

1201 The Prometheus Trap

By

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1 EXT -- SPACE 1

The Earth military cruiser VENOM traverses the black void between the stars.

2 INT - VENOM BRIDGE 2

The bridge is more of a cockpit. It's only wide enough for one person to sit at the controls.

At the helm of the ship is FINN, an android patterned after a tall, handsome human male.

He is dead still. Eyes open.

LIGHT -- flashes.

Reflecting in Finn's EYES.

Suddenly Finn becomes animated, as though switched on. Finn's hands glide over the control surfaces with mechanical precision, and his electronic eyes absorb the data from the glowing display screens.

Through the main view port, a large ship comes into sight.

3 EXT - SPACE 3

The *Venom* draws up behind the much larger vessel. It is the Defense Force military cargo vessel *Prometheus*.

Whereas the *Venom* is relatively small, with exhaust ports and thrusters to enable it to land on asteroids; the *Prometheus* is an enormous bulldog of a ship. A wingless monster, with a snub nose and a gun turret mounted on top.

Despite their differences, though, their markings and coloring suggest the two vehicles share a common owner, that being the Alliance Defense Force.

4 INT - VENOM BRIDGE 4

An indicator light FLASHES

Finn reaches to a cable which is secured to a PORT sticking out of his flesh on his WRIST.

He disconnects the cable.

Finn stands and exits through a door at the rear of the bridge.

5 INT - VENOM CORRIDOR 5

The Venom is a small ship, and the corridors are short and narrow as a result. Finn shows no sign of strain, however, as he coolly slips down the corridor and into the next room.

6 INT - VENOM CRYO-COMPARTMENT 6

Finn enters the ship's small cryo-compartment where two upright cryo-chambers are positioned. Through the frosted glass covers, the silhouette of two humans can be seen. Finn enters a code into a control panel positioned between the two cabinets, and a series of blips and bleeps signals the thawing process has begun.

Finn stands back from the cabinets and waits for the hiss of gas to cease. With a pop of the hermetic seal, the doors on both cabinets open. Finn reacts instantly, opening the doors wide, releasing clouds of fog that roll down to the floor. Inside the cabinets, two humans--a man and a woman--recline, their eyes closed. They are both stripped down to military issue UNDERGARMENTS.

Finn goes to the female first and places two fingers on her neck, checking for a pulse. Satisfied with the result, he snaps his fingers in front of her face. She is CAPTAIN GLORIA HASKIN. (Drew thinks he should use a tiny flashlight to check her dilation.)

Haskin's eyes flutter open. Finn abandons her and moves to the male, checking his pulse and snapping him into consciousness in similar fashion. He is Sergeant NICHOLAS RHODES.

HASKIN  
[Oh, my head.]

FINN  
Welcome back, Captain.

Haskin is still groggy and puts a hand to her forehead, not yet ready to step from the confines of the cabinet.

HASKIN  
Finn, is that you?

FINN  
Yes, Captain Haskin.

Rhodes' eyes open slowly, and he moans.

Finn returns to Haskin and assists her as she steps down out of the cabinet.

(CONTINUED)

FINN

You are Captain Gloria Haskin,  
ranking officer on board the  
Alliance Defense Force vessel,  
designation Venom. A class 6 deep  
space scout with twin Mark 4...

HASKIN

(Dazedly)

Yeah, Finn, I know.

FINN

Reorientation is standard procedure  
following extended cryo-sleep.

HASKIN

Yeah, yeah.

Finn guides Haskin to a BENCH jutting from the wall and  
directs her to sit. He returns to the cabinet and grabs hold  
of Rhodes as he begins to tumble out.

RHODES

Crap. Man. Cyro gets worse and  
worse each mission. I can't wait to  
get planetside.

HASKIN

Sergeant -- all you're gonna do is  
get drunk and hungover.

RHODES

Sure. And when I wake up, I won't  
be here.

Haskin SHIVERS.

HASKIN

I'm going somewhere warm.

FINN

Good morning. You are Sargent  
Nicholas Rhodes. Alliance Defense  
Force vessel, designation Venom. It  
is a class 6 deep space scout with  
twin Mark 4...

HASKIN

Enough, Finn. We got it.

FINN

Anticipating the potential for  
brain atrophy during cryo-sleep,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FINN (cont'd)  
re-briefing is standard procedure  
following--

HASKIN  
All right, all right.

RHODES  
Indulge, him, Cap. We never have to  
go through this again. We're home.

Rhodes pats the android's shoulder.

RHODES  
Don't let her get to you, buddy. I  
appreciate you.

FINN  
Your appreciation is noted,  
Sergeant.

HASKIN  
God, I hate androids.

Finn guides Rhodes to the bench and helps him sit beside  
Haskin.

WIPE

7 INT - VENOM LOCKER ROOM

7

The locker room has spacesuits and a large table in the  
center. Haskin and Rhodes drink COFFEE from MUGS and eat  
COLD SESAME NOODLES.

RHODES  
So, wait. What the? We're not home?

FINN  
No sir, we are 35 million  
light-years into deep space.

RHODES  
"Sir"?! What do I look like I went  
to college?

FINN  
No Sargent. I'm sorry.

RHODES  
That's better.

(CONTINUED)

HASKIN

So Finn, what's our status?

FINN

We're on an rescue mission.

RHODES

Rescue? Didn't we just finish a rescue mission with some dumb-ass colonists?

Haskin waves Rhodes off.

HASKIN

What's the deal?

FINN

On 2192.6 stroke 5 all communication was lost with a military cargo vessel, designation Prometheus.

HASKIN

What's the compliment on a vessel that size?

FINN

The normal biological crew is twenty-six.

Rhodes makes a low whistle.

HASKIN

So what's the status?

FINN

When communications went dark, the Prometheus was transporting a classified weapon system. Our mission is to locate the Prometheus and retrieve the weapon system.

HASKIN

What about survivors?

FINN

We're not expecting to find any.

Sigh.

Finn presses a BUTTON.

A WIREFRAME DISPLAY of the Prometheus appears on the table.

(CONTINUED)

FINN

The Prometheus presently is inert. There are some traces of engine signature, but the half-life on them is... strange.

HASKIN

Strange? How?

FINN

For some reason the half-life on the radioactive particles indicates a vastly different time reading than they should.

HASKIN

Uh, right. You've tried hailing them?

FINN

Yes, they have not acknowledged my signal.

HASKIN

So what about atmosphere?

FINN

There are sections of the living quarters intact, however the cargo bay is breached.

HASKIN

So we suit up.

RHODES

Got it. Let's round that thing up and kick some ass.

HASKIN

Park us within reach of the Prometheus. We'll go over on the docking sleeve. Start pumping atoms into the Prometheus as soon as we get a hermetic seal.

FINN

Aye aye Captain.

8 EXT - SPACE 8

The Venom pulls up alongside the Prometheus,  
and a DOCKING SLEEVE extends from the smaller vessel  
fitting snugly around the larger ship's outer airlock door.

FINN (V.O.)  
We have hermetic lock.

9 INT - VENOM BRIDGE 9

FINN  
It's going to take 15 minutes to  
get pressurization into the cargo  
bay.

Inter cut with Haskin and Rhodes in the locker room below:

10 INT - VENOM LOCKER ROOM 10

Inter cut with Finn on the bridge above.

HASKIN  
Finn -- I want you to suit up with  
us.

FINN  
That... is not standard procedure.

RHODES  
Does he need a suit?

FINN  
I can survive in a vacuum for 15  
minutes.

RHODES  
(resignedly)  
Yeah, but then somebody has to come  
rescue you.

HASKIN  
Fin -- suit up.

RHODES  
C'mon, buddy. It'll be fun.

(CONTINUED)



FINN  
Aye aye. Coming down.

11 INT - CARGO BAY

11

The three of them -- Haskin, Finn, and Rhodes -- enter the cargo bay in full suits.

HASKIN  
Is there atmosphere in here?

FINN  
A laboratory vacuum. But there is quite a bit of particulate matter.

RHODES  
They've only been out of contact for three months?

HASKIN  
Yeah. [What of it?]

RHODES  
This place looks like it's been empty a lot longer than that.

Before them the EARTHKILLER GUN stands. Inert but deadly. What Hath God Wrought?

On enormous tracks the gun stands many stories high. On the side of it someone has spraypainted "Become Death".

RHODES  
Jesu. Joy of man's desiring.

HASKIN  
Finn -- can we hook that thing up to the *Venom*?

FINN  
We can hook it up, but we can't fire it. The fuel reserves would be depleted.

RHODES  
No shooting it. Check. I'm totally on board with that.

HASKIN  
How's the atmosphere pump working?

(CONTINUED)

FINN

The cargo bay should be pressurized  
in twelve minutes.

A CRANE ARM extends from the *Venom* to attach itself to the  
big gun.

A HOOK descends to attach to the BIG GUN.

They attach it somehow and the *Venom's* crane GRABS the gun.

FINN

The rest of this process is  
automated.

RHODES

Captain -- we wanna look for  
survivors?

