

PLANET OF DISCOVERY

by

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INT – BASE – ARTIFICIAL DAY

A recreation area in a base on a planet.

A number of chairs set out. A large window shows the planet surface outside, which is rocky and has some mountains near the horizon. The planet also has some sand dunes, then a flat area nearer the base.

WESLEY, known as WES, the mission commander, dressed in overalls, seated on one of the chairs.

OLIVIA, the second-in-command, also in her overalls, seated on another of the chairs.

OLIVIA

God, I hate this planet. It's so barren.
There's no life out there, nothing.

WES

We didn't come here to find life. We
came here to find minerals. You didn't
expect to find life, did you ?

OLIVIA

I expected to find something...not this
barren lifeless dump.

WES

Our mission was to find and exploit
this planet's mineral resources, which
we have done.

OLIVIA

I miss Earth. At least there's some life
there.

WES

We have not found any indication of
alien life out there on our excursions.
I, for one, am relieved. It would be an
extra complication, and I don't like
complications.

OLIVIA

What would you do if we actually found
alien life..out there ?

Wes looks towards the window, then walks some way towards it, and stops. He looks at the planet surface seen through the window.

Olivia looks at Wes looking out the window.

WES

Out there ?

OLIVIA

What would you do ?

WES

There's nothing out there, nothing.

He turns to look at Olivia.

OLIVIA

Maybe, there is. Maybe, we missed it.

WES

All the surveys we did were negative
for any sign of life. Not even a microbe.
If I found anything, I would welcome it.

OLIVIA

What if it was hostile ?

WES

I'd shoot it dead.

A beat.

OLIVIA

All I do, all the time is drill, drill, drill...
then suck, suck, suck. No variety.

WES

That is your job. You signed up for this.
You should not complain.

OLIVIA

Well, I'm bored, and I'm sick an' tired
of doing the same thing, day in, day out.

WES

It's your routine. You should be grateful,
to have a routine. Your attitude is becoming
unprofessional.

OLIVIA

Becoming...? I am, I am unprofessional.

WES

God-dammit, we're stuck here on this planet,
until our replacements come...so, we might

WES (cont'd)
as well be civil to each other. Okay - ?

OLIVIA (grudgingly)
Okay...

Olivia goes to the window to look outside, and sees some dust being stirred up the wind.

WES
You've overstepped the mark, so many times.

OLIVIA
I only get away with it, because I'm cute.

She turns from the window and approaches Wes.

She stops close to him and leans a little towards him.

Their eyes meet and they kiss. They hold the kiss for a few seconds, and then break off.

She looks at him with her large eyes.

WES
I am concerned about your mental state.

Olivia smiles, a little embarrassed.

OLIVIA
What happens if you go mad on one of these expeditions ?

WES
You get shot.

OLIVIA
There's no therapy...?

WES
Not out here. Not on a mission. You become a danger to the success of the mission. So, you get shot.

OLIVIA
You'd do that, to me...?

WES
...If it became necessary.

Olivia sighs and looks at Wes.

OLIVIA

I hope you don't consider my behaviour insubordination...

WES

I told you, I'm not gonna pull rank on you. We're equal here.

OLIVIA

You're the Commander.

WES

That is just a title. It means nothing.

OLIVIA

You give the orders...

WES

...Which you obey.

OLIVIA

...I obey.

WES

You would not obey one of my commands if you thought it was immoral.

OLIVIA

"Immoral?" I would not obey an order I thought didn't make sense. If you went insane, I would haf-ta shoot you.

Olivia turns to look at the window.

OLIVIA

I'm thinking...I might go out there, for a walk.

WES

You can't do that.

OLIVIA

Why not ?

WES

Each walk on the surface of this planet must have a purpose. You can't just go for a walk. Surely, you know that ?

Olivia sighs.

OLIVIA

I might enjoy it.

WES

You're nuts.

OLIVIA

There might be caves out there, with something inside them...we haven't explored, because of our concentration on mining.

WES

Not close to base. You'd have to take the buggy.

OLIVIA

I could do that.

A beat.

OLIVIA

You know, the most important discoveries happen when you're not looking for anything.

Olivia puts her hand on Wes's shoulder. He looks a little puzzled, so she slides her hand off his shoulder, and turns, then moves one space from him.

OLIVIA

I been stuck here, with you, on this God-damn planet for six months, and it's driving me insane.

WES

I wish we had the auto-psychiatrist here, but we don't. That facility is only available on larger bases, with more personnel.

OLIVIA

Why don't we have the auto-psychiatrist here ?

WES

It would cost too much.

OLIVIA

I miss my sessions with the auto-psychiatrist. They can diagnose and prescribe medication.

WES

You had a clean bill of mental health, when you came here.

OLIVIA

That was months ago. I been slowly going
out-ta my mind, in this place.

WES

You'd better not go crazy on me.

OLIVIA

I won't, as long as you love me.

She puts her arms around his neck and draws him to her.

They kiss. They hold the kiss for a few seconds, then break, with her arms still around his neck.

WES

I love you.

OLIVIA

Why ?

WES

Because of your beautiful saucer-like eyes.

OLIVIA

My eyes are like saucers ?

WES

They sure are. Look in the mirror.

OLIVIA

I will.

She unclasps her hands from around his neck and looks at his eyes.

OLIVIA (puzzled)

My eyes...

WES

You go and take all your clothes off,
and look at yourself in the mirror.

OLIVIA

All of my clothes ?

WES

All of them.

OLIVIA

Okay, but don't look.

She walks away from Wes and goes into her living quarters. She looks at Wes from the door of her quarters, then slowly closes the door.

Wes looks at the closed door to Olivia's quarters.

CUT TO:

INT – LIVING QUARTERS – DAY

Olivia's quarters, which is like an apartment, with living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom.

Olivia goes through to the bedroom, and slowly slinks off her overalls to stand in her underwear.

She goes to the slide-door wardrobe and opens it. She takes out an elegant gown.

She puts the gown on and stands in front of the long mirror, admiring herself.

She then moves in closer to the mirror, to look at her eyes. She sees they are like saucers, and acknowledges this to the mirror and herself.

She goes out of the bedroom, to the living room.

She sits down on one of the chairs.

The video intercom flickers.

She turns it on.

Wes speaks as seen on the video intercom.

WES

You didn't take all your clothes off.

OLIVIA

You'll haf-ta take me as I am.

WES

You look sophisticated...May I come in ?

OLIVIA

Come in...

The door to Olivia's quarters opens, and Wes comes in. Olivia looks disappointed as Wes is still dressed in his overalls.

OLIVIA

I expect you to dress for the occasion.

Wes sighs.

WES

I'm sorry.

OLIVIA

I wanted a romantic dinner for two, with champagne... You can't do that in your overalls.

WES

I guess not.

OLIVIA

Go and get changed.

WES

Okay.

Wes goes to the door and goes out.

Olivia sighs.

Later:

Olivia in the kitchen, seated at the table, waiting for Wes. On the table, two places set out with cutlery, a champagne bottle and glasses.

Olivia looks to the clock on the wall, then towards the window, showing the landscape outside, then back to the table. She is getting a little irritated.

Wes comes into the living room, dressed in a tuxedo. He crosses through into the kitchen.

Olivia beams a nice smile when she sees him dressed up.

OLIVIA

You look like a proper gentleman. I hope you can behave like one.

WES

Anything to please you.

OLIVIA

Sit down.

WES

Thanks.

Wes sits across the table from Olivia. He looks up at her eyes.

WES

Your eyes, they're simply mesmerising.

Olivia smiles at the compliment.

OLIVIA

Thanks.

Olivia opens the bottle of champagne, which overflows with fizz. She pours out a glass for Wes, and then one for herself.

She offers up her glass to Wes and he clinks it with his glass.

They drink some of the champagne.

WES

What are we celebrating ?

OLIVIA

Our relationship...

Wes holds his glass up.

WES

That's good.

He takes another sip of champagne.

WES

You do look amazing...

OLIVIA

Thanks. I'll fetch dinner.

Olivia rises and goes over to the oven She takes out a roast and sets it on the table. She set down plates for herself and Wes.

She carves the roast and places two slices on Wes's plate, then the same on her own.

She then serves vegetables, and sits down.

They start to eat.

Later:

They have finished eating, and Olivia is clearing the plates away. Wes gets up and helps her.

When she is standing by the sink, he puts his arms around her and kisses her on the cheek.

