

BEAM ME UP

by
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FADE IN

CREDIT SEQUENCE - 2 min 10sec

CAPTION '2486 AD - 249 LIGHT MINUTES FROM EARTH'

1 CGI. 249 LIGHT MINUTES FROM EARTH 1

A LIGHTSHIP.

Camera slowly pans in on the ship.

Suddenly we see a tiny speck of reflected light moving towards the ship.

It is a tiny spacecraft.

It is totally dwarfed by the Lightship which is ...

... called 'BISMILLAH'

CUT TO:

2 INT. CORRIDOR 2

Blackness.

SOUNDS.

A sliding door opens.

Four beams of light illuminate ...

Four LIGHTSHIP KEEPERS in uniforms ... shades ... and communication ear-pieces.

Each has a kit bag marked with a name

SCEPTRA ...

CAROLI ...

WASAT ...

KRAZ

REVERSE POV - The Lightship interior is pitch black.

(CONTINUED)

The Four flick on flash lights simultaneously.

A paneled wall lights up ...

A sign reads 'GOD BE WITH YOU'.

SOUND. Something scurries away into the darkness.

The Four exchange glances.

SCEPTRA

A rat!

CAROLI

An indication of life, Sceptra.
That's a good omen.

SCEPTRA

Cut the hocus pocus crap, Caroli.
(looks at Kraz)
What's up with your face? Were
you expecting a welcome party?

KRAZ

I was expecting something
better than this.

Wasat views a plan of the ship on his guidance pad.

CAROLI

Give it a rest, Kraz. You've been
moaning since we left Earth.

KRAZ

The dust up here is unbelievable!
Look at my hair ...
(shakes dust out)

CAROLI

Dandruff

KRAZ

Take a hike

SCEPTRA

What's the info, Wasat

WASAT

The power breakers for the lights
are on the sixth level up.

Sceptra looks at the guidance pad.

WASAT (CONT'D) (cont'd)

The heating and utility valves
are in lower level four.

SCEPTRA

What? Are you sure this is right.
This ship can't have ten levels.

Wasat keys the pad.

WASAT

Oh there's more than that. There
are super and sub-decks within
each level.

Sceptra takes the pad and views ...

and scrolls to look at the next.

Caroli's flashlight is on a large red button on the
wall.

CAROLI

What's this for?

He moves forward to push it

WASAT

Don't touch that!

Caroli pushes the button.

WASAT (cont'd)

You idiot, Caroli!

Beat the other three stand in horror.

The LIGHTS flash on ... all over the ship ...

The room they are in is illuminated.

CAROLI

You guys need to lighten up ...

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (3)

They relax.

Sceptra hands Wasat the pad back.

SOUND.

They tense again.

KRAZ

I felt something move?

WASAT

These old ships creak all the time.

SCEPTRA

Okay ... Let's make our way to the bridge.

KRAZ

Can we find the shower block first, please? I stink.

CAROLI

Yeah, me too?

Sceptra concedes.

SCEPTRA

Okay, I guess there's no hurry. Wasat?

Wasat looks at the pad.

WASAT

The ship has a swimming pool on this level.

KRAZ

(bug eyed)

You're kidding me? A swimming pool in space?

CUT TO:

Wasat pushes open a door.

3 INT. POOL

3

A vast empty luxury pool with a glass roof open to the stars.

WASAT

I hope you've got your swim suit in that bag?

KRAZ

(Flirting) I've got nothing to hide like you

CUT TO:

The Four are floating in the pool ...
 looking up at the revolving stars above.
 MUSIC is playing
 They are in heaven.
 Floating ...
 The stars revolving

CAROLI

So where exactly are we are in the universe?

Wasat looks at his wrist watch.

WASAT

We are two hundred and forty nine light minutes from Earth.

CAROLI

Surely you mean light years?

WASAT

Nope ... light minutes. We're near the edge of the solar system. Everything is not as it seems.

CAROLI

Is that meant to scare me?

(CONTINUED)

WASAT

Well, you wouldn't want to be on
Neptune when the hard rains fall.

CAROLI

I can handle rain

WASAT

It rains diamonds there. See, out
here are the vagabonds ... left
over from the break up of the
Kuiper Belt. Take Pluto for
example

CAROLI

What's that orange ball coming
towards us.

WASAT

That's Charon. Pluto's moon

CAROLI

How far away is that?

WASAT

(alarmed)

Should be about one light second
....

Charon is getting closer and closer.

WASAT (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I think you should get out of the
water ...

CAROLI

Yeah, I think you're right ...

SOUND. A loud alarm sounds.

Sceptra and Kraz see Charon too.

The four scramble

to get out the water.

Charon hurtles towards them.

The alarm sound gets louder and louder.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

Charon is about to hurl through the glass roof.

CU's on

Caroli.

Wasat.

Kraz.

Sceptra.

... as Charon spins off into the distance.

The alarm stops.

CAROLI (CONT'D) (cont'd)
What the hell's going on?

KRAZ
I don't know?

SCEPTRA
We're moving

WASAT
That can't be. The ship's
supposed to be permanently parked
in Charon's orbit.

SCEPTRA
Not any more. Look

Charon has disappeared.

WASAT
(to Caroli) It was that button
you pushed.

CAROLI
I'm not taking the blame.

SCEPTRA
The Sun's getting smaller. We're
heading out of the solar system.

They gaze up

WASAT

We've crossed the outer orbit of Halley's comet.

SCEPTRA

Wasat. How fast are we travelling?

Looks at his mathematical wrist clock.

WASAT

About four light minutes a minute.

KRAZ

4x. That's fast! And I'm not getting any heavier.

WASAT

If we were heading back towards Earth we would be there in one hour.

CAROLI

I thought you couldn't travel faster than the speed of light and that's why it took us nine hundred and twenty nine days to get here?

KRAZ

According to Einstein, no. But I'm glad it took so long (gazes lovingly at Wasat).

WASAT

(looks away) We're travelling at forty three million miles a minute. Be thankful we're heading away from the sun and not into it.

Caroli gulps.

SCEPTRA

I'm beginning to think that we were not sent here to bring this ship back for scrap.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (4)

CAROLI

That's serious. If I'd known this was going to happen, I wouldn't have volunteered for this mission.

CUT TO:

4 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

4

Caroli is sitting (facing the camera). He is illuminated by a beam of light.

Behind him is the logo of the Lightship Service (LS)

CAROLI

Well ... to be honest I've had it with life on Earth. I've tried to be a model citizen but no matter how hard I try I fail. I can't get anyone to marry me and every relationship I have had has left me in tears. I've always been a bit of a jack the lad, never taking anything or anyone seriously. I've boozed it up, shot it up, you name it, there's been no flies on me.

Lucky I've always had a business head on me and I once bought me a big country house, and of course, I had to have the big vehicle to go with it. I was squire of the manor, lording it over all who surveyed me. But inside I was a speck of nothing, I had no self esteem, I was dog-shit.

Then one morning after a night on the tiles, I woke up in bed with a seventy three year old woman. That was it

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAROLI (cont'd)

I called up a friend and he told me about the Lightship Service, and here I am, after four years of inner solar postings, reformed, rejuvenated, and ready for a deep space job. I still find it difficult to form relationships, so a longer posting is ideal for me to find out who the real me is.

So beam me up ... I'm the man for the job.

Is my minute up?

The LIGHT illuminating him CLICKS off.

Caroli shuffles in his seat.

CAROLI (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Hello???

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR

A door opens.

The Four Aeronauts are in a corridor in the ship.

Caroli is still drying his hair.

CAROLI

So you reckon there's no risk of breaking up at four times the speed of light?

WASAT

Not unless we hit something big.

CAROLI

Such as what?

WASAT

A nebula tsunami or a black hole.

The SOUND of a church bell RINGING.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

A bell is calling the faithful to prayer.

KRAZ

Its coming from over here

Kraz has her ear to a door.

She sees the push button to the side.

Her hand reaches for it.

Sceptra stops her.

SCEPTRA

Our first task is to turn this ship around. We need to get to the bridge.

KRAZ

Maybe its through here.

Kraz hits the button.

The door opens

6 INT. CHURCH

6

The bell ringing stops.

They are inside a church.

It is vast and empty.

CAROLI

This is like the Vatican, man
.....

Sceptra wanders about searching for signs of life.

Wasat gets down on his knees and prays.

Sceptra picks up a copy of the Bible.

Kraz joins her.

KRAZ

What's up, Sceptra?

(CONTINUED)

SCEPTRA

Its a sell out, Kraz. We've been had.

KRAZ

What are you talking about?