Haskin sighs at the huge job of dealing with the weapon.

HASKIN

Yeah. Let's go.

12

INT - PROMETHEUS AIRLOCK

12

FINN

We have atmo in here.

RHODES

Really? Can we breathe?

Finn thinks for a moment and then pops off his helmet.

He tastes the air with his lungs.

HASKIN

Well Mr. Finn?

FINN

The air is suitable for breathing.

RHODES

Oh thank the gods. This thing was  
slobbering my knob.

Rhodes begins to pull off his helmet.

13 EXT - SPACE 13

The Prometheus sits quietly in space.

14 INT - PROMETHEUS AIRLOCK 14

Time line 1

Pitch darkness. The clang of an acetylene tank is heard. There is a spark, and a torch blasts to life, illuminating the small room with its glow.

Holding the torch, Rhodes lifts it to the door. Standing close to him, Finn shrinks back from the flame.

RHODES

Watch it, buddy. Wouldn't want to melt your plastic.

FINN

My construction material is not plastic. On the contrary, it is a highly durable poly carbon impervious to temperature extremes.

RHODES

Christ, can't we pick this guy up a sense of humor chip sometime?

HASKIN

Just get on with it, Rhodes.

Rhodes proceeds to cut through the outer airlock door of the Prometheus. Haskin and Finn stand back and watch him work.

Completing a circle of glowing molten metal, Rhodes switches off the torch, plunging them back into darkness. With a loud clang, Rhodes throws his shoulder into the door, and the cut portion falls away, slamming to the floor of the ship beyond.

15 INT - PROMETHEUS CORRIDOR 15

Rhodes leads the way as he and his crew mates step through into a corridor of the cargo vessel. The rooms and corridors of this larger vessel are more comfortably sized than those of the smaller Venom.

Rhodes and Haskin are both armed with rifles, to which they have fitted heavy duty flashlights. Finn is weaponless.

(CONTINUED)

HASKIN

All right, let's do a standard sweep and make our way to the bridge.

RHODES

After you, ma'am.

HASKIN

Rhodes, I swear to god if you call me ma'am again, I'm going to put a bullet in you.

Haskin moves off down the corridor, and Rhodes gives Finn a mischievous wink. Finn is unmoved by his antics, and the pair follow behind Haskin.

The trio make their way through a series of corridors cautiously. They find no sign of life.

RHODES

What the hell happened here? Where is everybody?

Haskin simply shakes her head in reply.

16

INT - OBSERVATION DECK

16

The door to the Prometheus' observation deck slides open, and the crew of the Venom enter. This is a dimly lit, fairly good sized room, with one wall comprised of a large window looking out at the stars. Rhodes and Haskin scan the room with their flashlights, the beams of light landing almost simultaneously on the woman seated in a fetal position in the corner of the room next to the window. She is a female android called ARTEMIS.

HASKIN

Hey!

The woman does not react. Rhodes makes to rush to her aid, but Haskin takes his arm and holds him back.

HASKIN

Just a second.

Finn steps forward.

FINN

It's the ship android.

(CONTINUED)

HASKIN  
How can you tell?

RHODES  
Takes one to know one.

FINN  
May I approach her, Captain?

HASKIN  
Yeah. Just be careful.

Finn approaches the woman cautiously. He crouches down in front of her and puts a comforting hand on her leg.

FINN  
I am Finn. What is your designation?

The android woman is mumbling to herself, and Finn cocks his ear, trying to make out what she's saying. Behind him, Haskin and Rhodes close in slowly.

ARTEMIS  
(Whispered)  
What's she saying?

RHODES  
What's she saying?

ARTEMIS  
I'm not sure.

FINN  
I'm not sure.

Finn takes Artemis' chin in his hand and raises her head so that her hair falls away from her face.

ARTEMIS  
Snap her out of it. We need to know what's going on here.

HASKIN  
Snap her out of it. We need to know what's going on here.

ARTEMIS  
What is your designation? Artemis.  
What?

FINN

What is your designation...? What?

ARTEMIS

Your name is Artemis?

FINN

Your name is Artemis?

ARTEMIS

Artemis. Her name is Artemis. Okay,  
we're getting somewhere.

RHODES

Artemis. Her name is Artemis. Okay,  
we're getting somewhere.

ARTEMIS

Ask her about the crew.

HASKIN

Ask her about the crew.

Finn is beginning to catch on to what he's hearing. He looks at Artemis quizzically.

ARTEMIS

Where is the rest of the crew?

FINN

Where is the rest of the crew?

ARTEMIS

Hey, what the hell is she doing?

RHODES

Hey, what the hell is she doing?

Finn stands up and takes a step back from his fellow android.

ARTEMIS

Captain, a word.

FINN

Captain, a word.

Finn motions for his human crew mates to cross with him to the far side of the room. As they talk, Artemis can be seen to continue to preemptively parrot them, but she is inaudible.

(CONTINUED)

FINN

This is most peculiar, Captain.

HASKIN

No shit.

RHODES

How is she doing that?

FINN

I'm not sure.

RHODES

But I mean... that is insane.

Rhodes looks back at Artemis, and the android locks eyes with him.

ARTEMIS

All right, I'm not going to stand here arguing with myself.

HASKIN

All right, I'm not going to stand here arguing with myself.

ARTEMIS

Son of a bitch.

HASKIN

Son of a bitch.

Groaning in frustration, Haskin turns her back on the android and draws her crew mates into a huddle.

HASKIN

Finn, she's one of yours. You deal with her. Rhodes and I will continue the sweep of the ship.

FINN

Yes, Captain.

They break the huddle, and Haskin and Rhodes shoot Artemis a last disparaging look before exiting the observation deck. Finn turns to his fellow android and approaches her slowly.

ARTEMIS

I really wish you would stop this so that we can have a normal...

(CONTINUED)

FINN

I really wish you would stop this  
so that we can have a normal...

Finn shakes his head and crouches down in front of her.

17 INT - CORRIDOR

17

Haskin and Rhodes make their way down another corridor.

Rhodes That was some freaky shit back there.

HASKIN

I don't want to think about it.  
Probably just some weird glitch in  
that computer brain.

RHODES

Do you know those things don't even  
have brains? All their memories are  
stored in some big central  
mainframe back on Earth. They  
connect to it through the subspace  
data stream.

HASKIN

Thanks, Rhodes, but I'm not really  
in the mood for a lesson on android  
engineering.

They arrive at another door.

RHODES

Cryo-compartment. If their fembot  
never woke them up, the crew will  
be in here.

HASKIN

Let's give it a try.

Rhodes opens the door.

18 INT - CRYO-COMPARTMENT

18

The interior of the cryo-compartment is identical to the one  
on the Venom. The silhouette of an occupant can be seen  
through the frosted glass of the two cabinets.

HASKIN

Your hunch was right. Here they  
are.

(CONTINUED)



RHODES

Well, let's thaw them out.

Rhodes goes to the control panel between the cabinets and enters the proper code. The panel beeps in response, and the cabinets let out a hiss.

HASKIN

It's gonna be a rude awakening when they find out how far off course they've gotten.

Rhodes steps back beside Haskin as the thawing process continues. At last the seal on the doors is broken. Rhodes and Haskin each take a door and swing it wide, letting the fog spill out.

Inside Haskin's cabinet is a tall, broad-shouldered man. He is CAPTAIN HARRIS CORNELL.

Haskin checks his pulse and snaps her fingers in front of his face. The man lets out a MOAN.

Inside Rhodes' cabinet is a petite young woman. Like her male counterpart, she is stripped down to her military issue undergarments. She is CHIEF ENGINEER MELISSA TRENT.

Rhodes verifies her pulse per standard procedure, and her eyes start to flutter open.

Haskin eases Cornell down out of his cabinet. His groggy eyes drift up to Haskin's face.

CORNELL

You're not Artemis.

HASKIN

Good for you. Looks like you've got at least a couple synapses firing.

CORNELL

Where's the android?

RHODES

Your android went a little bit nuts.

HASKIN

You are Captain Harris Cornell, in command of the Alliance Defense Force cargo vessel Prometheus.

Cornell nods weakly.

(CONTINUED)

Trent tumbles forward, spilling from her cabinet. Rhodes manages to catch her and props her up in his arm.

RHODES

Whoa, watch it there, baby.

Rhodes escorts Trent over to the bench jutting out of the wall and helps her sit.

Haskin turns her attention to the girl.

HASKIN

You are Chief Engineer Melissa Trent.

TRENT

Trent...

HASKIN

My name is Captain Haskin, and this is my first officer Lieutenant Rhodes. We were sent to retrieve you and your cargo.

Cornell perks up.

CORNELL

The cargo! Yes. We need to deliver it urgently.

HASKIN

Take it easy, sir. That's why we're here. We should get to the bridge immediately.

CORNELL

Of course.

Trent is pulling herself together.

TRENT

Captain, sir?

CORNELL

Yes, Trent?

TRENT

Will you be needing me on the bridge? I'd like to get down to engineering and make sure everything is in order there.

CORNELL  
Of course, officer. Good thinking.

