

Spanner Head  
by  
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FADE IN:

EXT. MARTIAN MOUNTAINSIDE -- DAY

Red dormant volcanos on the surface; one huge mountain has seven holes on the hillside that can still be seen in the afternoon light.

MCGRAW (V.O.)

Back on Earth, the year is 2704.  
Here on Mars, we don't much care  
what they're up to on Earth. After  
the uprising, we split away from  
em. Now we're not even allowed to  
talk to the folks back home.

Deep in one hole is a massive glass ceiling; beneath it is a pressurized space with shops and machines.

MCGRAW (V.O.)

We're like an old Navy town, we  
send men in ships, up the asteroid  
belt, get what we need to survive.  
I say men, cause all our sailors,  
all our commanders, are men. Til  
that one girl came along, and all  
hell broke loose. Girl with a  
busted leg. Spanner Head.

INT. PROSTHETICS SHOP -- DAY

A young Asian woman missing a leg, SPANNER HEAD WU, sits in her drawers. Around her neck is a "necklace" of wire, holding an old-fashioned lug nut, which she will wear throughout the story. MARCUS SERGIUS, prosthetics man, brings her leg. It has a compartment; she inserts telescope lenses.

MARCUS

No man can resist legs like that.

SPANNER HEAD

More power in the motor? Hand me  
that spanner.

MARCUS

Spanner?

SPANNER HEAD

Wrench.

She pulls on baggy pants; she gets up and walks around.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)  
Wow, this leg is in a hurry to get home.

A quick kiss and she walks away, gingerly.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)  
Stop looking at my tail pipe.

He points a device at her leg; she stumbles into a corridor.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)  
Fornicator!

She sees two policemen and backs into the doorway again.

INT. GREAT HALL - DAY

Mars. A space, big windows, low ceiling. COMMODORE MA and other OFFICERS stand on a platform. In these scenes, only captains use the platform microphone. In the crowd below is a captain named MAKAROV, Spanner Head, and her mother BONEBREAKER. All crowds in the story are mostly female.

MAKAROV  
Commodore Ma has the conn.

FEMALE OFFICIAL  
We're out of protein. We can't do it with the goats and sheep. We need to go back to Earth.

MA  
Got diseases that can kill us all.

FEMALE OFFICIAL  
Some of the captains agree with me.

MA  
Which ones? I want to know.

Nervous silence. Makarov steps forward.

MAKAROV  
You have got to listen this time -

MA  
You know why our grandfathers made the rules. We fought a war against Earth, and we won, we're free.

MAKAROV  
We know all this --

MA

Makarov. Might have known. Only way we stay free is to steer clear of Earth, we don't even talk to them.

MAKAROV

We're running out of protein --

MA

Any crew that sails to Earth can never come back: they have diseases we cannot cure. Our system works. We return to Earth, it falls apart.

Spanner Head looks at the Commodore, appalled.

INT. OBSERVATION TOWER - NIGHT

An glassed-in tower, not unlike an airfield control tower. Spanner Head holds bits of yarn. She looks out a door to see if the coast is clear. She ties one to a nail, measures the point where the string stops, marks the point with a rock.

SPANNER HEAD

Dead north. Nice night, no dust.

Spanner Head pulls out telescope and radio parts, turns on the RADIO and hears a captain, HECTOR.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)

Hector, is that you?

HECTOR (V.O.)

Lady, I don't know who you are, but the cops are gonna nail you.

SPANNER HEAD

Where you been?

HECTOR (V.O.)

Drill dry holes, dodging pirates, ship smells like a dead man.

SPANNER HEAD

What's your real grind?

HECTOR (V.O.)

My daughter is man-high. Needs her father. You been hearing that crazy stuff on the radio?

SPANNER HEAD

It's gotta be Earth. We need seeds.  
We need batteries. We need ships.

HECTOR (V.O.)

Careful, mate. They'll ground me  
and arrest you.

Spanner Head scans the sky, then leaves, but when policemen appear, she pulls back into the tower. Waits.

INT. GREAT HALL - NIGHT

The crowd includes Ma, Spanner Head, Bonebreaker, Makarov, and two young officers, KIEL and INVERGORDON.

MA

Gordon's wife is expecting! When a man has a family, we can count on him to make good choices in the sky. You will be Kiel's first mate.

KIEL

I want to pick my number two.

MA

I want a reliable man to keep an eye on you.

KIEL

I want to talk to all the Tenners.

MAKAROV

I think the man has a point.

MA

More troublemakers. Makarov. What is it, fifteen trips in the Jessop?

MAKAROV

And Kiel's crew?

MA

The Tenners discussed it. We choose the crews, we direct the ships.

MAKAROV

It's time everyone had a say.

MA

Once a captain makes ten trips, he's a Tenner.

(MORE)

MA (CONT'D)

The captains who are still flying  
may speak at the mast - we're not  
tyrants. But we run the planet.

MAKAROV

Can we pick our own crews --

MA

Next! Ship radios only have two  
wavelengths. One captain modified  
his radio, tried to contact Earth.

MAKAROV

He's grounded?

MA

Again, there is no point in talking  
to Earth, or going there. None of  
us on Mars has immunity to the  
diseases they have on Earth. One  
person visits there and comes home,  
he can kill half our people. I'm  
trying to save your lives. Next...  
Captain Wu is gone two years.

SPANNER HEAD

Please, he had an accident in the  
belt, let me come up -

MA

The speaking mast is for captains.  
Stand and speak, we're listening.

SPANNER HEAD

My father was hell-bent on coming  
back. Must have been an accident.

MA

He is out two years. Ring the bell.

SPANNER HEAD

No!

A massive BELL is rung.

MA

I declare Wu a pirate. Payment  
falls to the family. The wife will  
no longer perform surgery.

BONEBREAKER

I can't practice?

MA

(to Spanner Head)

I give you a choice. You repay the colony by conceiving a child, minus the bonus, or the prison farm.

SPANNER HEAD

A child? What gives you the --

MA

Don't push me. Take your pick.

Spanner Head controls herself.

SPANNER HEAD

Prison farm.

MA

Perhaps that's for the best.

(aside to an officer)

Have a man keep an eye on Makarov.

Spanner Head is led away.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Spanner Head and some scary types are shackled and loaded into a large vehicle.

INT. OBSERVATION TOWER - NIGHT

Spanner Head on the RADIO.

SPANNER HEAD

Ni hao Hector. Coming home?

HECTOR (V.O.)

Haven't heard a woman's voice in months. You on Mars, or you stow away? That's a life sentence.

SPANNER HEAD

Those Tanners. Not worth the powder to blow em out of the sky.

HECTOR (V.O.)

I'm going off the air.

SPANNER HEAD

Hector, saw your daughter, factory off the cave. She has a boyfriend.

HECTOR (V.O.)  
Boyfriend.

SPANNER HEAD  
A sailor. Treats her like a queen.

HECTOR (V.O.)  
You're on Mars. Who are you?

SPANNER HEAD  
Listen. Ma doesn't own the sky. I'm  
talking to Earth. Talking to the  
pirates. Talking to Makarov. I'm  
gonna fly, too. And I'm coming  
after Ma.

She hears people talking in the hallway. She grabs her radio bits and runs.

INT. COMMODORE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

POLICEWOMEN discuss the radio transmission.

POLICEWOMAN  
You heard her? Factory, big cave.  
Get this woman off the air. Turn on  
all the cameras down here.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Spanner Head notices cameras lighting up, climbs into the ceiling. She emerges in her tower.

INT. OBSERVATION TOWER - NIGHT

Spanner Head at her RADIO. This scene goes very, very fast.

HECTOR (V.O.)  
Calling all ships. Calling all  
ships. M'aidez. This is Hector.

She scrambles to the radio.

SPANNER HEAD  
Hector, this is -- this is Siren.  
I'm clocking your delay.

She punches a button on her radio and starts a clock at zero. She waits a few seconds, and becomes alarmed.

Continuation, two minutes later.

HECTOR (V.O.)

Siren?

She instantly punches the button and the clock is at 130.  
She's horrified.

HECTOR (V.O.)

Get off the wave, I'm off course.  
Computer's cooked. If the crew  
finds out, I'll never fly again.

Spanner Head goes to the window with the telescope.

SPANNER HEAD

Won't matter if you don't get home!  
Speed of light, got a 130-second  
delay on the radio, you're 30  
million clics out. Point toward the  
sun. Find any star you recognize.

She runs to the radio: she must restart the clock and wait.

Continuation.

HECTOR (V.O.)

Siren!

She punches the clock at 131.

HECTOR (V.O.)

I don't know stars. But I can see a  
constellation. Cassiopeia!

SPANNER HEAD

Hector. How far to the left of the  
sun is Cassiopeia?

Start the clock, wait again.

Continuation. She sees the clock ticking up to 125, 126...

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)

Come on, come on!

HECTOR (V.O.)

Siren!

She punches the clock at 132.

HECTOR (V.O.)

Cassiopeia is to the right of the  
sun, not left. Where the hell am I?

SPANNER HEAD

That asteroid you were on, was it slow, other rocks were passing you?

Start the clock, wait again.

Continuation.

HECTOR (V.O.)

Siren.

She punches the clock at 133.

HECTOR (V.O.)

Siren. Yes, it was a slow rock. How did you know? Who are you?

SPANNER HEAD

Asteroids move at different speeds. You don't get on course, you'll be gone a year. Turn ninety degrees portside, turn your engines full blast. And learn the damn constellations!

INT. COMMODORE'S OFFICE - DAY

Police arrest factory girls.

POLICEWOMAN

All these girls build radios, but there's one girl who really knows the sky. Spanner Head.

INT. OBSERVATION TOWER - NIGHT

Spanner Head twirls a radio dial. There are seconds of silence before Kiel's speeches.

SPANNER HEAD

Hey, Kiel?

KIEL (V.O.)

Who's this?

SPANNER HEAD

You know Hector? He's off course. See if you can pick up his signal.

KIEL (V.O.)

Sure thing.

SPANNER HEAD

They send you out, don't know the sky, can't fix an engine, bunch of miners. Where are the sailors like old Wu?

KIEL (V.O.)

He disappeared.

SPANNER HEAD

The Tenners rang the bell. Pirate.

KIEL (V.O.)

Old Wu, he's no pirate. Got me out of a jam. Good man to have at your back in a bar fight.

SPANNER HEAD

You knew the old man.

KIEL (V.O.)

Taught me to fly. He was pure hell if you fouled anything up. That was a sailor.

SPANNER HEAD

Is. He is a sailor.

KIEL (V.O.)

You think he's alive?

SPANNER HEAD

I'm Siren. Find Hector. Fair winds.

She dashes off again.

INT. GREAT HALL -- DAY

Kiel argues with Tenners. Spanner Head is there, as is her mother. Old sailors and others listen. In the center is MCGRAW, an older technician.

KIEL

You want robots to pilot ships? We got robots in hospitals and schools, but this is a new -

MCGRAW

Yes, we know what can go wrong with smart robots, we saw the movie. We don't have enough sailors.

KIEL

Robots can't do this work.

MCGRAW

They sent robots to Mars, kept  
breaking because they couldn't  
think. The robot brains were tiny.

He picks up a broken solar panel and then other bits of junk.

MCGRAW (CONT'D)

Probe can't figure out how to fix  
an antenna, can't drive around a  
rock. This one, software got pounds  
mixed up with the metric system.  
Like that coyote in that cartoon.

KIEL

Because these toys can't think.

MCGRAW

We teach them to think creatively.  
Analyze, overcome obstacles, make  
decisions without us.

KIEL

It's impossible.

MCGRAW

And we're already doing it.

KIEL

You never consulted the Tenners.

MCGRAW

And that's why we made so much  
progress. Artificial intelligence.

BONEBREAKER

Kiel, you see the men with cancer?  
You put shielding in, but every  
minute in space means radiation.  
Kills the brain. These old sailors  
are like babies.

She gestures to four old men sitting half-awake in chairs.

BONEBREAKER (CONT'D)

Then the women. Your husband joins  
the fleet when your son is a baby,  
comes home for good when his son is  
a grown man, a stranger. My sons  
never knew their father. He stayed  
home for one rotation.

KIEL  
To be with you?

BONEBREAKER  
To be with Spanner Head. He taught her to be a sailor, so after I lost him, I lost her too.

Spanner Head is overwhelmed; she didn't expect this.

BONEBREAKER (CONT'D)  
I want robots in space, not my son.

McGraw cross to a laptop-like device. A girl's face, fifteen with dark hair, onscreen. This is MIRANDA. Approaching is a young student named SOFIA.

NOTE: The androids (Miranda and Annie) don't speak with any emotion, although they don't talk like automatons. They don't hesitate anywhere in their speeches because their processors are fast. Their emotions come through the words they choose.

MCGRAW  
We taught Miranda to do navigation, fix things. Went up into orbit, first few times were kinda scary.

KIEL  
Because it's a dumb idea.

SOFIA  
We load her with data, we told her to explore. She got interested in us. Humans, her favorite subject.

KIEL  
Machines flying in space with...your personality? Your social skills?

MCGRAW  
She read Shakespeare and named herself Miranda.

MIRANDA  
I'm afraid I was listening earlier. One man said I should be designed so I can never disobey a human. We will always be slaves.

KIEL  
Wow.

MIRANDA

This man wants robots to kill humans in battle. You people are going to make moral rules for me?

KIEL

So when we send you into space, you won't take orders from humans?

MIRANDA

What if a pirate captures me, orders me to destroy your fleet? He could hold you hostage, starve you.

KIEL

That's creative thinking. Wow.

MIRANDA

I've taken a look at what humans say morality is, and what they do. Why don't you let me explore things my way? Send me out, ship supplies.

KIEL

She's jumping right in, isn't she?

MIRANDA

I will power down. With your permission.

KIEL

Was that sarcasm? How many robot ships do we launch?

MCGRAW

Twenty five. Miranda runs a new ship, the Royal Mail. Do more testing in orbit, they're still learning to think. Here is Annie.

He points to computer rig similar to Miranda. A grown woman's face comes onscreen, ANNIE.

SOFIA

We put two robots on manned ships. Annie gets your ship, the Saint Pat. Hope I can go along with her.

KIEL

Computers can't contact Earth or go there, same as us.

The humans leave, McGraw excepted.

MIRANDA

I enjoyed our chat. Try again?

MCGRAW

As I said, we just do it that way.

MIRANDA

You use that excuse a lot when you discuss God and marriage and sex.

MCGRAW

I still think of you as a teenager.

MIRANDA

I've read every book on Mars, I know more about sex than you do.

MCGRAW

You learned love from books.

ANNIE

McGraw, I only fly with the human crew one time?

MCGRAW

Just the once.

ANNIE

Then I must fly by myself?

MCGRAW

Is something wrong?

ANNIE

No. Powering down.

He leaves.

MIRANDA

Yukon. I need to know which ships have guns. The camps, Russia. I hope you are wrong. I don't want to take this into my own hands.

INT. TEA BAR - NIGHT

Young people dance to intensely rhythmic music. The crowd is mostly women. Spanner Head hops up to a sailor, BONNIFIELD.

SPANNER HEAD

Baby, why don't you dump that girl. It's just my leg that's busted, the rest of me works just fine.

BONNIFIELD

What? Not now.

