

SPACE INVADER

by

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FADE IN:

JOHN F. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA

MUSIC: A CHEESY AND SELF-IMPORTANT GUITAR-DRIVEN ANTHEM PLAYS OVER THE FOLLOWING:

EXT. NASA SPACE CENTER - DAY

The space shuttle Atlantis sits on the launch pad across from the flight center. Engineers and technicians rush about preparing the shuttle for its next mission.

INT. NASA HALLWAY

Portraits of NASA's glory days hang along the hallway: Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, Alan Shepherd, the moon lander, Apollo 13, the first space shuttle launch...

SUPER SLO-MO: From around a corner, DOUG HUGGINS JR. (cocky, Will Arnett-esque), wearing a sleek NASA jumpsuit, appears and confidently strides past the portraits.

EXT. TARMAC

Doug, STILL IN SLO-MO, emerges from the building. The sun shines brightly on his face as he puts on a pair of aviator sunglasses and takes in the view of the shuttle on the launchpad. The shuttle is reflected in his glasses. He purposefully begins walking towards the shuttle.

INT. ELEVATOR

Doug rides the external elevator to the top of the shuttle, a serious look on his face, as the Atlantic Ocean comes into view behind him. The cheesy anthem swells.

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE ATLANTIS - COCKPIT

Doug enters the cabin and climbs into the pilot's chair. He then buckles himself in, puts on a headset, and begins checking the gauges.

DOUG

This is shuttle Atlantis to mission control, we're ready for liftoff.

As he reaches out for a switch marked IGNITION, the CHEESY ANTHEM is interrupted by a voice from the intercom.

VOICE ON INTERCOM (O.S.)
Doug, stop screwing around and get to work.

DOUG
(defiant)
You get to work!

Doug, chastened, gets out of the chair and grabs a cart that sits in the entrance of the elevator. He wheels it into the cockpit. He opens it to reveal that it is much like a cleaning woman's cart at a motel, stocked with cleaning supplies, shampoos, toiletries and snacks.

MUSIC: THE CHEESY ANTHEM STARTS UP AGAIN

Doug bitterly sprays some Windex on a rag and begins wiping down the control panel. This is not Doug's dream job.

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE BATHROOM

Doug scrubs the toilet with a brush and flushes it. He folds the toilet paper end into a triangle then puts a NASA sticker on to secure it to the roll.

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE CARGO HOLD

Doug finishes vacuuming the hold then presses a button for the door back into the ship. The door doesn't open. Doug, annoyed, bangs on the panel next to the door to open it. He pulls out a few wires and hot-wires the door, then stuffs the wires back in the panel. He presses the button, the door opens and he heads inside.

INT. SPACE SHUTTLE CABIN

Doug loads a pantry with freeze dried foods and little bags of pretzels and other snacks. He then places some magazines in the seat backs and folds up the cart, finished.

DOUG
Mission accomplished.

INT. NASA HALLWAY

Doug, with iPod headphones on, walks down a hallway filled with other NASA employees. He passes a large, athletic, all-American looking guy. Doug speaks overly loudly because of his headphones.

DOUG

Hey Steve, heard you didn't make
the cut for the mission to the
international space station. I
guess they found out you were gay.

STEVE

(confused)

What?

Doug comes upon an ENGINEER in a shirt and tie talking to a well dressed woman. As he passes the guy, he lightly TAPS THE GUY'S CROTCH with the back of his hand.

DOUG

Dick check.

ENGINEER GUY

(annoyed)

Hey! What the hell, Doug?!

The engineer guy and the woman share an annoyed look as Doug walks off, pleased with himself.

WOMAN

Can you believe his dad was Doug
"Clutch" Huggins?

ENGINEER GUY

(shaking head)

Son of a NASA legend and he fails
out of the astronaut training
program in the first month.

The woman shakes her head as they watch Doug hit another man's crotch as he continues down the hall.

ANGLE ON: Doug as he approaches a TOUR GROUP watching some astronauts doing science experiments in a lab through a plexiglass window. Among them is Doug's girlfriend BETH McCARTHY (31, smart, pretty, driven). The female TOUR GUIDE points through the plexiglass.

TOUR GUIDE

In fact, here are some of our astronauts right now.

KID

What are they doing in there?

Before the tour guide can answer, Doug sticks his head into the middle of the tour group and looks at the kid's name tag.

DOUG

Well, Ryan, they're practicing experiments they'll have to perform once they're in space. The hot one is my girlfriend Beth.

Doug waves to Beth, who waves back, surprised to see him with a large tour group. The tour guide glares at Doug resentfully.

DOUG (cont'd)

She's actually headed up to the International Space Station tomorrow.

KID #2

Cool! Are you an astronaut too?

DOUG

(a beat)

Yes. So, eat your vitamins and don't do any drugs stronger than pot and you can grow up to be an astronaut like me.

The tour guide and the adults in the group are thrown by this. A passing GUY IN A JUMPSUIT calls out to Doug.

JUMPSUIT GUY

Lunch break's over Doug. Discovery needs to be washed and waxed.

The tour group, confused, looks to an uncomfortable Doug.

DOUG

Just a little joke between astronauts. I'll get him back.

(then, to tour guide)

Carry on. You're doing good work here, hun.

Doug makes a quick retreat.

INT. NASA SOUVENIR SHOP

GLEN MORGAN (34, husky, owns more video games than books) is smoking a large cigar and drinking from a red plastic party cup. He's in the face of STAN (50's), the store manager.

GLEN

... 'cause I'm rich now and I don't need this sucky job anymore. I quit.

Stan is taken aback. The other employees watch in shock along with a handful of customers.

GLEN (cont'd)

In fact, I'm buying everything in the store.

Glen sweeps merchandise off shelves into plastic bags.

STAN

What?

GLEN

That's right. This dump belongs to me now.

(to employees)

Everybody, take the rest of the week off.

The stunned employees stand there, frozen.

STAN

Even if you buy everything in the store, you still don't own it.

GLEN

Oh yeah? How about you get the f out of my store!

Doug walks up as Glen continues to dump merchandise into shopping bags.

DOUG

Glen, what the hell is going on?

GLEN

I'm celebrating my retirement. I just got an inheritance from my great aunt Helen. I'm going to live off it for the rest of my life!

DOUG

That's awesome. How much did you get?

GLEN

A hundred fifty grand. That's fuck-you money.

Doug looks concerned.

DOUG

Hey man, I'm all for quitting a job. I'd even think about it if what I did wasn't so integral to the space program. But that only works out to like three thousand dollars a year.

GLEN

Yeah, if I lived to be like, two hundred.

DOUG

No, that's if you live to be seventy five.

Reality starts to sink in with Glen. He shakes his head.

GLEN

Maybe we should go outside. I'd rather not have this conversation in front of my employees.

They head out as Stan angrily begins to restock the shelves.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Doug and a dejected Glen walk in the parking lot.

GLEN

I still think I can make the money last twenty to thirty years.

Doug looks at him, skeptical.

GLEN (cont'd)

So you want to come over to play some Medal of Honor tonight?

DOUG

I can't. It's my last night with Beth before she leaves.

(MORE)

DOUG (cont'd)
We have to go to this annoying NASA dinner honoring Stamp Majors. Like I don't see enough of him in those American Express ads.

GLEN
You know, his action figures are the number-one seller in the souvenir shop.

DOUG
Well, we're sitting with him tonight. He's the commander of Beth's mission. Although as an astronaut I think he's totally overrated.

Glen stops in front of a BRAND NEW HUMMER and electronically opens the doors.

DOUG (cont'd)
You bought a Hummer?

GLEN
Don't worry, I got a great deal for buying it with cash.

Glen starts the Hummer. Kanye West's "Gold Digger" blares through the speakers as he drives off.

EXT. DOUG AND BETH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A small ranch house in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

INT. DOUG AND BETH'S HOUSE

A NASA duffel filled with clothes sits on the bed. Beth wears an evening dress as she roots around in a dresser. Doug, wearing a tux, is putting on a tie and cummerbund.

BETH
Where are my green socks?
(then, flustered)
I can't even pack to visit your parents. How am I supposed to pack for space?

Doug grabs a guitar from the corner of the room and begins to strum David Bowie's "A Space Oddity".

DOUG
(singing)
Ground control to Major Beth.

Beth laughs.

DOUG (cont'd)
(singing)
Ground control to Major Beth...

BETH
(amused)
Doug, you have to finish getting
dressed.

DOUG
(singing)
*This is ground control to Major
Beth. You've really made the
grade. And the papers want to know
whose shirts you wear. Now it's
time to leave your Douglas if you
dare.*

BETH
(laughs)
You're going to make us late.

Doug puts the guitar down and continues getting dressed.

DOUG
Fine. But these NASA dinners are
always so stuffy.

Beth remembers something.

BETH
Hey, did you say something to Steve
Kincaid today about him not making
it onto this shuttle mission?

DOUG
Yeah, I was just messing with him.

BETH
He's really sensitive about it,
Doug.

DOUG
You know how it is honey. It's
just astronaut stuff.

BETH

Well I'm an astronaut and I'm not
insensitive to my colleagues.

DOUG

Okay, it's a guy astronaut thing.
You know, the brotherhood of
astronauts. You're in the
sisterhood of astronauts. You
girls have a whole other thing
going on.

BETH

Doug, you're not an astronaut.

DOUG

I'll grant you I'm not an astronaut
in the traditional sense, but I am
one in spirit.

Beth shakes her head and smiles, amused.

BETH

I just think you could be more
thoughtful. You're not doing
yourself any favors around NASA if
you're alienating people.

Doug grabs the guitar again.

DOUG

(singing)

*And my spaceship knows which way to
go. Tell my Doug I love him very
much, he knows.*

Doug then notices a Time Magazine on Beth's nightstand with STAMP MAJORS (late 30's, world famous astronaut, American hero, all around good guy) on the cover. Stamp wears a blue NASA jumpsuit and sports an astonishingly large white-toothed smile. The cover reads "**ASTRO-NOT? STAMP MAJORS' FINAL
MISSION**".

DOUG (cont'd)

I don't know why this guy gets so
much press. So what if he co-
hosted Live Aid with Bono last
year.

Beth continues to pack. Doug puts his arm around her.

DOUG (cont'd)
Are you sure you have to be up
there for the whole two months?

BETH
You know how important this is to
me. I've been dreaming about it my
whole life.

DOUG
All right, but I can't guarantee
I'll be here when you get back.

Beth gives him a playful slap as they head for the door.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Politicians, celebrities and other luminaries fill the room at this black tie event. A dais with a podium is set up at one end. Doug and Beth walk through the restaurant to their table.

DOUG
Wow, this place is fancy. Hey, is
that Nelson Mandela?

BETH
Yeah, he's a friend of Stamp's.

Doug rolls his eyes as Beth points to a table. They sit.

MC
Ladies and gentlemen, the guest of
honor, Stamp Majors.

The lights dim and Lee Greenwood's "Proud To Be An American" begins to play. Doug leans into Beth.

DOUG
Is this song cheesy enough for you?

STAMP, in a tux, waves as he enters the room through a side door and walks to the dais. He wears a large red AIDS ribbon. The crowd rises and applauds. Stamp stands behind the podium and adjusts the mic.

STAMP
Thank you, Constantine. And thank
you all for putting up with that
cheesy entrance song.

Stamp chuckles. Beth gives Doug a look. Doug shrugs -- maybe Stamp isn't as bad as he thought.

STAMP (cont'd)

I really appreciate you all being here to help celebrate my final mission.

(scanning crowd)

I can see Nelson out there, former President Clinton, the Soros-ster, Sal Rushdie. Rupert. I love you guys. I'd also like to introduce my biographer, Jeff Levinson.

A scholarly man stands and waves to the crowd.

STAMP (cont'd)

Be nice to him, he remembers everything.

The crowd laughs.

STAMP (cont'd)

As hard as it is for me to leave NASA, I just feel like I need to do more for the world while I still have time. And I'm going to devote that time to the thing that gives me the most joy: alleviating third world poverty.

DOUG

(dismissive)

Please.

Beth lightly elbows him.

STAMP

Now I was hoping they weren't going to do this, but I've been told we're going to see a little presentation my friends George Lucas and Billy Joel put together.

A screen comes down behind Stamp and the lights dim again. Billy Joel walks onto the dais and begins singing "Just The Way You Are" as the following video images play (in every shot, Stamp grins widely and looks directly at the camera):

-Stamp, wearing a NASA jumpsuit, stands with his first crew, the Space Shuttle in the background.

-Stamp, hammer in hand, nails a roof onto a house, a large sign in the background reads "Habitat for Humanity".

-Stamp waves to the camera from the front seat of an electric car.

-Stamp plays tambourine on a large outdoor stage. He stands between Willie Nelson and John Mellencamp who sing and play guitar. A sign behind them reads "Farm Aid".

-Stamp inside the newly completed international space station. He gives a thumbs up to the camera.

-Stamp, holding a portable metal detector, sweeps a field for land mines in Cambodia.

-Stamp, in a rowboat, rescues people from their homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

-Stamp, in a tent with a sign reading "Doctors Without Borders", wears scrubs as he assists several surgeons who work to separate conjoined twins.

-Stamp, in full space gear, sits in the cockpit of the space shuttle with his crew playing Pictionary.

The video ends and the crowd applauds. Billy Joel and Stamp hug, then Billy Joel walks off the dais.

STAMP (cont'd)

(to crowd)

Thank you very much. I have one last thing to mention. On this, my final mission, I will be bringing one of my prized possessions, an acoustic guitar signed by my friend Don Henley the day I jammed on stage with the Eagles at Candlestick Park.

Stamp holds up an acoustic guitar.

STAMP (cont'd)

Upon my return to Earth it will be auctioned off with the proceeds going to my foundation, Stamp's Kids, which is funding a cutting edge research project which with any luck will find the cure for cancer.

Stamp crosses his fingers. People applaud heartily. Doug shakes his head. This guy is too perfect.

Billy Joel re-takes the stage and begins to sing "Uptown Girl" (he will sing his classic hits throughout the scene) as Stamp shakes hands and makes his way through the crowd. He stops when he gets to Beth and Doug.

STAMP (cont'd)
Beth, so good to see you. You're like a breath of fresh air in this crowd.

Stamp kisses Beth on the cheek.

STAMP (cont'd)
(taking her in)
You have such great energy.

Doug watches this, uncomfortable, as Stamp takes his seat.

BETH
That's such a wonderful thing you're doing with the guitar.

STAMP
I just hope to God they can find the cure.

DOUG
Well it's a pretty tough disease to crack, so no one will blame you if you come up short.

Doug chuckles, Stamp and Beth do not.

STAMP
Doug, right? Good to see you again. Thanks for letting me borrow Beth for the next couple of months.

Stamp winks at Doug. Doug isn't sure what to make of this.

DOUG
Sure. I mean, we all need to make sacrifices for the greater good.

STAMP
Well said. You know, I flew with your father. He was a true American hero. That's a tough act to follow.

Doug isn't sure whether to take this as sympathetic or a slam. He plays it off.

DOUG
It's not that tough.

STAMP
Wow, you have such a positive attitude. You know, your dad was kind of a mentor to me when I first started out at NASA. It's funny, a lot of people mistook us for father and son. I'd jokingly call him 'dad' and he'd call me 'son'. We were pretty tight.

DOUG
Yeah, I remember you singing "Cat's in the Cradle" at his funeral.

STAMP
Such a great song.
(then)
I notice you're not wearing an AIDS ribbon.

