

ALIEN TREASURE

by

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EXT. OUTER SPACE - NIGHT

Nothing but the empty void speckled with distant stars.

A nasty, multi-colored, flashing, swirling cloud appears in the distance and slowly fills the frame. Think cosmic hurricane.

FADE UP distorted storm audio.

As the frame is filled by the storm we see space debris swirling around it; pieces of a space ship, rubble, a space suit, maybe an empty beer keg.

Just as quickly as it came, the furious storm exits the frame and we are once again left with the peaceful long shot of outer space. After a moment we

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OUTER SPACE - LATER

Another empty view.

FADE UP a slow rumble--

--As an aging space freighter lumbers into the frame. We can clearly read PLANETARY MINING COMPANY painted in giant letters on its hull as it passes.

INT. SPACE FREIGHTER RECREATION ROOM - LATER

CLOSE ON A DART THWACKING INTO THE TARGET--and missing the bulls eye by quite a bit.

WIDER TO REVEAL a boisterous game of darts in progress. Beer and drinks abound. Portland, an athletic looking Black man, and Garrett, a rugged looking punk rock type woman are one team.

Jackie Ritz, a laid back kind of guy with hair long enough to tell us he doesn't always obey the rules, and Fisher, an attractive, petite woman who barely fits in this scene, are the other.

FISHER

(frustrated by her toss)

I'm too drunk for this. Who wants in?

Jenkins, a small, muscular man, sits nearby with Anderson, a huge man with a blank face.

JENKINS
That's all you, Fisher.

Ritz turns towards the back of the room and--

Abby Ross, the captain of the ship. She heads for the exit with a refilled beer.

Sitting serenely nearby is Heather, her android First Mate. Heather has a wire running from a wall outlet to a plug in the base of her skull.

RITZ
What do you say, Ross?

ABBY
(waves him off)
I've got the watch.

RITZ
Come on. Let Heather take the bridge.

HEATHER
Go ahead, Captain. I'm recharged enough to cover the watch.

Ritz mugs at her.

ABBY
(relents)
Alright.

Heather unplugs herself and rises to exit.

HEATHER
Try to enjoy yourself, Captain.

Portland strides up to the line, lot's of chatter behind him. He aims and nails his dart to the edge of the bulls eye.

MORE CHEERS.

JENKINS
Rock on, Portland!

RITZ
Come on, Ross. Save our bacon.

Abby gulps from her beer and walks to the line.

PORTLAND

That won't happen, Ritzie. You know that Air Transport only saves their own.

ABBY

(calmly)

I'd say your memory is even worse than your piss poor dart game, Portland.

The rest of the crowd clucks and laughs at Abby's rejoinder.

Abby takes some time to line up her toss.

PORTLAND

Tell you what, make it and Garrett and me will cook you breakfast the next two days.

ABBY

And if I miss?

PORTLAND

You break bread with us until we hit Santar 9.

Abby glares at Portland, resumes her throwing position and nails the bulls eye.

Everyone erupts. Portland winces.

ABBY

(whispers to Portland)

I love french toast by the way.

Abby turns away as Ritz hands her another beer.

RITZ

He's really not bad once you get to know him.

ANGLE ON Portland exuding bad vibes.

ABBY

I'll take your word for it.

RITZ

You're going already?

ABBY

Yeh. Do me a favor and lay off my android while she's working, ok?

RITZ

You're welcome to swap in any time
you want.

Abby waves him off as she exits. Ritz smiles as she goes.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - LATER

The freighter comes straight towards us before veering to its right. It looks like the bridge is empty.

PAN LEFT AND TRACK BACK to L.S. Of freighter. We see a wave of incandescent light rolling towards the freighter from the distance; the storm we saw in the opening sequence.

CUT TO:

INT. SPACE FREIGHTER HALLWAY - NIGHT

We track down the empty hall. Ever so gradually we hear the sounds of battle grow louder as we continue down the hall.

INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

We turn into sleeping quarters. The sounds of the battle are deafening now, even as the ship seems to rock and groan.

TRACK IN on Abby Rush who tosses and turns from her dream.

She sits up in a sweat. There is only the humming of the engines now. Abby takes a breath, remembering where she is.

The ship groans again. Something isn't right. Lights flicker. She sleepily walks to the intercom by the door, looking pretty good in her panties and t-shirt.

ABBY

Captain to bridge. Captain to
bridge. Come in bridge. Heather?
(clicks button)
Captain to Ritz! Come in, Ritz?

The ship rolls a bit. The lights are really flashing now. This is not good.

She clicks on her monitor and switches to "Bridge View"

INSERT: The rolling cloud of light just about ready to engulf the ship.

Abby quickly pulls on some sweat pants and exits.

INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS 2 - MOMENTS LATER

Ritz is going at it petty good on top of Heather.

Now she's on top of him, riding away with the detached efficiency of an android.

Suddenly the door flies open and Abby enters.

ABBY

We got a strobic storm rolling
right at us.

RITZ

What?

ABBY

A strobic storm. It's a bad thing,
Ritz.

Heather separates from Ritz and begins to get dressed.

Suddenly the ship begins to rock and roll.

INT. HALLWAY OF SPACE FREIGHTER - MOMENTS LATER

Abby and Heather stagger down the hallway as the ship is buffeted by the storm. The lights flicker. Go out. Return. Ritz tries to follow.

RITZ

I'm sorry about this, Rush. But she
never gets tired!

ABBY

I told you not to fuck her while
she's on watch!

SHIP COMPUTER

(intercom)

Alert! Auto stabilizers not
engaged. Repeat, stabilizers not
engaged.

Portland sticks his head out of the sleeping quarters.

PORTLAND

What's going on, Ritz?

ABBY

Everybody needs to buckle in now!

Portland hears her urgency and retreats back into the room.

PORTLAND

Hey, we got to wake up!

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - MOMENTS LATER

Heather and Abby stumble onto the bridge. They are greeted by blinding flashes of colored light. Abby puts on some heavy duty sunglasses.

ABBY

Glasses, Ritz!
(she tosses him some)

Ritz fumbles with them as the blinding light flashes through the bridge.

Heather does not need to protect her eyes and immediately begins checking the console.

Abby grabs the steering wheel.

ABBY

Heather?

HEATHER

The main engine has stalled. Kindly ask Mr. Ritz if he would engage the rear thrusters.

ABBY

Ritz?

RITZ

There's a lot of buttons here!

ABBY

Take this and tack right when I tell you.

Ritz grabs the controls as Abby stumbles for the throttles.

HEATHER

Captain! We need to correct now or we will roll.

Abby manipulates the throttles. The ship lurches into the storm.

ABBY

Now, Ritz!

Ritz turns the controller. Nothing happens.

RITZ
It isn't working!

ABBY
Shit! Switch to hydraulic.

The ship rocks heavily to the right. The controls begin to spark. Heather flicks some switches.

HEATHER
Try it now, Mr. Ritz.

Ritz leans into the controller and the ship rocks violently to the left. More sparks and flashing from the instrument panel.

ABBY
Ease off a bit!

Ritz does so and the freighter levels out--still bucking in the storm. After a few more hectic moments they pass through the turbulence. The colored flashing lights fade.

HEATHER
Main engines re-engaged at half power only.

RITZ
What the hell was that?

HEATHER
Strobile storms are a violent and rare feature of space travel in this sector.

RITZ
Lucky us for hitting one.

HEATHER
All electronic guidance is disabled, Captain. We only have hydraulics to steer.

ABBY
Maintain speed and contact dispatch. They should know what's going on.

HEATHER
It seems that the galactic transmitter is also not operational.

RITZ
That's not good, right?

ABBY
Not having a radio is never good.

Abby pulls Heather into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

ABBY
This was your watch, Heather!

HEATHER
I do apologize. As a pleasure droid
and your chief engineer there is
clearly a conflict between my
directives. I will create an
algorithm to facilitate a more
efficient allocation of my
resources.

ABBY
How about you just keep your pants
on and try to fix our steering?

HEATHER
Very well...

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

Ritz is trying to think things through. He turns as Abby re-enters the bridge.

RITZ
It was my idea to go down to the
bunk. We figured auto pilot would
be fine for half an hour.

ABBY
Whatever.

RITZ
So what do we do now?

ABBY
There's no way we can make it to
Santar 9 like this.

RITZ
Whoaa! I've got four weeks to re-
open those mines on Santar 9.

ABBY

I'm not gonna risk your crew or
this ship for some company
schedule.

RITZ

What if you stop on Santar 6? There
used to be a repair depot there.

ABBY

That planet has been off limits
since the war.

RITZ

Like we're gonna report you. We
need this work, Rush. Can't you at
least try to fix it before you
abort?

EXT. OUTER SPACE - LATER

The freighter cruises past and recedes into the distance.

INT. GALLEY OF SPACE FREIGHTER - LATER

Ritz's crew struggle through their receding drunkenness to
wake up, sipping coffee, etc. One or two have head wounds
from the storm.

Ritz enters with Abby. She's not thrilled to see all these
people again.

RITZ

Listen up, people. Now!

The murmuring recedes into silence. Abby walks to the front
of the room.

ABBY

As you might have noticed we just
went through a bad storm.

PORTLAND

I noticed alright. Who was steering
this tub anyway?

JENKINS

Keep it in your pants, Portland!

ABBY

(ignores him)
We've lost all primary guidance and
only have half power.

GARRETT

What do you mean?

ABBY

There's no way we can go on to Santar 9 like this.

PORTLAND

That is just classic. You going to pay our lost wages too?

ANDERSON

I need that bonus money to survive.

RITZ

We all need the bonus money, Anderson. Now shut up and listen to how we're going to save it. ...Captain.

ABBY

There's an old repair hanger on Santar 6. It should have the parts we need to fix the ship and continue on to Santar 9.

FISHER

Santar 6 is a dodgey rock, Captain. Lot's of wrecks and the worst polarity in the sector.

ABBY

Unfortunately its the only option we have.

PORTLAND

So we gotta risk our asses to fix your mistake?

RITZ

There's a bit more to it than that, Portland.

PORTLAND

Really? Because from here it looks like we're paying for another fly girl fuck up.

ABBY

I suggest you tell your man to zip it, Ritz. Before he spends the rest of this trip in the brig.

Abby strides out.

RITZ
Portland, you friggin kill me.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - LATER

Nothing but the void.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

A cup of coffee steams on the console. Abby wrestles with some wires underneath.

RITZ
(o.s.)
Knock knock.

She turns to see Ritz enter the bridge.

ABBY
There's coffee by the hatch.
(rises)
I think this will hold now.

RITZ
(pours himself coffee)
Sorry about Portland, before.

ABBY
What the hell is his problem?

RITZ
Transports abandoned his platoon
back on Deltron 3. He thinks you
were one of the pilots.

ABBY
Unfortunately, I was.

Uneasy silence as this sinks in.

ABBY
Tell me, Ritz. How does a former
space marine wind up restoring
mines?

RITZ
They were hiring.

Pause as they smile at this.

ABBY
So what was it like on Santar 6?

RITZ
(suddenly serious)
Who told you I served on Santar 6?

ABBY
Relax, dude. I looked up your
record. Standard op for a
transport.

RITZ
(forced relax)
It was a total meat grinder.

Silence as they stare out the cockpit. Abby decides not to
share her own experiences.

RITZ
But that doesn't mean I gotta live
the rest of my life like a refugee.

ABBY
You're funny.

RITZ
Why? Because I try to make some
good out of all of this mess?

ABBY
We're going to be working for these
leeches until we die.

RITZ
Only if we let them keep calling
the shots.

ABBY
And what the hell is going to
change that?

RITZ
Maybe something will come along
sooner than you think.

ABBY
What are you talking about?

RITZ
Just try to keep an open mind,ok?
It's good for your complexion.

He exits.

Abby stares out into space as the freighter plows through the
void.

EXT. DISTANT PLANET IN OUTER SPACE

Establishing shot of a golden glowing Santar 6, and its dark brown moon. We see a speck beside the moon.

MUCH CLOSER ON SPACE FREIGHTER (the speck)

EXT. SPACE FREIGHTER - LATER

The thrusters flare to life and it heads for the golden glow that is Santar 6.

INT. BRIDGE OF FREIGHTER - MORNING

Abby wrestles the freighter towards Santar 6. Heather sits stoically beside her, monitoring their progress.

HEATHER

In spite of the difficulties, it has been a pleasure to serve you on this trip, Mr. Ritz.

RITZ

I, I appreciate that, Heather.

Abby rolls her eyes.

There is plenty of banter from Ritz's crew. Anderson seems airsick.

JENKINS

I bet he yacks before we hit atmosphere.

ANDERSON

Fuck you, Jenkins.

FISHER

Give him a break, man.

JENKINS

I think he'd rather have a barf bag.

The others chuckle.

ANDERSON

You know I'm going to kick your ass back to base after we land, right?

RITZ

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Pipe down all of you. Captain Rush is trying to concentrate here.

GARRETT

Maybe you could give us some
crossword puzzles to keep us busy?

More laughter.

ABBY

Make sure you're all strapped in.
We hit air in ten seconds.

GARRETT

Wait, my chewing gum...

There's more laughter. Then white light and a recoil that
shuts them all up.

The freighter starts to enter Santar 6 atmosphere. They seem
to be going faster, hurtling downward at a sharp angle.

RITZ

Shouldn't we be slowing down?

ABBY

There's this little thing called
gravity to deal with. Maybe you
heard of it.

The freighter begins to shudder and shake.

Anderson is yacking now. White light flashes.

