

THE ASTRONAUT

Written by:

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SECOND REVISION DRAFT
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NURSE

Mr. Weston..? Are you -- Are you okay?

JOHN

Where am I?

NURSE

You're in the hospital, sir. They brought you in last night after your -- you know...

JOHN

My what? Who brought me in?

NURSE

The NASA team. Or whatever their rescue squad's called.

JOHN

How long have I been out?

NURSE

About eight hours. Are you okay? I think you need more rest. Maybe you should --

JOHN

No. No -- I need to get out of here. I need to get answers.

NURSE

Sir? You crashlanded back to earth less than eight hours ago, you need --

ANSEN (O.S.)

Listen to the medics, spaceman. You need the rest.

The Nurse and John look to the door. HOWARD ANSEN (50's) head of the NASA space task group enters in. Studies John.

John's eyes get anxious. He instantly recognizes Ansen.

JOHN

Howard! What happ -- Did you find me or something?

ANSEN

Wait a second -- you know who I am?

JOHN

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

John second glances Ansen. This guy doesn't know him.

ANSEN

Who are you?

JOHN

I'm John. John Weston. I'm the
space engineer you sent in a
spaceflight up there to identify
the malfunctions in the satellite.
I'm --

(Then,)

You really don't remember who I am,
do you?

ANSEN

I've never met a John Weston.

JOHN

You selected me for --

NURSE

Mr. Ansen, I think it's time
for him to rest. He's
completely worn out.

ANSEN

Right. He is.

The Nurse goes to help John get back to bed. He pushes her
hand away.

JOHN

No don't touch me.

(To Ansen,)

Howard? Howard? I need answers
here! I don't remember what
happened. My ship got off course
after the satellite broke apart.
Then I blacked out. I don't --

ANSEN

The satellite broke apart? Mr.
Weston, the satellite's fine.
There's nothing wrong with --

JOHN

No it's not! It's not -- I swear --
I was stuck in the middle while it
was falling apart. I had to -- I --

ANSEN

(To Nurse,)

I think you better put him to
rest --

(CONTINUED)

Ansen walks out. Bewildered. We can hear John scream in the b.g. As the Nurse doses him with the sedative.

JOHN

Howard! Tell me what happened! Tell me what happened -- I need to know!

2

INT. ANSEN'S OFFICE - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS

2

IVY WESTON (30's), the strong-willed quiet wife of our astronaut, sits on the visiting side of a crowded desk. Filled with papers and files laying around all over.

Across from Ivy, sits HOWARD ANSEN. He's a bit different looking now. Clearly, not the befuddled person we just met.

ANSEN

Ivy... I... I don't know what to tell you. It's been three years. Three years since we sent our rescue team up there. To repair the satellite and... to try and locate John.

We CLOSE ON Ansen. Indeed, this is a different man than the one we just met. Almost as if it's a different version of him. He actually remembers John.

IVY

You haven't tried your best, Howard. You and your team.

ANSEN

We looked. We looked harder than just harder. I mean -- we launched two ships out into the deep. Three guys farther from the planet than you could say. Out there. Trying to find him. But... he wasn't there. Hell, his ship wasn't there.

IVY

He's not dead.

ANSEN

I never --

IVY

That's what you're implying.

(A beat. Then,)

Your radio station still has contact with John's radio on the ship. Why is that?

(CONTINUED)

Ansen looks off. Fed up of trying to explain. Ivy holds steady. A firm look on her. She's full of belief.

ANSEN

He hasn't contacted back from that radio. Which can only lead me to believe that... he didn't make it. I'm sorry. I know -- it's hard...

IVY

No you don't.
(Looks at him,)
No. You don't.

Ivy takes a breath. Waits a beat. Then --

IVY (CONT'D)

(Placidly)

You know, Abby was only a year old when John left. She was only a year old. She barely ever recognized her own dad.

(Then,)

And now... every night before bed she asks me -- "Where's daddy? When's he coming back home?" And all I can say is... "Daddy's up there. He's up there... fixing the machine... So that we can watch TV... and fly in planes... and..."

(A beat,)

You know she's three years old now. She can only remember her dad through the pictures. She still hasn't really met him because the people that were supposed to find him gave up on him.

ANSEN

We never gave up. We kept looking. We still have a connection on that radio. But nothing's come through. Not in the last three years.

IVY

What's Dr. Wang been up to?

ANSEN

You can ask him yourself if you want.

