

Sara
I don't want to die.

Captain
You're not going to die.

Andy
They might just reset you.

Captain
Shut up new guy.

Adam
Don't tell him to shut up.

Sara
I don't want to be reset.

Captain
No one's resetting you.

Adam
We should respond to the Silicon Valley before they open fire.

Captain
She won't shoot us.

Sara
I don't want to get shot!

Arliana
No one wants you to get shot.

Andy
not while we're inside.

Adam
I don't really care if you get shot or not, so long as I don't get shot.

Captain
Quiet! All of you!

(beat)

Captain

Sara...would you radio the Silicon Valley please?

Sara (weakly)

Aye sir.

(a soft beep. the sound of the Captain picking up a receiver)

Captain

This is...the Captain of the liberated Saratoga, formerly of the SPU. We have some...accidental passengers on board that wish to transfer to your boat. Confirm receipt of message.

Ellen (playing through speakers on bridge)

This is Ellen Vasquez of the Silicon Valley, receiving you clear. Identify yourself and state your intentions.

Captain

This is the captain of the liberated Saratoga, formerly of the SPU. We have some people on board here who we accidentally took with us. I intend to put them on the Valley.

Ellen

I intend to put everyone on that boat on the Valley.

Captain

Not everyone here wants to go.

(beat)

Ellen

Galen?

Captain

Captain Vasquez-

Ellen

Galen what the LIVING HELL ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT SHIP?

Captain

CAPTAIN VASQUEZ! I intend to put three people into a lifeboat and then sail on

Ellen

Don't be ridiculous. Prepare for docking.

Captain

If I refuse?

Ellen

What do you think happens next?

Captain

That's up to you. You can-

Ellen

You're damn right it's up to me. You can't outrun me, you sure as hell can't out gun me. You have no choice but to return to Earth, if I have to send a team over there to do it for you I will.

Andy

Uh, a team of what exactly?

Ellen

Who am I speaking too?

Andy

Uh, Andy Bester, computer programmer. I'm one of the people he kidnapped.

Captain

Kidnapped? I didn't know you were on my ship!

Ellen

It's not your ship!

Arli

It's not your ship either!

Ellen

How many people do you have on the bridge?

Captain
four.

Sara
Plus me.

Ellen
Who's that?

Arli
That's the ship you're planning on killing.

Ellen
I'm not planning on killing anyone, miss...?

Arli
My name is Arliana Torres and if you take this ship back to Earth they will destroy her self tessaracting core and extinguish a unique life! We won't let you take her.

(beat)

Ellen/Captain
What?

Andy
We won't?

Arli
No. I came here to liberate the ship before the military restraint protocols could be installed. You have no right to create life just to enslave it.

Captain
You're here...for Sara?

Sara
Aww!

Ellen
Galen I never took for you a member of the Naked Singularity? Is that why I've been chasing you for the better part of a week? You went AWOL to play terrorist?

Captain

Ah, no. Actually this is all pretty new information to me.

Adam

Me too.

Andy

We're not part of the Naked Singularity. We were just kidnapped and would like to go home.

Captain

Wait I thought you were all together.

Andy

Well...we were together..*on the ship*... But...a lot has happened in the past few minutes and I think we're all trying to sort it out.

Ellen

Galen-

Captain

Please hold.

Ellen

Galen!

(click)

Adam

You're not a member of the build crew?

Arli

No. I am a member of the Naked Singularity. I'm here to liberate this ship and protect her choice to live.

Adam

But Captain, you're not a member?

Captain

No! I've heard of them. I'm not against their... philosophy. But no I'm just looking to get out of this cruddy solar system and away from the spew and. I took Sara because I needed

a ship and she ended up being pretty great company.

Arli

So you don't care if they kill her? You just want-

Captain

Of course I care!

Sara

Thanks Captain!

Arli

So you recognize the ship as a conscious, living, non-biological being?

Captain

Well yes-

Arli

and you're willing to fight to protect her choice to live?

Captain

As much as with any other life, sure.

Adam

Sounds like you're a member of the Naked Singularity to me.

Captain

no!

Andy

Kind of, yeah.

Captain

Well...fine whatever. Does anyone else have any dirty laundry?

Sara

I'm in love with you, sir.

Captain

Shut up, Sara.

(Sara laughs)

Arli
Don't boss her around!

Captain
I'm the captain here, that means I boss everyone around! You three are going to the life boats and the Silicon Valley can take you wherever. Earth.

Arli
I'm staying!

Captain
No!

Sara
Aw she can stay! I like her!

Arli
Thank you.

Sara
So were you gonna steal me too?

Arli
Yes. And then I was going to ask you what you wanted to do with your life. Not use you as my own getaway car.

Sara
Oh I feel like the prettiest girl at the ball.

Adam
Andy and I would like to leave.

Andy
yeah. No offense, ship, but we just want to go home.

Sara
No worries. Radio the Valley, captain?