GARRETT

Goddamn, Anderson!

ANDERSON

Fuck you....

JENKINS

He's got the whole world in his
hands!

RITZ

Rush!!!

ABBY

Shut up! Give me what you got,
Heather!

Heather engages the hover thrusters, trying to slow the
freighter down.

The entire cockpit rattles and groans.

Portland calmly closes his eyes to deal with the fear.

Abby wrestles with the controls, trying to level the freighter out.

After a couple more beats she succeeds in leveling out the freighter. The shuddering ceases.

WIDER on the completely shell shocked miners.

ABBY

Now you have something to remember me by.

SUDDENLY THE FREIGHTER BEGINS TO LURCH DOWNWARD AGAIN. Lights in the bridge begin to flash in and out.

ABBY

What the hell?

HEATHER

Gravitational pull has increased by 42%.

Abby struggles to level the ship out again. The freighter groans from the strain.

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6 - MOMENTS LATER

The freighter whips above the blasted hilltops and arid surface of the planet, careening against the increased gravity.

INT. BRIDGE OF FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

The lights stop flashing. Everything calms down. Abby steers the ship.

HEATHER

Power has been restored. It's as if the planet spasmed.

Abby exhales, sharing a look with Heather. Ritz stares out the window at the planet below.

RITZ

I wish I could say its good to be home.

HEATHER

Mine Base 1 is South Southeast, coordinates 327, 656.

ABBY

It's marked.

Abby expertly banks the freighter to the right.

JENKINS

Whooooaaaa.

EXT. SANTAR 6 - CONTINUOUS

We see the freighter banking to the right.

Up ahead we see the buildings and infrastructure of Mine Base 1. It is damaged and abandoned.

The freighter whooshes through the frame.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

GARRETT

I read there were all kinds of critters on this rock.

JENKINS

That was until the war killed them all. Right, Ritz?

PORTLAND

Shut up and let them fly!

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6 - CONTINUOUS

LOW ANGLE SHOT of Freighter skimming over the surface of the planet.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER

HEATHER

1000 meters to landing sphere.

The lights start to flash again.

ABBY

Not again!

HEATHER

Gravity once again increasing, Captain.

ABBY

(wrestles with controls)
We are way too hot! Hit those thrusters!

Heather pumps the reverse thrusters. At first nothing happens.

ABBY

Heather!

--Finally the lights stop flashing and the thrusters shudder back to life.

EXT. SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON the reverse thrusters slowing the ship down. They scorch the ground beneath them.

EXT. MINE BASE 1 - CONTINUOUS

The freighter wobbles over the complex. Up ahead is the landing sphere. They seem to be going too fast to land, heading for a nasty crash.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

ABBY

Fire forward thrusters!

Abby succeeds in pulling the freighter up and over the landing sphere.

HEATHER

Gravity continues to surge.

Abby tries to settle the freighter with her feet.

ABBY

No kidding! Mark our position!

P.O.V. Surface of planet rushing at the front window.

Abby manages to pull the freighter up over a small rock formation.

RESUME ON

ABBY

Everyone hang on!

EXT. SANTAR 6 - CONTINUOUS

The freighter comes in nose up, scraping the ground. As Abby let's it level out it crashes violently into the rocky surface of Santar 6, sliding into a another rock pile with great force.

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6: CRASH SITE - MOMENTS LATER

Smoke and dust are everywhere. The hatch to the freighter is forced open. Abby staggers out, bleeding from her head. A stunned Ritz follows her.

Seconds later Portland helps a dazed Garrett outside.

ABBY
Where's Heather?

PORTLAND
I couldn't see anything.

Heather appears in the doorway. She holds a limp Fisher. Anderson stumbles out behind her.

HEATHER
I believe Ms Fisher is still alive,
Captain.

She sets Fisher down on the ground and begins to twitch.

HEATHER
It seems my circuits are--somewhat--
compromised at the--

Heather goes blank.

RITZ
Heather? Rush? Shit.
(gathers himself)
Where's Jenkins?

ANDERSON
He must still be in there.

RITZ
Portland, help us find Jenkins.

PORTLAND
Got it.

Portland helps Garrett to the ground.

GARRETT
I can help!

RITZ
Stay put! Come on, Portland.

Ritz leads Portland and Anderson back to the freighter.

ABBY

We should get Garret and Fisher to cover.

Anderson goes to Fisher.

ABBY

What's hurting, Garrett?

GARRETT

My body. But I can walk.

She gets up with Abby's help.

ABBY

That second set of boulders looks good.

Anderson lifts the injured Fisher and carries her to the rocks. She is starting to wake up.

FISHER

Anderson, I never knew you cared.

ANGLE ON Portland and Ritz emerging with Jenkins lifeless body.

ABBY

Damn.

They lay the body down by the rocks.

RITZ

Anderson. Take that height and check it out.

Anderson scampers up to the top of a boulder pile then freezes.

ANDERSON

I think you guys should see this.

ANGLE ON Abby and Ritz scrambling up the rocks, fighting the dust as they go. Abby gets to the top quicker.

ABBY

What the hell?

REVERSE ANGLE P.O.V.--

A spooky looking navigation tower protrudes from the planet. Perhaps it is part of a ship?

WIDER TO REVEAL a huge depression in the planet surface stretching way into the distance. (This is the money shot!)

RESUME ON Ritz joining them.

RITZ
Holy shit.

ABBY
What is that?

RITZ
There were rumors about a galactic galleon crashing here after the war.

ANDERSON
There's a ship under there?

RITZ
A really big one.

Portland whistles for them from another rock pile, motioning to look to their left.

P.O.V. Glimpses of nasty looking four legged critters picking their way through the dust and smoke towards them.

RESUME ON

RITZ
Shenshavi! Get everyone to higher ground, Portland! Anderson! Fast!

Portland and Anderson scramble back down to help the others.

RITZ
I'll get the weapons.

Ritz sprints for the ship, which still has smoke drifting out of the hatch.

Abby looks at the approaching pack of shenshavi. Portland and Anderson are not going to get the others back up the rocks in time.

ABBY
Hurry!

Ritz emerges with a back pack and two pulse rifles.

He expertly engages the electronics of the rifle, aims at an approaching shenshavi and shoots--it doesn't work.

PORTLAND
Time's wasting, Ritz!

It fails again as a beast leaps at him. They fall to the ground with Ritz holding off the slathering shenshavi with the barrel of the malfunctioning pulse rifle.

Garrett is thumped to the ground by another huge shenshavi.

Portland runs for the other pulse rifle. He uses it to club Ritz's attacker, knocking it unconscious.

Ritz rises and once again reboots his rifle.

Garret screams for help as a shenshavi tries to drag her away.

Ritz's rifle still doesn't work.

CLOSE ON the other rifle coming to life.

PORTLAND
Mine is up!

He shoots the shenshavi in the butt. It drops Garrett and scampers away in pain.

ANGLE ON Garrett. She is in bad shape but alive.

CLOSE ANGLE ON another shenshavi leaping at Ritz.

Suddenly a hand punches the beast unconscious.

WIDER ON Heather. She has rebooted herself in the nick of time.

The roar of the shenshavis fills the air. They are really coming now.

QUICK CUTS of Fisher being attacked. Anderson manages to get up into some rocks. Its hard to see clearly through the dust.

SCREAMS OF HORROR AND PAIN and then Heather manages to throw the dog off Fisher. Two more shenshavi knock Heather to the ground. She wrestles against the dogs, tossing one aside only to be set upon by another.

Ritz and Portland go back to back for safety.

PORTLAND
Check your power pack!

Ritz fiddles with his rifle and it finally comes to life. He blasts a shenshavi dead.

RITZ
You've got to help Garrett,
Anderson!

ANDERSON
I am not going down there!

He is suddenly knocked off the boulder pile by a huge shenshavi. It proceeds to rip him to shreds as he screams in pain.

PORTLAND
This spot ain't working, Chief!

RITZ
You take those rocks...Rush!

Ritz pulls a pulse pistol out of the back pack and tosses it to Abby.

RITZ
Hope it works.

She shoots a shenshavi dead.

ABBY
Good enough.

Ritz tries to find a firing position amidst the dust and chaos.

RITZ
I'll be right over here. Portland,
blasting cap!

Ritz pulls a blasting cap from the back pack, arms it and flings it at the raging pack of shenshavi, blasting a couple of them. The others hesitate.

PORTLAND
I can't see shit!

ABBY
Watch your right!

He's knocked to the ground by a leaping shenshavi.

ANGLE ON Abby shooting the shenhavi dead.

Portland acknowledges that Abby saved him as he pushes the dead shenshavi off of him. Suddenly they hear--

RITZ
(o.s.)
AHHHHHHH! Help....

ABBY
Where are you, Ritz?

Gun shots.

RITZ
(o.s.)
My leg! Nooooooooo...

ABBY
Ritz!
(no response)
Ritz!

Suddenly a piercing whistle is heard. It gets higher and higher in pitch, making the shenshavi freeze where they are. It gets even higher and they howl in pain before running away.

Abby looks incredulously at Portland. What just happened?

ANGLE ON Heather, her face partially chomped, running towards the spot where Ritz was.

HEATHER
Mr. Ritz! Mr. Ritz!
(no response)

She scours the rocks around the area.

HEATHER
How can he disappear without a trace?

A young shenshavi snags somebody's severed arm as Portland shoots and misses.

WIDER as Abby surveys the bloody ground. Dead shenshavis and pieces of Ritz's crew are strewn about.

TRACK IN ON Abby digesting this horror. What has she gotten these people into? She is startled by--

REYNOLDS
(o.s.)
Once they've had a taste the whistle doesn't keep them away for long.

CUT TO

A weathered, but not unattractive woman, in dirty clothes. She holds a traditional lead pistol in her hand and has a weird looking whistle in her teeth.

PORTLAND

One move and you are dead.

He cocks his rifle at her.

REYNOLDS

You sure that still works? I could have killed you five times over if I wanted to.

(Portland lowers the gun)

Now do you want to get out of here or not?

Heather emerges from the rocks.

HEATHER

The only thing I found is his gun, Captain.

(sees Reynolds and freezes)

Pause. Abby shares looks with Heather and Portland.

ABBY

Portland, grab some water...Where are we going?

REYNOLDS

Down. The shenshavi hate going down.

HEATHER

What about Mr. Ritz?

ABBY

Just bring the gun, Heather.

Reynolds leads them around the boulders and down into the giant depression.

PORTLAND

Shouldn't we say a few words for these people?

We hear the shenshavis howling in the near distance. They are ready to return.

REYNOLDS

Sure. Just hike while you pray.

HIGH ANGLE as they descend.

Suddenly a sparkling cloud of light appears behind them. Nobody sees it. Then it disappears as quickly as it came.

About half way down Reynolds leads them into an opening between a pile of rocks.

ABBY

What is this?

REYNOLDS

An exhaust vent, believe it or not.

Reynolds straps on a mining light and flicks it on.

Portland fishes a mining light out of his pack and puts it on.

REYNOLDS

Welcome to the guts of a great ship.

One by one they drop down into the half light below.

INT. GALACTIC GALLEON--EXHAUST VENT - CONTINUOUS

They can hardly see anything. Portland focuses his light.

PORTLAND

Good lord, its dark.

REYNOLDS

Just the thing to keep the shenshavis away. Ready?

They file forward following Reynolds. Portland brings up the rear with his own lamp.

LOUD METALLIC SCREECHING AND GRINDING.

ABBY

What the hell is that?

REYNOLDS

Sentry droids. So let's try to keep the chatter down.

PORTLAND

Fuckin' droids? You sure it's better down here than up there?

REYNOLDS

Go back if you want.

MORE LOUD METALLIC SCREECHING AND GRINDING.

ABBY
Just follow her, Portland.

EXT. SANTAR 6 CRASH SITE - MOMENTS LATER

A jeep full of Aliens speeds up and parks near the freighter. These guys are Venton marines, a bit ragged around the edges but a tough, organized bunch.

CLOSER as the Ventons survey the bloody remains of the battle.

ALIEN SERGEANT
Shenshavi.

ALIEN COMMANDER
I want this site secured
immediately.

ALIEN SERGEANT
Engage the wailer and set a
perimeter immediately.

Two Ventons set up an audio speaker on the hood of the jeep and connect a digital player to it.

One of them turns it on. We hear a loud screeching noise. The Ventons cringe from the painful sound.

ALIEN SERGEANT
Higher!

The Venton working the digital player adjusts some knobs. The screeching tone gets higher and higher until we can't hear it anymore.

Soon we hear the howling shenshavi fading in the distance.

ALIEN#4
(from atop boulder pile)
They are heading for the hills.

The Alien Sergeant relaxes and looks again at the carnage. He walks towards the distance, thinking as he goes.

ALIEN#6
(o.s.)
Looks like we got three down.

The Sergeant leans up against a rock away from his men. He lights a cigarette.

ALIEN SERGEANT

You better smoke one of mine to be safe.

ANGLE ON Ritz, shirt torn, face bloodied, stepping out with a pistol. He is not happy.

RITZ

Give me some water first.

ALIEN SERGEANT

(hands him his canteen)
I guess your little bit of sabotage worked better than expected.

RITZ

(drinks deeply)
We were whacked by a strobic storm before I did anything.

ALIEN SERGEANT

This sector always was a barrel of laughs.

RITZ

I need you to find the rest of my team, Brashear.

ALIEN SERGEANT

Somehow I don't think my commander will agree.

RITZ

Look, I didn't come back to this rock so more people would die,ok? So you help me find the rest of my team or our deal is off.