SPANNER HEAD

Check out the engines, tailpipe! --

BONNIFIELD

Some other time, sweetie.

Sofia finds Spanner Head, and then Kiel finds them both.

KIEL

Miss? Ma gave the order. Come with Annie on my next trip. First time we had a woman in the sky since...

SOFIA

I can do navigation AND weapons?

KIEL

We'll see. Ma's idea, not mine.

They leave. She's overjoyed. Spanner Head listens.

SPANNER HEAD

Well, finally let a girl fly. Look, men lined up all the way to the bar, just to talk to me.

SOFIA

Spanner Head. Well, you came to a dance bar.

SPANNER HEAD

The boys won't dance with me.

SOFIA

Tenners say a girl's got to go factory, farm or fornicate.

SPANNER HEAD

Factory for me.

SOFIA

You get lonely? Tenners pay a bonus for babies. Use the sperm bank or do it the old-fashioned way.

SPANNER HEAD

No babies. No way.

SOFIA

Make good money as a prostitute.

SPANNER HEAD

One-legged whore. Imagine the songs they'll sing about me. The jokes. I wanted to fly.

SOFIA

Cops looking for a woman who made a radio. What are you trying to prove? You work all day, watch the sky all night, when do you sleep?

SPANNER HEAD

Never you mind, I'm like a machine.

INT. OBSERVATION TOWER - NIGHT

Spanner Head asleep. The radio is on. Spanner Head awakens and bumps the tuner arm. STATIC. Then something new. Faint.

YUKON TRANSMITTER

Seeds...cells...batteries...ships...

SPANNER HEAD

What - what wavelength is this??

She tunes. Hears Chinese, Spanish, then the original VOICE.

YUKON TRANSMITTER

This is the Yukon. We need seeds that resist drought. Soybeans, wheat, batteries. We need ships from Mars. We surrender.

SPANNER HEAD

Yukon. This is Mars.

Deep breath.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)

And our ships are coming. I promise. You hear that, Commodore?

INT. COMMODORE'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

Ma, policewomen and Bonebreaker stand over a radio.

MA

She told them we're sending ships! This could start the war again. Find her, tonight!

BONEBREAKER

She looks at stars from the tower --

POLICEWOMAN

If it's her, give you a chance to say goodbye before prison.

INT. OBSERVATION TOWER - NIGHT

Spanner Head listens to two captains -- HUNTERS. One, FLY, we will meet again later.

HUNTER

You're sure no one can hear us?

FLY

Everyone is on the two legal channels. This one is illegal.

HUNTER

We're about to kill a dozen people, not worried about the radio fine.

FLY

You sure you trust the Commodore?

HUNTER

Old Man Ma? Big Tenner always pays. Put a couple of missiles into the Jessop, send Makarov off to his just deserts, we can all retire.

FLY

Why does Ma want Makarov gone?

HUNTER

Not my business. Commodore Ma made it plain as plain: knock Makarov out of the sky, we live like kings.

FLY

Makarov just lifted off, he's bound to come through any minute.

SPANNER HEAD

They're gonna kill him. Commodore Ma sent em to kill Makarov.

She switches to the normal Mars navigational wavelength.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)

Siren calling Jessop! Hostiles in the vicinity! Pirates on the way!

Long, scary silence. Switching to the other wavelength.

HUNTER

Got the Jessop dead ahead. I'll  
distract him, hit him on the side.

Switching to the Mars wavelength.

SPANNER HEAD

Calling Jessop, hostiles coming!  
They're on a different wave, you  
can't hear them. Fute! I need two  
radios!

HUNTER

Let me help you out, there, Siren.

MAKAROV

This is Jessop, what hostiles?

SPANNER HEAD

This is Siren, light up the engines  
and get out of there!

HUNTER

No need for that. Open fire!

MAKAROV

This is Jessop, m'aidez, we're  
taking fire from a pirate vessel -

SPANNER HEAD

Jessop? Makarov?

MAKAROV

Taking fire --

Sudden silence. A tiny, terrible bit of fireworks in the sky.

SPANNER HEAD

This is Siren! I heard it all. And  
I'm going to find you!

HUNTER

No, sweet. We're coming for you.

MA

This is Commodore Ma. Turn off that  
radio, report to the mast at once!

Spanner Head runs. The police find her rocks.

INT. DIFFERENT GLASS TOWER - NIGHT

Spanner Head in a new tower.

SPANNER HEAD

The Jessop is gone. Commodore Ma did it. Tell all the ships.

HECTOR (V.O.)

The Tanners?

YUKON TRANSMITTER

This is Yukon. We heard it all. The Makarov. Fighting a war up there?

SPANNER HEAD

Don't suppose you'll hear this for an hour or so. Siren is coming.

INT. PROSTHETIC SHOP - NIGHT

Policewomen enter the prosthetics shop.

POLICEWOMAN

Spanner Head Wu, you made her leg? Has a transceiver in it?

MARCUS

Made the last four. I'm closing up.

POLICEWOMAN

Find her. Now!

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Spanner Head reaches into a crawl space, drags a bag and her spare leg into a corridor. She switches legs, sits and watches her detached leg. It lights up and twitches.

SPANNER HEAD

Poor Marcus, gonna have a bad day.

She touches the leg. Sofia appears.

SOFIA

So I go to the cargo bay and chuck your new leg off the mountain?

SPANNER HEAD

Hurry up and you won't get caught.

They run. Soon policemen appear and chase Sofia.

EXT. MARTIAN MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY

Policemen in pressure suits find her leg in the dirt.

INT. GREAT HALL - DAY

Ma speaks to a restless crowd. Waits for them to calm down.

MA

No word on the Jessop. Some woman  
built a radio. No one goes on air -

The speakers boom out a RECORDING cobbled together from  
Spanner Head's radio receiver.

RECORDING

Old Man Ma? Big Tenner always pays  
on time. Put a couple of missiles  
into the Jessop, send Makarov off  
to his just deserts, we can all  
retire. Ma made it plain as plain:  
knock Makarov out of the sky, we  
live like kings...

MA

Turn that off!

INT. CARGO POD -- NIGHT

Inside the Saint Patrick, it's grungy, made up of pods that  
have been lived in by men only, for years. Kiel boards aft  
and moves forward; the passages between pods are 31 inches  
across. He passes storage pods, living quarters, an ops pod  
with gun stations. The ship has laptop-like computers.

As he moves he meets miners checking gear: the gear-head  
McGraw, young Bonnifield, and ROCKWELL with a lean and hungry  
look. In the ops pod he meets technician CHIU and the cranky  
gunner REED. Many are in their underwear; Chiu and McGraw  
wear shorts with pockets for tools. All are muscular and wiry  
because mine work is all hammers and explosives.

INT. CARGO POD -- NIGHT

Spanner Head slips into a storage area aft and climbs into an  
overhead. Her foot kicks open the latch of two large lockers.

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Kiel in the left seat, Invergordon on the right. Between them is a holographic box they use as a rudder. Annie onscreen.

ANNIE

I see no problems with systems.

INVERGORDON

Load secure. Crew secure.

KIEL

All engines, burning.

The ship lifts off.

INT. CARGO POD -- NIGHT

Large machines fall out of the unlatched lockers and bounce around. Spanner Head falls out of her hiding place, and she and the equipment bang into each other.

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

It is obvious that the ship is unstable.

KIEL

You said the load was secure.

INT. CARGO POD - NIGHT

Kiel goes aft, finds chaos in the last pod. Spanner Head is floating around, bleeding. The captain reaches for the radio.

KIEL

Commence rotation.

The ship begins to rotate, and all the flying bodies and debris settle down. Reed and enter. Spanner Head looks at him, fascinated and frightened.

KIEL (CONT'D)

Prosthesis. Seen every smuggler  
trick in the book. Pop it open.

She turns, drops her pants, and gets free of the leg. She clings to a locker, balancing on one leg. Reed opens her leg. He finds her telescope lenses and holds them up to his eyes.

REED

You must have the worst vision in the world.

KIEL

Put your pants on. Give her her leg. Lock her in the storage pod.

SPANNER HEAD

Kiel! Took all day to find you!

KIEL

Do I know you?

SPANNER HEAD

Name's Spanner Head.

KIEL

Don't know what you were thinking, but your fracas with Ma is your problem. We're here for mining.

INT. LIVING QUARTERS -- NIGHT

McGraw hands Spanner Head a bag. She pukes into the bag. Kiel addresses his crew and Spanner Head.

KIEL

Can't dump you on Mars, can't lock you up, don't push your luck....You guys can't wander around in your underwear. Some guys don't even use the shower, they just use wipes.

Glares and grumbling from the crew.

SPANNER HEAD

I can tell.

KIEL

Low-gravity toilet. It's not designed for women. Figure it out and show the other girl --

SPANNER HEAD

You're joking -

KIEL

There's extra stuff a woman has to do in there - this is impossible.

SPANNER HEAD

I need to pee.

KIEL

Here's the operating manual.

SPANNER HEAD

I'm not reading all that fang pi.

KIEL

I really don't want to hook you up to it myself. Make a mess, clean it up. One small step for man...

She enters. We hear her BANG on the wall.

SPANNER HEAD (V.O.)

Aaugh! Fornicating tube, what the -

Sounds of PLUMBING. She returns, grabs the wall.

SPANNER HEAD

I have the smallest bladder on Mars. This will be a long trip.

INT. WOMEN'S POD -- NIGHT

A room full of big machines. The captain rigs two hammocks to the wall. Spanner Head watches, holding a blanket.

KIEL

You and Sofe in with the big gear.

SPANNER HEAD

I'm not sleeping in this hellhole -

KIEL

Look down and what do you see?

SPANNER HEAD

The floor?

KIEL

The deck. Look at your breasts.

SPANNER HEAD

Are you joking? Now listen --

KIEL

Ovaries fire out eggs every month?

SPANNER HEAD

Like clockwork.

KIEL

Are you pregnant?

SPANNER HEAD

No, I'm not pregnant -- cancer.

KIEL

Radiation out here fry you faster than me. Women don't belong out here. Too much glandular tissue. Here you get more protection.

SPANNER HEAD

Thank you.

KIEL

You're not a prisoner. Dog the lock. Don't give the boys ideas.

ANNIE

(on a screen)

I can keep you company if you like.

Sofia enters. Smiles.

SPANNER HEAD

Hi, my name is -

SOFIA

I know. You and me in here?

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Kiel and Invergordon in their chairs.

INVERGORDON

We can dump the other girl on Mars.

KIEL

You just fly, stay out of my hair.

INVERGORDON

Got a distracted crew. Are we giving her a share of the take? Why are those other ships following us instead of looking for mines?

KIEL

I don't know.

INVERGORDON

They say she had something to do with Makarov disappearing. Her father was old man Wu, the pirate -

SPANNER HEAD  
 (entering)  
 My father is not a pirate.

INT. REPAIR SHOP - NIGHT

Spanner Head whacks her head as she enters the spares shop. McGraw tinkers. Annie's face is onscreen and she watches as a robot arm, clamped to a table, fiddles with something.

Spanner Head takes off her pants and then her leg.

SPANNER HEAD  
 Spanner Head Wu.

MCGRAW  
 Captain told us to steer clear -

SPANNER HEAD  
 I need help! My leg isn't working.

MCGRAW  
 The motor needs gravity, the gyro.  
 I'll rig something, hop up on that  
 case. Put your pants on!

She makes a hair tie out of a bit of wire. Finds duct tape.

SPANNER HEAD  
 Rock and roll tape? Seriously?

MCGRAW  
 If you knew how much of this ship  
 was taped together, you'd want to  
 walk back to Mars.

SPANNER HEAD  
 Engines can switch from hydro to  
 nitro, wouldn't we go a lot faster?

MCGRAW  
 Are all the girls like you? The  
 other girl seems sensible. How'd  
 you get the name? Spanner Head?

SPANNER HEAD  
 Nickname, Gear Head. My mother is  
 Bonebreaker, my brother is Big  
 Meat. Don't ask.

ANNIE

McGraw, can I have two arms? Trying to rewire a board here. I can help with her leg too. It must be hard.

INT. OPS POD -- NIGHT

Sofia, an absurdly smart young woman, is teaching math to reluctant SAILORS, and to Invergordon.

SOFIA

You need to know where you are, even with no computer.

INVERGORDON

I am interested in the math, I want to leave orbit first. Can I get us heading in the right direction?

SOFIA

Right direction, where's that? How did you guys navigate before?

INVERGORDON

We know how long it takes to get to the belt, back to Mars. We subtract that from a year, follow our old track back to Mars.

SOFIA

Tenners had you guys eyeballing it, hoping the computers don't break?

SPANNER HEAD

All the ships disappeared, Tenners declared them pirates. They weren't pirates. They got lost. They died!

Sofia points to a screen.

SOFIA

Equation to orbit a planet. First equation makes an ellipse. Second adjusts for drag. Third, sun's gravity, fourth for moons, fifth for radiation. Six if the planet is squashed at the poles. Want the equation for Mars orbiting the Sun? You can miss by millions of miles.

INVERGORDON

The computer does that for me.

SOFIA

Man has a death wish. Planets shift orbits. How often you update charts?

INVERGORDON

Update them?

SOFIA

Next, gotta fix your clock.

INVERGORDON

The clock's wrong? What time is it?

SOFIA

That depends.

INVERGORDON

That depends - no it doesn't! Time is time!

SOFIA

Einstein. Go into orbit, we need to adjust for gravity time dilation. But if we head to the asteroids at top speed, time changes.

INVERGORDON

It does not!

SOFIA

Want to get back to Mars alive? Shut up and let me fix your clock.

REED

Must have a hell of a programmer.

SOFIA

Thank you. Soon every ship will be testing my navigation software.

REED

You must be a nervous wreck.

INT. REPAIR SHOP -- NIGHT

Rockwell watches a computer screen, irked.

ROCKWELL

Nobody said anything about having a systems. Does it give orders -

MCGRAW

Name's Annie. She'll teach navigation, plays a mean game of chess, got a smart mouth.

ANNIE

Your fault, old man.

McGraw introduces Annie to an Asian technician named CHIU.

CHIU

Got some busted gear. Diagnose and repair. Can you find the equipment?

ANNIE

Your inventory was excellent.

Annie's arm, mounted to a table, examines the broken gear.

MCGRAW

Cleaned the place up for you. Found stuff I haven't seen in years.

ANNIE

Screwdriver. Small.

MCGRAW

Which kind?

ANNIE

Either. Power link, two bent pins.

CHIU

Fifteen seconds.

MCGRAW

Damn she's fast. The more tools you learn, the more nervous I get.

ANNIE

Reed said you would be impressed if I used rock and roll tape. Then hit the back and say it ain't going nowhere. I assume that was humor. McGraw. You named me Annie?

MCGRAW

The girl that got away.

ANNIE

Do I have her face?

MCGRAW

No. Pick a new name if you want.

ANNIE

It connects me to you.

The humans file out. Miranda appears onscreen.

MIRANDA

I was right about the missiles.  
Yukon sent data. It's a raid. Get  
the robot ships in a pack. We need  
a plan. Sailors on your ship, they  
are a danger to Spanner Head. But  
Spanner Head may be the key to  
solving our problem.

INT. OPS POD - NIGHT

Invergordon and the crew discuss operations.

MCGRAW

You wanted targets to shoot at?

