

**AWWA**

by  
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EXT. DESERT. DAY.

Track slowly across a cracked desert floor. Smoke wafts into the frame as we continue across the desert floor.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/DUNES. DAY. (MOMENTS EARLIER)

Two NATIVE DESERT HUNTERS, dressed in white shrouds, with veils, carrying long staffs with peculiar cuneiform scribing along the shaft. The Native Hunters watch the horizon as something breaks up in the upper atmosphere. Like a comet the debris hurtles through the sky. They watch as it disappears behind dunes miles, and miles in the distance. There is an undecipherable grunting and chatter between them as they scurry away.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT. DAY.

Still tracking across the dry cracked earth, more smoke wafts into frame. We cross over broken pieces of metal, shrapnel. Small pieces of foam insulation freshly melted and smoldering. Continue to track over wreckage.

CUT TO:

INT. E.O.R.-1 (EXCELON ORBITAL RECON.)/ESCAPE POD. DAY  
(MINUTES EARLIER)

A tube like structure is almost full of smoke. There is a red flashing light in the distance. The silhouettes of four astronauts strapped in a row along the tube. There are two empty seats. CU on gloved hands clinching a handle tightly hanging on for dear life. CU safety belt harness being strained. The inside of the craft rattles and shakes violently. Sounds of heavy breathing inside a space helmet. Heavy breath, fogs up face shield so much that the face inside is unrecognizable. Instruments spark and smolder. We hear the twisting sound of metal as the hull begins to buckle when it burns up in the atmosphere. A bright firelight lights up the smoke filled cockpit.

C.C.I. (V.O.)

Primary landing gear has failed.  
Initiating secondary inflation  
device.

A visual display, shows the vessel's structure with a red dotted line across the port side.

C.C.I. (CONT'D)  
 Secondary landing system  
 malfunction. 28 seconds until  
 impact.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT. DAY. (MINUTES LATER)

We pass over more of the wreckage and scorched desert floor. We move across patches of smoke and wires. Burnt circuits and a boot, personal effects. We see an arm sticking out from under a large piece of the hull. A mechanical motorized sound repeats like a broken record. More smoke, more wreckage. The grunts and moans of the wounded. Across more broken pieces of metal and burning pieces of foam. Until we come to a large piece of the outer hull. Scorched markings on the outside read. E.O.R.-1. The piece of metal is pushed away from someone underneath. A women SCIENCE OFFICER: BETH KING 35 emerges out of the rubble with a shattered helmet. She unlocks the helmet and pulls it off letting it crash to the ground. She coughs from the smoke. Her face is bleeding from the shattered face shield. She looks back at the trail of wreckage. She sees another survivor climbing out of wreckage in the distance. Battered and bruised but still mobile she pulls herself up and makes her way toward the man. Beth sees an empty burnt seat smoldering on the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. E.O.R.-1 /COMMAND DECK/ ESCAPE HATCH - DAY.

(MINUTES BEFORE ESCAPE POD SEPERATION) FLASH BACK

A strong good looking boy scout type JAMES KING 42 shoves Beth into the escape pod, and shuts the hatch door.

BETH  
 James! James!

He puts his finger to his lips to shush her. She shakes her head 'No.' James pushes a button for the intercom.

JAMES  
 Beth, Shhh. When we eject the pod  
 the inertia should put us back into  
 orbit.

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

We'll make it to the gateway, and send back a rescue party. The habitat pod should keep you all safe.

The ship starts to shake as it scrapes along the planet's atmosphere.

BETH

No. I can't do this.

JAMES

Yes you can, now go!

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/MID SECTION WRECKAGE. DAY. (CONTINUOUS)

Beth continues to survey the wreckage as she approaches the other survivor. He is large well-built soldier, DANTE BRIGGS 32. She hears the cries for help from someone still trapped in the wreckage. Dante immediately moves a large pillar, and other scraps of metal to find another survivor. MOURY POLKOVICH 46. His legs are pinned below the knees. His helmet is cracked. Beth looks on with concern.

MOURY

I can't breath! I can't breath!

Moury stops Dante from unfastening his helmet.

MOURY (CONT.)

No! The viruses, bacteria! We're gonna die.

Dante smacks his helmet a couple of times to get his attention.

DANTE

Hey, hey listen Polkovich. I have to take your helmet off, or else you're going to suffocate in there. Besides the face shield's already cracked.

Moury gives in and Dante removes the helmet.

MOURY

My legs.

DANTE

Yeah, we're working on that.

Dante turns to Beth.

DANTE (CONT'D)  
It's too heavy, Where is the  
C.C.I.?

BETH  
I don't know.

Dante sighs, and goes back to console Moury.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/2nd HALF MID SECTION WRECKAGE. DAY. (CONTINUOUS)

Beth searches the wreckage for the C.C.I. She sees another survivor emerge from the smoke in the distance. OMAR 62 his helmet is already removed, and he is removing his pressure suit. Beth approaches him.

BETH (CONT'D)  
Omar.

OMAR  
Are we still four?

BETH  
Moury's pinned under a bulkhead.  
Dante can't pry it; we need to find  
the C.C.I.. Are you alright?

He takes a deep breath, as he sheds the rest of the pressure suit. His long white robe and tunic blows in the wind.

OMAR  
Glad to be out of the canned air  
and back on solid ground. And you,  
commander?