ALIEN SERGEANT

I am not sure that we need your help any longer. You see we found a few deposits on our own while we were waiting for you.

RITZ

Nobody's getting rich off that slag and you know it.

ALIEN SERGEANT

I will speak to my commander. In the meantime I suggest you lie low. Those shenshavi seem very hungry.

RITZ
Give me your whistle.

The Alien Sergeant removes a shenshavi whistle from around his neck and gives it to Ritz.

ALIEN SERGEANT
Just like old times, huh?

ALIEN #5
(o.s.)
Sergeant? Are you over there?

Pause as Ritz and the Alien Sergeant look at each other.

RITZ
There's enough crystal in that wreck to make us all rich. But my people must be found.

Ritz takes off. Seconds later another Alien joins the Sergeant.

ALIEN #5
Everything ok, sir?

ALIEN SERGEANT
Yes. Just looking around.

He heads back towards the ship.

The Alien Commander emerges and approaches the Alien Sergeant.

ALIEN SERGEANT
(quietly to him)
Ritz is alive. He still wants to help us find the crystal, but only if we save what's left of his team.

ALIEN COMMANDER
So they can blame us for the bodies we found?

ALIEN SERGEANT
We could cooperate with Ritz and still be many sectors away before their help arrived.

ALIEN COMMANDER
Is this human scum worth risking our freedom?

ALIEN SERGEANT

Of course not. I am just trying to make sure this venture is as profitable as possible.

Deadly silence. Then he turns to his men.

ALIEN COMMANDER

Everyone back to the Corsair.

EXT. EXPOSED TOWER OF GALACTIC GALLEON - DAY

SLOW TRACK in on the spooky looking superstructure.

RACK FOCUS on BLAZING SUN and

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. EXHAUST VENT - CONTINUOUS

Reynolds head lamp approaching as she leads Abby, Heather and Portland into the darkness. Suddenly everything shudders.

ABBY

What the hell is that?

REYNOLDS

I don't know. But it's been happening since I got here.

PORTLAND

That answers it for me.

HEATHER

I believe the planet's core is shifting, Captain.

ABBY

Sure, why not.

EXT. VENT CROSSING #1 - MOMENTS LATER

Reynolds guzzles a lot of water as they huddle around trying to figure things out. She hands the water to Abby who drinks. Portland leans against the wall. Heather listens.

PORTLAND

This is your ship?

REYNOLDS

No. Mine abandoned us when the droids attacked.

ABBY

How long have you been here?

REYNOLDS

About a month, I think. It's hard to say.

HEATHER

The shifting core is most likely creating surges in the planet's gravitational field. This is what caused our ship to crash.

MORE LOUD METALLIC GRINDING AND SCREECHING.

REYNOLDS

We got to get out of here...This way.

ABBY

Where are you taking us?

REYNOLDS

Away from the droids. They must have picked up our heat.

She pushes open an air grate.

REYNOLDS

There's a hallway down there.

Off of Abby and Portland digesting this option.

PORTLAND

I'll go first.

The echo of metal tracks (think Wall-E) grinding in the distance.

Portland drops down.

PORTLAND

We're good.

REYNOLDS

Hurry.

Abby drops down to the hallway below.

INT. HALLWAY OF GALACTIC GALLEON - CONTINUOUS

It is half lit with runner lights along the ceiling.

Abby rises from the floor and shares a gaze with Portland. A moment later Heather joins them, followed by Reynolds. She turns to Portland.

REYNOLDS
Boost me up. Now!

Portland boosts her up and she closes the grate.

REYNOLDS
(drops back down)
We don't have much time.

She leads them down the hall.

Loud grinding from the air vent.

REYNOLDS
Run!

Suddenly a killer sentry droid drops through the ceiling behind them. It chomps its nasty jaws together in anticipation.

Heather turns back to the droid.

ABBY
Heather!

HEATHER
I'll catch up with you, Captain.
Now may I have your pistol?

Abby hands her the gun. She fires at the droid and dives onto it.

The others take off. Abby hesitates. Portland drags her along.

QUICK CUTS of Heather struggling with the droid. She tries to shoot it as it chomps on her.

Eventually the droid throws Heather up against the wall and blasts her with a laser shot from it's mouth.

Heather collapses, arm dangling from a few wires.

The droid approaches to finish her off.

With her last strength she powers herself down.

CLOSE ON the droid, chomping its jaws in triumph.

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY IN GALLACTIC GALLEON - MOMENTS LATER

Abby and Portland run after Reynolds.

ABBY

What are those things so hyped up
about?

REYNOLDS

Ask their programmer...You guys
make a right at the next
intersection. I need to cover our
trail.

(neither moves)

Go on. I'll be right behind you.

Reynolds takes out a bottle of frozen Co2.

REYNOLDS

They track us through our body
heat.

Abby pushes Portland on ahead as Reynolds begins to spray the
hall behind her with the frozen Co2.

ANOTHER ANGLE as Abby and Portland turn the corner.

REYNOLDS

(o.s.)

You'll see a chute at the end of
the hall. Use it!

They pull up at what looks like some kind of loading chute.

PORTLAND

Do you trust her?

ABBY

At the moment I don't think we have
much of a choice.

Reynolds appears at the top of the hall, spraying her way
down towards them.

REYNOLDS

Take the damn chute!

Portland rolls his eyes at Abby and flips himself feet first
into the chute. He hesitates.

REYNOLDS

Go on. Its soft at the bottom!

Portland lets himself go.

INT. CHUTE IN GALACTIC GALLEON

Portland slides through the half light in terror, holding his rifle with one hand.

PORTLAND
Shiiiiitttttt!

He disappears and then we hear a muffled flop and a grunt.

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY IN GALACTIC GALLEON - CONTINUOUS

Reynolds sprays her way up to Abby.

REYNOLDS
I can't finish until you go.

Abby nods and flings herself into chute.

ABBY'S P.O.V. of sliding down the chute. Suddenly everything becomes dark.

INT. LAUNDRY DECK ON GALACTIC GALLEON - CONTINUOUS

WIDE ANGLE as Abby sprawls into a pile of what seems to be laundry. She sits up to see Portland straightening himself out.

Then she recoils.

ABBY
Ahhhh!

CLOSE ON a rotting corpse propped up nearby.

They turn towards a skidding noise.

Reynolds expertly spreads her legs to slow herself down as she emerges from the chute. She sees

REYNOLDS
Sorry. I gotta get rid of him.

EXT. SANTAR 6 - DAY

The sun is creeping towards its zenith. Heat radiates off the planet's surface.

EXT. SANTAR 6 CRASH SITE - LATER

The area seems deserted. Ritz slinks up to Abby's crippled freighter, checking the area for shenshavis.

He stares at the torn bodies of his team for a moment, taking it all in, then enters the freighter through the back.

HOLD on the freighter until Ritz re-emerges with a hover scooter, some wraps to protect himself from the sun, a duffle bag and some water.

As he fires up his scooter and takes off we tilt up to the blazing sun. Rack Focus--

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. VALLEY CAUSED BY CRASHED GALACTIC FREIGHTER - DAY

CLOSE ON Ritz tooling his way across the expanse.

PAN AND TRACK into Long Shot to reveal just how much distance Ritz is covering.

EXT. NAVIGATION TOWER OF WRECKED GALACTIC FREIGHTER - DAY

RACK FOCUS to reveal Ritz gliding up to some rock debris in the near distance.

ANGLE ON dismembered bodies scattered around the area.

Ritz hides his scooter and checks to make sure he is not being watched. Then he takes out a flashlight and slips down into the darkness between the rocks.

INT. HANGER IN MINE BASE 1 - DAY

The Sergeant rises from a computer screen and approaches the Commander.

ALIEN SERGEANT

Our sensors show no sign of them above ground. They must have fled into the galleon.

ALIEN COMMANDER

Then we shall leave them to the droids.

The Alien Sergeant does not like hearing this and approaches his commander.

ALIEN SERGEANT

Perhaps we should speak with Ritz one more time?

ALIEN COMMANDER

We have profit enough. Have the men finish loading and prepare for take off.

INT. LAUNDRY DECK ON GALACTIC GALLEON - DAY

Reynolds shows Abby how to tie a discarded shirt over the sole of each of her boots. They all acknowledge the shuddering of the galleon.

REYNOLDS

These booties will make it harder for the droids to track us.

ABBY

Can you get me to the repair hanger on the mine base?

REYNOLDS

Sure. But there's a detachment of Ventons to deal with.

ABBY

There's Ventons here?

REYNOLDS

They arrived four days ago, without crashing.

PORTLAND

Why would anyone come to this god forsaken place if they didn't have to?

REYNOLDS

Beats me.

(Pause as Abby and Portland share a look)

So your ship is fixable?

ABBY

With the right parts.

REYNOLDS

There's a maintenance deck here that I could probably find again.

ABBY

Why did you say you landed on Santar 6?

REYNOLDS

I don't think I did. We were working salvage and figured this wreck would be a good haul, at least until the droids found us. How about you?

ABBY

I was flying a mine rep crew to Santar 9 when a strobic storm nailed us.

REYNOLDS

Mine rep, huh? So you know drills and all that?

PORTLAND

Won't do shit for us now.

REYNOLDS

You never know.

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6 - MOMENTS LATER

Ritz has his hover scooter full throttled as he skims above the surface of the valley. The communication tower of the crashed galleon fades behind him..

Up ahead we see the decaying outline of Mine Base One.

INT. HALLWAY #2 - MOMENTS LATER

Reynolds, Abby and Portland are on the move again. It is quiet, almost ghostly, in the half light.

REYNOLDS

(whispers)

Another few minutes and we should be under the maintenance deck.

Portland sees a raised ladder on the wall. He pulls on it.

PORTLAND

Why don't we climb--?

REYNOLDS

Don't--

Suddenly the ladder slides down to the floor with a clang. The noise echoes all around them.

Abby listens warily to the echo fade. Then--

ABBY
Everybody down! Down!

They all hit the ground as laser blasts ricochet off the tunnel walls, streaking over them like tracers.

PORTLAND
That was freaky.

REYNOLDS
A droid must have heard you.

Portland starts to crawl back towards the sound. He shuts off his head lamp.

PORTLAND
I've got a couple blasting caps.
Maybe I can take him out before he catches up.

Abby watches him for a moment, then;

ABBY
Be smart, Portland!

PORTLAND
Smart would be quitting this gig and opening up a hot dog stand.

REYNOLDS
There's a left turn about two hundred yards up.

PORTLAND
See you there.

REVERSE ANGLE - CONTINUOUS

Portland sets two detonators on either side of the hall.

Another laser shot careens over his head. He takes a quick reading with some kind of pda sensor, gauging how far back the droid is, then flicks on his head lamp and scampers back to the way he came.

ANGLE ON the droid, coldly advancing. He fires two more times.

CUT TO Portland holding against the side of the hall as the laser blasts go by.

INT. HALLWAY INTERSECTION - CONTINUOUS

Reynolds and Abby pull up. It is very dark here.

REYNOLDS
This is the way up.

ABBY
Portland will never find it!

REYNOLDS
He's gonna have to. Now are you
coming or not?

ABBY
I can't leave him out there!
...Portland!

PORTLAND
(o.s.)
Get down!

Abby and Reynolds get down. First one, than a second, blast
of light, followed by concussive waves, roll down the hall.

Abby peers down into the smoky darkness.

ABBY
Portland!

Silence.

REYNOLDS
We have got to get out of here now!

ABBY
Portland!

Silence, then Portland staggers out of the smoke.

PORTLAND
That should slow him down.

REYNOLDS
(o.s through smoke)
I'm leaving with or without you
people!

Abby pulls Portland into the side hallway.

INT. HALLWAY #2 - MOMENTS LATER

The smoke settles and we see the droid collecting himself.
He's been stunned and a bit damaged, but still functioning.

All of his systems come back to full power. He kinks his neck
and begins a determined stride after his prey.

INT. REPAIR HANGER - DAY

The Alien Commander smokes a cigarette and watches his men load up their ship.

The Alien Sergeant speaks to another Alien nearby.

Suddenly the doors burst open and Ritz enters, gun drawn in his left hand while his right hand holds a knife at a frightened Alien's throat.

The other Aliens in the room draw their weapons.

RITZ

Shoot and at least two of you die!
(no one shoots)
Good. Now I have something to show
you mooks.

He pushes the Alien away and reaches for his duffle bag. Guns cock.

RITZ

Easy my horn faced friends...Talk
to them, Brashear!

ALIEN SERGEANT

Let him show what he's got.

Ritz pulls a large, diamond-like crystal out of his backpack.

RITZ

This is the real haul right here!
Pure warp crystal. And I'm the only
one who knows where it is! That's
right. What I have here is worth
more than all the slag you've got.

He tosses it over to the Alien Sergeant, who examines it and then walks it over to the Commander.

RITZ

We fought a war for three years and
all I got to show for it is a
crummy job and an underfunded
pension.

(pause as the aliens look
at each other)

You guys don't even have that, do
you?

(lets this sink in as he
tosses a gem to another
alien to examine)

(MORE)

RITZ (cont'd)

We can still get very rich here...But first you help me find my team.

ALIEN COMMANDER

Your friends have disappeared from our sensors; probably into the galleon.

RITZ

Really.

ALIEN SERGEANT

Assuming we find them, what's to keep them from blaming all the killing here on us? We could go to galactic prison for the rest of our lives.

RITZ

Not if we share. They're broke too.

Ritz tosses another crystal over to the Alien Sergeant, who can't help but be seduced by its glimmering gorgeousness.