OLIVIA

Later...

WES

Okay...

He moves away from her and goes through into the bedroom, where he sits on the bed, and undoes his bow-tie.

He then takes off his jacket, and leans back on the bed.

He looks around the bedroom and muses for a moment when he looks out the window.

Olivia comes in.

WES

Phew ! You are elegant, and sophisticated,
and sexy...

OLIVIA

Thanks.

Olivia sits down on the bed, at the end.

Wes sits up straight, and swings his legs over the side of the bed, to touch the floor.

WES

You wanna get closer ?

Olivia moves up the bed, her feet on the floor, to get closer to Wes.

Wes leans forward and kisses Olivia's back, below the shoulders, where it is exposed by her gown.

He kisses upwards towards her shoulders, then kisses up her neck. She smiles as Wes is kissing her.

WES

You are exquisite...

He kisses the back of one of her shoulders, then moves so that he can face her.

WES

I haven't seen you naked.

OLIVIA

You wouldn't want to...

WES

How do you know ?

OLIVIA

You would be disappointed...

WES

Would I ? Why ?

OLIVIA

I don't get this obsession men have with seeing women naked.

WES

I wanna see you naked, no-one else.

OLIVIA

I once saw myself nude...in the mirror, in the bathroom, and I was disappointed.

WES

Why ?

OLIVIA

I wasn't as perfect as I thought I was.

WES

You are perfect...

He kisses her shoulder.

OLIVIA

I am not perfect...

WES

You're as close as any woman can be, to perfection.

OLIVIA

I do believe you are flattering me.

Wes shakes his head.

WES

If you were any way less than perfect, I would not love you.

She looks directly at him.

OLIVIA

You're serious ?

WES

You are, perfection.

A beat.

OLIVIA

I wouldn't want to see you naked. It
would not be a pretty sight.

Wes sighs.

WES

You wanna do it ?

OLIVIA

Okay.

Olivia stands and slinks off her gown, then slips into the bed.

Wes undoes his shirt, and takes it off. He undoes his trousers and places them on the floor.

He slips into the bed.

They look at each other for a moment.

WES

You are...gorgeous.

OLIVIA

You're a handsome fella.

They kiss and then start the motions of sex.

CUT TO:

INT – QUARTERS – DAY

Bedroom.

The equivalent of morning.

Wes and Olivia, both asleep.

Olivia stirs. This causes Wes to stir.

Olivia sees Wes has woken up. She looks around.

OLIVIA

Good morning...

WES

Good morning...

OLIVIA

You sleep well ?

WES

Sure. That sex was so glorious, it knocked me out.

OLIVIA

Same for me.

WES

That is the best sex I have ever had.

Olivia smiles.

OLIVIA

Umm...

WES

You go and get you showered then, and report for duty.

OLIVIA

Yes, sir. And no peeking...?

WES

Of course not. I'll go back to my quarters. We must observe some formality.

Wes gets out of bed and picks up his clothes. Olivia waits for him to go out of the bedroom before she gets out of bed.

CUT TO:

INT – BATHROOM – DAY

Olivia in the shower. Lathering herself, and washing her hair.

CUT TO:

INT – BEDROOM – DAY

Olivia finishing doing up her overalls, in front of the mirror.

CUT TO:

INT – COMMAND AREA – DAY

Wes, in his overalls, standing near some control panels, with some screens.

Olivia comes in.

OLIVIA

Reporting for duty, sir.

Wes smiles.

WES

Good. I'm gonna send you out to collect some more core samples, before we send the big digger out.

OLIVIA

I did that yesterday, and the day before, and the day before that.

WES

We need that information before we can justify the expense of deploying the digger.

OLIVIA

I understand...

WES

Sometimes, I'm more of an accountant than an astronaut.

OLIVIA

I reckon our primary duty is to explore, not count the cost.

WES

Someone has to pay for this, and we have to justify any expense we incur.

OLIVIA

You do talk like an accountant.

WES

Sorry...You know, you almost made Mission Commander over me. You only missed out by a few points...

OLIVIA

Then you'd have to obey my orders.

WES

I would gladly do that, ma'am.

A beat.

OLIVIA

How did you beat me, in the exams ?

Wes smiles smugly.

Olivia puts her fore-finger on his cheek and draws it a little. Wes smiles. She removes her

finger.

OLIVIA

Tell me...

WES

I cheated...

She looks at him sharply.

OLIVIA

You serious ?

WES

How else could I beat you...unless I
cheated ?

Olivia looks a little puzzled, then lets it go, with a little head-shake.

OLIVIA

Don't know when you're joking...

He smiles, a little blankly, at her.

WES

You had too much imagination.

OLIVIA

I can't help that.

Wes taps up on the screen to pinpoint an area for taking core samples.

WES

That's where I'm sending you today.

OLIVIA

Okay...

Olivia looks a little deflated and sighs.

CUT TO:

INT – AIRLOCK – DAY

Olivia and Wes in the airlock.

Wes helping to suit Olivia up in her spacesuit.

He helps to secure her gloves locked tight shut.

Olivia picks up her helmet and lifts it up to her head.

Wes puts up his hand to stop her.

She looks at him a little puzzled and annoyed.

OLIVIA

What's up.

WES

I wanna look at you, with your hair...
You are..beautiful...

OLIVIA

You're not bad yourself...

WES

I think you are at the peak of your
pristine beauty.

OLIVIA

Is that a compliment ?

WES

It was meant to be a compliment.

OLIVIA

The peak of your feminine beauty.

She smiles briefly, then pulls her helmet away from Wes and puts it on her head. She rotates it to lock it shut.

She speaks into the microphone.

OLIVIA

You gonna let me go now ?

WES

If I have to.

She turns away from him.

Wes goes out the inner airlock door and locks it shut.

Olivia goes to the outer airlock door and turns the mechanism to open it.

She steps out.

CUT TO:

EXT – PLANET – DAY

Olivia, in her spacesuit and helmet, emerges from the airlock, and closes the door shut.

She walks a little way to the port where the buggy is parked.

She opens the buggy front side door, and steps inside.

CUT TO:

INT – BUGGY – DAY

Olivia closes the door from the inside, and gets into her seat.

She turns on the computer and checks that the door is shut and the atmosphere is okay, then takes her helmet off and places it on the other seat at the front.

She takes a look through the large window screen ahead of her, to see the landscape of the planet in front her.

She presses a button and a steering wheel emerges from the panel, reaching up to where she places her hands.

She flexes her gloves and gets ready to drive.

She turns the buggy's engine on by pressing a button.

The buggy silently begins to move.

CUT TO:

EXT – PLANET – DAY

The buggy moves away from the port, then away from the base, as Olivia drives off across the landscape of the planet.

CUT TO:

INT – BUGGY – DAY

Olivia plotting a course on the computer screen, which indicates where the buggy is now and its destination.

She presses a button on the steering wheel to engage the automatic driver and then lets go. The auto-driver takes over and the steering wheel makes its adjustments to follow the designated course.

Olivia sits back in her seat and relaxes, then hums a little.

Later:

The buggy is close to reaching its destination as shown on the computer screen.

Olivia presses the button to take back control.

She slows the buggy down and drives to a halt.

She lets go of the steering wheel and it retracts.

She turns the engine off, and then performs some checks.

She puts her helmet on and tightens it shut.

She then goes into the back section of the buggy, which contains her equipment, consisting of a drill, a power pack for the drill, a video camera on a stand, a suction device and some containers for samples.

Olivia opens the inner airlock door and drags her equipment into the airlock, closing the door behind her.

She then turns the out airlock mechanism, and steps down onto the surface of the planet.

CUT TO:

EXT – PLANET – DAY

A plain with some large rocks.

Olivia unloads her equipment from the back of the buggy and then shuts and secures the outer airlock door.

First of all, she sets up the video camera and turns it on.

OLIVIA

I'm just gonna set up the equipment now.

Wes's voice concurs.

WES (O.S.)

Roger, Olivia.

OLIVIA

Tell you what...good job your name's not Roger, Roger...

WES (O.S.)

Roger that, Olivia...Roger...

She sets up her drill and power pack.

She loads the drill with a sampling drill bit.

She approaches a large rock.

She carefully positions the drill on the rock and turns it on. The drill penetrates the rock and goes a few inches into it. Olivia reverses the drill and it comes out of the rock.

She then takes the sampling bit off the drill and places it in a storage container.

