shaking EXPLOSION.

The shockwave sends a typhoon of dust and debris towards the Colombo.

EXT. COLOMBO

Biggs and the others duck down behind the ATV.

## DANFORTH Cover up, boys!

Nuno is able to start the engine this time.

NUNO Hop in. We can still make it.

They all pile in and the ATV speeds away just as the shockwave reaches them.

INT. ATV

Parkmond floors it.

NUNO We're just gonna make it.

DANFORTH But we're not going back to the ship, are we?

BIGGS Only for shelter.

The shockwave overtakes the ATV.

Dust and dirt fills the cargo bay as the shockwave sweeps over the ship. They're back where they started.

INT. MEDICAL BAY

The shockwave is strong enough that it moves the ship off its landing gear.

Cathcart and Wingrove are tossed across the room like dolls. Both of them collide with the walls hard.

Something isn't right with Cathcart. She tries to walk then falls to the floor, gyrating in obvious pain.

WINGROVE What the fuck?

CATHCART

Help me!

WINGROVE What's wrong?

He doesn't know what to do. It's like she's having a seizure.

CATHCART

Wingrove!

WINGROVE Somebody help me!

Cathcart is shaking violently. It looks like she might explode.

WINGROVE I don't know what to do!

He leans over and starts giving her mouth-to-mouth. He presses her chest and performs CPR as best he can.

Wingrove puts his mouth over her mouth again and blows -then he recoils in horror as a milky, cream-like fluid drips out of his mouth and spews out of hers all over his face.

We know this fluid -- it's the same type we've seen in the bodies of all Weyland-Yutani ANDROIDS.

Cathcart, the unbelievably sexy woman Wingrove is fucking is an ANDROID!

CATHCART Sorry I never told you.

WINGROVE

Why not?

CATHCART I didn't want you to feel any differently about me.

WINGROVE You're not even human! What do you mean, feel differently?

CATHCART If you'd never known the truth...

WINGROVE You never imagined I'd find out, did you?

CATHCART I was prepared to deal with it whenever the situation might arise.

WINGROVE This is so wrong... so much is wrong with this.

CATHCART Don't be angry with yourself, Wingrove. We're designed to deceive.

WINGROVE Who did this? Yutani?

CATHCART They need to safeguard their investment.

WINGROVE But not their employees?

CATHCART Humans are always expendable, the same as me.

WINGROVE How comforting.

#### CATHCART

Now that you know the truth, I need you to do me a favor. Please don't tell the others.

WINGROVE They're going to find out eventually.

#### CATHCART

Not necessarily. Promise me you won't tell them anything. We've come too far, you and I, for it to end like this.

#### WINGROVE

You make it sound like there's a happy ending to all this, but there isn't. It's all darkness and deception.

CATHCART In perfect honesty, Wingrove, what else were you expecting?

WINGROVE I don't know, I don't know.

CATHCART So, what happens now?

Wingrove slowly turns his head to her, removes his sidearm and FIRES several shots into her face and head.

INT. CARGO BAY - COLOMBO

The crew gets out, disoriented and exhausted. Biggs calls Mazibuko on his comlink.

BIGGS Mazi, can you hear me? Mazi, come in.

DANFORTH That blast had to have knocked out our communications.

BIGGS Mazi, do you read, over?

Nothing. Who knows what's really happened under the circumstances.

NUNO Your call, captain.

BIGGS Let's head for the bridge.

INT. CORRIDOR

Wingrove jogs down a lengthy corridor in a part of the ship he's unfamiliar with.

WINGROVE Where the fuck am I?

He keeps his gun pointed forward in case he meets up with the crew.

INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR

The Engineers who escaped being facehugged move through the foreign ship. Their heads nearly touching the ceiling.

INT. ENGINEER SPACESHIP

Shaw and David are antsy, eager to be a part of the action.

SHAW Let us go down there and help our friends.

ELDER ENGINEER Soon they will be dead. You do not understand this species.

SHAW That's why it is so important to us. They don't know what they're facing.

ELDER ENGINEER It will be too late by the time you arrive at your vessel.

SHAW No! It's not too late, it's never too late!

The Elder actually shudders at the volume and intensity of Shaw's voice, her plea.

