

DARK MATTER

"3"
Episode #103

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TEASER

[PREVIOUSLY ON: The crew wakes up with no memories, find out they're criminals, they're on the run, FIVE confides in TWO that someone may have wiped their memories].

VFX - FTL SPACE

The Raza streaks through FTL.

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

The Android stands, monitoring the ship's progress.

ANDROID

Ship's engines are operating within acceptable parameters, and at current rate of travel...

INT. SHIP - MESS

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE and SIX sit around the communal table eating that last of the fresh food they got from the miners.

ANDROID (V.O.)

(over the PA)

...we should be arriving at the space station in approximately twenty-six hours and seventeen minutes. Thank you.

THREE

Someone oughtta tell him he doesn't need to make an announcement every hour. Hell, unless something's wrong he doesn't need to make an announcement at all.

ONE

He's just doing his job.

THREE

"Hey everyone, I'm still doing great work up here. Just thought you should know." We get it. Stop bragging.

FIVE

I don't think Androids brag.

THREE

Might wanna point that out to this one.

They eat in silence.

SIX

So, we haven't discussed what we're going to do when we get to the station.

ONE

What do you mean?

THREE

I think it's pretty straightforward, no? We hawk the ship, split the profit six ways, have a fond farewell toast and be on our way.

He looks around the table. Clearly, that's not what they were all thinking.

THREE (CONT'D)

No?

ONE

You want to split up?

THREE

We're six strangers and a robot. None of us owe each other anything.

SIX

But we're safer together.

THREE

Together or not, there's nothing safe about our situation.

FIVE

But we're a team.

THREE

No offense, but this "team" has a lot of dead weight.

SIX

Offense taken.

THREE

I got skills. I got know-how.
Someone, somewhere, would be willing
to pay top dollar for my services.
Wouldn't be easy, but it couldn't be
worse than this.

(to FOUR)

Back me up here.

FOUR continues eating, ignoring him

ONE

Not having our memories puts us at a
distinct disadvantage. This ship is
our sanctuary. You really think
leaving's a good idea?

THREE

I'm just saying -

TWO

We're not selling the ship.

THREE

Ain't up to you.

TWO

When we get to the station we're
going to refuel, resupply and repair.
I'd be happy to give anyone who wants
to leave their share of whatever we
have left, but we're not selling the
ship.

She gets up and walks out. End of the discussion.

THREE

It ain't up to her.

ONE

I don't want to sell this ship.

FIVE

Me neither.

SIX

No way.

ONE, FIVE and SIX grab their trays and get up, leaving THREE and FOUR.

THREE

You know, if we -

FOUR doesn't want to discuss it any further. He walks away, leaving THREE alone.

THREE (CONT'D)

Fine. This is what I wanted anyway.
A little peace and quiet.

INT. SHIP - SIX'S QUARTERS

FIVE appears at the door as SIX is getting settled.

FIVE

Wanna play a game or something?

SIX

Nah, I'm gonna have myself a little
nap.

Disappointed, FIVE wanders off.

INT. SHIP - ONE'S QUARTERS

ONE has got his feet up, reading a book. FIVE is standing in the doorway.

ONE

No thanks, kiddo. Found this antique
book in one of the holding rooms.
It says it's a classic, so I'm sure
I've read it before - but it's all
new to me now. I'll give it to you
when I'm done if you want.

ONE looks over - FIVE has already moved on.

ONE (CONT'D)

Or not.

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR OUTSIDE FOUR'S QUARTERS

FIVE steps up to the door.

FIVE

Hey - !

FOUR presses a button to close it before she can elaborate.
Beat. FIVE frowns, marches off.

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR

FIVE rounds the corner and looks around. Her eyes go to the grill of an overhead vent. She reaches up and pulls the grills away, hoists herself up and peeks inside.

Its dark - and goes a ways.

She looks around, making sure no one is watching, then effortlessly climbs her way up and inside.

INT. SHIP - VENTS

FIVE turns on a tiny light clipped to her jacket. She shuffles forward on hands and knees, gets to a T-Junction, considers, hangs left. She proceeds along.

Picking up her progress later. She shuffles along, passing another grate. She double-backs, peeks through it into -

INT. SHIP - UTILITY ROOM

A dark, small room with a low ceiling. The grill disappears back into the vent and FIVE crawls out and into the room. She flashes her light around and sees something we don't yet. She walks over to it, anxious.