RITZ

That's the stone that launched a thousand ships.

OUTSIDE THE WIND BEGINS TO HOWL. The hanger shakes and the lights flicker

INT. HALLWAY #3 - MOMENTS LATER

Abby pushes on with Portland. Reynolds can't be seen.

ABBY

Incoming!

She pulls Portland to the ground as the laser bursts zip past them.

PORTLAND

So much for the blasting caps.

ABBY

Reynolds!
(no answer)
Reynolds!

SILENCE then--

REYNOLDS

(o.s.)

One more right in about fifty
yards!

Another burst of laser comes towards them. They duck again.

Portland helps her up.

PORTLAND

Now we run.

They run as fast as they can down the hall.

INT. HALLWAY #2 - CONTINUOUS

The droid has a good stride now, relentlessly making his way
through the smoky half light.

INT. INTERSECTION #3- MOMENTS LATER

The hallway splits into three directions, two of them to the
right.

Portland and Abby look at each other.

PORTLAND

Which right, Reynolds!...Reynolds?

No answer. Abby and Portland look at each other. Which
tunnel? Abby collapses against the wall to catch her breath.

ABBY

This one is more of a right.

PORTLAND

You're the pilot.

They continue into the darkness.

Moments later the droid pulls up at the three way
intersection.

INSERT: P.O.V. Of heated wall where Abby just leaned. It
glows red.

INT. HALLWAY #3 - MOMENTS LATER

Abby and Portland come face to face with a dead end. There
seems to have been some kind of cave in (or a hatch that
won't open). Portland tries to climb over the debris. He
can't.

A salvo of laser blasts come hurtling towards them. They duck.

ABBY
Kill the lights!

Portland prepares the laser rifle. He hands Abby the blasting caps.

PORTLAND
I really don't want to die down here.

ANGLE ON the droid, approaching out of the smoke.

Suddenly a light shines down from above.

CUT TO Reynolds peering through a hatch. She lowers a ladder.

REYNOLDS
Hurry!

Abby and Portland don't need to be asked twice. Abby scrambles up the ladder, followed by a very edgy Portland.

Abby tosses one of the blasting caps back past Portland.

ABBY
I'd hurry!

Portland vaults up the ladder as the cap explodes.

INT. NEXT LEVEL OF GALLEON - CONTINUOUS

Abby helps Portland up through the opening. They both try to pull the ladder up before the droid gets to it. They make good progress until the ladder stops moving.

ABBY
Uh oh.

REYNOLDS
Hurry up! His friends can't be far away.

PORTLAND
Give me that other blasting cap.

Portland snatches it from Abby as the ladder starts to slide back down into the hatch.

ABBY
Reynolds!

Reynolds helps her brace the ladder as Portland tosses the blasting cap down the hatch. Seconds later it explodes. The women manage to free the ladder.

Portland helps them pull it away from the hatch.

WIDER to reveal an open space, almost like a warehouse.

REYNOLDS

They are on to us, now.

ANGLE ON two more droids approaching from distant hallways.

They run in the opposite direction.

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They pull up.

ANGLE ON the droids tooling towards them. Things are not looking good.

REYNOLDS

I've got a pulse grenade in my bag.

PORTLAND

Nice of you to share!

Reynolds reaches into her pack and pulls out a pulse grenade.

REYNOLDS

It's not fully charged but--.

PORTLAND

(grabs grenade)

I survived two tours I can survive this.

ABBY

Portland, let me take this one.

PORTLAND

I'd love to. But you're the only one here who knows how to fly.

Abby knows he is right.

REYNOLDS

Take this down to the first intersection and turn right. The maintenance deck is one level up from there.

ABBY
Be smart, ok?

One of the droids appears at top of the hall.

Portland smirks and lays down expert covering fire. Behind him Reynolds and Abby scramble away.

The droid ducks back to avoid the laser shots.

CLOSER ON Portland. He sees that they have made the turn and sighs.

ANGLE ON the droid re-appearing. It blasts away at Portland, who ducks into a doorway.

Portland activates the pulse grenade, counts to himself and then tosses it up the hall. Seconds later we hear a fizzling blast.

Portland nervously looks out into the hallway.

ANGLE ON the spent grenade bouncing back towards him. It was a dud.

TILT UP to the droid, good as ever. Almost gloating.

PORTLAND
Oh, shit.

Portland ducks back into the room and locks the door. The ship spasms. Lights flash. The air begins to shimmer

INT. EQUIPMENT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Portland slides some abandoned junk against the door and puts on sunglasses to counteract the sparkling atmosphere.

He surveys his options. They are not good. He looks at his rifle, then the back wall. After a beat he begins to burn a hole in the wall, trying to create an escape route. But his rifle suddenly goes dead.

He tries to re-start it. Nothing.

There is bashing at the barricaded door as Portland kicks a hole into the half cut back wall.

The door is forced open and the droid enters, menacing as ever.

PORTLAND
Long time, no see.

Portland fires his pistol at the droid. One shot hits him, with little effect. And then the pistol goes dead.

PORTLAND

Shit...

The droid opens its mouth to fire. Light flashes as the ground shudders.

Portland sags in resignation, readying himself for the worst.

Suddenly, the droid powers down.

CLOSE ON Portland slowly opening his eyes. He can't believe his luck. He carefully picks his way past the droid out into the hallway, oblivious to the sparkling cloud that hovers behind the limp droid.

HALLWAY.

He looks back towards the open deck.

P.O.V. The other droid is also powered down too.

INT. GALLEON - MOMENTS LATER

Abby and Reynolds pick their way through the clutter. Abby pulls up.

REYNOLDS

This is no time to slow down!

ABBY

Listen...
(shouts)
Portland?

PORTLAND

(o.s.)
I'm coming.

CUT TO Portland entering the far side.

ANGLE ON Abby glad to see him. They share a guarded smile.

PORTLAND

He just went limp all the sudden.

REYNOLDS

It shut down?

PORTLAND

Both of them. Just like my rifle.

REYNOLDS

Then let's go finish them off.

PORTLAND

Did you hear what I just said? Our weapons are dead!

Reynolds grabs the laser rifle from Abby and aims it down the hall. It does not fire.

ABBY

It must be these spasms.

Reynolds tries again.

REYNOLDS

Son of a bitch!

ABBY

The plan was to fix our ship and scam, right? I say we stick to it.

REYNOLDS

They will re-boot! They always do.

ABBY

Hopefully we'll be long gone. You do want to be long gone, don't you?

Reynolds ignores her and leads them down the hall.

INT. GALLEON MESS HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Reynolds slides an apparently broken door open.

SUDDENLY the atmosphere begins to flash and shimmer again. The ship shudders

REYNOLDS

In here.

They all put on their sunglasses, goggles, etc as they step into the mess hall. The room is completely upended.

Reynolds slides the door shut behind them.

It's almost dark now.

She drops a makeshift barricade down to bolster the door, then takes a small laser lantern from behind the clutter. She flicks it on and the room is lit. Clearly she has been here before.

WIDER ON room to reveal piles of supplies amidst the clutter.

REYNOLDS

We're gonna need some things if we go back above ground.

She pulls some water bottles from under the rubble and tosses them to Abby and Portland.

They each catch one and greedily drink. Suddenly A CLICK is heard.

They both look up to see Reynolds aiming her automatic pistol at them.

REYNOLDS

This one works the old fashioned way.

ABBY

What the hell is this?

REYNOLDS

A fantastic opportunity for us all to get rich.

PORTLAND

Funny, it looks like a gun to me.

REYNOLDS

This ship has a haul of warp crystal and we're going to get some.

Reynolds tosses Portland a small gem. It is impressive.

REYNOLDS

You have mining equipment and a ship that might fly. So we're going to be partners--sort of.

ABBY

No fucking way I risk my ship for you.

She cocks the gun at Portland's head.

PORTLAND

Shit!

REYNOLDS

You might have noticed that he's the expendable one. Maybe I'll--

ABBY

There's no need for that, Reynolds.

REYNOLDS

Then lets get serious here! He helps me drill out some crystal while you fix your ship and we all live happily ever after.

ABBY

Legend says these crystals are part of ancient Santari holy ground. People who steal them don't make out too well.

REYNOLDS

Yeh, well how did things work out for the Santari anyway?

PORTLAND

They were massacred into oblivion by pirates looking for the crystal.

PAUSE as this sinks in. The storm subsides.

VOICES ECHO FROM THE AIR DUCTS

RITZ

(o.s)

Brashear, they have to keep it quiet or we'll have hell to pay.

CLOSE ON Abby as she realizes this is Ritz. She shares a glance with Portland.

REYNOLDS

Sounds like the Ventons have found their way.

Portland is quiet.

ABBY

I take it they're after the same thing you are?

REYNOLDS

Why else would anyone come to this wreck?

PORTLAND

Good question.

VERBAL ALARMS FROM THE AIR DUCTS

ALIEN#4

(o.s.)

Droid on our tail!

ALIEN COMMANDER

(o.s.)

You! Slow him down with the pulser.
Everyone else keep moving.

MUFFLED BLASTS. CRIES OF PAIN AND TERROR.

RITZ

(o.s.)

Run like hell!

MORE CHAOS off screen, then silence.

REYNOLDS

Now you see why I wanted to finish
them off?

Abby and Portland share a look. She can't believe the
absurdity of the situation.

ABBY

So you're all here trying to find
these crystals?

REYNOLDS

The trick is they don't know where
they are, unless somebody told
them.

ABBY

Let's say somebody did. How do you
propose to find them without being
killed by the Ventons, or the
droids, for that matter?

REYNOLDS

A million dreighters is worth some
risk, isn't it?

PORTLAND

Whoa. A million dreighters?

REYNOLDS

At least.

PORTLAND

Goddamn!

ABBY

Portland? She just threatened to
kill you!

PORTLAND

OK. But we got to at least check it out, right?

OFF OF ABBY'S disbelieving glare.

INT. UTILITY ROOM OF GALLEON - LATER

Ritz leads the three surviving Ventons into the room. They close the door behind them. He motions for silence.

ALIEN COMMANDER

Two of my men are dead! I should kill you on the spot.

RITZ

And then what?

The Commander relents, realizing that Ritz is right.

ALIEN SERGEANT

How long until the others pick up our trail?

RITZ

If we're smart they won't find us at all!

INT. GALLEON - LATER

LONG SHOT as Abby, Portland and Reynolds sneak across a storage deck. They barely make a sound.

INT. MAINTAINANCE DECK - MOMENTS LATER

They are in a dark open space. The ship shudders again. Dust flies.

Reynolds engages a laser lantern. It lights up the room, piercing the dusty gloom to reveal it to be full of ghostly looking space equipment and machinery.

Abby shines a flashlight across dusty shelves. Reynolds looks on.

Portland warily lights a smoke behind them.

REYNOLDS

Don't worry. The droids are after the Ventons.

PORTLAND

It's not the droids I'm worried about right now.

The ship shudders again.

PORTLAND
Is this shit normal?

ABBY
I'd say not!...

She climbs up the shelving, examining the inventory that remains.

CLOSE UP ON SANTAR 6 RAT. It screeches horrifically and scurries over her hand.

ABBY
Ahhhhh!

She drops her flashlight and steadies herself.

WIDER as a piece of debris falls off the shelf. Abby swings to the side to avoid it, but now she is hanging from the shelving.

ABBY
Shit!

PORTLAND
Swing left and find a foot rest!

Abby nimbly swings over to her left and finds some shelving for her feet.

Abby carefully scales down the shelves.

REYNOLDS
You're almost like one of those
little gymnasts.

ABBY
Fuck you...There's a couple boards
up there that might work.

Reynolds scales the shelving and grabs the box Abby was after.

PORTLAND
Lookie what I found.

Portland points to the splash of light provided by Abby's fallen flashlight.

CLOSER ON two hover bikes. He shares a look with Abby.

PORTLAND
Now we can boogie.

EXT. CRASH SITE - LATER

Abby rides double with Portland on the hover bike. Reynolds follows closely on the other one. She gestures to the left and peels off in that direction. Portland follows.

WIDER as they cruise across the width of the depression.

The communication tower of the Galleon rises behind them.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE FREIGHTER - LATER

A shovel crunching into the arid surface of Santar 6.

WIDER to reveal Abby digging a grave for one of the dismembered corpses baking in the sun near her ship. She sweats from exertion.

Portland approaches with a duffle bag full of equipment.

Abby makes sure Reynolds is out of sight.

ABBY
I say we whack her in the head and
throw her in the brig.

PORTLAND
Then we'll never get the crystal.

ABBY
Maybe the crystal isn't so
important right now.

PORTLAND
For me it is.

They share a look.

REYNOLDS
(comes around corner with
bag)
Try not to sweat too much. The
shenshavi can smell it a mile away.
Now let's go get your relay switch.

ABBY
What?

REYNOLDS

You know, the thingee that let's you start your engines.

ABBY

How I am going to test the repair if I can't start the engines?

REYNOLDS

Sim--u--late! I already had one ship leave without me.

ABBY

Portland?

PORTLAND

She's gotta make sure the repair works, Reynolds.

REYNOLDS

Can you guarantee she won't ditch us?

(Portland hesitates)

I didn't think so.

(takes out nasty knife)

How about we leave the switch, but I slice off your Johnson if she bails? Sound fair?...I think you two have some trust issues here.

ABBY

For Christ's sake I am not going to leave you here.

REYNOLDS

Oh really? Why?

ABBY

Because I don't leave people behind!...At least not anymore.