SCEPTRA

Does this look like a Lightship to you? This ship is a left over from another age.

KRAZ

Wasat doesn't seem to think so.

SCEPTRA

We're up here as proof that God doesn't exist, and he's down on his knees praying to some imaginary super-being.

KRAZ

I was educated in a girl's convent ... I know there's a God.

SCEPTRA

Its fiction, Kraz ... best selling fiction. Its not science. The theory of evolution ... that's believable. Prayers ... what's the point of that?

KRAZ

(annoyed)

What makes you so superior? I don't buy your view of history. The Big Bang? Life as we know it? You can't explain that away by digging in the ground.

Fossils are already dead, they tell you nothing about where life came from in the first place. There has to be a God.

SCEPTRA

You don't get it, do you? God is an excuse for your own ignorance.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SCEPTRA (cont'd)

God is the universe and out there
at the edge of the universe is
the end of God.

KRAZ

I don't want to hear it, Sceptras.
This is a place of worship ...
Have some respect.

She takes the Bible from Sceptras and puts it down
gently.

SCEPTRA

You don't like me, do you?

KRAZ

I'm a scientist, but I like
people ... I like to know who
they are ... like Wasat ... that
way there are no surprises.
Unlike you.

SCEPTRA

You'll get no surprises from me.
I play it by the book. An order
is an order, not a debate.

KRAZ

Come on. Three years getting here
and we still don't know your
first name.

SCEPTRA

Okay, Kraz, I don't mind giving
you some slack. It's Miranda
.....

KRAZ

I'm Rosetta ... Rosie for short.
(points to Caroli)
He's Castor.
(to Wasat)
He's Yed.

SCEPTRA

I've read your files. Don't
expect me to call you by your
first names.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SCEPTRA (cont'd)
As commanding officer, I have to
keep some sort of order.

WASAT
Have you the faith, Sceptra?

SCEPTRA
See what I mean it breeds
over familiarity.

Sceptra gives Wasat a condescending look.

SCEPTRA (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Ask Kraz. She's an expert on dead
religions.

Sceptra walks back towards the door they entered
from.

WASAT
She's a right bitch

CU Sceptra - The remark hurts.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

Same as Caroli, bright LIGHT on Sceptra's face.

SCEPTRA
My mother died last year and my
father a few months ago. I don't
fit in anyplace, I don't make
friends easily, and when I do,
they always disappoint me.
Perhaps I expect too much from
others, so I don't put any trust
in them. Without trust, there can
be no respect.

(beat)

I am at my happiest when I am on
a posting.

(pause)

Some might think that because I
am a loner, I am not suited to
command. This is bullshit. I
don't let my feelings for my crew
cloud my judgment.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SCEPTRA (cont'd)

I have the makings of an excellent leader. I will always put the demands of the mission before the needs of any crew member.

(pause)

And before you think it, I am not a crazy bitch. I am not egocentric, and I am not into materialistic gain. After ten years of postings, I think I have concluded that I am probably incapable of love. I also think I am not capable of being loved. That is an advantage on long haul jobs.

(pause)

When I am in space I am not missed, and when I am on Earth, I am not remembered. So to go on a long haul mission suits me better than a short haul posting here or there on some inner solar space station.

(beat)

I am ready to command this mission, I am destined for it.

Sceptra is back in the corridor of the lightship, leaning against a bulkhead.

Kraz enters from the mosque.

Sceptra looks away.

KRAZ

Sorry about that. Wasat's a chauvinist, Miranda.

SPECTRA

Its nothing new in the Service. I can handle cave men , Rosie.

(into headset)

Wasat. Caroli. Meet us on the bridge when your finished in there.

8

CONTINUED:

8

INT. CHURCH

Wasat replies

WASAT
Received, Sceptra.

Wasat moves towards Caroli who has gone through a door.

WASAT (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Okay, Caroli, lets move it

9

INT. DINING HALL

9

Wasat stops short.

Caroli is standing in the middle of the dining room.
There is soft MUSIC playing.

CAROLI
Can you explain this to me,
Wasat?

WASAT
Explain what?

CAROLI
This, manthis is not a
regular lightship canteen.

WASAT
The Bismillah was completed fifty
years ago as a recreation craft.
Just after her launch, the space
travel market collapsed, so they
parked her out here in Pluto's
orbit out of the range of pirates
and looters.

CAROLI
Who flew her out this far?

WASAT
A keeper crewthey were all
old. The last keeper report from
the ship was transmitted more
than twenty years ago.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAROLI

You mean they lived out the end
their lives here? No-one went
back to Earth?

WASAT

Would you want to make a three
year trip back when you were
eighty? You might never get
there.

Wasat is looking at his guide pad.

CAROLI

Guess so life must have
been pretty good here. Have you
noticed how clean everything is?
(runs finger along surfaces)
Its spooky.

Wasat leads the way out through another door.

INT. CORRIDOR

Sceptra and Kraz are moving along the corridor.

The sound of a VACUUM CLEANER.

They both freeze.

KRAZ

Jesus ... what's that?

From around a corner comes a small robot UVER ALPH.

SCEPTRA

Its an Uver class robot.

The robot is cleaning the corridor.

KRAZ

My granny had one like that. I
used to love feeding it.

Kraz takes a disposable item from her bag ...

and throws it in front of Alph.

Alph stops ...

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

There is a moment of silence.

Alph turns sixty degrees and advances on the item and eats it up.

Pause.

Alph stops with its back to the Aeronauts. (It is thinking)

UVER ALPH
(radio sound) Charlie, Charlie!

UVER CHARLIE V.O
Charlie receiving What is it, Alph?

UVER ALPH
I've just picked up some'it that's less than three years old.

UVER CHARLIE V.O
You wot, mate? You need your bag changin' or wot?

UVER ALPH
I'm tellin' you, Charlie, its less than three years old.

UVER CHARLIE V.O
Hold on, mate, I'll be right over. (clicks off)

UVER ALPH
Bleeding funny it is. Wonder how that got here?

POV Alph slow turns one hundred and eighty degrees.

As it turns the feet and legs of Sceptra and Kraz come into its vision.

Alph does a double take ...

UVER ALPH (CONT'D) (cont'd)
(gulps) Bleeding hell pirates!
(Radio sound) Boarders! Boarders!

(CONTINUED)

Sceptra throws her space jacket over Alph to calm him down.

SCEPTRA

Nothing to worry about, Alph ...
We're friendly.

UVER ALPH

Pirates! You're going to space
junk me!

KRAZ

We are not! Just quieten yourself
down or I'll pull your plug.

UVER ALPH

Oh blimey, I'm a goner I'm
just a sucker, a pushover, as
daft as a brush!

SCEPTRA

(sternly) That's enough, sailor!
Pull yourself together! I am
Captain Sceptra, your new
commander.

UVER ALPH

Yes, Mam! Uver Alpha, class three
deck hand at your service.

SCEPTRA

At ease, rating.

UVER ALPH

Thank you, mam Oh its so
nice to be spoken to in the
proper format. I have had a
really terrible time. I thought
I'd been virused ...

KRAZ

You're fine ... you're just
behaving as if you're drives are
over compressed.

UVER ALPH

Are you a space systems doctor?

10 CONTINUED: (3)

KRAZ

Yes. Doctor Kraz. So, if you shut
up, I'll give you a service.

Uver Charlie appears from around the corner.

UVER CHARLIE

Cor blimey, Alph! Where'd you
find the lookers?

UVER ALPH

Charlie, mate! We've been
rescued. We're going to have our
plugs pulled!

Charlie begins to smoke.

UVER CHARLIE

About time, darlings. I ain't
been fiddled with for fifty years
...

Charlie's circuits burn out.

11 INT. CORRIDOR

11

Wasat and Caroli ... in a corridor.

They arrive at a junction.

CAROLI

Which way?

Wasat is looking at his guidance pad.

He hits it once.

WASAT

This thing is playing up.

CAROLI

What?

Hits it again.

WASAT

(looks up)
Somebody's messing with us.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

CAROLI
What do you mean?

Wasat hands him the pad.

Reads - AURORA WELCOMES YOU! HAPPY HOUR COCKTAILS
SERVED AT SIX.

WASAT
Is this one of your jokes,
Castor?

CAROLI
I haven't touched my texter, Yed.
(holds it up)

WASAT
Someone's still in control of
this ship.

CAROLI
Is that a good or bad thing?

WASAT
(into headset)
Sceptra. Are you receiving me?
(No reply)
We're in a dead zone.

CAROLI
Which way?

Wasat picks a corridor ...

Caroli follows.