A pile of equipment. She pushes some of it away, reaches out and pulls something towards her.

REVEAL: She rolls over the body of a DEAD MALE TEENAGER.

Off a horrified FIVE...

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

VFX - FTL SPACE

The Raza speeds through FTL.

INT. SHIP - INFIRMARY

The Android is scanning the body which has been laid out on the examination table. ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE and SIX huddle around to hear the results.

ANDROID

Male, appears to be in his late teens -

THREE

We didn't need to break out the scanner to tell us *that*. How long has he been dead?

ANDROID

A while. Possibly weeks.

ONE

Shouldn't he have started to decompose by now?

ANDROID

While you were in stasis, life support was at minimal levels, to preserve energy. Some of the ship's more remote areas were quite cool. The low temperatures preserved the body.

SIX

(to FIVE)

What were you doing up there in those vents anyway?

FIVE

Exploring.

SIX

You shouldn't be in there by yourself. It's dangerous.

FIVE

No more dangerous than the rest of
this ship.

Back to the corpse -

ONE

Any idea what happened to him?

ANDROID

He was shot. A single bullet to the
kidneys. He bled to death.

THREE

Well, who was he and why'd he bleed
out on our ship?

ANDROID

That the scanner can't tell us.

TWO

Is there any record of another
passenger in the ship's computer?

ANDROID

None that I could find.

ONE

So, chances are one of us probably
killed this kid and stuffed him in
that utility room?

Uncomfortable looks are exchanged.

TWO

There's no point in speculating.
Without our memories, we'll probably
never know.

TWO throws a quick look to FIVE, considering - then quickly
looks away.

TWO (CONT'D)

(to Android)

Check the body for valuables. We'll
jettison it the next time we drop
out of FTL.

ONE

That's it?

TWO

What? Did you want to organize a funeral? Prepare some parting remarks? I think it'd be a bad idea to dock at the space station with a dead body on board.

ONE

One of us killed him. That doesn't bother you?

TWO

Almost everything about this bothers me, but pointing fingers isn't going to get us anywhere. Let's just put this behind us, alright?

The crew disperses, leaving TWO and the Android alone.

TWO (CONT'D)

I need you to do something for me.

ANDROID

Of course -

TWO

And I'm going need you to keep quiet about it.

INT. SHIP - TRAINING ROOM

FOUR is running through his stances, practicing...and when I say practicing, I mean blowing off steam because this guy doesn't need to practice. THREE appears at the door.

THREE

You busy?

FOUR continues practicing. Yes, he obviously is.

THREE (CONT'D)

I need you to help swing the vote. Get these guys to sell the ship so we can all cash out.

FOUR

What makes you think I'd want to do that?

THREE

Selling this ship would give us the freedom to chart our own course, start calling our own shots instead of letting these losers decide for us.

(beat)

So, back me up. Let's cut 'em loose.

FOUR

It's too soon.

THREE

What are you talking about?

FOUR

We don't know enough about who we are; who *they* are. The person I was *chose* to be on this ship. He must have had a good reason.

THREE rolls his eyes.

THREE

You gotta be kidding me.

FOUR

The clearest path has not presented itself. And until it does, I'll stay.

THREE is disappointed, turns to go.

FOUR (CONT'D)

But if the day should come where I'm no longer satisfied with this arrangement -

THREE stops, turns back. There's hope!

FOUR (CONT'D)

Even then I wouldn't sell the ship.

THREE deflates.

FOUR (CONT'D)

I'd take it. For myself.

And with that, he resumes practicing.

INT. SHIP - INFIRMARY

FIVE stands by the examination table, staring at the body.
SIX walks by the door and sees her in there. He approaches.

FIVE

I - feel bad for him.

SIX

The time for feeling bad for him is long past. He's gone.

FIVE

I know, I just - the thought of dying in some dark room, bleeding and alone. He was only a year or two older than me. I probably knew him.

SIX

Maybe. And maybe you didn't. Maybe none of us did.

FIVE

When I was in the vent, I could've passed right by, but something told me to stop and look in that room. It was like I'd been there before, like I knew there was something to find...

(sighs in frustration)

I wish I could remember.

SIX

Tell me about it. But the reality is all the good memories and the bad ones - whatever we had - they're all gone now. So, like it or not, it's fresh starts for all of us.

He smiles, trying to cheer her up. She looks at him, torn.

FIVE

What if...

SIX

Yeah?