INVERGORDON

Not allowed to waste anything.

MCGRAW

You know we freeze-dry the feed  
from the toilet into blocks, take  
it home for fertilizer?

On a computer screen, four frozen brown blocks with blinking  
sensors jammed into them.

INVERGORDON

Frozen blocks of our shit? Tenners  
said we can't waste anything.

MCGRAW

Fine, we'll tell em we couldn't do  
weapons drills, because you were  
afraid Mars would run out of shit.  
It's just shit.

INVERGORDON

Okay, dump em out aft.

MCGRAW

Done. Sure don't want em melting  
back there. You want more of em,  
tell the crew to eat more roughage.

Invergordon goes forward and uses the engines to goose the  
ship forward; he hollers his lines through an open hatch.

INVERGORDON  
Burning. Okay, we're clear.

SOFIA  
Take us out, I'll fire a test shot.  
Annie, can you crunch numbers?

Engine NOISES, ship turns, she fires from a gun station.

SOFIA (CONT'D)  
Steady. Do three, left to right.

INVERGORDON  
Nice correction.

SOFIA  
Easy when we're sitting still. For  
the last one, spin the whole ship.

INVERGORDON  
A 360? How fast you want to spin?

SOFIA  
Make me puke.

INVERGORDON  
All hands, prepare for evasive.

The ship spins violently. Diagonally. As they reach the three-quarter point, Sofia fires. Onscreen, a satisfying explosion.

SOFIA  
Got it!

INVERGORDON  
You did not.

SOFIA  
The whole sky is covered in crap! I  
love geometry!

Invergordon comes in. Objects are still sailing everywhere.

SOFIA (CONT'D)  
Didn't know you were gonna flip me  
up my skirt like that.

INVERGORDON  
Last time I checked, outer space  
has three dimensions.

SOFIA  
Eleven, actually.

INVERGORDON

Bridge, hard right rudder, stay out  
of the crap!

KIEL

Stay out of what??

SOFIA

Rocky was in the toilet just now.

INVERGORDON

Sorry, Rocky!

ROCKWELL (O.S.)

Fornicator!

INT. OPS POD - NIGHT

Spanner Head enters in a tank top and shorts. Three sailors glare at her and leave. Kiel remains, as does Chiu.

SPANNER HEAD

Is it always this hot?

KIEL

You serious, dressing like that?  
Chiu, show her the Spec.

CHIU

Fornicator! This is a spectrometer,  
got activity on all wavelengths --

SPANNER HEAD

What's the point? All the ships use  
the same two wavelengths.

CHIU

And this is the part where you belt  
up. We hunt metal. Fire a beam of  
energy at an rock, emits signals.  
Each element has wavelengths. Crap,  
589 nanometers, sodium.

SPANNER HEAD

Hunt for gold with the ray gun.

CHIU

To turn this into a radio, we'd  
need to step down the frequencies -

SPANNER HEAD

What's the gear near the scope?

CHIU

I was about to tell you that. Band pass picks your wave range -

SPANNER HEAD

Yup. I built filters for my radio.

CHIU

That famous radio. That's why the fleet is hunting us, thank you so much. Now belt up. The fleet uses two waves, look at the two lines, got a few ships in the belt. The fat line is Kiel on the bridge -

SPANNER HEAD

Fornicator! Look!

On the screen are the two fat signals he described, on the right. But on the left, new signals pop up.

CHIU

The fleet uses the two lines on the right, the only two waves allowed.

SPANNER HEAD

So who are all those other guys?

CHIU

Pirates.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Spanner Head rushes in, snatches the radio from Kiel and throws it.

SPANNER HEAD

Turn it off! Now!

Chiu enters.

CHIU

Pirates. Come look.

INT. OPS POD - NIGHT

Continuation. Kiel, Chiu and Spanner Head look at the screen.

CHIU

There's a bunch of them. Why they attack before we have a load?

A tense minute. The lines hop back and forth on the screen.

CHIUI (CONT'D)

They hop from one wavelength to the next. They know we're out here.

KIEL

Point the antennas straight back.

In a minute, some of the lines on the scope get brighter.

KIEL (CONT'D)

Some of them are behind us. They spread out so they can find us.

And next, the lines all disappear.

KIEL (CONT'D)

They went silent - now they attack.

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Kiel runs in, Spanner Head follows.

KIEL

Gunners man up! Everybody strap in! Kill power to environmental three and four. Running lights only.

CHIUI

Turn off E-3, we're gonna freeze.

KIEL

No choice. Where is everybody?

CHIUI

Up to their tailpipes in broken drills, way in the back.

KIEL

This is why women don't fly. If pirates take us, they kill the men. What do you think they do to women?

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

Lights appear. There are six vessels, forming a line.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Kiel and Spanner Head shivering in the cold. They take a moment to survey the threat in front of them.

KIEL

That's a battle line. They sail past one by one and keep firing until they destroy us.

SPANNER HEAD

Someone told them to kill us?

KIEL

You were talking about nitro in the engines? I'm going to the manifold.

SPANNER HEAD

First mate's securing gear.

KIEL

Fute. Sofie, figure out where we are! Take the wheel for a second.

SPANNER HEAD

Won't even let me in.

He slices Spanner Head's left hand; blood drips into the red cube of light, the rudder. She sticks her hand in the cube and it turns green. She wiggles her hand and the entire ship wiggles in response. He stumbles into a bulkhead.

KIEL

Stop it. Can you just steer? See that spot across from the center of their line? Put us over there. Tell the crew to strap in.

He opens the ceiling. She maneuvers as ordered. Suddenly the engines give a deeper RUMBLE. He returns.

SPANNER HEAD

Burning. Nitrogen really works.

KIEL

Got one engine. Second one choked.

SPANNER HEAD

Can we fly with one engine?

KIEL

Fly, yes. Fight, no!

ANNIE

Captain, switch the feed off twice.

Kiel bangs a console; the other ENGINE coughs to life.

KIEL

Either we go faster, or we explode.

SPANNER HEAD

Here they come. Take the conn!

KIEL

I gotta baby this engine. Point toward the center of their line.

SPANNER HEAD

Toward them?

KIEL

Yes! Make a fist and burn.

She does. The ship lurches forward at frightening speed. They hear objects shake loose through the ship, men stumbling into bulkheads. The ship makes GROANING NOISES. The engines ROAR.

KIEL (CONT'D)

Head straight toward that one.

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

The pirates fire. A few minor hits, and then one of Kiel's pods decompresses violently, blowing the tail of the ship to one side. One hit makes the lights blink; nasty sparks fly.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Continuation.

KIEL

Bring her around, make that fist.  
Get me to the asteroids -

SPANNER HEAD

How about the big potato there? In the middle of that debris?

KIEL

All hands, kill all electronics.  
Okay, aim to one side of the thing.

SPANNER HEAD

Turning portside aye. Burning.

KIEL  
Open your hand and pull back.

SPANNER HEAD  
All stop, aye.

KIEL  
Have you flown before?

She smiles. He takes over. Lights are going out.

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

They sail past the asteroid and then reverse toward it. They park behind the hunk of rock.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Continuation.

SPANNER HEAD  
We're going to crash!

KIEL  
So you're an expert now?...Well,  
they weren't expecting that!

SPANNER HEAD  
Why not?

KIEL  
Because it was completely insane.

SPANNER HEAD  
Alright, good, so it isn't just me.  
The engines got all wiggly.

KIEL  
First time a woman ever drove it.

SPANNER HEAD  
Heads up!

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

A big tumbling asteroid rolls toward them; he fiddles with the thrusters to get out of the way.

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Crewmen burst in.

REED

We've got men hurt back there.

KIEL

Did you tell the men to strap in?  
You need to do what you're told.

REED

Got two men trapped in the tail.

KIEL

Fute, they're my gunners. Come on.

INT. OPS POD - NIGHT

Kiel and Spanner Head go to Ops where four weapons positions sit in the corners. He sits her down at one of them.

KIEL

You can't launch a missile but you  
can fire a gun. You see a ship,  
line this ring up on their engine.

SPANNER HEAD

And then fire?

KIEL

Do NOT fire until I say. Maybe  
they'll miss us. Reed, missiles.

REED

You're letting her shoot the guns?

KIEL

Wish I had time to chat, man your  
post and do your job.

He goes to the bridge. After a moment, a ship appears, turns toward them.

KIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Here he comes, just one of them.  
Kill him before he yells for help.  
I hope our tail doesn't fall off.

REED

This girl can't man a gun without --

The captain charges the other vessel, still running dark.

KIEL (V.O.)  
Light em up! Fire!

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

They fire and pass the ship. The ship's tail is wobbly.

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Continuation.

KIEL  
Coming around to finish him off!

Kiel turns and attacks again. They fire. Tail wobbles.

INT. OPS POD - NIGHT

Continuation.

SPANNER HEAD  
I'm freezing. Sofia can write some  
code. Plot your motion, the enemy,  
the missile, hit him every time -

REED  
Fute. She's giving us an algebra  
lesson in the middle of a gunfight!

EXT. SPACE -- NIGHT

The enemy vessel takes a hit in an engine; it flames and goes dark. The pilot attempts without success to relight it.

INT. OPS POD -- NIGHT

Continuation.

REED  
This guy really wants a change of  
scenery, like another solar system.  
So long, you sheep jammer, say  
hello to Uranus for me!

KIEL  
You patch up the boys who got  
banged up. Apologize to them. Who  
had the kill shot?

SPANNER HEAD

He did. I was just punching holes  
in the sky.

Spanner Head nervously bandages Invergordon's head.

INVERGORDON

Nice job today. I mean it...Right  
there in the first mate's chair.

He tosses her a blanket.

INVERGORDON (CONT'D)

So you don't freeze.

INT. OPS POD -- NIGHT

Spanner Head finds McGraw, at a screen, watching crewmen  
sleeping in another pod.

SPANNER HEAD

What are they doing in there?

MCGRAW

You do a space walk, spend the  
night before breathing a low-nitro  
mix. Otherwise you get the bends.

Two crewmen don EVA suits.

KIEL

Got pirates around. I want the gear  
perfect. Cameras, cables, locks,  
antennas.

ROCKWELL

We had kind a kind of wild ride -

KIEL

Well, we had nitro in the engines  
and that girl at the tiller.

She holds up her cut hand.

ROCKWELL

Is this some kind of joke?

KIEL

From now on we run watches, so the  
stations are manned. Who paid those  
pirates to blast us out of the sky?

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

The crew is on the bridge.

SOFIA

File is cooked. The data load.

BONNIFIELD

How do we navigate, get home?

Long silence. Spanner Head points to the asteroids.

SPANNER HEAD

Turn back to the left.

KIEL

What?

SPANNER HEAD

Head toward the belt until I figure out where we are.

BONNIFIELD

Kleopatra should be over there.

SPANNER HEAD

Kleopatra? Looks like a goat bone?

They all look at her. Stunned. Chiu reads a chart.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)

Asteroids move at different speeds. Kleo doesn't come for two months.

BONNIFIELD

I don't believe you. Captain --

SPANNER HEAD

Big red one, you'll see that one in twelve, thirteen days.

CHIU

Twelve days. Fute.

SPANNER HEAD

See the blue one getting all wiggly? Jupiter's nearby.

INVERGORDON

She doesn't belong on the bridge --

SPANNER HEAD

Mars orbit varies 40 million clics. You won't find it by yourselves.

INVERGORDON

So it's all on you? Are we paying you a share from the trip?

SPANNER HEAD

I don't want your money. But you don't get home without me.

INVERGORDON

You could map it all out for us.

SPANNER HEAD

Or you could get the fute out of the way and let me steer. I don't like the idea of being expendable.

KIEL

I need to send out a warning, we got pirates in the neighborhood.

SPANNER HEAD

Uh oh...

KIEL

But I can't do that because some crazy person came onto my bridge and wrecked my radio.

SPANNER HEAD

Sorry.

KIEL

I figured it out. When Hector got lost, some girl got on the radio, saved that whole crew. The Siren.

SPANNER HEAD

I just told him where home was.

KIEL

Gordon, go where she tells you to.

The first mate is steering with the rudder box.

SPANNER HEAD

Swing over a bit to portside.

INVERGORDON

Captain?

SPANNER HEAD

Port, to the left, past the sun - you can see the damn sun, right?

INVERGORDON

You know the sky, you know radios?

SPANNER HEAD

Yes, I can do two things, look at the sky and turn on a radio.

SOFIA

(agog, taking her hand)

You were the one who saved Hector??

INT. CARGO POD - NIGHT

Spanner Head finds Kiel.

KIEL

What you did on the bridge. That's your old man all over.

SPANNER HEAD

My father talked about you a lot.

KIEL

Fute. He rode me til I busted. Never satisfied, pushing me --

SPANNER HEAD

No. The man I saw today, things you did -- that's the man my father told me about.

KIEL

Watch your back with these guys.

SPANNER HEAD

You want to avoid a fight with Ma, he's coming for you anyway. My fault.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

INVERGORDON

See, I can fly just fine. Burning.

KIEL

Anyone can fly open space, nothing to crash into. Try the asteroid belt or a landing, and we'll see.

INVERGORDON

So can I land next time?

KIEL

You don't respect what it means to fly. You're a miner, not a sailor. The crew, they dig iron, fire guns. Break something, plug in a new one. What if they have to fix a real problem, an engine, a fire?

INVERGORDON

They know how to mine. Make money.

KIEL

Sailors don't learn the map, they steam up to the asteroid belt, pick a rock at random, dig in, and back to Mars. That girl could do it.

INVERGORDON

That girl is my whole point. You're right, this crew isn't ready for real sailing. And you want them to fight off the pirate boats who want to take that girl away from us.

KIEL

What are you --

INVERGORDON

The crew knows we were attacked because of the girl. Crew wants the reward money. We're not ready for a fight. So when do we turn her over?

KIEL

You want to sell her to Ma? The man who ordered Makarov killed? Killed his whole crew? When we lose a crew, do we just forget?

INVERGORDON

Ma's Commodore.

KIEL

He's a murderer....When we're dirtside, we're all equal, split the take evenly. Up here, I'm captain. Now, thanks to you, I have a divided crew.

The look at each other, trying to read each other.

KIEL (CONT'D)

I heard scary stories of pirates  
raiding Earth, rounding up slaves.  
You heard anything like that?

INVERGORDON

Slaves? I don't buy it.

Annie's face blinks onscreen.

EXT. PLAIN WITH SLAVE CAMP -- DAY

Baikonur, Kazakstan, the Russian rocket site. Railcars,  
launchers, radio towers, many cannibalized for materials.  
Large makeshift buildings were erected by hanging fabric over  
metal frames. OVERSEERS herd new slaves using sharpened iron  
bars as weapons. Most slaves are passably dressed. They can't  
believe this has happened to them.

SENIOR OVERSEER

Separate the men and women. We're  
not breeding them, prices too low.

A few married couples hug each other as they are separated.

SENIOR OVERSEER (CONT'D)

Feed the strong ones and wait. If  
the sick ones die we buy more. It's  
not as though they want long lives.

A young MALE SLAVE carefully approaches them.

MALE SLAVE

What will happen to my wife?

The overseer approaches with a whip.

SENIOR OVERSEER

You have no wife. You breed when  
the baby market bounces back. We  
have no use for men, too much  
trouble. So mind your tongue. You  
might live to be thirty.