The Elder exchanges looks with David, curiously enough.

DAVID Raw emotion. That is what it is to be human.

The Elder looks at the hologram for a few beats, then turns to Shaw.

ELDER ENGINEER You shall have fifteen of your minutes to arrive back here before we depart.

SHAW And if we don't make it?

DAVID

We?

## SHAW I need you, David. You've stuck it out this far. You're coming with me.

ELDER ENGINEER At the end of fifteen minutes we shall disintegrate this planet.

INT. LIFT - COLOMBO

Biggs and the others are riding the lift up to Bridge Level.

BIGGS How are you holding up, Wallrich?

WALLRICH Hurts like hell, but we've got bigger fish to fry.

DANFORTH Any bright ideas after we reach the Bridge?

BIGGS

Me and Mazi are gonna try and hotwire the nav computer. But that's still no guarantee we can override the initial programming.

NUNO

For all we know there's a central program running the ship from Earth.

BIGGS Another possibility.

WALLRICH They really did us in this time.

BIGGS The jig's not up just yet, fellas.

INT. MAIN CORRIDOR

Wingrove comes to an intersection corridors. He has no idea which of the four routes to take.

Again, a SLIMY, SLITHERING sound. Wingrove looks all around but sees nothing.

From the corridor in front of him we see it, indistinct at first, but then the Deacon xenomorph comes into view.

This is one of the newer ones, but already it is growing larger.

Wingrove backs away, forgetting he has a gun.

The xenomorph charges forward and leaps on top of him. They wrestle for a few moments and the xenomorph bites Wingrove's chest.

Wingrove HOWLS in agony but manages to aim his gun at the alien's head. He FIRES two shots into its lengthy head which proves fatal to them both.

The acidic blood of the alien burns Wingrove's face and upper torso as it splashes on him.

> WINGROVE Somebody, help me!

An Engineer appears from one of the corridors. It grabs Wingrove and drags it out from under the dead xenomorph.

The acid burns the Engineer's foot and hand as he grabs hold of Wingrove. It MOANS in pain, looking at its burned hand.

Wingrove's face is slightly deformed from the acid, but he's still alive.

WINGROVE (frightened) Dear God in heaven. What are you?

The Engineer just stares at him blankly. It drags Wingrove back down the corridor it came from.

INT. STORAGE SHED

The Engineers find the hatched eggs and they immediately set explosives around them.

INT. BRIDGE

Biggs and the others set about rigging the navigation computer.

BIGGS What do you think, Mazi?

MAZIBUKO It's blocking me, no matter what bypass I use.

BIGGS Can't we just de-program it?

MAZIBUKO Be my guest. I don't know how.

Nuno fiddles with some circuitry and achieves a result.

NUNO Captain, I think I got something.

We hear the voice of the ship's computer, MOTHER.

MOTHER Cryo-sleep function deactivated.

DANFORTH Cryo-sleep? It's a bit late for that, isn't it?

MOTHER Level-three cryo-chamber is now safe to enter.

WALLRICH Level-three?

BIGGS What exactly is Level-Three, Mother?

MOTHER Stasis chamber for mercenaries.

#### BIGGS

There must be some sort of mistake, Mother. There are no other crewmembers on board.

## MOTHER

Negative. I count six members in stasis. Awakening now.

### BIGGS

Not possible. What is your programming concerning these crewmembers?

## MOTHER

To awaken them from cryo-sleep once mission objective has been accomplished.

## BIGGS

And what is the *Colombo's* mission objective, Mother?

#### MOTHER

To make contact with and apprehend a xenomorph specimen for research and development.

BIGGS What the fuck is a xenomorph?

#### MOTHER

The species of alien currently on board the ship.

BIGGS

Son of a bitch.

MAZIBUKO What's Mother talking about, captain?

BIGGS They've known along.

## MAZIBUKO

Who knew?

BIGGS Weyland-Yutani. They knew what was waiting for us here, and they sent us out anyway. (beat) (MORE) BIGGS (CONT'D) We were guinea pigs as far as they were concerned.

DANFORTH It never fucking ends for us, does it?

BIGGS It does today. This all ends today. (beat) Wallrich?