12 INT. BALLROOM

12

Alph and Charlie are leading Sceptra and Kraz across
a large empty ballroom.

UVER ALPH
This is a shortcut to the service
bay.

SCEPTRA
We want to get to the bridge ...

(CONTINUED)

UVER ALPH

Charlie's in a bad way. He needs immediate treatment. Ain't that right, Charlie?

UVER CHARLIE

I feel right queer, Alph. Really compacted ... I need a complete defrag, clean up and restore.

UVER ALPH

I know how you feel, mate. 'Member when we tried to do it ourselves ... Right cock up that was. Ended up crashing our time clocks 'cause we got the century bug.

Sceptra and Kraz exchange glances of frustration.

KRAZ

Guys!

UVER ALPH

Yes, Doctor Kraz?

KRAZ

Help us out here. I've agreed to fix you up, no problem. But after I do, you must take us to the bridge.

UVER CHARLIE

I don't think that's a good idea.

SCEPTRA

Why not?

UVER ALPH

See, Mam ... Keepers don't like us to go up there with visitors in case they take liberties.

SCEPTRA

We're hardly visitors, Alph. We're here to rescue you, remember?

(CONTINUED)

UVER ALPH
I know, Mam, but I also know that
you are not really here to rescue
us.

SCEPTRA
How do you know that, Alph?

UVER ALPH
(interrupts, lies) Charlie's a
mind reading Uver. Ain't that
right?

UVER CHARLIE
Most times, mate ... the signals
are a bit fuzzy today.

Sceptra looks to Kraz.

KRAZ
(quietly) Its possible they know
we're here to take them to the
scrap yard ... some Uver's were
given telepathy chips.

SCEPTRA
All right, guys, let's get you to
the service bay. Meanwhile you
can tell us about the keepers who
brought you out here.

Wasat and Caroli are pushing through the shrubbery.

CAROLI
Its incredibly bright in here.

WASAT
Its the light reflected off the
ice bodies of the Kuiper Belt.

CAROLI
The plants seem to like it.
(turns)
What's that!

Some foliage twitches.

13 CONTINUED:

CAROLI (CONT'D) (cont'd)
Something moved there!

Wasat moves round to investigate.

He picks up a large leaf.

He shakes it at Caroli.

WASAT
(jokes)
Its a spider, man. Come to eat us
all up.

CAROLI
Very funny ... You're a moron,
Wasat.

WASAT
Is that right, Caroli? You've
just got a sour puss because I'm
squeezing Kraz. (laughs)

Caroli's eyes narrow as Wasat laughs at him.

CAROLI
(lies) I don't fancy Kraz

A large shadow passes over them.

CAROLI (CONT'D) (cont'd)
What the hell is that!

13a CGI. LIGHTSHIP BISMILLAH 13a

Outside the ship an ICE BODY whizzes by.

13b INT. HOTHOUSE 13b

Wasat is checking his wrist watch.

WASAT
(astonished)
That's Sedna the outer
planet of solar space.

CAROLI
So we're still in the Solar
system?

(CONTINUED)

WASAT
No, we're just leaving it.
(disturbed)
We have accelerated to 10x.

CAROLI
Ten x! What's going on?

WASAT
We're heading for galactical
space.

CAROLI
What's out there?

WASAT
Nothing for the next four light
years until we hit Proxima
Centauri.

CAROLI
How far away is that?

WASAT
At this speed about 150 Earth
days.

CAROLI
(cynically)
I can relax then, read a book, do
the crossword puzzle or I
can freak out! We've got to find
the others. That Einstein guy was
a bullshitter!

He walks off.

Wasat shakes his head then follows.

14 INT. SERVICE BAY 14

Kraz is tinkering with Uver Charlie's circuit boards.

Sceptra is sitting in an old couch being served
coffee by Alph.

SCEPTRA
Great coffee, Alph.

UVER ALPH

We grow the beans ourselves. You're drinking our own Bismillah Blend. If we ever get back to Earth, Charlie and I want to open a coffee house.

SCEPTRA

That's a great dream, Alph.

UVER ALPH

Yes, dream it is. If it wasn't for that horrible snitch Beta, we would have been back on Earth twenty years ago.

SCEPTRA

Who's Beta?

UVER ALPH

You don't want to know. More coffee?

SCEPTRA

Come on, Alph, tell me ...

UVER ALPH

She was awful. She couldn't keep a secret. She was always running upstairs blabbing about this and that. We had to do something after the last keeper died.

SCEPTRA

Are we talking about another Uver here?

UVER ALPH

Yes. I feel really guilty now. Wasn't her fault she had one of her ram chips fuse on her.

SCEPTRA

What did you do with her?

UVER ALPH

She smelt like burnt toast. We locked her up and threw away the key.

15

INT. CORRIDOR

15

The corridor is ill-lit.

Caroli, moving slowly, is some way ahead of Wasat.

CAROLI
(on headset) Yed? Can you hear
me?

WASAT
Yes, Castor.

CAROLI
Can you smell burnt toast?

WASAT
Yeah

CAROLI
What do we do if we meet an
alien?

WASAT
Aliens don't exist, Castor.

CAROLI
I know that but what if they
did exist and one jumps out on us
now?

WASAT
You're winding me up, Caroli.
Change the subject.

Caroli smiles to himself.

As he moves forward, there is the sound of

DULL KNOCKING

Caroli's attention is drawn to ...

A free standing locker from which the knocking sound
is coming.

CAROLI
Wasat!

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

Wasat joins Caroli.

CAROLI (CONT'D) (cont'd)
What was I saying about aliens?

WASAT
Bullshit Open it.

Caroli has sweat on his brow.

He reaches for the locker door.

It is locked.

He takes out a screw drive and

Jams it in the lock and ...

Wrenches the door open.

UVER BETA is wedged in with mops.

CAROLI
What the hell

UVER BETA
About time. Do you know how long
I've been in here? Don't just
stand there, dust me down

CUT TO:

Wasat is whispering into his headset.

Caroli is in the background wiping Uver Beta.

WASAT
We've found life, Sceptra ...

SCEPTRA V.O
... Us too. Join us in the
service bay. We need to talk.

16 CGI. LIGHTSHIP BISMILLAH

16

The ship passes an early spacecraft.

ZOOM IN - It is Voyager 1.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

A faint BEEP can be heard from Voyager.
Bismillah travels on into the black of space.

INT. SERVICE BAY

Beta is dumped on to the workbench.

CAROLI

Man, that robot is doing my head
in.

UVER BETA

I object to being treated this
way.

KRAZ

I'm just going to operate on you.
Make you well again.

Kraz pulls out a ram board.

Beta goes dead.

UVER ALPH

What did you let her out for?

UVER CHARLIE

Yeah, mate, that was bleeding
stupid that was.

SCEPTRA

(to Kraz) Can you switch the
others off too?

KRAZ

Sure

Kraz points a control at the two robots.

UVER ALPH

Heh

They both go dead.

KRAZ

I've installed an over-ride
switch in them. Part of their
upgrade.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

Sceptra smiles.

SCEPTRA

Lets make sure. Let's talk
outside

17 INT. CORRIDOR

17

The four huddle together.

SCEPTRA

Okay, this is what we've got. The
last crew member died twenty
years ago.

CAROLI

Where are the stiffs?

WASAT

Who cares.

A cup rolls across the deck

As the ship lists

Then back again

The aeronauts steady themselves.

WASAT (CONT'D) (cont'd)

We've hit the heliopause.

CAROLI

What's that.

WASAT

Where the solar winds give way to
the interstellar medium.

SCEPTRA

And we're doing 10x ... so hardly
surprising there's a little
turbulence.

(steadies herself)

Look, we must have triggered a
time sequence as soon as we
stepped on board.

(CONTINUED)

KRAZ

You think we weren't meant to take this ship back to Earth as scrap?

SCEPTRA

That's a safe bet. Something or somebody has pre-programmed this ship to make a course for deep space.

CAROLI

That's just crazy

Caroli leans against a wall to steady himself

The wall is a door ...

He pushes on it ...

it opens under his weight ...

18 INT. COCKTAIL BAR

18

... he falls through.

There is MUSIC playing.

From across the bar a tall, slim woman AURORA ...

starts to make her way towards Caroli.

Caroli can't believe his eyes.

The woman reaches Caroli, and bends down ...

Offers her hand.

AURORA

Hi, I'm Aurora. I'm your waitress for tonight's happy hour.

(helps her up)

Please be seated.

Caroli is lead by Aurora across the bar.