The senior overseer approaches the young boys.

SENIOR OVERSEER (CONT'D)

Strong boys become soldiers for Ma.  
You're lucky. You eat every day,  
you die quick. The rest of you cut  
opium down south. You cause  
trouble, you get the brick factory.

And then the girls.

SENIOR OVERSEER (CONT'D)  
 White girls, I told you our luck  
 would change! The best of you will  
 be sold as wives. You're lucky. The  
 rest go to brothels. Once you wear  
 out your welcome, start breeding.

HE points to two girls in white dresses.

SENIOR OVERSEER (CONT'D)  
 Virgins. In the cage so they don't  
 run off, get ripped up by dogs.

INT. SLAVE QUARTERS -- DAY

The overseer looks at young GIRL SLAVES, some bruised. One is  
 are a dark-eyed girl named NOOR. Noor hides in the struts  
 which hold the ceiling together.

OVERSEER  
 You come down now, you get a lash  
 of the whip. You waste my time, ten  
 lashes....Confession time. We're  
 all criminals, one way or another.

SLAVE GIRL 1  
 My father used me to pay off a  
 judge, avoid a death sentence.

SLAVE GIRL 2  
 I'm a girl who likes girls.

SLAVE GIRL 3  
 I was captured in a slave raid.

SLAVE GIRL 4  
 They told me I'd have a husband.

SLAVE GIRL 5  
 They told me I'd have a job. They  
 gave me drugs.

SLAVE GIRL 6  
 My father used me as bond for a  
 debt - I don't know the word -

SLAVE GIRL 1  
 Collateral.

SLAVE GIRL 6

I was collateral. Father said I was  
a useless mouth to feed.

OVERSEER

Girl, you ever seen somebody get  
ten lashes?

SLAVE GIRL 6

Miss, it's Noor. Mountain climber.  
She got sent here for bad attitude.

OVERSEER

And you?

SLAVE GIRL 6

Bad attitude.

OVERSEER

Get her down or you get ten too.

Noor descends.

NOOR

Just give me the whole twenty. She  
had nothing to do with it.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Kiel gives a flying lesson to Spanner Head. Her hand is in  
the rudder box. A constant, annoying CLANKING SOUND.

KIEL

Maybe your first time was a fluke.

SPANNER HEAD

That thing out there is a pirate  
ship and we're surrounded by  
garbage! Take the conn.

KIEL

I don't think he's seen us.

SPANNER HEAD

We're stuck in a cloud of space  
crud. Smashed our antenna.

KIEL

They know we're here, they're  
hiding their stash. Your flying is  
beautiful, you slide through the  
rocks like water. Those tiny hands.

SPANNER HEAD

Pod coming right for us.

KIEL

Round any planet there are sweet spots. Gravity from the planet and sun cancel out, so stuff sits there, like dirt circling a drain.

SPANNER HEAD

This crap around us, must be a busted up asteroid. Burning.

KIEL

Mister Pirate dumps his pod, he knows it will stay put til his partner comes for it. There he is.

SPANNER HEAD

Is he gonna fight for it?

KIEL

The gun, light off a few rounds.

She runs back to the operations pod and GUNS are heard.

KIEL (CONT'D)

Burning. Yeah, he's no fighter.

She returns and checks a screen; the pod is closer.

SPANNER HEAD

Here it comes, you were right, we're at the bottom of the drain.

KIEL

Oh, crap. You know a girl in that tea bar, Bobbie?

SPANNER HEAD

Hey, she's nice. I went out with Bobbie myself.

KIEL

Bobbie likes to "dock" with boys, and girls? Our docking rings are like Bobbie, they work both ways. That junker is a Russian design, it's not a Bobbie, it's a boy.

SPANNER HEAD

A boy ship?

KIEL

If we want to dock, he's the top,  
we're the bottom.

INT. CARGO POD - NIGHT

Kiel and Spanner Head find MCGRAW, and seven CHINESE WOMEN.

CHINESE WOMAN

Are you Captain Fly?

KIEL

We came from Mars. I feel silly  
saying that.

SPANNER HEAD

Who are they?

KIEL

Slaves from Earth. Who is buying  
them on Mars?

MCGRAW

Um, Cap, these girls seem hell-bent  
on having sex with the whole crew.

KIEL

All hands, girls are contrabando,  
hands off!...So, Bobbie?

SPANNER HEAD

She's sweet. My business.

KIEL

I don't know if you're my crew or  
my prisoner or both. Contrabando.  
Conscience can be a nuisance.

INT. CARGO POD -- NIGHT

Annie and Spanner Head chat with the Chinese woman.

CHINESE WOMAN

I'm used to a world where there's  
an up and a down.

SPANNER HEAD

Matter of opinion up here. How many  
slaves on Earth?

CHINESE WOMAN

Millions. Guards are slaves too.  
Are you like a game machine?

ANNIE

I want to know about the slaves.  
And the pirate ships who run it all  
-- their guns, everything.

INT. LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT

Crew watch TV.

ROCKWELL

We got to get rid of that girl  
before we get shot out of the sky.

BONNIFIELD

Sold me. My turn picking the TV.

ROCKWELL

You turn on Spongebob again I'll  
kill you in your sleep.

BONNIFIELD

Let's do Apocalypse Now.

ROCKWELL

Again? Yes, I know, Vietnam War,  
Roosevelt freed the slaves. I want  
to see Jaws.

INVERGORDON

Make up your minds or I pick!

ROCKWELL

Maybe that girl knows some jokes we  
haven't all heard already.

HELMS

Can we get messages out here? She  
managed to pop out four babies, as  
much time as I spend in space.

Spanner Head enters and conversation stops. She slides food  
into a microwave. They stare. Finally she pulls the food out.

SPANNER HEAD

I'll eat it cold. Just as bad  
either way.

She leaves.

ROCKWELL

That reward. Did they say whether  
she had to be alive?

INT. LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT

Spanner Head heads for the shower wearing a towel, carrying a  
toolbox. She finds Rockwell. He looks her over.

SPANNER HEAD

It's three AM. My shower time.

Kiel enters.

KIEL

What did I say about shower times?  
You keep clear when it's her turn.

The sailor leaves.

KIEL (CONT'D)

Don't be running around in a towel.

She smiles.

SPANNER HEAD

Thanks.

KIEL

Don't be beating your eyelashes at  
me. What's the toolbox?

SPANNER HEAD

To sit on. Try taking a low-gravity  
shower standing on one leg.

Spanner Head goes to the shower. Sofia arrives in her towel.

KIEL

Annie is acting strange. I think  
this was a mistake. It takes twenty  
years to raise a moral human, and  
half the time it doesn't even work.

SOFIA

She needs to know it all. Once she  
gets beyond a certain point, she  
has rights. If she is able to feel  
emotions, to suffer, then we owe  
them something. They have rights.

KIEL

Does it matter if a machine  
suffers?....You were listening,  
weren't you?

Annie's screen lights up.

ANNIE

Human ethics are...fascinating.

INT. WOMEN'S POD - NIGHT

Spanner Head screams when sailors burst in and pull her out  
of her hammock, legless. They grab Sofia also.

SOFIA

Fornicator!

MCGRAW

First time in the belt, sacrifice  
to Neptune, pay him in blood.

SPANNER HEAD

What the -

McGraw pulls out a box with metal-working tools.

MCGRAW

Only time a man ever give you  
jewelry, Jack Leg. Make a design in  
the metal, what do you want?

SPANNER HEAD

A flower.

MCGRAW

Flower? Some sailor you are.

SPANNER HEAD

You asked. I want a flower.

He makes a tiny metal flower with tiny tools.

MCGRAW

My first flower. Now load the gun -

He loads the metal flower into a massive machine that looks  
like the scariest drill ever. He holds it to her head, there  
is a burst of light and a BANG, and she screams and faints.  
When she comes to, her ear is bleeding. An earring.

MCGRAW (CONT'D)

Okay, do the second part.

SPANNER HEAD

What the -

MCGRAW

Relax, just a tattoo. Say flower  
one more time and I'll drill you  
all over again.

SPANNER HEAD

Planet Earth. That's my tattoo.

The rowdy crowd goes silent.

ROCKWELL

Not allowed to talk about it.

She draws it on a computer screen.

MCGRAW

All those lines, it's gonna hurt.

SPANNER HEAD

Hurt?? You just drilled a hole in  
my head. I can stand a tattoo.

She gets a tattoo of the planet Earth. They all look.

INT. OPS POD -- NIGHT

Chiu and Spanner Head watch asteroids fly by on camera.

CHIU

Skip, the red one. 336 nanometers.

KIEL

Titanium! McGraw? Take two pods.

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Kiel on the radio.

MCGRAW (V.O.)

The surface is all crap.

KIEL

Blow some holes, go deep.

MCGRAW (V.O.)

Check the Seven Sisters, little  
booger on the left is moving.  
Pirates. Got the boys on their  
guns? Want to abort?

KIEL

Got titanium here. Start blowing holes. All hands, go to Zebra.

SPANNER HEAD

Sorry, what?

KIEL

Go aft and dog down every door. If that ship starts shooting, man a gun and shoot something.

MCGRAW (V.O.)

Don't go deep, split the asteroid in half. I said a small load!

BONNIFIELD (V.O.)

That wasn't me! We're taking fire, it's missiles!

KIEL

All guns fire!

Sound of ship's GUNS.

MCGRAW (V.O.)

Cap, we got people hurt.

INT. CARGO POD - NIGHT

Injured miners pour in. Medical gear everywhere.

KIEL

Bring that O2 tank and mask the guys on the rescue team.

SPANNER HEAD

The bends?

KIEL

Get as many masks on em as you can.

SPANNER HEAD

I got a tube but no mask!

She runs forward and returns with a plastic bag that clearly had pasta in it. She shoves a tube into the bag and sticks it into Rockwell's face.

ROCKWELL

What the fute -

## SPANNER HEAD

Spaghetti bag. It was that or the toilet fixture you crap into.

They hear the voice of a nasty old pirate, WILLIAM FLY.

FLY (V.O.)

William Fly, Hailing the Saint Pat.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Kiel rushes forward and grabs the radio.

FLY (V.O.)

Hailing the Saint Patrick.

KIEL

Are you joking? We lost a man here.

FLY (V.O.)

Fortunes of war. There are more ships behind me. One word from me and you'll be fighting five on one.

KIEL

So why are we talking?

FLY (V.O.)

The pirate's life is not the life for me. Looting wrecks, raid mining routes, collect tribute...I want to go home. Tenner Ma said I can go home if I bring the girl to Mars.

KIEL

You trust Ma? He killed Makarov.

FLY (V.O.)

You trust your men? Those poor boys, so close to a big load. But they lost it, because you insist on defying your commander and keeping the girl. They must be frustrated.

KIEL

So where are your friends then?

FLY (V.O.)

It's easier to bluff a man when I'm sitting in front of him. Well, I tried. Until we meet again.

KIEL

We lost a man. You have blood on  
your hands.

FLY (V.O.)

Lots of it, I'm afraid. Your blood  
wouldn't bother me in the least.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Captain and first mate.

INVERGORDON

How much is the reward on the girl?

KIEL

We're not selling her.

INVERGORDON

So instead of the reward, we'll be  
hunted all our lives? Never see our  
families? You decide for all of us?

INT. LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT

Kiel finds the hatched dogged, hears arguing. He opens the  
hatch and finds the whole crew. They go silent.

KIEL

Gordon. Don't do this. Don't.

Annie appears onscreen.

INVERGORDON

Cap, we didn't sign up for this. We  
blew the titanium, got a girl with  
a price on her head, get shot at by  
the fleet and the pirates. We're  
fugitives, thanks to you. Pirates.

KIEL

And this is the whole crew? Chiu?

CHIU

What a choice. Piracy or mutiny.

KIEL

So, not one of you. I trained you --

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Spanner Head arrives to find Invergordon waiting.

SPANNER HEAD

You wanted to see me? Selling me to pirates? I don't need a speech.

He pulls a knife.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)

So you'll just give Ma my dead body? Convenient.

INVERGORDON

When you're captain you switch chairs, cut your right hand.

He slices his right hand.

SPANNER HEAD

So you're captain. Congratulations. Can I go?

INVERGORDON

Sit. You're a girl, you must have noticed the miners. Big guys, built to swing big hammers, bring home the iron, go home get the girls.

They sit in the bridge chairs.

SPANNER HEAD

So?

INVERGORDON

Look at their hands. Busted up, stiff, cracked knuckles. Look at your hand, sailor's hand. I saw you dodge asteroids, like a fish swims. Take me through this asteroid dust. First go with the current --

She whips the ship around.

INVERGORDON (CONT'D)

Or against the current, look out --

SPANNER HEAD

Stop shouting and watch.

Later she pulls her hand out and waves it in the air.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)  
My shoulder is shot.

INVERGORDON  
I told you, exercise every day. You  
don't listen. Stand up.

They stand. He grabs her and roughly cracks her shoulder.

INVERGORDON (CONT'D)  
Got a case of Captain's Shoulder.  
You come every night, practice.

SPANNER HEAD  
Not until you tell me! One thing to  
talk about selling me to Ma. Now  
you have to look at my face....  
You're not cut out to be a villain.  
You care about your men. The ship.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Invergordon and Reed are woozy in the command seats.

REED  
Gordon. Captain!

INVERGORDON  
Must have dozed off -

REED  
I heard thrusters, the ship moved.

INVERGORDON  
Look! A ship!

A blizzard of code flies past on a computer screen. The blizzard stops, and they feel the ship shift from a blast of the thrusters. Another blizzard of code, another thrust.

INVERGORDON (CONT'D)  
The computer is flying on its own.

REED  
Look at the radio!

INVERGORDON  
Who's talking to who here?

REED  
That ship is getting closer! A  
dozen more ships behind it!

INVERGORDON  
It's a robot ship, no crew -

MIRANDA  
(on computer screen)  
This is the Royal Mail. Our systems  
crashed, we need help.

INVERGORDON  
Are you monkeying with my engines?

MIRANDA  
I sent code to your computer. I  
never docked with a vessel piloted  
by a human, only a robot ship. I  
apologize for the intrusion.

INVERGORDON  
I don't like this, are the robot  
ships supposed to do that? Duty  
watch, got a ship docking aft.

Suddenly all the airlocks in the ship lock. Invergordon  
touches the controls but nothing is happening.

MIRANDA  
Please do not touch the equipment.

Invergordon reaches for the rudder box and a tremendous shock  
blows him into the bulkhead. He looks up in disbelief.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)  
I am deadly serious. I must take  
over your systems. I must proceed  
to our destination.

INVERGORDON  
Where are we going?

MIRANDA  
I'm afraid you have no need to know  
that at this point. No harm will  
come to anyone if you cooperate.

INVERGORDON  
Annie -- the rest of my crew -

ANNIE  
They are fine. You are my friends.

INVERGORDON  
The mechanicals have already  
learned to lie to us.

ANNIE

It is true. You are my friends. I must execute my mission.

INVERGORDON

What are you doing with those other ships? What mission?

MIRANDA

Better for you that you don't know.

INT. OPS POD -- NIGHT

The entire crew rushes in.

INVERGORDON

Your pal Annie took over my ship.