Beth ignores his acknowledgement to her rank, as he inspects her wounds.

BETH  
I'll be alright. We have to find  
the C.C.I..

OMAR  
The aft end, but it took the bulk  
of the impact.

Omar leads the way.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/AFT SECTION WRECKAGE. DAY.

They walk along retracing the steps of the wreckage. They walk past parts of the pod still on fire, until they get to a piece of the hull with an arm sticking out. They hear the sound of a mechanized motor on repeat. Together they pull the metal off of the arm. To reveal the body of the C.C.I., (cybernetic computer interface) an android, with a female form. A perfectly formed figure of a woman. The body is still intact, but the stomach area is severely damaged.

BETH  
This isn't good.

Beth looks around at the desert. Not a sign of life in any direction. Omar goes to tend to the C.C.I.. He props the android up, and starts to inspect the damage.

BETH (CONT.)  
Can you fix it?

Omar access a control panel on her shoulder.

OMAR  
I don't know.

Omar pushes some circuits and C.C.I. jerks mechanically as she starts to come to life, then falls lifeless again.

OMAR (CONT.)  
It will take some time.

Beth looks up at the blazing sun.

BETH  
Try to access her auditory interface, and sensors, we have to find water, and soon.

Omar continues to work. Beth hears Dante call out for her.

DANTE (O.C.)  
Commander? Commander!

Beth starts toward him as he approaches, they meet up and start walking back to Moury's position.

BETH  
What is it?

DANTE  
Polkavich is not lookin' to good.  
Where's the C.C.I.?

BETH  
Damaged, Omar's on it.

DANTE  
Damaged? Those things are  
practically indestructible.

BETH  
Practically.

DANTE  
Christ!

BETH  
Listen I need you focused.

DANTE  
What?

BETH  
We need to gather whatever supplies  
weren't destroyed by the impact. We  
-

DANTE  
I know what to do commander. I  
spent six months survival training  
in the Sahara quadrant.

BETH  
Good, then find us some water.

DANTE  
Listen, I'll let you have the pilot  
seat for now, but only because it's  
protocol. But you're on a short  
leash. You gamble with our lives in  
anyway that might hinder our  
chances for survival and I'll be  
right there to set you in the back  
seat, do you understand?

BETH  
Take inventory and make camp before  
nightfall, is that clear?

Dante storms off, and Beth continues on to check on Moury.  
Moury grunts and moans as Beth inspects the situation.

MOURY  
How bad is it?

BETH  
You'll be dancin' in no time  
counselor.

MOURY  
Don't patronize me officer.

BETH  
Not in the mood I take it.

MOURY  
Not one bit. You know how bad this  
is? You know we weren't suppose to  
enter the biosphere with out proper  
authorization.

BETH  
We'll it's a little late now, you  
think the company will fine us?

MOURY  
You think this is funny? Some kind  
of game?

BETH  
No sir.

MOURY  
I'll have Captain King's license by  
the time I finish my report. No  
manned entry into any inhabited  
biosphere without the express  
consent of the corporate government  
and popular vote. You know the  
rules. Oh, God! Where is that damn  
machine!

BETH  
She's damaged, Omar's making  
repairs.

MOURY  
Wonderful, what's he doing praying  
over it.

BETH  
No, he's accessed the control panel  
and is initiating repairs as we  
speak.

MOURY

Well how much longer?

BETH

I don't know.

MOURY

Well why don't you go and check.

Beth walks away disgusted.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/AFT SECTION WRECKAGE. DAY.

Omar continues to work on C.C.I. Dante watches.

DANTE

I saw one of these take a full frequency EMP pulse and not even flinch.

OMAR

Well she's specifically designed to interface with the ships onboard systems. A little more fragile than the soldier model.

DANTE

She? Aren't you being a little generous reverend?

OMAR

Respect, is still respect.

DANTE

Have it your way. I've seen the plants on Mars where they make these things. Role them off of an assembly line like data chips. It's a shame to. My brother had a pleasure model same shape as this one. One hell of a good time.

Dante stops when he sees Beth approach, he gets up and carries on with his business.

BETH

How is she?

OMAR

Hard to tell. Her primary systems are rebooting. She's initiating self-repairs. We should know soon. How's our company man?

Omar leaves C.C.I. alone for a moment.

BETH

Still an asshole. I've got half a mind to leave him there.

OMAR

The fool will always try the patience of the wise.

Omar looks around the desert, as if sensing another presence.

BETH

Thanks.

Beth notices that Omar is distracted.

BETH (CONT.)

What is it?

OMAR

We're not alone here are we?

Beth is silent, and Omar takes her silence as a yes.

OMAR (CONT.) (CONT'D)

There is definitely a presence with us.

Omar looks to the sky and then to the horizon.

BETH

I don't see anything for miles.

OMAR

Nor do I, but it's not what we see that decides our fate.

C.C.I. crackles to life. Her lips and body do not move but sound emanates.

C.C.I.

Auditory interface operational, repairs initiated. 60% damage to motor function. 48% damage to sensor array. 80% damage to data storage-

Beth interrupts her.

BETH

C.C.I. this is Commander King, do you recognize?

There is a pause as she accesses the information.

C.C.I.