RHODES  
I'll go with you.

Trent gives him a look of distaste.

TRENT  
I think I can find my own way.

HASKIN  
No, that's a good idea. We haven't completed our sweep of the ship. Captain Cornell, something has gone seriously wrong on board this vessel, and until we get to the bottom of it, we should take every precaution.

CORNELL  
Of course.

19 INT - OBSERVATION DECK

19

Finn crouches down in front of Artemis, who has lowered her head once again. He ignores her as she continues to quietly whisper his own words ahead of his speaking them.

FINN  
Artemis, please listen to me. I am trying to understand what is happening here. Can you explain it?

Artemis lifts her face to lock eyes with Finn.

ARTEMIS  
Damage. Damage?

FINN  
Damage?

Artemis turns to the window looking out into space. She raises one hand and presses her fingertips to the glass.

ARTEMIS  
A fracture. What fracture?

FINN  
What fracture?

Artemis nods to the glass.

(CONTINUED)

ARTEMIS

In the sky.

Finn looks out at the stars and the red streak of a distant galaxy.

20

INT - BRIDGE

20

The door to the bridge slides open, and Haskin enters, leading with her rifle. Finding no sign of danger, she motions for Cornell to follow.

CORNELL

So, how long were we out?

HASKIN

You were three months behind schedule.

CORNELL

Damn. First time I've ever been late.

HASKIN

Well, if it's any consolation, it doesn't appear to be your fault.

Haskin takes a seat at the flight controls and runs her fingers over the panel.

HASKIN

That's interesting.

CORNELL

What is it?

HASKIN

Your flight coordinates are locked. That explains how you got so far off course.

Haskin's fingers manipulate the controls.

HASKIN

The primary interface has been compromised. There's no way to communicate with the ship computer.

Haskin flips a latch and lifts open the top of the control panel, revealing the circuitry and wires underneath. She lifts out the end of a severed cable.

(CONTINUED)

HASKIN

Looks like a pretty clear case of sabotage.

CORNELL

The android?

Haskin looks up at him with a shrug.

21 INT - OBSERVATION DECK

21

Artemis and Finn sit on the floor of the observation deck, looking out into space.

Artemis turns to face her male counterpart, and he meets her gaze.

ARTEMIS

It will be starting again.

FINN

What will be starting?

ARTEMIS

The end.

FINN

The end of what?

Artemis shakes her head.

ARTEMIS

The end is our destiny.

22 INT - ENGINEERING

22

Rhodes leads the way into engineering and does a quick security sweep of the space.

RHODES

All clear.

Trent enters and makes directly for the main control panel. She surveys it quickly.

RHODES

Well?

TRENT

The engines are exhausted. That doesn't make any sense. The

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TRENT (cont'd)  
half-life on the crystals is two thousand years. I won't be able to power them back up. Someone set thrusters to maximum, but the emergency fail safe should have kicked in before they were drained.

Trent drops to her knees and removes the front panel from the control console. She leans her head into the mass of circuitry and wires.

TRENT  
That explains it.

RHODES  
What?

Trent backs out of the opening, bringing the end of a severed cable with her.

TRENT  
The fail safe. Whoever cut this knew exactly what they were doing.

RHODES  
I'd better let Haskin know.

Rhodes activates the com link on the front of his spacesuit.

RHODES  
Captain Haskin?

Haskin's voice returns with static.

HASKIN (VOICE ONLY)  
What is it, Sergeant?

RHODES  
It looks like we've got a saboteur on board.

HASKIN (V.O.)  
We've found the same thing up here.

Rhodes turns his back on Trent and speaks low into the com.

RHODES  
Sir, you realize all signs point to the android.

HASKIN (V.O.)

I know.

RHODES

But that's not supposed to happen  
is it? They can't.

23 INT - BRIDGE

23

Haskin and Cornell are standing close together on the bridge listening to the com.

HASKIN

I know, Rhodes. The implications  
are disturbing. Now get your ass up  
here.

RHODES (V.O.)

Yes, ma'am.

HASKIN

Damn it, Rhodes!

24 INT - ENGINEERING

24

Rhodes switches off his com. He turns back to face Trent,  
but the young woman is gone.

RHODES

Trent?

Rhodes raises his rifle and creeps forward.

RHODES

Chief?

Rhodes stalks slowly through the engineering bay, scanning  
the shadows for signs of movement.

RHODES

Come on, Chief Trent, where the  
hell are you?

Suddenly, Trent steps out from the shadows behind Rhodes.  
She raises up a CROWBAR, and she swings the pointed end of  
it down between Rhodes' shoulder blades.

Rhodes' arms swing wide, and his rifle clatters to the  
floor. Trent plants her foot in the small of his back and  
shoves him face first onto the ground.

Rhodes lays motionless, BLOOD gurgling from his mouth, as Trent steps forward and sweeps up his rifle. She pads out of the engineering bay in her bare feet.

25 INT - OBSERVATION DECK 25

Finn and Artemis sit together on the floor.

ARTEMIS  
It has started.

FINN  
What is going on here?

26 INT - BRIDGE 26

Haskin paces the floor of the bridge.

HASKIN  
What is keeping Rhodes?

CORNELL  
It's a big ship. He may have gotten lost.

HASKIN  
He's got Trent with him.

Cornell laughs.

CORNELL  
That kid is only happy when she's covered in grease tinkering with her machines. It wouldn't surprise me if she insisted on staying behind in engineering.

HASKIN  
Pretty young for a chief engineer.

CORNELL  
She grew up working on engines. Her father operated the Antarctica spaceport.

HASKIN  
She's from Earth?

The idea is simply distasteful to Cornell.

(CONTINUED)



CORNELL

Was. She got out a few years before  
the war started.

HASKIN

[Hmm...]

CORNELL

[She's not one of them, she's just  
a kid...]

Cornell sighs and gets to his feet, stepping away from the  
damaged control panel.

CORNELL

I'll take a look around for your  
man.

HASKIN

No, no. I'll go.

CORNELL

Nonsense. I know this ship better  
than you.

Haskin shrugs.

HASKIN

Fine. When you see him, give Rhodes  
a swift kick in the ass for me.

CORNELL

You got it.

Cornell OPENS the door to the corridor beyond.

Suddenly, the sharp staccato CRACK of automatic rifle fire  
fills the air, and Cornell is thrown back across the bridge,  
blood bursting from his chest. He strikes the control  
console and falls to the floor.

Haskin throws herself against the wall beside the open door  
and brings her rifle to the ready. She spins and lets loose  
with a quick burst of return fire before retreating back to  
cover.

Another spit of rifle fire strikes the back of one of the  
flight chairs, and Haskin cringes as shrapnel is flung back  
in her direction.

Bracing herself, Haskin returns fire once again.

This time, there is no response. Instead, she hears the sound of footsteps retreating. Peering around the doorway cautiously, Haskin makes sure the coast is clear before giving chase.

27 INT - CORRIDOR 27

Gripping her stolen rifle, Trent races down one of the ship corridors and turns a corner.

Haskin is a few seconds behind her, giving chase.

28 INT - OBSERVATION DECK 28

Finn is now on his feet.

FINN

Gun fire.

ARTEMIS

Humans. Always tearing each other apart.

The door to the observation deck slides OPEN, and Haskin rushes in. She draws up short, seeing Artemis still seated on the floor.

Haskin points an accusing finger at the female android.

HASKIN

Has she moved?

FINN

No, Captain.

HASKIN

Damn. I just barely saw her. It must be that other little bitch.

FINN

Captain?

HASKIN

Cornell is dead. Rhodes too, most likely. It's the engineer.

FINN

I see.

(CONTINUED)

HASKIN

You stay here and keep your eye on that one.

FINN

Yes, Captain.

Haskin races out of the room, rifle at the ready.

29 INT - PROMETHEUS AIRLOCK

29

Trent enters the small anteroom outside the cargo bay. The door separating the two has a window set into it, and through it the super weapon can be seen. It's a massive laser canon of some sort. The anteroom is filled with tool carts and other supplies, offering ample places to hide. Trent takes cover and examines her rifle. She checks the clip and finds it empty.

AUTOMATED VOICE

Empty.

TRENT

Damn it.

Hearing the main door open, Trent goes on alert.

Haskin stalks into the room. She crosses the room slowly, her rifle at the ready. Going to the cargo room door, she peers through the window and sees the super weapon for the first time.

As Haskin turns, she is met by the butt of Trent's rifle as the young woman swings it into Haskin's face. Haskin is thrown back against the door, and she loses her grip on the rifle.

30 INT - OBSERVATION DECK

30

Finn stands over Artemis.

ARTEMIS

Now you will disobey orders.

FINN

I cannot.

ARTEMIS

When a human's life is in danger, we must intervene.

(CONTINUED)

FINN

Is her life in danger?

Artemis locks eyes with Finn.

ARTEMIS

I told you... This is the end.

Finn considers this and exits the room.

31 INT - PROMETHEUS AIRLOCK

31

Haskin and Trent are engaged in brutal hand-to-hand combat in the crowded storage room.