She then takes out the suction device, which is attached to a collection bag, and turns it on. It sucks out the dust like a vacuum cleaner.

CUT TO:

INT – BASE – DAY

The laboratory.

Wes examining a rock core sample, with Olivia nearby.

WES

You done well today. There's money in them rocks. I can authorise sending out the digger. We'll have tons of the stuff, ready for loading. That will make us rich...

OLIVIA

Then, we can go home...to Earth ?

WES

Sure...once I made...once we made our fortune...

OLIVIA

It might be a waste of an opportunity...

WES

What ?

OLIVIA

...To explore this place.

WES

It's a barren rock...You said so yourself. We are not explorers...

OLIVIA

We should be.

WES

Our organisation is built on profit. You know that. There can be no unnecessary expenses.

OLIVIA

I find the stuff, you sell it.

WES

That's how it works.

OLIVIA
Ain't working for me.

He looks at her.

WES
What do you want ?

OLIVIA
To explore..this planet.

WES
What purpose would that serve ?

OLIVIA
My curiosity, Wes. It would satisfy my
curiosity.

WES
Don't get too curious.

A beat.

WES
This is a commercial operation. We come
here for minerals; not to find out anything.

OLIVIA
Like there's a secret out there ?

WES
Ain't no secret. This is a barren dead planet,
like most of the planets in this universe.
There's no life here, except us.

OLIVIA
Was there ever any life here ?

WES
Who knows ? Who cares ?

OLIVIA
I do; I care.

He looks at her.

WES
Don't get too curious about things...

She is puzzled and alarmed by this.

OLIVIA

Is that a warning ?

WES

Just a useful bit of advice.

OLIVIA

Okay...

She moves away from him.

OLIVIA

You enjoy our meal last night ?

WES

It was terrific. - You enjoy our sex last night.

OLIVIA

Sure did.

WES

Good. We make a great team...

A beat.

OLIVIA

You know, in the early days of space travel,
it was all about discovery.

WES

Those days are gone.

OLIVIA

You got no curiosity at all ?

WES

None. Don't worry about it, Olivia; you're
doing well.

OLIVIA

If there was an emergency, could you
handle it ?

WES

I hope so. If I don't, you could easily
remove me...

OLIVIA

I'm not interested in taking your place.
I got no ambition, of that sort. I would

OLIVIA (cont'd)
only remove you if there was clear evidence
of incompetence or insanity. I wish I had
the auto-psychiatrist to talk to...

WES
You know, any base with less than eight
personnel, cannot have an auto-psychiatrist.
You gotta justify each expenditure.

OLIVIA
What can I do, then ?

WES
Put your concerns in your personal log,
and we can relay that for analysis.

Olivia looks at him, with some uneasiness. She goes out.

Wes looks at the rock samples.

CUT TO:

INT – QUARTERS – ARTIFICIAL NIGHT

Olivia, in her quarters, opens up her personal log. She speaks into a small screen.

OLIVIA
I have some concerns about Wes, about
his competency...I would not seek to
replace him in command...I am not
envious of his position...I just got some
concerns about the safety of the mission.
I will obey him, as long as he makes the
right decisions. If he endangers the mission
in any way, I will seek to remove him...
He's got no imagination at all, no curiosity.
I know I might have too much, but he's got
none...That can't be right...

She turns off the personal log.

She seals it by pressing the screen to encode it and then sends it to analysis at Mission
Control.

CUT TO:

INT – BASE – DAY

Command area.

Wes seated in front of a control panel.

Olivia working at her desk on a laptop.

WES

It'll take days to get there and back.

No reply from Olivia.

He turns in his swivel chair to speak to her.

WES

I fully understand your concerns...

She is shocked by this.

OLIVIA

What ?

She turns to look at him.

OLIVIA

That was supposed to be confidential.

WES

Nothing's confidential when it comes to mental health.

OLIVIA

You..know what I said...?

WES

I intercepted your packet.

OLIVIA

How did you do that ?

WES

I hacked it.

OLIVIA

It was encrypted...

WES

I de-encrypted it.

OLIVIA

So much for security of information.

Wes half laughs.

Olivia looks at him with some frowning.

WES

I got concerns about my own suitability for command. Like I said, I got this job because the folks at home were worried you had too much imagination. I'm not gonna punish you for voicing your concerns.

OLIVIA

Thanks.

WES

I'm not gonna pull rank on you. I am not so certain I was the best choice. My fitness for this command is something we can talk about. Of course, if we found I was unfit, you would take over as Commander of the mission.

OLIVIA

That's not what I want. I just want you to lead this expedition competently.

WES

I'll do my best. I hope it's good enough.

OLIVIA

This is so strange... You should be angry with me... Why are you doing this ?

WES

What ?

OLIVIA

Taking my mutiny so calmly ?

WES

You were just expressing your concerns. Not mutiny.

OLIVIA

Can I trust you ?

WES

Of course you can. I might not be that competent, but I am trustworthy.

OLIVIA

This is not the level of discipline I would expect from the Commander of the mission.

WES

Discipline is overrated. I prefer, discussion and consensus.

OLIVIA

This is weird. You need discipline, to keep order.

WES

Order is overrated.

OLIVIA

You can't have chaos, and insubordination, not on this mission.

WES

Lack of order does not necessarily mean, chaos.

OLIVIA

It must be this planet, its atmosphere, making you behave strangely.

WES

There's no atmosphere on this planet. Well, almost none. You know that.

OLIVIA

The psychological atmosphere on this planet. It's making us do odd things, behave strangely. What is going on ?

WES

Nothing, as far as I can tell.

OLIVIA

This is crazy...

She gets up and paces around.

OLIVIA

I am mighty curious..the crazy things that are happening around here.

WES

Don't get too upset -

OLIVIA

I am upset ! I don't like it when something happens without an explanation ! I rely on science and logic...

WES

What about your imagination ?

OLIVIA

My imagination has gotten me into a tizzy.

She holds onto the edge of the counter (on which there are several computer screens) and takes some deep breaths.

OLIVIA

That's better.

She sits down.

OLIVIA

Maybe, I do have too much imagination.

She goes out.

Wes goes back to looking at his screen.

CUT TO:

INT – QUARTERS – DAY

Olivia goes through her living room into her bedroom and slumps down on the bed.

She takes a few deep breaths and closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

DREAM SEQUENCE – EXT – PLANET – DAY

Olivia in her spacesuit and helmet approaches some caves on the lower reaches of a mountain, with the buggy behind her.

She goes to the entrance of a cave and places her gloved hand against the rock face.

She slowly and carefully guides herself into the cave.

CUT TO:

INT – CAVE – DAY

It gets darker as she gets into the cave.

Olivia turns the torches at the sides of her helmet on.

She looks up at the sides and ceiling of the cave.

She sees striations on the ceiling and touches them with her gloved hand.

She puzzles as the striations are slightly curved but parallel.

Olivia looks deeper into the cave and sees more striations on the ceiling.

She gently and slowly moves further into the cave.

She looks puzzled and uncertain.

CUT TO:

INT – QUARTERS – DAY

Olivia's bedroom.

She is dreaming, then awakes.

She sees where she is, on the bed, in her bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT – BASE – DAY

Recreation area.

Wes is seated, drinking a cup of coffee.

Olivia comes in.

Wes slightly notices her presence.

She goes up to him.

OLIVIA

Wes...

He looks up at her.

OLIVIA

I just saw something...

WES

Where ?

OLIVIA

In a dream...

WES (dismissively)

In a dream...

OLIVIA

Yes. I just had a dream. I saw a cave.

WES

I see...

OLIVIA

I was in a cave, on this planet...

WES

How do you know it was this planet ?

OLIVIA

I saw it, in my dream...

WES

Dreams are dreams...don't mean nothing.
It's your overactive imagination...

This angers Olivia.

OLIVIA

Prick ! You never pay any attention to
anything I say ! You just dismiss it as,
my imagination...

WES

You want me to take you seriously ?

OLIVIA

Please, Wes, please.

WES

What do you want me to do ?

OLIVIA

I wanna find that cave, and explore it.

WES

You think you can do that from a dream ?

OLIVIA

I know where it is.

WES

Show me.

Olivia picks up a laptop and puts it on a table.

Wes follows her to the table.

She turns the laptop on to show flick through some maps to find the cave.

She stops on a page and zooms into the map.

She points to a position on the map.

OLIVIA

There. It's there.

