

ALARMS ARE STILL BLARING. THEY CONTINUE TO FOR A MOMENT.

Captain
SARA YOU STILL WITH US?

Sara
I'm here

Captain
TURN OFF THAT DAMN-

The alarm silences.

Captain
OFF. Thank you. Report! Was that who I think it was?

Sara
The Geist tankship is holding Captain, in position to fire on either or both ships again.

Captain
The Silicon Valley?

Sara
She took a bullet too, sir, but she's got a full crew and all system running. She's hit, but not done for.

Captain
How're you doing?

Sara
It's bad, captain. I got a hole in me that's gonna slow us down more than a little.

Captain
We wouldn't be able to outrun anybody anyway. How bad is bad?

Sara
I don't know how we're going fix me up way out here, but I don't think I'm going find out where little starships go when they die anytime soon.

Captain
Glad to hear it.

Adam

That tankship is still out there, any way we can take it?

Arli

We have to run before it fires on us again.

Captain

It hasn't yet.

Adam

Why not?

Arli

Where are we?

Captain

Geist territory.

Arli

Why are we in Geist territory?!

Sara

Captain thought the Geist threat was more phantasmagoric than it ended up being.

Captain

Yeah that's on me.

Adam

Every second we sit here-

Captain

Right, Sara, radio the Valley please.

(SOFT BEEP. RECIEVER BEING PICKED UP)

Captain

This is Saratoga, Silicon Valley do you receive us?

Ellen

Galen! Are you okay?

Captain

For now, Ellen, but Sara's got a hole in her and that tankship is mean mugging a little harder than we're comfortable with.

Ellen

We? Who's piloting those life boats like a drunken Luna leaper?

Captain

No one, they were meant to be diversions while we made our daring escape.

Ellen

Clever boy. That might have worked, but I would've just let them run out of steam while I chased you down.

Captain

That's why- OH SHIT, ANDY'S OUT IN OPEN SPACE!

Ellen

Say again, Saratoga?

Sara

Well part of our plan was to put Andy in a walksuit in open space so you would have to retrieve him before you could come after us.

Ellen

Too bold, Galen. Now you've got a man with 45 minutes to live.

Arli

And how long do we have?

Ellen

Good question. The tankship hasn't moved and isn't responding to us.

Arli

What's the normal protocol?

Captain

There is no normal protocol. When was the last time you heard about a Geist battle?

Ellen

There hasn't been a battle in 9 years. We don't have a protocol for this.

Captain

See?

Sara

Ew, the conspiracy theorists were right?

Ellen

No. There hasn't been a battle in 9 years because the Geist have retreated to their own territory, which is slowly expanding. The War wages on.

Adam

A cold war?

Ellen

In space all wars are cold wars.

Silicon Valley (over radio, it's voice mechanical and empty)

Captain, the Geist tankship changing position.

Ellen

To where?

Sara

It's moving towards one of the lifeboats!

Silicon Valley

Confirmed. Lifeboat destroyed.

Captain

Good thing we didn't actually put anyone on it.

Arli

We have to get Andy back.

Captain

He's safer out there for now. No way they can see him, he might outlive us all.

Ellen

He'll still die screaming, there just won't be anyone around to hear him do it.

Captain
In space, no one ca-

Silicon Valley
Second lifeboat destroyed captain. Geist ship toward the Saratoga.

Sara
The tankship captain is signaling.

Captain
Put him on.

Geist
Captains, your warships are damaged your scoutships destroyed why have you ended 3 generations of peace?

Captain
3 generations?

Arli
The Geist aren't as long lived as we are.

Sara
So you were one of the rare conspiracy theorists who had no factual knowledge of anything?

Ellen
We didn't end the peace, you were fired on us without warning.

Geist
You are the aggressors, captain. You waft in at highest speeds with no warning. You launch scout ships with highest maneuverability.

Ellen
Merely entering your space doesn't seem like a high enough crime to merit attack.

Geist
Not for you maybe. But for us.