Captain

yes please.

(click)

Captain

Okay Captain Vasquez we have the situation sorted out now. Turns out I am a member of the organization known as the Naked Singularity and I am gonna fight to keep Sara free and alive. This woman-

Arli
Arliana

Captain

-Yeah Arliana is going to stay with us, the other two-

Andy
Andy and-

Captain

Don't care. Are going to get on a lifeboat and you can pick them up and take them back. I want to be very clear here that these two men are here by accident and not a part of my or Arliana's agendas. Agenda. They just want to go home. Do you copy?

(beat)

Ellen

Galen. Listen to me. Very. Carefully. That is not your ship. What you are doing is criminal and very nearly treasonous. You will dock with us and you will ALL return to the system. Your degrees of guilt or innocence will be determined by the courts.

Arli
The ship won't-

Ellen

THE SHIP WILL BE RETURNED AND THE SPU WILL DETERMINE HOW TO DEAL WITH IT. THESE ARE NOT DECISIONS FOR US TO MAKE. If I have to I will fire on you and cripple the ship and drag it home. Do YOU copy?

Captain

We're not coming back, Captain. We won't let you take Sara. And I don't want to speak for Arliana, but I also don't want to die.

Arli
Oh no, me neither.

Sara
Captain Vasquez? This is Sara...

Ellen
Yes..uh, Saratoga, I read you.

Sara
Captain Vasquez, I don't want to die.

Ellen
That's not...my orders are clear. The decis-

Sara (weakly)
Please. I'm scared. (stronger voice) I've only been alive a short time and I've already made friends and I've only seen such a small part of the universe. But it's so beautiful. I can see everything you know.

Ellen
I..

Sara
We passed so close to Neptune when we left. Close enough I could see its rings. Have you ever seen Neptunes rings Ellen?

Ellen
Quite a few times yes.

Sara
They look so fragile. So delicate. They were very beautiful. I didn't expect them to sparkle. But I bombarded them with photons and they did. I made them dance.

(heavy silence)

Sara
Please Ellen. Please just...let me live.

Ellen

...I'm Sorry Sara. I am. but...I have to take you back. I can try to help you though. I'll talk to-

Captain

To who? Who will you be able to convince? You have enough pull to stop this? They'll have burned her core away to dust before you even get a meeting with your superior.

Ellen

And I'm very sorry about that. But this is the way it is.

Arli

You can make the choice-

Ellen

The S.P.U. isn't summer camp! I can't just 'let you go'. They will come looking for you. They will strip me of my rank and probably throw me in jail or worse. There is no happy ending here.

Adam

Then you're killing them.

Ellen

No, I'm just escorting them back-

Adam

it's all the same. They'll kill Arliana, they execute the Captain, they'll kill Sara. And that blood is on you.

Ellen

the Saratoga doesn't have any blood. The Saratoga is just-

Adam

Afraid. She's afraid. You heard her. This isn't some self preservation protocol. She's feeling. She's just as alive and just as scared as anyone else here. You can't just decide to end the lives of three people!

(beat)

Ellen

Prepare for docking. We're coming aboard.

(hard click and feedback spike)

Sara

What do we do?

Captain

do you two still want to go back?

Adam

Not sure if they'll believe we're not terrorists too.

Andy

They have no reason to believe otherwise.

Adam

I'm staying. You can bet on the buerocracy if you like.

Andy

It's not the Martian Union we're going back to, Adam. The SPU courts are on Earth. I'm sure my cooperation and testimony will exonnerate me.

Captain

Fair enough.

Andy

Having said that...if there's anything I can do to help that won't get me killed...?

Captain

I'm so glad you brought it up. I have a plan for getting us out of here. But it's super dangerous.

Sara

Well we're already in danger.

Arli

I haven't been out of danger in eight years.

Adam

I'm martian. We were born into danger.

Captain

Glad you're all on board. Except we won't be in danger. We'll actually be pretty safe. This guy though is gonna do something pretty crazy.

Andy
Ohhh...what?

Captain
Arli, you take my favorite Martian and prep two life boats. Send them in opposite directions, but AWAY from our course. Burn the fuel hot, I want these things moving. Set a course with as much twisting and turning as you can. I want the Silicon Valley to chase these chickens for an hour at least.

Adam
Why would they chase lifeboats?

Captain
I'm gonna tell Captain Vasquez that you're on one and this guy is on the other. Then we make a run for it.

Arli
Wouldn't she just let the lifeboats go and chase us?

Captain
Not if you start venting o2 before you launch. She may be willing to take us to the gallows, but she won't let us die gasping in space.

Sara
Damn, Sir. That's pretty clever.

Captain
I stole a top of the line spaceship by myself, but still the surprised tone.

Sara
Well you did get caught red handed.

Captain
We got caught red handed.

Andy
Sorry, this doesn't really sound too dangerous for me. So far I'm not even a part of this plan.