REYNOLDS

Then give me the oxygen simulator instead. That way you can still test the guidance, right?

ABBY

Fine.

Reynolds follows Abby back onto the ship.

REYNOLDS

Just to show you I'm a good sport
I'll leave my bag of crystal with
you.

Drops it on the floor of the bridge.

EXT. SPACE FREIGHTER - LATER

Reynolds and Portland pull away on the hover bikes. They each carry a weapon and a duffle bag full of mining tools.

Abby watches them disappear. She looks up at the ominous sky, sighs and heads back into the freighter.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

Abby enters and stares at Reynolds' rucksack, lying on the floor. She opens it and examines a piece of the crystal, then stuffs it back inside in disgust. She rises to examine the radar sensor.

CLOSE ON the radar sensor. We see two blips representing the hover bikes fading to the edge of the scan. They each create a faint "beep."

ANGLE ON Abby adjusting the sensor screen.

RESUME ON the radar sensor. The two blips/beeps grow fainter and fainter, until they disappear.

WIDE ON Abby. She is all alone now and knows it. She turns to her task.

Suddenly a single beep is heard from the radar sensor. Abby stiffens.

SLOW TRACK IN ON ABBY as the single beep grows louder and louder. Something is approaching. She hurriedly closes the hatch to the bridge.

INT. GALLEON STAIRWELL - LATER

Flashlights once again pierce the half light.

RITZ

It's about four more levels down.

The ship begins to rumble.

RITZ

Legend has it the Santari don't
like us coming here.

ALIEN COMMANDER

Unfortunately for them they're all
dead.

RITZ

Maybe. But the energy fields they
left behind are pretty potent.

The Alien Sergeant flicks open an energy meter and takes a
reading. It barely works. He needs to whack it to respond.

ALIEN SERGEANT

Polarity is all over the place.

They share a glance and push on.

CUT TO:

STAIRWELL.

Ritz pulls up. The others stop behind him. He motions for
quiet and slowly cracks the door.

With no sign of trouble he opens it wider and shines his
flashlight through the opening.

RITZ

This is it.

INT. ENTRANCE TO GALLEON CARGO HOLD - CONTINUOUS

There is all kinds of wreckage here.

Ritz shines his flashlight up to reveal the passage over the
debris.

Shimmering light flashes back at him from the other side.

RITZ

Hello, sunshine.

The Alien Sergeant scrambles up to the opening and takes a
look.

ALIEN SERGEANT

Wow.

Ritz climbs up to join him.

RITZ

That's what I am talking about!

ALIEN COMMANDER

Let me see!

The ship begins to violently shudder. The men try to steady themselves.

RITZ

There are too many of us here!
Somebody has to go back.

PAUSE

ALIEN SERGEANT

I'll go. Make sure you cut me a
nice chunk, Ritz.

He climbs back down.

RITZ

Yours will be first!

The Alien Sergeant draws his laser side arm. Naturally it isn't working.

The Alien Commander follows Ritz inside.

ALIEN COMMANDER

We won't be long, Brashear!

The Alien Sergeant holsters his laser pistol, suddenly unnerved by his aloneness. He checks his regular pistol. It's small comfort amidst the quaking and shuddering.

INT. CARGO HOLD - CONTINUOUS

The Alien Commander slides down into the hold. Ritz is nearby, appreciating the view.

CLOSER ON the Alien Commander. He is stunned by the sparkling scene in front of him.

RITZ

That's enough crystal to fly a
fleet of ships.

The Alien Commander tries to regain his aloof poise. He engages his portable drill.

ALIEN COMMANDER

Where do we begin?

The shuddering escalates once again.

RITZ

Anywhere. Just don't take too much
from one spot.

The Alien Commander uses the laser drill to blast a chunk of crystal. The laser ricochets and almost hits Ritz.

RITZ
Easy, big fella...Like this...

Ritz expertly lasers a nice chunk of crystal and shows it to the Alien Commander.

ALIEN COMMANDER
Ha!

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - DAY

The bridge is deserted. The beeping from the radar sensor is almost a single very loud tone. Suddenly it stops.

ANGLE ON the hatch. The handle turns slowly. The door opens. One of the droids from the galleon enters, eyes ablaze and jaw chomping.

INSERT L.E.D. SCREEN infrared pan of the bridge. There are no specific signs of life.

RESUME ON the droid. He sees Reynolds' backpack of crystal and picks it up. His foot bumps into something.

ANGLE ON one of Abby's screw drivers rolling on the floor.

PAN to reveal more tools.

INT. HALLWAY OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

Abby scrambles down the hallway, trying to figure out where to hide. She wipes the sweat off of her brow.

INT. HALLWAY #2 OF SPACE FREIGHETR - MOMENTS LATER

The droid tools down the hall.

INT. GALLEY OF SPACE FREIGHETR - MOMENTS LATER

The droid enters and scans the room. Not a sign of Abby.

He clicks the cooler door open; nothing.

He looks behind the counter; nothing.

INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER

The droid pushes the door open.

REVERSE ANGLE on an empty room. The droid scans the floor for heat prints.

The droid pulls the closet door open. Nothing.

Suddenly sparkling light emanates from the ceiling, distracting him.

He blasts at the ceiling with his laser, melting some ceiling tiles. The debris floats to the floor. But no Abby.

The sparkling cloud continues to annoy him. After a beat, he exits.

HOLD ON the empty room. Suddenly one of the floor panels loosens. Abby emerges from the ducts underneath, half wrapped in a foil blanket.

INT. HALLWAY OF SPACE FREIGHTER - MOMENTS LATER

Abby swings her way into the hallway and freezes.

CUT TO the droid striding through the intersection at the far end. He apparently doesn't see Abby. But a second later he pops back into the intersection.

P.O.V. of empty hallway. Abby is gone.

RESUME ON the droid, suspicious, but not sure what he really saw. He strides down the hall towards the camera.

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Abby is terrified as she tries to find another hiding place.

An emergency door won't open in spite of her struggle with it.

She disappears around the next corner.

Seconds later the droid appears at the top of the hall behind her.

INT. CARGO BAY - MOMENTS LATER

The droid enters. The area is a mess from the crash landing.

He scans the room. Nothing.

He blasts his laser at some debris. Nothing.

He burns a trail across the ceiling with his laser;

Nothing. He exits. The room is still. A moment later the droid re-enters. Still nothing.

He leaves again. Not more than a second or two after he is gone, a side door behind some cluttered shelving swings open just a touch, letting some daylight in.

EXT. SPACE FREIGHTER - MOMENTS LATER

The droid exits the bridge with the backpack of crystal. He paces and scans the area all around the freighter, completely dissatisfied with his failure to kill anything.

Suddenly the droid scrambles up onto one of the rock piles that stand around the freighter.

P.O.V.--FREIGHTER ROOF. Nothing is there.

P.O.V.--Middle Distance around freighter. Nothing is there.

REVERSE ANGLE on the frustrated droid. He scampers back down to the ground.

ANGLE ON the droid climbing into his hover drone. He fires it up and takes off.

TRACK Tilt DOWN to reveal Abby clinging to the far edge of the freighter roof as the droid passes overhead. Her feet lose their hold and now she hangs on with only her hands, dangling in plain view.

The drone recedes in the background.

Abby loses her strength and falls to the ground--just as the droid banks his drone back towards us and cruises overhead. He does not see Abby.

Suddenly the same sparkling cloud we saw in the freighter appears around her.

CLOSE ON Abby half conscious. She sees the cloud of sparkling light through her fog, then passes out.

INT. GALLEON AIR DUCT - DAY

Reynolds and Portland make their way forward. The ship continues to shudder.

VOICES of Ritz and the Alien Commander muffle through the darkness.

REYNOLDS

You better reboot that laser while
you can.

PORTLAND
How about we let them finish and
then go in?

REYNOLDS
If they take too much the polarity
will zap us.

PORTLAND
Great...Let me talk to him.

REYNOLDS
Who?

PORTLAND
The human. He's kind of my boss.

REYNOLDS
Really.

Portland scrambles ahead. A glow appears in the distance.

INT. CARGO HOLD - CONTINUOUS

The Alien Commander struggles with his laser drill. It has
stopped working. After a beat he drops it and resumes his
work with a pick axe.

Ritz works on his own crystal nearby. Suddenly his drill
conks out as well. He looks to reboot it, much like Portland
did with his weapon.

PORTLAND
(o.s.)
Ritz! Hey, Ritz!

RITZ
Stop a minute. You hear that?

PORTLAND
(o.s.)
Ritz!

The Alien Commander immediately goes for his weapon.

RITZ
Hold your horses...chill!
(walks towards air vent)
Is that you, Portland?

PORTLAND
(o.s.)
Alive and kicking. Listen, I got to
ask you to finish up in there.

RITZ

Really?

PORTLAND

Yeh, man. Otherwise this chick I'm
with is going to frag your ass.

Everything starts to flash and shake.

The Alien Commander strides to the opening and fires his
weapon. It does not work. He fiddles with it and tries again.
No go.

RITZ

You sure her grenade still works,
Portland?

PORTLAND

Do you really want to find out? Now
come on and get out of there.

RITZ

Give us a second.

The Alien Commander gestures to the crawl space opening.

ALIEN COMMANDER

(sneers)

We can kill them with our hands as
they emerge.

Ritz sighs in frustration.

INT. GALLEON AIR DUCT - CONTINUOUS

REYNOLDS

Fuck these grunts.

She crawls towards the opening with another pulse grenade.
Portland grabs her ankle.

PORTLAND

Whoa! Hold on, will you?

(to Ritz)

She's resetting this grenade,
Ritz! So why don't you skedaddle
and give us a chance before she
wastes you both?

INT. CARGO HOLD - CONTINUOUS

RITZ

Seems reasonable to me...What do
you say, Chief?

ALIEN COMMANDER
There is a fortune here!

RITZ
But we can't spend it if we're
splattered on the wall.

ALIEN SERGEANT
(o.s.)
Is everything all right in there,
Commander?

ALIEN COMMANDER
It seems we have some visitors,
Brashear. Maintain your post until
I say otherwise.
(to Ritz)
Tell him we're packing up to leave.

RITZ
Portland? Hold tight. We're packing
up.

PORTLAND
(o.s.)
Good. I feel better already.

The Alien Commander sets the charge on his side arm to detonate and prepares to toss it into the opening where Portland and Reynolds are holed up.

RITZ
(whispers)
What are you doing?

ALIEN COMMANDER
They can both go to hell.

Ritz grapples with the Alien Commander, trying to keep him from tossing the weapon. They struggle in the pulsing phosphorus light.

INT. GALLEON AIR DUCT - CONTINUOUS

REYNOLDS
You've got thirty seconds to scam
or this grenade joins your party!

SUDDENLY THE DUCT FILLS WITH LIGHT. Then a loud explosion. Dust and debris fly everywhere.

INT. CARGO HOLD - MOMENTS LATER

The weapon went off on the lip of the air duct. Ritz staggers to his feet. The Alien Commander is slumped on the ground.

RITZ
What the hell have you done?

ALIEN SERGEANT
(climbing through their
opening)
Commander? Commander!

INT. GALLEON AIR DUCT - CONTINUOUS

Reynolds gets to her knees and tosses the grenade.

INT. CARGO HOLD - CONTINUOUS

The grenade bounces out of the opening and onto the ground.

RITZ
Oh, shit!

Ritz scrambles to get away.

CLOSE ON the Alien Sergeant seeing the grenade.

CLOSE ON the Alien Commander eyeing it as well.

CLOSE ON grenade. It flashes, but does not explode.

The Alien Commander rises, defiantly picks up the grenade and heads for the opening with it, adjusting its settings.

ALIEN COMMANDER
So much for your grenade! The
crystals are ours you stinking hu--

Just then the grenade explodes. The Alien Commander splatters onto the mine wall.

The Alien Sergeant is limp on the ground.

Only Ritz is conscious.

ANGLE ON the duct opening where a dazed and bloody Reynolds pulls herself down onto the floor of the cargo hold.

She cocks her weapon, even as she sways with dizziness.

REYNOLDS
Portland?

Portland emerges behind her. Not quite as damaged but still stunned.

PORTLAND

Right here.

He drops down as well.

Reynolds sees Ritz trying to rise and aims at him.

RITZ

Sorry about that.

PORTLAND

Put your gun down, Reynolds!

RITZ

Whatever happened to sharing?

PORTLAND

Shut up, Ritz, before I shoot you myself. Now listen, Reynolds, we don't need to kill anybody else, ok?

REYNOLDS

Are you kidding me? Killing them is the only way we'll get out of here!

PORTLAND

(aims his weapon at her)
No its not! Right, Ritzy?

RITZ

Of course. There is plenty to go around. Go ahead, carve away.

He tosses her one of the laser drills.

Reynolds catches it and absently points it at Portland.

RITZ

You might want to give her a primer before she burns a hole in you.

Portland tries to fire up the drill for her, but it is once again not working.

Reynolds can't wait and grabs a pick axe. She quickly gets to work on a bulging crystal that protrudes from the pile.

REYNOLDS

Look at the size of this thing!

Ritz, Portland and the Alien Sergeant all share a look. The ground really begins to shudder and rumble.

PORTLAND
(to Ritz)
You're an asshole, you know it.

Ritz says nothing as he goes to help the Alien Sergeant stand up.

Reynolds breaks a piece of the crystal off.

REYNOLDS
Oh yes!

She is suddenly fried by a laser blast.

ANGLE ON a droid (droid #2) struggling to fit through the main opening to the cargo hold.

RITZ
Portland, the drill!