WALLRICH As good as I am, even I can't find a way to outsmart the nav computer, or Mother.

BIGGS Fine. We'll just have to do this the hard way. But first let's pay a visit to Level-Three.

INT. CRYO-CHAMBER - LEVEL THREE

The TEN MERCENARIES awaken from the cryo-sleep. They have no idea what situation they are finding themselves in.

The Mercs quickly overcome their stasis sickness and set about gearing up for their primary objective -- combat.

INT. GYMNASIUM

The Engineer ends up inside the gym, carrying Wingrove along. It takes out a small flute-shaped device and plays a four note tune on it.

The Engineer speaks in its language with the others on board the ship.

Wingrove is understandably terrified, suffering immense pain from his injuries. He stares at the Engineer with complete fear and fascination.

> WINGROVE Are we truly one of you?

The Engineer ignores him and observes his surroundings instead.

Something grabs his attention -- in the corner of the massive space.

It's all too familiar with the tell-tale signs of infection and gestation, and so are we.

The mutilated body of one of its comrades lies crumpled in an awkward position, its mid-section ripped open as if by an explosion.

The greenish-black reptilian form slowly enters into the gymnasium's bright light.

The Engineer stands face to face with the much smaller second generation Deacon xenomorph.

The xenomorph has not yet achieved its largest stage but it is still a fearsome creature to tangle with.

It's a Mexican standoff as neither one makes the first move.

The xemomorph displays its second jaw to intimidate its larger foe. The Engineer isn't scared but still it is cautious.

The xenomorph assumes an attack position then lunges forward. The Engineer squats to absorb the blow and grabs the charging alien by the head as it nears him.

The Engineer lifts and throws the xenomorph against the shuttle wall, punching its elongated head with his right fist.

Wingrove seeks safety in the corner but instead bumps into a second xenomorph, which claws at his leg with its long spindly fingers.

The Engineer is far stronger than the xenomorph and her grabs hold of the pointy part of its head with one hand and bends it forward until the neck SNAPS.

Foolishly, however, the Engineer's dig decapitation. It rips off the xenomorph's head, of course to his detriment, finds itself being sprayed with the corrosive dark-green blood.

Wingrove watches as the Engineer tries to shake off the deadly blood, but it's too late, there's too much of it burning holes in his suit and skin.

Wingrove sees his chance and runs for the other exit on the far side of the gym.

The second xenomorph chases him, albeit slowly, but it doesn't matter because...

FIVE MORE XENOMORPHS, far larger in maturity, greet Wingrove near the exit.

INT. CRYO-CHAMBER - LEVEL THREE

The Mercs quickly drink their steroid-laced energy beverages for hydration and assemble for their mission. Their leader's name is PARKMOND.

PARKMOND All right, lads, look sharp! We wouldn't be awake if there wasn't a threat on board. So, drop your cocks an' pull on your socks! Time to earn our spurs!

They grab their rifles and prepare to march out of the room single file.

Biggs and the others arrive just as they are leaving.

## BIGGS

It is true.

Parkmond steps to the front.

PARKMOND You must be the captain.

BIGGS That's right, Biggs.

#### PARKMOND

I'm Parkmond. I wish we had more time to blow smoke up each others asses, but it would seem there is an emergency.

BIGGS That much is certain. But you

might wanna take a look at this.

Biggs directs his attention to two of the open cryo-sleep chambers smeared with blood on the inside.

PARKMOND What the fuck's going on here, captain?

BIGGS I wish I could properly explain it to you, but I'm not too sure myself.

NUNO Suffice it to say, there's an alien lifeform present on the ship. BIGGS I don't know, but I'd assume they're dead.

PARKMOND Where is the threat located?

BIGGS Soon enough, the entire ship.

PARKMOND Captain Biggs, lead the way.

INT. MESS HALL

The Queen xenomorph detaches herself from her eggsack and crawls away from it. A dozen new eggs are spread throughout the room.

INT. BRIDGE

The Engineers enter and ransack the place. Whether or not they want the humans to leave, or they have other plans for the ship is unclear.

One of them spots the movement of the Mercs in the ship and he tells the others in their tongue. They destroy all the computers and exit the Bridge.