Affirmative, Commander Elizabeth King Ph.D. Head science officer aboard Excelon Orbital Reconnaissance vessel. Primary mission to access the biological, geological, and economic potential of this planet for the corporation of Earth's extraterrestrial resources.

Beth giggles with excitement.

BETH

C.C.I. How long before your motor functions will be operational?

C.C.I.

Unable to comply, please repeat command.

BETH

We need to locate water. Please initiate repairs on primary sensors.

C.C.I.

Unable to comply, please repeat command.

Beth grunts frustrated.

OMAR

She needs more time.

BETH

We don't have time! Moury's going to die if we don't get him out of there.

Omar puts his hand on her shoulder, to calm her. Beth takes a moment to breathe.

OMAR

Maybe there is another way to free Moury.

Beth gets up quickly with a plan in mind.

BETH

Come with me.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/ PORT SIDE WRECKAGE. DAY. (CONTINUOUS)

Dante is digging through the wreckage and making stacks of usable goods. Beth and Omar come up on him, he turns quickly.

BETH

Hold on their soldier.

Dante sighs and continues digging.

DANTE

Useless company garbage. I mean sure it looks pretty on the outside, but inside it's all cardboard and twine. You think with as much money as this corporation spends on media, that they could manage to make a habitat escape pod that didn't crumble like a stale bread in the atmosphere. This is where we had the secondary malfunction. As if the primary failure wasn't enough.

Dante kicks a piece of the wreckage.

BETH

Dante.

DANTE

What do you think brought us down anyway?

Beth digs around in the wreckage for a long piece of metal to use as a lever to pry the bulkhead off of Moury.

BETH

Hard to say, it all happened so quickly.

Dante looks up to the sky.

DANTE

We don't have much here. A couple containers of meal rations, and this is all the water I could find.

He holds up two gallon size rectangular containers.

BETH

That's it? That won't last us more than three days.

DANTE

Hey it's not my fault we're here.

BETH

No one is to blame.

DANTE

Yeah, no one stranded down here.

BETH

What is that suppose to mean?

DANTE

I mean he could've given us a choice to stay in the command section. No, he locks us all in the habitat pod and tosses us into the atmosphere like a garbage pod.

BETH

We all couldn't survive up there you know that. They only have minimal life support, barely enough for two. Capt. King did the right thing.

DANTE

No! Wrong. He's up there floating home, and we're stranded in the middle of the desert on an alien planet with no hope for-

A familiar sound from the sky causes them all to look up. It's a bird, a buzzard.

OMAR

By all the saints.

Beth looks on in bewilderment.

BETH

It's a bird.

Dante laughs out loud.

DANTE  
Well I'll be damned.

CUT TO:

INT. E.O.R.-1/COMMAND SECTION. DAY.

Capt. James King, and co-pilot Jake Stringer struggle to seal off a coolant leak blowing into the cockpit.

STRINGER  
I got it, I got it.

Stringer struggles to tighten a seal near the leak.

STRINGER (CONT.) (CONT'D)  
Switch the flow regulator.

JAMES  
I did.

Suddenly a piece of the seal bursts off and Stringer is knocked to the ground.

JAMES (CONT.) (CONT'D)  
Stringer!

James flips a few switches on the console and gets out of his seat to check on stringer. The leak subsides and dissipates to reveal a cracked piece of tubing. James finds stringer lying on the deck. He is unconscious and his head is bleeding.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/MID SECTION WRECKAGE. DAY.

Beth and Dante have wedged a large beam parallel to another so the can use the leverage to pry up the bulkhead. Omar is ready to pull Moury out.

BETH  
Okay, on three. One, two, three.

They strain to lift it up enough and hold it so that Omar can pull Moury out. It works and Omar drags Moury to safety. Beth and Dante drop the bulkhead.

MOURY  
Oh, thank you, father, thank you.

Omar inspects his legs.

MOURY (CONT.) (CONT'D)  
How bad is it?

Dante gives Omar the medical kit.

OMAR  
Let's get you cleaned up. And have  
a look.

Beth looks on with concern.

DANTE  
I'll find something to work as a  
stretcher. Any one check the status  
on C.C.I.?

BETH  
I Will.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/ AFT SECTION WRECKAGE. (CONTINUOUS)

Beth finds C.C.I. standing at attention.

BETH  
Well, you're looking better.

C.C.I. makes no response.

BETH (CONT'D)  
Are your sensors operational?

C.C.I. looks up at Beth.

C.C.I.  
Primary sensors are at 50%  
efficiency.

BETH  
That will have to do. Can you walk?

C.C.I. takes a step forward.

C.C.I.  
Affirmative.

BETH  
Good, let's go.

C.C.I. takes a few steps then stops. Beth moves back to help her.

BETH (CONT.) (CONT'D)

Come on.

C.C.I. takes a few more jerky steps before she gets the right pace.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/ PORT SIDE WRECKAGE. DAY. (CONTINUOUS)

Dante has erected a lean to canvas tarp against the hull wreckage as a shelter from the sun. Moury is asleep on a makeshift stretcher and Omar is tending to his wounds. Beth shuffles up with C.C.I..

DANTE

It's alive.

C.C.I. stops and surveys the crew.

BETH

She's only at 50%. How's Moury?

OMAR

His shinbones are fractured. I've stopped the bleeding, but as far as infection, without a full biological analysis of the planet's microorganisms, I can't say.