Portland has rebooted the drill. He tosses it to Ritz, who immediately fires it up and drives the droid back into the recesses of the opening.

RITZ
You good, Brashear?

The Alien Sergeant fires his laser into the opening. It does not work.

RITZ
Try the drill!

Ritz tosses it to him, then picks up Reynolds' discarded pick and tries to dislodge the rest of the big crystal.

RITZ
One second.

The Alien Sergeant is slowly but surely keeping the droid from getting through the entrance.

PORTLAND
Ritz! Did you not just see what happened to the last person who stood there?

ALIEN SERGEANT
I've only got about thirty seconds of power left!

Ritz uses the butt end of the pick to break off another piece of crystal.

ANGLE ON the droid re-emerging from the rubble. He blasts at what he sees--which is Ritz. He barely misses. Ritz scrambles for the air duct.

The Alien Sergeant re-engages the laser and burns a blast into the droid's shoulder, forcing him to once again withdraw.

PORTLAND
To hell with this.

Portland grabs the duffle bag full of crystal and heads for the air duct. He tosses it to Ritz and starts to clamber up, then drops back down and heads over to Reynolds lifeless body.

RITZ
Come on, Portland!

PORTLAND
One second.

Portland searches through Reynolds pockets and pack. He finds the chip for the oxygen simulator.

PORTLAND
Bingo.

Portland dashes back to the opening, followed by the Alien Sergeant. Portland vaults himself up and into the duct.

RITZ
You first, my friend.

The Alien Sergeant hesitates, then accepts the invitation, using Ritz's clasped hands as a step ladder.

Portland extends his arm to pull him into the tunnel.

ANGLE ON the droid re-emerging on the other side of the room.

PORTLAND
Grab on, man!

Too late. The droid fires and turns the Alien Sergeant into ash.

Ritz is frozen down on the floor.

The strobic effects in the mine increase. The droid struggles to function.

Portland aims his weapon at the droid. It fails once again.

PORTLAND

Dammit!

Ritz sees his chance and tries to jump up with the duffle bag of crystal. He doesn't make it.

PORTLAND

Leave the crystal!

Ritz looks back at the droid quickly regaining its senses, then up at the opening he's trying to reach.

PORTLAND

Come on, Ritz. I got two. Leave the rest!

Ritz tries again to toss up the duffle bag. This time Portland catches it. Ritz leaps after it. Portland grabs his wrist and pulls him up and they disappear inside.

INT. GALLEON AIR DUCT - CONTINUOUS

Ritz tries to squirm his way into the tunnel but the droid grabs his ankle and begins to pull him back out.

RITZ

Portland!

Portland scrambles back towards Ritz.

Ritz starts to be dragged back out of the duct.

RITZ

Try the drill!

Portland aims his drill and engages. His first burst burns a hole in Ritz's leg.

RITZ

Ah, that's me! Shit!

His second burst hits the droid in the arm and the head. Stunned, the droid releases Ritz.

PORTLAND

Can you move?

RITZ

Do I have a choice?

They head into the darkness.

PORTLAND

You know your way, right?

RITZ

I'm trying to remember.

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6 - MOMENTS LATER

Portland emerges into the turbulent air from the communication tower. He turns and helps Ritz limp out into the cloudy half light. There is nothing but rocks and desert around them.

RITZ

Now what?

Portland smiles.

ANGLE ON the two hover bikes, safe behind some boulders where he and Reynolds hid them.

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6 - MOMENTS LATER

The droid (#2) hauls himself out into the daylight and sees--

P.O.V. ON hover bikes heading away.

RESUME ON the droid. Is that a smile?

EXT. SPACE FREIGHTER - DAY

Abby wakes up with a big headache. She gets her bearings and begins to remember what happened.

She senses something and spins nervously towards the sound.

There is nothing. Then she hears panting.

CUT TO glimpses of shenshavi prowling around the rocks. They are closing in.

EXT. SPACE FREIGHTER - DAY

The wind is picking up. Lightening flashes overhead.

Ritz and Portland pull up on their hover bikes.

PAN P.O.V. The area is deserted, except for the half eaten remains of their former mates.

PORTLAND

Rush!

Silence.

RITZ

Dude!

He gestures at a shenshavi eyeing them from the rock pile.

PORTLAND

Keep an eye on him.

Portland enters the freighter, leaving Ritz alone outside.

Ritz slips the repeller whistle between his lips and checks his laser rifle.

The shenshavi howls. Two more join him on the rocks.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - MOMENTS LATER

Portland looks around the stillness. The bridge has been trashed.

ANGLE ON the new guidance board. It has been chomped to bits by the droid.

EXT. SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

Portland emerges from the freighter.

PORTLAND

The bridge is trashed. And no sign of her.

RITZ

What about Heather?

PORTLAND

We lost her back on the galleon.

ABBY

(o.s.)

She gave herself up to save us.

ANGLE ON Abby cruising up on her hover bike. She meets Ritz's gaze.

ABBY

You do suck, Ritz.

PORTLAND

Where the hell have you been?

ABBY

Looking for more parts. Where's Reynolds?

PORTLAND

She got vapered by a droid.

ABBY

Ouch.

RITZ

Maybe we should talk about it
inside?

They all note the growing pack of Shenshavi and head inside
the freighter.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

Ritz is the last one in and closes the hatch.

RITZ

Are you guys getting along now?

ABBY

It's amazing what a little honesty
can do for a relationship.

She pulls a guidance board from her pack and grabs some
tools.

PORTLAND

I guess you still have work to do?

ABBY

A droid got in here and wrecked the
new board. I pulled this from the
Venton cruiser.

Abby crawls under the console.

RITZ

You know I was going to make sure
you guys got a taste of the
crystal.

Abby pokes her head back out.

ABBY

At least try to have some dignity
when you lie, ok?

RITZ

Once the ship crashed it only
seemed fair to give you a cut.
That's why I brought the pack with--

ABBY
You have crystal in there?

RITZ
Enough for us to take a nice long
vacation.

ABBY
Get rid of it.

RITZ
What?

ABBY
Get rid of it, Ritz. That crystal
is a magnet for the droids.

RITZ
But--

Abby grabs the pack, re-opens the hatch and flings it
outside.

RITZ
Now that is just great! Portland?

PORTLAND
She just got done dodging droids,
man.

RITZ
You don't want to leave this rock
without--

ABBY
Go make sure the cargo door is
sealed before you say something
else stupid.

Ritz doesn't like this but exits. Abby exhales. Portland
shrugs back. That's Ritz being Ritz.

INT. CARGO BAY - MOMENTS LATER

Ritz enters. He sighs.

ANGLE ON the rear hatch. It is sealed. We hear a clang.

Ritz spins to the sound.

ANGLE ON the side hatch that Abby used to escape the droid.

Ritz strides over and secures the hatch. Deep growling. Ritz slowly turns around.

ANGLE ON a nasty looking shenshavi stepping out from the clutter of the cargo bay.

REVERSE ON Ritz trying to get his pistol to engage.

The shenshavi leaps at Ritz with a roar.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - MOMENTS LATER

Abby works on her console. She rises in frustration.

ABBY

Nothing works on this planet.
(Portland looks at her)
The Venton board won't fit.

They hear a thump. She spins towards the sound. Portland springs for his rifle.

ANGLE ON

Ritz staggering into the bridge clutching a bloodied arm.

RITZ

Don't worry. The hatches are sealed.

INT. GALLEY OF SPACE FREIGHTER - LATER

Abby finishes bandaging Ritz. We hear the wind rattle the ship.

RITZ

You know I never meant for the ship to crash.

ABBY

But it did.

RITZ

I was trying to change the game here, ok?

ABBY

Maybe you should ask the other players first?

RITZ

If we don't look out for ourselves, who's going to?

ABBY

We don't get license to do what we want just because the company is screwing us.

RITZ

How about hiding from life on a crummy freighter? Do you get license to do that?

ABBY

How dare you judge--

RITZ

I'm just saying.

ABBY

Get some sleep. We're heading back to the galleon at first light.

She heads for the hallway.

RITZ

I'm sorry about Heather.

ABBY

She was your fuck buddy.

RITZ

And a damn good one. But I kept thinking about you when I was with her.

ABBY

Generally speaking, comparing a woman to a service droid is not a good way to impress her.

RITZ

But in this case its the truth that flatters.

Abby waves him off and exits.

INT. HALLWAY OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

Abby exits from the galley. Portland meets her gaze and looks away, turning into his sleeping quarters. Is that jealousy?

INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS - LATER

Abby splashes water on her face. She stares at herself in the mirror. She is not sure what to think.

INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS - LATER

SLOW TRACK IN on Abby restlessly sleeping. The storm rages outside. There's one in her dreams too. She tosses and turns.

REVERSE ANGLE to reveal Portland staring at her. What is he up to?

PORTLAND

Rush...Rush!
(he shakes her shoulder)

Abby bolts upright with a start.

ABBY

Shit! Portland?

PORTLAND

You were going pretty good.

ABBY

I guess I was. What are you doing up?

PORTLAND

I'm up every night...I just wanted to make sure you were ok.

Pause as they digest this.

ABBY

Back on Gemmer 5...there was no order to withdraw. Communication was down. Each pilot had to choose. I thought it was too hot to try and-

PORTLAND

It was very hot.

ABBY

I left you all to die.

PORTLAND

Who's to say they wouldn't have blasted you out of the sky if you tried? Besides, we didn't all die.

Suddenly Abby's warning light begins to flash on the wall. They both head for the door.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - MOMENTS LATER

Abby stares into her seismic scope. She looks up. Portland is with her.

PORTLAND
What do you think?

ANGLE ON Ritz limping onto the bridge, wiping sleep out of his eyes.

ABBY
The planet's core is shifting
around like jello.

RITZ
How bad?

ABBY
A day before it implodes. Maybe
less.

RITZ
You should let me and Portland go
back to the wreck.

ABBY
You have no idea what we need.

RITZ
We'll bring two of everything we
find.

ABBY
And if you're wrong we're dead. I
don't think so.

EXT. SPACE FREIGHTER - MOMENTS LATER

Now there is lightning striking in the near distance to go along with the turbulence.

Abby and Ritz approach the hover bike.

RITZ
I memorized the layout of that
ship. Let me drive. My arm's ok.

PORTLAND
(sees something)
How long for these things to reach
top speed?

ABBY

Five seconds or so. Why?

Portland gestures at--

ANGLE ON the shenshavi approaching. They have almost surrounded them.

RITZ

Cover your ears.

Ritz blows the shenshavi whistle with all his might.

The shenshavi hesitate. He blows some more. They retreat.

ABBY

Where'd you get that?

RITZ

From a friend.

Suddenly the shenshavi reappear and bolt at them with blood curdling howls.

ABBY

Floor it!

Ritz guns the throttle. Abby barely hangs on.

They pick their way down the hill towards the valley below with the shenshavi in hot pursuit. The dogs are gaining on them.

RITZ

We'll never make the tower.

ABBY

Portland?!

PORTLAND

I'm thinking real hard!..Over here!

He leads them around the bend.

CUT TO a shenshavi leaping at them. Abby expertly blasts it with her laser pistol.

ABBY

Follow Portland!

ANGLE ON more shenshavi closing in.

They take off into the exhaust vent just as the main pack of shenshavi arrive.

INT. EXHAUST VENT - CONTINUOUS

Portland leads Abby and Ritz into the darkness. We hear the shenshavi howling from outside the vent opening.

Portland pulls up. Abby and Ritz join him.

PORTLAND
(clipping on head lamp)
That was close.

ABBY
Too bad the maintenance deck is on
the other side of this frigging
ship.

RITZ
And there's only a couple dozen of
those droids in between.

ABBY
Did you take a census while you
were stealing crystal?

RITZ
You're more jaded than you know.
What if we go for the bridge?
There's got to be boards on the
bridge, right?

Portland has turned on his head lamp. The telltale screeching of the droids is heard.

PORTLAND
The bridge is closer.

INT. HALLWAY OF GALACTIC GALLEON - MOMENTS LATER

Portland tools around the corner, followed by Ritz and Abby.

RITZ
I am touched that you're sharing a
ride with me.

ABBY
Don't be...This looks familiar,
Portland.

Portland nods. He pulls up at an intersection of the hallway.

Portland reaches down and picks up a robotic foot; Heather's foot.

RITZ
What the hell is that?

ANGLE ON the foot.

ABBY
Pieces of Heather.

RITZ
Fuck me, really?

ABBY
She gave herself up to save us.

Portland tosses the foot.

PORTLAND
No more droidy poon for you, Ritz.

RITZ
Shut up, you prick.

The ship shudders beneath them. A geyser of steam explodes from the wall ahead.

PORTLAND
That'll cook us good.

RITZ
Only if he doesn't get us first.

He points out the droid approaching from the distance.

ABBY
Shit.

Ritz grabs Abby's rifle and lies down in a shooting position.

RITZ
You go left. I'll nail him when he gets close.

ABBY
How in the world--

RITZ
There's no time to argue!

Abby and Portland creep out.

RITZ
Don't worry. I didn't come this far to die down here.

ANGLE ON droid getting closer.

PORTLAND
Test the gun, Ritzie!

Ritz balances the gun against his injured arm and fires at the ceiling.

RITZ
I'm good. Now go.

Suddenly Portland takes position next to Ritz with the other rifle. He tests his too.

RITZ
What the hell are you doing?

PORTLAND
Two's better than one...Go find us a guidance board, Rush!

ABBY
I'll wait up ahead.

RITZ
Just go!