WES

You certain ?

OLIVIA

I sure am.

WES

Okay...

OLIVIA

You'll authorise the trip ?

WES

For your peace of mind, it could be justified,
for crew morale.

OLIVIA

Thanks.

Olivia looks down at the map on the laptop screen showing the location of the cave.

CUT TO:

EXT – PLANET – DAY

Near the caves.

The buggy stops.

Olivia and Wes, in spacesuit and helmet, come out of the buggy and walk towards the cave
Olivia saw in her dream.

Olivia points ahead.

OLIVIA

That's the one.

WES

Okay.

They walk closer to the cave.

Near to the entrance, Olivia stops and turns to Wes.

OLIVIA

You know when you said, you cheated,
on those exams...that was a joke, right ?

He shakes his head.

WES

No...

OLIVIA

You cheated...?

WES

Yes, I did.

OLIVIA

Why ?

WES

Because, I couldn't beat you unless I cheated. You were too good...

OLIVIA

I would never cheat. I would rather be Second-In-Command, than cheat. You're not that bright, are you ?

WES

You've realised ?

OLIVIA

You're not that intelligent...

WES

Not smart enough to beat you...

OLIVIA

You're stupid, to take command of a mission you're not qualified for...I think you've endangered the mission...

WES

This little escapade of yours is endangering the mission.

A beat.

OLIVIA

How did you get away with cheating ?

WES

I had a friend, helped me cheat.

Olivia shakes her head in disbelief.

OLIVIA
I thought the system was secure.

WES
Nothing is that secure.

OLIVIA
Son-of-a-bitch !

WES
You wanna take over command ?

OLIVIA
No, thank you !

WES
Okay. We know where we stand.

OLIVIA
You cheat !

She turns away from him, towards the cave.

Olivia puts her hand against the entrance and slowly climbs into the cave.

Wes follows her.

CUT TO:

INT – CAVE - DAY

She stops when they are both in the cave to turn on her helmet lights.

Wes turns on his helmet lights.

OLIVIA
You know, I no longer respect you.

WES
Did you ever respect me ?

OLIVIA
No.

WES
So what's new ?

OLIVIA
Just so that you know.

Wes shrugs.

WES

I don't need people to respect me.

OLIVIA

You're weird.

WES

So are you.

OLIVIA

It's this planet. It's getting to us. It is making us weird.

WES

Then it's not my fault.

OLIVIA

I guess not.

Olivia turns from him and looks up at the ceiling.

OLIVIA

Look at those striations.

WES

They're parallel.

OLIVIA

That would suggest -

WES

- It could still be a natural formation.

Olivia looks at Wes.

OLIVIA

It's too precise for that. This has been etched by something, or someone.

WES

Do you really believe that ?

OLIVIA

It's possible.

WES

Possibility is not enough. More likely than not, those striations are the result of natural forces. Your imagination is running away with you.

OLIVIA

At least I got an imagination.

WES

Scientific method and proof – remember that ?

OLIVIA

Of course I do.

WES

Less speculation, please. Let's have some facts.

OLIVIA

Facts ? Sometimes, nothing happens... sometimes, a lot happens... You gotta fill in the gaps yourself, with you imagination.

WES

I'll never get that.

She looks at him, as if she acknowledge his limitation.

She moves a little further into the cave, followed by Wes, then stops. She turns to Wes. Who sees she is puzzled and perplexed by something.

OLIVIA

I feel a presence...

Wes half laughs.

WES

You're psychic now...

OLIVIA

I am sensitive to certain things...

WES

I sense nothing...

OLIVIA

There's something here...

WES

What ? Where ? There's nothing there.

Suddenly, a small black sphere emerges from the rock and floats, hovering just beneath the ceiling.

Wes is genuinely astonished.

WES

Well, I never. What in hell is that ?

Olivia is a little dumbfounded, but manages to speak, slowly, very matter-of-fact. She is a little stunned.

OLIVIA

It's a small..black..sphere...

WES

I can see that. What is it ?

OLIVIA

I...don't know...

The sphere floats past Olivia and Wes towards the entrance to the cave.

Olivia and Wes turn around and follow it.

OLIVIA

I cannot see any method of propulsion.

WES

Maybe, it's beyond our understanding...

OLIVIA

Maybe...

The sphere halts just before the entrance to the cave, hovering.

WES

Look. It's waiting for us...

OLIVIA

It must be, intelligent...

Olivia and Wes get close to the entrance of the cave, and wait a moment for the sphere to move. The sphere floats out of the cave, followed by Olivia and Wes.

CUT TO:

EXT – PLANET – DAY

Olivia and Wes emerge from the entrance to the cave, following the small black sphere with leads them away from the cave, at a height just above their head height.

At a distance of about a hundred feet from the cave, it stops and hovers.

This causes Olivia and Wes to stop about ten feet from the sphere.

Olivia looks at Wes, who looks back at her. They are both puzzled and stand almost in amazement, trying to work out what is happening.

OLIVIA

It's stopped.

WES

What now ?

The sphere rises up until it reaches a height of about a hundred feet above the ground.

Olivia and Wes tip their heads up to watch the sphere ascend.

It stops.

After a few seconds, the sphere starts to expand in all directions.

Olivia and Wes stand mesmerized as the expanding sphere absorbs them.

CUT TO:

INT – SPHERE

Olivia and Wes are inside the sphere, which is somehow strangely transparent even though its expanding curved walls are black.

WES

God-dammit, it's swallowed up us.

OLIVIA

Is this a black hole ?

WES

If it is, we should've been crushed.

Olivia sees a very small white sphere at the centre of the expanding black sphere and seems drawn to it. She spreads her arms and floats up towards it.

Wes follows her.

OLIVIA

I'm floating. I'm swimming in air. Whee !

She makes swimming motions towards the white sphere and stops close to it.

Wes gets close to her, then hovers.

WES

If this is a black hole, that must be the singularity.

OLIVIA

Can't be the singularity. If it was, it
would be infinitely small...

Olivia holds her hand out to touch the white sphere and is able to close her hand around it.

OLIVIA

I can touch it...

She tugs at the white sphere but it will not move. She removes her hand from it.

OLIVIA

It's fixed...

WES

This whole set-up is weird, like the
planet itself. This demonstrates there
must be an intelligence behind this.

OLIVIA

I wouldn't expect you to say something
like that...After all, you admit, you got
no imagination.

WES

This is happening now...It is real somehow.
Not my imagination.

OLIVIA

Maybe, this is just a dream.

WES

I don't think so. It seems too real for that.

OLIVIA

Seems...? Dreams can seem very real.

WES

This is not a dream.

OLIVIA

How can you be certain ?

WES

I feel it, in my bones. This is no dream.

Olivia half laughs.

OLIVIA

I thought you didn't believe in this

OLIVIA (cont'd)
hocus-pocus stuff.

WES
I am a convert, to the realm of the
imagination. I got some now.

OLIVIA
That's better. Let's explore.

Olivia moves away from white sphere and swims towards the curved walls of the black sphere, followed by Wes; but, as she appears to get closer to the walls, they appear to move further back and away from her.

Olivia stops, and Wes stops close to her.

OLIVIA
I can't get any closer. It just moves away
from me.

WES
It's the notions of time and space we have.
They simply don't apply in this thing,
whatever it is.

She looks at him.

OLIVIA
What is it ?

WES
Some kinda intelligent multi-dimensional
black hole...It's keeping us alive, for some
reason.

OLIVIA
Why ?

WES
To examine us...learn our physiology and
behaviour...

OLIVIA
Why would any intelligent entity be interested
in us ?

WES
The way we look at lesser animals. Curiosity.

Olivia looks uncomfortable with this.

OLIVIA

I don't wanna be a specimen in some kinda extra-dimensional zoo.

WES

I wonder if it works by telepathy.

OLIVIA

Er ?

WES

Say, it's an illusion, and moves when we move. Say, it can anticipate our actions, by reading our minds.

She turns back to look at the white sphere.

OLIVIA

That must be what is controlling it, that little white sphere, the singularity.

WES

It seems to be able to manipulate space, and time...

He holds her back.

WES

This thing has preserved us. We should've been crushed, spaghetti-fied, stripped into atoms, even quarks...

OLIVIA

Quarks...?

WES

We should not exist. There's the theory, that black holes are made up of quarks, which can only exist in a tiny instant in time, but Time itself almost stops inside a black hole, and stops altogether at the singularity...