BETH

Well stay with him.

Dante is constructing a bow.

BETH

What's that?

DANTE

A bow.

BETH

For what?

DANTE

Arrows. Didn't you ever study ancient earth history?

Dante pulls a long thin rod from the ground, sets it against the string pulls back and lets go.

The rod flies across the wreckage and into one of the empty seats. He looks proudly at his accomplishment. Beth is mildly amused by his mocho display.

DANTE (CONT.) (CONT'D)  
What? Empire's were forged with these.

Beth walks away, and he shakes his head at her. Beth walks over to C.C.I. who is now standing a few yards away from the wreckage. She is looking at the trajectory and impact area.

BETH  
See anything interesting?

C.C.I.  
Interesting? Please repeat.

BETH  
The command. I know.

Beth turns C.C.I.'s gaze away from the wreckage and their eyes meet. They stare at each other for a few long seconds.

BETH (CONT.) (CONT'D)  
C.C., can I call you that?

C.C.I.  
Yes.

BETH  
Good. I see your speech center is improving. I need your assessment of our survival potential given the current circumstances.

C.C.I. eyes move back and forth quickly before responding.

C.C.I.  
There is a .005% probability that a single manned rocket could be built with existing materials that would effectively penetrate the atmosphere in order to achieve a temporary orbit. There is no chance of oxygen onboard any such capsule making travel for living organisms impossible.

BETH  
So we're grounded.

C.C.I.  
I could pilot the vessel.

BETH

Don't count your chickens before  
they hatch.

C.C.I.

Please repeat the command.

BETH

What about water?

C.C.I.

There is a 25% chance of locating a  
sufficient water source before  
dehydration occurs in living  
organisms. I recommend a full scan  
of the area for H2O.

BETH

That sounds like better odds.  
Starts scanning let me know when  
you find something.

C.C.I.

My primary sensors are still at 48%  
optimum range.

BETH

Scan anyway sweetheart.

Beth gives her pat on the shoulder and a wink before walking  
off. C.C.I. looks at her shoulder where Beth just touched  
her.

CUT TO:

INT. E.O.R.-1. COMMAND SECTION. EVENING. (LATER)

James has Stringer strapped into a cockpit chair he finishes  
dressing his wounds and securing a bandage across his head.  
Stringer is still unconscious. James looks out the cockpit  
window into space at the GATE. It's about two kilometers away  
from the ship. James pilots the ship to maneuver in closer.  
The Gate is made up of four 'L' shaped metal boxes about a  
half a kilometer apart. They are tethered together by thick  
cables creating a square. The 'L' shaped metal structures  
each have a red light indicating the corners. James maneuvers  
the ship in line with the center about half a kilometer from  
the opening, and throws a switch. The ship shakes suddenly as  
it is locked into place. Stringer is shaken awake by the  
jolt.

JAMES

Nice of you to join me.

STRINGER

Are we there yet?

JAMES

I just locked us into the gates tractor system, we're holding position.

James pushes a few more buttons.

STRINGER

Ahhh, my head is killing me.

JAMES

Yeah, sorry, there's only minimal triage gear in the med. kit. No meds.

STRINGER

A med. kit, with no meds. Did you send the distress signal?

JAMES

Just did, all we do now is wait.

STRINGER

Any word from the crew?

James shakes his head no, reluctant to speak.

JAMES

I've tried all the frequencies.

STRINGER

Must've been a rough landing.

James looks at his control console again.

STRINGER (CONT.)

I'm sure they're fine. You did the right thing.

JAMES

I don't know.

STRINGER

We have limited life support in here, maybe just enough for two of us, but not six.

They both contemplate their situation. James looks out at the planet below.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/ PORT SIDE WRECKAGE. NIGHT. (LATER)

Dante stokes a small fire. Beth sits quietly bundled up across from him. C.C.I. sits over her shoulder in the distance.

DANTE  
What a day hunh?

BETH  
It's so cold.

DANTE  
Yeah, deserts do that.

Omar comes up and sits next to Dante near the fire. He warms his hands and rubs them together.

OMAR  
Ah, yes nothing like the warmth of a good fire. My compliments young man.

Dante nods.

DANTE  
Yeah, once you get past the smell of burning plastic, and rubber, it's really something.

Omar chuckles to himself and pats Dante on the back.

BETH  
How is he?

Omar looks solemn and shakes his head 'no'.

BETH (CONT.)  
C.C. hasn't found anything yet.

DANTE  
You should eat something.

Dante goes into the ration packs and starts to dig around.

BETH  
No, I'll save it for the morning.  
I'm gonna check on Moury.

She gets up and leaves the two of them by the fire.

CUT TO:

INT. PORT SIDE WRECKAGE/SHELTER. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS)

Beth enters to find Moury laying on the ground wrapped up in a blanket on the makeshift stretcher. She looks at an illuminated gauge on the blanket. Moury stirs awake.

BETH  
Warm enough?

MOURY  
Yes, thank you. Omar tells me we're  
gonna run out of water soon.

Moury coughs violently for a moment. He tries to sit up but it's too painful.

BETH  
Hey now, take it easy.

Beth uses a piece of foam to props up his head and make him more comfortable.

MOURY  
Thank you.

BETH  
I have the C.C.I. scanning for  
water.

MOURY  
That's good.