FIVE

What if some of our memories were -
(MORE)

FIVE (CONT'D)

(beat)

What if they weren't all gone?

Off a confused SIX...

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

TWO is looking over a tablet with the Android. Suddenly, SIX explodes into the room, grabs her, and pins her against the wall. FIVE runs in after him.

FIVE

Don't! Please!

SIX

She has all our memories in her head?!
And you knew?!

TWO is remarkably calm considering the situation.

TWO

I knew that's what she *thought*.

SIX

And you told her to keep quiet about
it? Why?

TWO

I wanted to make sure.

SIX

Yeah? How'd you plan on doing that?

TWO

Back off and I'll explain.

SIX softens, let's her go. Waiting...

INT. SHIP - MESS

TWO has gathered the rest of the crew. She addresses them, the Android by her side.

TWO

She's been having dreams. Dreams
she thinks might be memories - except
they're not just hers.

THREE

What?

TWO

I think all of our memories might have somehow been transferred into her subconscious.

They all trade looks. This is a quite the development.

ONE

How's that even possible?

SIX

How's any of this possible?

TWO

There's something else. One of the dreams she experienced was of one of US sabotaging the stasis pods.

THREE

Son of a -

ONE

Hang on second. Just because she dreamed it, doesn't make it real.

TWO

I had the Android look through all terminal activity prior to our last deep sleep.

ONE

And?!

TWO

He found something.

ANDROID

I recovered portions of a self-deleted subroutine that was initiated prior to all of you entering stasis. Its specific intent is unclear, but it would appear your memories were targeted.

THREE

Come on. How hard can this be? The kid remembers doing it. SHE did it!

FIVE stands behind SIX, nervous.

SIX

If it was her, why would she tell anyone? Think about it!

TWO

Alright, settle down.

ONE

(to TWO)

Why didn't you tell us about this sooner?

TWO

I wanted to see if her dream about tampering with the ship's systems checked out. It did, which means this goes far beyond that one memory. She could have all of our memories tucked away in her head.

Just then, the whole ship SHAKES. The engines POWER DOWN. The lights flicker.

TWO (CONT'D)

What was that?

The Android's eyes go vacant as he communicates with the ship.

ANDROID

We just dropped out of FTL.

TWO

Why?

The Android's ominous delivery suggests they're in big trouble -

ANDROID

There's something wrong with the ship.

Off everyone's concerned looks we -

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

The crew follows the Android onto the bridge.

ANDROID

We've lost power to several systems,
including external sensors and the
FTL drive.

TWO

What happened?

The Android brings up diagnostic data on the screens to show them what he already knows, thanks to his neural link.

ANDROID

The operating efficiency of one of
the outer relays dropped below minimum
safe. The ship detached the coupling
and shut down all related systems to
avoid a catastrophic failure.

THREE

Translation please?

TWO

We nearly blew a fuse.

ANDROID

Except in this case, "blowing a fuse"
would equate an explosion powerful
enough to vaporize the entire ship.

THREE

Great. Dead bodies, hacked stasis
pods, now this...lotta things going
wrong on this ship.

(looking at FIVE)

Almost like someone's been tampering
with it, right tech monkey?

SIX

Back off.

THREE

Why are you protecting her? You
don't know her.

SIX

I know I like her a lot more than I
like you.

THREE ignores him and turns back to the Android.

THREE

Could this have been sabotage?

ANDROID

The coupling is located on the outer
hull. In order to tamper with it,
someone would have to perform an
EVA.

ONE

You mean go outside the ship?

ANDROID

It seems unlikely.

TWO

It's impossible. We were in FTL
until five minutes ago.

SIX throws a look at THREE -

SIX

There, you see?

Everyone relaxes a bit. But the Android isn't finished -

ANDROID

On the other hand, tampering with
the diagnostic system to make the
ship *think* that the coupling might
fail would be comparatively simple.
If someone wanted to disable the
ship without doing any real damage,
this would be an excellent way to do
it.

That gives everyone pause. Could one of them really be a
saboteur? Finally, TWO speaks up -

TWO

Well, we can't sit out here forever.
How do we get the FTL drive back
online?

ANDROID

First, we have to determine what, if anything, is wrong with the system. That may take some time.

ONE

But you can do it?

ANDROID

Of course.

THREE

(under his breath)
Again with the bragging.

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR

ONE, FIVE and SIX are walking back towards the mess.

ONE

So when you dream, you have no idea whose memories you're experiencing?