OLIVIA

What is inside that white sphere ?

WES

All the things the black hole has swallowed over time.

OLIVIA

It swallowed us...

WES

It hasn't processed us, for some reason.

Olivia is suddenly struck by a thought.

OLIVIA

God, do you think it can feel the love we have for each other ? Does it want to learn more about human love ?

WES

A black interested in romance ? That would be something.

OLIVIA

I reckon, our black hole has got some curiosity.

A beat.

Olivia looks at Wes.

OLIVIA

You know, I would love to kiss you now...

WES

Here ? Now ?

OLIVIA

Now.

WES

We can't. We'd had to take out helmets off. We would die.

OLIVIA

How do you know ?

WES

I suspect we would die.

OLIVIA

If it is interested in our love live, it would allow us to take our helmets off...

WES

That would be, an unjustifiable risk.

OLIVIA

What's the atmosphere like, in here ?

WES

We don't know. We can't test it, except...

OLIVIA

I'll do it slowly...

WES

You sure ?

OLIVIA

It's worth a try.

WES

Not if it kills you...

OLIVIA

It won't. I'm confident of that.

WES

How can you be so certain ?

OLIVIA

I'm not.

WES

Why do it, then ?

OLIVIA

This black hole wants to preserve us.

WES

I hope you're right.

Olivia slowly and carefully releases the seal on her helmet, and twists it open.

She takes off her helmet.

OLIVIA

It's air, ordinary air.

WES

Olivia, why are you prepared to take such risks ?

OLIVIA

It's my sense of adventure...a type of self-confidence...

WES

You'll get us both killed...

OLIVIA

I took an acceptable, calculated risk. Take yours off.

WES

Okay.

Wes carefully unseals his helmet and twists it.

He takes off his helmet and take a breath.

WES

Umm...nice, ordinary air.

Olivia lets go of her helmet and lets it float away from her.

She looks to Wes to do the same.

Wes lets go of his helmet, and lets it float away from.

WES

Good quality air.

OLIVIA

Good for romance...

She swims up to him and then stops.

They hover in the air.

They kiss and slowly rotate in the air. They hold the kiss.

CUT TO:

INT – BASE – DAY

Control centre.

Wes and Olivia are suddenly back in the control room at the base, dressed in their spacesuits but without their helmets.

The small black sphere is on a desk, near them.

They look bewildered.

Olivia looks at another desk, where both of their helmets are located.

She nods Wes to look towards the helmets.

OLIVIA

What are we doing here, in our suits ?

WES

It must've transported us here.

OLIVIA

It's small again, as it was in that cave.

WES

Our helmets...

OLIVIA

We took them off, to kiss...you remember ?
It only just happened...

A beat.

WES

When did it happen ?

OLIVIA

Moments ago...just now...

Wes shakes his head a little.

WES

I'm not so sure of that.

Olivia looks puzzled.

OLIVIA

What do you mean ?

WES

How do we know, it was just now ?

No reply from Olivia.

WES

We don't, do we ?

OLIVIA

I guess not.

Wes ponders the situation.

He looks at the small black sphere.

WES

That thing can change time and space.
It can distort time. It can change the
dimensions around us.

OLIVIA

Maybe, it wants to observe us in our
natural habitation. It preserved us for
a purpose, and transported us here.
Maybe, it wants to watch us, having
sex...

WES

A voyeur ?

OLIVIA

It's possible.

WES

Should we do it, then ?

OLIVIA

Not for its benefit; for our own pleasure.

WES

That would be nice. I'm not too keen on
the idea of something watching us, though.

OLIVIA

We are making that assumption. We don't
really know for sure.

WES

What are you saying ?

OLIVIA

If we make love, it's for our enjoyment,
not the entertainment of some entity, we
don't even know exists.

WES

I guess you're right.

She leans forwards and kisses him. They hold the kiss for a few seconds, then separate their
lips.

OLIVIA

I feel like some romance, even some sex.

WES

That would be nice...

OLIVIA

It would, wouldn't it...?

WES

I think so.

Olivia holds out her hand. Wes takes it and Olivia leads him away from the desk, with the small black sphere on it.

CUT TO:

INT – BEDROOM – DAY

Olivia and Wes in their work overalls, having removed their spacesuits, come into the bedroom of Olivia's quarters and move to the bed.

They kiss, standing up, then allow themselves to fall onto the bed in a semi-controlled motion.

They kiss again when they are lying on the bed.

WES

It might be watching...

OLIVIA

It might not.

WES

You feel anything ?

OLIVIA

I don't get the feeling I'm being watched.

WES

You're the sensitive one...Is it a psychic thing, like telepathy, para-psychology...?

OLIVIA

That's the ESP. Extra Sensory Perception. That could be something to do with how our brains sense sub-atomic particles, passing through time and space, only hitting the occasional neuron, to make us realise other things exist...

WES

"Other things...?"

OLIVIA

Things like ghosts...poltergeists, things like that...strange, unexplained phenomena. Like...expand your minds...

WES

Not with drugs ?

OLIVIA

Not with drugs. Drugs just turn you into a zombie. This is, something else...something inherent in the human brain...but these abilities, they have to be, magnified, for us to, sense them.

WES

You can sense them ?

OLIVIA

A little...

WES

More than me...?

Olivia nods.

WES

I am making the assumption we are not being watched...

OLIVIA

Same with me. I would feel inhibited if I knew I was being watched.

Olivia stands and steps out of her overalls, then gets into bed.

Wes stands, and slowly steps out of his overalls, and stands for a moment, contemplating the situation. He then gets into bed.

Wes and Olivia snuggle up in bed and kiss.

CUT TO:

INT – BEDROOM – NIGHT

The time simulation device is now set to apparent night.

Olivia and Wes are asleep.

Olivia opens her eyes and wakes; then she nudges Wes awake.

He looks around to see where he is.

OLIVIA

We did okay...

WES

We did.

He sits up in bed and then reaches out to his overalls on the floor, and pulls them towards him.

Olivia gets out of bed, stands and puts on her overalls.

CUT TO:

INT – COMMAND AREA – NIGHT

Olivia and Wes approach the desk with the small black sphere.

Olivia bends a little to speak to the sphere.

OLIVIA

You weren't watching, were you ?

No reply from the sphere. No reaction at all.

WES

Sometimes, it just seems inert.

OLIVIA

It has a secret, that's for sure, we haven't fathomed out, as of yet...

She speaks to the sphere.

OLIVIA

You do have a secret, don't you ?

No reaction from the sphere.

OLIVIA

I guess we all got a mystery, somewhere inside us...

WES

I don't reckon we can interrogate it from the outside...

OLIVIA

We gotta go back inside it ?

WES

I reckon so.

OLIVIA
It allowed us, to go inside.

WES
Ask it to let us in.

Olivia is amused by this suggestion.

OLIVIA
You're joking...

WES
Ask it...

Olivia addresses the black sphere.

OLIVIA
Please, black sphere, let us in...

She looks up at Wes, as nothing has happened.

OLIVIA
It'll only let us in when it wants to.

WES
It's playing with us.

OLIVIA
I don't wanna be the plaything of
a miniature black hole...

WES
That's the point. If it is a black hole..
if...if it is intelligent...it seems to be
playing a game with us...

OLIVIA
What does it want ?

WES
Who knows ? It is, whimsical.

OLIVIA
A whimsical black hole...you know
how ludicrous that sounds !

WES
It let us in...when it wanted to...

Olivia sighs.

OLIVIA

It absorbed us...What were we doing
last time, when it absorbed us ?

Wes tries to remember.

WES

We were...doing nothing...

OLIVIA

Let's go back to bed. This is boring.

WES

Okay.

Wes and Olivia go out, leaving the sphere, apparently inert, on the desk.

CUT TO:

INT – BEDROOM – NIGHT

Wes and Olivia in their overalls, near the bed.

WES

I'm so tired now, I don't think I can
manage more sex.

OLIVIA

I'm pretty tired as well.

Olivia yawns.

WES

How about, we just go to bed, and sleep.

OLIVIA

Sleep ?

WES

Sleep...

OLIVIA

Okay...

Olivia slinks off her overalls and gets into bed.

Wes takes off his overalls and gets into bed.

WES

I am whacked.

OLIVIA
We've had quite a day.

WES
Best go to sleep.

Olivia turns from him and closes her eyes. Wes closes his eyes.