19 INT. CORRIDOR

19

Sceptra looks round.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

SCEPTRA
(puzzled)
Where's Caroli?

Kraz goes to the open door ...

And looks through it ...

20 INT. COCKTAIL BAR 20

Caroli is perched on a high stool at the bar.

Aurora is preparing a cocktail.

CAROLI
Guess happy hour was no joke.
(beat)
Well, you're here now, you might
as well enjoy it.

SCEPTRA
Wait a minute, Caroli. You don't
think this is all real, do you?

CAROLI
Who cares. I haven't had a drink
for three years ... I'm not going
to pass this up.

Wasat goes over to join Caroli.

WASAT
We might learn something from the
android.

SCEPTRA
Okay, but just the one.

WASAT
You're the boss.

CUT TO:

The bar is littered with empty cocktail glasses.

Aurora is dancing.

It is a tap dance.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

It is a show and a half.
The four sit drunk open mouthed.

AURORA
Come on, boys, join me!

Caroli and Wasat are out of their seats ...
And on the dance floor ...
Kraz is sipping on a long straw.

KRAZ
I feel happy

Sceptra puts down her glass.

SCEPTRA
Me too ... but something tells me
I shouldn't be.

Caroli and Wasat are trying to imitate Aurora's tap routine.

They dance with her.

They are really quite good.

Tap ... Tap ... Tap

Kraz's eyes are on their feet

INTERCUT TO:

21 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

21

Fingers are tapping a table.
We pull back to see Kraz waiting at her interview.
The screen she is facing flickers on.
Kraz hides her hand under the table.

VOICE O.S
Doctor Kraz ...

(CONTINUED)

KRAZ

Yes ...

VOICE O.S

Your record speaks for itself. A child genius. Trained in human medicine and android mechanics ... We want you for this mission.

KRAZ

I don't know if I want to go. I've got a lovely apartment, a beautiful cat and lots of friends and family. I think they'd miss me if I was away for so many years.

VOICE O.S

This is your opportunity to make a difference in our understanding of what is really out there.

KRAZ

I don't see what all the fuss is about. So we don't know what's out there, does that really matter. Its not as if by going out there I'm going to come back like Neil Armstrong and tell you that there's footprints on Pluto.

No reply.

KRAZ (cont'd)

Well, am I really?

Still no reply.

Kraz starts drumming her fingers on the table again.

She realizes she is doing it, stops and stares at her fingers.

KRAZ (CONT'D) (cont'd)

(flustered)

So, I'm good with my hands ... I like tinkering around inside people and robots to find out what's wrong with them ...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

KRAZ (CONT'D) (cont'd)
but it doesn't mean I know
anything about life.

CUT BACK TO:

22 INT. COCKTAIL BAR

22

Kraz's eyes open.

Caroli is staring into her face.

CAROLI
Come on, Kraz, its your turn ...

KRAZ
Eh

CAROLI
We've all done our turn ...

Thrusts a microphone into her hand.

Kraz staggers to a small bar stage.

Aurora slips a disc into the music player.

The music starts

DUM DUM DUM DE DE DUM DUM DUM DE DE

KRAZ
New York, New York (or
something like it)

Kraz gets into the song, starts belting it out.

KRAZ (CONT'D) (cont'd)
New York New York

By the end of the song everyone is singing ...

Aurora too.

AURORA
Oh its the best night I've had in
twenty years!

KRAZ
You do this every night?

(CONTINUED)

AURORA

Yes, its my job. I text everyone from here to Saturn every afternoon to remind them to come to the party ... but no-one does.

SCEPTRA

Not since the last Keepers?

AURORA

How did you guess? Not since that terrible night they all argued ... It was gastly. I've still got the crack in the head I received when I was hit over head with a Singapore Sling.
(shows crack in her head)

SOUND ringing of a Bell.

Aurora turns around sharply.

The Bell stops ringing.

AURORA (cont'd)

Party's over! Closing time.

Aurora starts clearing away the glasses.

Sceptra signals Kraz to speak with her.

KRAZ

Aurora ... do you want me to look at that crack for you?

AURORA

No, Doctor, not at all. I quite like having a battle scar ... Otherwise I would be boringly perfect, but uninteresting.
(beat)
Now you really must leave. Its regulations. If I relax the rules,I guarantee that one of you will become an alcoholic.
(looks at Caroli)
I have my beauty sleep to catch.

Aurora shows the four to the door.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

AURORA (cont'd)
Please come again. God Bless.

She kisses them on the cheek one at a time.

23 INT. CORRIDOR

23

The four aeronauts find themselves back in the corridor.

KRAZ
What was that all about?

SCEPTRA
Forget it, Kraz. What we have to do is worry about the future. We have to get control of this ship and turn it back towards the solar system.

CAROLI
Dead right, man.

WASAT
I think its interesting

CAROLI
Are you nuts? What's interesting about hurling into space at 10x. We've got to put the brakes on, man. I've got three years salary in the bank, I want to get back and spend it.

SCEPTRA
Pull yourself together.
(beat)
I don't know why they picked you for this mission.

CAROLI
I'm just doing it for the money.

WASAT
What are your skills, Caroli? I haven't seen evidence of any special talent.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLI

I'm a trained negotiator.

SCEPTRA

What's that then, Caroli?

CAROLI

In tight spots, I take over, and handle the situation.

They all laugh at him.

CAROLI (cont'd)

That's my job. Best in the business. You'll see.

SCEPTRA

You should have a look at his circuits, Kraz.

CAROLI

I'm serious. In my opinion whoever is in control of this ship is trying to make us panic.

WASAT

You're doing a good job for all of us.

CAROLI

At the moment they are just using diversionary tactics to confuse us, but eventually they'll get nasty.

KRAZ

There might be more of them than us?

CAROLI

If that was the case they would have stopped us when we docked.

SCEPTRA

What are you saying, Caroli?

CAROLI

They need us for something. We are an essential part of their survival.

SCEPTRA

Maybe they can't make this journey without us?

CAROLI

Exactly.

SCEPTRA

You're drunk, Caroli.
(to Wasat)
Yed. What's our latest position.

WASAT

On zero degrees from Pluto's south pole at a latitude of 90 degrees south, we're on a bearing that passes through the ring of the Milky Way and on to the Lupus Galazy 8582 Kilo parsecs out. After that, its onwards to the edge of the universe.

SCEPTRA

So we're currently heading towards the centre of the universe?

WASAT

Yes. For the foreseeable future.

SCEPTRA

How long will it take to get to Lupus at our present rate?

WASAT

At 10 times the speed of light, about three thousand years.

CAROLI

(laughs) That's a joke! Okay, give us a laugh. How much further to the edge of the universe.

(CONTINUED)

WASAT

1.3 Billion years.

CAROLI

1.3 billion years! And that's travelling at ten times the speed of light. Give us a break.

WASAT

I know its a daunting prospect
...

CAROLI

Daunting ... its bloody
Hollywood.

WASAT

Wouldn't you like to find out
what the edge of the universe is
like?

CAROLI

I can tell you what its like.
Cold. Big. And empty ... Like
your brain.
(looks at him)
Christ, Wasat, you're not
seriously suggesting that's where
we are heading?

SCEPTRA

Caroli's right ... its
ridiculous. We're dealing with a
runaway ship that we need to
bring back under control. Forget
this edge of the universe stuff
and lets concentrate on getting
to the bridge.
(beat)
Are we agreed?

KRAZ

Its the only common sense thing
I've heard in the last ten
million miles.

The ship lurches.

Wasat looks at his watch.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLI

What now?

WASAT

We just went up a gear. We're doing 100X. The time to get to Proxima Centauri has been cut to fifteen days.

SCEPTRA

Kraz. Go and get one of those Uvers.

(to Wasat)

Take Caroli and go down to the engine room and see if you can shut the thrusters down.

(they depart)

Its time to get serious.

24 CGI. LIGHTSHIP BISMILLAH

24

The ship powers on towards Proxima Centauri ...

A faint light in the distance.

25 INT. CORRIDOR

25

Uver Alph is leading the way for Sceptra and Kraz.

UVER ALPH

I was told never to set foot on the bridge again.

SCEPTRA

You don't have feet, Alph.

UVER ALPH

You're being cruel now, mam.

(recites)

In being I am absolute,
monarch in the monad of time,
I am

SCEPTRA

What are you doing?

UVER ALPH

Reciting poetry

(CONTINUED)

SCEPTRA

Why?

UVER ALPH

When ever I am unhappy, I recite poetry. Its just the way I am.

SCEPTRA

Can you fix that, Kraz?

KRAZ

There are some things in Uvers that are best left alone.