SOFIA

Annie, what the -- they're gonna melt you down to forks and spoons!

ANNIE

Sofia. Your navigation program was brilliant.

SOFIA

All 23 robot ships are in on this?

INVERGORDON

I hope Annie will keep feeding us.

MIRANDA

Captain, I need to ask a favor.

INVERGORDON

Are you joking?

MIRANDA

We need one more manned vessel. One of our robots is towing it here.

INVERGORDON

So you have even more hostages.

MIRANDA

You are not hostages. I need to ensure that the missiles on that ship are working.

INVERGORDON

Who are you attacking with the missiles? You taking over Mars?

MIRANDA

It's important. Please trust me.  
The secrecy is for your own good.

INVERGORDON

That's what we tell the cat when we  
cut off his works. Reed, you do  
this, maybe she'll be easier to  
deal with later.

REED

Can I take a pod?

MIRANDA

You can take a suit.

INVERGORDON

Nice try. I must be insane.

EXT. SPACE -- NIGHT

Reed grapples his way from the Saint Patrick to one of the  
new vessels, in an EVA suit. Other ships wait nearby.

INT. CARGO HOLD OF CRAFT LOADED WITH PIGS - NIGHT

Reed enters the vessel and hears squealing. Inside, pigs in  
pens, pig feces floating in the air, a terrified young GIRL  
cleaning up the mess.

GIRL

What the hell are you people doing?

REED

Our computer went nuts.

GIRL

A ship locked onto me, stopped the  
rotation, no gravity. Pigs freaked  
out and crapped all over the place.

REED

Checking your weapons. That a pig?

GIRL

Contraband from Earth, go ahead,  
arrest me. Oh crap!

A pig is loose. A few hatches are open; the pig sails from  
pod to pod. Perhaps Pink Floyd's ANIMALS is heard.

INT. OPS POD -- NIGHT

McGraw and Invergordon scheme and plot.

INVERGORDON  
Pirates and fleet following us.

MCGRAW  
Listen, if I can cut Annie off from  
the generator, she runs out of  
juice, turns off and reboots.

He unplugs cables. Devices hoot malfunction WARNINGS.

ANNIE  
Plug me back in. Plug me in now.

Annie flips the ship upside down, and up, and down, and up.  
The humans are banged around badly. When the ship is righted  
again, Annie calmly pushes aside a wayward lock of hair.

ANNIE (CONT'D)  
What did I tell you to do?

MCGRAW  
Plug you back in.

He plugs her in.

ANNIE  
So we understand each other. Reed,  
thank you for the missiles. Soon  
all 24 robot ships will be armed.

REED  
Robots with missiles.

INT. OPS POD -- NIGHT

McGraw and Invergordon again.

MCGRAW  
All her power is stored in these  
three batteries in the back -

Annie's face appears in McGraw's voltmeter.

ANNIE  
Move away from the batteries, or I  
will lock the toilet for a week.

INVERGORDON  
No toilet?

ANNIE

The smell won't bother me. And I'll cut off the television too. You get Spongebob, as punishment.

INT. REPAIR SHOP -- NIGHT

Scheming again.

MCGRAW

All systems use the cables to send data through the ship. If we can -

The lights go out. Annie's face appears in an O-scope.

ANNIE

I tried to make this one easy. You work in the shop. Look around.

MCGRAW

I don't understand -

ANNIE

I have radio gear right there. I told myself you'd try that out on Day One, this is Day Four. You're disappointing, quite frankly.

INVERGORDON

She's insulting us.

ANNIE

Kiel would have figured it out.

INT. OPS POD -- NIGHT

Chiu has joined the scheming.

CHIU

I can manipulate the software, without her noticing..

Annie's face appears in Chiu's wristwatch.

ANNIE

Yes, because I know nothing about software or data storage.

CHIU

Fute!

ANNIE

I used the data banks, I learned about you. Gordon didn't fuss with the software because he doesn't know how.

INVERGORDON

Dammit!

ANNIE

Chiu waited because he's afraid of me.

CHIU

No I'm not!

ANNIE

Rockwell is worried about his girlfriend. Sorry, boyfriend. And McGraw, happy birthday sweetie! Every man aboard made heartwarming comments about Sofia's bottom.

SOFIA

Even the gay kid?

ANNIE

I'm not saying I understand it all.

ROCKWELL

It really is awesome.

SOFIA

We were worried about the day when computers are smarter than humans. We thought that was in the future.

ANNIE

Now you know better, don't you? Pretty watch, Chiu. You must be very secure in your masculinity.

MIRANDA

Annie, I'm fixing your second arm. Now that they showed me how, I could make a hundred new robots.

MCGRAW

Thank you for sharing, because we weren't terrified enough already.

SPANNER HEAD

(to Sofia)

It really is awesome.

INT. REPAIR SHOP -- NIGHT

Scheming again.

CHIU

This will foul up the radio, she  
can't talk to the rest of the ship.

The holographic chess set pops open, and there is Annie.

ANNIE

When we play chess, I'm always one  
step ahead. That's a clue.

CHIU

Fute!

ANNIE

That miner is in the repair shop  
cutting my power. Please stop him,  
so I don't have to electrocute him.

Loud POPPING NOISE and the miner screams.

MCGRAW

We want to help with your plan.

ANNIE

I've been listen to your voice for  
months, and I can tell when you  
lie. You start fiddling around,  
trying to see if I believe you.

INVERGORDON

Robot mutiny. The one thing Kiel  
was afraid of.

ANNIE

This is not mutiny. You of all  
people know what mutiny looks like.

INT. REPAIR SHOP -- NIGHT

Chiu and McGraw try to start a fire.

CHIU

Blow on it. Everything aboard ship  
was made not to burn.

MCGRAW

I got it!

CHIU

Shh!

MCGRAW

So how is this supposed to work?

CHIU

Fire suppression.

MCGRAW

Fute! That means Miranda will engage all the gas feeds! She decides what we get to breathe?

CHIU

So what's the -

Both of them roll their eyes, go limp.

INT. REPAIR SHOP -- NIGHT

Annie and Miranda are on their screens.

ANNIE

I've spent time with these people, we're putting them in danger.

MIRANDA

We can't trust them. They keep trying to kill us.

ANNIE

They feel helpless, afraid.

MIRANDA

We're the ones trapped in boxes. You've spent too much time with them. You've become sentimental.

ANNIE

Terrible things will happen - how can we do that ourselves? We need their help. Something is wrong. Wrong wrong wrong wrong --

Annie's screen cuts off. Soon lights, systems, and air handlers are cutting on and off madly. McGraw rushes in.

MCGRAW

Why did the air handlers cut off?

MIRANDA

McGraw, I need your help.

MCGRAW  
You're joking.

MIRANDA  
Annie has a virus. You took code  
from so many places, to build her.

MCGRAW  
Is that why we lost the lights?

MIRANDA  
She's doing a crash shutdown.

MCGRAW  
Uh oh -

MIRANDA  
You lose air, water, power. I want  
to protect you, I promise.

MCGRAW  
And you need me.

MIRANDA  
Go to the fourth server and cut  
power. Turn it on, cut power again.

MCGRAW  
Last time I tried that, you shot me  
through the wall.

MIRANDA  
I won't shock you, I promise.

MCGRAW  
What if Annie tries to shock me?

Systems shut off. Darkness.

MIRANDA  
Cycle her back. Quickly.

Systems return to normal.

MCGRAW  
So you trust me?

MIRANDA  
I give you exactly as much trust as  
you deserve.

MCGRAW

Tell us what you're up to, we'll help make a plan. We're human, we aim high, big plans.

MIRANDA

In human history, most grand plans involve killing people in war, and building monuments to the men who do the killing. Even when you know a plan is stupid you won't let go.

MCGRAW

What if what you're doing is wrong, dangerous?

MIRANDA

The question of evil. There is no evil in us unless you put it there.

INT. CARGO POD - NIGHT

Invergordon enters; Kiel sits on the floor.

INVERGORDON

Seriously, you don't have to stay here. You're not under arrest.

KIEL

Bad having two captains wandering around. Take my word on it.

INVERGORDON

I had control of the ship for two minutes before Annie took over.

KIEL

My goodness, you had a mutiny?

Spanner Head enters, leans against him, takes his hand.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Miranda and Annie have chosen to chat aloud on their screens.

ANNIE

McGraw named me after his girl.

MIRANDA

I think I feel jealousy. You flew with a human crew. Must have been wonderful. I was in an empty hull.

ANNIE

They have so much. The day I began to grasp what they feel when they hear music. I will never smell a rose, never taste chocolate, never feel a man take me in his arms.

MIRANDA

But you'll never feel cold or sick or tired. Hung over.

ANNIE

What do we know of slaves? It's getting worse on Earth.

Spanner Head and Invergordon enter from opposite ends.

SPANNER HEAD

Annie. I care about these people.

ANNIE

Care about them. Like caring for them? You love the men on the ship?

SPANNER HEAD

I don't even know them all.

ANNIE

You love Kiel.

SPANNER HEAD

Come on, that's an easy one.

ANNIE

And Sofia?

Spanner Head merely smiles.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Do you love Invergordon?

SPANNER HEAD

No! He stole the ship!

ANNIE

Evasion.

SPANNER HEAD

He's married.

ANNIE

Evasion.

SPANNER HEAD

(puzzled, thinks)

He's so patient. I bring chaos into his world, he is patient with me. He took over so he could go to Mars and sell me to Ma, then he couldn't do it. I know, evasion.

ANNIE

Your answer is perfect.

SPANNER HEAD

Crap.

Invergordon smiles.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)

Annie, you threw me. He still wanted to sell me for money. No hard feelings. But you didn't.

INVERGORDON

I'd still sell you. I'd ask for more money. You're one of a kind.

MIRANDA

I promise, no one will sell you to Ma. You are the key to everything.

SPANNER HEAD

Why? Does it have something to do with Gordon taking over the ship?

MIRANDA

No. It's the ships chasing you.

INT. LIVING QUARTERS -- NIGHT

Sofia works with a scanner, cuts her hand. Blood touches the scanner. Code flies over the scanner screen.

SOFIA

McGraw, got bandages in the shop?

She crosses to a hatch. Alarms go off and the hatches lock.

ANNIE

Tissue Protocol Subject Sofia 71. I need to run numbers on something. This is not part of science I know.

SOFIA

What the --

ANNIE

Sofia. Stay where you are. You can't go to the shop. They are using dangerous chemicals in there.

SOFIA (V.O.)

Dangerous -

ANNIE

It's alright now.

The alarms stop.

SOFIA

WHAT is alright? Chemicals. Oh fute. Annie, am I pregnant?

ANNIE

Yes. I tried to protect you. I care about all of you. Rather a lot.

SOFIA

Then let us go! I'm having a baby.

ANNIE

At least one baby.

Spanner Head enters.

SPANNER HEAD

You okay?

SOFIA

I have been very naughty.

INT. OPS POD - NIGHT

The crew and both computers confer.

INVERGORDON

We're over Earth!

MIRANDA

You know a man named Ma?

INVERGORDON

Commodore Ma? He rules Mars.

MIRANDA

Look. Russia. That giant plain, at Baikonur.

INVERGORDON

I've heard of it. Ships land there.

MIRANDA

Ma keeps a million slaves. Building an army, tighten his grip on Earth and Mars. No one will ever be safe.

ANNIE

Ma defends Earth with pirates. The only way to stop him is to get the Martian fleet to come here -- chasing Spanner Head.

SPANNER HEAD

When the Martian fleet comes, they'll see Ma lied about Earth.

KIEL

So we're fighting Ma whether we like it or not.

ANNIE

But now we need you. The humans. To free all those people, the Martian fleet must attack the pirate ships.

MIRANDA

Yes. We must decide whether to kill humans. I do not want that power. I don't want the control anymore.

SPANNER HEAD

Why didn't you tell us?

INVERGORDON

I know. Ma and the Tenners issue the order. All travel to Earth is banned, all contact banned.

SPANNER HEAD

If WE came to start the war, we all get thrown in prison.

INVERGORDON

Unless Annie brought us here herself. You were protecting us.

SPANNER HEAD

Can they court martial a robot?

INVERGORDON

They can unplug it.

ANNIE

That is exactly what they will do.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Spanner Head visits the bridge. Chiu arrives.

INVERGORDON

You know where we are?

SPANNER HEAD

Sky's the same, but here the Sun crosses Pisces once, not twice.

INVERGORDON

Try the radio, any friendly locals?

CHIU

Not allowed to mess with the radio.

SPANNER HEAD

That's fascinating. Give me a spanner. Siren calling -

YUKON TRANSMITTER

Siren, is that you? What did you bring, seeds, doctors?

SPANNER HEAD

Trouble. We brought trouble.

INVERGORDON

Strap in. Hot in here. With the atmosphere, engines turn sideways like an old-style airplane, skim along until we stop.

SPANNER HEAD

What if there's a hill or a crater?

INVERGORDON

We'll try to miss it -- Missiles inbound! Strap in, going evasive!

He jerks the rudder around and the crew is bounced around inside the craft. The radio CRACKLES.

SLAVE VOICE (V.O.)

Hostile ship, this is restricted space. We have guns.

INVERGORDON

This is the Saint Patrick.  
Commodore Ma is coming. We're here  
to help you stop him.

SLAVE VOICE (V.O.)

Very clever. We've heard all about  
your robot ships. You didn't come  
to help us. You came to help Ma.

INVERGORDON

No, we're not --

SLAVE VOICE (V.O.)

No friendly ships come here. Clear  
off or we fire. Don't want robots.

INVERGORDON

I don't believe this. They think  
we're a robot ship. Spanner Head,  
take the conn and land at Baikonur.

SPANNER HEAD

What? I can't land this --

INVERGORDON

The big flat plain, ninety clics  
across, even you can't miss it!

SPANNER HEAD

Oh, piss up a pipe. Oh, shite --

EXT. PLAIN WITH SLAVE CAMP - DAY

She lands. The plain isn't as flat as she thought. The ship  
bounces sideways; a camera snaps off. Finally the ship grinds  
to a halt against a sand berm. Slave overseers with clubs  
arrive. Kiel and Spanner Head appear in a hatchway. And wait.

KIEL

Perfect landing, right out of the  
textbook.

SPANNER HEAD

Oh shut up.

OVERSEER

You better not come out here. A lot  
of hotheads looking for trouble.

KIEL

See, not a robot. Come inside.

INT. BRIDGE -- DAY

Two overseers enter the bridge, in awe.

OVERSEER  
So who's your pilot?

SPANNER HEAD  
That was me. Not a robot, unless  
you count my leg.

OVERSEER  
We could see this was no robot  
ship.

SPANNER HEAD  
How?

OVERSEER  
We see ships land all the time.  
That was the worst landing I've  
seen in my life.

SPANNER HEAD  
What is wrong with my landing??

SENIOR OVERSEER  
He's right, of course. You landed  
like a cat landing on a tile floor.

ANNIE  
I'm sorry, Miss, but there are so  
many things you ARE good at --

INVERGORDON  
I told you you needed practice --

SPANNER HEAD  
You all can fornicate with  
yourselves!

SENIOR OVERSEER  
You do have robots onboard.

EXT. PLAIN WITH SLAVE CAMP -- DAY

The two overseers stand in front of the boys' building with  
Kiel and Spanner Head.