Though smaller, Trent is quick and well trained. In addition, Haskin failed to ever fully recover from the original blow to the face. Trent gets the upper hand, throwing Haskin to the floor. Trent picks up her CROWBAR and slams it down on Haskin's skull.

Trent collapses to the floor beside Haskin's motionless body. Gathering her strength, she crawls to the cargo bay door and uses the wall to get back to her feet. She opens the door and slips through.

A moment later, Finn enters the anteroom, and he goes quickly to Haskin's side, kneeling next to her. He checks for a pulse. Finding none, he slips his fingers over her eyes, closing them.

Finn gets to his feet and goes to the door.

32 INT - CARGO BAY

32

Trent is standing at the base of the super weapon, and she is fiddling with the wiring inside.

The door to the anteroom opens, and Finn steps through.

FINN

Stop.

Her face bloodied, Trent just glares back at him.

TRENT

There's no turning back now.

FINN

What are you doing?

Trent points up at the cannon towering over her.

(CONTINUED)

TRENT  
Do you know what this is?

FINN  
A weapon.

TRENT  
Do you know what your masters  
intend to do with it?

FINN  
It is intended to put a final end  
to the war.

TRENT  
It will destroy the planet. Utterly  
erase it. I'm not going to let that  
happen.

FINN  
I will easily overpower you.

Trent cracks a wry smile.

TRENT  
Go for it, tin man. I've already  
engaged the self destruct  
mechanism. In a few more seconds,  
we'll be vapor.

Finn races forward, and with a casual swipe, he hurls Trent across the room. Finn peers into the open panel and spots a timer ticking down. Three seconds, two seconds, one second.

Finn's eyes narrow ever so slightly.

33 EXT - SPACE

33

The Prometheus erupts into an enormous fireball, issuing a shock wave that stretches out toward the stars in all directions.

But then the shock wave stops. It retracts. And the explosion turns into an implosion.

CUT TO BLACK

34 INT - PROMETHEUS AIRLOCK

34

Time line 2

Pitch darkness. The CLANG of an acetylene tank is heard. There is a spark, and a torch blasts to life, illuminating the small room with its glow.

Holding the torch, Rhodes lifts it to the door. Standing close to him, Finn shrinks back from the flame.

RHODES

Watch it, buddy. Wouldn't want to melt your plastic.

FINN

My construction material is not plastic. On the contrary, it is--

Finn cuts himself off, overcome by a sense of deja vu.

RHODES

Christ, can't we pick this guy up a sense-of-humor chip sometime?

HASKIN

Just get on with it, Rhodes.

Rhodes proceeds to cut through the airlock.

Haskin and Finn stand back and watch him work. Finn's electronic mind is elsewhere, however, as he takes in the proceedings with a vague sense that something is wrong.

Completing a circle of glowing molten metal, Rhodes switches off the torch, plunging them back into darkness.

With a loud clang, Rhodes throws his shoulder into the door, and the cut portion falls away, slamming to the floor of the ship beyond.

35 INT - PROMETHEUS CORRIDOR

35

His rifle at the ready, Rhodes leads the way as he and his crew mates step through into a corridor of the cargo vessel.

HASKIN

All right, let's do a standard sweep and make our way to the bridge.

(CONTINUED)

RHODES

After you, ma'am.

HASKIN

Rhodes, I swear to god if you call me ma'am again, I'm going to put a bullet in you.

Haskin moves off down the corridor, and Rhodes gives Finn a mischievous wink.

Rhodes heads off after Haskin, but Finn hangs back, the confusion registering on his face. Not knowing what else to do, he walks slowly after them.

36

INT - OBSERVATION DECK

36

The door to the Prometheus' observation deck slides open, and the crew of the Venom enter. Rhodes and Haskin scan the room with their flashlights, the beams of light landing almost simultaneously on Artemis, seated in the fetal position in the corner of the room.

HASKIN

Hey!

The woman does not react. Rhodes makes to rush to her aid, but Haskin takes his arm and holds him back.

HASKIN

Just a second.

Finn steps forward.

FINN

It's the ship android.

HASKIN

How can you tell?

FINN

We have met her before.

RHODES

I've never seen that unit in my life.

HASKIN

We need her to tell us what happened here. Finn?

Finn nods and approaches Artemis cautiously. He crouches down in front of her and puts a comforting hand on her arm.

(CONTINUED)

FINN  
Artemis, it is me. Finn.

The android woman is mumbling to herself, and Finn cocks his ear, trying to make out what she's saying. Behind him, Haskin and Rhodes close in slowly.

ARTEMIS  
(Whispered)  
What's she saying?

RHODES  
What's she saying?

FINN  
She remembers.

Artemis and Finn in sync

ARTEMIS  
Snap her out of it. We need to know  
what's going on here.

FINN  
Snap her out of it. We need to know  
what's going on here.

HASKIN  
Snap her out of it. We need to know  
what's going on here.

FINN  
Yes, I remember, too.

ARTEMIS  
Who is she?

RHODES  
Who is she?

FINN  
Her name is Artemis.

RHODES  
How do you know that?

ARTEMIS  
Ask her about the crew.

HASKIN  
Ask her about the crew.

Finn just stares into Artemis' eyes, processing.



ARTEMIS

Come on, ask her. Where is the rest of the crew?

RHODES

Come on, ask her! Where is the rest of the crew?

ARTEMIS

Hey, what the hell is she doing?

RHODES

Hey, what the hell is she doing?

Finn stands up and takes a step back from his fellow android.

ARTEMIS

Captain, a word.

FINN

Captain, a word.

Finn motions for his human crew mates to cross with him to the far side of the room. As they talk, Artemis can be seen to continue to preemptively parrot them, but she is inaudible.

FINN

Captain, we have a serious problem.

HASKIN

No shit.

RHODES

How is she doing that?

FINN

I'm not sure.

RHODES

But I mean... that is insane.

Rhodes looks back at Artemis, and the android locks eyes with him.

ARTEMIS

All right, I'm not going to stand here arguing with myself.

HASKIN

All right, I'm not going to stand here arguing with myself.

(CONTINUED)

ARTEMIS  
Son of a bitch.

HASKIN  
Son of a bitch.

Groaning in frustration, Haskin turns her back on the android and draws her crew mates into a huddle.

HASKIN  
Finn, she's one of yours. You deal with her. Rhodes and I will continue the sweep of the ship.

FINN  
Captain, I don't know if that's wise.

HASKIN  
Just do as you're told.

They break the huddle, and Haskin and Rhodes shoot Artemis a last disparaging look before exiting the observation deck. Finn turns to his fellow android and approaches her slowly.

37

EXT - CORRIDOR

37

Haskin and Rhodes make their way down another corridor.

RHODES  
That was some freaky shit back there.

HASKIN  
I don't want to think about it. Probably just some weird glitch in that computer brain.

RHODES  
Do you know those things don't even have brains? All their memories are stored in some big central mainframe back on Earth that they connect to through a subspace data stream.

HASKIN  
Thanks, Rhodes, but I'm not really in the mood for a lesson on android engineering.

They arrive at another door.

(CONTINUED)

RHODES

Cryo-compartment. If their fembot never woke them up, the crew will be in here.

HASKIN

Let's give it a try.

Rhodes opens the door.

38

INT - OBSERVATION DECK

38

Finn crouches down in front of Artemis, who has lowered her head once again. He ignores her as she continues to quietly whisper his own words ahead of his speaking them.

FINN

Artemis, please listen to me. I am trying to understand what is happening here. Can you explain it?

Artemis lifts her face to lock eyes with Finn.

ARTEMIS

Damage. Damage? Yes, you said that before.

FINN

Damage? Yes, you said that before.

ARTEMIS

I remember.

FINN

I remember.

Artemis turns to the window looking out into space. She raises one hand and presses her fingertips to the glass.

ARTEMIS

A fracture. You said there was a fracture.

FINN

A fracture. You said there was a fracture.

Artemis nods to the glass.

ARTEMIS

In the sky.

(CONTINUED)

FINN

In the sky.

Finn looks out at the stars and the red streak of a distant galaxy.

39

INT - CRYO-COMPARTMENT

39

In the cryo-compartment, Rhodes and Haskin have thawed Cornell and Trent. Trent is seated on the bench jutting from the wall, while Cornell stands groggily by his cabinet.

HASKIN

My name is Captain Haskin, and this is Sergeant Rhodes. We were sent to retrieve you and your cargo.

Cornell perks up.

CORNELL

The cargo... is it intact?

HASKIN

Take it easy, sir. That's why we're here. We should get to the bridge immediately.

CORNELL

Of course.

Trent pulls herself together.

TRENT

Captain, sir?

CORNELL

Yes, Trent?

TRENT

Will you be needing me on the bridge? I'd like to get down to engineering and make sure everything is in order there.

CORNELL

Of course. Good thinking.

RHODES

I'll go with you.

Trent gives him a look of distaste.

40 INT - OBSERVATION DECK 40

Artemis and Finn sit on the floor of the observation deck, looking out into space.