FIVE

No. In the dreams, everything is happening to me but, sometimes, I can tell I'm not me. It's really confusing and, a lot of the times, kinda hazy and I have trouble remembering when I wake up.

SIX, who has been lost in thought, pipes up -

SIX

We have to attack this logically, follow the clues. Which one of us has the know-how to do something like this?

ONE

Two seems to know the most about the ship's controls.

SIX

That doesn't mean she knows how to write code. Whoever did this hacked into the system and wrote a program that would target our memories.

ONE

I haven't seen anyone do anything like that. But then they wouldn't, would they? Not in front of the rest of us.

SIX

(sighs in frustration)

I wish there was a way to know for sure.

Suddenly, ONE stops, struck by an idea.

ONE

Hang on. Maybe there is.

He turns and heads back the way they came. The others follow.

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

ONE, FIVE and SIX find the Android.

ONE

Hey, can we ask you something?

ANDROID

Of course.

ONE

When people lie, they exhibit tells, right? Physiological signs that they're being untruthful.

ANDROID

Yes. When being deceptive, humans experience spikes in respiration, blood pressure and changes in skin conductivity.

ONE

Now those physical signs, they're something we wouldn't notice - but you could, right?

ANDROID

If I was in close enough proximity - yes. Theoretically, I could determine if a person was lying.

ONE and SIX exchange smiles. ONE turns back to the Android.

ONE

You're coming with us.

ANDROID

Ship's repairs would go a lot faster
if I devoted them my full attention.

SIX

They can wait.

INT. SHIP - MESS

ONE, TWO, FOUR, FIVE and SIX have gathered to have the Android administer a "lie detector test". We start with ONE sitting opposite the Android. ONE places his arms into the Android's palms. The Android holds ONE'S wrists (monitoring pulse, etc) and stares him in the eyes.

The following will be a montage. The Android remains in the same position, but every time someone else speaks, they have switched places with ONE and are being questioned.

ANDROID

I'll begin by asking some simple
questions to establish a vitals
baseline.

ONE

Sure thing.

ANDROID

What is your name?

ONE

Jace Corso. At least that's what
the records tell me. Now I go by
One.

ANDROID

What day is today?

CUT TO:

SIX

I have no idea.

ANDROID

Where are you?

CUT TO:

FIVE

The mess hall.

ANDROID

And where is that?

FIVE

Oh, the mess hall on -

CUT TO:

TWO

This ship, The Raza.

ANDROID

Do you have any memory of your life before you exited your stasis pod three days ago?

CUT TO:

FOUR

No.

CUT TO:

ONE

None.

CUT TO:

SIX

Nope.

CUT TO:

FIVE

No.

CUT TO:

TWO

No.

ANDROID

Do you have any memories of tampering
with the stasis pods?

TWO

No.

CUT TO:

ONE

No.

CUT TO:

FOUR

No.

CUT TO:

SIX

None.

CUT TO:

FIVE

I had a dream about it, but besides
that...no.

ANDROID

Have you sabotaged this ship in
anyway?

We see ONE, TWO, FOUR, FIVE and SIX in a five way splitscreen:

ALL

No.

ANDROID

Do you mean any harm to the passengers
on this ship?

ALL

No.

ANDROID

Have any of the answers you've given
here today been lies?

CUT TO:

FIVE

No.

The Android looks up. ONE, TWO, FOUR and SIX look on.

ANDROID

She's telling the truth. You're all
telling the truth.

ONE

We're not done yet.

INT. SHIP - THREE'S QUARTERS

The door slides open, THREE is cleaning his gun. TWO, FOUR
AND SIX have come a-calling.

THREE

Not interested. Thanks, though.

TWO

We all did it.

THREE

Good for you.

SIX

Got something to hide?

THREE

I've told you everything I know.

TWO

Good, then this should be easy.

THREE

I don't trust that robot.

SIX

We're not asking.

THREE eyes them, wondering how far they're willing to take
this.

INT. SHIP - MESS

THREE sits opposite the Android. ONE has a gun to his head.
The rest of the crew look on.

THREE

This is gonna influence the test!

ANDROID

Just try to relax.

The Android takes THREE hands.

THRE

Seriously? With Twitchy Fingers
over here?

TWO nods to ONE - who lowers the gun.

ANDROID

What is your name?

THREE stares at him, silent.

TWO

Don't make this harder than it needs
to be.

THREE

I don't like to be touched.