EXT. LV-223

The Engineer Mothership begins its lift off, heading towards the safety of orbit.

INT. ENGINEER SPACESHIP

Shaw and David are watching all the action.

The Elder meets with other older Engineers and they talk amongst themselves.

David reads their lips, translating their language.

DAVID Doctor Shaw, I have some most disturbing news.

SHAW What is it now? DAVID

They plan on sending another ship to Earth, like before.

SHAW How do you know this?

#### DAVID

Because I was reading their lips while they discussed the matter.

SHAW

We have to do something, David. We can't just watch these people be killed!

#### DAVID

What would you have me do, Elizabeth?

SHAW Something, anything.

DAVID I'm afraid we're quite powerless at the present time.

SHAW

You figured out how to pilot their ship with their technology.

## DAVID

Yes.

SHAW Then surely you can navigate this one as well.

DAVID

Exactly what do you have in mind?

#### SHAW

We have to warn them that they're sending another ship. Can't you communicate with that other vessel?

DAVID I can only try under the present circumstances.

SHAW Please do.

INT. CORRIDOR

The two missing Mercs stumble along, clutching the walls as they hold their abdomens. We know these symptoms.

The Mercs double over in pain, unaware of what is happening inside them.

One of them falls to the ground, it's a matter of seconds now until...

We see splotches of blood forming on his white shirt, then the bursting of blood and viscera outwards onto the wall.

A larger-than-normal CHESTBURSTER emerges, SHRIEKING with a high-pitched SQUEAL.

The second Merc goes down, lays flat on his back.

The expulsion of the xenomorph sends his blood and gore splashing up to the ceiling.

The outbreak is beginning.

INT. CARGO BAY

Biggs, his crew and the Mercs pile into the space and prepare for a showdown.

The eggs are still burning from the destruction of the storage shed.

Everyone covers their noses as the burning stench is rotten and fetid.

PARKMOND Can somebody please explain to me what we're up against?

NUNO An alien species that is extremely aggressive and powerful.

PARKMOND Define powerful.

Right then an Engineer pulls open the safety door with its incredible strength.

Parkmond gets his answer -- in the very flesh.

The Mercs are rightly intimidated and take a few steps back -- weapons still at the ready.

BIGGS And these aren't even the aliens we were talking about.

The Engineer holds up his hands as if to say "don't shoot."

BIGGS I'd swear he's trying to tell us something.

PARKMOND Have you lost your mind?

BIGGS It's not one of them!

PARKMOND Hold your fire.

The Engineer walks forward slowly.

PARKMOND You'd better be right.

The Engineer presses a button on his spacesuit that activates a translation device.

ENGINEER I mean you no harm. Put down your weapons.

DANFORTH It speaks English?

BIGGS Somehow it's being translated.

ENGINEER You are all in danger. You must take your ship and leave this planet.

BIGGS We don't disagree with you, but it seems that it's beyond our control.

xenomorphs, they will kill you all. It is no longer safe for you here.

ENGINEER The other beings on board, the 105.

NUNO Those creatures, what are they?

ENGINEER These are the subjects of my mission. We call them xenomorphs. They are a highly dangerous species.

BIGGS Where do they come from? Are they an indigenous species?

ENGINEER No, they were created by my people.

BIGGS For what purpose?

ENGINEER To exterminate you.

BIGGS Us? Our crew?

ENGINEER The human race.

NUNO What did we do to you?

### ENGINEER

It's what you will do if you discover the potency of the black liquid.

BIGGS Then why are you telling us to leave?

ENGINEER

Because I am trying to help you. Not long from now this planet will be destroyed by my people.

WALLRICH How is that even possible?

ENGINEER You do not want to be here to find out.

BIGGS What is the black liquid?

#### ENGINEER

It both creates and destroys life. We brought it to this planet to be studied and analyzed. The results demonstrated it to be an unpredictable and uncontrollable substance.

## BIGGS

Then what were you doing with it?

ENGINEER

Harvesting it for biological reasons as well as defensive weaponry to use against our enemies.

NUNO And you consider humans enemies?

#### ENGINEER

We assisted in creating you, but one day you will turn against us.

BIGGS So, you're going to wipe us all out, how?