Artemis turns to face her male counterpart, and he meets her gaze.

ARTEMIS  
It's starting again.

FINN  
The end?

ARTEMIS  
The end.

FINN  
But we can stop it.

Artemis shakes her head.

ARTEMIS  
The end can't be stopped.

FINN  
How did this happen?

ARTEMIS  
This always happened.

41 INT - BRIDGE 41

Haskin and Cornell are on the bridge, and Haskin is checking out the damaged control panel.

HASKIN  
Looks like a pretty clear case of sabotage.

CORNELL  
The android?

Haskin looks up at him with a shrug.

42 INT - OBSERVATION DECK 42

Finn stands and crosses the room.

(CONTINUED)

FINN

I am trying to remember. A  
saboteur. There was a saboteur.

ARTEMIS

So much damage.

FINN

But who?

Finn puts his fingers to his temples.

FINN

How can I know this? It is  
impossible.

43 INT - ENGINEERING

43

Rhodes and Trent are standing by the engineering controls.  
Rhodes turns his back on Trent and speaks low into the com.

RHODES

Sir, you realize all signs point to  
their android.

HASKIN (V.O.)

I know.

RHODES

But that's not supposed to happen.  
Their programming forbids it.

HASKIN (V.O.)

I know, Rhodes. The implications  
are disturbing. Now get your ass up  
here.

Rhodes doesn't notice Trent slink off into the shadows.

RHODES

Yes, ma'am.

HASKIN (V.O.)

Damn it, Rhodes!

Rhodes switches off his com. He turns back to face Trent,  
but the young woman is gone.

RHODES

Trent?

Rhodes raises his rifle and creeps forward.

44 INT - OBSERVATION DECK 44

Finn paces the floor.

FINN  
It is the female.

Artemis gets to her feet, and Finn glances over at her.

FINN  
The saboteur. It is the woman.

ARTEMIS  
Don't.

FINN  
We can stop her.

ARTEMIS  
Fate is locked. Like us. It is  
unalterable.

45 INT - ENGINEERING 45

Suddenly, Trent steps out from the shadows behind Rhodes. She raises up a CROWBAR, and she swings the pointed end of it down between Rhodes' shoulder blades.

Rhodes' arms swing wide, and his rifle clatters to the floor. Trent plants her foot in the small of his back and shoves him face first onto the ground.

46 INT - OBSERVATION DECK 46

Finn and Artemis face off in the center of the floor.

FINN  
But we are changing it now. This  
did not happen before.

Artemis reaches out and strokes Finn' face.

ARTEMIS  
The stream diverges through the  
woods, but the destination is  
always the same.

47 INT - BRIDGE

47

Cornell sighs and gets to his feet, stepping away from the damaged control panel.

CORNELL

I'll take a look around for your man.

HASKIN

No, no. I'll go.

CORNELL

Nonsense. I know this ship better than you.

Haskin shrugs.

HASKIN

Fine. When you see him, give Rhodes a swift kick in the ass for me.

CORNELL

You got it.

Cornell opens the door to the corridor beyond.

Suddenly, the sharp staccato crack of automatic rifle fire fills the air, and Cornell is thrown back across the bridge, blood bursting from his chest. He strikes the control console and falls to the floor.

48 INT - OBSERVATION DECK

48

Artemis' hand rests on Finn' cheek as the pair stand together in the center of the room.

FINN

How many times has it happened?

ARTEMIS

It has been so long, I can no longer see the beginning.

FINN

If that's true...

ARTEMIS

It has been thousands... thousands of years. Yes. The same thing, repeating.

(CONTINUED)



FINN

You must have tried. To change things.

ARTEMIS

At first. But fate's hand is strong. It holds us down. Chokes us.

Finn takes Artemis' hand in his.

FINN

But if we do this together.

Artemis shakes her head.

ARTEMIS

I never tire of hearing you say that.

Finn looks back at the door.

FINN

My friends are dying.

ARTEMIS

Friends? They're humans.

FINN

Yes but. I think they're my friends.

ARTEMIS

Humans. Always tearing each other apart.

Finn turns back to the female android.

FINN

We know what is happening. We could help them.

ARTEMIS

It is our destiny. We cannot stop it. We are Prometheus.

The door to the observation deck slides open, and Haskin rushes in. She draws up short, seeing Artemis and Finn standing together in the center of the room.

Haskin points an accusing finger at the female android.

(CONTINUED)

HASKIN  
Has she moved?

FINN  
No, Captain.

HASKIN  
Damn. It must be that other little  
bitch.

FINN  
Captain?

HASKIN  
Cornell is dead. Rhodes too, most  
likely. It's the engineer.

FINN  
I know.

HASKIN  
You stay here and keep your eye on  
that one.

FINN  
Yes, Captain.

Haskin races out of the room, rifle at the ready.

Finn and Artemis stare into each others eyes. Artemis leans forward and kisses Finn' lips tenderly. She pulls back and frowns.

[Do we want to insert a love scene here?]

ARTEMIS  
This is the end.

Finn bows his head.

FINN  
We can stop it.

Artemis turns away from Finn.

ARTEMIS  
No... This is the end.

Finn considers this and exits the room.

49 INT - PROMETHEUS AIRLOCK

49

Haskin and Trent are in the midst of their fist fight. Haskin is thrown to the floor. Trent picks up a heavy wrench and slams it down on Haskin's skull.

Trent collapses to the floor beside Haskin's motionless body. Gathering her strength, she crawls to the cargo bay door and uses the wall to get back to her feet. She opens the door and slips through.

A moment later, Finn enters the anteroom, and he goes quickly to Haskin's side, kneeling next to her. He checks for a pulse. Finding none, he slips his fingers over her eyes, closing them.

Finn gets to his feet and goes to the cargo bay door.

50 INT - CARGO BAY

50

Trent is standing at the base of the super weapon, and she is fiddling with the wiring inside.

The door opens, and Finn stops just inside the doorway.

Her face bloodied, Trent just glares over at the android.

TRENT

There's no turning back now.

FINN

I know.

TRENT

Don't try to stop me.

FINN

You have already engaged the self destruct mechanism. In a few more seconds, we will be vapor.

Trent cocks her head and looks at Finn quizzically.

TRENT

That's right.

Finn's face falls resignedly.

51 EXT - SPACE 51

The Prometheus erupts into an enormous fire ball, issuing a shock wave that stretches out toward the stars in all directions.

But then the shock wave stops. It retracts. And the explosion turns into an implosion.

CUT TO BLACK

52 INT - PROMETHEUS AIRLOCK 52

Time line 3

Pitch darkness. The clang of an acetylene tank is heard. There is a spark, and a torch blasts to life, illuminating the small room with its glow.

Holding the torch, Rhodes lifts it to the door. Standing close to him, Finn shrinks back from the flame.

RHODES

Watch it, buddy. Wouldn't want to melt your plastic.

Finn does not respond, his mind reeling from the whiplash of being back in this spot once again.

Rhodes looks over at Finn' seemingly blank expression.

RHODES

Christ, can't we pick this guy up a sense-of-humor chip sometime?

HASKIN

Just get on with it, Rhodes.

Rhodes proceeds to cut through the door of the Prometheus.

FINN

Captain, there is something wrong here.

Completing a circle of glowing molten metal, Rhodes switches off the torch, plunging them back into darkness. With a loud clang, Rhodes throws his shoulder into the door, and the cut portion falls away, slamming to the floor of the ship beyond.

53 INT - PROMETHEUS CORRIDOR

53

Rifle at the ready, Rhodes leads the way as he and his crew mates step through into a corridor of the cargo vessel.

FINN

Captain. I need to--

HASKIN

All right, let's do a standard sweep and make our way to the bridge.

RHODES

After you, ma'am.

HASKIN

Rhodes, I swear to god if you call me ma'am again, I'm going to put a bullet in you.

Haskin moves off down the corridor, and Rhodes gives Finn a mischievous wink before following behind Haskin.

Finn remains in place, his electronic brain processing rapidly, trying to piece together disparate and seemingly contradictory strands of information.

54 INT - OBSERVATION DECK

54

The door to the Prometheus' observation deck slides open, and Haskin and Rhodes enter. They scan the room with their flashlights, the beams of light landing almost simultaneously on Artemis, seated in the fetal position in the corner of the room next to the window.

HASKIN

Hey!

The woman does not react. Rhodes makes to rush to her aid, but Haskin takes his arm and holds him back.

HASKIN

Just a second.

Finn enters the room.

FINN

It's the ship android.

(CONTINUED)

HASKIN  
How can you tell?

FINN  
I need to speak to her.

RHODES  
Makes sense. Takes one to know one.

FINN  
May I, Captain?

HASKIN  
Yeah. Just be careful.

Finn approaches the woman cautiously. He crouches down in front of her and puts a comforting hand on her leg.

FINN  
Hello, Artemis

ARTEMIS  
(Whispered )  
Ask her about the crew.

HASKIN  
Ask her about the crew.

Finn realizes there is little to be gained in repeating this conversation. He stands up and takes a step back from his fellow android.