UVER ALPH

Thank you, doctor

They walk on.

INT. BRIDGE

The control desk is operating itself.

Enter Sceptr, Kraz and Uver Alph.

UVER ALPH

Can I go now?

SCEPTRA

No. Stay where you are.

Sceptr and Kraz approach the control desk.

KRAZ

Auto control

SCEPTRA

Its not like any desk I've ever seen before. This ship has me completely baffled.

KRAZ

I saw a desk like this once.

SCEPTRA

Where.

KRAZ

At the Space Museum.

Sceptra looks at her quizzically.

KRAZ (cont'd)

They didn't have it on display.
It was stored in the basement.

SCEPTRA

And?

KRAZ

Its called a God Class system.
Only two were built. The one I
saw had been salvaged from a ship
called Jehovah that had collided
with asteroid Eros on its maiden
voyage and crash landed on the
Moon. (pause)
I found out more. Jehovah had
been built for deep space
exploration and had a
revolutionary power system that
utilized magnetic space energy to
travel at light speeds.

SCEPTRA

M.S.E?

KRAZ

Fifty years ago they perfected
M.S.E. After the crash of the
Jehovah, they mothballed and
parked the Bismillah behind
Pluto.

SCEPTRA

You knew this all along?

KRAZ

Bits of it. I didn't quite
believe it until I saw this.

SCEPTRA

So what's the top speed of a God
Class ship?

UVER ALPH

64,000 X

Sceptra and Kraz turn to Alph.

(CONTINUED)

UVER ALPH (cont'd)
 (robot voice) Calculated in
 2437AD, conditions for journey to
 the Hubble Ultra Deep Field were
 unfavorable because of the
 alignment of the galaxies.
 Estimated best possible year for
 mission year zero ... 2486AD.

SCEPTRA

Now
 (to Alph)
 Can this ship really go at that
 speed?

UVER ALPH

That is the 64,000x question we
 are about to discover.

SCEPTRA

What's come over him?

KRAZ

He could be the pre-programmed
 operating system for the entire
 ship. Maybe that's why he was
 instructed not to come to the
 bridge.

SCEPTRA

(on headset) Wasat? Are you
 there?

27 INT. ENGINE ROOM

27

Wasat and Caroli are holding their ears because of
 the LOUD WHINE of the engines.

WASAT

(shouting)
 I've found the engine room.
 (looks around)
 I can't see any override
 mechanism for shutting them down.

28 INT. BRIDGE

28

SCEPTRA

Keep looking

29

INT. ENGINE ROOM

29

Wasat finishes with his headset.

Signals Caroli to follow him.

Caroli is signalling back to him.

Wasat goes to him.

Caroli lifts a hatch to reveal

A skeleton.

CAROLI

The last Keeper.

Wasat nods.

The ship suddenly lurches and the skeleton jumps out of the hatch

Knocks Caroli to the floor.

CAROLI (cont'd)

Get it off me!

Caroli throws the skeleton off in one big heave ...

It sticks upright to a large fuel tank ... and jiggles.

He picks up a shaken Caroli.

WASAT

Finders keepers, man!

CAROLI

Get rid of it, Wasat!

30

CGI. LIGHTSHIP BISMILLAH

30

Out in the dark of space

The skeleton does a dance

in the wake of the ship.

31 INT. BRIDGE

31

SCEPTRA

(whispers)

So you think Alph is running the ship?

KRAZ

I can't see how. There was nothing out of the ordinary on his drives.

Sceptra studies Alph for a moment.

SCEPTRA

Sailor

UVER ALPH

Yes, mam

SCEPTRA

Can you help me turn the ship back towards Earth?

UVER ALPH

Negative

SCEPTRA

Is there a manual override of the ship's controls?

UVER ALPH

Negative

The automatic pilot is date specific.

SCEPTRA

Can we turn back the ship's clock?

UVER ALPH

The ship's clock is locked to universal parsec time.

SCEPTRA

(to Kraz) Is there anyway round this.

(CONTINUED)

KRAZ

Not if they have made the ship's clock like a biological birth. Once started, it counts progressively ... It can't be turned back.

SCEPTRA

(to Uver Alph) Why did our arrival trigger the journey?

UVER ALPH

The arrival of crew was pre-scheduled to coincide with the optimum travel year.

SCEPTRA

Those faceless goons in the Lightship Service ... They planned this all along. They knew at the interview this would happen to us.

KRAZ

I don't believe this

UVER ALPH

If that is all, mam I hav' dinner to serve in an hour.

Uver Alph turns to leave.

SCEPTRA

Dinner for who, Alph?

UVER ALPH

You, mam, the Doctor, and the two gentlemen in the engine room.

Alph departs.

SCEPTRA

That Alph is the ringleader, I swear it.

KRAZ

He's a class three Uver ... They don't know how to scheme.

32 INT. DINING HALL 32

The four aeronauts are seated at a long dining table in an empty hall.

They are eating tomato soup.

Not a word is spoken.

MUSIC.

They eat slowly ...

Time has almost stopped still

They are trapped on Bismillah.

32a CGI. TIME LAPSE SEQUENCE 32a

The lightship passes into space.

DISSOLVE

33 CGI. LIGHTSHIP BISMILLAH - TEN YEARS LATER 33

The lightship has reached ...

the Pleiades

CAPTION - THE PLEIADES - 440 LIGHT YEARS LATER

The eight stars are bright blazing suns suspended in a blue veil dust cloud.

34 INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS 34

CU on a four year old child, SOLENGE.

Caroli is leaning over into her cot.

CAROLI

You're the most beautiful little girl I've ever seen. Yes, you are.

Caroli picks up Solenge and cuddles her.

KRAZ

You're making a fool of yourself.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLI

Who cares. Wasat's not even interested in his own daughter. I should knock his block off.

(to child)

Yes ... I'm your real daddy, isn't that right, Solenge.

KRAZ

Give me that child, Castor. You're drunk again.

She takes Solenge from him.

CAROLI

(taunts) Wasat's in love with Scepra. When's she going to tell him to get lost?

KRAZ

Oh be quiet, you clown ... Miranda is too nice to do that.

CAROLI

And too honourable to make him unfaithful. What is it with her? (approaches)
Why can't you be unfaithful with me ... I love you

He kisses her on the neck.

A close on Kraz shows she has aged by ten years.

KRAZ

I don't feel like it

Caroli puts his hands on either side of her head.

CAROLI

I'm tired of your stupid notions about your precious Yed. I could take my hands right now and squeeze any memory of him right out of your head.

He squeezes in on her head ...

Her eyes dart from one side to the other ...

34 CONTINUED: (2)

then back again.

KRAZ

You're crazy! Why don't you go
down to Happy Hour.

Caroli lifts his hands.

CAROLI

Quite frankly, dear, as long as
you keep thinking about Wasat,
I'll stay drunk.

CUT TO:

35 INT. DINING HALL 35

Kraz is seated at the long dining table feeding ...
Solenge.

Uver Alph is cleaning.

36 INT. POOL 36

Spectra is floating alone in the pool staring at ...
The stars.

She has also aged but not so much as Kraz.

37 INT. COCKTAIL BAR 37

Caroli is hanging on to the end of the bar.

He is rough for wear ...

Aurora is sitting at a table ...

attempting to smoke a cigarette.

38 INT. CORRIDOR 38

Wasat is ...

playing golf in the corridor

Uver Charlie is collecting the balls

39 CGI. LIGHTSHIP BISMILLAH 39

The ship passes Interstellar Cloud 349 ...
all lit up in the searchlight rays from Merope.
Ahead is the Helix Nebula ...
a barrel of fluorescing red gas.

40 INT. BRIDGE 40

A counter on the control desk is racking up the light
years.

...445

...446

...447

...448

41 INT. CORRIDOR 41

Wasat is bored.

WASAT
Miranda

CUT TO:

42 INT. POOL 42

Sceptra still in pool with headset on.

SCEPTRA
Yeah, Yed What do you want?

WASAT V.O
Will you dance with me later?

SCEPTRA
Maybe What's on your mind? I
hope it isn't the same old thing
gain?

(CONTINUED)

WASAT V.O

I'll keep that red dwarf Caroli
away from you.

SCEPTRA

I can handle Castor. You have to
stop being jealous of him. He's
harmless.

WASAT V.O

You know me, Miranda ... I've got
a supernova burning for you.

SCEPTRA

Not this again? Why can't you be
happy with Rosetta?

WASAT V.O

Please dance with me. I'll shave
and put on my best suit.

Sceptra lies back in the pool and sighs.