TWO

It'll be over before you know it.
Just answer the question.

ANDROID

What is your name?

THREE

From the moment I last stepped out
of that pod, it's been Three.

ANDROID

What day is today?

THREE

The day after yesterday and a little
before tomorrow. This is ridiculous.

ANDROID

Do you have any memories of tampering
with the stasis pods?

THREE
(after a long beat)
Of course not.

The Android's eyes narrow. Something is off.

ANDROID
There's a problem.

SIX
I knew it!

ANDROID
I'm detecting something troubling.

ONE raises the gun again.

THREE
I'm *not* lying!

The Android let's got of THREE.

ANDROID
Not from you. From the ship. The hull is being bombarded with an unusually high concentration of gamma radiation.

THREE
(to TWO)
Still don't think the ship's been tampered with?

TWO stares back, anxious and unsure.

TWO
What does this mean?

ANDROID
At the current level of exposure, full penetration of the hull will occur within three hours. At which point, everyone onboard will be subjected to a lethal dose of radiation.

Off their looks...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

VFX - SPACE

The Raza drifts by camera. We PAN OVER TO REVEAL - the remnants of a star gone supernova - a glowing, multi-colored circle of stellar gas filaments, in the distance.

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

Back on the bridge now, the Android is going over more diagnostic data as the crew looks on.

ONE

I thought the shields were supposed to protect the hull from radiation.

ANDROID

And that's exactly what they've been doing. But the level of exposure is now taxing them beyond design specifications.

TWO

What's causing it?

He turns to her.

ANDROID

There are any number of celestial phenomena that can generate this level of gamma radiation, even at interstellar distances. But in this case I believe we're dealing with the remains of a type 1-A supernova.

Then, glancing at the onscreen data -

ANDROID (CONT'D)

It's unfortunate that we happened to emerge from FTL within lethal range.

THREE

Oh, right, so this is just bad luck? I'm supposed to believe that?

FOUR

You think whoever sabotaged the ship
timed the malfunction deliberately
to put us in this location?

THREE

Damn straight.

ANDROID

Even though he, or she would be just
as likely to die from the effects as
everyone else?

THREE

Maybe it wasn't a he or a she.
(throwing a look at
the android)
Maybe it was an it.

ONE rolls his eyes.

ONE

Oh for godsake.

THREE

Hey, when someone's out to get you,
paranoia's just common sense. And I
think we've established that someone's
out to get us.

ANDROID

I assure you, if I wanted you dead,
there are much simpler ways I could
go about it.

SIX

Maybe now's not the time to get into
that.

THREE gets a thought, to bolster his argument -

THREE

Wait, if it's a supernova or whatever,
then it's been happening since we
got here, right? So how come Mr.
Know-it-all is only telling us about
it now?

ANDROID

I believe I may have already mentioned that the external sensors are down. I only detected the radiation when it made significant penetration into the hull.

THREE

You've got an answer for everything, don't you?

TWO

Alright, enough. We know the situation, so what can we do about it?

ANDROID

You have two options. One - override the safety protocol, and initiate an immediate jump to FTL -

ONE

We can do that?

ANDROID

- But I wouldn't recommend it.

TWO

Why not?

ANDROID

The system was shut down for a reason. If we engage the coupling without addressing the malfunction, the computer is predicting a seventy-three percent chance of developing a fatal instability in the plasma matrix.

THREE

Translation?

TWO

The ship blows up.

ONE

Seventy-three percent? Not loving those odds.

ANDROID

Of course, if you really believe this was sabotage, then it's most likely the diagnostic program that was tampered with, and there's really nothing wrong with the coupling at all.

(beat)

Anyone want to take that chance?

Silence. Even THREE bites his tongue.

TWO

You said there was a second option.

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR NEXT TO THE AIRLOCK

The Android opens up a utility locker revealing a rack of space suits. The are split into various components. ONE, TWO, and THREE look on. TWO knows what the Android is suggesting, and doesn't like it -

TWO

You sure there's no third option?

ANDROID

The computer has identified what it believes to be the faulty part. It's a relatively small electrical component. All we have to do is replace it.

ONE

(pointing toward the
airlock)

You want one of us to go out there?
In the deadly radiation storm?

THREE

Why are we even listening to this
bag of bolts? He's completely crazy.

ANDROID

I'll go.

THREE

On the other hand, sometimes he does
make a lot of sense.

He pats the Android on the shoulder.