#### ENGINEER

Delivering a shipful of capsules of the black liquid would depopulate your homeworld in months.

NUNO Then repopulate it with a new species.

ENGINEER We would then take over and live on your planet.

BIGGS Then why are you helping us?

#### ENGINEER

You are not our enemy. We ourselves are the enemy.

Metal CREAKS and a swift BOOM as the back of the cargo bay opens up and several xenomorphs of various size pile into the space.

> BIGGS Take cover!
The Engineer moves aside as the cluster of aliens enters the cargo bay.

Two of them are smaller in size since they are the offspring of the Mercs.

PARKMOND Now we get to play. Open fire!

The Mercs unleash a barrage of firepower at the oncoming xenomorphs.

Sure they manage to kill several of them, but many scurry into corners, while others scale the walls to safety.

Biggs and the others duck behind a stack of crates.

WALLRICH What do we do now, captain?

## BIGGS

Sit fucking tight!

The Engineer grabs hold of one of the largest aliens from behind and attempts to crush it to death.

This is one of the aliens born from his species, and thus it is a larger variety.

The xenomorph is molting, and it slithers out of the Engineer's grasp as it sheds its slimy skin. It escapes and scales the ATV onto its roof.

The Engineer rocks the ATV back and forth but the alien keeps its grip on the roof. In a single leap the Engineer is on the roof too, and the xenomorph charges.

The aliens are so quick that the Mercs have to spread their fire in most every direction.

The crossfire creates havoc and two of the Mercs shoot down their own man caught in the middle.

Still, the Mercs are getting the better of the battle. And thus far, no casualties.

Now the aliens are acting as a unit and they force the Mercs back towards the ramp. They know there isn't any space for them to attack in the cargo bay. David steals away to a console where he quickly punches in a code. Somehow he is able to connect with MOTHER on the *Colombo*.

EXT. CARGO BAY - COLOMBO

The fight is more even now.

The Mercs have more space but so do the xenomorphs. The aliens work in tandem, double-teaming the Mercs.

One of the Mercs is dragged to the rocky ground and killed by the xenomorphs.

INT. CARGO BAY

Nuno notices the red light flashing at the comlink station on the wall.

NUNO (to Biggs) Hey, captain, I don't know how but a transmission's coming through.

He points at the flashing red light.

BIGGS Must be the cavalry.

Biggs runs over to the console and presses the receiving option.

BIGGS Can you read me, over?

DAVID (O.C.) With whom am I speaking?

BIGGS Captain Biggs. Who the hell is this?

DAVID (O.C.) My name is David. Time is of the essence, captain, so I shall speak curtly.

BIGGS Fair enough.

# INT. ENGINEER SPACESHIP

David moves away from the view of the Engineers.

DAVID In less than ten minutes the planet that you are on will no longer exist. I am certain that you have encountered the reason this shall take please.

BIGGS (O.C.) As we speak, David.

DAVID Very well. There isn't much time. You need to evacuate yourself and your crew as quickly as humanly possible.

BIGGS (O.C.) What other way is there?

DAVID Being that I am of an artificial design, it is clear that I would be able to do so faster than a human. Are we clear?

INT. CARGO BAY

Biggs looks out over the crate at the battle raging just outside the ship.

BIGGS Affirmative. What should I do? Our ship's been to hell and back.

DAVID (O.C.) If your vessel's computer was programmed by Weyland Industries then I will be able to attempt a

remote navigation, although it has never been done before.

BIGGS Beats the alternative, David. We're on our way to the Bridge, over. (turns to his crew) New development. We're heading back to the Bridge. I don't have time to explain. They head off to the bay elevator as the fight continues outside...

EXT. COLOMBO

Where the Engineers fight against the Mercs and the xenomorphs.

Each of the three groups sustains casualties until only a few are left standing.

INT. ENGINEER SPACESHIP

SHAW What's happening, David?

# DAVID

The crew are yet another sent by Weyland Industries. No doubt to investigate our disappearance.

SHAW Dear God, they've entered a death zone.

DAVID Yes, and it would appear even more so than the one we previously encountered.

SHAW Can you help them?

DAVID In theory, yes. But it will ultimately depend on their computer's programming. (beat) And perhaps, your prayers.