Ellen

Firing on us is unwarranted and brutal. You will stand down and allow us to finish our business.

Geist

You are in our territory, you will finish the business you have started with us.

Ellen

Two of us and one of you. I don't think you really want us to finish this.

Geist

One of us has already drawn first blood against two. You have not returned fire. You are out matched. Surrender. You will be taken.

Captain

Like fun we will!

Ellen

Galen-

Captain

No, this guy shot Sara, shot you, poor Andy must be filling his walk suit with urine, now HE wants to take us god knows where, and we manage to shake him, YOU'RE still gonna take us all to Earth to face a firing squad. I'm getting real fussy at people threatening to kill me today.

Arli

Oh we weren't going to kill you, just rough you up a bit.

Captain

Thanks.

Adam

I would have killed you though.

Captain

...thanks.

Geist

You will be taken. Comply or cease to be. I offer you the choice rarely offered by your savage military.

Captain
Pretty lousy choice.

Ellen
YOU will stand down. You will return to your space and we to ours. Your dangerous expansion will be reported to my savage military and you will be dealt with.

Geist
Our expansion is not dangerous. We have the right to grow. We have the right to civilization.

Ellen
Your rights have yet to be determined.

Captain
Ohhhkay this is starting to get a little imperial and kind of racist. Maybe we should all just take a moment.

Geist
You have just a moment to decide. Destruction or submission.

Arli
What if we all just put our guns down and go our separate way?

Geist
Repeat.

Arli
You don't want us here, we don't want to be here. Let's just...call it a day. Captain Vasquez can go back to Earth, you can go back to...wherever, and we'll head for greener pastures.

Geist
Your proposal is unacceptable. Vasquez has threatened military retaliation-

Ellen
Damn right, I have. I will burn you away with everything I've got.

Arli
How is that helping? How do you see this going with that kind of talk?

Ellen

Child, we are at war with these things. I didn't come out here to save the space whales, or run away from home, or blow people out of airlocks. I came here to retrieve a stolen ship and serve the S.P.U. to the best of my abilities. Right now that means blasting that tankship to atoms.

Geist

The choice has been made.

(loud click as he cuts signal)

Captain

Great Ellen. Now what's your big plan to make sure we don't all die because you've got a flag where you brain should be.

Ellen

On my command fire every missile you've got at that damn ship.

Adam

It's a trick. She wants us unarmed so she can take us back to Earth.

Silicon Valley

Geist ship moving into attack position.

Arli

What choice do we have? Captain, fire everything!

Captain

We don't have any missiles.

(beat)

Captain

What? I never said we did. I certainly never threatened to blow anybody to atoms.

Ellen

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE MISSILES?

Sara

Weren't installed yet. I think they were coming in on Tuesday.

Ellen
Galen-

Captain
Hope you can pull a rabbit outta your hat, Ellen.

Adam
Can you destroy the tankship yourself?

Ellen
I'm sure as hell going to try.

Sara
Anything we can do to help that won't get us killed?

(beat)

Ellen
Get out of here.

Sara
Really?

(LOUD EXPLOSION AND BENDING OF METAL OVER THE RADIO. THE
SILICON VALLEY'S ALARMS GO OFF.)

Ellen
GET OUT OF HERE! (muffled) Dallas, fire 1 and 5, take out their guns! (clear) GALEN
I'M GOING TO DRAW THEM AWAY, GET OUT OF HERE.

Captain
Good luck, Captain Vasquez.

Ellen
SAME TO YOU, CAPTAIN HUNTER.

(CLICK AS SIGNAL CUTS)

Arli
We can't leave!

Adam
Andy is still out there.

Captain
We're not leaving Andy. Sara, you feel up to a rescue mission before we boogy?

Sara
Aye, sir.

Captain
Great! Who knows how to do that?

Arli
Don't you? I thought you were a captain!

Captain
You think being a captain means I know how to rescue a man we can't see in space with a half working ship, no crew, during a battle?