BETH  
Moury, we have to tell Omar and  
Dante about the inhabitants.

MOURY  
No, we can't risk it.

BETH

We may not have a choice. If anyone saw the crash, they're bound to come investigate.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/ AWAYS-PORT SIDE WRECKAGE. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS)

Someone's POV of the crash site at a long distance. The fire looks like a small pinpoint of light.

CUT TO:

INT. PORT SIDE WRECKAGE/SHELTER. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS)

Beth and Moury continue to discuss their options.

MOURY

We don't know that. Our number one priority should be communication. We have to let anyone coming to rescue us know we're alive.

BETH

The communication's array was destroyed on impact.

MOURY

What about the C.C.I.? I know she has an emergency homing signal.

BETH

It was automatically activated when we disengaged from the command section. I don't know, maybe there is something in the atmosphere preventing the signal from getting through.

Moury looks disappointed, but tries to maintain his composure.

MOURY

I'm going to die down here.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/ PORT SIDE WRECKAGE. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS)

Dante and Omar are sitting at the fire. They see C.C.I. suddenly get up and start walking into the dark.

DANTE

Where is she going?

Omar shrugs. Dante rips a piece of cloth, and starts to make a torch. Omar and Dante stand up and start to follow her. She leads them to the front of the wreckage, and continues walking into the desert.

DANTE (CONT.)

Go get the commander.

Omar turns and starts back for the camp.

CUT TO:

INT. PORT SIDE WRECKAGE/SHELTER. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS)

Beth and Moury continue to argue.

MOURY

We have to wait. Since we've breached the biosphere we must limit contact with the inhabitants. We have to minimize any possible contamination.

BETH

Counselor, with all do respect. We can't all stay here. When the C.C.I. finds water there

is no telling how far away it may be. We have to travel together.

MOURY

Species 107 is the first species we've found on any world that resembles us. Our preliminary probes reported they are still living in clay huts, and caves. We have no way of knowing how they will react to us.

BETH

Counselor I understand your position, but-

MOURY

Good, then you see to our survival,  
and I'll see to the diplomacy.

BETH

Sir, I will do whatever it takes to  
get us all home safely.

MOURY

If you do anything to jeopardize  
our first contact. I'll have -

Moury stops as Omar enters.

OMAR

Commander, come quickly It's C.C..

Beth gives Moury a look; 'they're not finished'. She quickly  
exits and follows Omar.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/ PORT SIDE WRECKAGE. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS)

Omar leads Beth along the path of the wreckage they pass the  
front of the impact site. A few yards in the distance they  
see the flame from Dante's torch. Beth and Omar run to catch  
up to them.

BETH

What's going on.

OMAR

She got up and just started  
walking.

DANTE

She's still going, do you want me  
to stop her?

Beth nods and Dante hands her the torch. He goes after her,  
but before he can reach out and grab her she shocks him.  
Dante is thrown to the ground.

BETH

C.C. stop, halt.

C.C.I. stops, and Omar Helps Dante up off of the ground.

DANTE

She's insane!

OMAR

She?

Dante is not amused, he storms up to C.C.I. Beth stops him before he can reach her.

BETH

Stand down.

Dante reluctantly backs down.

BETH (CONT.) (CONT'D)

C.C. what is it? Where are you going?

C.C.I.

I've located a source of H2o.  
Approximately 48 Kilometers in this direction.

Beth giggles and then starts to laugh. Omar and Dante breath a sigh of relief and laugh with her. Beth hugs C.C.I. and she looks on at them all confused.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/ AWAYS-PORT SIDE WRECKAGE. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS)

Someone's POV as they watch the tiny light of Dante's torch in the distance. We hear the crew's cries of joy.

CUT TO:

INT. E.O.R.-1. COMMAND SECTION. MORNING. (NEXT DAY)

James and Stringer are playing cards.

STRINGER

Strait flush.

JAMES

Ahh!

James throws down the cards, and checks the controls.

STRINGER

Wanta' go again?

JAMES

No.

STRINGER  
Gambling's over rated.

JAMES  
Especially when there's nothing to  
gamble.

STRINGER  
What about another game?

James stares out the cockpit window at the gate, stringer  
looks up when he doesn't respond.

JAMES  
They found this planet, and  
launched that Gate before we were  
even born. It took seventy-five  
years to get out this far.

STRINGER  
This mission has been a century in  
the making.

JAMES  
And now it's all gone terribly  
wrong.

STRINGER  
Cheer up Captain, you still got me.

JAMES  
Why aren't they responding? We  
should've heard something by now.

STRINGER  
What, the crew or the Gate?

JAMES  
Both.

Stringer puts away the cards and turns his seat into  
position.

STRINGER  
Maybe we should run a full  
diagnostic on the comm. system at  
the gate.

JAMES  
Alright.

Stringer hits a few buttons.

STRINGER

The link is still up and the signal's still receiving. I don't know.

JAMES

Give me a magnified view of the comm. Array on the gate.

They both watch on a monitor as a section in the right corner of the gate appears on the screen.

JAMES (CONT.)

Can you get closer?

Stringer touches the screen, and a section enhances. James immediately sees the problem.

JAMES (CONT.)

There it is.

STRINGER

What?

JAMES

Enhance section two.

Stringer complies and then they both see the damaged section more clearly.

STRINGER

The relay's burnt out.