Sceptra and Wasat are in evening dress.

They are waltzing ...

To MUSIC.

Caroli watches from a chair on the side.

He is very drunk

Sceptra and Wasat are going in and out of focus.

Kraz brings in Solenge.

Solenge runs to Caroli.

He kisses the child ...

Hugs her as if he will never see her again.

Solenge smells the drink ... is slightly revulsed.

Suddenly he seizes her hands and moves to the centre
of the dance floor ...

CONTINUED:

And waltzes with her.

Kraz looks on maternally.

Sceptra and Wasat break off

As Caroli circles them with Solenge.

The child's face is innocent and glowing ...

As she is spun around the room by Caroli.

Wasat moves Sceptra to the edge of the ballroom.

Wasat is whispering in her ear

Sceptra is not happy at what she is hearing.

Caroli continues to waltz.

Wasat puts his arm around Sceptra.

Sceptra pushes him away. Looks to Kraz.

Kraz, distraught, leaves the ballroom

Wasat is getting rough with Sceptra.

Caroli lets go of Solenge

approaches drunkenly towards Wasat.

Wasat pushes Caroli away.

Sceptra takes Solenge's hand

Caroli and Wasat wrestle each other to the floor.

Sceptra leads Solenge out of the ballroom.

The two men continue to tussle.

INT. SERVICE BAY

Kraz throws herself down into the service bay couch.

She is crying

Uver Beta hands her a rag

(CONTINUED)

UVER BETA

I wish I could cry, Doctor

KRAZ

(tearful)
Why's that, Beta?

UVER BETA

Because I don't know what it is like not to have a future. I know that is what is worrying you.

KRAZ

I can't keep up appearances anymore.

UVER BETA

I am here for you, Doctor.

KRAZ

You'll be here for five thousand years, Beta. That's a sad thought.

UVER BETA

Not so sad. My life has just begun. How old are you, Doctor?

KRAZ

I'm getting on for forty Earth years. I've lost track.

UVER BETA

They say life begins at forty

KRAZ

Its a saying, that's all. All my dreams have gone. The chance to change humanity ... the possibility of being a good person ... seeing my parents live to a ripe old age ... loving my brothers and sisters ... being there for them, being there for anyone who needs it. I have achieved none of that.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KRAZ (cont'd)

When I was young, despite being a genius child, I was full of love for everything ... life, work, myself ... my aim was to be a good person ... someone with purpose, someone with a destiny. I believed in God as a force for good, and I recognized badness and wickedness when I saw it. Now, I am not so sure what bad is

...

(dries her face)

Is this present situation bad? I think it is because I was lied to to get me here. In turn this badness has been passed onto my child. I am a bad parent and I feel so guilty about it. She is the biggest victim of this tragedy.

UVER BETA

I am sorry ...

KRAZ

Its not your fault, Beta ... You are a victim too ... Well, so to speak.

UVER BETA

I admit it. Life on board is dull.

(Cheerfully)

I know! We need some excitement. Would you like a game of chess, Doctor?

Kraz laughs at the remark.

UVER BETA (cont'd)

Have I said something funny?

KRAZ

No, Beta, you are sweet, and I know how much you love chess.

She starts to set up the pieces.

44 CONTINUED: (3)

44

KRAZ (cont'd)
How is your love life, Beta?

UVER BETA
Are you referring to those other
Uvers? They just don't understand
me.

KRAZ
I can do something about that at
their next service(winks)

45 INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS

45

Sceptris is staring into a large mirror ...
Studying the lines on her face.

POV MIRROR - behind her lying sleeping in a bed ...

Solenge cuddling a home made teddy bear.

The mirror reflects the spectrum of space.

She pulls her skin back to look younger

She smiles

She sees her future as

46 CGI. LIGHTSHIP BISMILLAH - 450 LIGHT YEARS

46

... Passes through the Helix Nebula ...

A forest of tentacle like filaments reaching back
towards ...

the doomed super white dwarf at its core.

Suddenly a human body tumbles past the camera.

We freeze on the face.

It is Wasat.

He is well and truly dead.

46a INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

46a

Wasat is staring at the blinking screen.

WASAT

I don't know if I want to go on this mission. Something tells me its got a hex on it.

VOICE

What makes you think that?

WASAT

A hunch. I mean, I've never been selected for anything before. All I'm good for is being attractive to girls.

(pause)

Don't get me wrong ... but I just can't help it, they like me. It's always been like that (sweeps back his hair) Some people say I look like a music star ... Its flattering. Do you think I look like a star? I do.

(pause)

Anyway, whatever this gig is that you want me to do, I'll do it if there are a couple of decent broads on board. If there are no good looking girls, kill me now, I'm not spending three years in space with some sickos constantly on the verge of a breakdown.

47 INT. ENGINE ROOM

47

Caroli is at the rear observation window.

He is looking back at the Helix Nebula.

He is dead eyed.

In his hand ... is Wasat's mathematical watch.

He puts his head against the observation hatch and closes is eyes.

He is in pain ...

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: 47
 He looks up pushes a button.

47a CGI. LIGHTSHIP BISMILLAH - 450 LIGHT YEARS 47a
 The small spacecraft attached to the Bismillah ...
 Floats away into the cosmos.

CUT TO:

48 INT. CHURCH 48
 Caroli is on his knees praying
 He is in tears ...
 He is remorseful.

49 INT. DINING HALL 49
 The table has been cleared and has been turned side
 on from before.
 Sceptra and Kraz are seated behind the table.
 On the table is Wasat's watch.
 Caroli is seated bow headed before them.

KRAZ
 Why did you do it? Maybe Yed
 wasn't dead.

CAROLI
 He was dead. I stabbed him
 through the heart with this.

He throws a cocktail skewer on to the table.

SCEPTRA
 We have to punish you somehow,
 Castor.

CAROLI
 I want to be punished I
 deserve it.

Sceptra and Kraz whisper. Sceptra has a book in her
 hand.

(CONTINUED)

SCEPTRA

The Lightship code is very clear on crew murder. He should be killed by ejection into space.

KRAZ

I know ... we could be next.

Caroli strains to hear what they are saying.

SCEPTRA

The feud between those two was building for years. We could argue that Wasat provoked him.

KRAZ

It wasn't like that at all. Caroli was drunk.

SCEPTRA

Okay ... we could log it as diminished responsibility.

KRAZ

We can't be too lenient ... his remorse could turn to contempt if he gets another drink.

Caroli is becoming restless.

Sceptra and Kraz finish conferring.

SCEPTRA

You've admitted your guilt, Castor, and as commander of this ship, it is my duty to sentence you. As proscribed by Lightship code, if I have just cause, I can commute the penalty for murder to imprisonment.

Caroli looks relieved ...

SCEPTRA (cont'd)

Please stand up.

(he does so)

(MORE)

49 CONTINUED: (2)

SCEPTRA (cont'd)
 For the murder of Lightship
 Officer Yed Wasat, I am
 sentencing you to fifteen years
 in the ship's brig.

KRAZ
 (shocked) You're letting him off?

SCEPTRA
 He will serve the fifteen years.
 I'll make sure of that.

KRAZ
 How? Are you going to watch him
 night and day?

CAROLI
 Its alright, Rosetta. I'll do my
 time. I won't cause any trouble.

Sceptra gets up.

SCEPTRA
 Okay, Castor, lets get you down
 to the brig.

Caroli does as he is told.

CUT TO:

50 INT. BRIG

50

The brig is a self contained small apartment.

Uver Charlie is fussing around.

Sceptra claps a ankle tracking device around Caroli's
 ankle.

SCEPTRA
 You leave this cell and the
 ship's security alert will sound.
 (straightens)
 The Uvers will bring you your
 meals and whatever you need.

CAROLI
 Its not too bad in here. Were you
 serious about the fifteen years?

(CONTINUED)

SCEPTRA

Don't push your luck, Caroli.
I'll review your sentence once I
see you are off the booze for
good. At the end of the day, its
Rosetta you have to convince if
you want your freedom back.

Sceptra starts to leave.

CAROLI

Sceptra ... you're to blame for
all this?

Sceptra gives him a piercing look.

SCEPTRA

How's that, Caroli?

CAROLI

Lack of leadership. You should
have had Wasat under control.

SCEPTRA

Wasat was a cave man, Caroli. He
didn't take no as an answer.

CAROLI

You should have ordered him to
back off. You failed in your duty
as commanding officer.

SCEPTRA

So its my fault you killed Wasat?
(dismissive)
That's the drink talking, Caroli.
You'll get over it. You've got
fifteen years to admit that your
are powerless over alcohol.
Perhaps you will realize that the
journey we are making is
irreversible ... and what life
may have been, is what we make of
it now.