THREE (CONT'D)

Good luck out there.

He heads off. TWO fixes the Android with a look.

TWO

You're not impervious to gamma radiation.

ANDROID

The suits are shielded against full spectrum EM. As long as I'm not outside for too long, I'll be fine.

ONE and TWO don't look so sure.

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

SIX finds FIVE on the bridge.

SIX

You okay?

FIVE

Yeah. I just want to be here in case he needs something.

She's anxious and doing a poor job of hiding it.

SIX

It's going to be okay. He'll get us all fixed up.

FIVE

I know.

SIX

My guess is he's making everything seem a little worse than it is so we'll be really impressed when he takes care of it.

FIVE

I don't think Androids work like that.

SIX

They're not supposed to, but lets face it - ours does seem a little different.

FIVE

I know. That's why I like him. He's just like the rest of us.

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR NEXT TO THE AIRLOCK

ONE and TWO finish suiting up the Android. They lock the helmet in place. The suit pressurizes. (Note: the Android is carrying a case that contains the replacement part.)

TWO

Let's test your comm.

She keys her radio.

TWO (CONT'D)

You reading me?

ANDROID (OVER RADIO)

Loud and clear.

ONE

O2 is flowing. Suit is pressurized.

ANDROID (OVER RADIO)

Not that I need it.

He steps into the airlock. ONE closes the inner door.

ONE

Venting airlock.

The light in the airlock changes from normal to red. We hear the muffled HISS of the air escaping.

The Android looks back at TWO through the small window in the inner airlock door.

ANDROID (OVER RADIO)

You should know, I've used my neural link to upload an override program.

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

From the bridge, FIVE and SIX can hear the radio conversation.

 ANDROID (OVER RADIO)
 It's accessible from the navigation
 console on the bridge.

They both look over to see a window pop up on one of the screens. It's an execution command for the override, with a simple "y/n" prompt.

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR NEXT TO THE AIRLOCK

TWO fixes the Android with a look.

 TWO
 That's not necessary.

 ANDROID (OVER RADIO)
 It's a simple two-step procedure.
 First you initiate the override,
 then after a few moments, it'll prompt
 you to execute the jump.

 TWO
 We won't need it.

 ANDROID (OVER RADIO)
 I sincerely hope you're right. But
 if anything goes wrong out there,
 it'll be your only chance.

 TWO
 Just make sure you come back in one
 piece. We can't do this without
 you.

The Android locks eyes with TWO:

 ANDROID (OVER RADIO)
 Well, you can.

He holds the stare just a beat longer than is comfortable. TWO doesn't know what to make of it. The Android turns to an key pad on the wall.

ANDROID (OVER RADIO) (CONT'D)
Opening outer door.

The outer door opens.

VFX - the Android's POV: we can see that from the airlock one can step out easily onto a section of the upper hull, or "roof" of the ship. In the middle distance are a series of trenches, running parallel along the length of the hull toward the back.

 ANDROID (CONT'D)
The outer couplings are housed in a series of trenches about fifty meters from this position. It should only take me a few minutes to get there.

He takes a step toward the outer door, but suddenly stops, as if sensing -

 ANDROID (CONT'D)
Something's wrong.

BACK to the POV, but now with a new element - the hull of the ship erupts with a giant ELECTRICAL CHARGE. It looks like lightning playing over the ship's hull. It lasts for a few moments, then dissipates.(VFX)

BACK ON the Android.

 ONE
 (over radio)
What the hell was that?!

OFF the Android as he sets his jaw in a stern expression - this could be a problem.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR NEXT TO THE AIRLOCK

ONE and TWO look through the airlock and talk with the Android.

TWO

Close the door and come back inside.

ANDROID (OVER RADIO)

It's an electro-static discharge.

INT. SHIP - AIRLOCK

The Android stands by the open outer door.

ANDROID

- A side effect of the radio active bombardment. When the accumulation of negative ions is too much for the hull to absorb, they're sporadically released.

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

FIVE and SIX are listening in from the bridge. They're also watching a screen that shows a helmet-cam POV from the Android's suit (treated RE-USE of POV shot).

TWO (OVER RADIO)

Will the suit insulate you if you get hit?

ANDROID (OVER RADIO)

I very much doubt it. But there's no cause for alarm. It seems to have stopped.

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR NEXT TO THE AIRLOCK

TWO is not convinced -

TWO

For now. How long till it happens again?