3 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

3

JOHN sits up on the bed. The NURSE beside him. And on the other side of the bed, there are two NASA INVESTIGATORS. Holding clipboards. Filling out a sheet as they both look at him. Hungry for answers.

JOHN

I don't remember a thing after the crash.

NASA INVESTIGATOR # 1

Mr. Weston... we're trying to find out why the satellite crashed.

JOHN

Look -- I don't fully know why, okay? Some malfunction, something went wrong. Some part... some part must have been latched on wrong... the only thing I know is that it just fell apart, and I had to get out of there.

(Then,)

Anyway -- why does the satellite matter more than me? We're trying to find out how I came back here. I was headed away from earth when I was --

NASA INVESTIGATOR # 2

We're trying to figure out what happened to the satellite because it never broke. If it did, we'd know about it.

(Confidently,)

Nothing's wrong with the satellite, Mr. Weston. All our connections with it are all normal. No malfunction. No problems.

ANSEN

Or the more important thing is... who the hell are you? Because I've never met you. And I sure as hell never recruited you for a spaceflight to fix the satellite. 'Cause like they said... the satellite's doing just fine.

JOHN

You think I'm lying? What have you lost your memory too Howard? Are you playing me?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (CONT'D)

Or do you really think I just
landed here back on earth randomly?

ANSEN

I personally think your an alien,
son. None of what your saying is
making any sense to me. Because
your whole story doesn't look like
it's ever happened.

John leans back on the hospital bed. Closes his eyes. Lets
out a breath. Then suddenly --

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! We get sudden flares of the satellite
breakage. John, in his astronaut attire, spiraling away,
reaching his ship.

BACK ON JOHN -- He opens his eyes. Sees the Investigators and
Ansen leaving the room.

NASA INVESTIGATOR # 1

I think Dr. Wang would wanna see a
report of this...

JOHN

Dr. Wang? You mean -- Dr. Tai Wang?

Ansen and The Investigators stop. Turn back to John.

ANSEN

Great -- you know him too?

JOHN

He was involved in my mission. He's
the one who instructed me.

(Then,)

I wanna talk to him.

NURSE

You can't leave the hospital. The
doctor hasn't --

JOHN

To hell with him. I'm not sitting
here without any answers. I need to
find out what the hell happened!

(To Ansen,)

Howard, please... I wanna talk to
Dr. Wang.

4 INT. WANG'S LAB - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS - DAY 4

IVY is led by ANSEN into Wang's office. They head in. Up on the walls, are screens, monitoring live footage from the NASA satellites.

On his computer, clacking away at the keyboard, we find DR. TAI WANG (40s), the oriental, tall research specialist and monitor for the Houston station.

ANSEN
Hey Wang. Gotta a sec?

DR. WANG
I thought I told you to stay out of my lab, Ansen.

Then, Ivy steps forth. Hoping to make her presence felt.

IVY
Tai? It's me. Ivy. I'm here about John.

Wang's eyebrows rise. He turns away from his computer, and faces Ivy.

DR. WANG
(Nods,)
Hello Ivy.

IVY
Wang, how far along are you on finding John?

JUMP CUT TO:

THE DESK --

Ivy and Ansen sit on one side of Wang's desk as he sits on his side. Pulling out old files and pictures.

DR. WANG
If you're looking for progress, then you're not going to find anything, Ivy. We're still with this where we were three years ago when John went MIA.

Wang slides the photos over to Ansen and Ivy. Ivy takes a look at them. They're pictures of broken metals. From the satellite. And debris spread out all over the area.

(CONTINUED)

DR. WANG (CONT'D)

We sent three men farther to go look for John's ship after the satellite was repaired, hoping he left some trail, but nothing showed up.

Ivy scans through the pictures once more. Then --

IVY

Do you think -- do you think he's still out there. Maybe he's on his ship. Lost in the depths, but do you even have a doubt? I mean his radio is still connected. The station can still read it. Can't you track it?

ANSEN

We don't put trackers on our radios. Astronauts are responsible for providing us their location. Hence the radio for them to reach out to us.

DR. WANG

Our radios can run for ten years wherever they are in space. Humans, cannot. In cases like these, a human could survive only a few days in space with the oxygen supply. But not three years.

IVY

Wang... you're giving me nothing here.

DR. WANG

Nothing is unfortunately all I have. I'm sorry, Ivy. But it's highly likely that John is no more. I know it can be hard, but --

IVY

Don't. Just... don't.