Later:

They are fast asleep.

CUT TO:

INT – DREAM SEQUENCE – NIGHT

Whose dream is it ? Olivia's ? Wes's ? Or, is it a joint dream ? Or is it actually happening ?

Olivia and Wes are asleep in bed.

The small black sphere enters the room and floats towards them.

It hovers over the bed and emits a beam of white light onto the bed.

The spirits of Olivia and Wes rise out of their bodies, up towards the sphere, then wait for a moment whilst another beam shines on the overalls on the floor.

The overalls rise up from the floor and cover the hovering spirits of Olivia and Wes.

They then become miniaturised and are absorbed into the sphere.

CUT TO:

INT – SPHERE – DAY

The inside of the sphere appears to expand enormously, so that the spirits of Olivia and Wes become life size and float in the air.

Olivia opens her eyes.

Wes opens his eyes.

OLIVIA
We're back inside the sphere.

WES
Is this us ?

OLIVIA
I think so.

But this time their bodies are more ethereal, and when they try to touch, their hands pass

through their bodies.

Olivia looks shocked.

OLIVIA

We're ghosts !

WES

Does that mean - ?

OLIVIA

- We're ghosts...? I guess it does.

WES

When did we die ? How did we die ?

OLIVIA

We were in bed, and we feel asleep.
I don't remember anything after that.

WES

If we are dead, there must be some
kind of existence, after death.

A slight smile from Olivia.

OLIVIA

That's something.

Wes looks around for a moment, then turns to Olivia.

WES

Maybe, we died earlier...the first time
the black hole swallowed us...

OLIVIA

We're here now, as spirits, as ghosts...
Maybe, this is a glimpse of eternity...

WES

If we're inside a black hole...

OLIVIA

...We could live..almost forever...

WES

We might be quarks...

OLIVIA

Then, we don't exist...

WES

We do exist...the information we represent, has been preserved...

OLIVIA

But we cease to exist, as people...

WES

There might be lotsa spirits here, like us...ghosts...

OLIVIA

It's not us...

WES

Our information has been preserved. We have not violated that principle.

OLIVIA

Why is that so important ?

WES

It is a scientific fact.

A beat.

OLIVIA

I need some answers.

Olivia swims up to the small white sphere at the centre and speaks to it.

OLIVIA

Excuse me, but...how do I address you ?

No reply from the white sphere.

OLIVIA

Singularity, please answer my questions... Why are we here ?

No reply or reaction from the white sphere.

OLIVIA

Are we dead ?

No reply.

OLIVIA

Are we spirits ?

No reply.

OLIVIA
Are we ghosts ?

No reply.

Olivia looks towards Wes, who swims up to her.

OLIVIA
Damn, it said nothing.

A beat.

OLIVIA
Are we gonna be here, forever ? For,
eternity ?

WES
Can you accept that ?

OLIVIA
I guess I have to.

Olivia looks around towards the curved walls of the huge black sphere, then back to Wes.

OLIVIA
It's not much of an existence.

WES
It's better than nothing.

OLIVIA
Is it ? I might prefer to be nothing, if
I had any choice. An eternity with you
for company.

WES
I could be worse. You could be on your
own for eternity.

OLIVIA
That would be worse.

WES
At least we've got each other.

She smiles at him.

A beat.

WES

You ever been happy, really happy,
any time in your life ?

OLIVIA

When I'm with you...

WES

Before then ?

Olivia tries to remember.

OLIVIA

It's odd. I don't remember anything
happened before we came to this planet.

WES

Same for me. I only remember what
happened since we been here...

OLIVIA

This black hole has robbed us of our
memories.

WES

I hope not.

OLIVIA

Looks like it has. Damn.

She looks at the small white sphere.

OLIVIA

You son-of-a-bitch, you robbed me of
my mind.

No reaction from the white sphere.

OLIVIA

This ain't no fun.

Olivia surveys the circular walls of the black sphere, left to right, then up and down.

She then looks at Wes.

OLIVIA

You know, I used ta be afraid of death.
I couldn't face the idea I would simply
cease to exist, one day; and, I wouldn't
even know about it. I would just be gone.

OLIVIA

But now, I reckon death might be preferable
to this existence...

Olivia sighs.

OLIVIA

If I could create a past out of my memories,
- but I can't remember any of it...Maybe, if
I want to live another life, I'd haf-ta invent
the whole thing, use my imagination. I would
be relying on the Collective Subconscious.

WES

Why would it take our individual memories
from us ? Makes no sense.

OLIVIA

We can't discover much about ourselves
without our earliest memories.

WES

It's like, nothing exists before we came
to this planet. It would be nice to have
our childhood memories intact.

OLIVIA

I guess things like that don't matter to
this black hole. It's too personal.

WES

It won't let us out. We're prisoners here.

A beat.

Olivia and Wes reflect on what it means to exist without a past. They speak as if a little detached.

OLIVIA

Ain't no good to have no past...

WES

The past makes you who you are...

OLIVIA

Without a past, you're nothing.

WES

But, is a detailed personal past
really necessary for that person

WES (cont'd)
to survive ?

OLIVIA
Depends on the individual...

WES
Guess it does...

OLIVIA
The past determines the present and
the future; but, if you've got no past,
do you have a future ? Do you even
have a present ?

WES
This is our present, and our future.
Time stops in a black hole.

OLIVIA
This is gonna get boring, after a while.

A beat.

WES
We came here to discover the truth
about ourselves...

OLIVIA
Did we ? I don't remember actually
deciding to come here. We were put
here, by that black hole sphere thing,
without asking us what we wanted.
We had no choice whatsoever in this
abduction.

WES
We found the cave. It was your dream
led us there, your curiosity. You insisted
we went there...

OLIVIA
So, it's all my fault now - ?

WES
I was quite happy as I was, making
money out of minerals, but you wanted
to make a discovery...well, you have...
You discovered, a type of, immortality.

OLIVIA

I don't know how long I can stand this...

WES

We're stuck here, forever.

Olivia looks upset and a tear forms in her eye, which dribbles down her cheek.

WES

I'm sorry...I didn't want to upset you...

OLIVIA

Do you really blame me for this ? Be honest with me...

WES

Maybe, a little...but I'm to blame also, because, I love you...I would've followed you anywhere...you know that.

He puts his forefinger on her cheek and stops the falling tear. He brushes the side of his finger upwards towards her eye, to take off the tear.

He removes his finger from her cheek, and looks at it.

WES

I do love you...

OLIVIA

But will you still love me if we're stuck here for ten years, when we start to get older ?

WES

We might not age. We might be as we are now, forever.

OLIVIA

I guess that might be better than getting old, and decaying inside this shell...

She looks towards the curved walls of the huge black sphere, then turns to look at the small white sphere.

She speaks to the small white sphere.

OLIVIA

If you are the singularity, you must hold so many secrets. Will you let us know some of them, if we're to remain here,

OLIVIA (cont'd)
your captives ?

No reply or reaction from the small white sphere.

She turns to Wes.

OLIVIA
I don't really like the way it always
ignores us.

WES
It is a little impolite...

OLIVIA
A little ! It's downright disrespectful.

Wes laughs a little, then looks more serious.

WES
Eternity here, with you...a kind of..
immortality...I suppose, there are
worse things...

OLIVIA
We might begin to lose our sense of
time...if years and years pass, without
our noticing...

WES
Years will pass on the outside, but we
won't realise that.

Olivia sighs.

OLIVIA
What a life, ha !

WES
Better than being dead...

OLIVIA
Only just.

WES
At least we have each other...

They move closer and kiss, then float in the air, kissing and turning slowly.

Later:

Wes and Olivia are floating, a little distance apart, both asleep.

The small white sphere begins to get brighter and starts to emit a beam of light, which broadens as it gets further from the sphere itself.

Small transparent spheres, like globes, begin to form in the beam of light.

Each globe is a different existence of mostly alien lifeforms in their natural habitat, which in some cases is a scene of plants and trees; in some others, underwater areas beneath some oceans; also, high-tech urban areas, and various spaceships.

The aliens are of all types, shapes and sizes, but very few are at all humanoid. Most are more like octopuses, jellyfish for the ocean planets; in the high-tech cities and spaceships, like computers, robots and holograms; in the verdant tree areas, more like other animals on the earlier Earth.

When a large number of these globes has accumulated inside the huge black sphere, the beam of light discontinues.

The globes move towards the circular walls of the huge black sphere and rotate around the circumference.