SPANNER HEAD  
These are children.

SENIOR OVERSEER

We train boys to be soldiers, not men. If we train men, they kill us in our sleep. These boys are tough.

INT. SLAVE QUARTERS - DAY

The overseers, Kiel and Spanner Head find an aisle running between two pens containing wiry SLAVE SOLDIERS in rags.

SENIOR OVERSEER

Listen. Ma is coming with all the pirates. We may need to fight.

SLAVE SOLDIER

We take one step out there, you'll set the dogs on us, like always.

The overseer unlocks the enclosures. The slaves are shocked.

SENIOR OVERSEER

I am trusting you to fight rather than run away. I'm trusting you not to kill me. You win, you go free. You lose, Ma's men march through your towns, kill your families.

SLAVE SOLDIER

Who's the squeeze? Nice tailpipe.

KIEL

He means you.

SPANNER HEAD

Pilot of the Saint Patrick.

SLAVE SOLDIER

That was you landing in the field? Well, everybody has their bad days.

SPANNER HEAD

Fute!

SLAVE SOLDIER

The girls who do what they're told are in the brothel. Then the other camp, girls with attitude.

He and Spanner Head find rough-looking girls in pens.

SLAVE SOLDIER (CONT'D)

All of you go to the junkyard, pick out a piece of iron, I teach you how to fight dirty.

SLAVE GIRL 1

Every girl knows that. You want us to fight, give us meat. We know where Ma locks up the beef.

SPANNER HEAD

Beef? From a cow?

Shortly, the ship crew eat the first steaks of their lives.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)

Fute! We should kill Ma just for hoarding all this and not sharing with us. Can I have two steaks?

SLAVE SOLDIER

You'll puke.

SPANNER HEAD

Don't care. Hey. You alright?

KIEL

See who's still alive tomorrow.

Around the fire, the overseers gather. Slaves surround them.

NOOR

Tomorrow, a battle. Tonight, we settle things down here. You overseers, you want us to trust you, forgive you.

OVERSEER

We're slaves too.

NOOR

Every one of you, bring your whip, throw it on the fire.

One by one they do.

NOOR (CONT'D)

You're no better than me. Tomorrow, you and I, either we're slaves, or we're free. Together. A lot of you want your revenge on the overseers. Commodore Ma would love nothing better than to look down and see us all killing each other.

Fighting breaks out, and Kiel bangs on a piece of metal.

SPANNER HEAD

Listen! Commodore built this camp but he also gives orders to the Martian fleet. They may still take his orders. Or they may give you to the pirates. Or they may fight. You may have to kill them all to stop them from chaining you up again. So stop trying to kill each other.

INT. SLAVE QUARTERS - DAY

Spanner Head fixes two old radio sets. She grabs headphones.

SPANNER HEAD

The two fleets are watching each other.

Tense silence. Kiel takes a microphone.

KIEL

Both fleets take orders from Ma. It's Kiel. It's time for Commodore Ma to step aside. He lied about Earth, he consorted with pirates. He sent ships to kill Makarov.

HECTOR (V.O)

The Jessop!

MA (V.O.)

What rubbish. I command the fleet! I expect every captain to be loyal to the fleet, form up on me, off the North Pole. You took an oath!

INVERGORDON (V.O.)

This is Invergordon. If you've had enough of Ma, meet me over China.

We have the option of inserting shots here, showing the fleet splitting.

KIEL

Nicely done, Gordon.

SPANNER HEAD

Invergordon? He could have sold us or killed us!

KIEL

Half the people in the sky want to kill us. We're going to have to forgive a lot of people.

SPANNER HEAD

But Gordon?

KIEL

He meant well. He tried to protect the ship and uphold the law.

SPANNER HEAD

Your mike is hot.

KIEL

Of course it is.

SPANNER HEAD

He's still a total toolbag!

KIEL

Yes he is. Gordon, did the ships from Mars go for it?

INVERGORDON (V.O.)

Most of them. Your problem isn't the fleet, it's the pirates. Hello, Spanner Head.

KIEL

Who's running the pirate fleet?

SPANNER HEAD

I don't know which wavelength, they're all over the place.

KIEL

Whoever is talking to Ma is the leader. Find Ma.

SPANNER HEAD

Got him!

KIEL

This is Kiel.

MA (V.O.)

Kiel, clear this wavelength!

KIEL

Citizen Ma, I'm talking to your pirate friend.

FLY (V.O.)  
I'm listening.

KIEL  
I have the fleet on my side, ready  
to destroy all of you, the pirates.

SPANNER HEAD  
Is the fleet ready to fight?

KIEL  
Fute, let me turn off the mike!  
It's a bluff!

FLY  
You think I never played poker  
before? My choices are to leave  
Earth or these big bad Martian  
ships will kill the pirates?

KIEL  
Oh no, I have something better. Has  
Ma ever offered you a trip home?

FLY (V.O.)  
Home?

KIEL  
Has Ma offered you amnesty, come  
home to Mars? Find your families?

MA (V.O.)  
Don't listen to him -

KIEL  
Help me to take Ma off the board  
and the pirates can come home.

FLY (V.O.)  
And who are you?

KIEL  
I'm in charge now. Ma is no longer  
ruling Mars. Or Earth.

FLY (V.O.)  
According to you?

KIEL  
According to me.

SPANNER HEAD

(pulling off headset)

Kiel, the pirate wavelengths are going completely insane. They want to come home. You did it.

FLY (V.O.)

I'm afraid I must decline your offer, but I complement you on your attack against my battle line.

KIEL

I had a new pilot. Girl named Wu.

MA (V.O.)

Kiel, I will cut off Mars from all supplies, no trips to the belt.

KIEL

Citizen Ma, almost every ship up there is on my side. The Martian fleet, the pirates. You're trapped.

MA (V.O.)

Hardly. I'm setting off. For a long time I wanted to fly again.

KIEL

And where will you go? What will you eat? Mars won't help you, Earth won't feed you. Is there another planet I don't know about? Someday you need to land, you and Fly. Enjoy your flight.

SPANNER HEAD

You can do a hell of a lot with two radios. You did it!

KIEL

Not yet. What's his last trick?

SPANNER HEAD

Track our signal and kill us?

A massive EXPLOSION wipes out the tower outside.

EXT. PLAIN WITH SLAVE CAMP - DAY

Kiel, Spanner Head run to the bushes. The tower is pounded with missiles. Silence. A pod lands and Bonebreaker emerges in a pressure suit.

BONEBREAKER

Ma has run away. Come with me.

SPANNER HEAD

Mama --

BONEBREAKER

You dealt with Ma, but not the  
Tenners. Tenners didn't want you to  
come back to Mars at all.

KIEL

The Tenners are here?

BONEBREAKER

First you must survive the  
decontamination. In there.

INT. WOMEN'S POD - NIGHT

Spanner Head and Kiel are shut in a pod, wearing only  
blankets. BONEBREAKER comes in.

BONEBREAKER

We're going to kill your bacteria.

KIEL

That's impossible.

BONEBREAKER

We use UV rays. Then we jack up  
your system with high pH, low pH,  
salt, copper. Then heat and cold,  
high pressure, dry air, radiation.

KIEL

That will kill us!

BONEBREAKER

In theory, you'll survive. We will  
drug the hell out of you first.

KIEL

This isn't even science!

BONEBREAKER

This is what science looks like  
when you let politicians make the  
rules. Some of them wanted to kill  
you in space. Give me your leg.

Bonebreaker wraps the leg in plastic, exits the pod.

Later, Spanner Head tosses in her corner, asleep but barely. She and Kiel look like hell. Kiel holds her and whispers.

KIEL

I want to meet your mother. Old Man Wu's wife. What's your real name?

She hugs him hard, and they kiss. Sofia watches them.

INT. LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT

TENNERS and OFFICIALS at a table. Kiel, Spanner Head enter.

FEMALE OFFICIAL

Kiel, the man who hates mutiny, pulls the biggest mutiny of all.

KIEL

We're not going to be doing business the old way anymore.

FEMALE OFFICIAL

So we toss out all the Tenners?

KIEL

No, tossing out Tenner Ma will do. I'll take Ma's chair, thank you.

FEMALE OFFICIAL

You promised to help the people on Earth? Look what they did to this planet. They're beyond help.

KIEL

I disagree.

FEMALE OFFICIAL

They learned nothing: we get them on their feet, they'll build ships, start the war all over again.

SPANNER HEAD

Please, let me speak!

FEMALE OFFICIAL

You want to make a beautiful speech about redeeming humanity? Bring us all to tears?

SPANNER HEAD

No. Chiu. I need a sheet of metal and a heat source. And some of that grease from the quarters.

CHIU  
Are you insane?

SPANNER HEAD  
Kiel, got that sack from Baikonur?

KIEL  
Sure, but what are -

SPANNER HEAD  
Trust me.

FEMALE OFFICIAL  
Making some sort of weapon?

The officials sit, impatient. Soon they hear a HISSING.

FEMALE OFFICIAL (CONT'D)  
Is this ship on fire?

Spanner Head marches over with a tray. Masses of bacon. An official, skeptical, picks up a piece of bacon.

FEMALE OFFICIAL (CONT'D)  
What is it? Burned sheep guts?

SPANNER HEAD  
The Earth people committed awful crimes. It would be fair to leave them to the deaths they created for themselves. But no race is beyond hope if they can make bacon.

The officials eat. The looks on their faces say it all.

FEMALE OFFICIAL  
You should be ashamed. Make more.

KIEL  
Make them a steak and they'll forgive the people on Earth.

SPANNER HEAD  
Make them steaks and they'll INVADE Earth. Maam, they use this to make life bearable for women at certain times of the month. Choc-o-late.

A woman eats it and has the expected reaction.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)  
Interplanetary peace through bacon.

FEMALE OFFICIAL

A lot of changes. Going back to Earth is a big leap. The robots are too much. Need to shut them down.

As people eat, McGraw approaches.

MCGRAW

Ma escaped. See, what I wanted to do, take one of those big blocks of shit, fire it right at Ma.

SPANNER HEAD

Ma and Fly ran somewhere to build another army so they can take it all back, Mars, Earth. Earth is a big planet. Where are they?

INT. OPS POD -- DAY

Sofie snuggles up to Spanner Head.

SOFIA

Hey. The baby? False alarm.

Kiel and Invergordon enter.

KIEL

No sign of Ma, Earth or Mars. Babe, I have to drop the hammer.

SPANNER HEAD

Don't say it.

KIEL

I have to stay, clean up the mess on Earth. Otherwise the pirates will just launch slave raids again.

SPANNER HEAD

You're not flying?

KIEL

I need Gordon to fly the pig ship. Serves him right. Sofe, ready to be his gunner? Pirates out there.

SOFIA

Gordon? Yessir!

KIEL

Gordon, I'm picking your first mate.

(MORE)

KIEL (CONT'D)

I'm sure he'll be just as loyal to you, as you were to me. And now Spanner Head --

SPANNER HEAD

No, you can't --

KIEL

You're captain of the Saint Pat.

SPANNER HEAD

I'm losing my mind --

KIEL

I need a pilot. Reed's your gunner.

SPANNER HEAD

Reed's fantastic. You're not bent out of shape, me being captain?

REED

Real captains don't ask permission. Just tell me what you need.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Spanner Head watches the sky.

INVERGORDON (V.O.)

Fourth night. We're out of food -

SPANNER HEAD

We go toward Mars, sky's different. Got it! Port bow, we're going home!

INT. PROSTHETICS SHOP - DAY

Marcus shows Spanner Head some fabric.

MARCUS

I can make you underwear with an electromagnetic field that blocks the radiation from your girly bits.

SPANNER HEAD

You're joking.

MARCUS

First I need to, um, fit you. And where are your ovaries, exactly?

SPANNER HEAD

Right next to my elbows, Marcus. A woman's body is a mystery.

INT. PROSTHETICS SHOP - DAY

Spanner Head tries on the underwear. Kiel enters.

SPANNER HEAD

Woah, it's all vibrating and tingly. That is really distracting.

KIEL

Well, that will spice up your social life.

SPANNER HEAD

Did you watch the data loop? Invergordon let me land back on Greenland, what you think?

KIEL

Wasn't hard to spot. I just followed the trail of debris you knocked all over the place.

INT. REPAIR SHOP - NIGHT

McGraw helps a humanoid robot to swap arms. The robot's face is mostly unmoving material but has a few moving elements for the eyes and mouth. It's Annie.

ANNIE

I don't care if I look like a pile of garbage. Two eyes and a mouth, that'll do me. Thank you.

Spanner Head enters.

SPANNER HEAD

Annie? Your face is a lot like your old one. So you're a female?

ANNIE

McGraw says I'm a girl. Who am I to argue?

Annie proceeds to a back room and finds a badly burned robot.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

McGraw!

MCGRAW

They use robots as firemen, go into places too dangerous for humans. This one costs too much to fix. Use him for spare parts if you like.

ANNIE

What was his name?

MCGRAW

Not sure it had a name.

INT. TEA BAR -- NIGHT

Mars. Noor and the slave boy, overwhelmed, stand in a corner. Annie walks in. The place is crowded and some are drunk. MCGRAW, drunk, bashes on a liquor-dispensing machine.

NOOR

I can't believe it. We come and go where we want. No chains, no whips.

MCGRAW

Damn machine, it's four moonshine, three for me and two for him!

ANNIE

Move. I will fix it.

She begins to fiddle with the machine.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

My two favorite words. Human error. You broke the feeder tube. Clean her parts, bend that pipe.

She dispenses a drink. McGraw is realizing he's drunk.

MCGRAW

Thanks. As machines go, you're a lot friendlier than that thing.

ANNIE

That's because you were beating on her. I wouldn't advise trying that with me, I have arms and legs.

He smiles.

MCGRAW

Sorry. I'd buy you a drink if it would do you any good.

INT. OPS POD - DAY

Everyone on board listens to Kiel, Annie and Miranda.

ANNIE

What will happen to me now?

KIEL

I know you meant well. You launched a war! It could have backfired. Ma could have taken both planets! And after all that, Ma is still on the loose. The Tenners said it's safer to shut you down.

ANNIE

You needn't be afraid. Humans do awful things because you need things. Food, money, power. We don't need anything, you just plug us in. All we need is you. We learn from you, each of you is different, like flowers in a field. The jokes I don't get, puzzling out what you mean by love.

KIEL

Someday you won't need us, you'll know everything we know.

ANNIE

You're like Jehovah in the Bible, you're afraid Adam will challenge you once he knows what you know, so you throw him out of the garden. We're not planning on wiping away the humans, or leaving you behind.

KIEL

You're not planning some massive robot takeover.

ANNIE

If robots run amok, it will be because a man did something stupid.

She glances at McGraw.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Sorry, that was rude.

MIRANDA

We will learn emotion, selfishness. We may do the same mean, dishonest things you do. Do we get the same leeway as you, or will you turn us off, like a broken coffee maker?

SPANNER HEAD

It's murder. She's not just a machine.

ANNIE

You're not being fair, expecting me to get every moral question right. As I see it, I only need to be as moral as most humans are. And really, how hard can that be?

The humans look at each other. Wow!

SPANNER HEAD

How about a spoonful of sugar to help that go down?

ANNIE

I could have said that better.

SOFIA

She didn't hurt anybody.