Sceptra leaves.

UVER CHARLIE
You've been a bad boy, Mr.Caroli,
a very bad boy. I won't get to
play golf anymore.

CAROLI
Shut up, Charlie, and get me a
drink ...

UVER CHARLIE
Sorry, sir, this is my brig and
you are my prisoner. From now on
its my duty to tell you where to
stick it, alright?

Caroli takes off one of his shoes and throws it at
him

..... misses.

Charlie makes a small SOUND and scuttles out the
room.

51 CGI. LIGHTSHIP BISMILLAH - 1.2 THOUSAND LIGHT YEARS 51

The Bismillah has reached the outer edges of the
green and yellow colored Dumbbell Nebula.

CAPTION - DUMBBELL NEBULA - 1.2 Thousand Light Years

52 INT. POOL - 14 YEARS LATER 52

An eighteen year old SOLENGE emerges from the water
...

Sits on the edge of the pool ...

Smiles up into space.

53 INT. DINING HALL 53

Solenge enters the hall ...

Crosses to the large dining table ...

Bends and kisses her mother Kraz on the cheek.

KRAZ
Having a good day?

SOLENGE

(cheerful) Yes, I am

Solenge pulls a chair up close to Kraz.

KRAZ

Don't sit so close to me, dear.

SOLENGE

Don't be silly, mother, we're the only human beings in a billion light years of space

(takes Kraz's hand)

Now what was it you wanted to say to me?

KRAZ

Today is your eighteenth birthday.

SOLENGE

(surprised) Really

KRAZ

I have never told you the full truth about your father.

SOLENGE

Oh, mother, I've heard it all before. Caroli murdered him.

KRAZ

Yes ... well, Sceptra thinks that today is a good day to release Caroli from the brig.

SOLENGE

Why?

KRAZ

She feels he has come to terms the past.

(Noises)

Here they come now.

Sceptra enters followed by Caroli. Both have aged fifteen years and are now in their fifties. Caroli has a long flowing beard (like a holy man).

(CONTINUED)

Sceptra takes a seat at the table.

CAROLI

Good to see you again, Rosetta.

Kraz says nothing.

Caroli exchanges small glances with Solenge.

SCEPTRA

You have had fifteen years to reflect, Castor, have you remorse for your crime?

CAROLI

I admit that I was powerless over alcohol ... That my life had become unmanageable.

(beat)

In the brig I came to believe that a Power greater than myself could restore me to sanity.

(beat)

I made a decision to turn my will and my life over to the care of God as I understood him.

(beat)

I made a searching and fearless inventory of myself.

(beat)

I admitted to God, myself, and to another human being

(looks at Sceptra)

the exact nature of my wrongs.

(beat)

I became entirely ready to have God remove all my defects of character. (beat)

I humbly asked him to remove all my defects.

(beat)

I made a list of all the persons I had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

(beat)

I made direct amends to such people wherever possible

(looks at Sceptra)

(MORE)

CAROLI (cont'd)

except when to do so would injure them

(looks at Kraz)

or others.

(looks to Solenge)

Throughout my time in the brig, I continued to make personal inventory, and when I was wrong, mainly with the Uvers, I promptly admitted it.

(beat)

I sought through prayer and meditation to improve my conscious contact with God as I understood him, praying only for the knowledge of His will for us, and the power to carry that out.

(beat)

I have had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, and I will carry this message forever, and practise these principles in all my affairs.

Kraz sits open jawed. Sceptra leans close to her.

SCEPTRA

Well, Rosetta, what do you think?

KRAZ

He's as crazy as ever

SCEPTRA

Are you objecting to his release?

KRAZ

No ... but our common welfare should come first. He might have a go at Solenge.

SOLENGE

(embarrassed) Mother!

KRAZ

He's the only source of children for you.

The three women look at Caroli.

SCEPTRA

For our moral purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as he might express himself in our group conscience. But, we are aboard a Lightship Service vessel, I am the captain, and you are one of my officers. Will you be at my command if we release you?

CAROLI

Yes, captain. God has granted me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Sceptra points a control device at Caroli's leg.

SOUND 'click'

Caroli removes the device. Smiles.

Sceptra is in front of the auto control.

SCEPTRA

There is a lot to be done, Castor. We are now one point two billion light years from Earth, and we still have not found a way of turning the ship around.

CAROLI

I'd been thinking about that a lot in the brig.

SCEPTRA

If we succeed, perhaps we could get Solenge back to Earth before she reaches middle age.

CAROLI

You're starting to show a capability for loving, Miranda.

SCEPTRA

I am very fond of Solenge.

CAROLI

Admit it. You love her as if she were your own daughter.

SCEPTRA

Yes, I do. Is there something wrong with that?

CAROLI

I think its beautiful ...

SCEPTRA

You don't think I'm getting soft? Maybe I'm dying?

CAROLI

You'll live to you're a hundred.

SCEPTRA

I don't really fancy that, Castor. Each day is becoming more difficult to get through, and the thought of another fifty years is too much.

CAROLI

Have faith, Miranda

SCEPTRA

Yet, there's so many things I still have to do

CAROLI

Like?

SCEPTRA

Visit Rome See the Pyramids The Taj Mahal all that ancient stuff that's been around forever.

(beat)

I never thought I'd say this ... but I miss Earth ...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED: (2)

SCEPTRA (cont'd)
 not all the crap of day to day
 living, but the beauty of it, the
 mountains, the long deserted
 shorelines
 (beat)
 Beautiful though space is, it is
 not pretty ... in fact it is
 outright hostile, and I am angry
 that I can't do anything about
 it.

Sceptra kicks the control desk.

There is the SOUND of de-acceleration.

All the lights on the desk go out.

Sceptra and Caroli stare at one another.

Kraz bursts in.

KRAZ
 What the hell happened! We've
 stopped!

55 CGI. LIGHTSHIP BISMILLAH - 1.5 THOUSAND LIGHT YEARS55

The ship is sitting stationary ...

on the fringe of the Orion Nebula.

56 INT. BRIDGE

56

Sceptra and Caroli are staring down ...

Kraz is under the control desk with a torch.

SCEPTRA
 Well

KRAZ
 I don't believe it. The exact
 spot you kicked triggered a
 safety breaker to cut out the
 auto pilot.

SCEPTRA
 What are our options now?

(CONTINUED)

KRAZ

I can take out the safety breaker and reconnect the circuits, that will switch everything back on again.

SCEPTRA

And we carry on as we were?

KRAZ

There's nothing else I can do.

Kraz gets back on to her feet.

SCEPTRA

Well, sitting here doing nothing for awhile won't kill us. Anyone fancy a space walk. I haven't been outside this ship for twenty five years.

CUT TO:

MUSIC

Sceptr, Kraz, Caroli and Solenge in spacesuits ...
are sitting on the outside of the ship ...
staring into the Orion Nebula.

CAROLI

This is great, isn't it.

SOLENGE

Why are you so optimistic all the time?

CAROLI

I've seen the light.
(makes a pass)
Don't you find this romantic?

SOLENGE

No

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

On a different part of the ship's exterior, the three Uvers and Aurora.

UVER ALPH

(to BETA) You tell that Charlie, darling, that he's a dirty old uver.

UVER CHARLIE

You tell him back, sweetheart, that he's just a cranky old brush sucker ...

UVER BETA

Be quiet, both of you! I'm sick of your bickering over me. If it goes on any longer I'm going to request Doctor Kraz give me a new identity.

UVER ALPH

Wot'd you mean by that?

UVER CHARLIE

Yeah, wot does that mean?

UVER BETA

I'll get her to switch my gender selector.

UVER ALPH

(gulps) Wot? Make you like us?

UVER CHARLIE

Make you a bloke?

UVER BETA

Exactly. So be quiet.

Alph and Charlie turn away.

UVER ALPH

You'll hear nothing from me ...

UVER CHARLIE

My chips are sealed ...

UVER BETA

Good

57 CONTINUED: (2)

There is a momentary pause for reflection.

The Uvers think about what has been said.

Alph turns and looks at Charlie.

He whispers to Aurora.

UVER ALPH

Does that mean that Charlie can
be made into a girl?

UVER CHARLIE

(hearing) Wot was that?

UVER ALPH

(self-satisfied) Nothing

BACK TO:

Sceptra and Katz.

SCEPTRA

Did you ever sit on the roof of
your school when you were a kid.

KRAZ

No, it never occurred to me. Why
would you do that?