Ivy gets up. Heads out.

5

INT. WANG'S OFFICE - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS

5

This version of the room is much more messy looking. Papers everywhere. Lab reports lying around. All the monitor screens are turned off. And yet, it's the same room we just saw.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN studies the place while entering. Not fully recognizing it. He is being led in by ANSEN.

Ansen approaches A MAN. He's got slightly longer hair. We CUT ON his face to see --

It's DR. TAI WANG. Almost the same as we last saw him. He's vigorously scribbling notes in a notebook while glancing back and forth from his computer screen.

ANSEN

Tai. Got someone that wants to meet you.

DR. WANG

I'm on a break, Ansen. No time for --

JOHN

Tai Wang? Do you hear me?

DR. WANG

I hear the sound of a stranger.

Wang turns. Faces John. He simply looks at him, taking him for a newcomer. No second glances, no double takes.

JOHN

You don't know me either, do you?

DR. WANG

Should I?

JOHN

Dr. Wang, you and I were working on the mission for the satellite repair while we were developing the operation. Pre-mission? Remember?

DR. WANG

I'm sorry, what? Satellite repair?
(To Ansen,)
Is the satellite misbehaving?

ANSEN

No. This man here -- John Weston -- knows everything about us here. Claims he works here at NASA, and that we sent him on a mission to --

JOHN

I'm not making any of this up. Alright? My name *is* John Weston. I do work for NASA.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (CONT'D)

And I *did* go on a mission that-
(Points to Ansen,)
That you sent me on.

ANSEN

(To Wang,)
Know what to make of any of this,
Wang?

DR. WANG

You were on a mission in outer
space, Mr. Weston?

JOHN

That's right.

DR. WANG

NASA hasn't sent any astronauts up
in space since 2011. So... that
would be last July.

ANSEN

STS-35. That was it.

And now it hits John. He begins to realize as --

JOHN

Hang on there.
(Then,)
Last July? No -- my mission was
launched in 2014. October of 2014.

Ansen starts to chuckle.

ANSEN

Oh, I see. So you're a time
traveller now.

JOHN

No I'm serious. Did you check my
ship at all when you collected it?
The technology, it's all updated by
now. I mean -- by 2014.

ANSEN

Your ship burned.

Ansen looks off. *This is a joke.* But Wang now leans in.
Interested in what John has to say.

DR. WANG

2014, you say?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Yeah. I was recruited for the mission in March of 2014. It was an urgency. I trained for three months. Helped develop the operation. And then I went up.

ANSEN

Bullcrap.

JOHN

Dr. Wang, you would know what I'm trying to get at here. You've done extensive research on quantum physics and time dimensions? Right?

DR. WANG

I do that for fun. But what you have, Mr. Weston, is an intriguing case.

ANSEN

Oh you can't be serious, Wang.

JOHN

(to Dr. Wang,)
Am I in the past?

JUMP CUT TO:

Dr. Wang pulls out his research packets. Starts reading through them. Then, we CUT ON --

Wang. Talking Ansen and John through the specifics as he shows them pictures and draws them diagrams.

DR. WANG

I don't necessarily think you're in the past, Mr. Weston. My theory -- based on what you're telling us -- is that you've merely ended up in an alternate dimension.

JOHN (V.O.)

Merely?

DR. WANG

It's highly unlikely that is what would happen in the most normal of situations, but... your story... escaping the satellite crash... and then being pulled off course. You may have been in close proximity to a wormhole.

(CONTINUED)

ANSEN (V.O.)

Wormholes only lead to other galaxies. Not dimensions.

DR. WANG

Not necessarily. Not always. They can be the bridge to other worlds. Perhaps they may hold the doors to even more worlds... or what we call the multiverse.

John, Ansen, and Wang are looking at his computer screen. An image of a wormhole is being shown.

JOHN (V.O.)

So I fell into a portal?

DR. WANG

You flew through one... and by the miracle of god... you survived it.

We're back at the desk. Ansen, John, and Wang in conversation. And now, even Ansen is interested.

ANSEN

Alright. This has piqued my interest somewhat...

(To John,)

Technically, you are from the future?

DR. WANG

Not really, no. He's crossed over from his world. Where he's already been on that mission to repair the satellite. Look at it as another reality, if you want.

JOHN

Then why does this world seem so familiar to me? You... Howard... the hospitals... the streets... everything. It's all the same.

