

(three sets of footsteps clanking down a metal hallway. A klaxon sounds an alarm.)

Captain (shipwide, calm but firm)

Whoever is on the boat, you have threatened a captain of the Spatial Planetary Union, security robots are being dispatched to your location now. Any resistance or effort to break into the bridge will be met with deadly force.

Andy

Deadly force?

Arli

I'll believe it when I see it.

Andy

He has to know we know all the robots are offline.

Adam

He doesn't seem to.

(The footsteps stop and the alarms are muffled. We're on the bridge.)

Sara

Deadly force?

Captain

Yeah, where are we with that?

Sara

Unless you've got a knife on you.

Captain

Not me!

Sara

Well what do you want me to do? Close a door on them really hard?

Captain

Not you either! Bright Eyes! Get Bright Eyes up here!

Sara

I don't think he's here anymore.

Captain

You don't *think*? Did you put him out the airlock?

Sara

Uh, actually I think she did.

Captain

She who? The ghost?

Sara

The voice on the intercom, aye sir.

Captain

How? I thought he was barely functioning? Did she just trick him into walking out into space??

Sara

Well that's what I was gonna do. But one of my lifeboats was cut loose. From my lower decks, where I last saw Bright Eyes.

Captain

Dear lord.

Sara

It's not far from the infirmary. She was probably living in there and Bright Eyes found her.

Captain

Why would a ghost need to live in the infirmary?

Sara

Captain...

Captain

Fine fine fine. So we have a woman, presumably flesh and blood, living in your belly for the past week.

Sara

Ew.

Captain

Any chance you can get a new security robot up and running before they get here?

Sara

No sir. And even if I could I'm not sure how much good it would do in this situation. I can halfway reprogram most of these construction robots to monitor my interior and report back, but they aren't built for fighting. They're still Three Laws Safe.

Captain

Arg! Pain in my Asimov. So assuming you could get another one up and running best case scenario it stands outside the door blocking the entrance until it has to let this crazy woman in just to keep her from starving.

Sara

Something like that.

Captain

So my options are reason with her or stay on the bridge and lock the door.

Sara

And hope she doesn't have a blaster.

(footsteps running. The alarm is loud again)

Adam

I wish we had blasters.

Andy

I wouldn't even know how to use one.

Arli

We won't need guns. I'm pretty sure we outnumber him.

Adam

What makes you think so?

Andy

If he had a crew he would be sending them to deal with us.

(footsteps stop. They're catching their breath)

Adam

Why would they risk their lives if they can just send in a robot?

Arli

Then where are they?

(pause)

Arli

If he had security robots to send he would have sent them. Not just that sick one that tore up his buddies. He's bluffing.

Adam

Why would he try to bluff us? He must know we're not soldiers or fighters.

Andy

How?

Adam

He knows who we are. He kidnapped us.

Andy

Kidnapped?

Adam

What do you think is happening?

Andy

I don't know...not that!

Arli

No wait he's right.

Adam

You see?

Arli

No "he" Andy. Andy is right.

Andy

You see?

Arli

He doesn't know who we are, he said "whoever is on the ship"

Andy

"Whomever"

Arli

Now? Really?

Adam

A second's learning saves a lifetimes burning.

Andy

Plus that's just a memory thing cause he just said it. Like two minutes ago.

Arli

Fine! Whatever! Shush!

Andy/Adam

Sorry.

Arli

Come on.

(Footsteps running resumes)

Arli

When we get to the bridge, we'll probably have to force the door.

Adam

I can get it open.

Arli

Good man, Adam. Once we're in, just rush him, but spread out. Get behind him. If he has a weapon, don't hesitate. Get it away and subdue him.

Andy

How do we subdue him?

Arli

Just...I don't know grab his arms and hold them?

Adam

You're over thinking it Andy.

Andy

Well I've never subdued anyone before!

Adam

It's not so hard.

(couple beats of just running)

Arli

Something you want to share with us?

(beat)

(back on the bridge)

Captain

No!

Sara

Yes!

Captain

I'm not attacking anyone!

Sara

You might not have a choice.

Captain

If she won't listen to reason then I'll just lock the door and we can decompress the entire deck. She'll have to go back to the lower decks till we can figure out what to do with her.

Sara

That's very noble and all Captain, but how are we going to 'decompress the entire deck'.