Abby peels out, leaving Ritz and Portland to face the approaching droid.

PORTLAND
I wish this hallway was wider.

RITZ
Mug shot, right?

Portland nods.

ANGLE ON the droid chomping with glee as he approaches. He fires his laser and it burns the floor between Ritz and Portland.

PORTLAND
Come on, buster. Do that again.

The droid opens its mouth to fire again.

RITZ
Now!

Portland and Ritz fire simultaneously into the droid's open mouth. It's a direct hit but the droid keeps coming for a few more steps. Portland and Ritz share a wtf look--then the droid's head explodes.

Portland helps Ritz stand up.

PORTLAND
Like old times, huh?

ABBY
(o.s.)
You guys ok?

RITZ
Oh yeah!

The screeching of other droids sounds through the half light.

They climb back onto Portland's hover bike. Ritz faces the rear, using the strap of the pulse rifle to bind him to Portland. He brandishes the laser pistol.

Portland tries to get the hover bike started.

RITZ
Any day now, Portland!
(it starts)
We're coming, momma!

WIDER as Portland peels out, almost spilling them both.

Screeching is all around them.

ANOTHER HALLWAY.

Portland pulls up beside Abby at an intersection. Which way to go?

The screeching is getting louder.

RITZ
That is definitely more than one!

PORTLAND
I say right. Ritz?

A laser blast hurtles past them.

RITZ
I don't remember this part...But
Right is good.

ABBY
I hate this place.

They turn right and disappear down the hall. The screeching continues.

ANOTHER HALLWAY OF GALACTIC GALLEON - MOMENTS LATER

They pull up at an intersection. Nobody seems to know what to do.

Abby sees a laser mark on the wall. She orients herself.

ABBY

Follow me.

WIDER as they peel out down to the left.

HALLWAY #4 OF GALACTIC GALLEON - MOMENTS LATER

They pull up at the chute that Reynolds had showed them.

PORTLAND

How did you--

ABBY

Women's intuition. Now get these bikes down the chute.

RITZ

No.

ABBY

What?

RITZ

They're tracking the heat from the engines. They'll find our trail again in a matter of minutes.

ABBY

We need these bikes to get back to the ship, Ritz.

RITZ

Of course we do. You game, Portland?

PORTLAND

It isn't my first choice but it does make sense.

ABBY

What the hell are you two--

RITZ

How long do you need?

ABBY

An hour, maybe--

RITZ
Just find the right board, Rush.
We'll see you back at the ship.

Portland tools out with Ritz.

ANGLE ON Abby as she watches them disappear down the hall.

Screeching in the near distance reminds her to keep moving.
She hoists the hover bike down the chute and then vaults
herself down after it.

LOUD SCREECHING echoes through the now empty hallway.

HALLWAY #5 ON GALACTIC GALLEON - MOMENTS LATER

Portland cruises along with Ritz keeping a watch at their
rear.

PORTLAND
You know this is very fucked up.

RITZ
Just keep pulling them away from
her.

PORTLAND
I'd love to, but--

ANGLE ON a droid appearing up ahead.

RITZ
They leap frogged us!

Portland turns sharply as a laser blast comes flying towards
them.

Quick cuts as they try to escape the droid.

WIDE ANGLE of the drone gaining ground on the hover bike.

CLOSER ON Ritz and Portland.

RITZ
We gotta get out of this hall!

Portland kicks open a stairwell and flies down with Ritz
hanging on for dear life.

RITZ
There's an elevator shaft down here
somewhere.

PORTLAND

Thanks for narrowing it down.

DINING AREA ON GALACTIC GALLEON - MOMENTS LATER

Portland bounces out into the large open space and stops.

ANGLE ON three droids turning towards their sound.

PORTLAND

Hang on!

He accelerates across the debris strewn room as the droids shoot after them.

Ritz aims the pistol and shoots one of the droids, only giving it a glancing blow.

PORTLAND

There is no way we can keep this up for an hour, man.

They whip out of the dining area.

RITZ

Stop for a sec!

Ritz unstraps himself and begins to barricade and bar the exit door.

No sooner is he finished then a couple laser shots crash into it from the inside, burning holes.

RITZ

That ought to buy us at least ten seconds.

They take off.

INT. HALLWAY OF GALACTIC GALLEON - DAY

Abby pulls up and shuts off the hover bike. She considers her options. The screeching of the droids is more distant now.

All around her is half light stretching to nowhere.

ANGLE ON a sign that reads ELEVATOR TO UPPER DECKS.

Suddenly the runner lights in the hallway fade out as the ship creaks and groans along with the decaying planet.

ABBY

Shit.

The lights come back up to reveal a droid way down at the end of the hallway. He's actually looking the other way.

Abby swallows hard and gets an idea. She pushes the elevator button and we hear the lift crank to life. She ducks behind the corner.

ABBY

Come on.

ANGLE ON the droid turning to the sound.

The elevator doors open, spilling out a big puddle of light into the hall. She quickly lugs the hover bike inside.

A blast from the droid hits the back wall of the elevator.

As the elevator doors close two more shots burn into it. Abby is rocked by the impact but she continues to safely rise.

INT. CARGO HOLD OF GALACTIC GALLEON - LATER

Portland pulls inside and Ritz makes sure he closes the door firmly behind them.

Portland kills the engine. They cover the hover bike with boxes and debris, etc.

Once they are satisfied that they've masked the hover bike's heat they slink over towards the shadows.

They walk over to the crystal and the messy remains of the Venton sergeant and Reynolds.

PORTLAND

Good times.

Ritz is staring at the pile of crystal that sprawls in glowing splendor against the back wall.

PORTLAND

Don't you even think about it, man.

RITZ

You should hit the road. Take the air vent to the next floor and you'll find an elevator shaft.

PORTLAND

What about you?

RITZ

I know this ship better than the droids.

(MORE)

RITZ (cont'd)

Just take that elevator shaft up to the top deck and you're back on the surface. Go!

INT. BRIDGE OF GALACTIC GALLEON - DAY

The room is lit only by the fading light outside. The elevator opens and Abby steps out, dragging the hover bike to block the door and keep it from leaving.

Satisfied that she has accomplished this she starts walking towards the front window.

VOICE

(o.s.)

I believe you are looking for this, Captain?

Abby spins to the sound.

ANGLE ON Heather limping out of the shadows on her one good leg. She holds a neat looking guidance board.

HEATHER

I am quite glad to see you again, Captain Rush.

ABBY

Heather?

HEATHER

Yes. I was unexpectedly able to restart my system...This board should meet our needs...You must stop staring that way, Captain. I am a rebooted service droid, not a ghost.

INT. CARGO BAY - LATER

Ritz uncovers the hover bike and starts it up.

He turns around for one last look at the crystal.

RITZ

Bye bye.

It shimmers back at him.

INT. BRIDGE OF GALACTIC GALLEON - LATER

Abby helps Heather limp towards the back of the bridge.

The screeching of droids is getting louder.

HEATHER
The hover is this way.

Now there is banging on the closed doors of the bridge.

HEATHER
It should have enough power to get
us back to our ship.

Suddenly a droid drops down into the open elevator.

Abby pauses.

ABBY
I got this.

She aims her pulse rifle and blasts away.

The droid opens wide and fires back.

Abby steadies her aim and nails the droid in its mouth,
disabling it.

HEATHER
That is impressive.

INT. LAUNCH PLATFORM FOR GALLEON ESCAPE HOVER - CONTINUOUS

Abby helps Heather onto the platform. She locks the doors.

There before them is a small but intact escape hover.

ABBY
How in the world did you find this?

HEATHER
I do not have memory of that
process.

Crashing against the doors.

HEATHER
However I am aware of the damage
these droids can inflict.

Abby is already climbing into the hover. She reaches back for
Heather.

ABBY
Take my hand.

HEATHER
The dock must be opened.

Heather limps over and begins pulling the launch doors open. They barely budge.

INT. HOVERCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

ABBY SITS AT THE CONTROLS BUT CAN'T SEEM TO GET THE HOVER TO RESPOND. SHE TRIES AGAIN. STILL NO RESPONSE.

She quickly crawls down under the control panel and starts wrestling with the hardware under there.

INT. LAUNCH PLATFORM FOR GALLEON ESCAPE HOVER - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON the sealed doors to the bridge. The droid is bashing his way through. They start to give way.

ANGLE ON Heather fruitlessly trying to pull the launch doors open. Suddenly the doors begin to move on their own.

INT. HOVERCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Abby has gotten the system to engage.

Heather swings inside and seals the hatch as the hover begins to move.

They take a shot from the droid but fly out into the turbulent atmosphere.

EXT. SANTAR 6 - CONTINUOUS

The hover steadies and zips past, leaving the observation deck of the galactic galleon protruding into the desolate panorama they leave behind.

INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - MOMENTS LATER

Portland climbs into the open space of the shaft and looks up.

P.O.V. Of an empty elevator shaft that stretches way up.

RESUME ON Portland testing the rungs of the maintenance ladder. Satisfied that they will hold him he begins his climb.

The ship shudders and he loses his footing. He regains it and doggedly resumes climbing.

INT. HOVERCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Abby pilots the craft back towards her freighter. She shakes her head at Heather.

HEATHER

I suppose it is good that you find some humor in our, situation.

ABBY

That droid fried you! How in the world--

HEATHER

I am not sure but somehow I was able to re-configure, or how do you say?

ABBY

Hot wire.

HEATHER

Yes, Hot wire my operating protocols. I only succeeded because of an inexplicable power surge. It was quite abnormal.

(Abby looks away)

Unfortunately it seems that we are losing power now.

ANGLE ON Abby checking her gauges. She immediately starts clicking at some buttons but the lights in the hovercraft begin to fade.

HEATHER

The relay panel must be corrupted.

ABBY

Switch to backup!

HEATHER

(works the control panel)

There does not appear to be a viable backup.

ABBY

Try again, Heather. We're losing altitude.

The hover dips and swerves as Abby tries to keep it aloft.

HEATHER

I believe this may be effective.

The hover levels out. Abby relaxes.

HEATHER

Estimated battery life twenty eight seconds.

ABBY

What? What's our heading?

HEATHER

West, southwest.

ABBY

Hang on!

Abby banks the hover sharply to the right and tries to gain altitude.

HEATHER

Battery life is now twenty seconds,
nineteen, eighteen--

ABBY

I can see the gauge, Heather!

Heather pulls a wire from her chest and attaches it to the control panel.

ABBY

What are you doing?

HEATHER

I calculate that my charge will
enable the hover to reach our ship.

ABBY

But you'll burn out your memory
board. You'll be gone.

HEATHER

(finishing)

You asked me to re-configure my
directives, Captain. I suggest you
let me act on them.

Pause.

Heather flicks a switch on the console and the hovercraft gets a jolt of energy. It stabilizes. Heather begins to fade. She turns to Abby.

HEATHER

Mr. Ritz used me to gain access to
our bridge, didn't he?

(Abby nods)

Even so, I would suggest that he is
not all bad. Try to remember that,
if you can. Good bye, Captain.

Heather goes blank.

ANGLE ON Abby trying to hold back her feelings as she pilots the hovercraft.

INT. HALLWAY OF GALACTIC GALLEON - CONTINUOUS

Ritz swerves down the hall on his hover bike, dodging laser shots from pursuing droids. He is almost enjoying this.

RITZ
Come on, you bastards! It's follow
the leader time!

CUT TO the droids. Suddenly the hallway explodes. Light and smoke are everywhere.

Moments later Ritz pulls up out of the smoke.

ANGLE ON three droids in varying stages of damage.

Ritz calmly aims his laser rifle and zaps one and then the other, disabling them both. He is about to finish off the third when laser shots almost kill him. He flees.

INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - DAY

Portland keeps climbing. He looks down. He's made some progress but has a long way to go. He hears the screeching of droids. He climbs faster as the ship shudders violently.

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6 - DAY

The hovercraft zips across the turbulent landscape.

INT/EXT. HOVERCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Abby pilots the hovercraft as low power warnings once again begin to flash.

ABBY
Come on...

She tries to gain altitude--as all systems shut off one by one.

ABBY
No way.

She struggles to steer manually.

ANGLE ON the planet surface rushing up to greet her.

ABBY
(straps herself in)
Shiiiiiiiit!

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6 - CONTINUOUS

The hovercraft wobbles past and disappears behind a hillside. We hear a loud grinding crash. Smoke billows up from behind the hill.

A CLOSER ANGLE ON the Hovercraft. The hatch opens and Abby steps out. She has the limp form of Heather over her shoulder and the guidance board clutched under her arm.

She picks her way through the swirling dust.

P.O.V. OF THE FREIGHTER in the distance.

REVERSE ON Abby, laboring towards the freighter. She scans the area for shenshavi. The coast seems to be clear.

EXT. GALLACTIC GALLEON COMMUNICATIONS TOWER - DAY

We hear a rattling sound. Suddenly a hatch is flung open.

Portland pops his head out just as a gust of wind blasts sand into his face.

PORTLAND
Nothing but fresh air!

Satisfied that the coast is clear, he hauls himself up and fumbles for his communicator.

PORTLAND
Portland to Rush. Come in, Rush?
HEY!
(silence)
Rush, are you there!
(silence)

Portland begins hiking for the hills in the distance. Suddenly--

ABBY
(v.o.)
Is that you, Portland?

He excitedly engages the communicator.

PORTLAND
On the surface and everything!

ABBY

(v.o.)

I've just about got the board installed. Where's Ritz?

PORTLAND

He stayed behind to keep the lawyers off my tail.