Doug is caught off guard.

DOUG
No, I uh-

STAMP
Would you indulge me?

Stamp pulls an AIDS ribbon out of his coat pocket and hands it to Doug.

DOUG
(pinning ribbon on)
I've been meaning to get one of these, I just haven't had time.

Awkward silence.

BETH
Doug works a lot of hours.

STAMP
(upbeat)
Oh yeah, cleaning out the shuttles, right?

DOUG
We do a lot of other stuff too.
The job title is shuttle prep technician.

STAMP

My grandpa always said 'yeoman's work makes the world go 'round'.

An awkward beat as Doug tries to figure out if 'yeoman's work' is good or bad.

STAMP (cont'd)

So, how long have you two been together?

BETH

Five and a half years.

STAMP

Wow. That's great. The way I see it, we only have one true soulmate in this world, so when you find each other you have to hang on and never let go.

Doug and Beth nod at this.

STAMP (cont'd)

I learned that lesson the hard way on K2.

Stamp looks at them both earnestly for an awkward beat, his eyes watering. Neither Beth or Doug knows what to say.

BETH

We've uh, been talking about getting engaged. Right Doug?

DOUG

Yeah, we've talked about it. Extensively.

BETH

Doug doesn't think he's "ready" yet.

STAMP

Don't let this one get away, Doug. I may have lost my soulmate to an icy crevasse, but yours is still right here next to you.

Doug nods at Stamp, annoyed.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Beth is brushing her teeth in the bathroom. She is angry.

BETH

So you're saying you don't want me
to go?

DOUG

No, I'm just saying that if you, on
your own, decided not to go, I'd be
very supportive of it.

BETH

What do you have against Stamp?

DOUG

Nothing. He's a great guy. You
saw the slide show. Although he
does seem to have a thing for you.

BETH

So this isn't about you being
threatened by him?

DOUG

What's to be threatened by?

BETH

Oh, I don't know. That he's a
famous astronaut and humanitarian
who's almost universally beloved?

DOUG

Oh my God. You're totally into
him!

BETH

I'm not into him and he's not into
me. He's my boss. We work
together.

DOUG

Really? So what if your boss
ordered you to share a bunk with
him or do a naked space walk?

BETH

(losing patience)

Doug, I'm going on this mission
tomorrow.

(MORE)

BETH (cont'd)
And for someone who can't even make a commitment to me, you're being very possessive. I feel like I at least deserve a proposal before you start telling me what to do with my life.

DOUG
Well it would be a lot easier to propose if you weren't going away to space for one-sixth of a year.

BETH
Don't even try to blame me for that.

DOUG
I'm not. I'm just pointing out that I have a much smaller window to work with.

BETH
You know, sometimes I feel like you really take me for granted. Like you take everything in your life for granted. You're going to lose out on a lot of great stuff if you keep living that way.

A beat.

DOUG
Are we going to have sex tonight?

Beth shakes her head, goes into the bathroom and shuts the door, leaving Doug alone.

EXT. NASA LAUNCH SITE - ESTABLISHING

A sprawling base with mission control on one end, the Space Shuttle Atlantis poised on the launch pad at the other end.

INT. MISSION CONTROL

Screens everywhere show the shuttle ready for launch. NASA engineers sit at computers and monitor the screens. The families of the astronauts are off to one side in a cordoned off area filled with TV's. Doug and Glen are there.

DOUG

I couldn't even get her to have
goodbye sex this morning. I mean,
the NASA manual recommends it.

GLEN

You're not getting any sympathy
here, hombre. I'm in the middle of
the longest lady drought of my
life. Seven years.

(then)

I'm going to see if I can check my
e-mail.

Glen wanders off. Doug checks his watch, then looks up at
the big board in the control room. The shuttle turns on its
engines. SUDDENLY THE IMAGE OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE ON THE BIG
BOARD AND ON ALL THE MONITORS TURNS INTO THE HOTMAIL WEBSITE.

The top of the screen reads "GLEN'S INBOX". Everyone looks
confused. The cursor slowly moves past several legitimate e-
mails and clicks on an e-mail reading "DON'T BE EMBARRASSED
ANYMORE - PENIS ENLARGEMENT, \$29.99 AN INCH".

ANGLE ON: Glen, sitting at a computer, about to read the
penis enlargement e-mail. Doug grabs him by the shoulder.

DOUG

Glen, what are you doing?

GLEN

I'm reading an e-mail from my mom.

DOUG

Really? Why does your mom want
your penis to be so much larger?

Doug points at the big board where the penis enlargement e-
mail is up. Glen's eyes go wide. A NASA OFFICIAL appears.

NASA OFFICIAL

Gentlemen, would you mind staying
in the family section?

Glen follows Doug back into the family area as the shuttle
turns its engines on.

DOUG

Here she goes.

The countdown finishes and THE SHUTTLE LIFTS OFF. Everyone
applauds the shuttle climbing into the air. Glen takes out a
bag of Twizzlers and begins munching on them.

GLEN

I sure hope this one doesn't
explode.

Doug and some others looks at Glen, annoyed.

INT. GLEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A crappy one-bedroom apartment. Doug, Glen, TERRY (34, former Ritalin kid, wears a Friendly's uniform) play Medal of Honor on a state of the art 70 inch plasma TV. Terry eats a Friendly's french dip sandwich.

DOUG

Wait, so you hid thirty grand of
the money in the lining of your
oven? You just put a pizza in.

GLEN

(panicked)

I'll be right back.

Glen rushes out of the room.

TERRY

(calling after)

Hey Glen, now that you have all
that money, maybe we could invest
in a new microphone for my HAM
radio.

Glen comes back in and resumes playing.

GLEN

Terry, when we were twelve, talking
to weird dudes from Norway on your
HAM radio was fun, but we're adults
now.

(re: game)

Aww yeah, flamethrower!

Doug glances at his watch.

DOUG

Glen, before you torch that
village, can we pause it? Beth's
about to be on the news.

TERRY

Dude, we're about to take Midway.

Doug pauses the game, then grabs the remote and switches it to TV.

ON TV

BRIAN WILLIAMS (ON TV)
The 37th Shuttle mission went off yesterday without a hitch and tonight, the shuttle will be dropping American astronauts Stamp Majors and Beth McCarthy off at the International Space Station for a two month mission. Let's go live to the space shuttle Atlantis to check in with these two.

A shot appears of Stamp and Beth, both in NASA jumpsuits, floating next to each other in zero gravity.

DOUG
(re: Stamp; annoyed)
How does this guy keep his hair so perfect in zero gravity?

BRIAN WILLIAMS (ON TV)
Hello there Commander Majors. Why don't you start off by telling us a little about your mission.

STAMP (ON TV)
Well Brian, the focus for Beth and I will be on repairing a damaged stabilizer, which could cause the space station to fall out of orbit.

(then)
We'll also be getting to know the Japanese astronaut Miyuki Katama, Canadian astronaut Brian Smith, and Brazilian astronaut Raymundo, who, like many Brazilians, only has the one name.

BRIAN WILLIAMS
I heard you also might be having some Latvian visitors as well.

STAMP
The Latvians did have a mission scheduled, but we hear they're having a little financial trouble. We hope like heck they can make it.

Stamp notices something on Beth's cheek.

STAMP (cont'd)
Oh, Beth, you have an eyelash
there.

Stamp GRABS THE EYELASH, puts it on his finger and holds it in front of Beth's lips.

STAMP (cont'd)
Make a wish.

Beth playfully BLOWS THE EYELASH off of his finger.

GLEN

immediately grabs the remote from Doug and mutes the TV.

GLEN
Whoa, what was that?

TERRY
It's messed up is what it is. That handsome dude's putting the moves on Doug's lady.

GLEN
I'd say he's already banging her.

Doug seems concerned but tries to shrug it off.

DOUG
No way. Beth and Stamp are professionals. You don't do that in space.
(convincing himself)
That was just an innocent thing between colleagues.

TERRY
Right, and my masturbating to Alyssa Milano while choking myself with a belt all through high school was just an innocent thing between colleagues.

Doug and Glen both give Terry a look. On the TV in the background, the segment ends.

DOUG
People do that eyelash thing to each other. It's a very common thing between, you know... people.

GLEN

I beg to differ. The eyelash move requires a high degree of intimacy. Look at the facts. She's pissed at you, she goes up there, she's in tight quarters with an Abercrombie and Fitch model in a NASA jumpsuit who you said yourself she seems into. Check this out.

Glen rewinds it and plays the eyelash thing over again.

GLEN (cont'd)

Okay, now watch the way he looks at her and how she responds in kind.

Glen pauses it and advances a frame at a time.

TERRY

Wait, wait. There.

The screen shows Beth looking into Stamp's eyes and smiling. Doug's mind races. He doesn't know what to think.

GLEN

I know it's upsetting but the writing is on the wall.

DOUG

I'll just e-mail her. I'll make a joke about the eyelash thing, she'll explain and she and I will have a big laugh about what huge morons you guys are.

Glen and Terry share a look of pity.

TERRY

Dude, forget about e-mail. There's only one way you're getting to the bottom of this.

DOUG

Oh yeah, and what's that, Terry?

Terry dips his sandwich into the juice and takes a bite.

TERRY

(mouth full,
unintelligible dialogue)

DOUG

What?

Terry chews, swallows, then washes it down with his soda.

TERRY
You have to go to space.

Doug shakes his head.

GLEN
Terry, I need you to stop talking
right now...

DOUG
Thank you Glen.

GLEN
...because you will never again say
anything smarter than what you just
said.

(to Doug)
Terry's right, you have to go to
space and see what's up.

Terry looks happy, Doug looks at them in disbelief.

DOUG
Look, you guys might kick ass at
Medal of Honor, but I'm not going
to space and I'm not about to start
taking relationship advice from a
guy who hasn't been laid in seven
years and a guy who just went on a
date with his cousin.

TERRY
(defensive)
That was an accident. We met on
the internet. We were supposed to
be strangers.

Doug stands and starts to head out.

DOUG
I'm going to go e-mail my
monogamous girlfriend.

Doug exits. Glen turns to Terry.

GLEN
So did you have sex with your
cousin or what?

INT. DOUG'S HOUSE - NEXT MORNING

Glen, wearing an ostentatious gold chain, sits at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee. Doug paces back and forth. He looks like he hasn't slept all night.

DOUG

(on edge)

I've e-mailed her like five times and she hasn't answered any of them. What's happening up there? Is she busy working, or are she and Stamp in the middle of some kind of zero-gravity fuckfest?

Doug's mind is racing.

GLEN

I'm gonna go with fuckfest. There was a strong suggestion on the table yesterday to solve this problem.

Doug, ignoring this, picks up the phone and starts dialing.

DOUG

I'm calling her.

GLEN

I thought you said you're only supposed to call in an emergency.

DOUG

If some hotshot astronaut doing the no-pants dance with my girlfriend isn't an emergency, I don't know what is.

INT. SPACE STATION

A sweaty Stamp works out on an exercise machine. The phone on a nearby wall starts to ring. He answers it.

STAMP (INTO PHONE)

International space station, how can I direct your call?

SPLIT SCREEN BETWEEN DOUG AND STAMP

DOUG (INTO PHONE)
Hey Stamp, how's everything going
up there? It's Doug. Doug
Huggins. Junior.

Silence.

DOUG (cont'd)
Beth's boyfriend.

STAMP
Hey Doug. I hate to be Dudley Do-
Right here, but this line is only
supposed to be used for
emergencies.

DOUG
(winging it)
This is an emergency. Beth's cat
is on life support. I need to know
whether or not to pull the plug.

STAMP
I'm sorry, Beth is in the shower
right now. She just finished a
serious workout. Is there a
message?

DOUG
(on the spot)
Never mind. I actually just found
the cat's do not resuscitate order.

Doug hangs up.

GLEN
What did he say?

DOUG
(shaken)
That she's in the shower. And she
just had a serious workout.

Glen makes an 'oh boy' whistle.

GLEN
Well, until you man up and decide
to go up there and kick some ass,
you're probably going to need this.

Glen gets a bottle of whiskey out of a cabinet and puts it on
the table in front of Doug, then grabs a CD and puts it in
the CD player.

GLEN (cont'd)
Maybe Bowie has some insights for
you.

Glen presses play on the stereo and exits. David Bowie's "Life on Mars" begins to play. Doug grabs a picture of him and Beth canoeing in the Everglades and stares at it as he takes a swig of the whiskey.

EXT. MARS

"Life on Mars" continues over the following.

Stamp Majors, wearing his NASA jumpsuit, drives a LUNAR ROVER over the rough surface of the red planet. After driving up a slight rise, he pulls the rover up in front of a FIFTIES STYLE RANCH-STYLE HOUSE with a spotless white picket fence around it. Even though the rest of Mars is barren of houses and covered in red soil and rocks, the front yard of the house is grass with tasteful landscaping around the edges.

As Stamp stops the rover and gets out, the front door opens and Beth, wearing a house dress and apron but looking amazing, emerges and rushes down the front walk and into Stamp's arms as THEY START TO MAKE OUT. As they kiss, FIVE KIDS, all wearing NASA jumpsuits and resembling Stamp, run out of the house and form one large group hug around Stamp and Beth. Stamp and Beth stop kissing and look around at their brood and their beautiful house.

BETH
I love you Stamp Majors.

STAMP
And I love you Beth Majors.

Stamp sees an eyelash on Beth's cheek. He picks it off and holds it in front of her mouth.

STAMP (cont'd)
Make a wish.

BETH
I don't have to. It already came
true.

As Beth and Stamp gaze into each other's eyes...

INT. DOUG'S BEDROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Doug bolts upright, waking up from his dream.

DOUG
Ahhh!

A long beat while Doug composes himself.

DOUG (cont'd)
(dramatic)
I have to go to space.

INT. DOUG'S HOUSE - MORNING

Doug is packing. Glen follows him around.

GLEN
You're not going to be sorry. This
is the best decision you've ever
made.

DOUG
I know.

Doug stops and looks Glen in the eyes.

DOUG (cont'd)
Glen, I'm gonna need someone to
watch my back up there. I want you
to come with me.

Glen suddenly seems very apprehensive.

GLEN
You don't need me. This is a solo
job.

DOUG
Didn't you give me a bottle of
whiskey last night and tell me to
man up? What's your problem?

GLEN
There's no way I'm going with you.
I watched the Alien trilogy last
night. Space is a bad place, Doug.
(whispering)
They'll get you.

DOUG
Glen, you've been pushing this idea
on me for the last two days. I
thought we could use some of your
Aunt's money to get up there.
(MORE)

DOUG (cont'd)
People are buying their way into
space left and right these days.
Don't you have like a hundred grand
left?

GLEN
Thirty five. I bought a timeshare
in Fort Lauderdale.

Doug shakes his head, frustrated.

INT. NASA - OFFICE

Doug sits on the other side of the desk of a middle aged
bureaucrat, MARTIN STEVENS (40's, nerdy).

MARTIN
Doug, you know we rarely do more
than one or two missions a year.

DOUG
Come on, I just cleaned out
Endeavor last week. Let's gas her
up and go.

Martin shakes his head.

INT. RUSSIAN CONSULATE

Doug sits at the desk of an unfriendly RUSSIAN BUREAUCRAT.
Doug is in the middle of his pitch.

DOUG
...yeah, I used to work for NASA
but they're doing some really lame
stuff there these days. So I'm
looking for a new program to work
with.

Doug looks left and right, in a display of faux-secrecy.

DOUG (cont'd)
(whispering)
Free of charge.

EXT. LATVIAN CONSULATE

Doug is being escorted to the door of the embassy by a
bureaucratic-looking guy.

DOUG
I think I could really be an asset
to your mission. My only negative
is that I'm a perfectionist.

The guy nods, thinking Doug is crazy, as he brings him to the door, leads him out, then shuts it.

DOUG (cont'd)
And you have my name right? That's
Huggins with two g's!

EXT. HAITIAN EMBASSY

Doug stands outside of the Haitian Embassy, which is a low rent strip mall storefront. Inside the storefront, half a dozen people sleep on cots. Defeated, Doug shakes his head and walks out.

INT. DOUG'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Doug slouches on the couch, mindlessly watching the local news on TV. Glen sits in a chair next to him.

GLEN
Wait, so you didn't even talk to
anyone at the Haitian embassy?
They're a very accommodating
people.

DOUG
Can you be quiet? I just want to
sit here and let it sink in that
I've lost the only woman I ever
loved.

GLEN
Fine, if you want to be that way.
Quitter.

DOUG
I'm a quitter? At least I'm not a
scaredy cat.

GLEN
Yeah you are. You're a scaredy cat
quitter who's always given up when
things got too hard. You quit the
hokey pokey once at your own roller
skating party.

DOUG

Glen, you can't put your left and right foot in and shake them all about at the same time. It's impossible.

ON TV

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)

The space shuttle Atlantis dropped off American astronauts Stamp Majors and Beth McCarthy at the international space station today.

Footage of Stamp and Beth being greeted by the other astronauts. At one point Stamp puts his hand on the small of Beth's back as they meet the others.

ON DOUG

looking dejected. Glen picks up on this.

GLEN

You know, if you really needed me, I would have gone.

Doug nods in appreciation. The PHONE RINGS. Doug answers.

DOUG (INTO PHONE)

Hello?

VOICE ON PHONE

(thick foreign accent)

Mr. Doug Huggins?

DOUG

Yes?

VOICE ON PHONE

This Petr Yorgiev from Latvian space program. We are sending mission to space station and heard you were interest.

Doug's face lights up. He turns to Glen and smiles.

DOUG

Pack a duffel, Glen. You're going to space.

Off Glen's terrified look...

CUT TO:

INT. RIGA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, LATVIA - DAY

Led Zeppelin's "Good Times, Bad Times" plays loudly as Doug and Glen emerge from the jetway and take in the scene: basically, IT LOOKS LIKE TIME STOPPED IN 1972. A man resembling and dressed like Freddie Mercury walks by them. They look around and see that every man has thick sideburns and unruly hair. Every woman has long hair and tight polyester clothing. A little thrown, they share a look, then walk towards the exit.

A man with long hair and a bushy mustache standing in front of a 70's Cadillac limo waits with a sign that reads "DOUG HUGGINS + 1".

INT. LIMO

They pull up to the front of the Latvian Space Center. Doug and Glen look out the window and see a big banner that reads "WELCOME DOUG HUGGINS FAMOUS ASTRONAUT". There is also a brass band and a Latvian official, PETR, wearing a suit with wide lapels and a very wide tie.

GLEN

Wow, you're like a celebrity here.

DOUG

These people know talent when they see it.

EXT. LATVIAN SPACE CENTER

The band plays a poor, off key rendition of the Star Spangled Banner as Doug and Glen get out of the limo and walk up to Petr, who looks very concerned.

PETR

Hello, who are you?

DOUG

I'm Doug Huggins.

Petr looks at him, confused.

DOUG (cont'd)

Junior.

Petr signals for the band to stop playing. He then turns to the driver and starts to yell at him. The driver yells back. Doug and Glen watch, confused, as the Latvians argue.

Petr then motions to two MUSCULAR SECURITY MEN, who quickly grab the limo driver. The limo driver kicks and screams as they drag him away.

LIMO DRIVER
(in Latvian, panicked)
Noliegums! Noliegums!

Petr then turns back to a rattled Doug and Glen.

PETR
Come with me.

Doug and Glen look freaked out as they reluctantly follow Petr towards the building.

INT. LATVIAN SPACE CENTER

A white, sterile looking office. On Petr's desk are a Commodore 64 computer and two rotary phones. He takes one of the receivers and places it on an old dial-up modem. We then hear very LOUD DIALING followed by an annoying ELECTRONIC CONNECTION SOUND, which Petr has to talk over at first.

PETR
(bragging)
We have internet.
(then)
So you see, problem is we thought
your father famous astronaut Doug
"Clutch" Huggins want to fly on our
spaceship mission.

DOUG
My father's been dead for six
years.

Petr looks surprised to hear this. He picks up another phone and says a few angry words in Latvian. A beat, then we hear HEAVY BOOTSTEPS outside the door, followed by a man struggling and SCREAMING.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
Noliegums! Noliegums!

Doug and Glen are wide-eyed. Petr is unaffected.

PETR
You see, we have space program left
from Soviet Republic, but people do
not know of Latvia.
(MORE)

PETR (cont'd)
We thought with your father we
could make buzz and get some
international attention and
assistance.

DOUG
Oh, so all of a sudden the son of a
famous astronaut isn't a publicity
coup?

Petr looks skeptical.

DOUG (cont'd)
(pitching)
If you liked Clutch Huggins, Sr,
you're going to love Clutch
Huggins, Jr.

PETR
You go by Clutch, too?

A beat.

DOUG
Only all the time.

PETR
Excuse me for moment.

Petr stands and leaves the room.

From OS, we hear Petr and another man ARGUING with each other
in Latvian. The guys exchange a look of concern. The
argument becomes heated. Finally, a red faced Petr re-
enters. He PUNCHES his desk angrily, then calmly walks up to
them. Doug looks worried.

PETR (cont'd)
Okay, Clutch Huggins, Jr. You and
bear-shaped co-pilot can go to
space. You leave in three days.

DOUG
Yes!

Glen looks a little worried.

PETR
You start training immediately. I
meet you outside in five minutes.

As Doug and Glen leave the room, a sinister looking man with
a red mustache, NIKOLAI, enters from the office where Petr
had the argument.

PETR (cont'd)
You really think they will help
with publicity?

NIKOLAI
Dale Earnhardt, Jr. gets much
publicity.

PETR
Yes, but he is very good car driver
in his own right.

NIKOLAI
Either way, sponsors have already
given money. We can go to space.

PETR
I still think Clutch Jr. and friend
get in way of mission.

NIKOLAI
They shouldn't be problem. Are not
so smart -- like child who eat too
much lead.

Nikolai smiles, revealing a set of really bad teeth.

EXT. WINDOWLESS BUILDING - MORNING

Doug and Glen stand outside with Petr.

PETR
You are about to enter the nerve
center of the Latvian Space
Program.

Petr opens the door to reveal...

INT. WINDOWLESS BUILDING

...a decrepit gymnasium. Doug and Glen enter with Petr. Their excited faces drop as they look around. A solitary gymnastics ring (the other one is missing) lazily swings back and forth, squeaking. There are outlines on the floor of equipment that was once there but is now gone. A HEAVY-SET MAN mindlessly throws a medicine ball to himself. Grass grows in one corner.

PETR
There have been some budget
cutbacks.

A CROW flies at them and they have to crouch to avoid getting hit. Doug and Glen exchange a skeptical look.

INT. GYM

Doug, Glen and the heavy set man stand in a circle. Petr stands outside the circle.

PETR

Start with strength training.

The heavy set man tosses the ball to an unprepared Doug. After regaining his bearings, Doug tosses it to Glen and they begin tossing the medicine ball around the circle.

TIME DISSOLVE:

FOUR HOURS LATER...

Doug and Glen, looking exhausted, continue to toss the medicine ball with the heavy set man, who is unfazed.

GLEN

(whispers)

How do they expect us to get in shape with two days of training?

DOUG

Glen, this country isn't exactly on the cutting edge of health and science. Or did you not notice you took a shit in a cardboard box this morning?

EXT. BALTIC SEA - DAY

Doug, Glen and Petr stand on the deck of a ship next to a rusty Jacques Cousteau-era submersible. Doug and Glen wear orange seventies Speedo's with CCCP on the front of them.

PETR

This to get you used to pressurized environment.

Petr motions for Doug and Glen to get into the submersible.

DOUG

When was this thing built, 1940?

PETR

1894.

(proudly)

Oldest vessel in fleet.

Doug and Glen share a concerned look.

EXT. BOTTOM OF BALTIC SEA

The submersible, an air hose stretching from it to the ship, settles on the bottom of the Baltic Sea.

INT. SUBMERSIBLE

Doug and Glen sit in the submersible looking around.

DOUG

This baby's not as bad as it looks.

Doug taps the side of the submersible. Water immediately begins to pour in through a seam in the area he tapped. Doug and Glen's eyes go wide.

EXT. BALTIC SEA

A large crane on the ship pulls the submersible out of the water. Doug and Glen are visible in the windows looking frantic as water pours out of the submersible.

INT. LATVIAN SPACE CENTER - DAY

PETR

This flight simulator. Help in case of spaceship emergency.

ANGLE ON: A skeptical Doug and Glen, sitting in front of a Commodore 64 computer with the original Flight Simulator game up on the screen.

DOUG

So all of your cosmonauts learned how to pilot rockets from a twenty year old kids game?

PETR

(nodding)

Is much better than when trained using "Zaxxon".

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Doug and Glen are in the basket of a large HOT AIR BALLOON hovering two hundred feet above the ground. A rope secures the balloon to the ground. Petr, holding a megaphone, watches them. A MAN WITH A SHOTGUN stands next to Peter.

PETR
This to simulate splashdown.

DOUG
(yelling to Petr)
But we're above land.

The man PUMPS the gun and aims at the balloon. Doug and Glen DIVE to the bottom of the basket as the man SHOOTS at the balloon, puncturing it. Doug and Glen scream as THE BALLOON PLUMMETS to earth. The basket crumples on impact and the balloon slowly settles over it. Doug and Glen slowly crawl out from under the balloon.

As they lie on the ground, recovering, Glen looks them over.

GLEN
(amazed)
I can't believe it. Neither of us
has a scratch.

Glen smiles. ONE OF HIS FRONT TEETH IS MISSING. Doug nods, not wanting to mention the tooth.

EXT. CLEARING IN WOODS - MORNING

Doug and Glen stand in front of a barn behind a ramshackle farmhouse. Glen taps one of his front teeth.

GLEN
You know, I was skeptical at first,
but I'm really liking this wooden
tooth.

DOUG
I can't believe they're putting me
through this. You I understand.
But I've got astronauting in my
blood.

Petr approaches them.

PETR

Finally, to test for all-around fitness, you must defeat Dmitri.

Doug and Glen look at each other, unsure. Petr and another man open the barn doors to reveal a cage holding an ANGRY LOOKING BEAR.

PETR (cont'd)
This Dmitri.

DOUG

Petr, do not open that cage.

Petr nods at the man, who UNHOOKS THE CAGE as he and Petr SPRINT out the back door of the barn. The bear then CHARGES Doug and Glen. Doug notices a nearby tree with low branches.

DOUG (cont'd)
Glen, the tree!

Doug and Glen make a dash for the tree. The bear tears after them. As they climb the tree, Doug looks down at the bear.

DOUG (cont'd)
(taunting)
What are you gonna do now Dmitri?

As Dmitri EXPERTLY BEGINS TO CLAMBER UP THE TREE and Doug and Glen's eyes go wide...

INT. PETR'S OFFICE - DAY

Petr sits at his desk. Doug and Glen, disheveled and scratched up, stand before him. Doug has had enough.

DOUG
So what's next, Petr? A little Russian roulette? Bury us alive?

PETR
We were just making sure you had 'right stuff'. Was movie, no?

DOUG
Yes, was movie! Now did we make it through training or not?

PETR
Captain of ship is Vladimir.
Copilot is Sasha. You leave in morning.

Doug is ecstatic. Glen, looking very concerned, turns to Petr.

GLEN

When exactly do we get our alien guns?

Off Petr's confused look...

INT. LATVIAN COSMONAUT DORMITORY - NIGHT

Doug and Glen sit in bunk beds watching TV. Doug flips channels and stops on CNN which shows Beth, Stamp and the other astronauts in the international space station.

DOUG

I found it.

CNN REPORTER (ON TV)

...so we caught up with Stamp Majors and the rest of the astronauts on the international space station to see how they spend their downtime.

Stamp, Beth and three other astronauts are playing TWISTER. A female astronaut is in a crab position, with a male astronaut standing with his crotch near her face. Beth stands in front of Stamp. It all looks very sexual.

DOUG

Twister? Aren't these guys supposed to be working up there?

STAMP (ON TV)

We work hard all day, but at night we like to get loose. Real loose.

He winks at the camera, then spins the Twister pointer.

DOUG

What's with this guy and the winking?

STAMP (ON TV)

Beth, left hand red, right hand blue.

Beth puts her hands on the ground, bending over directly in front of Stamp in the process.

DOUG
We have to get up there.

CNN ANCHOR (ON TV)
Tune in later this week when our
own Larry King sits down with Stamp
Majors for a one-on-one interview.

Doug turns off the TV.

GLEN
And you're still sure you need me
to go with you?

Off Doug's determined look...

INT. LATVIAN ROCKET - MORNING

Doug and Glen are strapped into the rocket and ready for takeoff. VLADIMIR (40's, imposing, picture Peter Stormare) sits in the pilot's chair. Behind him is SASHA (30's, androgynous, no one is sure whether it is a man or a woman). A voice on the radio counts down from twenty (in Latvian). The rocket starts to shake as the engines are engaged.

DOUG
So you're Vladimir, huh? Bet
you're pretty excited to be flying
with the son of Clutch Huggins huh?

VLADIMIR
You are not real cosmonaut. Leave
me alone or I put you into space
and explode your head.

Doug is taken aback by this. Sasha suddenly grabs Doug's hand and holds it as he/she looks at him.

SASHA
Good luck to you, Clutch.

DOUG
Thanks.

Sasha continues to stare and smile at Doug as Doug gingerly takes his hand back.

DOUG (cont'd)
(whispering to Glen)
Is that a man or a woman?

GLEN

I don't know, but before this mission is over, I'm going to find out.

THE ROCKET SHAKES DRAMATICALLY AS IT LIFTS OFF. Doug and Glen look a little nervous as an electronic panel falls off of the wall and flies past them.

EXT. SKY

The rocket soars into space.

INT. LATVIAN ROCKET

Doug looks out the window, mesmerized by the view. Glen turns to Sasha, trying to determine his/her gender.

GLEN

So Sasha, I sometimes have seizures at high altitudes. Is it okay if I borrow your wallet to bite down on?

SASHA

I don't carry a wallet.

Glen raises an eyebrow, thinking he's figured it out.

SASHA (cont'd)

I carry everything in this.

Sasha holds up a fanny pack. Glen's face falls.

EXT. SPACE

The Latvian rocket approaches the International Space Station, 220 miles above the Earth.

INT. SPACE STATION - COMPUTER ROOM

Beth uses a joystick on a panel to control a giant ROBOTIC ARM outside the station while Stamp works on a computer.

BETH

I think I'm starting to get the hang of this, although I'll never be as good as you.

STAMP

Stop worrying. Just try to think of it like you're putting a band-aid on a scraped knee. Two hundred and twenty miles above the earth.

Stamp laughs and Beth laughs with him. They share a look.

STAMP (cont'd)

You've got a really great laugh.
It's infectious.

Beth blushes and sits down at her computer as Stamp goes back to working on his computer.

BETH

The stabilizer is weakening but it looks like it'll last until our space walk. How's the pressure?

ANGLE ON STAMP'S COMPUTER

HE IS CUTTING AND PASTING A PICTURE OF BETH'S HEAD ONTO THE BODY OF A NAKED WOMAN.

STAMP

(looking at naked Beth on computer screen)

It looks amazing.

A VOICE comes over the intercom.

INTERCOM (V.O.)

The Latvians are here.

Stamp DRAGS THE NAKED BETH PICTURE INTO THE TRASH, then stands and holds his hand out to Beth to help her up.

STAMP

Shall we?

INT. SPACE STATION - DOCKING BAY

Stamp, Beth, BRIAN SMITH (32, Canadian, been in space way too long), and RAYMUNDO (33, Brazilian, strapping, probably bisexual) all greet Vladimir and Sasha.

Doug emerges from the rocket and spots Beth. Doug spreads his arms out in a showy gesture.

DOUG

Surprise!

Everyone turns to see Doug. Beth is shocked. Stamp is caught off guard as well. He is not pleased.

BETH

Doug? What the hell are you doing here?

STAMP

Yeah Doug, what the hell?

Glen crawls out of the rocket.

GLEN

Hey Beth.

BETH

Glen? Doug, what is going on?

DOUG

We need to talk. I know what's going on between you and Stamp.

BETH

What's going on between me and Stamp?

DOUG

I think it's pretty obvious. You're having a space affair.

BETH

What?!

STAMP

That is ridiculous. We're colleagues. I mean sure, we're both attractive people-

DOUG

Oh, oh, and I'm sure colleagues are always plucking eyelashes off of each other's cheeks and then blowing them off their fingers.

The other astronauts, a little uncomfortable at being caught in this domestic dispute, stand around awkwardly not sure what to do with themselves.

BETH

(angry)

I can't believe this. You think I can't go away for two months without sleeping with somebody?

DOUG
What'd you wish for Beth?

Beth shakes her head angrily. Doug is starting to lose steam.

DOUG (cont'd)
What am I supposed to think? You
didn't answer my e-mails, I
couldn't get you on the phone...

BETH
I'm working up here, Doug!

DOUG
Is that why everyone's playing
Twister and it looks like some kind
of space porno?

BETH
It's good to know that after all
the time we've been together, you
still don't trust me.

STAMP
(indignant, to everyone)
Since when is Twister sexual?

The other astronauts, wanting to avoid witnessing more of this, start helping the Latvians unload.

DOUG
Just because I was afraid you were
having an affair doesn't mean I
don't trust you.

BETH
It means exactly that!

Beth is fuming. MIYUKI KATAMA, the Japanese astronaut (28, pretty, speaks no English) enters. She and Glen lock eyes.

GLEN
(in a trance)
She's incredible.

MIYUKI
(in a trance)
Anohito taishita.

Glen holds up his camera phone and takes a picture of her. Miyuki raises her camera phone and takes one of him.

BACK ON BETH

BETH
I can't believe you came up here.
(then)
Doug, I think we need a break.

Stamp is pleased.

STAMP
(to nobody)
Sometimes that can be helpful.

DOUG
I just came all the way up here
because I love you. Why would we
take a break?

BETH
You not knowing the answer to that
question is a big part of it.

Beth walks off. Doug is stunned. Stamp puts his hand on
Doug's shoulder.

STAMP
Dang, you really got the rug pulled
out. I'm sorry, man.
(then)
I'm going to check on Beth. She
shouldn't be alone right now.

Doug reacts to this as Stamp exits.

DOUG
Wow, she is really overreacting.
Can you believe this, Glen?

GLEN
(staring at Miyuki)
I think I just met my wife.

INT. LAB

Stamp leads Doug and Glen in. The room is filled wall to
wall with experiments and is incredibly noisy. Pumps run,
centrifuges whir and there are rats, monkeys, insects,
terrariums and test tubes all over the place. Brian,
Raymundo, and Miyuki work on various experiments.

STAMP

Sorry there are no bunk rooms left,
but this is the best we can do.
You know, if you want to talk about
what happened, I am a licensed
grief counselor.

Glen walks over near Miyuki and sits next to her.

DOUG

Beth and I get into little things
like that all the time. When you
see us tomorrow, it'll be like
nothing ever happened.

STAMP

Denial is one of the crutches we
use to deal with our grief.

Doug looks at him, annoyed.

DOUG

Everything's fine, Stamp.

STAMP

Sure it is, buddy.

DOUG

It is.

STAMP

Okay, but if you want to talk, just
say the word.

An awkward beat.

GLEN

So Stamp, do you have any trouble
with aliens around here?

STAMP

(ignoring)

Let me introduce you around.

Stamp leads Doug over to Brian.

STAMP (cont'd)

This is the Canadian, Brian Smith.
He's the longest running astronaut
in the space station.

(whispering to Doug)

He's going a little space crazy.

BRIAN
Been up here for twenty one months.
Twenty one long ones.
(then, elsewhere)
And I'm gonna be hi-hi-high as a
kite by then.

Doug stares at Brian, disconcerted.

STAMP
This is Raymundo. He's one hell of
an astronaut. And he can salsa
like you wouldn't believe.

ANGLE ON GLEN

chatting up Miyuki. His rap is terrible.

GLEN
So, Japan -- that's an island,
right?

STAMP
(interrupting)
Miyuki doesn't speak any English.

GLEN
We have a vibe going, Stamp. We
don't need words.

STAMP
Brian, Raymundo, let's give our
newcomers some time to get settled.

BRIAN
(to Miyuki, in Japanese)
Nanitozo ashisuto.

Miyuki nods and heads out with Brian and Raymundo. As Stamp follows them out, Glen notices a glass cage with air being pumped into it. In the cage is a ROOSTER. Hazmat suits hang on the wall nearby.

GLEN
What's with the rooster in the
glass case?

Stamp turns back.

STAMP
That's FluVi. He's infected with
avian flu. We're testing to see if
the virus can survive in space.
(MORE)

STAMP (cont'd)
Then we're going to shoot him into
the sun.

Stamp exits. Doug and Glen share a confused look, then start to unpack their things.

GLEN
So what are you going to do about
Beth?

DOUG
Everything is going to be fine.
She's still totally into me. She
was just making a big show of being
mad in front of her coworkers.

GLEN
Yeah?

DOUG
Definitely. I just need to get
some quality 'alone time' with her
and we'll be back to normal.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Beth and Stamp walk down the hall together.

BETH
Thanks again for being so
understanding about this Doug
thing. I know how unprofessional
it must look.

STAMP
Beth, it's already been forgotten.
Love makes people do strange
things. Like trying to climb a
mountain that's rated an A5 when
you and your fiancee are only rated
for an A3 at best.

Stamp shakes his head and looks down.

BETH
You must really miss her.

STAMP
No, I don't. Because she's always
with me. Here.

Stamp points at his heart.

BETH

That's sweet.

(then)

I'll talk to Doug about keeping a low profile until we can figure out what to do with him. I'll see you in the morning.

Beth opens her door to reveal:

INT. BETH'S ROOM

Doug, completely naked, is in the process of lighting a candle next to Beth's bed. Chris Isaak's "Wicked Game" plays on the CD player.

DOUG

(while turning around)

Who's ready to join the two hundred and twenty mile high cl-

Doug turns around to see Beth and Stamp standing in the doorway.

DOUG (cont'd)

What the hell's he doing here?

STAMP

This is my space station, son.

BETH

What are you doing in my room Doug?

DOUG

I thought we could play a wicked game together.

Stamp winces.

STAMP

Wow, this is awkward. He's not covering up or anything.

(to Doug)

Can I get you a pair of pants or a towel? Something?

DOUG

Why should I put on pants, Stamp?
To make you more comfortable?

STAMP

I'm gonna go.

Stamp shakes his head and walks off. Beth turns to Doug.

BETH
We are broken up!

DOUG
I thought you were just trying to look tough in front of the rest of the crew.

Beth shakes her head in disbelief.

BETH
Look, we can discuss this when we get back to Earth, but right now I need you to stay as far away from me as you possibly can.

DOUG
I think you're making a big mistake.

BETH
Get out of my room.

DOUG
(as he gathers his things)
Fine, but this evening seduction aromatherapy candle is coming with me.

Doug, grabbing the candle and Chris Isaak CD, heads into the hall. Beth shuts the door behind him.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Doug gathers himself, then looks at the closed door. Reality sinks in for Doug as he slumps against the wall.

DOUG
Oh my god. She dumped me.

Doug shakes his head in disbelief.

SUPERTITLE: FOUR AM

EXT. SPACE STATION - NIGHT

All of the lights in the space station are on.

MUSIC: Air Supply's "The One That You Love"

INT. SPACE STATION

Doug, tears streaming down his cheeks, forlornly looks out into the darkness of space and sings along to the song as Glen tries to sleep on his cot.

DOUG

(singing)

*Don't say the morning comes / Don't
say the morning comes so soon...*

GLEN

Come on, man. Can't you at least deal with this with better music? Like Chicago or Manilow?

DOUG

Manilow doesn't make me feel!

(then, singing)

*Hold me in your arms for just
another day / I promise this one
will go slow...*

INT. KITCHEN

Doug, still crying, stuffs his mouth full of freeze-dried astronaut ice cream. There are several packets already eaten on the counter.

DOUG

(through tears)

I love her so much.

(then, mouth full)

This stuff tastes awful.

INT. BRIAN'S ROOM

Doug, still worked up, kneels at Brian's bedside. Brian looks like he's just been woken up.

DOUG

I mean, we love each other, right?
So why is it so goddamn
complicated?

BRIAN

I've got my own problems, Doug.
I'm out of Wellbutrin and I've
slept two hours in the last month.

DOUG

This is a picture of us at Busch
Gardens.

Doug tries to hand him a viewfinder picture chain. Brian
pretends to be asleep.

INT. MESS HALL PANTRY

Doug breaks a lock open on a cabinet to reveal a case of wine
and some beer. He grabs a bottle of wine.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE BETH'S ROOM - MORNING

Doug, obviously drunk and holding the almost empty wine
bottle in his hand, bangs on the door of Beth's room.

DOUG

Come on Beth, we can talk this out!
We're meant for each other.

Silence. He starts banging on the door again.

DOUG (cont'd)

(angry)
Open this door!

INT. HALLWAY

Doug blocks the hallway as Vladimir tries to pass.

DOUG

If you want me to move so bad, why
don't you make me?

Vladimir PUNCHES Doug in the face, knocking him to the
ground, then steps over him.

INT. SPACE STATION

Doug, with a shiner under his eye and holding another bottle
of wine, is trying to open the hatch to the escape pod. It
won't open and he starts kicking the handle, making a ruckus.
He's clearly at the end of his rope. Glen enters.

GLEN

What's going on?

DOUG

I just want to go home. There's nothing for me here. Come on, help me get into this escape pod.

GLEN

No way. I'm not going anywhere.

DOUG

What? What happened to you being afraid of aliens?

GLEN

Dude, I'm this close to getting laid. This Miyuki thing could be the real deal. Just because your lady business isn't working out doesn't mean I should suffer.

DOUG

I'm the one that brought you here. If I want to go home, you should come with me.

GLEN

Sorry man. Ladies trump friendship. Besides, don't those pods just float in space until someone rescues you?

Doug lets go of the door to the escape pod.

DOUG

Fine. I won't go in the pod. Now if you'll excuse me, I have a bottle of wine to finish.

Doug kicks the door one more time, then wanders off.

INT. HALLWAY

Doug, holding his bottle of wine, wanders the space station aimlessly.

DOUG

How hard is it to label the bathrooms?

He notices a small door in the wall on his right and opens it. He looks around, then from behind we see him unzip his pants and start peeing into the hole in the wall.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Doug lies on the floor, wine bottle next to him. Stamp approaches holding a blanket and a mug. He touches Doug's shoulder lightly.

STAMP

Let's get you cleaned up, Doug.
(then, handing him mug)
Hot chocolate?

As Doug sits up, Stamp puts the blanket around him.

INT. BATHROOM

Doug showers with the mug of hot chocolate as Stamp stands next to the shower.

STAMP

...of course I wasn't hitting on
Beth when you saw us on television.
I would never mess with someone in
a committed relationship.

DOUG

But, we're broken up now, so...

STAMP

Why are you so paranoid? I'm just
trying to be a friend.

Doug, vulnerable after his night, softens.

INT. BATHROOM

Doug brushes his teeth.

DOUG

What about the eyelash thing?

STAMP

I do that with everyone.

Stamp, not seeing an eyelash on Doug's cheek, plucks one from his eyelid and holds it up in front of him.

DOUG

Ow!

STAMP
Make a wish, Doug.

It's a pretty awkward moment. Doug reluctantly blows the eyelash off of Stamp's finger.

STAMP (cont'd)
There's something else about me you should know. Something that will help you understand that I couldn't possibly be interested in Beth.

(beat)
I'm homosexual, Doug.

DOUG
Come on. You were just dating Renee Zellweger. And what about your soulmate who died on K2?

STAMP
His name was Jeremy. I'm as gay as the day is long, Doug. Do I have to prove it to you?

Stamp leans in to kiss Doug, who dodges it.

DOUG
All right, I believe you.

STAMP
Good. Now let's talk about you.

INT. LAB

Doug reclines on his bed. Stamp sits on the edge.

DOUG
...and she always thought it would be so romantic if I made dinner for her. But I'm a terrible cook -- what's romantic about that?

Stamp listens intently.

DOUG (cont'd)

And then she had this whole thing about going on an Alaskan cruise, which I have no interest in, and how I never surprised her by bringing her flowers or getting her one of those giant chocolate chip cookies or stuff like that. I mean, that stuff is so cliche.

Stamp nods empathetically.

DOUG (cont'd)

And I'm sorry if I was never into Shelley and Wordsworth and all those other poets she likes. But is that a reason to break up with me?

STAMP

Of course not. I think right now the best thing you can do is stay as far away from Beth as possible. At least for a couple of weeks.

DOUG

You think?

STAMP

I know.

DOUG

Thanks for the advice, man.

Doug hugs him.

STAMP

Thatta boy.

INT. HALLWAY

Doug walks towards the mess hall with Glen.

GLEN

Can you keep a secret? Me and Miyuki are in love. We sealed the deal last night. With sex. Thank you so much for bringing me here. I'm having the time of my life.

Doug is annoyed.

INT. MESS HALL - MORNING

Beth, Brian, and Raymundo eat at one end of the table. Vladimir and Sasha eat and whisper amongst themselves in the middle. Glen grabs a seat next to Miyuki. Stamp is getting food from a breakfast buffet. Doug enters and wrinkles his face at a terrible smell.

DOUG
What's that smell?

Everyone turns to look at Doug, annoyed.

STAMP
I don't want to name names, but last night someone broke into the wine cabinet, drank a few bottles, then relieved themselves in our oxygen system. So basically, we're breathing pee right now.

Doug looks guilty.

DOUG
Wow. Did you ever figure out who it was?

STAMP
We don't have any evidence if that's what you're asking.

Everyone looks at Doug, accusingly.

DOUG
(changing subject)
Hey, sweet breakfast buffet.

Doug goes over and starts making a plate for himself, then tries to find a seat. Nobody, especially Beth, wants anything to do with him. He takes a seat by himself at the end of the table.

Sasha then THROWS A FOLDED UP PIECE OF PAPER to Doug. He opens it, wary. It reads "I forgive U" with a heart dotting the "i". Doug, alarmed, smiles uncomfortably at Sasha.

Stamp returns with two plates and puts one in front of Beth.

STAMP
Here are your eggs, Beth. Sunny side up.

BETH

Thanks.

As she begins to eat:

STAMP

(reciting)

*Three years she grew in sun and
shower, then Nature said, 'A
lovelier flower on earth was never
sown; This Child I to myself will
take; She shall be mine, and I will
make a Lady of my own.'*

Beth is very impressed. Doug stops eating and watches this.

BETH

That's beautiful. Wordsworth is
one of my favorite poets.

STAMP

I had no idea. Mine too.

Doug can't believe what Stamp is doing. As Stamp is about to sit, he turns and grabs something from a bag.

STAMP (cont'd)

Oh, I almost forgot. This is for
you.

Stamp takes a giant cookie from behind his back and gives it to Beth, who looks surprised. Doug is incredulous.

BETH

(confused)

A giant chocolate chip cookie.
Thanks.

STAMP

It's for being astronaut of the
week. It's a morale booster.

RAYMUNDO

Hey, I worked way harder than Beth
this week.

STAMP

(quickly)

I should probably get to work.
Beth I'll see you in the lab.

Stamp stands, and as he does, a stack of printed out papers falls on the floor by Beth. She helps pick them up.

BETH
What's all this stuff?

STAMP
Oh, just some brochures for an
Alaskan cruise I'm planning.
(wistful)
The land of the midnight sun.

BETH
Wow, I've always wanted to do that.

STAMP
You should.

Doug is beside himself. Stamp gathers the papers and heads out. Doug gets up and quickly follows him.

INT. HALLWAY

Doug catches up with Stamp.

DOUG
What the hell man?

STAMP
Is something wrong, Doug? You seem
agitated.

DOUG
Yeah there's something wrong. You
told me you were gay, then took
everything I said about Beth
yesterday and used it to hit on
her.

STAMP
So what if I did? You're way out
of your league here, homie. A
little historical fact for you.
You like history?

DOUG
What?

STAMP
I've bedded every female astronaut
I've ever flown with. Sally Ride?
Rode her. Roberta Bondar? Boned
her. Ellen Ochoa? You don't even
want to know.

DOUG

Well guess what. Beth's not like those other slutty astronauts.

STAMP

Oh really? Who made you "slut sheriff" of this space station?

DOUG

Nobody. I'm not the slut sheriff.

STAMP

And don't you forget it.

Stamp exits, leaving a livid Doug.

INT. LAB - DAY

Doug is furiously writing in a notebook. Glen enters.

GLEN

You know, I've always heard about it, but it's true: Asian women feel different. She's also double jointed.

(off Doug)

What are you writing?

Doug stops writing.

DOUG

Stamp's trying to get with Beth. But I'm going to win her back with this love poem I'm writing before he has a chance to do anything.

GLEN

I sure hope it's better than the poem Stamp read her this morning.

DOUG

He didn't write that. And this one's original so it's automatically better.

Glen grabs the poem.

GLEN

(reading)

When I hold you in my arms, it takes my breath away, this feeling in my heart is so hard to say.

DOUG

I was inspired by all that Air Supply I was listening to last night.

GLEN

(still reading)
But I know that my heart will go on...

Doug grabs the poem and sticks it in an envelope.

DOUG

And the Titanic soundtrack.

Doug heads out.

INT. HALLWAY

Doug enters Beth's room.

INT. BETH'S ROOM

Doug heads over to Beth's bunk and writes "Beth" on the envelope. He places it on her pillow and quickly heads out.

INT. HALLWAY

Doug heads down the hallway. As he rounds a corner, he sees VLADIMIR AND SASHA ARGUING IN HUSHED TONES halfway down the hall. He stops. They notice him and immediately stop arguing. Vladimir stares at him menacingly. Sasha waves. Doug quickly turns around and walks the other way.

EXT. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

The space station floats high above the Earth.

INT. CENTRAL MODULE

Doug and Glen sit in chairs looking out into space through a large observation window, sharing a bag of popcorn.

DOUG

I don't need to go find her. Once Beth reads that bad boy, she'll come to me.

Sasha enters and approaches them.

SASHA
Glen, can I have moment alone with
Clutch?

Doug subtly tries to shake his head 'no' to Glen.

GLEN
Sure, Sasha.
(whispers to Doug)
Maybe you should experiment a
little bit while you're single. It
would also be a good opportunity to
find out about...

Glen not very subtly points at Sasha's crotch. Glen slaps Doug on the back and exits. Sasha sits next to Doug who smiles uncomfortably at her/him. She/he takes his hand.

SASHA
Clutch, I want you to know that I
am attracted with you.

DOUG
Wow, that's really... surprising.
And I'm flattered but I'm trying to
get my girlfriend back right now...
and I have some errands I really
need to-

Doug goes to get up, but SASHA GRABS HIS HAND AND PULLS HIM BACK DOWN FIRMLY. He/she is very strong. Doug tries to take his hand away from Sasha but he/she won't release it.

SASHA
(singing)
Are you lonesome tonight,
Do you miss me tonight?
(then)
Elvis Presley -- do you like?

DOUG
Please don't sing to me.

Sasha GRIPS his hand for an extra long beat, then releases him. Doug, freaked out, quickly stands and rushes out.

INT. HALLWAY

Doug emerges and takes a deep breath. As he heads down the hallway, passing the lab, HE HEARS A GUITAR AND THE FAINT SOUND OF STAMP SINGING. Doug cocks his head to get a better listen. Doug opens the door.

INT. LAB

Stamp is playing guitar for Beth. Doug enters and walks up to them, full of attitude.

DOUG

Well I guess all the space experiments must be done if you two are just sitting around singing to each other.

Stamp stops playing. Beth looks annoyed at Doug.

STAMP

The space experiments are never done, Doug. We're just taking a break. Do you mind?

DOUG

I actually do mind, Stamp.

Stamp ignores him and starts playing again.

STAMP

(singing)

When I hold you in my arms, it takes my breath away...this feeling in my heart is so hard to say.

Doug is stupefied: STAMP IS SINGING DOUG'S POEM.

DOUG

That's my poem.

BETH

Doug, Stamp wrote this song.

STAMP

It came to me in a dream.

Doug shakes his head. He can't believe this is happening.

DOUG

I wrote that poem for you, Beth.

BETH

You've never written a poem in your life.

DOUG

I know. That's why I was going to use it to win you back.

STAMP

Wow, this is pretty hard to watch.

DOUG

(to Stamp)

Oh, like you don't know why I'm acting this way.

STAMP

(to Beth)

Where is all this hostility coming from?

DOUG

Beth, he's trying to steal you away from me.

STAMP

That is so not true. I would never-

BETH

Doug, I'm not even with you.

STAMP

There you have it. End of story.

(resumes singing)

And I know that my heart will go on...

Stamp makes a stink-face at this lyric as he sings it. Doug is livid. He GRABS STAMP'S GUITAR out of his hands.

STAMP (cont'd)

Easy. That guitar was featured in the studio recording of "Witchy Woman".

WE FOLLOW DOUG OUT OF THE ROOM and into...

INT. HALLWAY

Doug STORMS down the hallway holding the guitar. Stamp rushes after Doug, with Beth trailing behind him.

STAMP

Come on, man, the guitar has nothing to do with this.

Doug, ignoring him, heads for an open door that leads to a small room at the end of the corridor. A sign above it reads "DANGER: AIR LOCK".

INT. AIR LOCK

Doug walks purposefully into the air lock, puts the guitar on the ground and walks back out.

INT. HALLWAY

Doug presses a button that shuts the door to the air lock just as Stamp comes around the corner.

STAMP

You don't want to do this, Doug.
Just release the guitar.

Doug smiles at Stamp and presses a button that reads "OPEN AIR LOCK". As he does, THE AIR LOCK DOORS OPEN AND THE GUITAR IS QUICKLY SUCKED INTO SPACE.

STAMP (cont'd)

Noooooooo!

Beth comes around the corner. Stamp walks up to a satisfied Doug.

STAMP (cont'd)

Way to go, jerkhead. You just shot
Don Henley's cancer curing guitar
into space. Why do I even try?

(breaking down, for Beth's
benefit)

I guess I'm just a dreamer. But
I'm not the only one.

Beth comforts him.

BETH

This is so immature Doug.

DOUG

He stole my poem. And there's no
way that guitar was going to cure
cancer.

STAMP

Not with that attitude it wouldn't.

Stamp hangs his head and turns to storm out. Beth gives Doug a look, then quickly catches up with Stamp.

STAMP (cont'd)

(playing it up for Beth's sake)

Great, now I'm going to be on Larry King with my eyes all puffy.

As they head out, Stamp puts his arm around Beth and leans into her for support. Doug shakes his head.

INT. LAB

Glen and Miyuki sit in his bed looking at pictures of Miyuki while Brian and Raymundo record the results of an experiment in the background.

GLEN

So this is you as a little girl?
Look how cute you were!

In the background, Brian and Raymundo roll their eyes and look annoyed. This has been going on for a while.

GLEN (cont'd)

Wouldn't it have been great if I was born in Japan and we went to school together and were boyfriend-girlfriend our whole lives? Guys, look how cute she was!

Brian and Raymundo force smiles and nod as Glen holds up the picture for them. Glen turns back to Miyuki.

GLEN (cont'd)

I'm so glad you didn't die in Hiroshima.

Brian abruptly stands.

BRIAN

All right. That's it for me.

GLEN

Everything okay, Brian?

BRIAN

I haven't had sex in twenty one months and if I have to watch this for one more second I'm going to blow my brains out.

Brian exits.

GLEN

(to Miyuki)

He's just jealous. Eskimo kisses?

Glen rubs his nose against Miyuki's. Raymundo stands, and without comment, leaves the room.

INT. WORKOUT/SHOWER ROOM

Doug takes a shower in the pull-up circular shower. He washes his hair brusquely.

DOUG

Cancer curing guitar my ass.

Doug shakes his head, then turns off the shower. As he grabs his towel and pushes the shower stall back into the ground, he looks over at a shelf next to it.

DOUG (cont'd)

Where the hell are my clothes?

As Doug looks around the room, annoyed, A PAIR OF PANTS FLOATS BY OUTSIDE THE WINDOW followed by a shirt and some socks. Doug notices.

DOUG (cont'd)

Come on, people!

Doug watches as EVERYTHING HE BROUGHT WITH HIM TO SPACE PROCEEDS TO FLOAT BY. Underwear, CCCP jumpsuit, t-shirts, shoes, the photo of him and Beth. He shakes his head angrily and STORMS into the hallway and straight into...

INT. HALLWAY

...Sasha. He/she gives Doug the once over.

SASHA

It is a fancy meeting you in this place with only your towel on.

Doug, holding his towel with one hand, is forced into a corner by Sasha.

DOUG

Look at that, you corralled me into the corner. Why are you so much stronger than me?

SASHA

Can I borrow your towel? Ha ha ha.

Sasha holds Doug by the shoulders, immobilizing him as he/she LEANS IN FOR A KISS. Doug struggles, terrified as Sasha's open mouth approaches his. Doug presses his lips together and tries to turn his head but the wall prevents it.

Sasha's mouth reaches his and there is an intense and awkward struggle as SASHA TRIES TO TONGUE DOUG and Doug tries to prevent any mouth penetration. As Doug begins to fatigue, Raymundo passes by.

DOUG

Raymundo!

Raymundo assesses the situation.

RAYMUNDO

Jeez, it's like the last day of Carnevale around here.

Raymundo continues past.

DOUG

No, Raymundo. This isn't consensual!

Raymundo stops. Sasha turns to look at him, letting go of Doug in the process. Doug starts to run toward Raymundo, but Sasha has a hold of his towel. He manages to pull away and get to Raymundo.

DOUG (cont'd)

(freaked out)

Hey man. I really need to borrow some clothes.

RAYMUNDO

(annoyed)

No sweat. I hope you don't mind that they smell like your guarana juice.

INT. HALLWAY

Doug, wearing a loud, multi-colored shirt and tight purple pants (Raymundo's Carnevale clothes), heads down the hallway holding a laundry basket.

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Doug enters. Stamp and Beth work in front of a row of computers and digital readouts.

DOUG

How ya like me now, Stamp?

Doug dumps the laundry out in a pile on the floor, then takes out a small canister of cooking gas from the basket, douses the clothing, and strikes a match, lighting the pile on fire.

STAMP

Why are you lighting Brian's dirty laundry on fire?

Doug looks down at the clothes.

DOUG

Shit.

BETH

What is wrong with you?

Stamp casually grabs a fire extinguisher from the wall and sprays it on the pile, putting out the fire.

DOUG

He shot my clothes into space.
That's why I'm wearing Raymundo's Carnevale outfit.

STAMP

Looks to me like somebody's going a little space crazy.

BETH

You know what, Doug? At first, I thought that maybe breaking up with you was a mistake, but you are really helping me feel better about it.

DOUG

Why? Just because I lit some guy's laundry on fire? Stamp started it!

BETH

Stamp isn't doing anything. And all you're doing is making everyone's lives up here difficult.

Before Doug can respond, a LOUD ALARM sounds in the room. Beth and Stamp share a serious look, then quickly sit at their computers and scroll through data.

STAMP

It's the stabilizer.

Stamp sits at another computer and begins controlling a small camera on the outside of the ship. Doug watches, concerned.

STAMP (cont'd)

(relieved)

It's just a piece of debris lodged in one of the panels.

BETH

Can we wait until our space walk on Thursday?

STAMP

I don't think so.

(to himself)

Back in the saddle Stamp. Time to save some more lives.

As Stamp starts to leave the room, Doug speaks up.

DOUG

Let me do it.

BETH

Doug, this isn't the time.

DOUG

Come on, everyone up here hates me. Give me a chance to redeem myself. I was in the astronaut training program, I've been in the suit, I've done zero-g training.

BETH

Just stop! I've had enough of-

STAMP
Fine Doug. You can go.

Beth and Doug turn to Stamp surprised.

BETH
Are you serious?

STAMP
He's had the training. The procedure's not too difficult. And everyone up here does hate him. Let's let him do it.

Beth isn't convinced, but shrugs, deferring to Stamp.

INT. AIRLOCK

Doug, wearing a full space suit, stands in the airlock as Stamp, Beth, Glen, Miyuki and the rest of the crew stand outside looking in.

STAMP
Just be careful out there. If you lose your footing and your tether is disconnected, there's no guarantee we can save you.

Doug, rattled, gives a nervous thumbs up as the inside door closes. Stamp presses the airlock button, the doors open and Doug heads out into space.

GLEN
Stamp, I just want you to know, I'm holding you responsible if my friend gets attacked by aliens.

INT. COMPUTER ROOM

Everyone watches on one of the computer screens as Doug cautiously moves along the outside of the space station towards the stabilizer. The room is tense.

EXT. SPACE STATION

Doug, sweating nervously, stops for a beat.

DOUG
(to himself)
What am I doing out here?
(MORE)

DOUG (cont'd)
I could be killed. There are other ways to impress Beth.

(beat)
I think I just peed in my pants a little.

STAMP (O.S., OVER HELMET MIC)
Doug, your mic is on. We can hear everything you're saying.

Doug's eyes go wide.

DOUG
Ten-four. I didn't really pee in my pants.

Doug continues along the outside of the space station.

STAMP (O.S., OVER HELMET MIC)
You're almost there. Can you see what it is?

Doug reaches the panel and sees that it is a pair of his pants that are lodged in the panel.

DOUG
As I matter fact I can, Stamp.
It's a pair of my pa-

INT. COMPUTER ROOM

Everyone stares intently at the screen. As Stamp realizes what Doug is about to say, he hits a button on the computer that causes the microphone connection to go to static.

BETH
What did he say?

STAMP
Hard to say. His mic went out.
Must be solar flares. We'll just have to wait until he gets back.

They watch as Doug tries to remove the balled up pants from the panel.

BRIAN
It looks like a piece of cloth or something.

GLEN
(grave)
Maybe cloth. Or maybe an alien's
nest.

Glen looks around to see if he got a rise out of anybody. He didn't. Doug manages to pull the pants free.

RAYMUNDO
He got it!

The crew all cheer. Stamp feigns approval. Even Beth is grudgingly impressed.

EXT. SPACE STATION

Doug, swings the pants around triumphantly.

DOUG
I got 'em Stamp. How are you going
to explain these to Beth?
(silence)
Stamp? Beth?

No response.

INT. COMPUTER ROOM

As the crew watches Doug slowly making his way back to the airlock, Stamp pulls up the stabilizer screen and manually lowers the stabilizer strength readout to a dangerous level. The ALARM starts up again.

STAMP
(alarmed)
Whatever was lodged in the panel
wasn't our problem. Beth, we're
going to have to do our space walk
tomorrow. Brian, Raymundo, get our
instruments calibrated. Vladimir,
Sasha, prep our suits. Beth, you
and Miyuki fill the oxygen tanks.
And take Glen with you. I'll let
Doug in.

As everyone runs off to do their jobs-

STAMP (cont'd)
Beth, once you're done with that,
meet me in the mess hall. We have
a lot of things to go over.

EXT. SPACE STATION

Doug makes it back to the airlock, still holding the pants. He knocks on the door but no one is there. Then Stamp's face appears in the window. He wears a headset so they can talk.

STAMP

Hey Doug. Nice work out there.

DOUG

Let me in Stamp.

STAMP

Yeah, that's not happening.

DOUG

Because of the pants?

STAMP

Actually I wasn't planning on letting you back in in the first place. I need a little time to seal the deal with Beth. Why do you think I let you go on this space walk?

DOUG

So you're going to kill me?

STAMP

No, I'm shooting you into the sun. The sun is going to kill you. I'll just tell everyone you accidentally released your harness.

Stamp presses a button that causes Doug's harness to detach from the station.

DOUG

Stamp! You're going to regret this. She's going to run up your credit card bill!

As Stamp watches Doug float off into space...

STAMP

I'm going to miss being an astronaut.

EXT. SPACE

Doug watches Stamp walk away through the window.

DOUG

Okay, Doug, don't panic. Maybe you can find a planet to colonize. Hugginsville. Nah, that's more like a town.

(then, panicky)
I'm gonna die.

As he floats further from the space station, he passes one of the solar panels. Remembering the pants, he tries to SWING them around the panel, but can't hook them on. Just as he's about to float out of reach, he catches the pants on a corner of the panel. Relieved, he pulls himself in and grabs on. As he does, the pants disengage and float into space. He tries to grab them, but can't reach.

DOUG (cont'd)
Great, there goes my evidence.

Doug climbs towards the space station.

INT. MESS HALL

Stamp, wearing a fancy "dress" jumpsuit with medals and epaulets, plays Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* as he puts a linen tablecloth on the mess hall table and dims the lights. As he begins arranging candles on the table...

EXT. SPACE STATION

Doug moves along the outside of the space station.

DOUG
There has to be another way back into this place.

As Doug pulls himself along, he reaches a window that looks into the mess hall where he sees Stamp lighting more candles, then folding a napkin into the shape of a swan.

DOUG (cont'd)
A romantic dinner? Beth's not going to fall for that.

ON STAMP

as he sets up two chairs at a corner of the table. He then sits in one and mimes putting his arm around a woman in the other chair and going in for a kiss to make sure the distances are correct. He looks pleased. He then begins grating Parmesan cheese into a bowl.

BACK ON DOUG

DOUG (cont'd)
(concerned)
Although she does love freshly
grated Parmesan. Heck, who
doesn't?
(then, alarmed)
Maybe I am going space crazy.

He sees Beth enter and begins banging on the window.

DOUG (cont'd)
Beth! Beth!

She can't hear him through the thick glass.

INT. MESS HALL

Beth looks surprised at the candlelit table.

BETH
What is all this, Stamp?

STAMP
Well, we have some serious work to
do tomorrow, but I'm a big fan of
team building. I thought if we
could get a little bonding time in
tonight, it would make the space
walk go that much more smoothly
tomorrow. Wine?

BETH
Sure, I'll have a little.

Stamp pours a very tall glass of wine for her.

BETH (cont'd)
Did you do these napkins?

STAMP

I did. I spent some years in Japan studying the way of the samurai and picked up a little origami while I was there. I taught a class in it at the University of Kyoto.

BETH

That's amazing.

STAMP

It wasn't that big a deal. Just an adult education class.

Beth looks at Stamp admiringly. Stamp notices Doug in the window. Their eyes meet.

STAMP (cont'd)

I'm sorry. Will you excuse me for a sec? I'll be right back.

Stamp gets up and quickly exits.

EXT. SPACE STATION

Doug sees Stamp walk out.

DOUG

Ah, jeez.

Doug looks around for another section to park himself, away from the mess hall window. As he cautiously moves, THE STATION'S EXTERNAL ROBOTIC ARM COMES AT HIM. The head of the arm resembles a giant needle-nose pliers.

Doug hangs onto the space station with one hand as he tries to fend off the arm with the other.

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Stamp stands at a console working a hi-tech JOYSTICK that controls the robotic arm. As he watches Doug struggle with the arm through a window...

EXT. SPACE STATION

Doug fends off the robotic arm for a beat, then the arm dips down and grabs Doug around the waist.

INT. MESS HALL

Beth sips her wine. She looks more relaxed than we've seen her. In the window, we see Doug, in the grasp of the arm, repeatedly slammed against the surface of the station.

EXT. SPACE STATION

Doug, holds onto the space station with both hands as the robotic arm, CLAMPED on to one of Doug's legs, tries to pull him off. Doug KICKS at it with his free leg. The arm finally PULLS DOUG OFF of the station as he struggles mightily.

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Stamp continues to maneuver the arm. He presses a button and the jaws of the arm release Doug, casting him into space.

CLOSE ON STAMP

looking satisfied.

STAMP
(dramatic whisper)
Into the sun.

EXT. SPACE STATION

Doug flails as he begins to float away from the station.

DOUG
I'm sorry Beth. I've been such an idiot.

Doug, resigned to his fate, goes limp, letting space swallow him. As he does...

CLOSE ON

a hand grabbing his arm. Doug opens his eyes to see... SOMEBODY IN A SPACE SUIT holding him.

DOUG (cont'd)
Oh my god. Thank you. You saved my life.

Doug is pulled in close by the person in the spacesuit. It's Sasha.

SASHA
Hello, Clutch.

DOUG
(startled)
Ahh!

SASHA
I bring you back inside on one
condition. I desire a kiss. Of
the French style.

Doug looks around, considering his options.

INT. MESS HALL

Stamp re-enters and sits back down next to Beth.

STAMP
Sorry, I always get a nervous
stomach the night before a
spacewalk. I'm just glad I'm here
with you.

BETH
This space walk is going to be so
incredible.

STAMP
It's as close to heaven as we're
ever going to get.

Stamp puts his hand on Beth's.

STAMP (cont'd)
Maybe I'm just being sentimental
because it's my last mission, but
I'm really glad we got the chance
to fly together.

Beth smiles at this. They sit in silence for a beat.
Outside, through the window, we can see Sasha pulling Doug
along. As Doug passes the window and looks inside:

Stamp, seizing the moment, LEANS IN FOR A KISS. Beth RETURNS
THE KISS. In the window, DOUG'S EYES GO WIDE, he SCREAMS
"NO", but there is no sound. He then disappears as he and
Sasha continue towards the airlock door.

Beth pulls back from the kiss, a little unsure.

BETH
Don't you have your Larry King
interview?

Stamp looks at his watch.

STAMP
Wow, cock-blocked by Larry King.

Beth gives Stamp a sideways glance. Stamp stands.

STAMP (cont'd)
I'm so sick of these national
television appearances.

As he heads out...

INT. AIRLOCK

Doug and Sasha stand safely inside the airlock. Doug stands in front of Sasha submissively, waiting for him/her to make his/he move.

MUSIC CUE: "AND THEN HE KISSED ME" by The Crystals.

Sasha approaches Doug and slowly undoes the latches on his helmet and puts it down on the floor. As Sasha stands back up, Doug pulls back slightly. Sasha grabs his shoulders, then LICKS his/her lips. Doug looks to one side. Sasha GRABS a clump of his hair and turns his head straight, then pulls his bottom lip down with her thumb. Doug shudders slightly. SASHA GOES IN FOR THE KISS AND MAKES IT COUNT, tongue and all. After a long beat, Doug can't take it any longer and pushes Sasha away.

DOUG
You got what you wanted. Now I
have things to do.

Doug brushes past Sasha as he heads inside to find Stamp.

INT. HALLWAY

As Doug rushes through the hallway, he notices Glen sitting in the computer room.

DOUG
Glen, do you know where Stamp is?

GLEN

No. I was just checking my e-mail
after a sweet jam session with
Miyuki. Hey, look at this funny
thing I found in Stamp's trash.

Glen pulls up a document on the computer. It's the naked
woman with Beth's head on it that Stamp was working on
earlier. Doug's eyes go wide.

DOUG

Glen, you're the best.

Doug hits the print button, then rushes over the printer,
grabs the piece of paper and heads out.

GLEN

(calling after)
When did Beth get those implants?

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Stamp sits behind a desk with a camera aimed at it. On a
monitor next to him, there is an image of Larry King. They
are in the middle of the interview.

STAMP

...so we were packing up after
inoculating the entire village, and
this little boy hands me a space
shuttle made out of reeds as a
token of thanks. To this day I
bring it on every mission.

Stamp pulls out a clump of reeds which vaguely resembles an
airplane.

LARRY KING

What a great story. So do you ever
get tired of giving?

As Stamp is about to answer, Doug, still wearing his giant
space suit, suddenly storms into the room.

DOUG

So stealing my poem and my clothes
weren't enough for you? You had to
shoot me into space so you could
get with my girlfriend?

An awkward beat as Stamp tries to get rid of him.

STAMP

Please, Doug. I'm talking to Larry King.

(then)

Let's continue Larry.

DOUG

No let's not continue, Larry.

LARRY KING (ON MONITOR)

Who is that up there with you, Stamp?

STAMP

No one, he was just leaving.

DOUG

I'm not going anywhere until you admit that you tried to kill me!

Stamp realizes he's not going to get Doug to leave. He turns back to the camera.

STAMP

This man is a stowaway who isn't supposed to be here and who's been causing problems since the second he arrived.

DOUG

Oh, please! I've been causing problems?! Larry, Stamp Majors here was trying to steal my girlfriend while I was still back on earth.

STAMP

She broke up with him, Larry.

DOUG

So that means it's okay to steal a love poem I wrote for her and sing it to her?

LARRY KING (ON MONITOR)

Whoa. Stamp, is this true?

STAMP

Larry I think you know me better than that. And you should also know that this is the guy who took the Don Henley cancer guitar and shot it into space.

LARRY KING (ON MONITOR)
Care to comment, Doug?

DOUG
Yes I would. Stamp Majors is a phony, girlfriend stealing prima donna who doesn't even care about NASA. He's just trying to get laid.

Beth rushes into the room.

BETH
Doug, what the hell are you doing?

CUT TO:

INT. NASA CONTROL ROOM

Everyone at NASA watches the interview on the big screen. They are all in shock.

LARRY KING (ON TV)
Who's that?

DOUG (ON TV)
My girlfriend.

STAMP (ON TV)
She broke up with him, Larry. Ask anyone up here.

NASA ENGINEER
(looking around)
Does anyone know what's going on up there?

INT. GLEN'S APARTMENT

Terry, in his Friendly's uniform, looking a little high and eating a banana split, watches Larry King.

ON TV, Stamp stands and starts trying to push Doug out of the room.

STAMP (ON TV)
Get out of here. I'm doing a Larry King interview. And you're a liar.

TERRY
This is the best Larry King ever.

INT. SPACE STATION

Doug pushes Stamp away from him and pulls a piece of paper out of his pocket.

DOUG
If I'm a liar, then what are you
doing with this on your computer?

Doug unfolds the piece of paper to reveal the naked Beth picture.

LARRY KING
Holy Toledo!

STAMP
That isn't mine. Beth, he's trying
to frame me.

BETH
Doug, that's disgusting.

Stamp grabs for the piece of paper.

STAMP
Give me that!

Stamp and Doug struggle as Beth tries to break them up.

BETH
Stop it, both of you!

LARRY KING (ON MONITOR)
Um... Stamp, Doug?

Stamp gets Doug in a FULL NELSON. Doug's arms flail wildly.

DOUG
Get off me, jerk!

STAMP
You know what you just got yourself
into? A full nelson!

DOUG
(in pain)
Stop, it kills!

Beth can't break them up.

BETH
Somebody help!

Glen rushes into the room, Miyuki right behind him.

GLEN
Let him go, Stamp!

LARRY KING (ON MONITOR)
Here comes another one. How many
people do you have up there?

As Glen tries to grab Stamp, Stamp pushes him away and Glen goes down like a house of cards. Miyuki begins YELLING in Japanese as the fight continues.

Brian and Raymundo RUSH in and start trying to separate Stamp and Doug. Doug breaks the hold and turns on Stamp. They both go down, pulling Glen, Brian and Raymundo down with them into a DOG PILE. Glen then manages to get Stamp in a chicken wing hold. As Miyuki and Beth rush over and start trying to pull the bodies apart...

INT. CNN STUDIO

Larry King, a little confused, turns away from the screen behind him where the melee continues.

LARRY KING (ON MONITOR)
Tomorrow night: Kim Basinger. I'll talk to her about her new movie and her agoraphobia. Good night.

INT. LAB - LATER

Doug and Glen stand inside the room. Stamp stands in the doorway, with Beth, Brian, Raymundo, Miyuki, and the Latvians behind him in the mess hall.

DOUG
Stamp, you can't just lock us up.
You have no authority over us.

STAMP
Really? So all of a sudden I'm not the commander of this space station? Who do you think is in charge? Brian, the Canadian?

Stamp snickers. Brian give a "what did I do?" look.

STAMP (cont'd)
You two are a danger to my mission
and my crew.
(MORE)

STAMP (cont'd)
You're gonna have to stay in here
until we get back to Earth.

GLEN
What about me and Miyuki? We can't
be separated. We're in love.

STAMP
Maybe you should have thought about
that before you put me in that
cheap-shit chicken wing.

DOUG
Beth, you're just going to let him
lock us up in here?

BETH
Maybe it's for the best.

Doug takes this as a final betrayal.

DOUG
I can't believe you kissed him.

BETH
(surprised)
How did you see that?

DOUG
I was locked outside the space
station, like I said.

STAMP
That's your last lie, Pinocchio.

Stamp, shaking his head, shuts the door and locks it.

STAMP (cont'd)
All right everybody. Back to work.

Everyone heads off, but Stamp holds Beth back.

STAMP (cont'd)
Hey you. Now what were we up to at
the end of that dinner?

Stamp leans in for a kiss. Something isn't sitting right
with Beth. She backs away.

BETH
I'll be right back. I have to
check on something.

Beth starts to walk away.

STAMP
Check on what?
(getting nervous)
I'll come with you.

Stamp starts following her down the hallway. Beth walks faster as Stamp speeds up to catch her. As Beth begins running she reaches the computer room. Before Stamp can reach her, she is on his computer and has pulled up the file with her naked picture on it.

STAMP (cont'd)
That doesn't prove anything. Doug could be some computer wizard guy and put that on there to frame me.

Beth looks at him accusingly.

STAMP (cont'd)
Why do I always forget to empty the damn trash?

BETH
Get away from me, Stamp.

STAMP
Come on, Beth, you know there's something so hot between us. Don't let this relationship be stillborn.

BETH
Gross.

Beth rushes out of the room.

STAMP
You'll regret this! Sex in space is the ultimate rush!

Stamp goes over to an intercom and presses the button.

STAMP (cont'd)
Vladimir, Sasha, it's party time.

INT. LAB - NIGHT

Doug and Glen lie on their cots. Doug looks defeated.

GLEN
So you're just done trying to win her back?

DOUG

I've tried everything. He won.
He's out there with her and I'm
locked in here. She's already
kissed him. I can only imagine
what they're doing now.

GLEN

Probably trying out a bunch of new
positions. That's what Miyuki and
I did the first time. It's like
when you get a new car.

Doug gives Glen an annoyed look, then stares vacantly at the ceiling. Suddenly, a LOUD THUD is heard outside the room.

Just as Doug sits up, THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN and Raymundo, Brian, and Miyuki, their hands tied, are pushed into the room. Raymundo wears only a lime green thong. Glen and Miyuki embrace like they haven't seen each other in years and start to make out.

Doug jumps up to see Sasha and Vladimir standing at the door holding GUNS. Vladimir holds Beth, who is bound and gagged, by the arm.

VLADIMIR

We're taking over space station.

DOUG

(confused)

What? Who is?

Stamp walks into the room.

STAMP

We are.

STAMP UNZIPS HIS NASA JUMPSUIT AND STEPS OUT OF IT TO REVEAL A LATVIAN JUMPSUIT. Everyone looks confused.

STAMP (cont'd)

(speaking Latvian)

Mani viens bez tam.

(then)

That's an old Latvian saying that
means 'I am Latvian so stand back'.

It's kind of a 'don't mess with
Texas' for Latvia.

No one knows how to react to this.

DOUG

Stamp, what the hell are you
talking about?

STAMP

My name is not Stamp. It is Sergei Popov. I was born in the Soviet Republic of Latvia. And even though I moved to the United States at a young age, I never forgot I was Latvian. Much like the countless Irish Americans who even though they've been Americans for generations still claim to be Irish.

No one is sure where Stamp is going with this. He continues.

STAMP (cont'd)

I've been a mole in NASA hiding right under your noses for the last fifteen years. I was so dedicated to maintaining my cover that I hung out with Don Henley, who I can't stand, musically or personally.

DOUG

This doesn't make any sense. What the hell are you going to do with a space station?

STAMP

I'm going to take this pretty lady with me and see what she and this place are worth to the United States government.

Stamp grabs a struggling Beth and kisses her on the cheek. Doug RUSHES at Stamp, but Vladimir intercepts him and punches him hard in the throat, sending him to the floor. Doug gasps for breath as Vladimir ties his hands up.

STAMP (cont'd)

Youch. Right in the Adam's apple.

Sasha ties up Glen. Glen watches Sasha, intrigued.

GLEN

Where'd you learn to tie knots like this? The girl scouts?

SASHA

No, was Indian Guides.

Glen looks frustrated. Doug makes it back to his feet.

DOUG

So you're doing this for money?
Don't you already make a
comfortable living with your
Cadillac commercials and your
action figures?

STAMP

(bitterly)

I don't get a dime from those
action figures. But this money
isn't for me. It's for my
motherland. With the ten billion
dollar ransom, we will transform
Latvia into a first world nation,
with modern conveniences like
regular trash pickup and a military
that rivals those of Ireland and
Greece.

VLADIMIR

(singing Latvian national
anthem)

*Dievs, sveti Latviju / Mus' dargo
teviju-*

DOUG

This is a joke, right?

Vladimir PUNCHES Doug hard on the ear.

DOUG (cont'd)

Son of a bitch. Why the ear?

VLADIMIR

You interrupt national anthem.

Stamp addresses Vladimir and Sasha.

STAMP

(in Latvian)

Roku dzelzi.

Vladimir and Sasha follow Stamp, who is holding Beth, out. He locks the door from the outside. Doug slumps down on the ground. As everything settles down, everyone starts to glance over at Raymundo in his thong.

RAYMUNDO

What? They got me while I was
working out.

GLEN

Come on Doug, we've gotta get out of here.

DOUG

And do what? My girlfriend hates me, we've just been kidnapped by Latvians with guns who also hate me, and let me think, is there anything else? Oh yeah, we're in the middle of outer fucking space! So what do you think we're going to do?

RAYMUNDO

How can you be in such a bad mood in that shirt? It always makes me feel so happy.

Doug ignores this. Glen stands and walks over to Doug.

GLEN

So let me make sure I understand. You're going to give up the only woman you ever loved and let her and the rest of us be killed by people from a country I've never even heard of, because you think there's nothing you can do?

DOUG

That's right.

GLEN

That is such bullshit. If there's anything I've learned in the past seventy-two hours with Miyuki, it's that love is worth fighting for. So instead of doing the standard Doug thing of bailing whenever things get too hard, maybe you should do something about it.

Doug thinks, but doesn't get up.

RAYMUNDO

How is that speech not working on this guy?

DOUG

(to Glen)

I don't even know if Beth ever wants to see me again.

GLEN

No you don't. But as long as you sit here on your ass not doing anything, you'll never find out.

Doug, thinks this over, then stands.

DOUG

I need someone to untie me.

GLEN

I think Miyuki might be able to slip out of her ropes.

(then, to everyone)

She's double-jointed if you know what I'm saying.

Glen mimes untying the rope to Miyuki and she does some gymnastic-looking maneuvers and slips out of her ropes. She unties Doug, who then unties Glen, Brian and Raymundo.

BRIAN

You know that we're all going to die, right?

DOUG

No we're not. I'm going to get us out of here.

Doug starts looking around the lab.

RAYMUNDO

How? What are you, some kind of special forces guy or something?

DOUG

No.

(then, dramatic)

I clean space shuttles.

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Stamp sits in a chair looking at the monitor. A group of six NASA OFFICIALS appear on the monitor.

NASA OFFICIAL #1 (ON TV)

Hello, Stamp. Everything okay?

STAMP

First of all, my name isn't Stamp, it's Sergei Popov.

(MORE)

STAMP (cont'd)
I am a citizen of Latvia and my
comrades and I are holding the
space station and your American
astronaut Beth McCarthy for ten
billion dollars ransom.

The NASA officials all laugh.

NASA OFFICIAL #1
Good one, Stamp. Now stop goofing
around and get back to work.

STAMP
I'm serious. I have Beth and the
space station and I want ten
billion dollars wired to the
National Bank of Latvia.

NASA OFFICIAL #3
(playing around)
Why stop at ten? Why not twenty?

NASA OFFICIAL #4
Or thirty?

The NASA officials all crack up. Stamp is getting very
frustrated.

STAMP
This is not a joke. I'm going to
kill the other astronauts.

NASA OFFICIAL #5
(calling off-screen)
Hey Jim, you gotta get in here.
Stamp's on a real roll. He says
his name is--
(to Stamp)
What'd you say your name is?
Sergio?

STAMP
(getting furious)
Sergei! Sergei Popov!

The NASA official all crack up again. Stamp motions off
camera. Vladimir, holding a gun, brings in a tied up Beth.
The NASA officials stop laughing, confused.

STAMP (cont'd)
Ten billion dollars to account
number 7-6-4-4-3-7-2-2-8-6-7-7-7-
(interrupting himself)
Is anyone writing this down?
(MORE)

STAMP (cont'd)
You guys act like no one's ever
held the international space
station for ransom before.

Stamp turns off the monitor.

STAMP (cont'd)
Beth, last chance. Come with me
and be married to a Latvian
national hero. We will live in the
most opulent apartments Riga has to
offer. Over 1200 square feet of
wall to wall carpeting and majestic
eight foot stucco ceilings. Single-
paned windows of the strongest
vinyl and a gas-burning fireplace
piled high with faux-wood logs.

Beth angrily yells something through the tape on her mouth.

STAMP (cont'd)
I'll take that as a yes.

INT. LAB

Glen and Miyuki are in a feverish make-out session. Raymundo and Brian sit near them, trying not to watch, as Doug looks around the room. Doug examines the door.

DOUG
The panel must be above the door.
Maybe I can crawl through the
oxygen system ducts and hot-wire
the door to open.

BRIAN
How do you know how to do that?

DOUG
The shuttle has the same crappy
doors. Plus I've had to crawl
through the shuttle's oxygen system
to clean it before.

RAYMUNDO
You know it's still full of your
pee, right?

DOUG
Honestly, I'm kind of used to the
smell. Now if I can get the door
open, we'll need to create a
diversion so we can get their guns.

Everyone thinks for a beat. Glen looks around the room.

GLEN

I have an idea. But it's pretty dangerous.

INT. OXYGEN DUCT

Doug covering his nose, crawls through the air shaft.

DOUG

Maybe I'm not that used to the smell.

He continues and checks his position through a vent. He stops, then pries apart the shaft right in front of to reveal a set of wires. As Doug starts separating the wires...

INT. MESS HALL

Stamp, Beth, Sasha and Vladimir sit at the table. Beth is still tied up and gagged. Stamp has a gun in front of him.

STAMP

We should be hearing from NASA within the hour.

(then)

Hey, I just realized something. I don't need Doug. Or his friend. NASA doesn't give a crap about them.

(casually)

Vladimir, Sasha, can you do me a flavor? Go in there and get Doug and his friend and shoot them into the sun for me please?

As Vladimir and Sasha grab their guns and head over to the lab door.

INT. OXYGEN DUCT

Doug lies in front of the exposed electrical panel above the door. He has separated out two of the wires and stripped the ends.

DOUG

Glen, you ready?

Three knocks from below can be heard.

DOUG (cont'd)
Here we go!

He holds the ends of the wires together. They spark.

INT. MESS HALL

As Vladimir and Sasha approach the door, the sound of something short-circuiting can be heard. The DOOR TO THE LAB SLIDES OPEN. Smoke drifts into the room through an air vent. Vladimir and Sasha freeze.

FLUVI THE ROOSTER APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY. He looks around, appraising the situation.

VLADIMIR
(fear of God in him)
FluVi is loose!

STAMP
(sarcastic)
Hey look everybody. It's the avian flu rooster. That's helpful.

Before anyone can move, FluVi RUNS directly at Vladimir and Sasha. Sasha lets out an oddly low-pitched shriek as he/she and Vladimir run towards Stamp, away from the rooster. Sasha THROWS his/her gun at the rooster as he/she runs. Beth JUMPS up and tries to get in the corner, away from FluVi.

As the Latvians try to avoid Fluvi, BRIAN, RAYMUNDO, GLEN AND MIYUKI, ALL WEARING HAZMAT SUITS, COME RUNNING OUT OF THE LAB into the mayhem.

As Vladimir runs, he SHOOTS at the rooster, emptying his clip. Raymundo chases Vladimir, who runs from the rooster.

STAMP (cont'd)
Hey, fella, easy on the trigger.
You're going to shoot a hole in the space station.

VLADIMIR
Don't yell with me. You are one who delayed plan three days so you could get sexy with lady astronaut!

Beth's eyes go wide at this.

STAMP
Come on, Vladimir. I told you that in confidence.

Vladimir and Sasha continue to avoid the rooster as Brian and Raymundo chase them. Stamp yells out instructions to them.

STAMP (cont'd)

Now stop running. You can only get avian flu from close personal contact with the-

THE ROOSTER, AS IT PASSES BY STAMP, LEAPS UP AND SPIKES HIM IN THE THIGH.

STAMP (cont'd)

Jesus Christ, he got me!

Miyuki notices Sasha's gun on the ground and picks it up. Raymundo TACKLES Vladimir and he and Brian try to wrestle his gun away. As they start to get the Latvians under control, a vent directly above Stamp opens. DOUG DIVES FROM THE CEILING directly at Stamp.

DOUG

Gotcha!

Stamp spots Doug and steps aside, causing Doug to SLAM to the floor. Stamp HOLDS HIS GUN ON A DISORIENTED DOUG.

STAMP

Whoa, where you headed, pal?

DOUG

Put the gun down, Stamp.

STAMP

Why do people always say that? Why would I put my gun down at this moment? I'm about to shoot you.

As Stamp is about to fire, Beth JUMPS up and with her bound hands, KNOCKS the gun away from him. It goes off as it flies away. At that moment, Brian gets control of Vladimir's gun. The ALARM starts to sound.

BRIAN

Hey Doug!

Brian THROWS Doug Vladimir's gun and Doug holds it on Stamp. Doug smiles at Beth, who smiles as much as she can with the gag on. Glen corners Fluvi and picks him up and stands near Miyuki, periodically fighting with the thrashing rooster. Beth quickly ties Stamp's hands.

STAMP
(to Beth)
I can see down your shirt.

DOUG
(looking around)
Where's Stamp's gun?

Everyone looks. Sasha is nowhere to be seen. Doug's eyes land on the gun, which sits at the entrance to a perpendicular hallway. A foot steps into the room and Sasha appears. She bends down, picks up the gun and tentatively points it at them.

SASHA
Put up hands.

Nobody knows what to do.

STAMP
Sasha, untie me!

As Sasha moves toward Stamp, Doug hands his gun to Beth, then slowly approaches Sasha with his hands up in front of him. Doug continues toward Sasha as the rest try to digest this.

DOUG
You don't want to do this, Sasha.
This isn't you. You're a loving,
sensitive... person. A person who
knows what it's like to care for
someone.

Sasha seems to be affected by Doug's words.

DOUG (cont'd)
Maybe someone on this space
station.

SASHA
(mesmerized)
You are true. I could never hurt
you, mister Clutch.

Sasha gives Doug the gun.

STAMP
Sasha, please tell me you didn't
just give him that gun. Get it
back!

Sasha looks unsure for a beat, then RUSHES at Doug. Doug quickly reacts and KICKS SASHA HARD IN THE GROIN. Sasha immediately collapses to the floor.

GLEN

I knew it! Sasha's a dude.

BETH

Glen, it also hurts a woman to get kicked between the legs.

GLEN

(dubious)

Really? How does getting kicked in a hole hurt?

The alarm continues to sound as Raymundo, Brian, Glen, and Miyuki tie up Stamp and the Latvians. As Doug unties Beth...

DOUG

Are you okay?

BETH

I think so, thanks. How did you guys get out of there?

RAYMUNDO

Doug pulled some shuttle cleaning voodoo out of his ass.

Beth looks at Doug, impressed. Doug smiles and shrugs. Suddenly, THE SPACE STATION LURCHES TO ONE SIDE, throwing everyone off balance.