Captain

We? What? No you. You do that. Make all the air leave. Except on the bridge. I'm

breathing that air.

Sara

Sir that's not really how...anything works.

Captain

No? I thought...we could work that out.

Sara

No they didn't really design me to be able to blow the gas that keeps you alive out of me.
In fact quite a few people spent years and years and years making sure that the oxygen stays inside keeping you alive no matter what.

Captain

Mmm.

Sara

Sorry.

Captain

No no no...it's...its good. Better to breath I always say.

Sara

Do you?

Captain

I don't know I'm nervous!

(back to the halls)

Arli

Not the time for excuses!

Andy

It's not an excuse, Arli! I just think you two should take point on the actual violence. I can sort of be the holder. You know once he's down.

Arli

No.

Adam

It sounds reasonable.

Arli

No we're not assigning jobs. The door opens, we run in, we subdue him. Then we get ourselves back home or try and signal the SPU from the bridge.

Andy

Oh I'll signal the-

Arli

We are not assigning jobs!

Andy

Right, sorry.

(beat)

Andy

But when the time comes-

Arli

Yes you can send the message.

(back to the bridge)

Sara

What message?

Captain

About the force of security robots I sent? Remember? Like two minutes ago?

Sara

Well who told you to do that?

Captain

I was trying to intimidate her.

Sara

Into what?

Captain

...Compliance?

Sara
I don't think it worked.

Captain
What about a location?

Sara
You don't have any security robots anywhere.

Captain
Her location. The location of the woman who's coming to get us.

Sara
Who's us? I got all the oxygen.

Captain
SARA

Sara
I don't know! If she was at the infirmary she should be here any second.

Captain
Don't you have internal sensors or something? Cameras at least?

Sara
What? No.

Captain
Top of the line my ass...

Sara
Come again?

Captain
Nothing, forget it. You were saying she'll be here any second...?

Sara
Yeah. Unless she gets lost.

(back to halls)

Arli

I thought it was elevator to the top, two lefts, two rights and another left.

Adam

Didn't we just take three rights?

Andy

I counted four.

Adam

Four rights would have gotten us back here.

Andy

It's not a grid! The halls bend and have dead ends!

Adam

Four rights is still going in a circle.

Arli

We didn't take four rights! We took two lefts, a right and another two lefts.

Andy

I thought you said two lefts, two rights, and another left.

Adam

That's what I heard.

Arli

Hell.

Adam

We got out of the elevator, took two lefts, three rights and then started arguing.

Andy

So we need to go back take the first left and then another left?

Adam

We should be able to just take the next right and then another right.

Andy
It's not a grid!

Adam
Oh now he's an expert.

Arli
We just need to get to another elevator, then we can find the way.

Adam
Where is the nearest one?

(beat)

Arli
I'm not sure. Back that way?

(Beat)

Andy
We need a map.

Arli
This is getting stupid. Let's just go back take the first left and another left.

Andy
Agreed.

Adam
I'd give real money if he'd turn off that damn klaxon.

(back to bridge)

Captain
I can't turn off the alert, we're at battle stations!

Sara
Okay okay. It's not gonna give me a headache. It's just very loud.

Captain
Yeah it really is. But you know...battle stations.

Sara

Oh is locking the door until someone gets bored and decides to go away a battle now?

Captain

I don't think you're taking this seriously enough.

Sara

I don't think you are, sir.

Captain

Beg pardon?

Sara

I'm all for ask question first and shoot later, but the reality is we have no idea who this person is or what she's capable of. She sounded pretty pissed though when she threatened you, oh and also *she threatened you*.

Captain

I'm not going kill this woman. She's probably just scared and confused, lord knows I would be. I'm sure we can reach some kind of understanding.

Sara

are you willing to be your life on that?

Captain

I am.

Sara

Are you willing to bet mine?

Captain

I thought you 'had all the oxygen'.

Sara

Sir if she won't listen to what you have to say, if she over powers you or kills you and takes us back to the SPU, it's my life as well as yours.

Captain

if she kills me you have my permission to ignore any order she gives you.

Sara (weak laugh)
Thanks.

Captain
I know it's tough, but we didn't come out here to be killers. This won't be the last tough spot we get into. Are you with me on this?

Sara
You and me, all the way.

(Back to halls)

Adam (whisper)
All the way where?