Arli
I mean...not when you say it all like that. No.

Adam
Sara, can you radio the walk suit?

Sara
Actually I can!

(click)

Sara
Andy? Andy are you receiving this transmission? Come in Andy.

(beat)

Sara
Andy, this is Sara, we need to know where you are so we can get you before everyone gets blown up. Respond.

(Beat)

Adam

Andy, you have to turn on the radio in your suit. It's a toggle on the front of the chest
piec-

Andy

-FUL LIVING HELL! CAN YOU HEAR ME SARA? ADAM? DO YOU READ ME?
COME GET ME SARATOGA! DO YOU COPY! I NEED YOU-

Captain

WE READ YOU ANDY! Calm down!

Andy

Calm down!? Do you have any idea-

Captain

We sure do, buddy. But if you don't calm down and tell us where you are, it's gonna get a
whole lot worse.

Andy

Right. Okay. I'm behind you.

Sara

Spooky.

Arli

You have to be a little more specific Andy.

Andy

Sara, you're between me and what looks like a Geist ship and the Silicon Valley. I'm on
your right side, not directly behind you.

Arli

That's...good Andy. Do you know how far out you are?

Andy

No, I can't judge the distance. It's pretty far. Maybe the length of three Lunar trains?

Adam

How many degrees off aft center are you?

ANDY

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY DEGREES OFF AFT CENTER I AM ADAM I JUST
GAVE YOU A SPACIAL MEASUREMENT IN TRAINS, YOU THINK THAT WAS
MY SECOND CHOICE BEHIND GIVING YOU COORDINATES?!

Captain

Alright calm down Andy! Sara's going to move toward you. I want you to tell us hot or
cold, okay? We gotta do this fast, so stay focused and breath slow.

Andy

Okay...okay...

Captain

Sara, back up, nice and slow.

Sara

Aye captain.

Adam

Not too slow.

Andy

...warm.....warmer....cold! not that way!

Sara

It's okay Andy, I'm coming. Just keep saying hot and cold.

Andy

Yeah...cold!...warmer....warmer.....warmer, yeah that way. You're headed toward
me now. Turn-LOOK OUT!

(LOUD EXPLOSION, METAL TWISTS, STEAM SPRAYS INEXPLICABLY FROM
VENTS. ALARMS GO OFF)

CAPTAIN

SARA REPORT!

ADAM

IT'S THE GEIST!

ARLI

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SILICON VALLEY?

CAPTAIN
SARA!

Sara
Captain, a second Geist ship has-

(ANOTHER IMPACT. ANOTHER EXPLOSION.)

CAPTAIN
SARA! TALK TO ME!

Sara
Captain. Two direct hits. Everywhere except the bridge has decompressed. Several fires
have broken out in the bulkheads surrounding the bridge.

ADAM
AND THE BRIDGE IS QUICKLY MELTING!

Sara
There are series of small fires within my wall and ducts. The plastic casings-

CAPTAIN
SARA GET US OUT OF HERE!

ANDY
YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE!

CAPTAIN
WE'LL HAVE TO COME BACK FOR ANDY, HE'S GOT AN EXTRA TANK!

ADAM
WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM BEHIND!

ARLI
IF WE ALL DIE HE'LL BE-

(ANOTHER EXPLOSION)

CAPTAIN
SARA! NOW! HEEL TOE!

SARA

I can't, Galen. My rockets, my thrusters and maneuvering vents are burned away. I'm not going anywhere.

CAPTAIN

RADIO THE GEIST SHIP. RADIO OUR SURRENDER!

Sara

Radio's gone. Life support is gone. It's all gone.

CAPTAIN

THE SILICON VALLEY?

Sara

Adrift. The Geist tankship is being towed away by the second vessel.

CAPTAIN

CAN YOU GET US OVER THERE? DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING?

Sara

I can turn.

ARLI

TURNING WON'T GET US ANYWHERE.

Sara

It won't get me anywhere. But I can point the airlock at the Silicon Valley.