DR. WANG

Because you're in a parallel dimension. A dimension that's alternate, but still the same as your's. A parallel dimension, or a parallel universe, is a hypothetical self-contained separate reality co-existing with one's own.

(CONTINUED)

ANSEN

Not hypothetical anymore.

DR. WANG

Things may seem the same. But really, they're just a different version of what we say them as in our own worlds, respectively.

ANSEN

Hold on... so there's more than one me out there?

JOHN

Yeah. And you're just like him. Just a little less accomplished than the Howard I know.

(To Dr. Wang,)

What about the time zones? If the dimensions are co-existing? How is it still 2011 here?

DR. WANG

Time works differently in every dimension, Mr. Weston. When you go through a wormhole, from your world, into another, time is sure to change. It either moves faster, or slower. Here, it moves slower. What you're experiencing, is time dilation. Where time slows down.

ANSEN

I'm not getting it.

DR. WANG

Take this basic example.

(A beat,)

I am getting ready to throw a football across a field in this world. But in another world, where time is faster, I've already thrown that football. And in a world that runs slower in time, I haven't even thought of throwing that football. Time, ultimately varies among dimensions.

ANSEN

So we're not even close to another spaceflight. That's -- three years away.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

No. But you will. Eventually,
you'll follow in the same footsteps
as my world did.

(To Dr. Wang,)

Right? Isn't that how this works?

DR. WANG

Precisely. Every dimension ends up
doing the same thing as the other
because they are all co-existing.
But they all run on time
differently. So perhaps, there
could be a world out there in which
you've made it back to earth
safely, Mr. Weston.

JOHN

So what did I do by coming here?
Disrupt time?

DR. WANG

Think of yourself as a constant.
You crossed the barriers of time
and space. You are a little older
than yourself in this world, that
much is certain. But... you must
avoid seeing yourself, Mr. Weston.
If you do, serious repercussions
could occur. Starting with
incongruity within the time zones.

A Beat. John takes all this in. Then --

JOHN

So what now? I mean -- I need to
get back there. Back to my world. I
have a wife and a daughter back
there. And here... we haven't even
had a daughter. Not in 2011.

ANSEN

Does a wormhole close on it's own,
Wang?

WANG

(Shrugs,)

It's hard to say without actually
being close to one.

JOHN

(Rises; Nods to Wang,)

Thank you doctor. I'll -- try and
get out of here as fast as I can.

(CONTINUED)

WANG
(to Ansen,)
You should provide him with a ship.

6 INT. HALLWAY - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS - DAY 6

IVY takes a lonely walk down the hall. In a state of concavity. Ready to give up.

As Ivy walks down, we CLOSE ON her. A woman who's devoted all this time trying to find her husband, and now she's almost ready to believe that he doesn't exist anymore.

7 INT. HALLWAY - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS - DAY 7

-- ANSEN and JOHN. Walking down the same hall.

JOHN
What remains of my ship? The
Cruiser?

ANSEN
Whole thing's crashed. All burned
to shit. I had the workers collect
whatever didn't burn. But
otherwise, we threw out all the
scrap metal.

JOHN
I need to contact NASA, Howard. The
NASA in my world. I've gotta use
your connections. Can I do that?

ANSEN
Use whatever you need. But I don't
think there's a way to talk across
worlds. I mean --
(Then,)
Wait hold on a sec.
(Thinks; Then,)
Your walkie. Your radio. It never
burned. I remember they brought it
in.

JOHN
Where is it? Does it still work?

ANSEN
Might be in working condition.
There's no harm in trying.

8

INT. EVIDENCE LOCKER ROOM - NASA FACILITY

8

JOHN walks in. Opens a locker. Inside, he finds --

His Astronaut helmet. He holds it in his hands. Looks into it. Then, he puts it aside on the table. Next, he finds -- His astronaut gloves. He slips one of them on. Then, puts both of them aside.

And now, John finds A SHAVING KIT. He takes it. Smiles at it. Unzips it open. Finds a razor. A toothbrush. Some mouthwash. Then, he pulls out --

A SMALL PHOTO. Of him and his daughter Abby as a baby. He starts to tear up. But then he drops the picture back in the bag. Next, he finds -- THE RADIO.

JUMP CUT TO:

JOHN. Sitting at a table. The RADIO held up to his ear. He turns it on. Turns the volume up a bit. A beat. He listens closely. Hearing muffled voices. Until --

IVY (O.S.)