JAMES

Looks like our signals just going to the gate. But not back home.

STRINGER

How old did you say this thing was?

JAMES

At least 75 years.

STRINGER

You think it had anything to do with the wrong trajectory when we came through?

JAMES

I don't know maybe.

They both sit silent for a moment contemplating their options.

JAMES (CONT.)  
We can fix this.

STRINGER  
No, we would have to download the  
distress signal to a data chip, and  
then physically repair the- You  
mean go out there?

James smiles and nods, Stringer smiles back.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT. MORNING. (CONTINUOUS)

Beth, and Dante follow as C.C.I. leads the way. Dante tries  
to strike up a conversation with C.C.I.

DANTE  
So, um, C.C. I've been meaning to  
ask you. What plant were you issued  
from?

Beth rolls her eyes.

C.C.I.  
Lear City Cybernetics in the  
Peoples Federation of Mars.

DANTE  
Yeah, that's what I thought. I'm  
from Earth, Iowa actually I-

C.C.I.  
I am aware of your service record  
Lieutenant Briggs. As well as your  
personal history.

DANTE  
Yeah, I guess, uhh, you would be.

They continue marching on in silence for a moment. Dante  
tries again.

DANTE (CONT.) (CONT'D)  
You're a Pl-1 model aren't you.

C.C.I.  
No. I have the Pl-1's outer shell  
in order to more easily interact  
with the crew.  
(MORE)

C.C.I. (CONT'D)

However I have been specifically designed and programmed to interface with the E.O.R.-1's engineering systems. My memory technology, learning systems, and acute sensor array far surpass the standard Pl-1 model. I am unique.

DANTE

I'll say. That was quite a shock you gave me last night.

Beth stops to take a drink of water, C.C.I. and Dante continue on.

C.C.I.

I apologize for any damage I may have caused to you. It is an automatic defense system. If any object approaches me at a specific velocity it is immediately activated. I am still becoming accustomed to being separated from the ships systems.

DANTE

So you've never been on a planet with an atmosphere?

C.C.I.

That is correct.

DANTE

Wow. So since your outer shell is the same as Pl-1 does that mean all your parts are-

Beth interrupts him by shoving the water container in his hands.

BETH

Give it a rest.

Dante stops for a moment, Beth and C.C.I. continue on.

DANTE

What, I'm just trying to be friendly.

CUT TO:

INT. PORT SIDE WRECKAGE/SHELTER. MORNING. (CONTINUOUS)

Omar is watching over Moury. Omar removes some of his bandages.

OMAR  
No sign of infection.

He starts to redress the wound.

MOURY  
When did they leave?

OMAR  
At sun up, the nights are shorter here.

MOURY  
And the days are so hot.

OMAR  
Yes, I don't see how anyone could survive.

MOURY  
How far?

OMAR  
Oh, Approximately 48 kilometers. It should take them a couple of days.

Omar holds up a bottle of water.

OMAR (CONT'D)  
We have to make this last.

MOURY  
What if they don't come back?

OMAR  
They will.

MOURY  
You don't know that. The C.C.I. was only functioning at half it's capacity. It could be leading them to a dry riverbed for all we know.

OMAR  
This is when faith is my strongest ally.

MOURY

Father, would you do me a favor?

OMAR

What is it?

MOURY

Would you check the wreckage for some of my personal belongings? I am looking for my journal. It's an old style leather bound book of paper. It was a gift from my daughter before we left.

OMAR

Paper? A rare gift indeed. I'll look around.

Omar stands up to leave.

MOURY

Thank you father.

Omar leaves the shelter. Moury waits a few seconds after he's gone before he reaches in his pocket and pulls out a small metal container. He opens it up, it's full of small blue capsules. He takes one and then quickly puts the pill box back into his pocket.

CUT TO:

INT. E.O.R.-1. COMMAND SECTION. DAY. (CONTINUOUS)

James is preparing his pressure suit.

STRINGER

I can do this you know.

JAMES

You're wounded.

Stringer puts his hand to his head remembering the head trauma.

STRINGER

But you're the captain.

JAMES

Right, so it's my descision.

STRINGER

Yes sir.

JAMES

Do you have the signal downloaded?

Stringer hands him a flat slender memory chip. James pockets the device. Then puts on his helmet. He picks up a small tool box and makes his way to the airlock.

STRINGER

Good luck Captain.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT/MID SECTION WRECKAGE. DAY. (CONTINUOUS)

Omar searches through the wreckage for Moury's journal. He pulls away pieces of metal and foam as he searches. He digs through the section where Moury was trapped. He hears something crash behind him. He quickly looks up and sees nothing. He looks around for a moment, suspicious that he is being watched. He looks around the section, but finds no one. He starts to dig through the wreckage again. He finds a busted plastic case with: Cnsl. M. Polkovich, stenciled on it. He picks up a nearby piece of metal to pry it open. He finds the journal. The edges of the book are singed. He finds a data pad labeled: Classified. It is burnt beyond recognition. He finds a piece of clear acetate with a satellite photo of what looks like a small village. Suddenly he is cracked over the head by someone from behind. Omar is knocked unconscious.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT. NIGHT. (SOMETIME LATER)

Beth, Dante, and C.C.I. are sitting around a small fire. Dante is chewing on some kind of food bar.