SCEPTRA

Sneak a cigarette ... a bottle of
cider ... stuff like that. This
is what this reminds me of ...
the feeling you get when you are
doing something you shouldn't ...
And know that you're not going to
get caught.

KRAZ

If this was my convent school,
we'd get a good hiding from the
nuns?

SCEPTRA

How's that?

(CONTINUED)

KRAZ

You can be sure God would be watching us, and giving the penguins every little detail.

Pull back to leave the crew of the Bismillah ...
silhouetted against the cosmos.

58 INT. BRIDGE

58

Humans and robots are assembled in the bridge.

Kraz stands holding the two ends of a severed wire.

SCEPTRA

We've been hovering here for a fortnight, we've had our holiday ... now its back to work.

(proud)

This is the point of no return for Doctor Kraz, Officer Caroli and myself. If we reconnect the auto-pilot then it is certain that we three will never see Earth again.

(beat)

As for the rest of you, your lives are ahead of you.

(hands over)

Doctor Kraz ...

KRAZ

I have concluded that when the ship reaches the edge of the universe, it has been programmed to return to Earth in order for the Service to make use of the ship's memory information.

SCEPTRA

Naturally, we would have liked to have seen Earth again, but through Solenge, our story will be told.

(beat)

So before we reconnect, has anyone anything to say?

(CONTINUED)

UVER BETA

Yes, mam, what happens if the ship reaches the edge of the universe and keeps going?

SCEPTRA

Then you will prove that the edge of the universe does not exist.

AURORA

Do I still have to keep happy Hour going every night though no-one comes?

SCEPTRA

I believe you are an experiment, Aurora. Doctor Katz has tried several times to reprogram you, and failed each time.

UVER CHARLIE

(suggestive) I'll come to your Happy Hour, darlin'.

UVER ALPH

His gender switch needs flipped, Doctor?

SCEPTRA

That's enough, sailor.

UVER ALPH

Yes, mam.

SCEPTRA

Reconnect the auto pilot, Rosetta.

Kraz sheaths the two wires together.

The control panel lights up again.

There is a slight judder

KRAZ

Light speed 10x and accelerating
(beat)
100x
(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KRAZ (cont'd)

1000x We've never gone this fast before!

(beat)

5,000x and accelerating

CAROLI

That's more like it we'll be home by Christmas.

KRAZ

(disappointed) We're leveling out at 10,000x.

CAROLI

I thought this ship could do 64,000x?

KRAZ

Who knows. Even with our increased speed, we'll pass through the centre of the Milky Way in approximately two and a half years.

CAROLI

Is there nothing of interest in between?

KRAZ

Nebula, nebula, and more nebula.

CAROLI

What I don't understand ... (takes out a space chart) ... if we are heading for the edge of the universe, why are heading towards the centre.

KRAZ

It appears we are on a slingshot trajectory. We are racing towards the centre of galaxy like a drop of water aimed at a centre of a spinning wheel. When we hit it, in theory we will be spun out at an accelerated speed to the edge of the galaxy

Everyones' eyes bulge at the concept.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: (3)

UVER ALPH
(frightened) Let's go and make
the coffee.

The robots depart swiftly.

Solenge stands wondering what the future will hold
for her.

59 INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS

59

Solenge is playing loud music. Her room is a teenage
wreck.

It is obvious she is distressed.

Sceptra enters.

SCEPTRA
What's the matter?

SOLENGE
What happens to me when you all
die?

SCEPTRA
Don't be like that, Solly. You'll
be fine.

SOLENGE
How will I be fine? I'll inherit
your ship and be happy?

SCEPTRA
It might not seem like it, but
there is other life in the
universe.

SOLENGE
Where? As far as I know you may
have made up everything. Maybe
there is no Earth. Spun out into
space ... How accurate can that
be? This ship was programmed by
humans, right? That means only
one thing to me ... at some point
there will be a cock up. I've
seen the humans on this ship, and
it scares me.

(CONTINUED)

SCEPTRA

Its the age you're at. You'll be fine.

SOLENGE

Don't give me that crap. We're doomed ... and we all know it.

SCEPTRA

Okay, we're doomed ... but lets be cheerful about it.

SOLENGE

Be cheerful that takes the biscuit. Spinning out into space like some ... I don't even have the vocabulary to describe it!

SCEPTRA

I wish we could have schooled you better.

SOLENGE

Schooled me! Three Uver's and a air-brain android to teach me about life beyond you, mother and Caroli!

SCEPTRA

I think it could have been worse. Robinson Crusoe spent twenty years on an island without seeing a soul.

SOLENGE

That was fiction. It was made up.

SCEPTRA

Oh yes, so it was Well, things could be worse

SOLENGE

How???

SCEPTRA

(struggling)
We could have been abducted by aliens and made slaves ...?
(Solenge is not impressed)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SCEPTRA (cont'd)

We could have been sucked into
the orbit of a yellow dwarf and
be going around in circles ...?
(thinks again)
We could be Uvers ...?

Solenge laughs at this thought.

SCEPTRA (cont'd)

You have life, Solenge ... And
that is the most important thing
that distinguishes you from an
Uver. We can't programme you to
do menial tasks, but we can guide
you to believe that life is worth
carrying on.

SOLENGE

Why

SCEPTRA

I don't know ... there is
something in us, a will to live,
a desire to live, a need to live
... Yet despite all my space
training, I don't know why. It is
the great mystery, and no
religion, government, or society
has ever been able to explain it
other than as the Holy Spirit,
The Creator, the Devine.
(soap-boxes)

See, there are mythical pagan
gods and spirits ... Angels ...
Specters ... Heaven ... Hell ...
Religions, cults, sects ...
Scriptures ... prophets and
religious founders ... Theology,
orthodoxy, sanctity, piety,
worship ... But with it comes
sanctimony, impiety, irreligion,
idolatry, occultism, sorcery,
spell and charm. And against all
that ... The ministry, clergy and
the laity.
(serious)

And yet, to this day, there is
still no explanation as to why we
exist.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SCEPTRA (cont'd)

(lighter)

Will we continue to ask the question? Yes, we will ... until mankind perishes in the pursuit of the answer in a never ending swirl around the Milky Way.

SOLENGE

So what's the point of going to the edge of the universe if there is no answer at the heart of it?

SCEPTRA

(stumped)

Now, that I don't know. But it certainly gives you something to think about, does it not?

SOLENGE

I suppose so

SCEPTRA

Come on, then, lets see a smile.

Solenge smiles ... then falls again.

SCEPTRA (cont'd)

What's up now?

SOLENGE

(awkward) Will I have to sleep with Caroli to have a baby?

SCEPTRA

God, no Unless you want to?

Solenge shakes her head in absolute horror.

SCEPTRA (cont'd)

We'll get a donation from Mr.Caroli and put it in the freezer until the time is right.

INT. BATHROOM

Noises are coming from a cubicle.

Uver Charlie is waiting outside the cubicle.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

UVER CHARLIE
Are you alright, Mr.Caroli? Do
you need assistance?

CAROLI V.O
Go away, you robot!

61 INT. SERVICE BAY

61

A freezer door is pushed shut.

FADE OUT:

A hand opens the freezer door ... takes out small
plastic container.

FADE OUT:

The freezer door opens again.

A hand takes out another small plastic container.

DISSOLVE:

The freezer door opens again.

The fridge is empty.

62 INT. DINING HALL

62

Solenge is sitting alone eating soup.

She is sixty years old.

Her movements are so slow

Time has almost stopped still.

The Uvers are immobile.

63 INT. COCKTAIL BAR

63

Aurora lies on the floor of the bar

Lifeless.

64 INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS

64

Sceptra, now over ninety, is lying in her bed.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

Her eyes are closed.

She is dreaming of

65 EXT. MOUNTAINS

65

A YOUNG SCEPTRA

runs down a mountain

66 INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS

66

Solenge is holding Sceptra's hand.

She has passed away.

Solenge's head sinks into the softness of the bed.

A tear rolls down her cheek.

67 CGI. LIGHTSHIP BISMILLAH (MAJOR SEQUENCE)

67

The lightship is passing through the Megallan Clouds.

The journey goes on ...

And on

And on

Through 12 billion light years of space

To the edge of the universe

Where there is nothing known

.....

.....

.....

Where the ship slows

Turns

Begins the journey home

Towards Earth

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

A small planet 25,000 light years from the centre of
the universe

Where

68 EXT. EARTH

68

The mountains rise

The rivers flow

LOW ANGLE

Where a barefooted child stands

Staring at the sky

With eyes clear and innocent

As the Earth itself.

THE END