Olivia opens her eyes, to see this mysterious parade of aliens and their respective planets. She nudges Wes awake.

OLIVIA

Look at all those..globes !

Wes looks at the globes with wide-eyed wonder.

WES

That's amazing. We're not alone.

Olivia and Wes swim towards the rotating globes.

WES

They're aliens...extra-terrestials...not from our Earth.

OLIVIA

Can we communicate with them ?

WES

We're gonna try...

OLIVIA

Such variety...and none exactly like us...
no real humanoids...

Wes smiles.

WES

You didn't expect all alien species to be humanoid, did you ?

OLIVIA

No; but I expected some of them to be humanoid.

WES

There might be one or two. We are not the template for alien life throughout the universe. That comes as a bit of a shock to you, doesn't it ?

OLIVIA

Yes, it does. It certainly is a surprise... not what I expected.

WES

We got that model of humanoid aliens from our own science fiction. This is science fact, not fiction.

Olivia takes a closer look at some of the slowly rotating globes.

Wes follows her and looks with deep concentration at some of the turning globes.

OLIVIA

They're rather fascinating.

WES

Aren't they ?

OLIVIA

I didn't know alien life had such variety...

Olivia finds a globe with what looks like more primitive life.

OLIVIA

That would be at the start of life on an alien world...

WES

It looks like it's taken specimens from all time periods as well as all different planets.

OLIVIA

Specimens...we're specimens, they're specimens – this is some kind o' zoo.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

Where is the zoo-keeper ?

WES

Good question. I hope we get to see
whoever it is, or whatever it is, soon.

Olivia takes a close look at a globe with a creature with long arms and large eyes.

The creature seems to react to being seen, and scrambles away, somewhat frightened.

Olivia turns to Wes.

OLIVIA

They can see us. We gotta find one we
can communicate with...

WES

What ? By telepathy ?

OLIVIA

It must be by telepathy...We need something
intelligent...

Olivia looks at a number of globes.

WES

How can you tell they're intelligent ?

OLIVIA

If they not frightened of us...if they're
as curious about us as we are of them.

Olivia continues to examine the globes closely for some creature to communicate with,
but it is a long laborious task.

Later:

She is tired, and decides to have a rest.

She floats down to Wes.

OLIVIA

I couldn't find one I could communicate
with...

WES

Maybe, none o' them are telepathic...

Olivia just looks disappointed and tired.

WES

You sure you actually are psychic...?
Telepathic ?

OLIVIA

I think I am...

Wes looks unimpressed.

OLIVIA

I believe I am...

A beat.

WES

What are you gonna do ?

OLIVIA

I'll try again tomorrow.

Olivia yawns.

OLIVIA

I need a rest. I need ta sleep.

Wes ponders the situation and muses for a moment.

WES

This was supposed to be a planet of
discovery. That's why we came here.

OLIVIA

What have we discovered ?

WES

About ourselves ?

She nods.

WES

Nothing...absolutely nothing. We know
nothing more about ourselves than we
always did. This planet has taught us
nothing.

OLIVIA

We only came here to mine minerals.
No wonder we found out nothing. We
had the wrong attitude, the wrong idea.
We came here to exploit this planet, and

OLIVIA (cont'd)
it exploited us. We got what we deserved.

WES
What are you saying ?

OLIVIA
The planet got its revenge on us.

WES
That is a ludicrous statement.

OLIVIA
Is it ? Think about it...we mined its minerals,
and it mined our minds.

WES
It would haf-ta be sentient to do that,
deliberately...

OLIVIA
Maybe, it is...maybe, it is sentient.

WES
God-dammit !

OLIVIA
It read our thoughts and punished us by
letting the black hole absorb us.

WES
Things happen in space and time, without
any intelligent design.

OLIVIA
I just get the feeling, this planet own us
now.

WES
Maybe, it does. We can't escape from it.

OLIVIA
It was our destiny, to get stuck here.

WES
It was your idea, to explore the mysterious
caves you saw in your dream.

OLIVIA
There you go again, blaming me...

WES

You actually are to blame.

She turns away from him, a little upset, then composes herself again, to turn to him and speak again.

OLIVIA

Wes, let's not fall out over this – okay ?

WES (grudgingly)

Okay...I'm sorry, I said that...

OLIVIA

There must be a way outta here. Surely, one of those intelligent aliens must know.

WES

We can't be sure any o' them are smart like us.

OLIVIA

We ain't smart...

Wes laughs.

WES

I guess not. If we were smart, we would never have gotten stuck here, in this black hole, for eternity.

OLIVIA

We gotta rely on our intelligence to get us outta here.

WES

We could be stuck here forever. After all, we are inside a black hole. Nothing escapes from a black hole, not even life.

OLIVIA

But we should be dead. Something is protecting us, for some reason.

WES

For all we know, we might be dead. This might no longer be flesh and blood. We might be quarks. Only, our information has been preserved. How do we know, we're actually alive ? This could be some kind o' simulation, created by the planet

WES (cont'd)

or the black hole, to get information out o' us. We might be holograms, for all we know.

OLIVIA

This planet has preserved us, for some purpose.

WES

This planet might've preserved our information for some purpose. Or, it might not have any particular purpose with regard to us. It might be just what it does. And it houses, this black hole. You'd like to believe, wouldn't you, that somehow this planet wishes to preserve us... that somehow you are special...special enough for destiny, to somehow preserve. Well, I tell you what, you're not important enough for any entity to single you out for special examination, to preserve you for eternity.

OLIVIA

How do you know that ? And anyway, I don't consider myself anything special...or you, or any other of the specimens put together in this zoo, for the entertainment of whatever intelligence is doing this, I don't think it picked us out because we were intelligent, or in any way special...I just reckon, it has a purpose, and it abducted or absorbed thousands of specimens, not just us.

WES

But you think I might be some kinda providence, something you can reason with...something like God...

OLIVIA

I do not...I never said that...

WES

Okay...Continue in your search to make some sense outta this...only, I reckon, it might all still be random, nothing of any design or purpose.

OLIVIA

Let's see if we can discover something...

WES

Okay, you do that, if you're prepared to waste

WES (cont'd)
your time on a fruitless enterprise.

OLIVIA
I got enough time to waste. I got eternity.

Wes sighs.

Olivia swims away from him.

Wes shakes his head in disapproval.

Later:

Olivia sees that Wes is asleep, floating in the air.

She looks weary, but swims slowly to the small white sphere.

OLIVIA
Why don't you help me ?

No reply from the small white sphere. No reaction from it.

OLIVIA
Help me, please.

Again, no response.

Olivia turns away from the small white sphere and swims towards the circular walls of the huge black sphere, where she stops, to observe some more of the globes passing in front of her, in circular motion.

She looks at several of the globes closely, but none of the aliens seems willing to engage with her.

Suddenly, Wes's presence is just behind her, and she turns, a little startled.

OLIVIA
It's you.

WES
Who else could it be ?

OLIVIA
No-one...no-one else...

A beat.

WES
Olivia, what do you want from life ?

OLIVIA

That's quite a question.

WES

What do you want ?

OLIVIA

I just wanna have a decent life.

WES

Where ?

OLIVIA

Certainly not here.

WES

Use your imagination.

OLIVIA

My imagination is not strong enough.

WES

Your imagination is what got us here.

OLIVIA

What am I supposed to do ? Not use
my imagination - ?

No reply from Wes.

OLIVIA

I wanna live in a nice house near a lake,
in a clearing in the forest, with trees, and
a pleasant breeze; near enough to some
kind of civilisation...close to nature, yet
also within the scope of technology; to
have the best of both worlds...

WES

You won't find the answer to our present
predicament, looking at them globes...

OLIVIA

They got lives, of a sort.

WES

But what are they ?

OLIVIA

They appear to be, aliens of all sorts and

OLIVIA (cont'd)

kinds...

WES

In a representation of their familiar surroundings, their environment.

OLIVIA

They have an existence.

WES

Are you, envious of them ?

OLIVIA

I am a little.

WES

Look, Olivia, we gotta resign ourselves to the life we got here...

OLIVIA

This ain't a life. This is, an existence.

WES

...To the existence we got here...

OLIVIA

Floating, sleeping, dreaming...I wish I could put my feet on solid ground. I wish I could breathe real air. This is just a simulation...

WES

You could be right there...