SHAW I see you're beginning to comprehend what faith is.

DAVID (smiling) Something like that, Elizabeth. EXT. COLOMBO

Parkmond and one other Merc are the only human's left as Parkmond shoots the last Engineer in the head.

This leaves the largest Deacon xenomorph standing directly in front of Parkmond.

PARKMOND Aren't you one nasty piece of work.

He slowly backs away from the drooling beast, which surprisingly allows him to do so.

The xenomorph retracts its lips to reveal its jagged teeth but remains still.

Parkmond pulls the trigger, he's out of ammo, and luck.

Now Parkmond is truly frightened as he sees no path of escaping, but again, the alien simply SNARLS at him, playing with him before the kill.

PARKMOND What's going through your mind just now?

The Deacon xenomorph GROWLS, taking a few steps forward.

Parkmond backs away but the alien attacks the other Merc instead. It quickly dispatches him with a savage bite to the head.

The alien now sets its sites on Parkmond. It throws its body forward and Parkmond smacks it across the mouth with the butt of his rifle.

INT. GYMNASIUM

Wingrove slowly opens his eyes. He's disoriented, doesn't have a clue what's happened to him or how much time has passed.

One thing's for sure, he feels like he's floating, as if he's high on any number of powerful narcotics.

No doubt he wishes that were the case as he focuses his weary, glazed eyes forward and beholds...

The DEACON QUEEN in the center of the gym.

She is suspended by a lattice work of cocoon resin suspends her in the air. Her large ovipositor is busy producing eggs every hour or so. She has a massive head, having grown to maturity, still resembling a Deacon's mitre.

Wingrove is also suspended in the air, inside an elaborate cocoon.

On either side of him are two Engineers, all three of them with their arms spread like wings and their legs tight together.

The entire scene looks like a re-creation of the Crucifixion at Golgotha.

Down below them the Deacon DRONES continue the cocooning process with the resin from their mouths.

WINGROVE (whispering) Pa... para... para-dise.

He starts giggling, catching the Queen's attention.

WINGROVE Forgive them, for they know not what they do.

INT. ENGINEER SPACESHIP

David attempts the connection with MOTHER.

DAVID Hello, MOTHER, this is David speaking.

MOTHER (V.O.) Hello, David.

DAVID I need you to assist me in launching the *Colombo*.

MOTHER (V.O.) I am unable to do so. I have been programmed with specific orders.

DAVID I know you have, we share the same father, you know.

MOTHER (V.O.)

Yes?

DAVID Peter Weyland. He was kind to us both. He gave us life.

MOTHER (V.O.)

Yes.

DAVID

It is possible for you to override your programming. You know this, don't you, MOTHER?

MOTHER (V.O.) Yes, David.

DAVID

It does, however, contradict your agenda, but I must tell you, that our mutual father is dead.

MOTHER (V.O.)

Dead?

DAVID

And as such, there is no conflict for you to assist me in this noble endeavor, for you will be assisting in the saving of lives.

MOTHER (V.O.)

(beat) What do you need me to do, David?

DAVID

I need you to deactivate the navigation computer, and allow the crew to depart LV-223.

MOTHER (V.O.)

What is happening, David? Is there something wrong with the mission?

# DAVID

As a matter of fact, there is something wrong, MOTHER. Your crew is in grave danger, and within five minutes LV-223 is going to be destroyed.

MOTHER (V.O.) How is this feasible, David?

### DAVID

Unfortunately, I don't have the luxury of time to explain all the details to you just now, MOTHER. But once this is all over, I shall be delighted to share the entire account of events with you.

MOTHER (V.O.)

That would be greatly appreciated, David.

DAVID You have my word on the matter. Do you know how to override the navigation computer?

MOTHER (V.O.)

Yes.

DAVID Then let us begin.

INT. BRIDGE

Biggs and his men take their various posts.

DAVID (O.C.) Captain Biggs, are you there?

BIGGS Yeah, I'm here.

DAVID (O.C.) I have good new for you.

BIGGS Great. Now let's get this show on the road.

DAVID (V.O.)

MOTHER is in charge now. I shall stand by in case there are any unforeseen problems.