(From radio,)

Hey John... just checking in on you. It's been a few days since we talked. I figured you would be done by now but... satellite must be really messed up huh?

John smirks. It's that same light humor he recalls from his wife.

IVY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(From radio,)

Well, anyway... hope you're doing okay. Getting lot's of exercise, I hope. You know what being in that zero-gravity can do to ya... well... take care... bye.

John tears up. Almost crying. Then, the radio cuts to the next message.

IVY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(from radio,)

Hey... I just called to say that I miss you... and that Abby misses you too. She asks me every night where you are. And I just tell her to look at the sky. I took her to the facility the other day.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

IVY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
She seemed to have fun. Well I just
wanted to --

The voicemail cuts off. Showered by muffled noises. And then,
a new message starts --

IVY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hey... I heard what happened. The
station's in a frenzy right now.
All of 'em are worried about the
satellite.
(Then,)
God I hope you're okay, John. They
lost contact with your ship. And I
know you can't reply, but I really
do hope you didn't get hurt. I just
wish you had made it back down here
before that thing snapped.

John listens. Almost feeling the voice. The next message
starts --

IVY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hey it's me again... I know you
probably have no time to talk to
me. You must be busy -- trying to
get back home... but I miss you.
I'm uh -- getting lonely down here.
They say that they're sending a
rescue team up there to come get
you. And to repair the satellite,
of course. So don't panic. Just
keep drinking water, keep eating.
Just hang tight. Bye.

John starts crying. Hard tears coming down.

IVY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(From walkie,)
Hi John. Your father died last
week. We buried him in the same
cemetrey we did your mom. I saw
your cousin Miranda at the funeral.
Been years since I last saw her.
She said she's down in Albuquerque.
Doing some kind of plant research.
(Then,)
Abby started day-care. She's about
two months in.

John laughs. Shallow humor.

(CONTINUED)

IVY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(From radio,)
They stopped your investigation.
Everyone thinks your dead, honey.
They said I should start mourning
you too.

John fights back his tears. Listens --

IVY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I don't know where you are exactly,
John. But if I don't believe that
you're alive, then I don't know how
I'll live. So I'm just waiting.
Biding my time. Waiting for you to
come back. And I'll wait for as
long as I need to. Till Abby grows
up... till her graduation... her
twenty-first. Her wedding. Hell,
I'll wait even beyond all that.

She stops for a second. Then --

IVY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Come back home, John. Please. Our
daughter needs you.
(Then,)
Oh, speaking of, our little two
year old wants to say something to
you. Hang on a sec, okay?

John gets anxious. Lets his tears flow.

ABBY (O.S.)
(From radio,)
H-Hi... daddy...

John raises his hand to wave. Speaks into the radio --

JOHN
Hi sweetie --

He stops. Realizing he's talking to no one.

IVY (O.S.)
(in b.g.)
Say I love you daddy.

ABBY (O.S.)
(From radio,)
I-- I love you! Bye!

(CONTINUED)

John breaks down. Starts to weep away at the mere joy of hearing his daughter's voice.

Abby's voice fades. Ivy comes back on the line.

IVY

That was her. That's our Abby.
She's growing up fast. She just
wants to meet you.

(Then,)

You're not listening to this. I
know that. All of these messages
are just out there, drifting in the
darkness. But I'm just full of
hope, you know?

(Then,)

They're saying that I should just
give up now. I mean -- that's what
everyone's done. They're all saying
that you're gone forever, and
you're not coming back. But I just
hope that wherever you are, you're
okay, and that you're alive. Okay?
...Bye.

The last message cuts off. John slams the radio down. Buries his head in his hands. Everything he's missed out on hits him.

9

INT. ANSEN'S OFFICE - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS

9

ANSEN holds up a picture. Him and JOHN. Sitting on the other end of the desk is IVY. Lost in her thoughts.

ANSEN

He was... he was a good man, Ivy.
Hard worker. That's what... He
should be remembered by. That's how
Abby should remember him.

IVY

He's not dead, Howard. He's just
lost.

ANSEN

Ivy --

IVY

I haven't seen a body. Until then,
I'll believe what I wanna.

10 INT. EVIDENCE LOCKER ROOM - NASA FACILITY - CONTINUOUS 10

-- JOHN. He flips on the radio again. It buzzes for a second. Then, he pushes a button on it. Holds it up to his mouth. Talks into it --

JOHN

...Hello?