(pause)

I'm heading east, I think.

ABBY

(v.o.)

Keep walking. I'll try and meet you on the ridge.

INT. SUPPLY HALL OF GALACTIC GALLEON - DAY

Ritz coaxes his sputtering hover bike into the half-light of the warehouse. He thinks for a minute, then shuts off his hover bike and hides it beneath some clutter.

He is startled by the grinding hum of a droid. Ritz flings himself behind some debris to hide.

ANGLE ON droid entering and scanning the room. He senses something.

CLOSE ON Ritz sweating bullets.

ANGLE ON his rifle, leaning against some debris where he left it.

WIDER as the droid methodically searches the large room, unsure but suspicious.

REVERSE ANGLE on Ritz. He calculates his options. They are not good.

The droid clanks closer. He is within feet of Ritz. Does he see him?

CLOSE ON Ritz sweating bullets.

Suddenly the galleon starts to spasm and tilt. Debris begins to slide down screen. Ritz hangs on to a bolted table as first his rifle and then the hover bike slide away.

CUT TO the droid sliding past and crashing into the wall below. The floor is now at close to a 45 degree angle.

Ritz sees his chance and scrambles up the slope for the exit.

CUT TO the droid trying to right itself in the clutter.

The cloud of sparkling light once again flashes before us.

INT. HALLWAY OF GALACTIC GALLEON - CONTINUOUS

Ritz pivots out of the supply hall and takes a second to orient himself.

The ship spasms again. Ritz steadies himself and starts to slip and slide his way up the hall. As he turns the corner--

The droid rolls out of the supply hall and looks around.

He senses Ritz's body heat and sets off up the hall after him.

EXT. GALACTIC GALLEON COMMUNICATIONS TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Portland is knocked to the ground by a tremendous shudder.

As he rises he sees

P.O.V. THE GALLEON TIPS UP OUT OF THE GROUND AND SLIDES DOWN UNDER UNTIL ONLY THE TOP OF THE COMMUNICATIONS TOWER CAN BE SEEN.

PORTLAND

Holy shit.

INT. GALACTIC GALLEON--VENT - MOMENTS LATER

Ritz kicks at a large grate.

The droid appears from around the corner behind him.

He loosens the grate enough to wedge himself behind it. A second later a laser shot burns the face of the grate.

INT. VENT OF GALLEON - CONTINUOUS

Ritz scrambles up the incline of the vent, slipping and sliding as he goes. He looks back at--

REVERSE ANGLE of droid blasting the grate off the mouth of the vent. The droid enters the vent.

Seconds later a laser blast sparks off the side of the vent and glances into Ritz's shoulder.

RITZ

Ahhh...

He gathers himself through the pain and resumes his scramble.

He reaches another grate and fiddles with it.

RITZ

Come on...

After a beat he forces it open and pulls himself through.

INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - CONTINUOUS

HIGH ANGLE as Ritz clambors into the cavernous shaft. It is no longer vertical but steeply sloped.

He latches the grate shut and starts climbing the ladder with all the strength he can muster.

We hear the droid grinding behind him.

EXT. GALLACTIC GALLEON COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

Portland jogs towards the east, horrified by the sinking galleon. He pulls up to catch his breath.

PORTLAND

(into communicator)

Rush? Where are you, Rush!

There is no answer.

INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - CONTINUOUS

Ritz approaches the peak of the shaft. He comes across more and more dirt as he goes until there is nothing but soil in his path.

He starts to pull and claw at the soil.

RITZ

No fucking way I die down here.

CUT TO the droid doggedly wheeling its way up the ladder.

RESUME ON Ritz frantically digging at the soil. It starts to give way.

Ritz hangs onto the top rung of the ladder for dear life as a mini avalanche of dirt slides past him.

CUT TO the droid getting knocked over by the dirt.

Daylight spills down onto Ritz.

RITZ

Sun sun sun!

Ritz pulls himself up and out onto the planet surface.

He takes a second to breath the fresh air. It's good to be out of there. He engages his communicator.

RITZ
Portland? Come in, Portland?
(no answer)
Portland? Hey, I made it.

PORTLAND
(v.o.)
Ritz?

RITZ
In the flesh. Where are you?

PORTLAND
(v.o.)
Hiking east for the rocks.

Ritz turns and sees Portland in the distance.

RITZ
I see you. I'm west, southwest by the tower.

PORTLAND
(v.o. waves)
You are the man.

RITZ
Yes I am.
(starts to jog)
Where the hell is Rush?

CLOSER ON

PORTLAND
Supposedly fixing the ship.

RITZ
(v.o.)
She will. It's good to breath real air again, don't you think?

PORTLAND
Oh shit, Ritz!

His smile turns to horror.

PORTLAND
Behind you, man!

Ritz turns to see--

The droid emerging from the communications tower. It fires a burst of shots.

CLOSER ON Ritz. He is vaporized.

PORTLAND

Ritz!!!

Portland is stunned by what he just saw. Then he notices the droid heading for him.

Portland starts to sprint across the open plain.

PORTLAND

(to communicator)

Portland to Rush. Come in, Rush!

ABBY

(v. o.)

Rush here.

PORTLAND

I need a lift, asap!

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

Abby uses the scanner to locate Portland.

Heather is draped lifeless over a chair.

ABBY

You're about two clicks from the ship, west, northwest.

(sees other blips on scanner)

Is that Ritz following you?

PORTLAND

(v.o.)

I wish.

ABBY

Where's Ritz?

PORTLAND

(v.o.)

He's gone.

(she sags at the news)

You have that ship ready to fly, right?

ABBY

I'm testing now.

PORTLAND

(v.o.)

Screw the test and come get my ass!

(clicks off)

The planet shudders. Abby staggers. There is beeping from the scanner.

She hurriedly works the console to seal all the exits. Then she clicks to engage the freighter's engines.

Nothing happens at first. She doesn't know what to think. But then, slowly but surely the engines come to life.

Now comes the tricky part. Can she steer?

She coaxes her ship to levitate, then gently engages the throttle. She starts to move forward. She risks a slight smile.

Then a console light begins to flash. The cargo door is not sealed. Abby decides to keep flying the freighter.

The surface of Santar 6 slips past the bridge window.

Suddenly there is a blast against the interior hatch to the bridge.

Abby switches on an interior monitor

INSERT Monitor: There is a droid in the hallway clawing at the door. It backs up and prepares to shoot.

RESUME ON Bridge. We hear and see a laser blast buckle the hatch.

Abby increases speed and jerks the throttle back, sending the freighter into a steep climb.

INSERT MONITOR as the droid bounces back down the hall.

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6 - MOMENTS LATER

Portland scrambles into some rocks as he looks back at--

The droid gaining on him.

RESUME ON Portland. We hear growling.

He is face to face with a nasty looking pack of shenshavi.

PORTLAND

Son of a bitch.

He hoists himself up onto a ledge as the shenshavi move in. Portland shoots down at them, killing one. The shenshavi hesitate.

PORTLAND

What's the matter? Can't reach me?

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

More thumps into the interior hatch.

Abby grabs Portland's pack and removes his laser drill.

She figures out how to engage it, then jerks the ship up once again before leveling off.

She walks to the interior hatch, opens it and fires the laser drill down at the droid.

INT. HALLWAY OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

The droid is stunned by the laser drill. One of his treads is blasted off but he manages to right himself and shoot back at Abby.

CLOSE ON the hatch door slamming shut as the laser blast thumps into it.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

Abby resumes flying the freighter.

PORTLAND

(v.o.)

Rush? Come in, Rush!

ABBY

Rush here.

PORTLAND

(o.s.)

I've got a pack of shenshavi on my ass!

ABBY

I'll be there.

INSERT: Monitor. The droid resumes blasting at the hatch.

RESUME ON

ABBY

(to herself)

If he doesn't incinerate me first.

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6 - CONTINUOUS

Portland isn't sure what Abby just said. He drops his communicator back into his pocket and heads out into the open.

ANOTHER ANGLE AS

Portland sprints across the open ground. He reaches the ridge and begins to climb. Suddenly he finds himself in a cul de sac of sorts.

There is no sign of the freighter, and really no other place for him to go without leaving his perch. He is trapped.

P.O.V. The shenshavi have found another way up to the ledge.

RESUME ON Portland taking aim with his rifle and blasting at them.

He looks again for the freighter. Nothing.

ANGLE ON the shenshavi entering the mouth of the cul de sac.

SUDDENLY there is a violent earthquake. Portland ducks for cover as rocks tumble past him and strike the shenshavi.

A small opening has been created behind Portland. He sees it and scrambles up and around the rocks.

The planet surface begins to erupt around him as he scales a steep ledge.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

Abby violently rocks the ship.

ABBY

How's that, you bastard!

INSERT: Monitor of the droid still hanging on to the other side of the interior hatch. He resumes shooting at the hatch.

PORTLAND

(v.o.)

Rush? I am running out of time here!

ABBY

So am I!

Suddenly the monitor goes to static.

RESUME ON Abby. She is torn.

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6 BOULDERS - CONTINUOUS

PORTLAND
Rush? Come in, Rush? ...Are you
flaking again?

There is no answer. Portland disgustedly drops the communicator into his pocket. He sees the remaining shenshavi gaining on him. He can't outrun them now.

CLOSE ON the destruct setting of his rifle.

PORTLAND
If I go, you go too!

He turns the switch to destruct as the day light suddenly fades.

PORTLAND
What the hell?

The freighter tools past, blotting out the sun.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

Abby sees Portland and banks back to get him.

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6 BOULDERS - CONTINUOUS

Portland breaks into a smile.

ANGLE ON the freighter setting down nearby. The hatch opens.

Portland sprints for the opening with the shenshavi snapping at his heels.

ABBY
Hurry!

He dives inside with his weapon.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

ABBY
Hi.

Abby closes the hatch as the dogs thrash into it. She returns to the controls and they begin to lift off. Then a shot at the interior hatch.

ABBY
Oh yeah. I got a droid too...
Portland, why is your rifle
flashing?

PORTLAND

Ooops!

ABBY

What?

PORTLAND

Open the hatch! Fast! Just do it!

The hatch re-opens. Portland tosses the rifle out.

EXT. SURFACE OF SANTAR 6 BOULDERS - CONTINUOUS

The rifle lands in front of the shenshavi. They looks at it curiously, then realize what is going to happen. Too late.

There is a bright flash as it detonates.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

PORTLAND

Almost forgot that...

(another blast from droid
in hall)

Did you charge him a full fare?

Abby suddenly banks the freighter into a steep incline. Portland hangs onto the console to keep his balance.

Abby whacks at the monitor. It comes back to life.

INSERT MONITOR--The droid can be seen gripping his way up the hall towards the bridge.

RESUME ON

PORTLAND

Why do I think that hatch won't
hold all the way back to base?

Abby works the console.

ABBY

Take the wheel. Just keep going up.
And rock the hell out of it.

Portland takes the wheel and the ship tilts violently to one side. Abby steadies his hand.

ABBY

But warn me before you rock it.

She begins to fiddle with another control panel.

ABBY
These droids are Z models, right?

PORTLAND
Probably.

She finishes and holds a couple switches down.

ABBY
Cover the board. There's rain
coming in.

Suddenly the fire sprinkler system engages, spraying water everywhere.

Portland tries to cover the steering panel with his body.

INSERT MONITOR

The droid slides down the slippery slope of the hallway. The water collects around him. He tries to climb out of the growing puddle.

RESUME ON

ABBY
Whack him, Portland.

Portland jacks the ship into an even steeper incline.

INSERT MONITOR

The droid slides head over tracks back down the hall and into the ever larger pool of water. He begins to short out.

RESUME ON Abby and Portland trying to hold on as the ship steeply climbs.

ABBY
Just hold steady...Steady!

PORTLAND
We're gonna flip!

ABBY
...Ok!

Portland levels the ship out.

Abby walks to the hatch and opens it. A little water washes in.

ANGLE ON the droid, twitching and shorted out at the end of the hall.

EXT. SPACE FREIGHTER - MOMENTS LATER

The freighter tools through the violent atmosphere. The hatch opens, the freighter tips to one side and out spills the droid, tumbling back down to the disintegrating planet below.

The freighter levels out and the hatch closes.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACE FREIGHTER - MOMENTS LATER

ABBY

Now let's get the hell out of here..

Portland notices Heather lying in a heap.

ABBY

She saved us.

Portland nods. They are buffeted by the exploding planet.

PORTLAND

Good bye, Santar six.

Suddenly the bridge darkens. Lights flicker on and off.

ABBY

We're just in space again.

The ship is hit by another surge of turbulence. Items spill out onto the floor of the bridge, including two chunks of crystal. They glow in the half light.

ABBY

What the hell?

PORTLAND

Where did they come from?

ABBY

Portland!

PORTLAND

I didn't bring them on here!

ABBY

Well Ritz tossed his.

PORTLAND

Obviously not all of them.

ABBY

Oh yes he did.

Pause as they try to digest this.

PORTLAND

Well they should give us enough
cash to settle down.

ABBY

Settle down? Dude, I don't even
have an apartment!

PORTLAND

(tosses her a crystal)
Now you have a down payment for a
house. Ritzie would be glad.

ABBY

Maybe you can come and visit?

PORTLAND

Who else would believe me when I
tell this story?

They stare out at the darkness of space.

Behind them the sparkling cloud of light appears, then fades.

Abby senses something and turns. But it is gone.

ABBY

Did you see that?

PORTLAND

What?

ABBY

Nothing.

They put their arms around each other and stare into the
darkness.

THE END