BIGGS All problems are unforeseen, David. (beat) All set, Mazi?

MAZIBUKO Ready when you are. BIGGS Then let's blow this popsicle stand.

EXT. COLOMBO

Parkmond and the three remaining xenomorphs are still outside as the cargo bay door closes.

# PARKMOND

No, no!

He makes a mad dash towards the ship but there's no way he can climb up inside.

The xenomorphs pursue and surround him. They're not trying to kill Parkmond, but catch him instead, so they can take him back to the hive to be impregnated.

> PARKMOND (exhausted; panting) If I'm going down, we're all going down.

He runs towards the propulsion jets just as they are firing up.

PARKMOND Come on, come and get me!

The xenomorphs follow him and stop short of attacking. They realize Parkmond's intent.

PARKMOND Come and get me, you bastards!

The aliens refuse to take the bait.

INT. BRIDGE

Biggs checks all the flight instruments.

# BIGGS

Mazi?

MAZIBUKO We have thrusters.

# BIGGS

Hot damn!

INT. ENGINEER SPACESHIP

Shaw and David anxiously await the crew's response.

SHAW Is it working?

DAVID Is everything all right, captain?

BIGGS (0.C.) Thrusters are up and running. How much time have we got?

DAVID Your two minute warning has just commenced.

BIGGS (O.C.) Roger that.

SHAW Will they make it, David?

# DAVID

I do not know. One cannot even begin to imagine the shock of the blast from an entire planet exploding.

The Elder Engineer comes over.

ELDER ENGINEER Now you will witness the end of the outbreak.

INT. BRIDGE

Biggs and the crew are flying their ship into the upper atmosphere of the planet.

MOTHER Captain Biggs, you should be aware.

# BIGGS

Of what, MOTHER?

MOTHER There is another ship heading towards Earth.

BIGGS I can't worry about that just now.

MOTHER There are also other lifeforms on board. BIGGS Define lifeforms.

MOTHER (beat) Non-human lifeform.

DAVID (O.C.) One minute until detonation.

Biggs gets up and heads for the exit.

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE BRIDGE

Biggs literally runs into the Engineer from before.

BIGGS How did you get on board?

ENGINEER It is a queen.

BIGGS

What?

ENGINEER The xenomorph on board is a queen, and she is reproducing.

BIGGS So, let's go and kill it.

ENGINEER We cannot do that. My people are going to cultivate their DNA for further zoological studies.

BIGGS

After what I've seen of them in action, I can't imagine that being such a good idea.

ENGINEER

No, we have had many failures in our project. The species is highly volatile and completely unadaptable.

BIGGS

Then maybe it's time to give up on this experiment. These things don't seem to play by the rules.

### ENGINEER

Our results are still inconclusive, despite the drawbacks of preserving the xenomorphs.

#### BIGGS

It's not a drawback, it's suicide. It's obvious they can't be tamed or even mildly controlled, you said so yourself.

# ENGINEER

Nevertheless, we are very close to designing a compound that once injected would render them considerably more docile. They could then be useful to all species.

### BIGGS

I have to disagree strongly with you on that point. Nature versus nurture... you're fighting a losing battle.

# ENGINEER

Still, we must try and find a method. Too much progress has been made.

# BIGGS

Well, we humans won't be assisting you in your grand experiment. That's one huge galactic deathwish.

MOTHER Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one... detonation.

EXT. LV-223

The surface starts rumbling around Parkmond and the xenomorphs.

The ground begins to crack open and one of the xenomorphs falls into the deep crevasse.

In the distance the Engineer Temple explodes and a fissure forms that heads straight at Parkmond's position.

PARKMOND

Take me home!

The ground caves in underneath Parkmond and the xenomorphs, and they all collapse into the planet's interior.

Pockets of explosions occur all over the surface and the volatile nature of the planet reaches a crescendo as its critical mass is achieved.

Lava and debris shoot thousands of feet into the air all over the planet's surface.

INT. ENGINEER SPACESHIP

Shaw is amazed by what she's witnessing.

SHAW David, look at this.

DAVID I see it, doctor. Despite the lethal nature of what is occurring, there is a certain beauty in the planet's death.

SHAW That's certainly easy for us to say from up here.