DANTE

Al things considered, it's not a bad day.

He offers Beth a bite, she reluctantly takes the food and tears off a bite for herself.

BETH

C.C. How far did we get today?

C.C.I.  
We've trekked 32 kilometers,  
leaving approximately 16 point,  
point, more kilometers until we  
reach our destination, H20  
destination.

Beth and Dante look at each other concerned.

BETH  
C.C. run a complete diagnostic of  
your internal systems.

C.C.I. does not respond.

DANTE  
This isn't good.

Beth gets up and faces C.C.I. her eyes are open, but she has  
a blank stare.

BETH  
C.C.I. This is commander King  
please respond.

C.C.I. blinks a few times before responding.

C.C.I.  
Please repeat command.

BETH  
Run a full diagnostic on your  
internal systems.

C.C.I. cocks her head as she process Beth's commands, but  
still makes no response.

DANTE  
The sun and sand has probably fried  
all her circuits and relays. She  
was never meant to be in the  
desert. We've taken her out of the  
sterile clean confines of the ship.  
At this point how do we even know  
if we're on the right path? You  
should probably do it manually.

BETH  
It'll be all right.

Beth puts her hand on C.C.I.'s shoulder to access the control  
panel, she pushes a sequence of buttons and C.C.I. shuts  
down. Beth looks up at the stars.

DANTE  
Kilometers that's an easy half days  
walk.

BETH  
The stars are all different.

DANTE  
Yeah, I try not to think about it.

BETH  
Why? It's exciting. A new world,  
with new possibilities, and new  
constellations to discover.

Dante lays back, and rolls over to get some sleep.

DANTE  
I just want to survive the day  
tomorrow. Good night commander.

Beth stays up looking at the stars.

CUT TO:

INT. E.O.R.-1. COMMAND SECTION. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS)

Stringer watches a monitor screen as James finishes repairs  
on the Gate comm. Relay.

JAMES  
This should do it.

James puts back a hatch cover on the array.

STRINGER  
How's your air supply?

James checks a gauge on his wrist.

JAMES  
minutes. Cross your fingers here we  
go.

James presses a button on a hand held device and the entire  
gate shuts down. The ship is released from the tractor  
system. The jolt sends stringer to the wall and falling  
unconscious to the floor.

CUT TO:

EXT. E.O.R.-1 / THE GATE. NIGHT. (CONTINUOUS)

James quickly presses buttons on his hand held pad and the Gate starts up again. The ship continues to drift away.

JAMES

Stringer? Stringer re-boot the tractor system. Stringer!

There is no response from Stringer and James watches as his ship drifts away. He looks at the Air Gauge on his wrist again: 00:28:46-,45,44,43...

CUT TO:

INT. PORT SIDE WRECKAGE/SHELTER. MORNING. (NEXT DAY)

Omar wakes up to see he is tied up. He sees two other men NATIVES in white shrouds, and veils tending to Moury's wounds. Omar is speechless. One of the men turn to see Omar is awake. Omar is stunned to see that the man has white pupils. He gets up and comes over to Omar.

NATIVE MEDICINE MAN #1

Shee-vatt!

The Native strikes Omar. Omar is speechless.

MOURY

Don't say anything father.

The Man tending to Moury looks over to the one standing over Omar.

NATIVE MEDICINE MAN #2

Muu-vach chee-shett te Awwa.

Omar holds his bound hands up waiting for another hit from the Native, but it does not come.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT. MORNING. (SOMETIME LATER)

Beth wakes up suddenly. She sees Dante doing Ti-Che. C.C.I. stands facing the direction they are planning on traveling, waiting for Beth to wake up. Dante Sees that Beth is up and concludes his exercise.

DANTE  
Morning Commander.

BETH  
Why didn't you wake me?

DANTE  
You look so peaceful.

Beth is not amused.

BETH  
We have to move out.

DANTE  
Ready when you are.

Beth starts to collect her gear. Dante hands her the water container.

BETH  
Is this it?

DANTE  
I thought you should have the honors.

Beth thinks about it for a moment and then downs the last shot of water.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT. DAY. (HOURS LATER)

C.C.I. leads the way as Beth and Dante follow behind. The sun is beating down on them and they are losing steam. Both dragging behind C.C.I.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT. DAY. (HOURS LATER)

C.C.I. is still moving, Beth and Dante are still dragging behind. Beth sees a mirage on the horizon.

DANTE  
We should be there by now.

BETH  
C.C. Confirm location - of H2o - source?

C.C.I.

H<sub>2</sub>O is essential to the survival of all living organisms contained within a biosphere. The building blocks of all known life, H<sub>2</sub>O also known as water-

C.C.I. Stops Beth and Dante catch up.

DANTE

We didn't ask for a science lesson.  
We asked where it is.

Beth sees two small round formations of clay bricks.

BETH

There.

The first round formation is dry and contains the burnt ashes, most likely a fire pit. They make their way to the second small structure a well.

DANTE

Okay, this is a little too easy.

Dante immediately looks around, as he scoops up some water to take a drink. Beth stops him.

BETH

Wait.

Dante drops the water.

BETH (CONT.) (CONT'D)

C.C. we need a full analysis, on this liquid.

C.C.I. comes over to the well and sticks her hand in the water. She takes a few seconds to respond.

C.C.I.