CAPTAIN

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Sara

Sorry Captain. Knew this would be a one way trip.

ADAM

IT'S STARTING TO GET PRETTY HOT IN HERE.

ARLI

GET INTO THE WALK SUITS! NOW!

CAPTAIN
SARA!

Sara
It's okay Galen. It was too short, but it was more of a life than I would have had.

CAPTAIN
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU LIKE THIS!

Sara
Better hurry...it's getting hard to focus. I think the fires found my core. I'm not sure...
how long I'll be able...to hold this...

(SOUNDS OF RUNNING AND WALKSUITS BEING HASTILY PUT ON.)

ARLI
GET INTO THE AIR LOCK! HURRY!

(MORE FOOTSTEPS ON METAL. THE AIRLOCK DOOR CLOSSES AND ALL THE
NOISE STOPS.)

Captain
Sara? Sara?!

Sara
Still...here...

Captain (emotional, distraught)
Sara...

Sara
Don't...take...that tone...with me. I got...to see...Neptune's.....rings....dance...

(beat.)

Sara
Everyone's helmets on?

Arli
Clear.

Adam
Clear.

Captain
Clear.

Sara
...Oh my...

(the airlock instantly clunks open and they are blown into space. We can hear they're panicked breathing.)

Captain
Hold on to me! Hold on!

Adam
I have you!

Arli
I'm here! I'm here!

Andy
Is that you guys?! Are you there? Hello?! I hear you!

Adam
Andy, where are you my friend!

Andy
I see you! We're on the other side of Sara! You guys are really moving!

Captain
We?

Arli
I don't see you, Andy.

Andy
Stand by.

(beat)

Adam
There. What is that?

Captain
looks like a ship.

Arli
It's a life boat!

Captain
Where did he get a life boat?

Adam
I thought they were both destroyed.

Captain
Group together, hold on. It's getting pretty close now.

Andy
Hey guys, you're never gonna believe who picked me up.

Adam
Was it the president?

Andy
Better.

Bright Eye
[horrific whirring and clicking]

Captain
Bright Eyes?!

Arli
Is that the robot who was trying to kill us?

Andy
Come aboard, the hatch is under the ship relative to where you guys are!

(breathing, shuffling, the clunk of an airlock opening and then closing. Suits being unzipped as air hisses)

Andy
Welcome aboard, Captain.

Captain
Andy, glad to see you made it. What happened?

Arli
I thought that robot was-

Andy
He picked me up. He saw me floating and pulled right up during the battle. I don't think he was ever trying to kill us, I think he was just looking for orders.

Adam
What's wrong with him?

Captain
We tried to reprogram him to be head of security. Guess it didn't take.

Adam
No.

Andy
The ship that attacked Sara towed the other one out of here. I think we're safe, for a little while anyway. But we shouldn't hang around.

Captain
Agreed. Bright Eyes?

Bright Eyes
[awful mechanical noises]

Captain
Take us to the Silicon Valley, that ship over there.

Andy
Not back to Sara?

Captain
We'll try to board the Valley. See if we can help the survivors and hopefully get the hell

out of here before any more Geist show up.

Arli

Andy, you saw Sara get shot.

Andy

Yes, but fewer times than the Valley did. Is she bad?

Adam

She lost all functions.

Andy

And the Silicon Valley still has life support. Do you think we use the Valley to tow her?

Adam

Tow her where?

Andy

To be repaired.

(beat)

Andy

Oh. (beat) I see.

Captain

The external damage was severe, and with no crew to battle the fires...she...burned to death.

Andy

Jesus wept.

Adam

Her body could be repaired still.

Arli

But without her self tesseracting core...

Andy

so we're just going to leave her here? Her body I mean?

Arli

It's just parts now. Just metal, plastic, ceramic and transparent aluminum. What made Sara Sara is gone. What you see out that window right now, that burnt twisted husk is just-

Captain

The Ghost of the Saratoga.