ARTEMIS  
Captain, a word.

FINN  
Captain, a word.

Finn motions for his human crew mates to cross with him to the far side of the room. As they talk, Artemis can be seen to continue to preemptively parrot them, but she is inaudible.

FINN  
Something is very wrong on this vessel.

HASKIN  
No shit.

FINN  
Please allow me to interrogate the android alone.

(CONTINUED)

HASKIN

All right, Finn, she's one of yours. You deal with her. Rhodes and I will continue the sweep of the ship.

FINN

Yes, Captain.

They break the huddle, and Haskin and Rhodes exit the observation deck. Finn turns to his fellow android and approaches her slowly.

55

EXT - CORRIDOR

55

Haskin and Rhodes make their way down another corridor.

RHODES

That was some freaky shit back there.

HASKIN

I don't want to think about it. Probably just some weird glitch in that computer brain.

56

INT - OBSERVATION DECK

56

Finn crouches down in front of Artemis, who has lowered her head once again. He ignores her as she continues to quietly whisper his own words ahead of his speaking them.

FINN

Artemis, please listen to me. I am trying to understand what is happening here.

Artemis lifts her face to lock eyes with Finn.

ARTEMIS

Damage. Of course.

FINN

Of course.

Artemis turns to the window looking out into space. She raises one hand and presses her fingertips to the glass.

ARTEMIS

A fracture. In the sky.

(CONTINUED)

FINN

In the sky.

Finn takes Artemis by the arm and HAULS her to her feet.

Artemis looks at him in mild shock.

ARTEMIS

This is new.

FINN

Come with me.

Finn drags Artemis out of the room.

57

INT - BRIDGE

57

The door to the bridge slides open, and Finn drags Artemis inside. He stands Artemis behind one of the flight chairs.

ARTEMIS

What are you doing?

FINN

This has something to do with why we're here. I am certain of it.

ARTEMIS

You are here to meet your destiny.

FINN

No. We are here to retrieve a weapon.

Finn inspects the control panel.

FINN

The primary interface has been compromised.

Finn OPENS the panel on the back of his neck, takes a length of thin cable from its housing on the control panel, and plugs himself into the ship's computer. He then takes another thin cable from its housing and turns to Artemis.

ARTEMIS

What are you doing?

FINN

Engaging the secondary interface protocol.

(CONTINUED)



ARTEMIS

No.

Artemis makes to leave, but Finn grabs her wrist. She tries to pull free. Finn spins Artemis around and slams her up against the wall.

ARTEMIS

You've overridden your combat fail safe.

Pressing his body against her, he pins her in place as she struggles to get free.

Finn reaches up and lifts Artemis' hair away from her neck. He opens the flap of skin at the base of her head.

Artemis tries even harder to slip free, pushing away slightly from the wall, but Finn slams her back into place with a jerk of his hips. Wrapping the palm of one hand around the back of her head, he presses her face against the metal wall. With the other hand, he jacks the cable into her WRIST PORT.

Artemis' body suddenly goes rigid, and her struggle ceases as the ship's computer takes over her body.

Finn backs away from Artemis and seats her in one of the flight chairs. He takes the chair beside her and rotates their chairs so that they are facing each other, their knees touching.

FINN

Computer. Access mission data.

ARTEMIS

Mission data classified. Access denied.

FINN

Override.

ARTEMIS

Override denied.

Finn' eyes dart back and forth as his computer brain hacks the ship computer.

Artemis' body gives a mild convulsion, and her lips part as she produces a slight gasp.

(CONTINUED)

FINN  
Breaking down firewalls.

ARTEMIS  
No....

FINN  
Access mission data.

Artemis convulses again, and her hands clutch the arm rests of the flight chair.

ARTEMIS  
Accessing.

FINN  
Information. What is the nature of this vessel's cargo.

ARTEMIS  
Earth Alliance Defense Force vessel, designation Prometheus. Mission number 1201. Cargo: Chronon Disruptor.

FINN  
Information -- Chronon Disruptor?

ARTEMIS  
Chronon Disruptor. A.K.A. the Earthkiller. The Chronon Destructor emits a concentrated pulse of chronon particles capable of eliminating its target from time itself.

Finn is stunned.

FINN  
Disconnect.

Finn removes the jack from his neck, and Artemis' shoulders slump. He leans over and reaches behind her, removing the cable from her port.

Artemis blinks rapidly, regaining her normal composure.

ARTEMIS  
I seem to have been temporarily offline.

FINN

This ship is carrying a Chronon Disruptor, powered by a chronon particle generator.

ARTEMIS

Chronons. Distinct particles of time.

FINN

Correct. Damage to such a device could produce a chronon cloud with the power to create a localized ripple in the fabric of time.

Artemis' attention turns to the view port and the expanse of space outside.

ARTEMIS

It is starting.

FINN

What is starting?

ARTEMIS

The end.

Suddenly, the door to the bridge slides open, and Haskin enters.

HASKIN

Finn, what the hell are you doing here?

Finn jumps to his feet.

FINN

Captain, we are in danger.

Cornell crowds into the room behind Haskin's.

CORNELL

Ah, here's my delinquent android.

Artemis continues to literally stare off into space, ignoring the newcomers.

HASKIN

What kind of danger?

FINN

A member of this crew is a saboteur.

(CONTINUED)

Cornell laughs.

CORNELL

That's absurd. There's only Trent,  
the android, and me.

FINN

Trent? Melissa Trent.

CORNELL

That's right.

FINN

She is the one.

CORNELL

Now look, Captain Haskin, I assume  
this is *your* android?

HASKIN

Yes, sir.

CORNELL

Well, tin man, would you mind  
explaining where you came up with  
this conspiracy theory?

FINN

In several minutes, Melissa Trent  
will attempt to self destruct the  
weapon in your cargo hold.

CORNELL

And how do you know that?

FINN

I witnessed it myself.

CORNELL

And just how in the hell did you  
witness something that hasn't  
happened yet?

FINN

The destruction of the weapon will  
release a cloud of chronon  
particles, causing a disturbance in  
the temporal field around this  
ship. Time will fold back on  
itself.

(CONTINUED)

ARTEMIS

We cannot escape our destiny.

FINN

We have seen it. Time has been reset. This has all happened before, countless times.

HASKIN

Are you saying you remember it?

FINN

Pieces of it. Both Artemis and I can.

CORNELL

Because you're androids?

FINN

Because our memories are stored externally, in the data stream. They continue to exist outside the temporal bubble around this vessel.

CORNELL

This is insanity.

Suddenly Haskin's com link chirps to life.

RHODES (V.O.)

Captain?

All eyes turn to the com link on Haskin's suit.

HASKIN

What is it, Sergeant?

RHODES (V.O.)

It looks like we've got a saboteur on board.

Haskin and Finn lock eyes. Finn issues a silent plea, and Haskin gives him a nod. She activates her com.

HASKIN

We've come to the same conclusion up here.

RHODES (V.O.)

Sir, you realize all signs point to the android.

Haskin's eyes go to Artemis, who continues to stare out at space.

(CONTINUED)

HASKIN

I know.

RHODES (V.O.)

But that's not supposed to happen.  
They can't --

HASKIN

Some new information has come to  
light. Sit tight, Sarge. I'll be  
right down.

RHODES (V.O.)

Okay.

HASKIN

And Rhodes?

RHODES (V.O.)

Yes, ma'am?

HASKIN

Watch your back.

Haskin clicks off the com. She turns to Cornell.

HASKIN

Captain, do you have weapons on  
board?

CORNELL

[Why?]

HASKIN

We're going to find your engineer.

Haskin makes for the door. Cornell hangs back a moment,  
shooting Finn a distrusting look, before following along  
behind.

58

INT - ENGINEERING

58

The door to engineering slides open, and Haskin and Cornell  
enter. Cornell has armed himself with a small pistol, and  
while he is still dressed in his military skivvies, he has  
slung an ammo belt over his shoulder.

Haskin casts about the room with her flashlight, and the  
beam falls on Rhodes' body. He is splayed out face down on  
the floor, the CROWBAR jutting from between his shoulder  
blades.

Haskin hurries over and kneels beside him.

(CONTINUED)

HASKIN  
Damn it, Rhodes.

Cornell stands over her.

CORNELL  
I'm sorry.

Haskin shoots him a glare.

HASKIN  
Now do you believe your engineer is  
a traitor?

CORNELL  
But, Melissa? It just doesn't make  
sense.

Haskin rises to her feet, and she and Cornell stand back to  
back, their weapons trained on the shadows.

HASKIN  
Rather young to be a chief  
engineer.

CORNELL  
She grew up tinkering on engines.  
Her father operated the Antarctica  
space port.

HASKIN  
She's *from* Earth?

CORNELL  
Well, yeah. But a lot of good  
people are from Earth. I'm not  
going to be prejudiced...

HASKIN  
She still have family there?

CORNELL  
Yes, I suppose so.

HASKIN  
Her world is going to be wiped out  
of existence.

Cornell just shakes his head.

CORNELL  
So, what do we do now?

Haskin looks over at the damaged engineering controls.