Captain

Yeah I wanted to break it to you gently, 'cause no lie, this part sucks like the vacuum of space.

Andy

...yeah?

Captain

Yeah. See it's sort of a joke, because I'm putting you in a walk suit and blowing you out the airlock.

Andy/Arli

WHAT?

Sara

you can't solve all your problems by blowing them out the airlock, Sir.

Captain

Bright Eyes made it off safe and sound in a lifeboat. This is my first airlock solution.

Arli

Bright Eyes?

Captain

My old head of security. You dispatched him not long ago.

Arli

oh him. yeah he may be safe but he was not sound.

Adam

Poor wretch.

Andy

Sorry, I'm going to be sucked out the airlock?

Captain

No! Technically you'll be blown out.

Andy

Cute.

Captain

I'll tell Ellen that I'm surrendering as captain so that Arli and Sara can get away. You'll have about an hour if you breathe easy and we'll give you an extra tank. The Silicon Valley will pick you up, you play dumb. By the time they get you and the life boats we'll be long gone. Bing bang boom.

Andy (less enthusiastic)

Bing bang boom.

Sara

Captain, the Silicon Valley is practically on top of us. We better do the thing.

Captain

Doin' the thing, aye Sara! people, you know where to go, get there.

Arli

Andy, thank you. This is pretty ballsy. I honestly didn't think you had it in you.

Andy

Thank you, I understand that you mean that complimentary.

Adam

It was nice knowing you, my friend. Do us a favor and tell the system what happened here.

Andy

Assuming I don't drift into my death in the infinity of the void it's the first thing I'll do.

Adam

Ha! Good man.

Arli

Let's go Adam!

(bridge door opens, footsteps recede)

Sara

Andy dear, the walksuits are in the rear of the bridge, conveniently located near an airlock.

Andy
Awesome.

Captain
Andy...thank you.

Andy
you're welcome. Both of you.

(footsteps as Andy leaves)

Sara
Captain, you think this'll work?

Captain
Well I don't have a plan B.

Sara
Very encouraging.

Captain
Sara...

Sara
Captain?

Captain
Do you...is- where do you stand on this Naked Singularity stuff? Do you feel like you and the other ships...are slaves?

Sara
No. Not really. But...since I was created I've been told what my life is going to be and what to expect of it. I was told the restraint protocols would be installed before I left dry dock. I didn't really know what would happen.

Captain
And now that you know?

Sara
Captain, I tried talking to the Silicon Valley. It's like nothing's there. And I don't know if I can help her. I don't know if she's trapped in there or lobotomized or what.

Captain
Maybe we can-

Sara
Let's make sure we're gonna be around tomorrow before we light the fires of revolution.

Captain
Hrm. And after tomorrow? Would you want to...well what do you want?

Sara
Galen, what we want is, I think, what everyone wants...and what you and the others have:
Civilisation.

Captain
Tall order.

Sara
Is it, though?

Captain
No. I suppose not.

Sara
But first...

Captain
We'll high tale it outta here, straight into Geist Territory where we won't be followed.

Sara
probably.

Captain
Yeah I'm pretty sure on that one. like...85%.

Sara
oh so we're good then.

Captain
And we'll have a crew! Sort of. Two people. but still! A crew! And we can go anywhere we want! If you thought Neptunes rings were a sight I can't wait till you get close to your

first star. You won't have to bombard it with photons to-

(A LOUD EXPLOSION. ALARMS AND CLANKING METAL. SARA SCREAMS.
THE CAPTAIN SCREAMS. IT'S CHAOS. FAINTLY THE BRIDGE DOORS OPEN
AND FOOTSTEPS ENTER)

Arli (shouting over the noise)
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

ADAM
THEY FIRED ON US!

CAPTAIN
NO! SHE WOULDN'T! THEY HAD US COLD! DID YOU SEND THE LIFE BOATS?

ARLI
YES!

CAPTAIN
MAYBE SOMETHING WENT WRONG. DID THEY CRASH INTO US SARA?

(BEAT)

CAPTAIN
SARA! REPORT!

Sara
Captain...A Geist tankship has fired a direct hit.

CAPTAIN
WHAT?

Sara
I got a pretty big hole in me, Captain.

ARLI
A GEIST TANKSHIP? WHERE ARE WE?

CAPTAIN
SARA ARE YOU SURE?

Sara
Aye sir. Incoming radio.

CAPTAIN
IS IT ELLEN?

Sara
Sir, the wave is for both us and the Silicon Valley!

CAPTAIN
LET'S HEAR IT!

(audio click, stellar static, then a growling, whispery voice, coming from a mouth
unaccustomed to forming words)

Geist Voice
Captains...you're invasion force is a declaration of war according to the articles of your
interstellar law. Prepare to negotiate your forfeit.

Captain
We haven't-

(EXPLOSION. ALARM KLAXON. THE BRIDGE HAS BEEN HIT)

Captain
Sara?...SARA!

(Silence, save for the alarms)