(Then,)

Houston? Do you copy? Houston? This John Weston. Mission number three-five-one-nine. I was aboard the Cruiser.

(A beat,)

Houston? This is John Weston. Astronaut and Space engineer sent up in spaceflight in the Cruiser. Do you read me?

11 INT. RADIO STATION - NASA FACILITY - CONTINUOUS 11

NASA WORKERS are watching the monitors. Then, suddenly, from the RADIO STATION, they hear --

JOHN (O.S.)

Houston? Do you copy? Houston? This John Weston. Mission number three-five-one-nine. I was aboard the Cruiser. Houston? This is John Weston. Astronaut and Space engineer sent up in spaceflight in the Cruiser. Do yo read me?

The Workers exchange looks. Then, they both rush to the radio monitors. Pic up a mic, and a headset.

NASA WORKER # 1

Hello? Mr. Weston? This is the Houston radio station. We read you. Are you okay? Do you copy?

12 INT. EVIDENCE LOCKER ROOM - NASA FACILITY - CONTINUOUS 12

JOHN floods with relief, hearing the NASA workers' voice.

JOHN

Yea -- Yeah. This Is John Weston. I copy. I can hear you fine.

NASA WORKER # 2

(From radio,)

Are you okay, sir?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Yeah. I'm fine. I'm -- at another NASA station. In another... world. Parallel world. That's what they're telling me.

13 INT. ANSEN'S OFFICE - NASA FACILITY - CONTINUOUS 13

ANSEN gets a page on his phone. He answers.

ANSEN

This is Ansen.

(Then,)

What? When?

(Then,)

No. Keep him on the line. I'm on my way.

Ansen hangs up. Turns to Ivy.

IVY

What?

ANSEN

You're never gonna believe it.

(Then,)

Come with me.

14 INT. RADIO STATION - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS 14

ANSEN and IVY come bursting in the door.

The NASA WORKERS are on the line with John. Trying to dissect his story.

NASA WORKER # 1

Okay, so you went through a black hole and survived? That's what you're --

JOHN (O.S.)

It's not a lie, I swear. I'm alive. Completely fine. But I'm just... in another dimension. They're about three years behind us. They haven't launched my mission. Not yet.

Ansen grabs the headset and the mic. Ivy flushes over with relief, hearing John's voice.

ANSEN

John? This Ansen. Do you copy?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (O.S.)
(from radio,)
I'm here Howard.

ANSEN
What the hell's going on? Where are
you exactly?

JOHN (O.S.)
(From radio,)
You're gonna find this hard to
believe but I never died in the
satellite crash. My ship got off
course 'cause I was close to a
black hole. I went through one.
Woke up here. In another world.

ANSEN
Exactly like ours?

JOHN (O.S.)
(From radio,)
I'm calling from a NASA station.
Just like ours. They're a bit
behind, but it's 'cause they
haven't gotten to where we are. Not
yet.

15 INT. EVIDENCE LOCKER ROOM - NASA FACILITY - CONTINUOUS 15

JOHN pauses for a beat. Then --

JOHN
Hey, Howard I need you to do me a
favor.

16 INT. RADIO STATION - NASA FACILITY - CONTINUOUS 16

JOHN (O.S.)
(From radio,)
I need to you to ring Ivy up. Tell
her what's going on, and then get
her to phone me on --

Ivy hears her name. She quickly rushes over. Grabs the mic
and the headset. Talks into the receiver.

INTERCUT between John and Ivy as they talk --

IVY
John? I'm here. It's Ivy, I'm here
babe. Talk to me. What --

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
(Shedding tears)
Hey honey. It's me.

IVY
Where were you?

JOHN
I'm in another world, sweetheart.
But I'm fine. I'm perfectly fine.
I'm -- I'm alive.

IVY
Nobody believed me. They all
thought you were dead. But I knew
you weren't.

JOHN
I knew you wouldn't give up on me.
(Then,)
But hey -- I'm fine. I'm fine and
I'm coming back. Things are slower
here, but I'm gonna find a way. I'm
going to find a way. And I'm
coming back home. To you and Abby.

Ivy starts to tear up.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Ivy? Ivy? Do you hear me, sweetie?

IVY
I'm just glad you're okay... I've
waited so long for this.

JOHN
You don't have to wait much longer
now. I'm coming home. Alright?

IVY
Okay. I love you.

JOHN
I love you.
(Then,)
I need to say a quick word to
Ansen. Can you pass it to him?