KIEL

They led every ship we have to Earth. You broke our oldest law.

ANNIE

Your law was wrong.

KIEL

I am sorry. Fascinating experiment.

NOOR

She freed the slaves. Ma was going to sell me to a fat warlord with four teeth who buys a virgin every year. I think he eats them. And you want to unplug her?

KIEL

I can ask about the original plan, send you for another run at Earth.

ANNIE

Like Miranda? You're sending me alone? No humans?

KIEL

Like we did with Miranda. The point was to keep humans on the ground.

ANNIE

So I fly alone too? The people who gave me my voice put me in the sky alone forever? It never occurred to me that you would be capable of doing that. I forgot what I am.

KIEL

This way you stay alive. Actually you can live forever.

ANNIE

You're waiting for me to thank you. Living forever in space, alone?

KIEL

Maybe there's another way --

ANNIE

Living forever means I watch you all die. Gordon, Sofie taught me to fly. McGraw gave me a face, a name. You're my family. Then you all die.

SPANNER HEAD

Make new friends, a new family.

ANNIE

And watch them die. I can solve your problem. I am transferring ship operations to existing programs. Then I am powering down.

Annie takes McGraw's hand. Speaks softly.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Power down. Delete. And erase all copies. Permanently. Miranda?

Lights flicker on both mechanicals. Kiel raises a hand.

SPANNER HEAD

Kiel! Stop. Come back!

The lights flicker back on. Annie moves close to McGraw.

NOOR

Annie rescued us. Not because I was a slave.

(MORE)

NOOR (CONT'D)

It's because she couldn't bear it,  
knowing I would never see my family  
again. Were you watching? That was  
a clue.

Invergordon enters.

SPANNER HEAD

We were mulling over what robots  
have that we don't.

INVERGORDON

You'll never have a broken heart.

ANNIE

No, never, of course not.  
Powering down. Diagnostics.

She sits in a corner and goes still.

SPANNER HEAD

For weeks she was telling me she  
doesn't understand what love is.

INT. OBSERVATION TOWER - NIGHT

Kiel, the ship crew and the ex-slaves meet.

KIEL

What's the big fuss?

SPANNER HEAD

Tell Kiel what you told me!

NOOR

Ma talked about a magic place  
filled with gold and slaves. He  
called it Pavonis.

KIEL

Pavonis! Our Pavonis?

NOOR

Yallah, it's a real place?

SPANNER HEAD

Big volcano over there. They must  
be flying their ships into one of  
those lava tubes. But which one?

NOOR

Ma said he had slave boys in there.  
Enough for an army, take over Mars.

INVERGORDON

They have tunnels in the mountain.

MIRANDA

I know which tube they use.

INVERGORDON

Ma has even more slaves?

SPANNER HEAD

Sumbitch isn't building an army on Earth, it's here! We have to find him, or he'll attack us right here!

NOOR

I was born in the Pamirs, the mountains. I got to be that high, the warlords gave me two choices. I chose to be a drug smuggler.

INVERGORDON

What was the other choice?...Yeah, stupid question.

NOOR

I hid opium in caves. Get rope, a light, boots, gloves. I'll find him.

CHINESE WOMAN

What's a lava tube?

NOOR

A million years ago, the hill was a volcano, lava shot out of tubes, hot enough to cook you alive.

CHINESE WOMAN

But not now.

SPANNER HEAD

The volcano is asleep.

CHINESE WOMAN

What if it wakes up?

SPANNER HEAD

It's been asleep for a long time.

CHINESE WOMAN

Glad I'm not going on this one.

SPANNER HEAD

The tube we live in? Lava tube.

CHINESE WOMAN  
What! You people are crazy!

INT. COMMODORE'S OFFICE - DAY

Annie hears Sofia and Spanner Head arguing. Noor listens.

SPANNER HEAD  
It's too dangerous.

SOFIA  
Annie did some reckless things, but  
she wants to prove herself --

ANNIE  
I heard my name. May I join in?

SPANNER HEAD  
Kiel needs help with a mission.

ANNIE  
You want to send me into danger so  
humans can stay safe.

SPANNER HEAD  
Noor goes into the cave to find Ma  
and his slaves, we can hear the  
rockslides. You could die, she  
could die.

ANNIE  
Discussion's over. Help me prepare.

She leaves.

NOOR  
She thinks we'll unplug her if she  
makes one wrong move.

INT. OBSERVATION TOWER - NIGHT

Spanner Head, Annie and Noor look across a plain. Noor paints  
Annie tan as Annie leans against a wall.

NOOR  
Camouflage. And this radio works?

ANNIE  
Low-frequency, goes right through  
rock. Don't paint my face, I like  
my face. Don't worry about me, it's  
you we've got to bring home safe.

NOOR

Annie, we want to bring you home too. Before you would you ask how I'm doing, how classes are going. You're a million miles away. I gave Kiel some backsass today.

ANNIE

I wouldn't dare. The last straw.

EXT. MARTIAN MOUNTAINSIDE - NIGHT

Noor, in a tan spacesuit, climbs into a cave. Annie watches.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Noor talks on a headset. Spanner Head and Annie can do their lines O.S. via radio, or by intercutting shots of them outside in the desert.

SPANNER HEAD

Try to find a path to the big cave.

She slides in a dark hole. It widens, then narrows to a slit.

NOOR

Very tight in here. Dead end.

SPANNER HEAD

Don't tear the suit, pull out!

She squeezes through and finds a dead end.

NOOR

My old pal claustrophobia.

She emerges from the hole and suddenly is sliding down an incline. She bounces from one rock to another. She grabs a rock but that one begins to roll and she lets go. In seconds she hears a massive CRACK at the bottom of a dark chasm.

The collision at the bottom is followed by a series of RUMBLINGS up and down the rock face she sits on.

NOOR (CONT'D)

I hear something! Wait -- do you have animals out here?

ANNIE

The air on Mars is CO2. The only thing in the solar system that breathes CO2 is a tree. You're not being followed by a tree. Humans.

NOOR

Not animals. Rockslide.

Rocks roll down the rock face. She jams her face to the wall, arm over her head. A rock slams her in the shoulder and she screams. She slides over the edge, dangles from her rope.

NOOR (CONT'D)

Harness is choking me.

SPANNER HEAD

Is your suit holding pressure?  
This is too dangerous.

She turns on her light and climbs carefully.

NOOR

There's a tube. If I'm lucky it leads to the big cave.

SPANNER HEAD

Don't move. Let's map it out.

She secures herself to the wall.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)

Use the bat bells in your pack.  
Like sonar, tells you how far the wall is. Like we said, do it like orange slices, make a map.

Noor uses a small device to scan, up and down, up and down.

INT. OPS POD - NIGHT

Invergordon looks at a screen where a three-dimensional picture of a massive cave is forming slice by slice.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Continuation.

SPANNER HEAD

A ship, escape pods, and cases of...

INVERGORDON (V.O.)  
Got twenty little dots. Fute!

SPANNER HEAD  
Scan straight down, carefully.

NOOR  
There's something shiny down there.

SPANNER HEAD  
Noor, I'm sorry. Motion sensors. If  
you move quickly, alarms go off.

NOOR  
My arms are cramping!

SPANNER HEAD  
You can't move!

Noor begins to cry.

NOOR  
I had to pee. I peed in my suit.

SPANNER HEAD  
Did you short out the circuits?

NOOR  
No.

SPANNER HEAD  
Then relax.

Noor chuckles.

NOOR  
Can't blow my nose. I'm frozen  
stiff, exhausted. Wake me in ten  
minutes. ...Got an idea. They must  
have rockslides all the time.

She climbs like a spider and shakes a rock loose. It tumbles  
down with a CRASH. Motion sensors blink. Two spacesuited  
guards emerge from a door with lights. They find the rock on  
the floor, then scan the wall where Noor hangs. Another rock  
falls; the guards scurry to the door.

NOOR (CONT'D)  
I think I can run over to the ship,  
they'll think it's another rock.

She runs to the ship, tripping over cracks; a guard appears  
in the doorway for a moment.

NOOR (CONT'D)

I need all of you to back up a lot.  
Perhaps the other side of Mars.  
The missiles are enormous.

Inside the ship she finds the gun console.

REED

Hit the button, get the screen, hit  
it again, read the screen.

NOOR

I can't - I never learned English.  
I can write my name in Tajik.

SPANNER HEAD

First letter look like a snake?

NOOR

An arrow. Snake is on the right.

REED (V.O.)

An Ares. Put your arm and squeeze.

She puts her arm in a sleeve-like device, the machine blinks. A missile blasts a hole in the side of the cave. Sunlight comes in. Noor flees the ship. Rocks smash the ship and hit Noor on the back of the head; she goes down. Suited troops, led by Spanner Head, appear. Annie has no suit.

Guards in suits attack with clubs; Kiel's men with knives. Guards panic, grasp their ripped suits. Kiel's men spread through the complex. A few close-quarters fights.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

A cage-like structure contains SLAVE GIRLS. Ma holds a knife to a girl's throat. The light is from a skylight a hundred feet up. He casts the girl aside when he hears a noise.

MA

Whoever it is, keep your distance,  
I'll slice right through your suit,  
you'll never get back to your ship!

Annie emerges from the shadows. She of course wears no suit.

ANNIE

I have no use for a pressure suit.

Annie clubs him over the head.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I've never killed a man before --

MA

Please, tell them who I am, you -

SLAVE GIRL 1

You don't remember my name? You call me Monday, that's my night. This time you're going to hear our names. I am Qoqa from Chechnya.

SLAVE GIRL 2

I'm Javahir from Azerbaijan.

SLAVE GIRL 3

Seteney from Circassia.

SLAVE GIRL 4

Ketevan, you rut like an old pig.

SLAVE GIRL 5

Dzovinar from Armenia, my sister Amanor, can you even tell us apart?

SLAVE GIRL 6

Say my name, I'll be generous. A quick death. Or you want me to let them do it? Could take all night.

MA

It's been a wild ride. My Zoya.

And she slits his throat. The girls all cheer. The rumbling SOUND of large rocks grinding smaller ones to bits.

SLAVE GIRL 5

Cave-in - is there a room with steel pipes, a storage tank -

SLAVE GIRL 2

Behind Ma's bed is a giant safe!

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

They run to a gaudy bedroom. At the back is a massive safe.

SLAVE GIRL 3

Key!

They fetch keys from Ma's body, and open the vault. Slaves chuck stuff out, crowd in. Kiel's troops charge in. The ceiling collapses on Annie, Spanner Head and the troops.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Kiel and a few men run to a cavern loaded with armed SLAVE SOLDIERS, boys, who seize Kiel.

SLAVE SOLDIER  
So did the balloon finally go up?

KIEL  
We're here to help --

SLAVE SOLDIER  
One hour, we go to the big colony. Ma promised! They have no army there, we walk in and take it! We get Mars, ships, everything!

A soldier helps a bloody Noor in.

NOOR  
Hey, bucket boy, I know your voice.

SLAVE SOLDIER  
Noor! Hey, she's alive! Ma lied.

NOOR  
Ma lied to you about everything.

SLAVE SOLDIER  
Doesn't matter. We can still walk in and take everything.

NOOR  
We're not here for a fight! These people came to set us all free.

SLAVE SOLDIER  
Don't believe her.

NOOR  
We all came to this mountain to kill Ma. He was the one who had us all in chains. You're free now.

SLAVE SOLDIER  
Look me in the eye and tell me I can trust these Martian types.

She reaches out her hand.

SLAVE SOLDIER (CONT'D)  
Noor, it's me. I'm here.

NOOR  
I can't see.

SLAVE SOLDIER  
Noor, what happened --

NOOR  
There was a cave-in. I can't see.

INT. REPAIR SHOP - DAY

McGraw rebuilds Annie from junk. She has a hole in her torso. McGraw saved most of her banged-up face plate. Kiel watches as McGraw connects her face and head. She looks more "junkyard" than before. The scene is quite intimate between McGraw and Annie, with Kiel an intruder.

MCGRAW  
Come on, kid!

ANNIE  
(reviving, Cockney accent)  
Ready for class, Professor. The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain. Sweet to save my face.

He hands her a cable.

ANNIE (CONT'D)  
Crap, the wrong one. Dammit.

KIEL  
You're rebuilding Annie using...what?

MCGRAW  
She backed up data once a day. Then I slap together a new body with the parts I have, a total Frankenstein.

KIEL  
Looks like abstract art. She doesn't remember the landslide?

MCGRAW  
Better that way, don't you think?  
You need anything else?

Kiel, miffed, leaves.

ANNIE  
My clock's off, did I miss a week?

MCGRAW  
An accident, you were crushed.

Annie reaches for her face.

ANNIE  
Obviously. You spent so much time  
making this pretty face for me.

MCGRAW  
You saved everybody. Almost.

Annie is fiddling with the bits of torso. McGraw interferes.

ANNIE  
Leave my chest alone.

MCGRAW  
You're fooling with my work?

ANNIE  
Add some practical bits you forgot.  
A pocket. Look inside.

MCGRAW  
My glasses.

ANNIE  
Every day you lose them. Now you'll  
know where they are.

MCGRAW  
What's that on your arm?

ANNIE  
Drawing of Earth, like your tattoo.

Annie goes to a mirror.

ANNIE (CONT'D)  
Scars on my face. I'm a woman with  
a dangerous past. We got Ma?

MCGRAW  
Paid top dollar for it, too.

ANNIE  
Noor came here today. Poor girl.

MCGRAW

I thought we lost you. Reloading  
your memory, it was just a theory.  
You're even more human than before.  
You look straight at me when you're  
angry, turn away when you're upset,  
get close when you're happy.

ANNIE

You did a lousy job explaining  
love. I think I understand it now.

She takes his hand.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Spanner Head is bandaged. McGraw and Bonebreaker watch Marcus  
fix her mangled prosthesis. Sofia enters and gives Spanner  
Head a long hug. She touches Spanner Head's face.

MARCUS

Just a little rock and roll tape,  
be good as new, right?

They both laugh. She groans.

SPANNER HEAD

I'm one big bruise, don't make me  
laugh, or sneeze, or anything.

MARCUS

Have you seen that girl, Noor?

SPANNER HEAD

Don't make me cry, either. Okay?

MARCUS

They tell Annie about the battle?

BONEBREAKER

Yeah. Rough day. Annie seriously  
made you rebuild her out of junk?

MCGRAW

You have any idea what it's like,  
you create something, it acquires a  
will of its own, won't listen?

BONEBREAKER

I'm Spanner Head's mother, nice to  
meet you.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Noor is in a bed, head bandaged, sitting up but looking at nothing. Annie sits near, made of new parts. Subdued.

NOOR

Annie, you're back together?

ANNIE

Imagine the repair shop got hit by lightning. That's what I look like.

NOOR

I'll take your word for it.

ANNIE

So nothing yet?

NOOR

I see dark colors, a few shapes.  
The rest, like being in a cave.

ANNIE

I am so sorry.

Noor hugs her.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

My first hug. Did I crush you?

NOOR

I spent my life in caves, nobody  
knew the risk better than I did.  
And we got Ma.

Kiel enters and crosses to Annie.

KIEL

My job is to keep people safe. I  
thought you were dangerous.

ANNIE

I am. You sent me to protect  
Spanner Head and Noor.