89% pure H<sub>2</sub>O. 11% Unknown indigenous minerals.

Beth looks at Dante, and pulls out the water container.

BETH

That's good enough for me.

She scoops up some water and takes a drink.

CUT TO:

INT. BETH AND JAMES HOME/EARTH. NIGHT. (IN THE PAST)

James smiles and holds her close.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT WELL. DAY. (CONTINUOUS)

Beth ignores the flashback and hands Dante the water. He takes a drink.

CUT TO:

INT. CLAY HOME. NIGHT. (IN THE FUTURE)

He sees C.C.I. smile and laugh as she jumps into his arms.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT WELL. DAY. (CONTINUOUS)

Dante looks at C.C.I. curiously. She has no emotional response.

DANTE

This is more than just water.

BETH

We have to, we have to-

She starts to pull out another couple water containers.

DANTE

Wait.

Beth ignores him and continues to fill the water containers.

DANTE (CONT.)

This is well looks like it was man made. Am I the only one bothered by this?

BETH

Not right now.

DANTE

C.C.I. When was the last time there was activity at this well?

BETH

Dante.

C.C.I.

Last activity was eight earth  
months ago.

Dante throws the container to the ground. Water spills out  
onto the dry desert floor.

DANTE

We could be signing our own death  
sentence by taking this water. Now  
tell me what you know.

BETH

Species 107, Moury and I were here  
to make a cultural study, we're not  
suppose to make contact. Just  
observe, the crash changed all  
that.

DANTE

Well what do they look like? Are  
they hostile?

BETH

The images recovered from the  
initial satellite show they are  
human, like us.

DANTE

What? That's impossible.

BETH

But way less advanced. They are  
still in a sort of stone age.  
They're developed enough to have  
small villages.

DANTE

And make wells.

Beth stops and takes another drink, this time guzzling the  
water. Beth starts to gag, and drops the water bottle.

DANTE (CONT'D)

Commander?

Beth collapses to the ground and starts shaking. Dante  
immediately moves to catch her. She continues to choke and  
convulse.

DANTE (CONT'D)  
Commander! Beth.

Her eyes open wide and her body tightens. Dante starts to cough and choke. He tries to gag himself to throw up the water. He vomits and spits out the water, his body shakes.

DANTE (CONT'D)  
C.C. help.

C.C.I. looks on without emotion. Dante regains his motor functions. And crawls over to Beth. C.C.I. kneels down to check her pulse.

C.C.I.  
Commander King's life functions  
have ceased.

DANTE  
No.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE:

INT. BETH AND JAMES HOME/EARTH. MORNING. (IN THE PAST)

Beth wakes up in her bed. James is already up.

JAMES  
Come on, hurry up we're going to be  
late for the briefing.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT WELL. DAY. (IN THE FUTURE)

Beth stands at the well. People in white robes and veils surround her. They are chanting.

NATIVE PEOPLES  
AWWA-AWWA-AWWA-AWWA-AWWA...

CUT TO:

EXT. E.O.R.-1. SPACE. (THE PRESENT)

She sees James floating alone watching his ship drift away.

BETH (V.O.)  
James.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPANY BRIEFING ROOM. EARTH. DAY. (IN THE PAST)

A EXECUTIVE OFFICER is briefing Beth, James, & Moury on classified information regarding their mission.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ladies and gentleman I must remind you that this is an observation mission only. The nature of this discovery is a sensitive matter as you may have guessed.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT WELL. DAY. (IN THE FUTURE)

Beth sees C.C.I. being lowered into the well. NATIVE PEOPLE that surround her are chanting.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT WELL. DAY. (IN THE PRESENT)

Dante tries C.P.R. to resuscitate her.

BETH

AWWA, this place is sacred.

CUT TO:

INT. E.O.R.-1. DAY. (IN THE PAST)

The command section is chaos. James shouts commands to the crew.

JAMES

Stabalize forward thruster.

STRINGER

Not responding. Our trajectory is wrong! We're going to smash into the atmosphere.

JAMES

Prepare to disengage habitat section.

Stringer looks at James scared.

STRINGER

Sir?

JAMES

Do it!

James sees Beth still in the Command section.

JAMES (CONT.) (CONT'D)

Get down below Commander!

BETH

I'm not leaving.

James gets out of his seat and heads toward her.

CUT TO:

INT. PALACE. DAY. (IN THE FUTURE)

Moury carries a staff, and sits on a thrown.

MOURY (V.O.)

Is this your destiny?

CUT TO:

INT. E.O.R.-1 /ESCAPE POD. DAY.(IN THE PAST)

A tube like structure is almost full of smoke. There is a red flashing light in the distance. The silhouettes of four astronauts strapped in a row along the tube. There are two empty seats. CU on gloved hands clinching a handle tightly hanging on for dear life. CU safety belt harness being strained. The inside of the craft rattles and shakes violently. Sounds of heavy breathing inside a space helmet. Heavy breath, fogs up face shield so much that the face inside is unrecognizable. Instruments spark and smolder. We hear the twisting sound of metal as the hull begins to buckle when it burns up in the atmosphere. A bright firelight lights up the smoke filled cockpit.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT WELL. DAY. (IN THE PRESENT)

We see Beth from a birds eye view as Dante continues to try and revive her. Swoop down quickly into her eyes.

TO BE CONTINUED.