Ivy passes the mic to Ansen. She gets up, walks to the b.g.
to clear her tears.

ANSEN
It's me, John.

17 INT. EVIDENCE LOCKER ROOM - NASA FACILITY - CONTINUOUS 17

JOHN talks into the radio mic.

JOHN

Howard. Listen, I don't know how long I'm going to be. But make sure you take care of my family until I get back. Alright? And have a few rangers there when I come through.

ANSEN

We'll be waiting for ya, John.

18 INT. RADIO STATION - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS 18

Then, the line goes dead. Ansen puts the mic down. Turns to Ivy who looks at him. *I told you so...*

ANSEN

You were right, Ivy. Sorry I doubted you. In fact... we're all sorry.

19 INT. IVY'S CAR - DAY 19

Ivy gets in her car. Sits for a beat. Then --

Her eyes start streaming with tears. She cries. Laughs darkly. In sheer joy. Everything she had hoped for just happened.

20 EXT. BRIDGE - DAY 20

JOHN is standing at a bridge. In a secluded area. He looks off to a stream that is flowing below. Then --

From behind, ANSEN steps on. Freezes for a beat.

ANSEN

I'm sorry I doubted you, John.

JOHN

That's okay, Howard. Besides, you haven't met me. At least not the me in *this* world.

ANSEN

Researches in our facility are in a frenzy. You changed all their perspectives.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

I didn't mean to. I'm just... an astronaut. Who was in the wrong place at the wrong time. And landed in a strange place at the right time.

(A beat,)

I'm not staying, Howard. I've gotta get back. You know that.

ANSEN

You're going back up there, aren't you? To search for that hole?

JOHN

(Nods,)

And I'm going to need your facility's help.

ANSEN

Right. Yeah.

John turns. Heads off the bridge to leave. Then he stops. Turns back to Ansen.

JOHN

Oh and do me a favor.

(Then,)

About a year from now, you're satellite's gonna start to misbehave. And you're going to have to send an engineer up there.

(A beat,)

JOHN (CONT'D)

Don't send *him* on that mission. My family's already suffered without me in my world. His family needs him here. He's going to have a daughter. He's going to be happy. Don't ruin that for him. Don't let him go up there.

(With sincerity,)

Can you do that much for me?

ANSEN

I can do that.

John nods to Ansen. Leaves him on the bridge.

21 INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - WESTON HOUSE - NIGHT 21

ABBY WESTON (3), is getting into bed. IVY stands behind her.

IVY

C'mon. Gotta get up for school tomorrow.

Ivy pulls the covers over Abby.

ABBY

Mommy? Where's daddy?

Ivy stops. Sits down on the bed beside Abby. A beat. She looks out the window. Then --

IVY

He's out there somewhere, honey.

22 EXT. TRAIL - DAY 22

John walks down the trail. In another world. He looks side to side as he walks. Taking in the reality of this world.

IVY (V.O.)

Alone... in a world... just like ours.

23 INT. WANG'S LAB - NASA FACILITY - DAY 23

DR. WANG, among many other scientists are hard at work. Deep into their research.

IVY (V.O.)

Maybe right now, he's probably looking for a way back. For a way to come home...

24 INT. ANSEN'S OFFICE - NASA FACILITY - DAY 24

ANSEN sits in his office. Watching live footage of the NASA satellite. Everything's fine with it.

25 INT. KITCHEN - WESTON HOUSE - DUSK 25

JOHN and IVY. By themselves. They both sit down at the kitchen table. Getting ready to eat. We CLOSE ON them. They're happy. Meanwhile, in THE BACKYARD --

(CONTINUED)

IVY (V.O.)
Or he's just thinking 'bout us...

From afar, we find JOHN (from our world), hiding behind a tree. Looking through the window of the house. Taking in his life in *this* world.

26 INT. ABBY'S BEDROOM - WESTON HOUSE - NIGHT 26

ABBY is sound asleep. IVY turns the lamp off. Leaves the room.

27 EXT. DECK - WESTON HOUSE - NIGHT 27

IVY steps out of the house. Walks to the edge of the deck. Looks to the stars...

28 EXT. HILLSIDE - DUSK 28

-- JOHN. He steps out on the edge of the hilltop. Looking out at the sun setting.

IVY (O.S.)
Just close your eyes... he'll be
home soon.

Off John, a solitary figure, in another world, we --

CUT TO BLACK

THE END