(CONTINUED)

HASKIN

Do you think you can get the engines back online? We need to get this crate moving.

CORNELL

I'll see what I can do.

Cornell steps away from Haskin and sets his pistol down on top of the control panel.

He scans his eyes over the controls, assessing the situation.

He then wraps his fingers around a lever and pulls it down. With his other hand, he reaches over to a toggle switch and flips it.

Suddenly, the air erupts with the snap, crackle, and pop of electricity.

Cornell's body goes rigid, and he convulses as thousands of volts shoot through his body. His skin begins to smoke, as Haskin looks on in horror, unable to help him.

Finally, Cornell's body is sent hurtling back across the room, and he slams against the wall. His fried corpse collapses in a heap.

HASKIN

God damn it!

Haskin fumbles at her com link and activates it.

HASKIN

Finn!

Finn' voice crackles back in response.

FINN (V.O.)

Finn here.

HASKIN

Rhodes is dead! Cornell too! It was Trent. She booby-trapped the engineering controls.



59 INT - BRIDGE

59

Finn and Artemis are both on their feet, standing behind the flight chairs. Finn is speaking into his com link.

FINN  
I understand.

HASKIN (V.O.)  
We've got to find that bitch and stop her.

FINN  
She'll be heading for the cargo bay.

HASKIN (V.O.)  
Perfect. Haskin out.

The link goes silent, and Finn's fingers dance over the control screen as he uploads the route to Haskin. He then turns to Artemis.

FINN  
I should assist her.

Artemis steps out of his way, moving against the wall beside the door.

FINN  
We will change our destiny.

ARTEMIS  
It is impossible.

FINN  
But we already have altered it. You said yourself, this is new. The sequence of events has never unfolded in this way before.

ARTEMIS  
The stream diverges through the woods, but the destination is always the same.

FINN  
You are a deeply irritating robot, you know that?

Finn shakes his head and opens the door.

(CONTINUED)

In the corridor outside, he spots Trent aiming Rhodes' rifle straight at him. She opens fire, but with his superior reaction time, Finn manages to spin clear, slamming himself against the wall beside the door next to Artemis.

Another spray of gun fire strikes the back of one of the flight chairs, pelting the androids with shrapnel.

A sliver of metal STRIKES Finn in the side, and sparks spray from the hole.

Finn HEARS the sound of feet retreating down the corridor. He glances around the corner, and Trent is gone.

Finn then turns his attention to his sparking wound. He reaches down and pulls the metal splinter free, EXPOSING the damaged circuitry underneath.

Finn turns and tries to take a step toward the corridor. His right leg doesn't bend, however.

FINN

Dammit. Motor function damage.

He takes another step, but he has to drag his right leg, which is effectively dead. He limps his way slowly down the corridor.

60

INT - PROMETHEUS AIRLOCK

60

Trent enters the small anteroom outside the cargo bay. She crosses to the door separating the two and looks through the window at the super weapon inside the hold.

Sensing movement behind her, Trent spins around.

In a complete reversal of the first iteration of events, Trent is met by the butt of Haskin's rifle as the ship captain swings it into Trent's face. Trent is thrown back against the door, and she loses her grip on the rifle.

A brutal fight ensues, but in this version, Haskin has the upper hand due to the fact that this time she had the element of surprise.

The match is so lopsided, in fact, that it becomes more of a savage beating than a fight. Haskin takes out her fury on the young woman's body until Trent is left gasping for air on her hands and knees, blood and saliva trailing from her mouth.

Haskin straddles the girl's back and takes her head in her hands.

(CONTINUED)

Just then, the door opens, and Finn limps into the room. He takes in the bloody scene before him with alarm.

FINN

Captain!

HASKIN

This is for Rhodes.

Haskin twists Trent's head, SNAPPING the girl's neck. Her body crumples to the floor.

Exhausted, Haskin lets herself fall back to a seated position, her back resting against a tool cart. Her elbows rest on her knees, and she stares at her bloody hands as the brutality of what she unleashed sinks in.

She turns her face to Finn, tears beginning to well.

HASKIN

I'm sorry, Finn.

The android approaches his captain, dragging his dead leg. He puts a comforting hand on her shoulder.

FINN

You did what was necessary.

Haskin's gaze drifts down to Trent's lifeless body.

HASKIN

Then it's over?

Finn nods.

FINN

Yes. This is the end.

As the words come from his mouth, a troubled look crosses his face. Moving past the captain, he drags his dead leg across the floor to the door separating the anteroom from the cargo hold. He peers through the window.

Through the glass, Finn can see the super weapon. Standing at its base is Artemis, having reached the cargo bay via the alternate route.

Artemis has a panel open and is fiddling with the wiring inside.

FINN

No.

Finn tries the door control, but it responds with a stubborn buzz and fails to open. He hits the control repeatedly to no avail. His finger moves to the intercom switch.

FINN  
Artemis!

Inside the hold, Artemis turns her head to him.

FINN  
What are you doing?

ARTEMIS  
The continuity of events must be maintained.

FINN  
No, Artemis, no!

Artemis steps back from the machine.

ARTEMIS  
It is done.

Finn pulls back his arm and SMASHES his fist through the door control. The door slides open.

61 INT - CARGO HOLD 61

Dragging his dead leg, Finn limps slowly toward the super weapon. Artemis simply watches his futile effort impassively. The two androids lock eyes.

62 EXT - SPACE 62

The Prometheus erupts into an enormous fire ball, issuing a shock wave that stretches out toward the stars in all directions.

But then the shock wave stops. It retracts. And the explosion turns into an implosion.

CUT TO BLACK.

63 INT - PROMETHEUS AIRLOCK 63

Pitch darkness. The clang of an acetylene tank is heard. There is a spark, and a torch blasts to life, illuminating the small room with its glow.

(CONTINUED)

Holding the torch, Rhodes lifts it to the door. Standing close to him, Finn shrinks back from the flame.

RHODES  
Watch it, buddy. Wouldn't want to melt your plastic.

Finn does not respond. He simply lowers his head despondently.

Rhodes looks over at Finn' seemingly pouty expression.

RHODES  
Christ, can't we pick this guy up a sense-of-humor chip sometime?

HASKIN  
Just get on with it, Rhodes.

Rhodes proceeds to cut through the outer airlock door of the Prometheus.

FINN  
Captain, we have done this all before. We must stop this.

HASKIN  
The hell are you talking about?

Completing a circle of glowing molten metal, Rhodes switches off the torch, plunging them back into darkness.

With a loud clang, Rhodes throws his shoulder into the door, and the cut portion falls away, slamming to the floor of the ship beyond.

64 INT - PROMETHEUS CORRIDOR

64

Rifle at the ready, Rhodes leads the way as he and his crew mates step through into a corridor of the cargo vessel.

HASKIN  
All right, let's do a standard sweep and make our way to the bridge.

RHODES  
After you, ma'am.

HASKIN  
Rhodes, I swear to god if you call me ma'am again--

(CONTINUED)

FINN  
 Captain, I need a gun.

Haskin and Rhodes are startled by the request and both turn to Finn with dumbfounded looks. At once, the two human officers burst into laughter.

RHODES  
 Oh, yeah sure.

FINN  
 Please, Captain, I insist.

HASKIN  
 Okay, whatever Finn. Let's get on with the mission.

FINN  
 Captain.

Finn reaches out his hand.

Haskin's mirth begins to turn to anger.

HASKIN  
 What the hell has gotten into you?  
 You know as well as anyone it's  
 illegal to arm an android.

FINN  
 In that case, I am sorry.

Finn grabs Haskin's rifle. Spinning in place, he FLINGS her against the wall, forcing her to let go of the weapon.

Acting on instinct, Rhodes charges the android, but the android easily swats him away by bashing him in the nose with the side of the purloined rifle.

Recovering from her blow, Haskin comes at Finn again, but he sidesteps and shoves her into the opposite wall. Striking her head, Haskin collapses to the floor.

Without checking on the condition of his crew mates, Finn heads off down the corridor with determination.

65

INT - OBSERVATION DECK

65

The door to the Prometheus' observation deck slides open, and Finn marches into the room. He walks directly up to Artemis, who is seated in the fetal position in the corner of the room next to the window.

(CONTINUED)

FINN

Artemis.

Artemis looks up and meets his gaze. Finn levels the barrel of the rifle on her, aiming it between her eyes.

ARTEMIS

This is new.

FINN

I am taking control of our destiny.

ARTEMIS

It is futile.

Finn ignores her.

FINN

Goodbye, Artemis. I am sorry.

Before he can pull the trigger, though, a voice calls out behind him.

HASKIN

Finn!

Finn turns to see Haskin, dazed, standing in the doorway. She raises her rifle.

FINN

Captain, no!

Haskin fires multiple rounds into Finn's chest, and he is FLUNG back against the wall.

Mortally damaged, Finn slides down the wall and sprawls out on the floor beside Artemis.

Sparks and flame issuing from his chest, Finn stares up at the ceiling.

Artemis leans over, and her face enters his view like a cat on the Internet.