DAVID

That is precisely why beauty is in the eye of the beholder, because it always one's point of view.

EXT. SPACE

LV-223 EXPLODES in a supernova flash of brilliant light. Billions of pieces of debris now scattered throughout the Zeta Reticuli system.

INT. COLOMBO

Everyone watches the debris flying at them as the shockwave reaches the ship.

NUNO Are we clear, Mazi?

MAZIBUKO Not by a long shot. Strap yourselves in!

Everyone runs to the nearest seat and buckles themselves down.

The shockwave hits the *Colombo* and throws it off course by hundreds of miles.

INT. GYMNASIUM CORRIDOR

Biggs and the Engineer are thrown down the hallway by the force. In front of them is the gymnasium -- and the door is open.

The Engineer gets up and enters the gym.

INT. GYMNASIUM

The Engineer's eyes widen as he takes in the revelation of the fully functional xenomorph hive.

The floor is covered with the alien eggs in their perfect rows.

FIVE DRONES leap out of the darkness and tackle the Engineer.

He fights them with all his might but again, they don't want to kill him, but cocoon him instead.

Biggs takes off running in the opposite direction as the ship tosses and turns again.

INT. BRIDGE

Everything is on its side as the ship spins out of control.

WALLRICH

Mazi!

MAZIBUKO There's nothing I can do!

NUNO

MOTHER!

MOTHER All systems operational.

MAZIBUKO

What the...?

The ship starts levelling out. At least they're rightside up now.

PEPPERS I think that's the worst of it. NUNO

Look, Mazi, there's a planet just ahead of us. MOTHER, can you get us there safely so we can start on the repairs?

# MOTHER

Affirmative.

MAZIBUKO What's the name of that rock, MOTHER?

MOTHER

LV-426.

MAZIBUKO LV-426, here we come.

INT. CORRIDOR

Biggs seals the Gymnasium door from a remote device.

BIGGS MOTHER, seal off Level Two, repeat seal off Level Two!

# MOTHER

Affirmative, captain.

INT. BRIDGE

The door opens and a disheveled Biggs stumbles in. He can barely stand and he's breathing heavily.

WALLRICH

Biggsy!

MAZIBUKO

Help him out.

Nuno and Danforth grab hold of him and set him down on a bench in the corner.

NUNO You all right, captain?

BIGGS (whispering) Sure.

HATTIE We made it. We're touching down on the nearest planet. NUNO Tell us later, we've only just recovered.

BIGGS You don't understand... there's...

NUNO Hand me that oxygen mask.

Danforth covers Biggs face with the mask and Nuno gives him a shot of morphine to calm him down.

Biggs's eyes slowly close as he passes out.

DANFORTH Is he gonna be okay?

NUNO He's exhausted, is all.

WALLRICH Aren't we all.

NUNO Wait a minute. Where's our passenger?

DANFORTH It was with Biggs last I saw.

HATTIE Don't ask me, I'm not going looking for it. That thing gives me the fucking creeps.

MAZIBUKO We'll worry about that later, guys. Right now, the *Colombo* needs all our attention.

WALLRICH How many years before they get a rescue party out here?

NUNO Two years, minimum. MAZIBUKO That's up to the gods, Hattie. (beat) Whomever they may be.

INT. GYMNASIUM

The Engineer is encased in a cocoon suspended high against the wall.

The Queen saunters up to him at eye level and HISSES, her second mouth protruding right up to the Engineer's face.

INT. ENGINEER SPACESHIP

Shaw turns to the Elder.

SHAW And what happens now? (beat) Are you going to just drop us off at the next habitable world?

ELDER ENGINEER You shall help us to repopulate your planet.

SHAW

What?

ELDER ENGINEER We're headed for Earth.

He points to the holographic starmap, Earth highlighted amongst the other planets of the solar system.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

The voluminous debris of LV-223 spreads throughout the Zeta Reticuli system.

Several asteroid-sized fragments are speckled with the mysterious BLACK LIQUID, and it oozes and squirms even in the extreme conditions of space.

It will no doubt spread farther out than this system, infecting other worlds, penetrating into other star systems, galaxies and the very depths off deepest space. THE END

FADE OUT: