

STATION

Screenplay
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Based on the Boom! Studios comic
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FADE IN:

EXT. EARTH ORBIT -- DAY

The INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION hangs in the cold, dark void.

The original modules are a motley collection of habitats, constructed over time by fifteen countries, strung together for survival and exploration at the edge of the new frontier.

It is covered in a layer of cosmic dust. The SOYUZ ESCAPE VESSEL looks ancient, a relic from the dawn of the space age.

RUSSIAN VOICE

So how is life on Station?

There is another ship docked at the outpost, but this one looks sleek and high-tech. It is the NEXT-GENERATION CREW VEHICLE, our replacement for the retired space shuttle fleet.

Emblazoned on the glossy hull is a LOGO of a private company.

AMERICAN VOICE

Feels like home.

A recently-constructed HABITAT RING rotates around the central core of the familiar station, slowly, elegantly, its cutting-edge modules reflecting the intense un-Earthly light.

Far below, our planet is revealed in all its glory as CLOUDS, OCEANS, and CONTINENTS rush past... beautiful and terrifying.

RUSSIAN VOICE

Yes. That may be the most incredible thing of all.

A COSMONAUT in an advanced SPACESUIT is perched on the end of a ROBOTIC ARM working an EXPERIMENT ARRAY, its impressive arrangement of cameras and probes pointed at the universe and

CUT TO:

INT. ZERO-G LAB -- DAY

A MICRO-GRAVITY GLOVEBOX sits inside a crowded laboratory as an ASTRONAUT in a simple jumpsuit FLOATS into view. Her hair billows in zero-g. She slips her hands into the experiment box and grasps the TEST TUBES on the other side of the glass.

RUSSIAN VOICE

You told us how you came here
... but not why. What drives
you, my friend?

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

The brain center is filled with sleek control screens displaying live images or graphics. The artificial gravity here allows a middle-aged Russian COSMONAUT, a European ASTRONAUT, and a Chinese TAIKONAUT to move about normally and

AMERICAN VOICE
I guess I wanted to test
myself... in a way I could
never be tested on Earth.

CUT TO:

INT. A SMALL NODE -- DAY

Two members of the crew are sitting on the floor inside a small connective node...like two regular Joes taking a break.

JOHN DYSON is an American first-timer. NICOLAY GIDZENKO is a big bear of a Russian who has spent a great many days in orbit. He drinks vodka from a FLASK, and passes it to Dyson:

NICOLAY
It is not a trivial thing to
learn what kind of man you
are. I was average back home
... not a bad citizen, but
no one special, so I wondered,
can I be something more here?
It is a question asked with
much peril, my friend, because
we may discover that in fact
we are not great men; or,
having achieved some measure
of greatness in space, we may
return to Earth and find that
we are once again ordinary.

They can hear someone APPROACHING. Dyson hands the flask to Nicolay, who hides the alcohol from view, lowering his voice.

NICOLAY (CONT'D)
We are all tested on Station.

DOCTOR KAREN SHEPHERD appears in the hatch. She is beautiful and brilliant, but irritated--

KAREN
Okay, which one of you has
been messing with my pack?
I'm missing a hypo -- and I
don't have enough as it is.

Dyson and Nicolay share a look, like they don't know a thing.

DYSON
Wasn't us, doc, we promise--

The doctor nods, and moves on.

Nicolay takes one more swig from the flask, then rises to his feet. He's wearing jogging shorts that are a size too small.

NICOLAY
Time to run. Get my oxygen
flowing before the big spacewalk
--our life-support system is
acting up again.

DYSON
Serious?

NICOLAY
Like everything here, it will
become serious...if we do not
take care.

He glances at Dyson to say good-bye, and then sees something.
The Russian sounds concerned--

NICOLAY
You are bleeding.

There is a patch of BLOOD on the American's chest. Dyson looks down in surprise and touches the cloth of his jumpsuit.

He stares at the wet blood on his fingertips, as if trying to determine what this means and

A FRESH DROP OF BLOOD splatters on the open palm of his hand.

The blood isn't coming from Dyson at all, but from somewhere else, directly above them and

Dyson and Nicolay look up at the same time and we see an OPEN HATCH in the ceiling. A ladder set in the wall extends through the opening, the end lost in the enveloping darkness.

Dyson and Nicolay share a look. They both begin to climb and

INT. IN A TUNNEL -- DAY

DYSON and NICOLAY climb quickly through the tunnel. Soon the gravity fades away and their legs are FLOATING out behind them. They pull themselves along the ladder even faster now.

INT. OLD SECTION -- DAY

DYSON and NICOLAY emerge from the tunnel, drift across the open space, and reach out for a hand-hold to stop themselves.

They are inside the oldest modules of the space station with no real up or down, every square inch covered in tools, spare parts, junk, and personal effects laid on top of one another.

It's more like an old submarine now. The hull REVERBERATES--

NICOLAY
Zdrah-stvooy!

They listen to his voice ECHO.

NICOLAY (CONT'D)
Hello?

Dyson wants to continue on. Nicolay reaches out to stop him.

A perfect SPHERE OF BLOOD emerges from the darkness floating right down the center of the old station. Dyson and Nicolay watch it slowly drift past and

They push off down the module.

Dyson and Nicolay float through some CLOTHES hung out to dry, strangely stiff in the zero-g.

DYSON'S AND NICOLAY'S P.O.V. They sail blindly through rows of clothing, finally making their way out the other side and

Dyson and Nicolay enter a node and reach out to stop. There are several routes they can take from here. Dyson looks up into an airlock with rows of spacesuits lining the perimeter.

Nicolay stares directly below through a space leading to the interior of that Soyuz vessel.

Suddenly another droplet of blood SPLATTERS against a hatch--

DYSON
This way.

Dyson and Nicolay immediately push on in that direction using the walls to propel themselves FASTER, recklessly FASTER and

DYSON'S AND NICOLAY'S P.O.V. Directly ahead is the interior of the commercial spacecraft, clearly a dead-end, forcing a turn to the left or the right.

Nicolay gets there first, grabs the bulkhead and goes left. Dyson pushes toward the right.

He sails down a dark passage. Dyson turns another corner and DYSON'S P.O.V. Directly in front of Dyson, a DEAD ASTRONAUT rotates around to reveal his lifeless face, mouth open in a silent scream, hands reaching out for Dyson, more BLOOD floating away from the body. A NAME TAG reads "Cdr. Sutton."

Dyson looks horrified. And can't stop his forward momentum--

Dyson flails helplessly in the zero-gravity, RELEASING A YELL as he smashes into the body and

For several long moments, they are horribly entangled. Then Dyson pushes the dead man away.

The corpse of the astronaut TUMBLES OFF toward the other end of the module, stiff and lifeless, like a grisly toy soldier.

Dyson tries to stop himself but just scatters the FLOATING DEBRIS. He finds a hand-hold and grabs on as Nicolay enters and sees the body. The Russian hurriedly works the INTERCOM:

NICOLAY
Help! We need help--

CUT TO:

WHITE TEXT ON BLACK BACKGROUND:

STATION

CUT TO:

EXT. IN EARTH ORBIT -- DAY

The private spacecraft DESTINY sails above a big blue EARTH--

CUT TO:

WHITE TEXT ON BLACK BACKGROUND:

3 DAYS AGO

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE DESTINY -- DAY

The man we saw dead above, COMMANDER SUTTON, reaches for a CHECKLIST floating in the air, and makes a notation with a PEN. He doesn't look out the window but knows just the same:

SUTTON
If you want a picture, now's
the time.

A CAMERA with an oversized lens SNAPS pictures at a furious rate. DOCTOR KAREN SHEPHERD leans her head to the side so she can see with the naked eye.

Through the window, we watch the INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION move into view, the largest structure ever built off planet. The doctor shoots the exterior when something catches her eye. She points the lens in a new direction and SNAPS once--

The view from the horizon window reveals the EARTH FAR BELOW.

KAREN

220 miles doesn't seem that far
--until you're looking down.

Italian astronaut LUDOVICO CASTROGIOVANNI floats up beside Karen holding a hand-held LASER. He fires it at the station.

Immediately their distance from the docking bay and orbital attitude UPDATE on the computer read-outs inside the cockpit.

PILOT JOHN DYSON sees the data.

He moves the JOYSTICK up and down, left and right, CORRECTION BURNS reverberating through the hull of the space capsule and

SUTTON

(into his mike)

The crew would like to thank our pilot, Mr. John Dyson, for a smooth ride aboard the first privately-owned and operated spaceship contracted to launch America into orbit.

Now we see that the commander has written this down on PAPER. There is a short pause before--

SUTTON (CONT'D)

(with an edge)

Give the man a raise.

Dyson looks a little surprised that Sutton attempted a joke, but otherwise the crew doesn't react much, clearly expecting some kind of speech now. The commander flips the paper over.

SUTTON (CONT'D)

As we pause to recognize our new beginning, we realize too that this is an ending...the last scheduled flight of an American ship to the International Space Station. Let's make it a good one, people--

Commander Sutton looks relieved when it's over. He turns to Dyson, wonders if their pilot is ready for this, and decides.

SUTTON
This is Destiny executing
final approach.

CUT TO:

INT. SPACE STATION -- DAY

Russian COMMANDER TESSLOFF walks through the service module past a porthole. Outside we see the universe spinning madly.

TESSLOFF
(into his mike)
Station copies. We are ready.

He scans the sleek display screens in the new habitat ring as Chinese astronaut CHEN JIN performs a few quick calculations:

CHEN
Orbiter is twenty feet out
moving at one-tenth of a foot
per second.

Commander Tessloff rubs the scars on his bald head. He looks at flight engineer ANA KOTOV, seated at a computer. She is a young but tough Russian woman, foul mood evident on her face.

TESSLOFF
(in Russian, with
English subtitles)
Comrade, you will play nice
with our friends, yes?
(short pause)
In ten days they leave for
good--and we will still be
here.

CUT TO:

INT. DOCKING MODULE -- DAY

Russian science office NICOLAY GIDZENKO floats in zero-g and observes from a small porthole.

Outside, the DESTINY spacecraft grows larger as it approaches the docking bay. In seconds it blocks even the Earth itself.

Nicolay looks excited by the new arrivals. He wiggles his fingers at them, smiling wide--

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE DESTINY -- DAY

DYSON watches the CROSS-HAIRS. He performs more CORRECTION BURNS as LUD studies the GRAPHIC illustrating their approach.

LUD
Twelve feet.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE STATION -- DAY

DESTINY closes on the DOCKING PORT of the station as cloud formations reveal oceans and continents ROLLING beneath them, SUNLIGHT reflecting off the hull, a whole universe moving and

LUD'S VOICE
Five feet out.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE DESTINY -- DAY

DYSON watches the cross-hairs.

LUD'S VOICE
One foot.

Silence as more seconds pass. Finally COMMANDER SUTTON adds:

SUTTON
Remember, kid, if we're off by
more than two inches, we crash.

Dyson works the stick, enjoying it now, and there is a GENTLE NUDGE as they dock. KAREN and LUD share a look, impressed...

SUTTON
(into his mike)
Houston and Station -- capture
confirmed.

CUT TO:

INT. DOCKING MODULE -- DAY

NICOLAY triggers DOCKING CLAMPS that slam into place with a deafening BANG BANG BANG.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

COMMANDER TESSLOFF listens to the voice from mission control.

MISSION CONTROL
This is Houston on the big loop
...capture confirmed.

Tessloff gestures at ANA and CHEN. They start for the hatch.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE DESTINY -- DAY

The CREW takes a moment to relax. They see NICOLAY inside of the station, staring out at them through that small porthole:

NICOLAY
 (over the radio)
 Like a gentle kiss-- Welcome
 to Station!

CUT TO:

INT. DOCKING MODULE -- DAY

CAMERA MOVES through a passage, rotating a bit in the zero-g, and now a HATCH OPENS up ahead revealing COMMANDER TESSLOFF, ANA, CHEN, and NICOLAY floating inside of the space station. Tessloff reaches toward us and

COMMANDER SUTTON takes his hand and is pulled inside. KAREN comes through next, followed by LUD, everyone embracing with:

THE CREW
 Nice to see you... Glad to be
 back... How was your vacation?
 ... You guys look great... That
 is a big lie... Permission to
 come aboard... Granted--

DYSON pulls himself through the open hatch, looking uncertain without gravity. Immediately Nicolay gets him in a bear hug.

NICOLAY
 (to the group)
 Where is the vodka you promised?!

His LAUGHTER is contagious as the assembled crew continues to exchange handshakes and back slaps, one big happy family and

CUT TO:

INT. A STATION TOUR -- DAY

CAMERA MOVES over the controls of the Destiny capsule and we see DYSON in the pilot seat, making his way through a post-flight CHECKLIST. He flips through a set of toggle switches.

We pass through the cramped interior toward an open hatch and enter the station to find ANA suspended in midair, surrounded by slowly tumbling CARGO. She gently tosses a container and we follow the box as it FLOATS down the center of the module.

The cargo drifts past an opening and we start up the passage, moving along a row of rungs built into the side, and catching up to LUD. He sails feet-first toward the end of the tunnel.

Lud reaches out to grab the passing ladder, and the TOOL BELT floating at his side gently falls into place, like gravity is slowly kicking in. He descends the last few rungs and steps normally into the habitat ring.

We pass through a hatch and enter an advanced laboratory to find KAREN standing at a high-powered MICROSCOPE. She works the settings on the scope, but doesn't look up before we continue toward the exit. As we are about to leave, NICOLAY walks right in front of us, busy with his own lab experiment.

We proceed through a small node toward the service module and

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

COMMANDER TESSLOFF stands in his favorite spot imperiously watching the computer screens--

COMMANDER SUTTON hurries past, paging through their SCHEDULE.

SUTTON

Let's get the crew prepped for tomorrow's spacewalk.

The Russian lets him take a few more steps before responding:

TESSLOFF

I am sorry, but my people cannot drop everything they are doing to fit your needs--

Sutton stops at the hatch and turns around, realizing he may have an unexpected problem up here. Slowly he walks back across the module toward Tessloff, who now moves to face him.

SUTTON

You and I never had a problem staying on schedule before...

TESSLOFF

Always in the past we followed the American timeline. Perhaps it is your turn to wait?

SUTTON
(challenging)
When was this decided?

TESSLOFF
At the moment your government
chose to abandon Station--

Neither of them backs away from the other. Sutton opens his mouth to respond when he sees CHEN standing at the far end of the module, watching them, and

SUTTON
(thru clenched teeth)
Will you excuse us?

Chen doesn't move for a second, as if hoping the request will go away. Then he just turns and walks out through the hatch.

INT. A SMALL NODE -- DAY

CHEN steps out of the module, and the hatch SHUTS behind him.

Chen stands there in his Chinese jumpsuit looking odd and stiff as he listens to the MUFFLED VOICES of the American and Russian commanders yelling. He catches a word now and then--

Chen is still staring at the hatch when LUD enters, arms full of SPARE PARTS. Lud sees the sealed module and acts curious.

CHEN
(explaining)
The superpowers are fighting.

LUD
Who's winning?

Chen sees no good reason to lie, and responds very sincerely.

CHEN
China.

Now he turns and EXITS the node. Lud just watches him go and

CUT TO:

INT. LUD WORKS -- MONTAGE

LUD repairs something, we don't know what, but his passion promises great things. He wields enormous lengths of DUCT TAPE, bends BAILING WIRE, moves TANKS, PUMPS, and other assemblies into position, wrestles with uncooperative HOSES--

INT. SUPPLY MODULE -- DAY

LUD is heavy with sweat when he steps back to admire his work
... and bumps into COMMANDER TESSLOFF, who has been watching.

LUD

You should have told us this
was broken. We didn't bring
the right parts.

TESSLOFF

If Russia ordered a million-
dollar part every time Station
went on the fritz, we would be
going home to stay like the
capitalists.

Tessloff approaches the JURY-RIGGED REPAIR JOB. Things that
don't naturally fit together have been made to fit with tape
and wire, and a web of hoses--

The commander hits a wall SWITCH to trigger the mechanism and
The apparatus seems to protest, just for a moment, and then
the module around them HUMS like a smooth-running sports car.

TESSLOFF

The universe wants to crush
the walls, suck the air from
our lungs, and squeeze the
eyes out of our sockets...
but with you here, Italy, we
will keep our guts inside--
where they belong!

Tessloff SLAPS him on the back, happy now, and quickly EXITS.

Lud is holding a roll of DUCT TAPE in one hand and a spool of
BAILING WIRE in the other. Now he brings them up to his lips
...and gives them both a kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. A SMALL NODE -- DAY

LUD enters carrying more HOSES when he sees ANA at work. He
alters course and moves up beside her, turning on the charm--

LUD

*Ciao bella, mi piaci di
brutto!*

Ana keeps working, not missing a beat. Either she's ignoring
him, or doesn't speak Italian.

LUD (CONT'D)
My name is Ludovico, but you
can call me--

A jogging NICOLAY plows into the surprised Lud, and knocks him hard against the bulkhead:

NICOLAY
(threateningly)
Ana is like my little sister
...stay away from her.

Lud reacts to the painful surprise, staring up at an imposing Nicolay, whose face almost immediately fills with good cheer.

NICOLAY (CONT'D)
This is for your own safety.
You are making sweet-talk to
a Siberian Wolverine!

Lud turns his head a little to look at Ana. She stares back at him. Nicolay has a point--

Nicolay pats Lud on the cheek, as if everything is all right. He turns abruptly and jogs on.

INT. THRU THE RING -- DAY

We follow NICOLAY as he jogs away from Lud through the LOCKER ROOM, picking up speed in the SLEEPING QUARTERS with its row of bunks, and into the large GALLEY where Karen off screen calls, "Nicolay!" He waves. His jogging outfit is a size too small, or maybe it's his bear of a body. Nicolay runs faster and faster. Soon all we can hear is his BREATHING and

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE STATION -- DAY

The breathing ECHOES. NICOLAY is inside his next-generation SPACESUIT perched at the end of a large ROBOTIC ARM. He uses an AUTOMATIC SCREWDRIVER to attach a new COMMUNICATIONS DISH.

CLOSE-UP of the last SCREW going in. Suddenly the SCREW BIT SNAPS OFF and tumbles madly end-over-end toward the darkness.

Nicolay sees it floating away and his BREATHING accelerates--

NICOLAY'S P.O.V. His breathing is even LOUDER inside of the spacesuit. The glass of his helmet visor is starting to FOG.

Just as it appears to escape, Nicolay's thick spacesuit GLOVE

closes around the screw bit--

NICOLAY
New American communication
dish is good, but next time we
use a Russian screwdriver.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

COMMANDER SUTTON and COMMANDER TESSLOFF stand close together,
as if fighting for that spot.

SUTTON AND TESSLOFF
(in unison)
Copy that.

LUD and CHEN immediately stop what they're doing and turn to
watch how this plays out. Tessloff is keenly aware of the
eyes on him, and grudgingly avoids a confrontation, stepping
back so the American can say:

SUTTON
(into his mike)
You about done out there?

ON THE SCREENS. NICOLAY moves closer to a nearby camera and
gives the crew a "thumbs up."

NICOLAY
*Bring me inside, and no bumps,
please!*

Commander Sutton nods to ANA, stationed at a CONTROL PANEL
that operates the robotic arm. She gets right to work.
DYSON stands behind Ana and watches. He is interested but
gets too close. Ana gives him a look that says back-off and

CLOSE-UP of her HANDS expertly manipulating a small JOYSTICK.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE STATION -- DAY

NICOLAY stares out through his helmet and HUMS a Russian tune
to himself -- the space station REFLECTED in his visor -- as
the robotic arm carries him in a gentle arc through space and

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL AIRLOCK -- DAY

NICOLAY stands inside the airlock, waiting patiently as DYSON

and ANA float around him opening the airtight seals of his spacesuit. Dyson removes the helmet. Nicolay considers him:

NICOLAY
Thank you, private industry
guy. So do you bill me for
this service?

Dyson keeps working the suit.

NICOLAY (CONT'D)
Can I use my debit card?
Maybe sign the invoice now
and pay later!

Nicolay is obviously amused and never going to stop. Dyson floats in front of the Russian, about to say something back--

ANA (O.S.)
Poshol ty kuda podal'she!

Nicolay and Dyson both turn to look. Ana is already floating toward the hatch and quickly disappears into the next module.

DYSON
What's with her?

NICOLAY
Ana is not...comfortable...
with civilians on board. To
her you are bad luck.

DYSON
You don't believe that--

Nicolay hoists the torso of his spacesuit up over his head, and Dyson helps. It drifts harmlessly. Nicolay is wearing a form-fitting cooling UNDERGARMENT. He disconnects the tubes.

NICOLAY
(thoughtfully)
There was a time when I had
many superstitions. Space is
vast, and we are so small...
how can God find us all alone
in the dark? Then I realized
He will see us easily.

He rises from the spacesuit legs and floats toward the hatch.

NICOLAY (CONT'D)
We are already in the heavens!

Dyson watches Nicolay exit and

CUT TO:

INT. MEDICAL LAB -- DAY

DYSON sits on the edge of the long examination table staring at the doctor's nice rear-end. KAREN peers into the eyepiece of her high-powered MICROSCOPE and adjusts the controls with:

KAREN
Eyes front, Dyson...

Dyson turns his head away, looking totally busted. Karen writes fast on the label of a TEST TUBE and stores it with some others in a SAMPLE RACK.

KAREN
You're being pelted by five thousand exotic particles--

DYSON
I am?

KAREN
We all are, all of the time, as soon as we leave Earth's atmosphere.

Dyson doesn't like the sound of that. He watches Karen as she retrieves her MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS and walks to the table.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Aside from collisions on the retina--the light flashes we sometimes see--most of these impacts go unnoticed, but cause damage on the cellular level.

DYSON
So, we're dying?

NICOLAY enters wearing his own white LAB COAT. He chimes in.

NICOLAY
The doctor keeps us going so we may endure her tortures, and through our suffering, the people back home may one day live longer better lives....

He moves to that sample rack, places the test tubes into a SHAKER, and hits the button. It VIBRATES madly. Nicolay walks back out adding evilly:

NICOLAY (CONT'D)
Fear her mad genius!

Karen takes Dyson's chin, and turns his face toward her. She looks deep into his eyes and:

KAREN

How are you feeling up here
--any dizziness or nausea?

Before he can answer, the doctor shoves a STICK in his mouth.

DYSON

(distorted)

Uh-uh.

KAREN

No, you're very... healthy,
aren't you?

Karen removes the stick and looks at Dyson, but not like a doctor. Like a woman. She inches closer. Dyson thinks this is the best examination ever. He's completely distracted and

SHE STICKS HIM WITH A NEEDLE.

KAREN

Exam's over. You're fine--

The doctor returns to her beloved microscope. She holds several SLIDES up to the light, picks one and slips it into place, her patient forgotten.

Dyson gets up off the table, rubs his arm, and EXITS the lab.

Karen displays no reaction as NICOLAY RE-ENTERS and walks back to his shaker, hitting the button. The test tubes STOP their furious vibration. He begins to remove the samples and

Karen raises her head from the microscope, thinks a second, and makes a decision. The doctor reaches into a FILE and pulls out one single SHEET OF PAPER filled with obscure data.

KAREN

Nicolay... this is our third
flight together. We share a lab
but have we ever just talked?

Nicolay glances at the doctor, then does a double-take when he sees the look on her face. Karen slowly crosses the room:

KAREN (CONT'D)

Thanks to short-sighted budget
cuts and an indifferent public,
I have little more than a week
to complete my life's work.

She stands very close to him.

KAREN (CONT'D)
How would you like to unoffi-
cially look at chromosomal
structures with me? Consider
it our last dance.

NICOLAY
Unofficially, you are rocking
my world--

Nicolay takes the offered page, scans it, and visibly reacts.

NICOLAY
What are you up to?

Karen walks back to that microscope. Finally, she just says:

KAREN
Since we're in outer space
...let's call it a shot in
the dark.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

KAREN walks a short distance, stops, and CLEARS HER THROAT.
LUD drags himself out of a repair SHAFT and offers his arm.
The doctor injects him with a HYPODERMIC SYRINGE. He jerks--

KAREN
There you go, tough guy.

Lud jerks again when she pulls it out. The doctor leaves him standing there grimacing, and walks across the module to ANA.

KAREN
Your turn.

Ana just stares back like she doesn't know a word of English.

Karen holds up another SYRINGE, but the Russian woman quickly reaches out and grabs her wrist. Ana pulls the needle from the stunned doctor's fingers.

Karen has one long moment to wonder what in the hell this crazy woman's going to do and

Ana looks directly at Karen as she STICKS HERSELF IN THE ARM.

If it hurts, she doesn't show it. Ana yanks out the hypo and hands it back to the doctor--

CUT TO:

INT. A LOCKER ROOM -- DAY

With perfect timing ANA rinses the SOAP from her body as the shower BUZZES warnings and the water automatically SHUTS OFF.

Ana steps out and quickly dries herself, tossing the TOWEL as she moves to a sink. A nude Ana brushes her teeth, stopping to SPIT, brushing more and stopping to SPIT. She walks away.

Now we see DYSON standing like a statue one sink over, frozen in the middle of SHAVING and

INT. CREW QUARTERS -- DAY

ANA walks past the bunks. The sleeping areas have all been personalized with PICTURES AND MEMENTOS from home. She pulls back the blanket of her bunk, drops down, and yanks it back in place. Her area is devoid of personal items save for one tiny photo of a BLEAK RUSSIAN LANDSCAPE. Ana shuts her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. CARGO HOLD -- MONTAGE

ANA sails through the air with an OVERSIZED CONTAINER that must weigh over 100 pounds. She maneuvers around and between SMALLER CONTAINERS, working their rope and tackle RIGGING. Ana performs a perfect somersault and kicks off the wall, navigating the module with CARGO TUMBLING every which way and

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

COMMANDER SUTTON and COMMANDER TESSLOFF sit a distance apart watching the live feed of ANA working inside the cargo hold--

SUTTON

Jesus. How long has she been up
here now?

TESSLOFF

287 days.

SUTTON

(impressed)

Longer than what's-her-name--

TESSLOFF

Last record for a woman was 195.

Tessloff is eating some CHIPS, as if he's watching a TV show.

SUTTON

Any chance she wants to defect?

TESSLOFF

That would never work. Your country does not know how to curse properly.

Ana floats off the edge of a screen and reappears on another.

TESSLOFF (CONT'D)

But I tell you, there is no one you would rather have at your side -- what is the phrase?

SUTTON

In a jam.

Commander Tessloff glances at his American counterpart and offers him the bag of chips, a peace offering between two men who knock heads but never lose their respect for one another.

TESSLOFF

In a jam, exactly.

Commander Sutton looks at the bag and reaches in for a chip--

CUT TO:

INT. THE CARGO HOLD -- DAY

Everything is stowed away. ANA SAILS GRACEFULLY through the free air of the cargo hold and

CUT TO:

INT. CHEN WORKS -- MONTAGE

CHEN runs calculations on an electronic TABLET while walking through the ring, while seated at the dinner table a distance from the others, even while hanging upside-down in zero-g and

CUT TO:

INT. THE SMALL NODE -- DAY

CHEN stands stiffly in front of an open LAPTOP answering the questions posed by a reporter.

CHEN

I am pleased to be here as a representative of my country.

REPORTER (O.S.)
*Is China using the situation
on board the station to affirm
its status as a world power?*

CHEN
With our re-supply capability
and financial resources, China
is uniquely qualified to fill
the void left by the departing
Americans when they cease ISS
operations in one week's time.

REPORTER (O.S.)
*What's the first thing you're
going to do when you get back
home to Beijing?*

For the first time Chen grins:

CHEN
Eat a Big Mac, dude.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

CHEN holds onto his console as the entire station SHAKES to
the sound of THRUSTERS FIRING. DYSON hurries into the module
to help during this emergency.

DYSON
What the--

Dyson looks surprised to find COMMANDER TESSLOFF stifling a
YAWN. Suddenly the noise and the shaking comes to a STOP and

MISSION CONTROL
*Reboost complete and orbit
is good.*

TESSLOFF
(into his mike)
Thank you. Station out...

DYSON
You do that a lot?

Tessloff shakes his head to reassure him, then casually adds:

TESSLOFF
Only when we begin to fall
out of the sky.

Dyson watches the Russian commander stroll away. He sees Chen working at the console--

DYSON
How often do we fire the aft thrusters?

Chen doesn't respond. Dyson steps toward him thinking aloud.

DYSON (CONT'D)
Must be a lot of drag on the hull for the orbit to deteriorate like that, what is it, three or four times a month?
(off his silence)
A week?

Chen swivels in his chair to face Dyson. He sounds calm but:

CHEN
Look...you're the bus driver, and until we need the bus you're just a guy eating our food and breathing our precious air. The least you can do is not waste our time.

...and Chen swivels back around. Dyson just looks at him and

CUT TO:

INT. CREW QUARTERS -- DAY

DYSON pages through a 3-RING BINDER with a corporate logo. He makes several notes, then senses that he is not alone. Dyson turns to see COMMANDER SUTTON watching a distance away:

SUTTON
This is my problem with you.

By now Dyson's used to the crew having problems with him, and when it comes to Sutton, he doesn't expect to see eye-to-eye.

SUTTON (CONT'D)
You came up through the air force, trained at Edwards, transferred to the astronaut core...did everything right. In return we spent a million dollars training you -- and then you bailed out, jumped to the private sector, took a better offer...

This should be the time when Dyson tries to protest, but he never does. He simply listens.

SUTTON (CONT'D)

So what was it, the big pay-check? Maybe you didn't want to wait your turn like everybody else. You're a damn good pilot, son, and you may be the future...but it's not a world I want any part of when our best and brightest put themselves before their country.

Sutton gives him a last look, and then EXITS. Dyson watches him go for a moment. Now he returns to his 3-ring binder and

CUT TO:

INT. THE GALLEY -- DAY

DYSON sits at the long dinner table and raises a SPOON to his lips. He tastes the pasty-looking MUSH and makes a face as COMMANDER TESSLOFF loudly says:

TESSLOFF

Russian cosmonauts are ruled by tradition. When we ride to the launch pad we get out and make water on the rear wheel, just as did the first man in space--Yuri Gagarin--God rest his soul!

LUD chews his food and leans over to KAREN seated beside him.

LUD

And so Russia raises a leg and marks its territory on Station...

COMMANDER SUTTON turns to ANA eating in silence. He wonders:

SUTTON

You pee on the tire too?

ANA

(grudgingly)
On the side of road, nearby.

That makes Dyson and Karen stop chewing and look at her, like they can't believe their ears.

KAREN
Did she just--

DYSON
(finishing
for her)
English, yeah.

Sutton reaches into his pocket for a small worn PHOTOGRAPH,
holding it out so Ana can see.

SUTTON
Of all the journeys I've taken,
the one I started with my wife
is still the best. This being
our last trip to Station makes
it a good time to retire...and
then I'm all hers.

Commander Tessloff overhears him. Sends out an olive branch:

TESSLOFF
You are a lucky man, comrade.
I say this as one who carries
no such photo in his pocket--

He grows emotional very quickly and can't find the words to
continue. Nicolay recognizes this and hurries to his rescue.

NICOLAY
Commander Tessloff does have
a mistress...she is here all
around us.

TESSLOFF
That is truer than you know--
I cannot stay on Earth, not
for long before Station calls
to me. Always I find myself
fighting to get back.

NICOLAY
(jovially)
They will have to drag us out
of here kicking and screaming.

Tessloff reaches for Nicolay and lays a hand on his shoulder.

TESSLOFF
You live and breathe space
like no one I have ever known.
You make the homeland proud.

Nicolay accepts that with a grateful gesture. Soon his eyes

focus on Dyson, and he asks:

NICOLAY

So what are you, John Dyson
--test pilot or businessman?

KAREN

(a little bitter)

Someone has to figure out
where to put all the bill-
boards.

There is some scattered LAUGHTER. Dyson looks around the table, and makes a decision.

The laughter and the talking dies quickly after Dyson begins:

DYSON

I dreamed of riding a rocket
since I was a kid. With the
yearly cut-backs and the
shuttle program ending there
was nothing left to fly but
a simulator. Private sector
gave me a ticket to ride...
and I took it.

Dyson and Commander Sutton share a look across the table and:

DYSON (CONT'D)

The American manned space
program is dead. We just haven't
buried the corpse yet.

That brings the dinner conversation to a halt. Everyone watches as Sutton slowly rises from his seat, and looks over the crew. He reaches down to the table and lifts up a GLASS.

SUTTON

If this is the end of an era,
then let's remember to toast
how far we've come. From the
very beginning we called our
voyages here not missions,
but expeditions... because
Station is not a thing -- not
this metal around us. Everyone
who visited here knows
that Station is a place...an
outpost fighting for survival
at the edge of a new frontier.

No one at the table escapes the effect of his words, not even

CHEN. Sutton grows more confident with every passing second.

SUTTON (CONT'D)

We came to this place because here we found the best part of ourselves. What we can be when we work together as one world. Station showed us how to live in space longer, better -- and with each other.

Tessloff darts to his feet. The rest of the crew is a second behind with GLASSES held high.

THE CREW

(in unison)

To Station!

Everybody downs their drinks--

CUT TO:

INT. A SMALL NODE -- DAY

KAREN walks quickly through the ring, acting irritated, as if searching for something. She peeks through a hatch to find DYSON AND NICOLAY sitting together on the floor of a node and

KAREN

Okay, which one of you has been messing with my pack? I'm missing a hypo -- and I don't have enough as it is.

DYSON

Wasn't us, doc, we promise--

The doctor nods and moves on. Nicolay pulls his vodka FLASK from its place of concealment, takes one last swig, then gets to his feet. He's wearing his familiar tight jogging shorts.

NICOLAY

Time to run. Get my oxygen flowing before the big spacewalk --our life-support system is acting up again.

DYSON

Serious?

NICOLAY

Like everything here, it will become serious...if we do not take care.

He glances at Dyson to say good-bye, and then sees something:

NICOLAY
You are bleeding.

There is a spot of BLOOD now visible on Dyson's chest. Dyson looks down in surprise and touches the cloth of his jumpsuit.

He stares at the wet blood on his fingertips, as if trying to determine what this means and

A FRESH DROP OF BLOOD splatters on the open palm of his hand.

Dyson and Nicolay look up at the same time and we see an OPEN HATCH in the ceiling. A ladder set in the wall extends through the opening, the end lost in the enveloping darkness.

Dyson and Nicolay share a look. They both begin to climb and

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

THE BODY OF COMMANDER SUTTON lies on a STRETCHER being moved through the station. We get a good look at his dead face before someone places a CREW JACKET over his head and torso--

DYSON is at the front of the stretcher looking shell-shocked. A solemn NICOLAY has the rear.

CAMERA PANS the faces of KAREN, COMMANDER TESSLOFF, ANA, LUD, and CHEN as they watch the body slowly pass, each of them reacting in their individual way, some more stoic than others but all shaken by the tragedy.

Dyson and Nicolay carry him out, and the crew follows along--

INT. THE MEDICAL LAB -- DAY

DYSON and NICOLAY bring in the STRETCHER and set it down on the examination table. KAREN leans over to inspect the BODY.

COMMANDER TESSLOFF steps close beside her, with ANA, LUD, and CHEN quickly gathering around.

TESSLOFF
First impressions, doctor?

KAREN
At the moment all I can tell you for certain is he hasn't been dead long.

NICOLAY
Who was the last to see him
alive?

There is a pause. No one says anything. Finally Ana offers:

ANA
He looked fine at breakfast.

DYSON
That was hours ago--

Tessloff doesn't like the volume of his voice. Cuts in fast.

TESSLOFF
Yes, that was hours ago and
he was fine. Do you have
specific questions, doctor?

KAREN
He was just drifting when you
found him?

DYSON
We followed the blood.

KAREN
There is some discoloration of
the skin which would suggest a
generalized hypoxia.

TESSLOFF
Caused by what?

KAREN
I don't think we'll know the
exact cause until we get him
back to Earth.

None of the crew like the sound of that. The doctor looks around, and sees their faces:

KAREN (CONT'D)
No one's ever died on Station
before... and I can't perform
an autopsy here.

ANA
(not liking that)
Pizdyozh--

KAREN
Excuse me?

NICOLAY
Let us take it easy--

LUD
(unnerved)
We have to check the carbon
dioxide assembly.

NICOLAY
The carbon dioxide assembly
is fine.

LUD
How do you know that?

NICOLAY
Because if it was not fine
we would all be dead.

TESSLOFF
(impatiently)
If we must think, then let
us think clearly. We will
inform mission control and
wait for instructions. His
wife must be told, before
news spreads to the media.

CHEN
If I can raise a practical
question, how are we going
to store the body?

No one seems to like that much, but they can't argue with it.

ANA
I can rig something outside.

DYSON
(clearly opposed)
Outside?

ANA
Oh, you have a better idea--

Dyson and Ana shoot daggers at each other. Tessloff ends it:

TESSLOFF
Ana will handle the problem.
Doctor, feel free to perform
whatever examination you see
fit or is possible. Nicolay,
you have a spacewalk coming.

NICOLAY
(reluctantly)
Yes.

Tessloff makes a move to go. None of the crew looks ready to leave, but no one says anything. Not until Dyson speaks up--

DYSON
So, that's it?

Tessloff turns quickly, as if wanting to berate him, but he's keenly aware that the others are watching, and stops himself.

TESSLOFF
Station does not wait for us
to grieve.
(to everyone)
Remember why we are here, and
let us all do our jobs. This
is how we honor the memory of
the commander.

Commander Tessloff looks at the crew. His words seem enough. Ana, Lud, and Chen follow Tessloff toward the hatch. Dyson and Nicolay hang back a bit.

NICOLAY
He died in a place he loved
so much... may we all be so
lucky.

They stare down at the corpse. Slowly, Karen reaches out and
CLOSE-UP of Commander Sutton's doomed stare as the doctor's
hand slowly CLOSES HIS EYES.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE STATION -- LATER

THE STATION hangs in the black of space high above the EARTH.

THE RADIO
*Station...this is flight. We
understand it's a difficult
time up there and want everyone
to know that you're not alone.*

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

COMMANDER TESSLOFF sits at a console wearing a sleek HEADSET.

THE RADIO

After reviewing all options,
we agree the crew must proceed
with the scheduled repairs.

TESSLOFF

Understood--

Tessloff pulls off the headset. He just sits there. Thinks.
He hears a sudden, loud NOISE.

LUD just struck the console at which he's standing, in anger
and frustration. He tries to get back to his work but fails.

TESSLOFF

You are relieved.

LUD

I'm all right--

TESSLOFF

(sharply)

Did I create the impression
I was asking? If so, then I
apologize.

Lud pushes away from his console, marching toward the hatch.
Tessloff watches him EXIT and

He waits a second, as if making sure Lud is gone, then turns
to the SCREEN in front of him.

Tessloff starts TYPING. Fast.

ON THE SCREEN. MULTIPLE IMAGES of the interior of the space
station begin to fill the display, strangely angled or oddly
cropped shots, clearly coming from various cameras throughout
the complex. Nothing to see--

Tessloff keeps working the keyboard, looking for the cameras
or angles that he wants. Finally his fingers STOP typing and

ON THE SCREEN. The other members of the CREW are visible,
caught by several different feeds, moving in and out of
frame. We see DYSON helping NICOLAY into a spacesuit, KAREN
examining the corpse, ANA floating past a camera, CHEN
entering data in a computer and LUD leaning against the wall.

The bald Russian is illuminated by the glow from the display,
the movement on screen creating an illusion of changing moods
and expressions. In truth, his face is stoic and unreadable.

Tessloff spies on his crew and

CUT TO:

INT. THE AIRLOCK -- DAY

NICOLAY stands upright inside his advanced SPACESUIT secured to the floor by MAGNETIC BOOTS. DYSON clamps down the seals.

NICOLAY

On Earth people die every day
of perfectly natural causes
... but a man like Commander
Sutton, with over 900 hours in
orbit? It bothers you, too.

Dyson and Nicolay set the HELMET in place and lock it tight--

They share a grim look. Then Dyson pushes off across the airlock. Nicolay watches him:

NICOLAY (CONT'D)

When I get back, I will look
into it personally. That is
a promise, my friend.

Nicolay slides his visor in place and it shuts with a FSSSSH.

Dyson thinks about the Russian's words, staring at something, but we don't know what until--

DYSON'S P.O.V. A coiled TETHER LINE hangs ready on the wall.

Dyson grabs the tether line, and sets it on his shoulder. He pushes off back across the airlock to where Nicolay waits and

CUT TO:

INT. MEDICAL LAB -- DAY

The nude BODY OF COMMANDER SUTTON lies beneath a white SHEET.

KAREN holds a digital RECORDER as she examines his JUMPSUIT and sees RIPS in the cloth, moving to the corpse as she adds:

KAREN

(into the device)

There are several tears in
the commander's uniform. He
may have torn his jumpsuit
while he was floating free.

Karen examines the skin on Commander Sutton's body, and finds something that makes her stop.

She does not look surprised, not exactly, but is disturbed by

what she sees, seconds passing as she grasps the implications
... still holding the recorder, as if about to say something.

Instead Karen CLICKS it off and

KAREN
Don't you have work to do?

She looks over her shoulder, and we see CHEN standing inside
the hatch watching the doctor--

CHEN
Find anything?

Karen quickly pulls the SHEET back over the body of Commander
Sutton and steps away from the table, trying to sound casual.

KAREN
No.

Chen walks into the lab with his usual slightly stiff manner.
The doctor openly watches him. She slips one hand into the
pocket of her lab coat as Chen walks once around the corpse--

CHEN
Sorry that I bothered you.

... and Chen heads toward the hatch. Karen watches him EXIT.
The doctor takes her hand from the pocket, and we see the
SCALPEL she was holding. Karen sets it down. After a second
she notices BLOOD on the blade.

Karen studies the scalpel, as if not understanding, and then
looks at her hand. The doctor realizes that she CUT HERSELF.

Karen sucks on her finger a little, staring at the corpse and

CUT TO:

INT. OLD MODULES -- DAY

KAREN FLOATS out of a tunnel and into the suffocating modules
of the original station. It is disorienting in here, with no
real up or down. She grabs the nearest wall to stop herself.

The doctor looks around. Listens. She seems to be alone and
Karen pushes through the station, increasingly apprehensive
as she nears the spot where the commander's corpse was found.

KAREN'S P.O.V. Directly ahead is the interior of the Destiny

spaceship, a familiar dead-end. Her HAND comes into view as she reaches out for a hand-hold, about to turn the corner and SOMEONE BOLTS OUT OF THE DARK hurling right past the doctor-- A startled Karen pulls back, then gets irritated as she looks across the small node at ANA.

KAREN
What are you doing?

ANA
(giving it back)
What are you doing?

The women stare at each other a few moments longer, and then Karen floats through the hatch. Ana decides to tag along and

INT. CRIME SCENE -- DAY

KAREN and ANA drift into the module where the body was found. As before the air is filled with metal and plastic, hoses and wires floating free, EVERYTHING MOVING like some weird dream.

They push through the debris.

There is an old experiment rack in the wall, one of many that line the module, but this one has a JAGGED GAPING HOLE, like somebody took what was in there and carelessly ripped it out.

Karen looks at it and thinks.

The hull of the station REVERBERATES like an old submarine. Karen is unnerved by the sound, and doesn't try to hide it until she sees Ana watching--

The Russian takes some tiny satisfaction from her discomfort.

ANA
You are looking for something
...but it is not here.

Karen pushes further down the module. She never answers her.

With a HUM, a small beat-up FAN on the wall begins to spin. Ana turns toward the sound...

She studies the fan a second, then looks around the module and out through the hatch, where Ana sees MORE FANS spinning.

Very quickly she has an idea.

Ana raises her arm and CRACKS A GLASS PANEL with her elbow, surprisingly, almost brutally, one SHARD in particular propelled high in the air and

KAREN
What's wrong with you?

Now it's Ana turn not to respond. She watches the glass, and soon Karen grows interested--

The jagged shard rises into the path of the blowing fan and begins to slowly DRIFT through the module, tumbling end-over-end, riding the air currents.

But to where? Ana and Karen push off the wall and follow it.

INT. SMALL NODE -- DAY

KAREN and ANA watch the glass float out the hatch, riding a draft. It slows down now and HOVERS in one spot. We see the closest fans spinning furiously, working to influence the path of the shard. Gradually the glass CHANGES DIRECTION and starts off again, leaving the node for a different module and

Karen and Ana track the glass leading them to places unknown.

INT. OLD MODULES -- DAY

KAREN and ANA follow the SHARD to an area filled with large pipes spreading out in every direction. This place looks like the darkest, ugliest, least-used corner of the station--

KAREN
How often do the ventilation fans come on? What do we do if they stop? How do you know this is leading us anywhere?

ANA
To be honest, I do not know...
we could be wasting our time.

The doctor looks at her, surprised. Ana always appears so confident. Karen wonders if she should say more and decides:

KAREN
I saw something on the body--

Ana stops her forward momentum, like she found something too.

ANA

A puncture wound made by a
hypodermic syringe.

KAREN

How can you know that?

ANA

(ominously)

Because we have just found
the needle.

Ana inserts her hand between the pipes to an AIR VENT where
the shard has come to rest beside a used HYPODERMIC SYRINGE
stuck up against the grill and

She brings the needle close. Karen extends her hand to take
possession, but Ana holds it just out of the doctor's reach--

ANA

The last time I saw something
like this, you were trying to
stick me with it.

KAREN

It's one of mine. And it was
stolen.

ANA

That is convenient.

KAREN

Not as convenient as you lead-
ing me right to it.

The two women watch each other, realizing that they are both
suspicious, and then Ana nods.

ANA

(ending it)

Da.

She holds the syringe out for the doctor, who takes a sniff--

KAREN

There are drops in here...
maybe water, and something
else, odorless--

ANA

Looks like nitrogen.

Karen can't hide her reaction.

ANA (CONT'D)
It means something?

The doctor pulls out a sample BAG and Ana puts the needle in.

KAREN

Commander Sutton was killed
by an injection of a diatomic
gas that deprived his body of
oxygen. Surrounded by life-
giving air... he suffocated.

CUT TO:

INT. THE AIRLOCK -- DAY

NICOLAY BREATHES inside his helmet. The outer hatch is open
revealing the EARTH far below.

Nicolay looks across the airlock to the inner door and sees
DYSON on the other side of the porthole. They wave good-bye.

Nicolay takes one big step and

EXT. A SPACEWALK -- DAY

NICOLAY floats out of the hatch above the blue Earth. There
is no noise but his loud fast BREATHING, and the sound of his
voice as he looks down at his boots dangling over the planet.

NICOLAY
My feet, meet the Earth...
Earth, my feet.

CUT TO:

INT. OLD MODULES -- DAY

KAREN and ANA float down the center of the station and pass
through a hatch, using the walls to propel themselves faster:

KAREN
I can't figure out where the
nitrogen came from.

ANA
A leak could asphyxiate crew.
For that reason alone, there
is no place to access nitrogen
on board. But if our theory
is correct--

Karen and Ana reach the LADDER built into the wall and grab on. They share a grim look--

KAREN
(finishing it)
Then someone on Station is
a killer.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

COMMANDER TESSLOFF stands in the middle of the station brain center monitoring the spacewalk. CHEN runs a console as LUD hurries across the module, and DYSON enters through a hatch--

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SPACEWALK -- DAY

NICOLAY traverses the hull of the station, moving from hand-hold to hand-hold, his TETHER LINE floating right behind him.

NICOLAY
It is natural to feel scared,
helpless, and insignificant
after losing one of our own.
But as I witness the endless
cosmos all around me, I ask
this crew to not feel small.
(short pause)
Instead I say, we are giants!

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

TESSLOFF listens to Nicolay over his headset, appreciating the grand sentiment, but determined to keep everyone focused:

TESSLOFF
(into his mike)
Words to stir the soul. You are
one minute behind schedule.

CUT TO:

INT. INTO THE RING -- DAY

KAREN and ANA make their way down the ladder, and start to run through the habitat ring.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SPACEWALK -- DAY

NICOLAY moves over the hull toward an exterior SERVICE PANEL.

NICOLAY
I can see my destination now.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

COMMANDER TESSLOFF scans the feed from the exterior cameras--

TESSLOFF
Good, it is getting warm...
and I do not like to sweat.

NICOLAY
(over the radio)
*For you I will fix the air
conditioner!*

The commander sees KAREN AND ANA enter and knows something is up, but stays focused on the job. The women step very close:

KAREN
We need to talk.

TESSLOFF
Not now.

ANA
It cannot wait--

TESSLOFF
(sharply)
Relieve Dyson.

Ana immediately obeys her commander, without protest. DYSON hands over his headset and Ana takes position at the screens.

An impatient Tessloff escorts Karen away to speak privately--

TESSLOFF
The crew is under tremendous
strain, doctor. You understand
we must complete our repairs.

Karen does not waste any time.

KAREN
Commander Sutton did not die
of natural causes.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SPACEWALK -- DAY

NICOLAY grips a handle with his thick spacesuit glove, slowly rotates it, and opens up the service panel. He looks inside.

NICOLAY
I see the problem.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

DYSON listens to KAREN make her report to COMMANDER TESSLOFF:

KAREN
--an injection of nitrogen.

TESSLOFF
If you have a report, I
will gladly hear it... at the
appropriate time.

Tessloff starts to leave. Dyson can't believe this reaction and grabs his arm to stop him.

DYSON
You have to question the crew.

The commander looks down at the hand touching him. At Dyson.

TESSLOFF
Tell me, why would I question
the crew?

DYSON
To find out what everyone was
doing when Sutton--

The commander moves closer to Dyson, and keeps his voice low:

TESSLOFF
--died, when he died, is that
what you were going to say?
(short pause)
None of us is capable of such
an action, and I think we can
both agree there is no reason
to question the crew about
something which is impossible.
(to them both)
Now, if you will excuse me, I
have a spacewalk to run.

Commander Tessloff walks away. When Dyson attempts to follow him, the Russian turns with a sudden burst of fury, taking hold of Dyson and pinning him against the wall of the module.

The doctor backs away from the men. ANA takes a step closer. LUD and CHEN turn in surprise and Tessloff tightens his grip:

TESSLOFF
I am your commander--

DYSON
(yelling back)
I don't answer to you or anyone
else on this station!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SPACEWALK -- DAY

NICOLAY works to repair the station. Some distance away his familiar TETHER LINE drifts into view. We see it is SEVERED.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

DYSON and TESSLOFF are locked together, ready to explode and:

NICOLAY
(over the radio)
There is a problem.

Dyson, Tessloff, and the rest of the CREW turn to the sound. They scan the exterior cameras.

ON A SCREEN. The SEVERED END of Nicolay's tether sails past.

ANA
(horrified)
Yobyonat'--

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SPACEWALK -- DAY

NICOLAY slips off the station and is suddenly FLOATING FREE--

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

TESSLOFF immediately forgets all about DYSON and runs across the module watching the images.

TESSLOFF
(into his mike)
Engage S.A.F.E.R.--

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SPACEWALK -- DAY

NICOLAY FLOATS several feet away from the station. No sound save for his accelerated BREATHING. Nicolay reaches for his emergency JETPACK CONTROLS, locking them in a "go" position--

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

TESSLOFF stands at the center of chaos as ANA, LUD, and CHEN scramble to emergency stations. DYSON watches it all unfold:

DYSON
It's not gonna work.

Some of the others hesitate, looking toward Dyson. Tessloff wants to strangle this American but does not have the luxury.

TESSLOFF
We will follow procedure--
doctor, control him!

KAREN reaches out to Dyson, but he grabs her first, thinking:

DYSON
What if the nitrogen came
from the S.A.F.E.R.?

KAREN
Yes, it's possible--

Dyson looks around. He finds the ROBOTIC ARM CONTROLS and immediately leaves Karen, hurrying over to power up the arm--

Commander Tessloff starts to bark an order, but stops when he sees Ana looking his way, like she thinks Dyson may be right.

TESSLOFF
(not liking it)
Help him.

Ana makes a bolt toward Dyson.

NICOLAY
(over the radio)
S.A.F.E.R. engaged.

Dyson takes a step sideways to give Ana the controls. She works quickly and tells Dyson:

ANA
You are on the hand.

Immediately Dyson grabs hold of a smaller SECONDARY JOYSTICK.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE ROBOT ARM -- DAY

The metal fingers on the multi-jointed DEXTROUS HAND unfold as the LARGE ROBOTIC ARM on the exterior of the hull begins to speed ALONG THE RAILS lining an enormous station TRUSS and

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

TESSLOFF sees that Nicolay's ready. He gives a simple order:

TESSLOFF
(into his mike)
Fire thrusters.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SPACEWALK -- DAY

CLOSE-UP of Nicolay's thick GLOVE as his thumb hits a BUTTON.

Nothing happens. NICOLAY looks confused. He hits the switch again, and then several times.

NICOLAY
I have malfunction--

Suddenly the jetpack FIRES WILDLY, and doesn't stop, sending him into an UNCONTROLLED SPIN.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

TESSLOFF watches the cameras as NICOLAY DISAPPEARS from one screen and REAPPEARS on another, just an out-of-control BLUR.

TESSLOFF
(desperately)
Disengage!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SPACEWALK -- DAY

NICOLAY BURSTS THROUGH SOLAR PANELS. There is no sound but his BREATHING as he tumbles wildly across space. Nicolay hurls at the COMMUNICATION DISH, knocking it off the hull and

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

CHEN hears nothing but STATIC as he loses contact with Earth:

CHEN
Ground, can you track him?
Houston, come in--

Not far away LUD watches his own computer screens go berserk.

LUD
No, no, no!

CUT TO:

INT. A CARGO BLOCK -- DAY

Inside another module, one OXYGEN GENERATOR SPARKS wildly and

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

COMMANDER TESSLOFF rushes closer to the screens, helpless. DYSON and ANA work the robot arm controls as time runs out--

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SPACEWALK -- DAY

NICOLAY HITS THE ROBOT ARM and his breathing STOPS, like the wind was knocked out of him. It STARTS again as he slides down the length of the metal hand, closing but far too slow--

CLOSE-UP of Nicolay's thick SPACESUIT GLOVE as he grabs onto THE VERY END of the robot arm.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

DYSON and ANA stare at the image coming over their station. KAREN, TESSLOFF, LUD, and CHEN quickly gather around to look:

ON THE SCREEN. A small grainy BLACK-AND-WHITE PICTURE shows

Nicolay's face through his fogged helmet visor, so very close to the camera yet maddeningly far away. He composes himself.

Dyson grabs the nearest mike--

DYSON
Hang on!

NICOLAY
(exhausted)
Is that you, Dyson? Good try.

Everyone watches in horror as:

ON THE SCREEN. Nicolay looks frightened as his JETPACK FIRES AGAIN and he loses hold, TUMBLING TOWARD DEEP SPACE, getting smaller and smaller as he leaves camera range and DISAPPEARS.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SPACEWALK -- DAY

The jets finally stop but NICOLAY KEEPS MOVING AWAY from the station, the distance increasing until we have to PULL BACK to keep both the man and the station in the same frame, then PULL BACK AGAIN, the ever-expanding darkness separating them.

No sound is heard but Nicolay's lonely, desperate BREATHING--

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

THE CREW stares at the screen, as if frozen. Unable to move.

DYSON
Help me suit up--

ANA
Too late.

DYSON
Then we'll take the ship!

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE DESTINY -- DAY

DYSON AND ANA float into Destiny, using every hand-hold to move faster. Abruptly they stop themselves. See something--

DYSON'S AND ANA'S P.O.V. The cockpit has been SABOTAGED, pulled apart...the PIECES FLOATING like a nightmarish puzzle.

They stare at the controls and

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

THE CREW waits nervously inside of the service module, some pacing or fidgeting, everyone clearly on edge but not saying anything yet, listening as Ana talks to Nicolay on the radio:

ANA
Nicolay?

They hear nothing, just STATIC.

ANA (CONT'D)
Nicolay--

NICOLAY
(over the radio)
I hear you.

His voice is distant and vulnerable. Ana tries to be strong.

ANA
We are sorry. Not possible--

NICOLAY
(over the radio)
I understand.

Dyson wants to smash something.

ANA
What is happening?

NICOLAY
(over the radio)
*Thrusters are out. I see Station,
far away like a star.*

No one is immune to his words.

NICOLAY
(over the radio)
Tell my family--

For a moment, there is nothing but STATIC. Either the sound cut out, or he can't continue.

NICOLAY
(over the radio)
Tell my family--

The emotion finally overwhelms Ana and she does not respond. Tessloff speaks into his mike, holding up long enough to say:

TESSLOFF
We will tell them, comrade.

LUD
(considering it)
He'll move away from us...
then closer...then farther
again as we orbit.

DYSON
Close enough for a rescue?

Lud just shakes his head. No.

NICOLAY
(over the radio)
Is the doctor there?

Quickly Karen grabs a headset.

KAREN
I'm here--

NICOLAY
(over the radio)
What will it be like?

KAREN
You have approximately eight hours of oxygen left, taking you through the remainder of the day, and into the night.

NICOLAY
(over the radio)
What will it be...at the end?

Karen needs to take a moment. Dyson, Commander Tessloff, Ana, Lud and Chen react as they listen to the doctor explain:

KAREN
You will feel tired, and your vision will blur. A headache will come as your body fights for more oxygen, but this will pass, and you'll feel better--maybe even happy. Eventually, you'll experience a series of hallucinations. This will be a sign for us the end is near.

NICOLAY
(over the radio)
Thank you. Now if you do
not mind, I will be quiet for
a while...

There is a shift now from sadness to something darker. The tension in the air is palpable, the crew looking at each other with fear and suspicion:

LUD
We need to call Earth--

CHEN
S Band and Ku Band com-links are down. All we have right now is short-range UHF.

Chen begins to scribble calculations on his high-tech TABLET.

LUD
So use the new back-up dish.

DYSON
Nicolay ran into it.

TESSLOFF
He also took out some solar panels. The repairs have not been completed...and we are draining our reserves. We will begin to feel the effect within the next 12-18 hours.

KAREN
It's going to get very hot in here... then very cold.

Chen looks up from the tablet:

CHEN
With Nicolay off Station we have 15-percent more oxygen--

He never completes his report because ANA PUNCHES HIM in the jaw. He goes down, hard. Chen stares up at her, stunned and confused. Like what did I say? Ana turns toward the others.

ANA
Who did this? I want to know who did this!

Before the crew can respond to her a DEAFENING ALARM BLARES--

TESSLOFF
(realizing)
Fire--

Immediately the crew goes to work, most of them hurrying to individual computer stations, scanning the damaged read-outs.

KAREN
Destiny is clear.

CHEN
Zarya and Zvezda clear.

LUD
JEM clear.

TESSLOFF
Turn that off!

Ana scrambles for the right switch. Finally the alarm STOPS.

DYSON
(waiting)
Come on, come on--

ANA
It is in the ring.

Dyson hears that and races out the hatch before Tessloff can give an order. The commander sees him go and is not pleased:

TESSLOFF
(to Karen and Lud)
Follow him--
(to Ana and Chen)
--the rest of you with me!

Karen and Lud hurry after Dyson while Tessloff, Ana, and Chen run in the opposite direction.

INT. SMALL NODE -- DAY

DYSON looks around for the FIRE EXTINGUISHER and rips it from the wall as KAREN and LUD catch up. They keep on running and

INT. THE GALLEY -- DAY

TESSLOFF, ANA, and CHEN race into the galley looking for some sign of a fire. Nothing here--

INT. CARGO BLOCK -- DAY

DYSON, KAREN, and LUD rush through a low-traffic cargo block. The doctor stops them half-way.

KAREN
Do you feel that?

Dyson looks around and sees it:

The OXYGEN GENERATOR glimpsed earlier seems okay until you notice the strange GLOWING DOT on the tank, getting larger now as if the metal is melting.

DYSON
Move!

Everyone jumps out of the way as FLAME SHOOTS OUT from the tank across the width of the module, the sound deafening, the air quickly FILLING WITH SMOKE.

Karen and Lud roll and kick away from the fire. Dyson rises and TRIGGERS his extinguisher--

Everything is lost in a cloud of smoke and thick RETARDANT, and for a brief second it looks like the danger is over fast.

Then the oxygen TANK EMERGES FROM THE SMOKE riding the flames like a rocket. It strikes Dyson and knocks him to the floor.

The tank REBOUNDS OFF THE WALLS crazily and its fiery tail CHARS the interior of the module, the smoke turning BLACK and making it hard to see anything.

Lud evades the ricochetting tank but hits his head and drops--

Karen pulls several BREATHING MASKS from storage and slips one over her face. Tries to get one on Lud. Dyson shakes off the impact. He spots his extinguisher several feet away.

Dyson tries to get it but the tank nearly takes off his hand.

BUNDLES OF WIRE are catching fire, CONSOLES MELTING from the flame, INSTRUMENTS CRACKING and

TESSLOFF and CHEN enter the module from the other side and immediately trigger their own FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, spraying the interior while tracking the tank bouncing off the walls--

TESSLOFF
Seal the hatch!

ANA tries to shut the hatch and

There are large HOSES running through the module blocking the door. Without hesitation Ana grabs an AXE, swings it high over her head and CUTS THROUGH.

The tank singes Tessloff and he FIRES his extinguisher, as does Chen, and now Dyson reaches his extinguisher and FIRES. Ana finally shuts one hatch and

The oxygen TANK DROPS to the floor with a hollowed THUNK, but now there are flames MOVING ACROSS the walls and the ceiling. THE AIR IS THICK WITH SMOKE and

Ana dodges the expanding fire as Dyson pushes her toward the exit. He yells for the others:

DYSON
Everybody out--

INT. SMALL NODE -- DAY

Deadly black SMOKE BILLOWS OUT into the rest of the station. DYSON stumbles from the hatch--

He sees KAREN attending to LUD, trying hard to get up. ANA fights to stay on her feet. Dyson COUGHS. Everyone is black with soot, and GASPING for air.

KAREN
(out of breath)
I saw the commander go down.

Dyson prepares to run back in--

Suddenly CHEN emerges from the hatch with his arms wrapped around COMMANDER TESSLOFF, weak and nearly overcome by smoke.

Dyson steps forward and helps Chen ease Tessloff gently to the floor. The Russian commander does not take his eyes from Chen, wanting to express his thanks but not able to talk yet.

Chen just looks at Tessloff and

CHEN
(flatly)
Saving your life reduces our
oxygen by 20-percent.

Tessloff nods his head and almost laughs. It hurts too much.

Dyson and Karen force the hatch shut and twist the LOCKING MECHANISM, sealing it up tight.

Lud forces himself to a control panel, opens it, and works the switches. They hear the distant sound of AIR VENTING and Through the window of the hatch, we see the FLAMES EXTINGUISH THEMSELVES in one strange, surreal instant. The fire is out.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

THE CREW makes their way into the service module, beaten and exhausted from the fire. Dyson helps Tessloff into his seat:

TESSLOFF
(barking)
Report!

Ana, Lud, and Chen hurry to their consoles and work the keys. Karen wants to put an OXYGEN MASK on Tessloff, who tries to wave her off. She forces it.

TESSLOFF (CONT'D)
I must listen.

KAREN
You can listen and breathe--

The interior lights BLINK OUT, like they're losing power and

DYSON
The fire fried something big.

CHEN
I've got electrical problems
all over.

LUD
We've lost attitude control and
maneuvering thrusters. You
can forget about avoiding space
debris, and how does burning up
in the atmosphere sound?

DYSON
(not liking it)
That's one way to get home--

The EMERGENCY LIGHTS come on.

ANA
I have a message...

This makes everybody stop what they're doing and look at her.

DYSON
From mission control?

ANA
To mission control. From us.
Sent before we lost contact--

Tessloff has finally had enough of the mask, and rips it off.

TESSLOFF
We sent no message.

The whole crew gathers around her screen to read the message. We never see the computer display, just watch their faces as:

ANA
(reading)
"Catastrophic systems failure,
ISS lost, crew--"
(short pause)
That is all.

The crew begins to slowly disperse, everyone lost in thought, seeking their own small space.

LUD
It sounds like we're dead
already.

TESSLOFF
The author of this message
would wish mission control to
believe so.

CHEN
Our countries will launch
a rescue ship--

KAREN
That could take two weeks...
maybe more.

ANA
(hopelessly)
Govnyuk--

Short pause. Dyson speaks what each one of them is thinking, but no one wants to say aloud:

DYSON
Someone in this module plans
to destroy Station and kill
everyone on board.

CAMERA PANS the faces of the crew as they look at each other. Dyson, Karen, Tessloff, Ana, Lud, and Chen. For the moment no one has anything to add and

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE STATION -- DAY

The STATION floats above Earth in the utter SILENCE of space.

We move closer to the spinning habitat ring and find a small PORTHOLE revealing the galley. THE CREW stands around the table yelling, shaking their heads, gesturing at one another.

We pass through the window and

CUT TO:

INT. IN THE GALLEY -- DAY

THE CREW has been arguing for some time. It reaches an apex.

THE CREW

(overlapping ad-libs)

Where were you? -- I told you.
-- Tell me again. -- Take it
easy. -- You take it easy --
I was doing my job, where the
hell were you?

LUD

Ask the new guy.

That gets everybody's attention. Dyson doesn't like it, but can't do too much except wait:

LUD (CONT'D)

(making his case)

Dyson had Commander Sutton's
blood on him... well, didn't
he? He prepped Nicolay for
the EVA, and could have cut
his tether anytime. Were you
trying to catch him with the
robot arm--or push him away?

Some of them consider Dyson. The doctor isn't comfortable with this kind of accusation--

KAREN

Before we start blowing each
other out the airlock, remember
we need Dyson to fly us home.

LUD

Esattamente! He is in control
now. We need him--

DYSON

Back off.

LUD

I trained with some of these
people for years -- and you I
met two weeks before launch!

Dyson and Lud make a move toward one another. The rest of
the crew holds them back when:

TESSLOFF (O.S.)

ENOUGH.

Everybody turns and looks at their commander, sitting at the
far end of the table, waiting.

TESSLOFF

There are two murderers here--
and we know who one of them is.

(short pause)

Space will kill us, if we do
not work together.

Tessloff says nothing more. The crew takes a few moments to
get back on track, everyone trying to calm down, to think and

ANA

We must go back inside of the
damaged module and repair the
electrical system.

DYSON

We need Destiny up and running
...she's our lifeboat.

CHEN

Assuming the old ham radios
aren't too far gone, maybe
we can get a message out to
anybody listening... tell
the world we're still here--

CAMERA MOVES toward Commander Tessloff as he sums things up.

TESSLOFF

If we do these things, if we
work as a crew, we can survive
the void of space.

TESLOFF (CONT'D)
 If we all run to our corners
 with a sharp stick, then the
 killer's job is already done.

There is a pause and he adds:

TESSLOFF
 (old seaman phrase)
 One hand for yourself and one
 for the ship.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

COMMANDER TESSLOFF walks into the module and takes his seat. He's alone. Tessloff slips on a HEADSET and works the radio, determined. The men speak in RUSSIAN with English SUBTITLES:

TESSLOFF
 Are you there?

There is no answer, just STATIC. The commander is impatient.

TESSLOFF (CONT'D)
 Nicolay, report--

The voice seems very distant:

NICOLAY
 (over the radio)
 I am here.

Commander Tessloff immediately eases up, like that's what he needed to know. Short pause.

TESSLOFF
 It is good to hear your voice.

NICOLAY
 (over the radio)
*There are more important things
 to do than speak with me.*

TESSLOFF
 You are part of this crew now
 and always--

NICOLAY
 (over the radio)
*I have been thinking about my
 situation and have a request.*

Tessloff does not like this--

NICOLAY

(over the radio)

*When I begin to hallucinate,
I would like you to turn off
the radio for the last time.*

TESSLOFF

Comrade...

NICOLAY

(over the radio)

*I will not be of any use at
that point, and do not wish
to be made a curiosity.*

The commander thinks it over, realizing deep down he's right.

TESSLOFF

Understood.

Tessloff does not know what else to say. He just sits there at the console wishing he did.

NICOLAY

(over the radio)

*My friend, I think you are
as lonely as I am...*

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE DESTINY -- DAY

DYSON IS STRAPPED to the floor of the capsule putting the flight controls back together. Parts and tools are FLOATING.

ANA drifts into view handing Dyson the SCREWDRIVER he needs. She considers his efforts and:

ANA

Looks like shit.

Dyson puts the tool where it goes and struggles to turn it. Finally, he tosses her a look.

DYSON

Not that I don't enjoy your company, but you really don't have to watch me--

Ana just crosses her arms in front of her chest as she slowly drifts through the ship...determined to watch his every move.

TESSLOFF sticks his head inside the cockpit and looks around.

DYSON

Well, say something--

TESSLOFF

Looks like shit.

The commander shares a look with Ana as Dyson plucks out a small part tumbling in midair.

TESSLOFF

Will this spacecraft fly, if necessary?

DYSON

Fly is not the word I'd use.

TESSLOFF

Can we aim at the big planet and hit go?

DYSON

A couple more hours...then I think so, yes.

TESSLOFF

Under these circumstances, a "think so" will have to do--

(to Ana, in Russian
w/English subtitles)

I need new cartridge for carbon dioxide assembly.

ANA

Da.

Ana pushes off for the hatch--

ANA (CONT'D)

Back in five minutes, Dyson.

Dyson looks like he can't wait. Ana floats past Tessloff and EXITS. The commander stays a while longer considering Dyson.

TESSLOFF

(making sure)

Please, don't get any ideas while we are gone...keep the tools in your hands working.

DYSON

Aye-aye, sir.

Tessloff grudgingly EXITS leaving Dyson alone in the cockpit.

Dyson releases the screwdriver and struggles to pull a small CAPACITOR from the console. He turns it over in his hand, gives it a shake, and hears the sound of BROKEN PARTS inside.

Dyson quickly unstraps himself and floats out of the cockpit.

INT. OLDER MODULES -- DAY

DYSON drifts into the station, heading we don't know where--

INT. RUSSIAN SOYUZ -- DAY

DYSON maneuvers in the narrow gap between an assortment of flexible tubing and supplies, reaching the claustrophobic interior of the old Russian space capsule. It looks antique.

Dyson looks around the cockpit. Sees an old leather storage POUCH. He reaches in and pulls out a RUSSIAN MAKAROV PISTOL.

Dyson stares at the gun, not with surprise, but fascination--

Now he feels the point of that SCREWDRIVER touching his neck. Dyson doesn't move. ANA says:

ANA
Open your hand.

He does not respond and she drives the tip of the screwdriver deeper. Dyson releases the gun. It just FLOATS right there.

ANA
With one finger, push away.

Dyson very clearly holds up one finger, pokes at the pistol, and it TUMBLES away from them.

ANA
Why do you want a gun?

DYSON
I don't want a gun.

ANA
And yet somehow a gun is in
your hand.

Dyson makes a move and Ana tenses. Slowly, he pulls out that CAPACITOR from the other ship.

DYSON
I need one of these--

ANA

(ignoring that)

Old Soyuz always carried a
weapon to protect cosmonauts
who crash in the mountains.

DYSON

No kidding.

ANA

Maybe others will remember
this...

(short pause)

...or maybe just you.

DYSON

That screwdriver is really
digging into my throat--

She tightens her grip on him--

ANA

Choose your next words very
carefully.

DYSON

We need to hide this gun
where no one can find it.

A long pause. Suddenly Ana takes away the screwdriver and says, almost matter-of-factly:

ANA

Good.

Dyson is surprised by the abrupt change, turning to face her.

DYSON

So you believe I came here
for a capacitor?

ANA

Why not.

(short pause)

Also I removed the bullets.

Ana puts her hands on his chest, and pushes herself backward out the hatch. Dyson plucks the gun from midair and follows.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE STATION -- DAY

A smaller ROBOTIC ARM transports a see-through ACRYLIC BOX containing the RUSSIAN PISTOL AND AMMUNITION across outer space, stretching to its limits before RELEASING the box and

Now we can see DYSON AND ANA standing at the nearby PORTHOLE.

ANA (V.O.)
Gun and ammunition outside
...people inside.

CUT TO:

INT. OLDER MODULES -- DAY

DYSON watches ANA deactivate the controls to the robotic arm.

ANA
Do you ever dream that you
are falling, Dyson?

DYSON
(surprised)
Yeah, I do--

Ana FLOATS back just a little, making contact with him, and Dyson touches her, simply to steady Ana, expecting her to quickly push off. Instead Ana lets herself rest in his arms.

ANA
It is common on Station. I
do not fear dreams, but ever
since this trouble began, I
have the same feeling while
awake, falling and falling--

Dyson holds onto her, tighter. Neither of them speaks again. They drift through the module.

We continue to observe both of them, but from farther away, like they're being watched and

KAREN drifts in the shadows several modules down, spying on Dyson and Ana through a hatch...and not liking what she sees.

Slowly the doctor floats away.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

LUD stares intently at a big WRENCH resting on a console. He

wraps his fingers around the handle and lifts it. Tests the weight. Gets a feel for it--

COMMANDER TESSLOFF enters the service module too quickly and startles him. Lud instinctively lifts the wrench high in the air, brandishing it as a weapon, ready to strike Tessloff and

TESSLOFF
(calling out)
Come out, please, before I am
bludgeoned.

CHEN peeks his head out of an open ACCESS PANEL in the floor. Tessloff tries to be patient.

TESSLOFF (CONT'D)
If the murderer is here he is
now outnumbered, so let us be
friends again, yes?

Lud lowers the wrench. Chen pulls himself out of the hole, and they step closer to him--

TESSLOFF
One of us must go through the
hatch and evaluate the damage.
(toward Lud)
Since we are short on trust...
chance will decide.

Tessloff quickly holds out THREE STRAWS he already prepared--

All three men share a look. Chen picks the first straw, and Lud takes one, leaving Tessloff with the last. Seconds pass.

CLOSE-UP of all THREE HANDS as the men hold out their STRAWS. Lud's is by far the shortest.

CHEN
Congratulations.

Tessloff does not take his eyes off Lud as he speaks to Chen:

TESSLOFF
Please run the numbers, and
check O2 levels.

Chen nods and steps to his console. Tessloff stares at Lud a moment longer and then EXITS.

Lud watches after the Russian commander, making sure he's gone. He raises that short straw. On second viewing the end of the straw looks BROKEN, like he cracked the thing in half.

Now Lud raises his other hand and slowly opens his fingers, revealing THE REST OF THE STRAW. He really did break it and

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE DESTINY -- DAY

DYSON floats into the cockpit and is surprised to find KAREN waiting for him. The doctor holds a METAL TRANSPORT CASE and

KAREN

I have something that must
be returned to Earth. It's
a medical breakthrough...
the culmination of my work.
I want you to hide it on
Destiny and keep it safe--

Karen puts the case into his hands, looking at him intensely.

KAREN (CONT'D)

You and I are the only two
Americans left, Dyson. What's
inside this case is vital
to our national interests.

The doctor looks around nervously, like she stayed too long,
and pushes off toward the hatch. Dyson just watches her go--

DYSON

(a bad feeling)
I thought you people were
here for all mankind.

Karen stops at the hatch and looks back at him, her face
difficult to read. She EXITS.

Dyson floats inside of the cockpit holding the metal case and

CUT TO:

INT. THE SMALL NODE -- DAY

LUD stands outside the sealed hatch to the damaged module.
He wears a big OXYGEN TANK on his back and a clear FACE MASK.

Lud tries to hide his fear as ANA adjusts the oxygen setting:

ANA

You must breathe normally.
Report change in pressure
or temperature--

Ana moves around to the front, and can see that he's not in a
good place. She thinks about it. Ana lays her hand on him--

ANA
La speranza ci da la vita.

The English SUBTITLE translates this as "Hope gives us life."

Lud looks at her through the mask, surprised that Ana spoke Italian and finding strength.

LUD
 (sincerely)
Grazie.

Soon COMMANDER TESSLOFF enters, and dismisses Ana with a nod.

Lud and Tessloff study each other as she EXITS. The Russian commander waits until he is sure that Ana is out of earshot--

TESSLOFF
 How strange... you picking
 the short straw. I saved
 the short straw for myself.

Lud doesn't say anything yet.

TESSLOFF (CONT'D)
 The man who goes in there
 holds the lives of everyone
 on Station in his hands--

LUD
 I am the best hope we have
 of getting the life-support
 system back on-line.
 (pause, and
 accusingly)
 Or don't you want it fixed?

They stare at one another and

TESSLOFF
 I need air as much as you do.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

CHEN raises an old-fashioned handset and talks CHINESE into one of the HAM RADIOS. We don't understand the words, but he seems to be speaking clandestinely. Chen quickly turns off the radio as ANA enters. She sees him put down the handset--

ANA
 Any luck with radio?

CHEN
Not yet.

KAREN walks in and all three take up the familiar positions, the two women grabbing HEADSETS. Now DYSON steps through the hatch. Ana scans her displays and keys the station intercom.

CUT TO:

INT. THE SMALL NODE -- DAY

LUD and COMMANDER TESSLOFF stare one another down. And then:

ANA
(over intercom)
Module is pressurized...
we are "go" for repairs.

Just when it seems like neither one of them is going to move, Tessloff runs to the hatch and begins to open the mechanism--

INT. DAMAGED MODULE -- DAY

The hatch opens and LUD steps in. The door SHUTS behind him.

LUD'S P.O.V. Through his BREATHING mask the damaged module stretches out before Lud, the interior CHARRED AND MELTED and

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

KAREN waits to hear something from Lud, and when she doesn't:

KAREN
(into her mike)
How is it in there?

LUD
(over speakers)
Cold.

TESSLOFF enters and takes his position. He wipes the sweat from his brow, looking uneasy as he slips on his own HEADSET.

TESSLOFF
Why is it cold in there and
so hot out here?

CHEN raises his electronic TABLET, and begins calculating--

CHEN
I'm venting to keep the
pressure down so we don't
reignite the fire--

TESSLOFF
(into his mike)
Do you see the damage?

CUT TO:

INT. DAMAGED MODULE -- DAY

LUD sees a deep jagged GASH in the contours of the module,
obviously the source of the fire, the inner workings exposed.

LUD
(into his mike)
Yes, I see it. Stand by.

The interior mechanism looks fused together and useless. Lud tries to open a nearby PANEL. It's stuck-- He looks around.

Lud bends down and comes up with a metal FRAGMENT that he uses as a makeshift crowbar. Finally the panel pops open and

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

Now TESSLOFF grows impatient:

TESSLOFF
(into his mike)
Can you fix it?

LUD
(over speakers)
I can bypass the regular channels from here and link into emergency access--

Tessloff waits a moment as ANA calls up the DIAGRAM on her computer, evaluating Lud's idea. She nods at the commander, and Tessloff wastes no time.

TESSLOFF
(into his mike)
Begin procedure!

CUT TO:

INT. DAMAGED MODULE -- DAY

LUD begins the procedure, but stops, like he feels something.

LUD
 (into his mike)
 Pressure feels funny... and
 it's getting colder in here.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

THE CREW doesn't like the sound of that. They turn to CHEN, scribbling as usual on his tablet, not looking at them. TESSLOFF yanks the small screen away from the surprised Chen:

TESSLOFF
 Your calculations are off--

CHEN
 Not exactly.

TESSLOFF
 (displeased)
 What does that mean?

CHEN
 There is less oxygen in the module than there should be.

CUT TO:

INT. DAMAGED MODULE -- DAY

LUD gets back to work when a sound REVERBERATES through the module, originating from outside the hull or within the hull, as if the station itself is trying to warn him of something--

He stops to listen. It is quiet now. Lud gets back to work.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

DYSON steps closer, accusing:

DYSON
 You're venting too much air.

This time COMMANDER TESSLOFF does not resent his speaking up, and CHEN is on the defensive.

CHEN
 It's not the vents.

TESSLOFF
 (louder)
 Where is the oxygen going?

Chen doesn't have an answer.

DYSON
Get him out of there, fast.

For once, they both agree--

TESSLOFF
(into his mike)
Lud. We are going to take
you out for a while.

CUT TO:

INT. DAMAGED MODULE -- DAY

LUD doesn't answer right away, making a few more connections.

LUD
(into his mike)
Your timing is very good
--pumps are back on-line!

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

Everyone reacts with surprise. ANA works her keyboard, fast.

ANA
Oxygen levels rising--

There is great relief at the news. TESSLOFF lets them have a few seconds, and then orders:

TESSLOFF
Open the hatch and get him out. Close the vents.

DYSON EXITS the service module, and CHEN TURNS OFF the vents. Tessloff removes his headset and rubs his bald head, pleased as he gestures toward KAREN--

KAREN
(into her mike)
Good work, Lud, you did it.

Suddenly she is assaulted by an EAR-PIERCING NOISE. The doctor tears off her headset.

CUT TO:

INT. DAMAGED MODULE -- DAY

LUD stiffens as an ANGRY HISS OF RUSHING AIR fills the module with a deafening TSSSSSSSS--

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

--and the startled CREW reacts. The electronic TABLET slips out of Chen's weakening grasp and CLATTERS on the hard floor.

CHEN

It can't be--

ANA

Venting kept the pressure down. When we stopped...

TESSLOFF

Breach!

CUT TO:

INT. DAMAGED MODULE -- DAY

LUD lurches around in panic--

LUD'S P.O.V. Through the FOGGING plastic of his oxygen mask, Lud searches wildly for the hole. He is BREATHING too fast. Lud can't see a damned thing.

He rips off the mask. Looks:

There is a small TEAR IN THE HULL of the station, a little slit in the metal...but as Lud watches the TEAR GETS BIGGER, the metal bending outward and

CUT TO:

INT. THE SMALL NODE -- DAY

DYSON runs to the hatch and looks through a round PORTHOLE. He POUNDS on the thick door--

DYSON

(yelling)

Cut the air. Cut the air!

CUT TO:

INT. DAMAGED MODULE -- DAY

LUD turns and runs for his life. DYSON continues to pound on the hatch, trying to communicate through the porthole, but all Lud can hear is that TSSSSSSSS as he reaches the door and Lud twists the LATCH halfway.

The walls, floor, and ceiling around Lud BREAK APART and the pieces BLOW OFF INTO SPACE. Where metal and plastic used to be there is only the EARTH spiraling past and now the STARS--

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE STATION -- DAY

DEBRIS HURLS PAST THE CAMERA, shards of metal, objects, even a small ordinary-looking SCREW. When the junk clears we see:

The habitat ring continues to rotate, but there is a JAGGED GAPING HOLE where the module used to be, the small fragile body of LUD still holding on.

CUT TO:

INT. THE SMALL NODE -- DAY

The station SHAKES. DYSON fights to stay upright. He looks:

DYSON'S P.O.V. LUD IS RIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE of the thick glass, his eyes shut tight, mouth closed, one hand on the door and the other holding his nose. He seems so close but--

TESSLOFF stumbles into the node. Dyson turns to him. Yells:

DYSON
He's still alive! Fall back.
Seal the hatch--

Tessloff seals the node. Dyson yanks an EMERGENCY AIR MASK from the wall and puts it on. He grasps the outer hatch and

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

KAREN pulls herself up in pain. She reaches for her headset:

KAREN
Lud, do you hear me? Exhale
slowly. DO NOT hold your
breath, or your lungs will--

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE STATION -- DAY

LUD HANGS IN OPEN SPACE holding onto the hatch for dear life.

Suddenly his whole body SPASMS, lungs exploding, and he opens his eyes in surprise. BLOOD SPURTS from his nose and mouth--

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

TESSLOFF re-enters the module. The station is WRENCHING with a terrible noise, like the hull is cracking. The commander watches his CREW trying to recover. He turns toward a panel.

Tessloff stares at a LARGE LEVER BEHIND PROTECTIVE GLASS and

CUT TO:

INT. THE SMALL NODE -- DAY

DYSON YELLS as he fights to open the hatch with every ounce of his strength. He looks out the window...and stops trying.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE STATION -- DAY

DYSON is visible through the porthole staring at the BODY OF LUD FLOATING SEVERAL FEET FROM THE HATCH, arms and legs outstretched, spinning slowly.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

The space station SHAKES AGAIN. Most of the crew just holds on, but TESSLOFF stumbles across the module to the control panel, going for that lever. He BREAKS the protective glass.

CHEN sees what he's doing and

CHEN
(frightened)
No--

He rushes toward Tessloff but the Russian commander lands an old-fashioned PUNCH to his gut. Chen gets the wind knocked out of him. He clutches his stomach and stumbles backwards--

Chen drops to the floor. A stunned KAREN races over to help.

CHEN
(in pain)
Stop him!

DYSON runs into the module and sees what's happening. The commander immediately grabs an over-turned CHAIR, hurling it at Dyson so he can't advance--

ANA witnesses the events from a short distance away, but is uncharacteristically frozen, unable to move on her commander.

Tessloff lurches back to the control panel, his eyes wild and CLOSE-UP of Commander Tessloff's weathered HAND as he wraps his fingers around that big LEVER. He violently pulls it and The noise and the shaking STOPS. Karen runs to the Porthole.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE STATION -- DAY

CAMERA MOVES, pulling back from KAREN in the window, moving over the exterior hull until we reach the DESTINY spacecraft.

The ship has DETACHED from the docking module and is DRIFTING AWAY from the space station...

CUT TO:

INT. SERVICE MODULE -- DAY

KAREN stares out the window, like she's watching their last hope float away, and finally she turns to look at the others.

KAREN
(frightened)
Tessloff jettisoned Destiny.

DYSON, ANA, and CHEN train their eyes on TESSLOFF, standing apart from the rest of them--

TESSLOFF
We have structural damage...
The docked spacecraft was
tearing us apart. I had to
jettison it to save Station.

Chen LAUGHS out loud, like this is mad, Tessloff's gone mad--

CHEN
(louder)
Station is dead.

CHEN (CONT'D)
Lud is floating outside with
half the life-support system.
We needed Destiny to get out
of here. You just killed us!

The crew reacts to the simple truth of what Tessloff's done--

TESSLOFF
We would have died trying to
reach the capsule. You are
all alive now because of me.

CHEN
(to the others)
Don't you get it? The
commander wants to go down
with the ship--

Tessloff rushes Chen, angrily, and pins him against the wall.

TESSLOFF
You knew about hull breach.
This is your fault!

CHEN
The fire didn't penetrate
the hull. The hole was made
later--

TESSLOFF
How could we make a hole if
the hatch was sealed?

Tessloff tightens his grip and Chen YELLS OUT. The crew
inserts themselves between them, with Dyson and Ana holding
Tessloff. Karen sees to Chen, who gestures that he's okay...

...and then takes off running.

DYSON
Damn it.

Dyson releases the commander and follows Chen out the module.

INT. MEDICAL LAB -- NIGHT

DYSON CHASES CHEN through the medical lab. Chen glances back
over his shoulder, sees Dyson behind him, and looks panicked:

CHEN
Why are you chasing me?

DYSON
Because you're running!

Chen looks back over his shoulder again. Seems less certain.

CHEN
I'll stop running if you
stop chasing me.

DYSON
You first--

That just makes him go faster.

INT. LARGE GALLEY -- NIGHT

CHEN enters the galley and tries to climb the LADDER up into the zero-gravity section. DYSON tackles Chen and they land hard on the floor. Chen fights for a second, and then tries:

CHEN
Look, Dyson. You want to
kill everybody, it's okay
by me. What am I, really,
just an observer...right?

Dyson starts to become angry--

CHEN (CONT'D)
I'm only saying...if it's
you -- hypothetically --
maybe we can make a deal!

Dyson clenches his fist, cocks back his arm...and suddenly TESSLOFF stops the blow, with:

TESSLOFF
Thank you for the thought
...now let him go, please.

Dyson gets off the floor and pulls Chen up with him. Now ANA and KAREN hurry into the module. Tessloff sits at the table.

TESSLOFF
He was fleeing to Soyuz--

KAREN
That capsule has been up
here for 15 years. Could it
survive re-entry and bring
us safely home?

DYSON
By safely she means alive--

ANA
Soyuz cannot carry all five
of us...and no one is being
left behind.

Now the emergency lights FLICKER, like they're going out too.

ANA
(swearing)
Tvoyu mat'.

DYSON
Let's stick to English.

Ana almost gives Dyson an earful, like she normally would, but this time bites her tongue. Chen takes a step backwards.

CHEN
(to everyone)
Just stay away from me.

DYSON
Nobody is gonna move, okay?

The lights cut out and the station goes BLACK. Several long moments pass before a FLASHLIGHT BEAM cuts through the dark--

Ana shines her light around. Everyone immediately looks to see if anybody has moved and

No one has. The crew takes a second to breathe. The doctor pulls a portable battery-powered LANTERN from storage. It illuminates most of the room.

TESSLOFF
I think you will all feel a little better if I am not in command...Ana, you are next in line, yes?

Ana looks surprised but doesn't object. No one else objects. But still a question lingers:

KAREN
So now what?

CHEN
We're blind in here. We don't have enough power to see what condition we're in.

DYSON

Maybe Nicolay can tell us.

CHEN

You're not serious--

DYSON

(to the others)

It's worth a try.

Karen uses her lantern to illuminate the radio and activate SPEAKERS in the galley, taking the small HEADSET in her hand:

KAREN

(into the mike)

Nicolay?

Everybody watches and waits. They hear nothing, just STATIC.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Nicolay, come in. We need
your help. Can you see us?

They are about to give up and:

NICOLAY

(over the speakers)

I see you.

The crew reacts to the familiar sound of his voice, surprised and hopeful, waiting for more.

NICOLAY

(over the speakers)

Station is much closer now

...I have a clear view.

We can see a glimmer of hope in their faces...all save for the doctor, who seems worried.

KAREN

What are we doing right now?

It is clearly a test. The others realize it immediately, and the seconds pass slowly until:

NICOLAY

(over the speakers)

Waving to me!

Obviously no one is waving. All their collective hope sinks. The doctor doesn't need to say anything. The truth is clear. Karen takes a moment to think.

KAREN
 Nicolay...do you know who
 this is?

NICOLAY
 (over the speakers)
Doctor Karen--

KAREN
 Do you see your air gauge?

Tessloff moves next to Karen. There is nothing but STATIC--

KAREN (CONT'D)
 Your air gauge, Nicolay--
 (short pause)
 Can you tell me where the
 needle is pointing?

NICOLAY
 (breaking up)
*It is... difficult to see
 ...two... I see two of...
 everything... is becoming
 fuzzy... I think--*

Tessloff abruptly pulls the headset away from the surprised doctor and works the controls, taking Nicolay off speaker and

TESSLOFF
 (into the mike)
 Nicolay...this is Tessloff.
 Tell me what is happening--

We do not hear what Nicolay says, not this time, just watch the transformation on the old commander's face as his alert expression slowly changes, growing sad, then hardening again.

Finally Tessloff drops the headset from his ear. He stares out, looking hopeless. He reaches for the radio controls and

Karen puts a hand on his arm:

KAREN
 Let us say goodbye.

TESSLOFF
 He asked us to turn it off!
 (softer)
 ...when he no longer spoke
 sense.

Neither one of them budges. Now they all look at Ana. Wait.

Ana slowly steps toward the console. Dyson tries to reach out, as if to lend his support, but she walks right past him without acknowledgement. She has to do this and do it alone.

Ana reaches the controls and

CLOSE-UP of her HAND holding the main switch, hesitating, and then TURNING OFF the radio--

For a moment, no one speaks. No one even moves. Then the new station commander turns.

ANA

We will do what we have been trained to do... to survive where men and women are not made to survive. We will go out, bring back the Destiny spacecraft, and get the fuck out of here. Any questions?

No one has any questions. It's what they needed. Ana moves past Dyson and asks, curtly:

ANA (CONT'D)
How was my English?

She doesn't wait for a response. Dyson watches her walk off.

CUT TO:

INT. THE AIRLOCK -- LATER

DYSON, ANA, and TESSLOFF are grimly working, assembling their SPACESUITS, the magnetic boots keeping them standing upright.

KAREN and CHEN float by holding makeshift thruster CANISTERS.

CHEN

Since the S.A.F.E.R.S. can't be trusted, the doctor and I came up with these....

They hand one to Dyson, and one to Tessloff. Looking at the homemade device does not generate a great deal of confidence.

Chen holds up Ana's canister to illustrate how they operate--

CHEN (CONT'D)
Hold it like so. Trigger's here. Quick bursts should be enough for attitude control or to cross short distances.

DYSON
Did you test it?

CHEN
How the hell could we do that?
Don't use them unless you have
no other choice--

Dyson is ready to complain, but Ana cuts him off, taking the canister from Chen, and securing it to the waist of her suit.

ANA
Understood.

KAREN
Looks like a lot of debris out
there. Be careful.

ANA
Since we could never get out
of the way in time, there is
little point in dividing our
attention by "being careful."

Ana looks up and sees that her words didn't go over too well.

ANA (CONT'D)
(making an effort)
But we can try not to be hit.

DYSON
How much time do we have if
our suits are punctured?

KAREN
About five seconds. The
good news is the impact will
probably kill you.

The doctor wants to say more to Dyson, but is very aware of the others. She grabs his spacesuit, pulls herself close and KAREN KISSES DYSON on the lips, roughly. He looks surprised. ...and so does everybody else, trying not to stare. Only Ana watches them openly, suspicious, or maybe just not liking it. The kiss ends and the doctor moves her mouth toward Dyson's ear, allowing her to whisper--

KAREN
(desperately)
Save the case.

The doctor grasps his helmet and slowly lowers it into place.

DYSON'S P.O.V. Staring out at Karen THROUGH THE GLASS. His BREATHING is loud inside the suit. She CLASPS the seals and The crew communicates with each other over the helmet radios:

ANA
Tessloff has the most EVA
time -- he will go first. I am
next...Dyson will be last.

DYSON
Can we talk about that?

ANA
(curtly)
No.

Ana is aware Dyson is watching, not pleased with her refusal.

ANA (CONT'D)
Swimming in a pool of water
during training does not
prepare you for this... and
we will need your strength
to pull us in if something
goes wrong.

Dyson, Ana, and Tessloff slowly take their positions at one end of the airlock. Karen and Chen EXIT out the other side and immediately swing the inner hatch shut, sealing them in--

KAREN'S VOICE
Everybody ready?

ANA
Proceed, doctor.

There is the sound of all the air being SUCKED OUT of the airlock. On the wall the PRESSURE GAUGE noticeably DROPS and WHAT THEY SEE. The OUTER HATCH waits right in front of them, the condensation on the metal EVAPORATING along with the air.

Dyson turns toward Tessloff, studying the old Russian's face.

DYSON
You're awful quiet--

TESSLOFF
Yes. That is because I am
scared to death.

He says it without any self-consciousness at all. Dyson is surprised. He watches Tessloff take a step toward the hatch.

Tessloff grabs hold of the locking mechanism. Watches the pressure gauge reach ZERO and:

TESSLOFF
Ready to open hatch!

ANA
Open hatch--

The thick metal swings open revealing a dark and ominous BLACK everywhere they look. It is night down on Earth. We see the spaceship DESTINY DRIFTING AWAY from the station and

Tessloff twists his body a little, the spacesuit equivalent of looking over your shoulder.

TESSLOFF
See you outside...

And he jumps through the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- NIGHT

TESSLOFF floats into space trailing a TETHER LINE behind him. No sound but his BREATHING and

The tether line gently snakes out of the open hatch, almost in slow motion, the life-line straightening out as Tessloff drifts away from the station--

TESSLOFF
Tethers do not seem to be a problem--

Just as it appears Tessloff has reached the end of his cord, ANA steps into the open hatch.

ANA
I am coming out behind you.

Now we see that Tessloff's life-line does not connect him to the station, but to Ana, who trails HER OWN TETHER connecting to DYSON, who steps up into the open hatch to await his turn.

Ana takes one step into space:

ANA'S P.O.V. Ana BREATHES inside her helmet bubble and sees that fragile cord stretching out before her to Tessloff, tiny and far ahead of her, the Destiny capsule even farther still.

Dyson stands at the edge of the lock, BREATHING erratically as he awaits his turn. Looks:

DYSON'S P.O.V. THE COILED TETHER LINE is going out into space, getting steadily smaller as he watches, nearing the point where it will pull him--

ANA
It is one small step, Dyson.

DYSON
(not believing it)
Uh-huh.

He STOPS breathing and jumps--

DYSON'S P.O.V. We leap with Dyson and FLOAT away, SPINNING a little, the life-line stretching out before us to Ana, then to Tessloff. Dyson is breathing now much FASTER than normal.

The three spacewalkers drift away from the space station, connected to one another by the long fragile-looking thread, slowly moving across space and

The tether connecting Dyson to the airlock steadily uncoils. In the lead, Tessloff is nearing the Destiny, not so far now:

TESSLOFF
I am getting close--

Dyson's life-line stretches to its full length and goes TAUT.

Tessloff STOPS some distance from the ship, close, but not close enough. The Destiny hangs in space still out of reach.

For a long moment Dyson, Ana, and Tessloff float there, each of them realizing all too well that they have come up short--

Then Tessloff reaches for the jury-rigged THRUSTER CANISTER attached to his spacesuit. He holds it out in front of him.

Tessloff does not sound ready:

TESSLOFF
Ready to detach.

Dyson looks frustrated, helpless at the end of the line. Ana knows there's no other choice.

ANA
Good luck, comrade--

Tessloff hits the release mechanism on his suit and detaches from the others, FLOATING COMPLETELY FREE for the first time.

He gives the trigger a try and

A BURST OF THRUST from the canister propels Tessloff forward and he begins to twist a bit, FIRING another quick burst to correct his approach, and driving him FASTER toward the ship.

TESSLOFF'S P.O.V. His BREATHING is loud inside the helmet as Tessloff floats toward the hull, his body spinning like a pinwheel while the Destiny spacecraft turns, DISORIENTING and Tessloff readies for collision.

TESSLOFF'S P.O.V. Through the bubble of his helmet we watch the HULL OF THE SHIP race closer until IMPACT. Tessloff GRUNTS in pain and we're looking out through a CRACKED VISOR.

Tessloff SLIDES across the hull of Destiny, trying to find a hand-hold, BREATHING wildly and

Ana and Dyson watch from the distance wanting to scream out--
Just as he is about to run out of ship, his thick spacesuit glove finds a grip on the hull.

Tessloff struggles to hold on, his feet hanging out over the edge of the metal. Destiny continues to rotate. Behind him the universe is SPINNING madly.

CLOSE-UP of TESSLOFF trying not to let go when the crack in his helmet visor begins to leak oxygen out into space, just a single TRAIL OF VENTING AIR and

TESSLOFF
(in trouble)
Ana.

Quickly Ana hits the release, raises her canister, and FIRES.

Ana presses the trigger AGAIN AND AGAIN, short rabid bursts as she crosses the gap toward the ship, not trying to correct her rotation or be careful, just hoping to get there fast and

Dyson goes for his own tether--

DYSON
Right behind you.

ANA
Hold position.

DYSON
But--

ANA
Hold position.

Tessloff sees her coming, and:

TESSLOFF
(louder)
Too fast!

Ana is racing toward a violent impact until she FIRES a last burst and ROTATES HER BODY so that she comes in feet-first...

CLOSE-UP of Ana's MAGNETIC BOOTS as they CONNECT TO THE HULL.

TESSLOFF
You are going to give me a heart attack.

She takes a step and then another, making sure each foot is set before continuing, but walking steadily across the ship--

ANA
Your heart is stronger than that, old man.

Ana gets down on one knee and extends a thick glove toward Tessloff, who reaches out and grabs hold. She hoists him up.

TESSLOFF
Thank you--

For a moment they stand on the ship and just BREATHE as the universe spins around them. Then they look for something and The ship's HATCH is very near.

Ana and Tessloff walk across the hull and crouch down by the thick door. Ana works the LOCK, and then she and Tessloff grab the edge. Swing it open.

They stare down into the INTERIOR of Destiny and smile wide--
Dyson watches from a distance. He looks relieved, of course ...but then notices something.

DYSON'S P.O.V. Through his helmet bubble Dyson catches a glimpse of movement, MULTIPLE STREAKS OF LIGHT, there for a moment and suddenly NOT there.

Dyson begins to show alarm and

DYSON
(calling)
Look--

CUT TO:

METAL DEBRIS from the damaged station hurls past the bubble of Ana's space helmet at INCREDIBLE SPEED, so fast that her face seems frozen in time, and

CUT TO:

DYSON (CONT'D)
--out!

Ana looks confused for a moment, realizing what just happened only after it's already over--

ANA
We go inside NOW.

Ana helps the commander maneuver through the hatch, both of them BREATHING FAST, but their speed maddeningly slow. MORE DEBRIS hurls past in a BLUR as Tessloff floats down inside the opening, and out of danger.

Ana starts to follow him in and

CUT TO:

A simple mundane everyday SCREW hurls through space at five times the speed of a bullet and

CUT TO:

The screw strikes the open hatch of Destiny RIPPING THE DOOR RIGHT OFF, the destruction made even more strangely unreal in the silence of space. The impact KNOCKS ANA OFF the ship and

DYSON
Ana!

There is no answer as Ana tumbles toward deep space, arms and legs frozen in position, as if she is unconscious, or worse--

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE DESTINY -- NIGHT

COMMANDER TESSLOFF stares up at the hole where the hatch used to be and gathers his strength.

He starts down the passage and

DYSON
(over the radio)
On my way. Power up the
ship! We can go get her--

Tessloff's expression hardens:

TESSLOFF
I am sorry. No.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- NIGHT

DYSON can't believe his ears--

TESSLOFF
(over the radio)
I am taking Destiny back to Station.

CUT TO:

INT. THE COCKPIT -- NIGHT

TESSLOFF clumsily makes his way through the cramped cockpit, and moves into the pilot seat.

The single plume of ESCAPING AIR is still venting from his cracked visor as Tessloff hurries to power up the spacecraft:

TESSLOFF
This is what Ana would have ordered if she were able to do so.

DYSON
(over the radio)
Tessloff, you sonuvabitch--

The console lights BLINK ON, and Tessloff grabs the JOYSTICK.

TESSLOFF
She is gone, Dyson.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- NIGHT

The maneuvering jets FIRE on the spacecraft and DESTINY STOPS SPINNING. Now the nose of the ship slowly TURNS AWAY from the receding figure of ANA and

DYSON hits his release mechanism hard and DETACHES from the station. He lifts his makeshift thruster canister. Aims it.

Dyson blows the whole tank in a long reckless EXTENDED BURST.

INSIDE HIS HELMET. Dyson looks both determined and terrified as he hurls himself through space. Finally he just YELLS and

Dyson powers away from the space station and Destiny, both of them quickly RECEDING in the background. He fights to hold the thruster canister steady, the line of his flight erratic, beginning to rotate wildly and

DYSON'S P.O.V. Through the helmet bubble, Dyson sees Ana ahead of him GETTING CLOSE and

His canister runs out of fuel and GOES DEAD. Dyson releases the device and floats the rest of the way unaided, with only his momentum to finish the job. No sound but his BREATHING--

DYSON'S P.O.V. Ana rotates ahead of him, RUSHING CLOSER, and

Dyson reaches Ana and the IMPACT sends them both tumbling wildly together. Dyson struggles to hold on tight. He turns Ana around to look at her face.

It is hard to tell through the suit if she's dead or alive...

DYSON
(into his radio)
Ana, can you hear me?

ANA'S P.O.V. If she was conscious, Ana could see Dyson's face, his lips moving furiously as he attempts to communicate ...but NO SOUND is coming in the suit. Her radio is out and

Dyson gets an idea. He carefully pulls Ana closer, so that their two visors are touching--

The sound of his voice travels THROUGH THE GLASS, from his spacesuit into hers, seeming warmer and more natural than it ever could over some radio, as if they're back home on Earth.

DYSON
Ana--

She does not answer him. Dyson sounds exhausted, but refuses to give up. He digs down deep.

DYSON (CONT'D)
I've got you. But you have
to open your eyes. Wake up!

Ana begins to stir and finally she opens her eyes, staring out at Dyson, a little blurry:

ANA
Dyson, you rescued me?

DYSON
Yeah...

Ana begins to notice that they are not back on the station, or inside the ship. Dyson realizes he'd better qualify that.

DYSON (CONT'D)
...sort of. Is your thruster
still working?

ANA
(like we're dead)
Chyort voz'mi!

Dyson searches for the thruster canister attached to Ana's suit by a thin CORD. Grabs the line and pulls it over. He presses their visors together:

DYSON
Hang on as tight as you can--
I'll do the rest.

Something is happening in space. We can see a CHANGE IN THE ILLUMINATION. Dyson and Ana are suddenly bathed in a warm light. They look together and

WHAT THEY SEE. SUNRISE IN SPACE is spectacular as Earth's atmosphere glows with fresh light, waking the dark planet below them, rich colors beginning to spread across the globe, the rays of the sun streaking out toward the black of space--

ANA
Have you ever seen a thing so
beautiful?

Dyson really, truly never has.

DYSON
No--

He holds out the metal canister. Dyson waits until they seem to be pointing in the right direction. Squeezes the trigger.

Dyson and Ana STOP THEIR FORWARD MOMENTUM, hanging in space for a moment...and slowly they START BACK TOWARD THE STATION.

Then their thruster GOES DEAD.

Dyson and Ana exchange a look. No sound but their BREATHING as they tumble through space--

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE DESTINY -- DAY

TESSLOFF sits in the cramped cockpit as Destiny moves toward the station visible out the window, slowly GROWING LARGER and

TESSLOFF
(into his radio)
Is anyone hearing me? This is
Tessloff, returning in Destiny
...mission successful.

A SECOND PLUME OF ESCAPING AIR suddenly appears from a new crack in his space helmet, and a THIRD. By the time Tessloff notices the change, there's a FOURTH plume, and then a FIFTH.

He stares through the steadily-cracking glass at the precious oxygen venting from his suit.

Tessloff tightens his grip on the joystick, and adds, simply:

TESSLOFF
I will be coming in fast.

CUT TO:

INT. DOCKING MODULE -- DAY

CHEM floats in place holding the simple handset seen earlier and SPEAKS CHINESE into that old-fashioned HAM RADIO strapped to a console. He takes his finger off the transmit button...

...and hears nothing but STATIC coming from the radio. Chen turns the tiny knob, adjusting the frequency to try again and

KAREN sticks her head inside:

KAREN
Tessloff is on his way back.

CHEN
What about the others?

KAREN
I don't know. Get on those docking clamps--

Karen leaves as quickly as she came and Chen returns the handset. He moves toward the porthole, finds a hand-hold and looks out. Chen sees the DESTINY approaching. Immediately he starts to work the CONTROL PANEL prepping for the dock and

CUT TO:

EXT. DESTINY CAPSULE -- DAY

THE SHIP speeds toward the docking bay with thrusters FIRING.

INT. INSIDE DESTINY -- DAY

TESSLOFF fights that joystick.

TESSLOFF'S P.O.V. It is difficult for the old Russian to see through his CRACKED VISOR AND ESCAPING AIR. The loud HISSING is a constant looming threat--

TESSLOFF
(to himself)
Not yet, not yet, not yet...

Outside the window, the space station blocks out the rest of the universe, so very close now. Tessloff hits the controls.

EXT. DESTINY CAPSULE -- DAY

The thrusters all STOP FIRING. Destiny continues toward the station under its own momentum, still coming in way too fast.

INT. INSIDE DESTINY -- DAY

TESSLOFF looks relieved now. He did it. Everything is okay.

TESSLOFF
(confidently)
Full stop--

CLOSE-UP of his thick SPACESUIT GLOVE going for the JOYSTICK, not more than an inch away and

His cracked visor BLOWS OUT. BLOOD AND TISSUE spurt from the jagged opening and splatter over the interior of the cockpit.

Tessloff remains upright in his seat, outstretched hand still an inch from the stick. Dead.

CUT TO:

INT. DOCKING MODULE -- DAY

CLOSE-UP of the HAM RADIO as the simple speaker CRACKLES with life. We hear just a fragment of the transmission, some man earnestly SPEAKING IN CHINESE.

Chen stops what he's doing and pushes off toward the radio, hurriedly grabbing the handset and raising it to his lips. He acts excited and yells out:

CHEN
(calling to the
next module)
Doctor, I've got Earth--

Chen sees the inner HATCH SWINGING SHUT, and his smile fades.

Why is the doctor closing him in? The door seals tight and a LOCKING MECHANISM turns, setting into place with a loud DOOM.

Chen stares at the closed hatch with a feeling of impending doom. Looks at the porthole:

CHEN'S P.O.V. The Destiny spacecraft is RIGHT OUTSIDE THE WINDOW, the nose of the craft enormous, not slowing down and

Chen presses the button on the handset to say something to Earth, but it's far too late.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESTINY CAPSULE -- DAY

DESTINY hurls at the station with the DEAD COMMANDER TESSLOFF at the helm. The spacecraft smashes into the docking bay and RIPS THE MODULE TO SHREDS in surreal and unsettling SILENCE--

CUT TO:

INT. THE OLD SECTION -- DAY

Inside the station, the quiet is shattered by the DEAFENING ROAR of decompression and the WRENCHING OF METAL as the ship rams through the old section. The Destiny BREAKS APART fast.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE HABITAT RING -- DAY

The ring of modules that has always been in motion suddenly incredibly STOPS SPINNING and

CUT TO:

EXT. NEAR THE STATION -- DAY

DYSON and ANA tumble through the black in one another's arms.

Dyson spots something in the distance, straining to see, but drifts out of position. He waits until his line of sight returns for a proper look and

DYSON
(ominously)
You better duck.

Ana looks confused for a moment. Then she gets a clear view.

WHAT THEY SEE. ENORMOUS SPACE DEBRIS hurls toward them like the discarded refuse of a god...giant twisted shards of metal from the space station's hull, and pieces of the Destiny too.

Ana doesn't even have time to act surprised. The wreckage is on them in a split-second and

The debris SPEEDS PAST DYSON AND ANA on every side, a blur, quickly dwindling in size as it continues its orbit of Earth.

ANA

Something terrible has--

She never finishes. They get their first good look at what has happened to the station--

It looks like an ancient wreckage adrift in the sea of space.

No sound but their BREATHING as Dyson and Ana tumble closer. After a few moments he tries:

DYSON

(into his radio)

Dyson to station.

(short pause)

Dyson to station, come in,
please.

(short pause)

Dyson to--

Dyson gets no response. He looks at Ana and shakes his head. Ana pulls him close and presses her space helmet against his. They speak through the glass:

ANA

No help to come. Just us.
How do you say?

She searches for the phrase. Dyson knows. Wishes he didn't.

DYSON

One shot.

ANA

One shot, yes.

In unison they both reach down the length of their spacesuits and work to open a small compartment revealing a SPOOL OF WIRE. They grasp the HOOKS on the end. Throw out the lines.

The emergency tethers slowly uncoil to their full lengths and

Dyson and Ana share one last look, but neither seems able to find anything hopeful to say.

No sound but their BREATHING as they hurl toward one of the big SPOKES of the habitat ring, but then sail over it, their outstretched arms not close enough to reach the passing hull.

For a moment Dyson and Ana drift helplessly past the station.

CLOSE-UP of Dyson's life-line as it strikes the large spoke, the HOOK dragging over the hull until it finds a metal JOINT.

They JERK to a sudden stop and Dyson is unable to keep his hold on Ana, who slides down the length of his spacesuit and Ana reaches up with her thick glove. She finds Dyson's hand.

They hang there for a moment at the end of the line, Ana's legs dangling over the Earth.

Dyson pulls her back up. They press their helmets together, if only to hear each other BREATHING, and savor it. But their rest doesn't last long.

DYSON
You ready?

They grab the thin cord and slowly begin to hoist themselves up the line toward the hull--

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE STATION -- DAY

DYSON and ANA pull themselves across a SMASHED SECTION of the hull. Ana gestures. They move toward a possible opening and

Dyson grabs the jagged edge of a damaged panel and attempts to force it back. Ana takes the other end. They pull again.

The metal gives way and the DEAD BODY OF CHEN comes with it--

Dyson and Ana are startled, falling back from the hole and scrambling for a grip, holding on as the corpse tumbles away.

No sound but their BREATHING. They move toward the opening--

CUT TO:

INT. WRECKED MODULE -- DAY

DYSON and ANA stand in the modules of the original station, magnetic boots keeping them upright. It is pitch black save for their small HELMET LIGHTS illuminating the damaged walls.

Dyson and Ana walk toward the remains of the DESTINY COCKPIT.

It is nothing but a metal skeleton, a ghastly mockery of the ship, just enough to suggest controls around TESSLOFF in the pilot seat, a dark hole in his helmet where a face should be.

The station SHAKES, violently.

Ana turns to Dyson and is surprised to find him moving around what's left of the cockpit, as if he's looking for something. She wants to ask him what he's doing, but can't. Dyson comes to her and they touch visors--

DYSON
I have to find Karen.

ANA
(disagreeing)
Minutes. We have minutes--

DYSON
Can you prep the Soyuz
before Station breaks apart
around us?

ANA
We do not even know if the
Soyuz is still there.
(changing the
subject)
Dyson, I did not murder the
others, did you? There are
only three of us left-- If
the doctor lives, she is the
killer.

Short pause. He looks at her.

DYSON
I won't be late.

Dyson turns and walks off through the wreckage. Ana watches him, her expression hardening.

Soon she starts the other way.

CUT TO:

INT. HABITAT RING -- DAY

Through the window of a sealed hatch we see DYSON waiting as jets of RUSHING AIR pressurize the chamber around him. The pumps STOP and the hatch swings open. Dyson enters the ring.

It is pitch black save for the narrow beam from his suit, the air filled with FLOATING OBJECTS, everything that was not secured when gravity failed--

He opens the clasp on his helmet. Dyson slides the visor up.

DYSON
(calling)
Doctor?

There is no answer. He adjusts his HEADSET, and calls again:

DYSON (CONT'D)
Doctor, can you hear me?

The sound of his voice REVERBERATES throughout the station, picked up by several speakers.

Dyson starts to walk the ring.

DYSON
We have to evacuate.

He keeps talking, hoping to get Karen to speak, to track her:

DYSON (CONT'D)
If we don't leave now, we'll
die here. You too--

Dyson hears a SOUND BEHIND HIM. He turns and his helmet illuminates random objects once gently suspended in mid-air but now TUMBLING MADLY. Like someone rushed through them and

Dyson runs as quickly as he can inside the bulky spacesuit. He shines his light around the next module. Empty. Dyson thinks before speaking again--

DYSON
I lost the case, doc... it's
gone.

Now he gets a burst of STATIC.

KAREN'S VOICE
I wanted to change the world.

Quickly Dyson puts a hand to his ear. He waits to hear more.

KAREN'S VOICE
Do you know what "telomeres"
are, Dyson? They're the
bridges between cells...and
I decoded them.

Dyson starts to move again as:

KAREN'S VOICE

*My research would have helped
cure cancer and increased the
human life-span.*

DYSON

(keeping her
talking)

But those things can still
happen. You can re-create
your experiments.

KAREN'S VOICE

*Not without a space station.
This was it, Dyson, our last
expedition.*

The station violently SHAKES--

DYSON

Where are you? Tell me
where you are.

KAREN'S VOICE

*I can't see-- My light is
out.*

Dyson moves faster, desperate.

DYSON

Just keep talking and I'll
find you.

Dyson keeps running through the dark ring, knocking equipment
and tools out of his way, and:

KAREN'S VOICE

I heard a noise.

DYSON

You heard me. I'm getting
closer--
(over more STATIC)
Look for my light. Do you
see the light?

KAREN'S VOICE

Dyson...are you a patriot?

Dyson stops running. A pause.

DYSON

(appeasing her)

Sure--

KAREN'S VOICE

*The country that controls my
work controls the future. I
tried to tell you.*

DYSON

(getting angry)

Is that why you killed the
rest of the crew?

Over the STATIC, he hears the sound of the doctor LAUGHING
...a sick, doomed kind of laugh. Dyson starts to walk again.

KAREN'S VOICE

*You don't belong here, Dyson
... you never did. No one
from the private sector could
understand life on Station--*

DYSON

So enlighten me.

KAREN'S VOICE

We're not alone.

Dyson doesn't like the sound of that, but shrugs it off fast.

DYSON

*There's no one else here...
just the two of us. I'm
going to find you, and then
we're leaving--*

The headset fills with STATIC.

DYSON (CONT'D)

Talk to me!

KAREN'S VOICE

I can see your light.

DYSON

Good, that's good. Stay right
where you are -- I'm coming.

Dyson hurries through the next hatch, certain that he knows
where she is. He turns in a circle and his thin helmet beam
sweeps through the surroundings...but the doctor is not here.

KAREN'S VOICE

Dyson, is that you?

DYSON

(scared for her)

Karen--

The sound of a GUNSHOT explodes in Dyson's ears, turning into an ELECTRONIC SHRIEK by the time he yanks off his headset and

Dyson turns in the direction of the blast and starts to run--

His magnetic boots connect to the floor with a loud KANG, his progress maddeningly slow. No other sound but his BREATHING.

DYSON'S P.O.V. Running through the wreck in the dark, helmet light illuminating the path and

Dyson squeezes through a hatch and finds all of the objects in the next module SPIRALING CRAZILY, like something out of a circus funhouse nightmare. His beam illuminates a RUPTURED TANK still spewing its contents and creating this maelstrom--

He pushes the junk out of his way, desperate, trying to see through the circling refuse and

DYSON'S P.O.V. The parting objects reveal KAREN hanging in midair, pinwheeling, her wide eyes staring back at him. She has a BULLET HOLE IN HER HEAD--

Dyson looks unhinged, half-crazed, like this madness has got to stop. Another flashlight beam FLITS ACROSS THE WALLS of the next module over, as if someone is escaping, and he runs.

Dyson YELLS as he races through the hatch, ready to find the killer, to stop the murders and

He comes to a halt as his helmet beam shines directly on ANA.

She is standing at the far end of the module staring back at him, each of them caught inside the other's spotlight. Dyson watches Ana point a GUN at him.

It's the Russian pistol they hid outside the station earlier.

DYSON
(to himself)

No--

Ana's demeanor is ice cold. Dyson takes one step closer and she tenses, ready to shoot and

The station SHAKES worse than ever. Dyson is thrown off his feet but finds a hand-hold. When he looks again, she's GONE.

Dyson runs off into the dark after her, Ana's flight leaving a path through the objects tumbling in mid-air. He sees her far ahead. Ana looks back and

She passes a piece of LARGE EQUIPMENT and pushes it toward Dyson. He raises his arms to block it, but the impact sends him crashing into the bulkhead.

Dyson gets back onto his feet, picking up speed as he makes his way through another hatch--

INT. DEAD-END MODULE -- DAY

DYSON rushes into the next module...and comes to a dead stop.

DYSON'S P.O.V. This is the end of the line. The next piece of the habitat ring has been DESTROYED. There is nothing beyond the far hatch but a vertiginous snapshot of the EARTH.

Dyson moves through the darkness. He finds no sign of Ana. She must be here somewhere and

ANA (O.S.)
Here at the end we find
the truth.

A SPOTLIGHT illuminates Dyson--

He turns around to face her. ANA points the GUN at him, but this time at point-blank range.

DYSON
What truth?

ANA
(emotionally)
You murdered them!

Dyson looks surprised by that--

DYSON
Where did you get the gun?

ANA
(like he knows)
It was floating in the air
beside the doctor -- right
where you left it.

Dyson takes a step toward her. Ana lifts the handgun higher. The station SHAKES, violently.

DYSON
So pull the trigger.

ANA
I will--

DYSON
Maybe. Or maybe you know
these walls can't take it.

ANA

We will find out together
what these walls can take
if you come any closer.

DYSON

Put it down.

Ana doesn't want to shoot but:

ANA

(insisting)

It has to be one of us...
There is no one else left
on Station!

DYSON

Why did you come up here?

ANA

You are late.

DYSON

You were supposed to prep
the Soyuz.

ANA

(escalating)

It is already prepped and
ready to go. How is that
possible?

DYSON

I don't know...

(short pause)

... everybody is dead.

Dyson keeps coming closer. Ana won't put the gun down. Now her finger nudges the trigger.

A SHADOW passes over them and

Dyson and Ana turn toward the nearest Porthole. They see something outside the station that makes them both stop...but we don't know what it is yet--

Ana backs away from Dyson toward the node. He makes a move but she keeps that gun on him.

ANA

Stay.

She crosses the last few feet, barrel trained on Dyson at all times. Ana reaches the node--

She steps inside and closes the hatch. Through the window we see Ana pull her visor down as if preparing to go outside and

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- DAY

ANA floats away from the space station, a tether stretching back to the crumpled hull and

She reaches out toward something, very slowly. THE GROWING REFLECTION in her visor begins to take on the shape of a man.

Ana grabs hold of a familiar-looking SPACESUIT and maneuvers herself into position to examine the front, finding the tag--

CLOSE-UP of the suit and a NAME TAG that says, "N. GIDZENKO."

ANA

Nicolay?

A dark emergency SUN SHIELD is down so Ana can't see into the suit, only her own distorted reflection staring back at her--

She reaches out with her thick glove and slides the visor up.

Ana opens her mouth and screams...a silent yell we don't hear in the airless void of space.

CUT TO:

INT. HABITAT RING -- DAY

DYSON looks out the porthole but can't tell what's happening.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- DAY

ANA struggles in the zero-gravity, turning the suit around so that DYSON can know the truth:

CLOSE-UP of Nicolay's advanced SPACESUIT. We can see the inner contours of the helmet, the comfort padding, the radio headset... The suit is EMPTY.

Their friend is not in there--

Dyson and Ana share an emotional look, one of them inside the station, and the other outside. We see horror in their eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. MEDICAL LAB -- FLASHBACK

NICOLAY works side-by-side with KAREN in med lab. The doctor steps out for a moment and Nicolay watches her go, moving fast to snoop through a FILE--

CUT TO:

INT. OLD MODULES -- FLASHBACK

COMMANDER SUTTON opens a storage RACK and finds TEST TUBES AND DATA. He looks surprised. NICOLAY floats up behind him raising a HYPODERMIC SYRINGE in the air, plunging it down and

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- FLASHBACK

NICOLAY hangs on for dear life to the end of the ROBOTIC ARM.

CLOSE-UP of Nicolay's thick GLOVE as he intentionally hits the trigger to FIRE THRUSTERS.

Nicolay hurls away from the station toward the endless void--

CUT TO:

INT. BACK TO DYSON -- PRESENT

DYSON looks through the porthole at ANA. There is movement in the shadows behind him and

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- FLASHBACK

NICOLAY stares out his helmet:

NICOLAY
*I see Station, far away like
a star...*

Soon we see that he is floating RIGHT OUTSIDE THE STATION and

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- FLASHBACK

NICOLAY watches that small robotic arm RELEASE THE GUN AND AMMUNITION into space. He can't believe his luck, and grins.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTER SPACE -- FLASHBACK

NICOLAY is strapped to the side of the station using a sharp tool to CUT A HOLE into the outer hull. He stops working and

CAMERA MOVES through the hole to find LUD inside the module--

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- FLASHBACK

NICOLAY lies on the hull looking relaxed and pretends to die:

NICOLAY
Everything is becoming fuzzy.

CUT TO:

EXT. RETURN TO ANA -- PRESENT

ANA floats in outer space looking back toward the station and her expression slowly changes.

She sees a HAND reaching out of the darkness toward DYSON and

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- FLASHBACK

TESSLOFF, ANA, and DYSON hang outside the station attached to one another by those long tether lines. Some distance behind them, NICOLAY surreptitiously slips inside the open AIRLOCK--

CUT TO:

INT. DOCKING BAY -- FLASHBACK

NICOLAY wears only a common jumpsuit as he swings the hatch closed and turns the locking mechanism, sealing CHEN inside--

CUT TO:

INT. DARK MODULE -- FLASHBACK

NICOLAY FIRES the gun at KAREN. The bullet passes through her and RUPTURES A TANK. The interior of the module becomes a hurricane as the high-pressure contents violently ERUPT. Nicolay releases the gun and fights his way toward the hatch.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK TO DYSON -- PRESENT

DYSON sees the sudden alarm on ANA'S face, but too late, and the hand reaching out from the darkness grabs his spacesuit--

NICOLAY RAISES A METAL PIPE high in the air and lands a savage blow to Dyson's helmet.

Dyson stumbles and almost falls, his face contorting in pain.

Nicolay disappears INTO THE SHADOWS just long enough for him to reach a wall and push off again, REAPPEARING a few seconds later hurling right at Dyson--

The metal pipe slams against his helmet and this time KNOCKS DYSON OFF HIS FEET. He makes a complete rotation and strikes the wall trying to hold on and

Dyson's head is BLEEDING. He fights the pain, searching the dark module for his attacker--

DYSON'S P.O.V. The habitat ring looks UPSIDE-DOWN and the OBJECTS TUMBLING every which way add to his disorientation. There is no sign of Nicolay...

Dyson uses all his strength to push off from the wall and get his feet back on the floor. He takes a step into the center of the module, and then another, his magnetic boots sounding LOUD in the silence. Dyson is clumsy inside the suit. Slow.

NICOLAY DARTS PAST and hits him again, already out of sight by the time Dyson reaches with his thick gloves to grab him--

He tries to spin around as Nicolay reappears BEHIND HIM, but his lumbering movements are far too late. The pipe contacts Dyson and he almost goes down.

His helmet light is CRACKED. It flickers, and then GOES OUT.

Dyson stands in total darkness, looking ready to pass out as he turns around and around, waiting for the next attack which can come from any direction--

The long seconds pass. Suddenly we see movement ABOVE DYSON.

Nicolay pushes off from the ceiling and floats straight down, striking Dyson with the pipe.

Dyson goes limp and begins to drift. Nicolay grabs onto the front of his spacesuit and they float together. Slowly Nicolay raises the metal pipe, ready to land the final blow--

He sees Dyson staring up at him, too weak to fight back, but even now curious to know why.

Nicolay appears exhausted, taxed to his own limits, and the truth pours out with emotion:

NICOLAY

Once I truly understood what
the doctor had discovered, I
knew I could never return to
an everyday life...no, Dyson,
I will be a hero.

(escalating)

The most significant medical
breakthrough of our time
will come home with me--for
my people--for Mother Russia!

A SPOTLIGHT shines on him. Nicolay turns to look. He sees ANA just inside the hatch and

The GUN she is holding points at Nicolay, but the expression on her face is indeterminate.

Ana moves the pistol so that the barrel is no longer trained on her comrade. Nicolay sees her do it and smiles hopefully.

Ana FIRES one single shot and

CLOSE-UP of the new little BULLET HOLE in the hull as the air inside the module SHRIEKS and

Dyson reaches up and slides his helmet visor back into place, sealing his spacesuit with a FSSSSH. Without a suit of his own, Nicolay can only watch--

The walls of the module BEGIN TO TWIST, like the station is in the grip of a cruel giant.

Nicolay lets go of Dyson and floats up into the air, looking all around, becoming frantic--

Dyson and Ana start to pull themselves through the module and The walls around them BURST APART. The noise STOPS and now there is only the pieces drifting off in surreal SLOW MOTION.

Nicolay opens his mouth wide to breathe air that's not there.

The hull above him continues to separate and NICOLAY FLOATS TOWARD THE BLACK OF SPACE, a look of terror forever frozen on his face. The man is dead and

Dyson and Ana leave the module and hurry through the hatch into the next section, reaching out to help one another when they start to falter, no sound but their desperate BREATHING.

Now this module BEGINS TO BREAK APART, the effect following them like a wave, the hull silently but inexorably shattering behind them, revealing EARTH--

Dyson and Ana run, float, and pull themselves through the ring as fast as they can, the destruction a short distance away from them, and then closer, suddenly passing them by and

The metal around them divides. Dyson and Ana LEAP OVER THE GAPS IN THE HULL, navigating a station that is steadily disintegrating around them and

Dyson and Ana propel themselves through the remains of the ISS until the individual fragments are so far apart it can hardly be said that they are inside the space station at all.

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- DAY

DYSON and ANA float side-by-side through a SEA OF WRECKAGE, large sections of hull all around them, and countless smaller objects tumbling about wildly.

They grab onto a piece of the habitat ring, holding onto it and each other, trying to see:

DYSON'S AND ANA'S P.O.V. Some distance away the SOYUZ ESCAPE VESSEL is floating free, the hatch wide open as always, still attached to the remains of what used to be an old AIRLOCK and Dyson and Ana share a long look, and decide. They both jump.

DYSON'S AND ANA'S P.O.V. Hurtling through a man-made maze toward the ship. A jagged piece of the station advances into their path, tumbling slowly. Dyson and Ana float toward it--

The enormous fragment drifts out of the way and the Soyuz is close, too close, right there.

Dyson and Ana hit what is left of the old airlock and react to the pain, rolling and sliding until they both find a grip. They move toward the hatch and

Dyson and Ana struggle to open a control box. Pull a SWITCH.

The coupling detaches and that broken remnant of the airlock FLOATS AWAY, passing safely over and around them as they hold onto the hatch acting relieved. Now they sense something. Dyson and Ana turn to look and

HUGE CHUNKS OF THE STATION are floating toward them, ripped and torn wreckage moving silently forward, taking on enormous proportions as they close in--

Dyson and Ana climb through the hatch, a maddeningly slow process, the wreckage ALMOST ON THEM, even bigger than it first seemed, no time left and

Dyson and Ana pull themselves inside and swing the door shut.

THE WRECKAGE STRIKES the Soyuz and sends the capsule spinning violently end-over-end, plummeting downward toward the Earth.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE SOYUZ -- DAY

DYSON and ANA struggle to pull themselves inside the cramped cockpit. They take the seats.

Outside the porthole, the UNIVERSE SPINS faster and faster, the ship accelerating as the blue of Earth and the black of space begins to BLUR, rotating over a dozen times per second.

Ana desperately works a series of switches powering up the ship. Dyson grabs a joystick.

DYSON'S AND ANA'S P.O.V. The controls will not stop SHAKING.

Dyson holds on tight with both hands, behind the stick of a ship again, fighting to stay conscious but determined to fly.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- DAY

MANEUVERING JETS FIRE on the Soyuz in opposition to the spin.

Very soon their rate of rotation decreases, still too fast but slowing steadily, obviously under the control of a pilot, regaining the proper attitude relative to the planet horizon.

More jets fire and the SHIP FLOATS peacefully over the Earth.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE COCKPIT -- DAY

DYSON and ANA sit inside the cramped cockpit of the Soyuz. They look out the porthole and

THE WRECKAGE OF THE SPACE STATION is spread out across an incredible distance, glistening in the sun, oddly compelling.

For several moments they stay like that, unable to move or avert their eyes from Station.

Then Ana simply reaches out and takes Dyson's hand. He looks at her. Dyson holds on tight.

They share a last moment, taking comfort in one another, and both agreeing that it's time--

DYSON

Let's go home.

Dyson and Ana begin to work the control panel to prepare the Soyuz for the coming re-entry.

CAMERA MOVES, leaving Dyson and Ana to the business at hand, slowly dropping down past the endless toggles and switches to the floor of the old capsule--

Underneath their seats rests a familiar METAL TRANSPORT CASE that will change the world....

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE -- DAY

The tiny RUSSIAN CAPSULE leaves the debris field behind and descends below the planet horizon, RE-ENTRY TRAILS appearing around the Soyuz as Dyson and Ana enter the upper-atmosphere.

We follow the spaceship downward toward white clouds and deep blue sea, the welcome surface of the EARTH growing larger and

FADE OUT.