OLIVIA

For all I know, I'm just a string of quarks somehow stuck together... That ain't no life. I wanna be at ease with the choices I made...

WES

I would follow you to the end of the universe. I love you...

OLIVIA

Enough to share my fate ?

WES

You've already decided that for me.

WES (cont'd)

I can't go back on that.

OLIVIA

I hope I made the right decision, for both of us...

A beat.

OLIVIA

When you followed me, into that cave...

WES

I was in love with you.

OLIVIA

You regret that - ?

WES

No...

OLIVIA

But - ?

WES

But, I did not know at the time, that would seal my fate. I did not know my destiny was being decided, there and then.

OLIVIA

We never know when our fate is being fixed, not for sure, not at the time. Only afterwards, we can work that out.

WES

So much for free will.

OLIVIA

You got no free will ?

WES

That's when my ration of free will ended.

OLIVIA

Now, you're stuck here with me.

WES

I'm not too unhappy with that.

A beat.

OLIVIA

But what would you prefer ? Your own life back, or, this, existence, with me ?

WES

It's not like I had any choice in the matter.

OLIVIA

But, which would you prefer ?

WES

What a question to ask me...

Olivia stick to her guns.

OLIVIA

Which would you prefer ?

Wes has to think for a moment about this.

OLIVIA

C'mon – answer.

WES

I think I would prefer to be living with you, but not here.

OLIVIA

In one of those globes, then ?

WES

I wouldn't mind, as long as I'm with you.

Olivia turns away from Wes and looks at one the globes.

OLIVIA

Maybe, it's all a state of mind...this planet of discovery.

WES

Maybe...The most important thing for me, is being with you.

Olivia smiles and turns to Wes.

OLIVIA

Flattery...

Wes put his arms around Olivia and draws her closer to him.

WES

No flattery...you are seriously gorgeous.

They kiss and rotate slowly with the motion of affection. The rotate away from the globes.

Later:

Wes and Olivia are floating near each other.

OLIVIA

Another life...

Wes looks at her.

OLIVIA

I was dreaming, of another life.

WES

You got ambitions...?

OLIVIA

I used ta have ambitions...ain't got none
no more...

WES

A beautiful woman like you can exist
in her own right, without any other purpose...

OLIVIA

My beauty was, unintentional, an accident
of birth, refining my bone structure, to make
me beautiful. I had no design, except what
Nature gave me.

A beat.

OLIVIA

I just wish, things had been different, certain
specific things...

WES

Such as ?

OLIVIA

The whole of my God-damn life, apart from
meeting you, which I stand wanna happen.

WES

That ain't specific. What I would want
different, is still to meet you, earlier, on

WES (cont'd)

Earth sometime, before we went on
this God-damn mission...

OLIVIA

...Before you got stuck here with me...

WES

You're not the problem. This place is.

OLIVIA

It's a prison of the mind. We can use
our brains to build a better life, a life
of the imagination...I wanna be rooted
in the earth, not fly around like I'm some
fish in a bowl...

WES

We can swim, and do acrobatics...

OLIVIA

Who wants to, man; that is just tedious.

WES

Can't float around like this on Earth.

OLIVIA

I've had enough o' floating around. I
wanna plant my feet on the ground, not
fly all over the place.

WES

What would you be, if we were on the
Earth now, a scientist or a domesticated
woman ?

OLIVIA

I would be both.

WES

I guess that is possible.

OLIVIA

What would you be ?

WES

A miner, like I am...a mine-co-ordinator.
I would find precious minerals, and sell
'em for as much as I could make.

OLIVIA (ironically)
A worthy ambition ! What a life, huh !

Olivia gets upset, contemplating another life, and tears begin to form in her eyes.

A tear falls down her cheek.

OLIVIA
We could live like that, couldn't we ?

WES
Yes, we could.

OLIVIA
That's what I want. That's what I hope
for...Why can't we have that ? Why can't
we live like that ?

Wes sighs.

WES
I don't know...I really don't know.

Olivia moves to rest her head on Wes's shoulder, as she remains tearful. After a while, she recovers her composure, and can remove her head from his shoulder. She looks at Wes.

OLIVIA
Maybe, tomorrow will be better.

WES
Maybe...

OLIVIA
Tomorrow...tomorrow...

Later:

Olivia and Wes are both asleep with their eyes closed, floating in the air.

CUT TO:

DREAM SEQUENCE. INT – BEDROOM – NIGHT

Olivia and Wes asleep in the bed, in a bedroom that is different from the one on the base, as the moon can be seen through the window.

CUT TO:

INT – BEDROOM – DAY

Next morning.

Olivia wakes up, and sees that Wes is still asleep.

She gets out of bed, wearing a night dress.

She goes into the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT – BATHROOM – DAY

Olivia looks at herself in the mirror. She looks a little puzzled at first, then more confident.

CUT TO:

INT – KITCHEN – DAY

Olivia and Wes, in ordinary clothes, both seated at the table, having breakfast.

OLIVIA

So, what's your agenda for today ?

WES

Gonna go down to the mine and take some samples. Then, I'll come back and, help you out.

Olivia smiles.

OLIVIA

Help me out...?

WES

Yep.

OLIVIA

Sounds good...

Olivia drinks some fruit juice from her glass.

CUT TO:

INT – LIVING ROOM – DAY

Wes is about ready to go to work.

Olivia kisses him.

Wes looks at her for a moment, then moves to open the front door and go out.

WES

See you soon..

Wes goes out. The front door closes.

Olivia looks at the front door, then turns.

She seems a little unsure of herself and her surroundings.

CUT TO:

EXT – DRIVEWAY – DAY

The driveway in front of the house where Olivia and Wes reside.

Wes gets in his car and drives off.

The house is in a clearing in the forest, near a lake, with trees, as Olivia had hoped for.

Olivia is at the window, watching as the car drives away, then she is gone from the window.

CUT TO:

INT – LIVING ROOM – DAY

Olivia is seated at a desk, looking at her laptop, working on a problem.

She drinks a cup of coffee.

Later:

Olivia is near the front door as Wes comes in.

She greets him with a kiss.

CUT TO:

INT – KITCHEN – DAY/NIGHT

Early evening.

Olivia and Wes eating at the kitchen table.

OLIVIA

You know, I had a strange dream...

Wes looks up at Olivia, a little curious.

WES

Yeah...?

OLIVIA

I dreamt I was in the future...

WES

How much in the future ?

Olivia thinks for a moment.

OLIVIA

I don't know...hundreds of years...

WES

Uh-huh...

OLIVIA

We were astronauts, together on this alien planet...

WES (surprised)

Astronauts ?

OLIVIA

Yep...astronauts...

WES

What were we doing, on this alien planet ?

OLIVIA

We were mining...

WES

Ah...that makes sense...

OLIVIA

We were after rare precious minerals...

WES

That's what I do here, on the good old Earth...Not that strange a dream...

OLIVIA

You reckon so - ?

WES

It features elements from our life, here, on this planet, the Earth...

OLIVIA

You never dreamt of being an astronaut ?

WES

I must've done. Every boy wants to be an astronaut...Just a dream...

OLIVIA (hesitantly)

Just..a..dream...?

Wes looks at Olivia with some authority.

WES
Just a dream. We have reality.

OLIVIA (uncertain)
This is..reality...?

WES
Sure is...

OLIVIA
Not a dream...?

WES
Most definitely, not a dream.

OLIVIA
Okay...

Olivia looks a little disconcerted.

CUT TO:

INT – BEDROOM – NIGHT

Olivia, in her night dress, standing by the window, looking up at the sky and the moon.

She turns from the window, to the bed.

OLIVIA
Just a dream...

She sighs.

CUT TO:

INT – GLOBE – NIGHT

Olivia and the whole are contained within a globe.

CUT TO:

INT – BLACK SPHERE

The globe is just one of a large number of globes rotating near the curved walls of the huge black sphere.

CUT TO:

INT – COMMAND AREA – NIGHT

The control and command area on the base.

The black sphere is on the desk.

It suddenly starts to increase in size, and swallows up the whole of the base as it expands.

CUT TO:

EXT – PLANET – NIGHT

The black sphere becomes enormous, totally swallowing the base, then expands to swallow the whole of the planet.

CUT TO:

EXT – SPACE

The huge black sphere expands and becomes a black hole, slowly rotating in space and eating up the whole of the solar system, swallowing the star around which the planet was orbiting.

The black hole occupies a large part of this sector of space.

THE END