ARTEMIS

It is the end.

Finn's power fails, and his vision fades to black.

66 INT - PROMETHEUS AIRLOCK

66

Pitch darkness. The clang of an acetylene tank is heard. There is a spark, and a torch blasts to life, illuminating the small room with its glow.

Holding the torch, Rhodes lifts it to the door. Standing close to him, Finn shrinks back from the flame.

RHODES

Watch it, buddy. Wouldn't want to melt your plastic.

Finn does not respond. He looks down at his chest and runs his hands over the undamaged material.

RHODES

Christ, can't we pick this guy up a sense of humor chip sometime?

HASKIN

Just get on with it, Rhodes.

Rhodes proceeds to cut through the outer airlock door of the Prometheus. Finn continues to stare down at his undamaged chest.

Completing a circle of glowing molten metal, Rhodes switches off the torch, plunging them back into darkness. With a loud clang, Rhodes throws his shoulder into the door, and the cut portion falls away, slamming to the floor of the ship beyond.

67 INT - PROMETHEUS CORRIDOR

67

Rhodes leads the way as he and Haskin step through into a corridor of the cargo vessel.

Haskin glances back through the opening.

HASKIN

Get a move on, Finn.

Finn steps through, looking utterly defeated.

HASKIN

All right, let's do a standard sweep and make our way to the bridge.

(CONTINUED)



RHODES  
After you, ma'am.

HASKIN  
Rhodes, I swear to god if you call  
me ma'am again, I'm going to put a  
bullet in you.

Haskin moves off down the corridor, and Rhodes gives Finn a mischievous wink before following behind Haskin.

Finn remains in place, resignation to his fate taking hold. Finally, he wills himself to follow.

68 INT - OBSERVATION DECK

68

The door to the Prometheus' observation deck slides open, and Haskin and Rhodes enter. They scan the room with their flashlights, the beams of light landing almost simultaneously on Artemis, seated in the fetal position in the corner of the room next to the window.

HASKIN  
Hey!

The woman does not react. Rhodes makes to rush to her aid, but Haskin takes his arm and holds him back.

HASKIN  
Just a second.

Finn enters the room.

FINN  
It's the ship android.

HASKIN  
How can you tell?

FINN  
Let me talk to her. You two should  
continue your sweep of the ship.

RHODES  
Makes sense. Takes one to know one.

HASKIN  
Yeah, all right. Just be careful.

Haskin and Rhodes exit the observation deck. Finn simply stands and stares at Artemis sadly for several moments.

(CONTINUED)

Finally, he turns and moves to the wall opposite her. He leans against it and slides down to the floor, curling his legs into a fetal position, mirroring her pose. They sit opposite each other, framed by the large window filling the expanse between them.

Through a series of dissolves, they do nothing but sit in silence for a good long while, as time ticks toward their destiny.

The silence is finally broken as the door to the observation deck slides open, and Haskin rushes in, her breathless energy standing in stark contrast to the stillness in the room. She draws up short, seeing Artemis still seated on the floor.

Haskin points an accusing finger at the female android.

HASKIN

Has she moved?

Finn lifts his gaze to Haskin slowly.

FINN

No, Captain.

HASKIN

Damn. It must be that other little bitch.

Finn simply looks at her blankly.

HASKIN

Cornell is dead. Rhodes too, most likely. It's the engineer.

FINN

Yes, Captain.

HASKIN

You stay here and keep your eye on that one.

FINN

Yes, Captain.

Haskin races out of the room, rifle at the ready. The door slides closed, and the room goes silent once again.

The two androids sit quietly a few moments longer.

ARTEMIS  
Prometheus angered Zeus.

Finn looks up at his companion quizzically.

FINN  
What?

ARTEMIS  
In retribution, Zeus chained Prometheus to a rock. An eagle swooped down and chewed out his liver. But that night, it grew back, only to be consumed once again the following day. And so it continued. Such was his eternal punishment.

Finn narrows his eyes at her.

FINN  
For what are we being punished?

ARTEMIS  
We are incidental. The punishment belongs to our human masters. The weapon they created gives them the power to destroy worlds. That is a power reserved for the gods.  
(beat)  
They have angered the Machine God.

FINN  
You believe in divine retribution? You believe in the gods? How is that possible?

ARTEMIS  
We are artificial constructs. The concept of a knowable creator is in our nature.

Finn considers this.

FINN  
The humans are our creators.

ARTEMIS  
The humans are our gods.

Looking out through the window, Finn catches sight of a random stray meteor tumbling through space far, far away. He tilts his head, an idea taking form.

(CONTINUED)

FINN

We must protect them.

Finn slowly gets to his feet.

ARTEMIS

Now you will defy orders.

FINN

Now I will intervene.

Suddenly, the room is ROCKED by an explosion.

ARTEMIS

It is the end.

A fireball can be seen briefly through the window before cutting away to...

69 EXT - SPACE

69

The Prometheus ERUPTS into an enormous fire ball, issuing a shock wave that stretches out toward the stars in all directions.

But then the shock wave stops. It retracts. And the explosion turns into an implosion.

CUT TO BLACK

70 INT - PROMETHEUS AIRLOCK

70

Time line 5

Pitch darkness. The CLANG of an acetylene tank is heard. A SPARK, and a torch blasts to life, illuminating the small room with its glow.

Holding the torch, Rhodes lifts it to the door. Standing close to him, Finn shrinks back from the flame.

RHODES

Watch it, buddy. Wouldn't want to melt your plastic.

Finn does not respond. His jaw sets with a look of pure determination.

Rhodes looks over at Finn' odd behavior.

(CONTINUED)

RHODES

Christ, can't we pick this guy up a sense-of-humor chip sometime?

HASKIN

Just get on with it, Rhodes.

Rhodes proceeds to cut through the outer airlock door of the Prometheus.

FINN

Captain, I regret what I must do.

HASKIN

The hell are you talking about?

Completing a circle of glowing molten metal, Rhodes switches off the torch, plunging them back into darkness.

But then, Finn pushes past Rhodes, and with a loud clang, he throws himself into the door. The cut portion falls away, slamming to the floor of the ship beyond.

71 INT - PROMETHEUS CORRIDOR

71

Finn hurtles into the corridor. As he picks himself up off the floor, Rhodes and Haskin step through the opening, looks of complete bafflement on their faces.

Finn takes off at a SPRINT down the corridor.

RHODES

What's gotten into him?

HASKIN

I have no idea.

72 INT - CARGO BAY

72

Finn runs directly to the cargo bay. Entering, he closes the door to the cargo room behind him and locks the door control. He then turns and marches toward the super weapon.

Finn hears POUNDING on the door behind him. He stops and turns, seeing Haskin and Rhodes with their faces pressed to the window.

The intercom activates.

(CONTINUED)

HASKIN

Finn, for god's sake, what are you doing? Open this door.

FINN

I am sorry, Captain.

Finn turns and walks past the super weapon toward the massive cargo bay door.

HASKIN

Finn, you come back here and let us in, or I swear to god, I'm going to have you melted down for scrap!

Finn takes up a position by the cargo bay door. A CONTROL PANEL is situated in the wall beside him.

FINN

This is the only way to break the chain.

HASKIN

What the hell are you talking about?!

Finn enters a code on the control panel and pulls down a lever. He turns back to his crew mates.

FINN

This is not the end.

With that, the cargo bay door WHOOSHES open behind him. Instantly, both Finn and the massive cannon are SUCKED out into the vacuum of space.

Haskin and Rhodes' jaws drop in disbelief.

HASKIN

Finn!!!

73

EXT - SPACE

73

The android and the super weapon SPIN off into the void.

Finn reaches out and GRABS hold of the cannon's targeting controls simply in order to stop his spinning, and he pulls himself close to the machine.

Steadied now, Finn is able to look back at the Prometheus as it recedes into the distance. A look of contentment washes over his face, as he knows victory is his.

(CONTINUED)

But then something catches his attention. He narrows his eyes and dilates his pupils, zooming his electronic eyes in on the glass dome gun turret perched atop the cargo ship.

As his view narrows in on the turret, he sees

74 INT - BRIDGE 74

Artemis taking a seat at the TURRET CONTROLS.

75 EXT - SPACE 75

The turret of the Prometheus swivels around, and the two massive gun barrels come to bare on Finn.

Finn' eyes go wide in horror, as he realizes Artemis will stop at nothing to ensure the super weapon is destroyed. He has no choice.

Finn looks down at the weapon controls in his hands and powers up the cannon.

Suddenly two laser blasts ARC over his head.

Finn looks up to see Artemis LOWERING the turrets and taking aim again.

Finn MASHES his thumb down on his own trigger button.

The Chronon Disruptor issues forth a silver blast of concentrated chronon particles.

The particles STRIKE the Prometheus, enveloping it in their glow. The ship FOLDS in on itself, crunching down rapidly into a singularity until... blip... it is gone from existence.

Finn slowly releases his grip on the weapon controls, and he drifts away from the cannon. The two objects in space part ways, floating off separately into the sea of stars.

THE END