ANDROID (OVER RADIO)

I don't know. I suppose I'll just have to get my work done as quickly as possible. Initiating my magnetic boots.

ONE and TWO exchange uncertain looks.

INT. SHIP - AIRLOCK

The Android steps through the outer door.

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

THREE and FOUR join FIVE and SIX on the bridge (we don't see the screen showing the helmet cam POV).

THREE

How's he doing?

SIX

He's outside. So far, so good.

VFX: SHIP'S HULL

WIDE SHOT: With the supernova in BG, the Android walks along the hull, about halfway between the airlock and the trenches.

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR NEXT TO THE AIRLOCK

ONE and TWO continue to check in over the radio.

TWO

Any sign of another electro-magnetic discharge?

ANDROID (OVER RADIO)

Negative.

EXT. SHIP'S HULL

(PRODUCTION NOTE: this is effectively a long, narrow, set that consists of the ramp leading down to a long trench with textured walls on either side, and plugged at the other end.

The ramp, the walls and the floor mimic the color and metal finish of the VFX hull. All angles are practical, unless otherwise specified. Above the walls we see only starfield - also practical)

We pick up the Android as he descends the ramp.

ANDROID (OVER RADIO)

I'm descending into the access channel. The control systems for the coupling should be located near the bottom of the ramp.

CLOSE ON the Android's boots. He takes the slow, slightly jerky steps of someone only held in place by magnetic boots.

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

FIVE and SIX watch the Android descend the ramp from the helmet cam POV. THREE and FOUR stand back a few paces, waiting to see how this plays out.

EXT. SHIP'S HULL

The Android has arrived at his destination, just a few feet past the bottom of the ramp. A low ledge, just below waist height protrudes from the wall and offers a place to set down the case he's been carrying - it drops with a THUNK - and sticks there, evidently also magnetized.

ANDROID

Accessing the control panel.

He reaches up to an inset round handle and turns it 180 degrees, which causes a panel to silently slide up and reveal the inside of the coupling control system. There are several toggle switches, a series of lights (all red), and what look like the front covers of some inset electrical boxes.

The Android toggles three switches in a row, which causes -

VFX - A large section of the wall ahead of the Android slides open, to reveal the disengaged coupling. It's like a large hydraulic piston, that's been retracted, causing a gap in the conduit - basically, like two sections of massive pipe, with a connector joint in the middle, that have been pulled apart.

ANDROID (CONT'D)

I can see the coupling.

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR NEXT TO THE AIRLOCK

ONE and TWO are waiting anxiously. TWO checks her watch, wishing this wouldn't take so long.

ANDROID (OVER RADIO)

I've identified the faulty electrical component. Removing it now.

EXT. SHIP'S HULL

The Android presses a button next to one of the inset electrical boxes, and as a result the box partially pops out. The Android pulls it out the rest of the way. It is roughly the size and shape of a car stereo.

He opens his case, revealing an identical electrical box inside. He pulls the new one out, and puts the old one in. He closes the box.

The Android now places the new box in the slot vacated by the old one. He pushes it in with a CLICK.

ANDROID (OVER RADIO)

Alright, here goes.

He toggles a few more switches. One by one, the red lights turn to green.

He looks over at -

VFX - the two sections of the coupling now come together, and meet at the connector point, which rotates and locks into place with a satisfying KA-CHUNK.

ANDROID (CONT'D)

It worked. The coupling has automatically re-engaged.

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

FIVE and SIX are hugely relieved.

ANDROID (OVER RADIO)
We should be able to jump now without
any problems.

SIX throws an arm around FIVE's shoulders in celebration.

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR NEXT TO THE AIRLOCK

ONE and TWO are also relieved, and without thinking about
it, find themselves hugging.

 ANDROID (OVER RADIO)
Closing up the access panels now.

After a moment, ONE and TWO realize what they're doing, and
pull apart awkwardly.

Suddenly, they begin to hear a sound from above - the rising
of an ELECTRIC CRACKLE. They both look up, then shift their
focus to the airlock.

 TWO
Android, get out of there.

EXT. SHIP'S HULL

The Android is holding the inset circular handle, watching
the panel slide back down over the controls.

 TWO
You need to get back to the airlock,
now.

He looks over and sees ELECTRICAL ARCING above the opposite
end of the trench. It flows down into the trench, quickly
moving toward him(VFX).

 ANDROID
Too late.

The Android is hit dead on. He instantly powers down and
goes dark(VFX).