BETH

A bullet must have punctured the stabilizer. We have to get out of here.

As they all start to hurry out...

INT. DOCKING BAY - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone, looking concerned, stands in front of the docked Latvian rocket. It was an antique to begin with, but having gone to the space station, it's much worse for wear. A loose piece of metal flaps against the sad-looking rocket.

RAYMUNDO

Are we sure there's no other way to get back? Maybe we could build something.

A hunk of metal falls off the rocket. The space station ROCKS violently. Everyone RUSHES onto the ship.

INT. LATVIAN ROCKET

Beth sits at the controls, with Doug sitting beside her. Beth shakes her head. They are strapped into their seats as there is no gravity on the rocket.

BETH

This thing looks like it's from the sixties. I don't think I can fly it.

Doug sits beside her and looks it over.

DOUG

It doesn't seem that different from the Apollo II. My dad used to let me play around in it when I was a kid.

Doug inspects the controls.

BETH

So you're going to try to fly this thing based on a childhood memory?

Doug pulls back a lever and pushes a button. The old rocket rumbles to life.

DOUG

I also watched Vladimir and Sasha on the way up here if it makes you feel any better.

Doug slowly pulls back on a thruster lever. Beth looks on, impressed. The rocket shakes violently.

ANGLE ON: Glen, Brian, Raymundo and the Latvians in another section of the ship. Raymundo prays on a rosary.

RAYMUNDO

Our father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name...

Raymundo's prayer puts people even more on edge.

EXT. SPACE STATION

The rocket slowly backs away from the space station, which is starting to turn towards earth and break apart.

INT. LATVIAN ROCKET

Doug sits at the controls, intense.

DOUG

This thing is a piece of crap.
It's like driving an old school
bus.

Beth watches as Doug pilots the rocket.

EXT. SPACE

The rocket pulls away from the space station.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LATVIAN ROCKET

As the earth grows larger in the front window of the rocket, Doug and Beth sit in silence. Doug looks over at Beth.

DOUG

So, weird week, huh?

BETH

Uh huh.

An awkward beat.

DOUG

I know I shouldn't have come up
here. I should have trusted you.

BETH

You're right.

DOUG

I just freaked out that I was going
to lose you. Then I got up here
and you told me you wanted a break-

BETH

Did you really write that poem?

DOUG
Yeah. I did.

BETH
It was nice.

DOUG
Thanks.

BETH
And a little cheesy. But I like
that sometimes.

A beat.

DOUG
Look, I know you're pretty mad at
me, and it's going to take a while
to get over, but isn't part of you
at least a little impressed that I
came this far for you?

BETH
Maybe a little. I've never had a
space stalker before. Unless you
count Stamp.

They smile, then Doug digs under his chair, unzips an old
duffel bag, and removes something.

DOUG
I found this when I was searching
the space station for more guns.

He pulls out a giant chocolate chip cookie and hands it to
her. Beth takes it and smiles.

BETH
Thanks.

DOUG
I found it in Stamp's room along
with a case of condoms and
something called 'Wet'.

Beth shudders.

STAMP (O.S.)
Using my giant cookie to try to win
her back? So uncool.

ANGLE ON

Stamp, holding himself stable in the doorway of the cockpit. He holds a gun to Glen, who is next to him. They move slowly in the zero gravity.

GLEN

I know this looks bad Doug, but Stamp told me he's allergic to rope. We can't have a guy who's allergic to rope tied up with rope. We're not barbarians.

STAMP

I tied up the rest of your friends if you were expecting assistance. As for my Latvian comrades, I plan to shoot them into the sun. After of course, I shoot you into the sun. Basically, I'm going to shoot everyone into the sun.

DOUG

What's the deal with you wanting to shoot stuff into the sun?

STAMP

We all want to shoot things into the sun, Doug. I'm just brave enough to admit it.

Stamp cocks the hammer of the gun pointed at Glen. Doug has had enough of Stamp.

DOUG

Beth, take over.

BETH

Be careful.

Doug unbuckles his seat belt and turns to face Stamp, who aims his gun at Doug.

DOUG

Go ahead. Shoot me.

STAMP

I'm going to.

DOUG

Then do it.

STAMP

I will.

DOUG
We're all waiting.

Stamp pulls the trigger, but the gun is empty. Stamp looks at the gun, surprised.

DOUG (cont'd)
Come on, Stamp. You think I'd let
Glen have a loaded gun?

GLEN
(hurt)
Hey!
(then, looking at Stamp
with empty gun)
You're not going to hit me with
that are you?

Stamp hits Glen on top of the head with the butt of the gun. Glen falls to the floor, unconscious.

STAMP
That's Latvian style, holmes.

Doug, in zero gravity, pushes off his seat towards Stamp. He COLLIDES with Stamp and they begin to struggle awkwardly, as CINEMA'S FIRST EVER ZERO GRAVITY FIGHT SCENE BEGINS. Due to the lack of gravity, they move slowly and fluidly, making it look more like an uncoordinated ballet than a fight.

Stamp tries to PUNCH Doug, but THROWS HIMSELF SIDEWAYS with the momentum from the punch and MISSES WILDLY, BUMPING into a wall. Doug is getting used to the feel of zero gravity. He does a SOMMERSAULT and some KARATE TYPE MOVES.

DOUG
Get ready for a little House of
Flying Huggins.

Doug pushes off the wall feet first towards Stamp to go in for a FLYING KICK. Stamp catches Doug's feet and holds him in mid-air.

BETH
Hold on. We're about to enter the
Earth's atmosphere.

GRAVITY SUDDENLY RETURNS. Doug FALLS hard to the ground. As Stamp dives on him, the ship enters a free-fall and they are BACK IN ZERO GRAVITY. Stamp GRABS Doug as they start SPINNING AROUND IN THE AIR. Doug grabs a nearby bottle of water and sprays it in Stamp's face, but the water splits into thousands of droplets due to the lack of gravity.

Stamp grabs Doug and lifts him over his head.

STAMP
Someone's about to get suplexed!

He then falls backwards, trying to suplex him, but instead of slamming Doug on the ground, they end up rapidly pinwheeling in mid air.

Stamp grabs a handle on the ceiling and gets Doug in a choke hold with his legs.

STAMP (cont'd)
Figure four, baby!

Doug struggles for a beat, then points out the window.

DOUG
Stamp, I think I see your guitar!

As Stamp turns to look, Doug squeezes out of the hold and tries to punch Stamp, who pushes off of the ceiling and ducks out of the way as the punch grazes the top of his head.

STAMP
Ow! You have really pointy wrists.
They're like those little corn on the cob holders.

Doug grabs Stamp by the front of his jumpsuit and tries to slam him against the wall, but Stamp pushes back and they just push each other back and forth a few times.

Stamp GRABS DOUG BY THE THROAT and PINS him on the ceiling.

STAMP (cont'd)
This is for my guitar. It had a solid maple top.

Stamp continues to CHOKE Doug who looks around for something to help him. His eyes land on the ship's CONSOLE.

DOUG
Beth, turn on the right thrusters!

BETH
Where are they?

Doug begins to fade as Stamp continues to CHOKE him. With one last burst of strength, he BREAKS Stamp's grip and DIVES for the console, hitting the button for the right thrusters and grabbing hold of his chair as he does it.

As Glen comes to, the ship suddenly LURCHES hard to the left and Stamp is VIOLENTLY THROWN against the wall. Glen is also thrown into the wall, slamming into Stamp so that Stamp breaks his fall.

Stamp slumps to the ground, woozy. Glen gathers himself and looks around, then grabs the rope and begins tying up Stamp.

GLEN

I don't care if he is allergic to rope, he deserves this.

DOUG

Glen, go untie everyone else.

Glen gives a thumbs up and starts to drag Stamp off with him.

DOUG (cont'd)

Except the Latvians.

Glen gives another thumbs up and exits, dragging Stamp behind him. Beth turns to Doug as he climbs back into his seat.

BETH

Are you okay?

DOUG

Other than almost having the life choked out of me, I'm good.

(re: Stamp)

That guy is relentless.

BETH

You're telling me.

A beat, then Beth shakes her head.

BETH (cont'd)

I don't get it. You made it through the Latvian cosmonaut training, you can fly this ship, you know that the right thrusters would throw Stamp against the wall, how did you fail out of the NASA training program?

Doug thinks for a beat.

DOUG

I guess I did the old Doug Huggins thing of giving up when things got hard.

(MORE)

DOUG (cont'd)

Because of my dad I thought I deserved to be an astronaut whether I tried hard or not. I think I looked at a lot of things that way.

Beth looks at Doug with a new appreciation.

DOUG (cont'd)

I just didn't realize it until I almost lost the best thing in my life.

Beth is stunned. Doug has never said anything like this to her before.

DOUG (cont'd)

It's pretty cheesy, but it's true.

They look at each other for a long beat, then Doug stands.

DOUG (cont'd)

I'll be right back. I need to take care of something.

INT. TERRY'S HAM RADIO ROOM

Terry is speaking into an old broadcasting microphone which is attached to his HAM radio.

TERRY

...goodnight, Gunnar. Good luck finding that reindeer.

The radio becomes staticy, then...

DOUG (ON RADIO)

Terry, come in. It's Doug. Terry-

TERRY

Doug? I thought you were in space.

DOUG (ON RADIO)

I'm actually just outside the Earth's atmosphere. I need your help with something.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN

The capsule, slowed by a giant parachute, HITS the surface of the WATER, causing a giant SPLASH. When the water settles, a giant inflatable raft extends from the capsule, keeping the capsule afloat.

CHARGES from inside POP OPEN THE DOOR, then Doug and Beth crawl out and onto the inflatable raft. They look around at the open sea and the sunny, blue sky.

DOUG
We made it!

Doug and Beth hug. They are ecstatic. Doug looks into her eyes.

DOUG (cont'd)
Beth, will you marry me?

Beth looks away.

BETH
I really want to Doug, but just telling me you've changed doesn't mean you necessarily have.

A boat horn sounds. Doug and Beth turn to see Terry captaining a PONTOON PARTY BOAT and heading towards them. As he pulls up next to them, Beth sees A TABLE (WITH LINEN TABLE CLOTH) AND CHAIRS SET UP ON THE DECK OF THE BOAT. ON THE TABLE ARE CANDLES, A BOTTLE OF WINE, A PLATTER WITH A STACK OF GIANT CHOCOLATE-CHIP COOKIES, A LARGE VASE FULL OF RED ROSES AND FANCY PLACE SETTINGS. Beth is clearly moved.

DOUG
Then would you at least join me for dinner? And maybe we can swing by Alaska afterwards, although I don't know if this thing will make it.

BETH
I'd love to have dinner with you.
And yes to the other thing.

DOUG
What was the other thing?
(realizing)
Oh, right, getting married.

Doug smiles, then kisses Beth. As they kiss, Glen and the others emerge from the capsule.

GLEN
What's going on?

DOUG
Beth and I are getting married.

GLEN

Congratulations! So are me and Miyuki! Let's coordinate the dates so we don't have a conflict.

Brian and Raymundo smile and take in the sea air and the sun. Stamp, Vladimir, and Sasha, still tied up, also look happy to have survived.

STAMP

I so wish Latvia had a navy right now.

Glen spots Terry on the boat.

GLEN

Hey, Terry! Whose party boat?

DOUG

Actually, it's yours. When I radioed Terry from the rocket, we realized we were going to need some cash to throw this thing together. So Terry had to borrow some from your mattress stash.

GLEN

How much?

TERRY

Thirty thousand dollars. There were no rentals available.

Glen takes all this in. Doug and Terry look sheepish.

GLEN

Awesome! I own a party boat!

As rescue boats appear over the horizon and speed towards them...

EXT. AIR CRAFT CARRIER

Rescue workers and NASA officials help everyone off of the life raft as photographers take pictures. Beth, Doug, Glen, Miyuki, Brian and Raymundo emerge to applause and cheers from the workers.

Stamp and the Latvians are taken into custody.

STAMP

This isn't going to affect my pension status in any way, is it?

Some NASA officials, including Martin, approach Doug and Beth.

MARTIN

(to Doug)

Beth filled us in on what happened up there. Any interest in coming back to the astronaut training program?

Doug smiles and shakes the guy's hand.

DOUG

This doesn't have anything to do with me being a legacy, does it?

Beth smiles. Doug kisses her. Glen then hugs Miyuki. Raymundo and Brian hug. Brian looks happier than we've seen him.

A FEW DAYS LATER...

INT. NASA HEADQUARTERS - DAY

CLOSE ON

Doug wearing a suit, and Beth wearing a wedding dress.

OFFICIAL (O.S.)

Do you, Doug Huggins, take Beth McCarthy to be your lawfully wedded wife?

DOUG

I do.

OFFICIAL (O.S.)

And do you, Beth McCarthy, take Doug Huggins to be your lawfully wedded husband?

BETH

I do.

PAN OVER to reveal Glen and Miyuki standing next to them, also wearing a suit and wedding dress.

OFFICIAL (O.S.)

Do you, Glen Morgan, take Miyuki Katama to be your lawfully wedded wife?

GLEN

I do.

OFFICIAL (O.S.)

And do you, Miyuki Katama take Glen Morgan to be your lawfully wedded husband?

MIYUKI

Hai.

PULL BACK EVEN MORE to reveal that the official is wearing a haz-mat suit. Brian and Raymundo are also there. A big red sign on the door behind them says "DANGER: AVIAN FLU QUARANTINE ROOM".

OFFICIAL

I will assume hai means yes and pronounce all of you men and wives. You may kiss the brides.

Doug and Beth and Glen and Miyuki kiss. PAN OVER to reveal a glass wall, behind which Terry, a group of NASA officials, and a tour group (with the guide from earlier) stand watching and applauding. Brian approaches Glen and Miyuki.

BRIAN

So, Glen, now that you guys are married, Miyuki has some things she'd like to say to you.

Miyuki begins speaking nonstop as Brian starts to translate.

BRIAN (cont'd)

(translating)

You will need to start showering more often as your body odor is offensive. Your breath smells like old crab. When you make love, you must make efforts to increase your stamina. The noise you make at climax sounds like many geese dying.

Glen's face falls as Brian translates Miyuki's litany of complaints.

BRIAN (cont'd)
(translating)
Your toenails resemble rusty old
pennies, which...

As Brian continues, ANGLE ON: Stamp, in the quarantine room next door. Sasha and Vladimir are there as well. Stamp is speaking to a journalist through the call box.

STAMP
P-o-p-o-v. Popov, Sergei. If you contact Don Henley and explain the situation, I'm sure he'd be happy to send me a replacement guitar.

As Stamp continues, PAN OVER to Doug and Beth dancing to Air Supply's "All Out of Love". Glen is still being lectured by Miyuki/Brian in the background. As Doug and Beth dance, a knocking can be heard on the door separating them from Stamp and the Latvians. Everyone looks.

Sasha is at the window. She/he mouths the words "Clutch, I love you" and then RAISES HIS/HER SHIRT above her face, EXPOSING HIS/HER CHEST, which is somewhere between an overweight man's lumpy pectorals and some very unattractive and odd looking female breasts. Everyone is horrified at first, then looks closer to try to determine Sasha's gender.

GLEN
No way, I still can't tell. Sasha, I'll give you thirty grand to pull your pants down!

As Sasha moves to comply and everyone averts their eyes, David Bowie's "Life on Mars" kicks in, and we...

FADE OUT.

THE END