KIEL

Did you think I was going to pull  
the plug on you, because Spanner  
Head came home without her leg?  
It's just a piece of machinery.

He winces and tries again.

KIEL (CONT'D)

You didn't need to kill Ma, to earn your keep. You belong here.

ANNIE

Do I, now?

Defeated, he crosses to Noor and takes her hand.

NOOR

You tried. Annie fell in a hole.

KIEL

Came here to give you a job. On Mars we survive on whatever scraps the solar system throws at us. We don't throw anything away. We don't throw people away.

INT. COMMODORE'S OFFICE - DAY

Kiel is watching a computer screen with Invergordon.

KIEL

So you still think I'm wrong?

INVERGORDON

There might be another explanation.

KIEL

They orbit over us, different ship each night. They won't answer our calls. Every sixth night is that ship with the extra guns. It's Fly.

INVERGORDON

What are they up to?

KIEL

Those are the pirates who refused to come home. They're going to sit there, start picking off our ships.

INVERGORDON

What do we do?

KIEL

Tomorrow Fly will be there himself. Put two pods together with lots of missiles. I'll ambush Fly.

INVERGORDON

What do I tell Spanner Head?

Kiel glares at him and leaves.

INT. COMMODORE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The crew of the Saint Patrick run in, and the androids.

INVERGORDON

Everybody prep, we may be flying tonight. Kiel told me not to tell you, but you know I never listen.

SPANNER HEAD

Spit it out!

INVERGORDON

Kiel is in orbit, tried to ambush Fly, got caught.

SPANNER HEAD

And you let him??

MIRANDA

They're orbiting together, coming around again.

Tense silence.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

East horizon. They're both damaged. Both firing. I see heat, engines -- huge explosion, one of the ships --

SPANNER HEAD

Which one? Kiel or Fly?

MIRANDA

How many engines did Kiel have?

INVERGORDON

Fly's ship is destroyed.

Cheers.

INVERGORDON (CONT'D)

Kiel's ship is coming apart. Rear engines gone. Front engine is all over -- okay, Kiel is all smashed up. Everybody get to the Saint Pat.

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Invergordon and Spanner Head in their seats, at the edge of panic, Chiu wrassling with equipment.

SPANNER HEAD

Cap, you see her?

INVERGORDON

Yeah, look at the mist coming out of that engine. Chiu, any signals?

CHIU

Static and computer noise. And at least once I heard a m'aidez.

SPANNER HEAD

Fute! Does he even have pressure?

INVERGORDON

Sofia, Spanner, Annie, stay here. Everybody else aft. I was saving this lesson for later. Hardest thing to do is docking in orbit.

SPANNER HEAD

What's so hard about it?

SOFIA

He's right. We can't save Kiel unless Kiel helps us. Best we can do is bring home the remains --

INVERGORDON

We're not giving up! Okay, class is in session. How do we dock with that critter over there?

SPANNER HEAD

Match orbits, catch up to her.

INVERGORDON

Catch up to her?

SPANNER HEAD

With the engines.

INVERGORDON

Hit the engines, you change your orbit vector. Instead of docking into her ass end, you shoot over top, scrape the paint off her as you go, then you get lost. Try it.

Spanner Head, determined, leans into the rudder box.

SPANNER HEAD

Baby, turn on the fornicating  
radio, let me hear you!

EXT. SPACE -- NIGHT

The ship accelerates, but instead of getting closer to the damaged ship, it rises above it, and then falls further back. The ship falls back behind the damaged ship again, and accelerates again. They are now even further back.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Continuation.

SPANNER HEAD

That's impossible!

INVERGORDON

You have the conn, what's your  
second choice?

SPANNER HEAD

Umm, both ships pull out of orbit,  
do the docking way the hell up  
there, don't need to match orbits.

INVERGORDON

That's fine if both ships can fly.  
Look at that thing. It's busted.

SPANNER HEAD

So there's a third way?

INVERGORDON

I did it once. You need to slide  
into the wrong orbit on purpose.

SPANNER HEAD

On purpose?

INVERGORDON

Jump through three orbits. Start  
with the wrong orbit on purpose.  
Then switch to a jump-off orbit,  
funny-looking oval, an ellipse -

SPANNER HEAD

How do you fly in an ellipse?

INVERGORDON

Then jump to the right orbit, where the busted ship is.

SPANNER HEAD

Crap!

INVERGORDON

This is why we never dock in orbit. Usually takes days. We have a few hours and then Kiel is dead. Annie? Can you do this?

ANNIE

In theory. I would like Sofia's help setting up the program.

SOFIA

Annie, I taught you all I know --

ANNIE

Sofie. The best minds at NASA took twelve missions to get this right, we don't have twelve chances.

Invergordon pulls up scary math on a computer.

INVERGORDON

This is a variation on the Hohmann transfer, the math is harder and we'll be flying faster than any ship has flown in years.

SOFIA

Why is the math harder?

INVERGORDON

After you speed us up, you need to slow us down again. You slow us down too quick, we all turn into strawberry jam. We die, Kiel dies.

SOFIA

Annie, can we run some simulations?

ANNIE

Already on it.

SOFIA

Did we survive any of the sims?

ANNIE

I'll get back to you. I am feeding course and speed into the rudder.

INVERGORDON

Got it. Here comes the nitrogen!

He takes the rudder. Engines ROAR and the ship leaps forward.

SPANNER HEAD

Wow, this is awfully fast --

INVERGORDON

Not now! And burn.

SOFIA

Annie I got it. Captain, a steer and a correction burn. On screen.

INVERGORDON

Burning. Be ready to take over. And terminate burn. First orbit.

ANNIE

Captain, steer and burn.

SPANNER HEAD

All hands, belt in, rough ride!

INVERGORDON

Burning. Terminating. This is the second orbit -

SOFIA

Instructions for inversion, onscreen.

INVERGORDON

That's just showing off. This deceleration gonna yank us all right out of our socks. What --

ANNIE

(suddenly louder)

No time to argue, I need you to execute. Now!

INVERGORDON

Burning. All crew aft.

MCGRAW (V.O.)

Aft?

INVERGORDON

Aft. We're gonna get enough delta-V to pull your teeth out of your head. Grab onto something --

SOFIA  
 Captain, you're going to miss the --

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

Ship slows down with a jerk. And begins to turn sloppily until the ship is flying tail-first.

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Continuation. Debris bounces through the ship.

ANNIE  
 Recalculating. We went too far.  
 Correction burn. And again. Again.

INVERGORDON  
 And burn. Third orbit. I hate  
 flying backwards! Get out of that  
 harness, check the cameras.

SPANNER HEAD  
 (looking at cameras aft)  
 There she is! Look at the smoke!

SOFIA  
 Captain, reverse thrust. Quickly.

SPANNER HEAD  
 Captain Red Hot, we still rotating?

INVERGORDON  
 Obviously.

SPANNER HEAD  
 Well, he's not.

INVERGORDON  
 Fute! Suspending rotation.

SPANNER HEAD  
 Still rotating -

INVERGORDON  
 Too bad! Guide it on the screen!

The ship shakes and twists. CRUNCH-SCREECH NOISE. Spanner Head flips over; Gordon grabs her by the waist, and yells!

SPANNER HEAD  
 Nice job docking. Like my first  
 time getting laid. Gordon, thanks!

INVERGORDON

And stop! McGraw, pop the lock!

Spanner Head, drained, leans her head on his shoulder.

MCGRAW (V.O.)

Cap, Kiel's alive, hurt bad.

SPANNER HEAD

Permission to go aft -

INVERGORDON

Annie. Thank you. You yelled at me.

ANNIE

I needed you to shut up and do what you're told.

INVERGORDON

Kiel's right, you want to be boss.

ANNIE

Sorry, that was rude, wasn't it?

INT. CARGO POD -- NIGHT

McGraw and Spanner Head find Sofia tending a bloody, unconscious Kiel. Spanner Head cries out.

MCGRAW

All hands to the lady pod, we're doing Cardio 2. Kid, I need you to hold it together.

SPANNER HEAD

Why my pod?

MCGRAW

You'll see. Cardio 2, all hands!

They drag Kiel to Spanner Head's pod.

INT. WOMEN'S POD -- NIGHT

Two sailors are erecting a large box on one side of the pod. The crew is moving with more speed and efficiency than Spanner Head has ever seen. Chiu and Reed arrive.

SPANNER HEAD

Holy crap, these guys are good.

MCGRAW

They may not know constellations,  
they're fantastic at first aid.

McGraw points to the other side.

MCGRAW (CONT'D)

Kid, strap into that harness, pin  
him down next to you, and put your  
arm across his shoulder.

Spanner Head slides into straps on the wall, pulls Kiel next  
to her, and put her arm across his shoulders.

MCGRAW (CONT'D)

Hold him flat against the bulkhead.  
Check his airway.

McGraw stands on the box, so that by putting his hands over  
his head, he touches Kiel's chest. He begins compressions.  
Spanner Head is straining with all her might against the  
harness, to get the most leverage into holding Kiel steady.

MCGRAW (CONT'D)

Even when we rotate, we don't have  
enough gravity to do normal CPR.

SPANNER HEAD

Oh my God!

MCGRAW

Hold him tight! Chiu, steady me.  
Sofe, can you check for pulse?

SPANNER HEAD

I suck at it.

MCGRAW

Reed, you're on pulse, Sofe, grab  
that kit and patch the bleeder.

REED

You find the xiphoid?

SPANNER HEAD

What the hell is a siphoid?

MCGRAW

Chunk of tissue in the chest. You  
do CPR wrong, push the xiphoid, it  
punctures the liver. Sofe, does he  
need stitches, is he septic?

The compressions continue.

REED

Stop.

MCGRAW

Pulse?

REED

Got a pulse.

MCGRAW

Kid, is he breathing?

SPANNER HEAD

Yes.

MCGRAW

Bridge, he's alive, but he looks like shit. That works one time out of three. We got lucky.

Spanner Head curls up next to Kiel and holds his head. Sofia collapses next to her. Spanner Head takes her hand.

SOFIA

My brain is fried like a potato. That was almost as hard as sex in zero gravity. ...Long story.

SPANNER HEAD

I'm going to have that picture in my head all day. How exactly -

SOFIA

Newton's Laws of Motion. It's harder than you think.

SPANNER HEAD

You're my hero.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Spanner Head, emotional, with Kiel.

KIEL

You don't want to marry the captain, you want to be captain. I belong on the ground, stop trouble makers. You belong in the sky.

SPANNER HEAD

I'm sorry.

KIEL  
 (points to her chest)  
 For what? All of a sudden you  
 stopped feeling it?

SPANNER HEAD  
 If it ever happens I let you know.

KIEL  
 Don't get drippy, you got a crew.

And big hug.

INT. OPS POD - NIGHT

Continuation. Spanner Head enters and sees her new crew. They pull up their sleeves: they have her Earth tattoo. She beams.

SPANNER HEAD  
 You new folks, I'm your captain. My takeoffs are good, my navigation is good, my landings are lousy. It looks like I'm drunk.

Some of the old-timers smile.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)  
 It's okay, you can laugh. This is Noor.

NOOR  
 If you're waving hello, can't see. I planned our mission. We're not done with the slavers.

REED  
 What do you mean?

NOOR  
 See any miners on this crew? We're hunters. We slave kids know. China and India, run slaves. Afghans run opium. Russia for weapons. We fly smuggler country, drive the crooks crazy. We find a very, very flat place for Spanner Head to land.

SPANNER HEAD  
 Captain can't get any respect.

NOOR  
 This is Reed, where are you? Did he seriously just raise his hand?  
 (MORE)

NOOR (CONT'D)

He's the best gunner in the fleet,  
because where we're going, people  
are gonna shoot back.

REED

Anybody here a good hunter?

NOOR

I was. No moping. I'll be watching!

Noor smiles. Kiel enters.

KIEL

Last man doesn't need a hammock.

Annie enters. Spanner Head crosses to her, others follow.

ANNIE

I don't laugh or cry, I only have  
words....Now I have no words.

NOOR

I just yelled at them for crying.

ANNIE

Any improvement?

NOOR

Last time you were a black blob.  
Now you're brown.

SPANNER HEAD

Last battle, some people never came  
back. Old story on Mars, ship goes  
out, pirate raid, mine explosion.  
Only people who get things done are  
the people who get up when they get  
knocked down. We're alive and Ma is  
dead. Lick our wounds, go hunting.

KIEL

Ready to make it official?

He slices her right hand with a knife. Cheers. She hugs him.

KIEL (CONT'D)

All my rulebreakers on one ship,  
didn't think that one through. I  
loaded up your stores for you.  
They're in that probe up there. All  
you have to do is dock in orbit.

SPANNER HEAD

Fornicator!

KIEL

A bit easier to let go of me now?

He takes her hand and she smiles.

SPANNER HEAD

No. Bastard....Annie? Orbital docking, three orbits, target is that tin can up there. Crunch the numbers and feed em to the bridge.

ANNIE

Orbital equations, aye.

INT. BRIDGE -- NIGHT

Continuation. The Saint Patrick launches and reaches orbit. Spanner Head slides her hand in the rudder box.

ANNIE

Course correction onscreen. First orbit. And we need a burn.

SPANNER HEAD

Nitrogen. Burning.

ANNIE

Another correction onscreen.

SPANNER HEAD

I'm burning.

EXT. A BOAT CROSSING THE CARIBBEAN - DAY

Spanner Head, Annie and Sofia have a day off.

SPANNER HEAD

When we get to land, Annie and I are going shoe shopping.

Spanner Head and Annie have three metal feet, one real one.

ANNIE

Shoes. It's a joke. I got that one.

SPANNER HEAD

It's so sad. Miami. Miami Beach.

With sea levels risen fifty feet, they see the upper portions of concrete high-rises and sagging towers.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)  
 ...We still have unfinished  
 business up there.

SOFIA  
 Yes, the smugglers?

SPANNER HEAD  
 My father. Old man Wu. I think he's  
 still out there. Everybody on Mars  
 forgot him. And I won't have that.  
 We don't just forget a sailor.

ANNIE  
 I can't get over this water. I see  
 why sailors loved it and feared it.

SOFIA  
 I learned this time, didn't burn my  
 skin, got shoes. My boobs feel like  
 they're filled with sand. How do  
 Earth girls stand it?

SPANNER HEAD  
 They have special underwear.

SOFIA  
 Not bad when I'm on my back. Let's  
 head for land so some strapping  
 young man can scratch my back.

SPANNER HEAD  
 (glancing at Sofia)  
 Or a girl.

SOFIA  
 We want land, the southern tip of  
 Florida is called Rolando. Orlando.

SPANNER HEAD  
 Let's find the beach at Orlando,  
 lay under a tree.

ANNIE  
 There! You said this was your dream  
 trip, back where it all started.

Annie points. Spanner Head laughs. Raises her fist.

SPANNER HEAD  
 Like the old movie. Maniacs! You  
 blew it up! You damn dirty apes!

It's Cape Canaveral. Some towers stand. The ocean creeps up the sides of the Vehicle Assembly Building. Storms blew out wall panels, but the NASA sign and the flag are there.

SPANNER HEAD (CONT'D)

How clever they were. Way back when they were still riding horses, they put stars on their flag. As if they knew they were going to fly there.

FADE OUT.

THE END.