Andy (whisper)
To the bridge!

Arli (whisper)
Why wouldn't we just go through the door?

Andy (whisper)
he's probably got it covered. It's not like we have the element of surprise.

Arli (whisper)
Do you really think whispering is necessary?

Andy (whisper)
Not at all, all the door is sound proof.

Arli
then why are we whispering?

Andy
I don't know. Nerves?

Adam
Arli, I'm not going in the tube. I don't like confined spaces.

Arli
Andy, did you go all the way to the other end of the vent?

Andy

Yeah as close to the bridge as I could without giving myself away. It'll be a pretty tight fit with all three of us.

Arli

Okay then, Andy, you and I will go through the vent and check it out. Adam you can use the door and flank him.

Adam

How long will it take you to get to the bridge?

Andy

I don't know how long was I gone? Half that time.

Arli

It'll take us about 20 seconds to crawl there.

Adam

I'll give you thirty seconds to get in position. Then we crack in, on the count of three.

(Bridge)

Captain

Three??

Sara

Pretty sure, yeah. the woman plus two guys.

Captain

Outside that vent?

Sara

well on the other side, it's a few meters long, but I can hear every word they're saying. I couldn't at first because they were whispering...

Captain

what are they saying?

Sara

Two are coming in the vent, one from the door. They're going to flank you.

Captain
probably not for a group hug. How the hell did we steal three whole people and not know about it?

Sara
I dono. You're the brains, I'm just the getaway girl.

Captain
Why were they even on the ship? Who are these people?

Sara
You're going to find out in about 10 seconds.

Captain
Nowhere to run to, nowhere to hide.

Sara
6 seconds.

Captain
Let's make some friends Sara.

The door clunks open, the vent covers falls to the ground. Lots of shuffling and shouting. The captain tries to be heard and calm the situation down. Arli is shouting orders at Andy and Adam. Sara tries to tell the captain the others movements that he can't see. It's mostly just noise, until finally Arli's voices cuts through it all.

Arli
CALM DOWN! NOW CALM DOWN!

Captain
I'm calm! It's cool! I'm not here to fight!

Adam
I am.

Andy
It took come cajoling but I am too.

Arli

Adam, hold him. Andy-

Andy

Send the message?

Arli

Send the message.

Sara

Captain-

Captain

wait! Wait! Before you do that let's talk.

Arli

Why don't we talk while he does that?

Captain

Please, I just ask that you wait five minutes before you send a message to I assume the SPU. You've got me, I'm not going to try anything, I just want to talk.

Arli

Alright, hold on Andy. Let's hear what the baby has to say.

Sara laughs

Captain

Thanks Sara.

Adam

Was that the ship?

Captain

Yeah that's Sara. And if you send a message to the SPU, or take us back to Earth, they'll not only hang me for a dozen different reasons, they'll kill Sara.

Arli

Kill the ship?

Andy

they'll destroy her core.

Adam

So the ship goes down with her captain. I don't mind.

Sara

Dick.

Captain

Sara.

Andy

Arli-

Arli

Hold on. I don't know if I'm comfortable leading a ship to her death. I mean she's more or less a sentient being, but she's still just a tool of this jerk.

Sara

Oh thanks.

Arli

And I don't mind seeing you at the gallows, Captain.

Captain

Why? What did I do?

Adam

You kidnapped us!

Andy

Arli-

Captain

What? No! I had no idea you were on board until you very creepily threatened me!

Adam

then why did you block our SOS to the SPU?

Captain

Your what?

Sara
Captain-

Andy
Arli-

Arli/Captain
What?

Andy
I think they're here.

Adam
Who?

Arli
The SPU?

Captain
Oh god.

Sara (weak and frightened)
Captain. I have a message incoming for you from a ship pulling up alongside me.

Captain
What ship?

Sara
It's my sister ship actually. The Silicon Valley.

Captain
Not the Silicon Valley.

Sara
What's wrong with the Silicon Valley?

(squeal, click and static as the message breaks through)

Ellen
This is Captain Ellen Vasquez responding to an SOS. Whomever is on that boat, you have stolen a ship of Spatial Planetary Union. You are ordered to shut down your engines

immediately and prepare to be boarded. Any resistance or effort to break away from us will be met with deadly force.

Captain

Vasquez always was an asshole.