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

The helmet cam POV goes to STATIC.

SIX
He's been hit!

INT. SHIP - CORRIDOR NEXT TO THE AIRLOCK

TWO and ONE share a look, horrified.

TWO
Android, can you hear me? Please
respond.

EXT. SHIP'S HULL

The Android's stands, head bowed, limp, still held in place
by his mag boots.

TWO (OVER RADIO)
Android, come in! Answer me!

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

THREE, FOUR, FIVE, and SIX are also waiting to hear a
response, but none comes. SIX keys his radio.

SIX
This is Six, what do we do now?

INTERCUT

ONE
We've got to go out there and get
him.

THREE
Whoa, hold on. We're on the clock
here, remember?

ONE
He said we had three hours.

THREE
He said we MAY have three hours.
And that was an hour and a half ago.
He fixed the problem, right, so it's
safe to jump. I say we go now.

ONE looks over at TWO.

ONE

What happens if we jump while he's still out there?

TWO

He'd be ripped off the hull in a matter of nanoseconds.

ONE

He saved our lives.

THREE

Yes, he did. So let's not ruin it by getting ourselves killed.

TWO considers, then nods.

TWO

We've still got time. Let's go get him.

SIX

I'm on my way.

SIX leaves the bridge. FIVE hurries after him.

After a beat, a frustrated THREE looks over at FOUR.

THREE

This is a mistake, and you know it.

FOUR

Do I?

THREE

Risking all our lives for a piece of hardware?

FOUR

A valuable piece of hardware.

THREE

Sure. But not irreplaceable. Problem is, the other's just don't have the strength to make the tough decisions. But we do, right?

OFF FOUR, considering...

INT. SHIP -- CORRIDOR NEXT TO THE AIRLOCK

ONE and TWO are checking out the various suit components as FIVE and SIX arrive.

TWO

Looks like we got components for two more full suits. The rest are just spare parts.

SIX

I'll go.

ONE

Me too.

SIX

How much time till the next EM pulse, like the one that hit the Android?

TWO

There was about forty-five minutes between the last two. But that doesn't mean there won't be another one sooner.

ONE

Well then I guess we won't hang around to admire the view.

A LOW RUMBLE can be heard and felt throughout the ship.

SIX

What the hell - ?

FIVE

The FTL drive is powering up.

TWO realizes -

TWO

Son of a bitch.

INT. SHIP -- BRIDGE

THREE and FOUR have activated the Android's back-up plan. THREE seals the bridge door.

THREE

Why didn't we jump?

FOUR

It's not the normal FTL start-up,
it's the Android's work-around.
It'll take a few minutes.

He watches as complicated code SCROLLS over the screen.

TWO (OVER RADIO)

Three, what the hell are you doing?

THREE

Saving your life. You can thank me
later.

INT. SHIP -- CORRIDOR

ONE, TWO, FIVE and SIX round a corner and find the bridge
closed off. ONE tries the door. Nothing.

ONE

They've locked us out.

FIVE

Let me try.

She rips off the door panel and starts to rewire it. TWO
keys her comm.

TWO

Open the door. I'm not gonna ask
twice.

INTERCUT

THREE

Then I'll only answer once: no.

SIX

This isn't your call.

THREE

This was the plan we all agreed to.
This is why the Android wrote the
work-around. If something went wrong,
we were gonna jump. Well, something
went wrong.

TWO

We can save him.

THREE

Listen, you sound very emotional.
Let's all calm down and we can talk
about this once we get to the space
station.

FIVE

I think I've got it!

ONE, TWO and SIX draw their weapons. TWO nods to FIVE.
FIVE sparks a wire and the door opens.

INT. SHIP -- BRIDGE

ONE, TWO and SIX walk in with weapons pointed at THREE and
FOUR who instinctively draw. It's a Mexican stand-off.

THREE

Or now. Or we could talk about it
now.

Off their anxious looks...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. SHIP -- BRIDGE

The Mexican stand-off between ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE and SIX. They all hear a BLEEP, as onscreen, the scrolling stops, and is replaced by another window, this one a y/n prompt to execute the FTL jump.

FOUR is only a few feet away from the console. He throws a furtive glance toward it.

TWO

Don't even think about it.

ONE

You're outgunned.

THREE

Oh yeah, how do you figure? I got you and her and he's -
(indicating Four)
Got them.

FIVE

Don't worry about Three, aim at Four.

ONE

What? Why?

FIVE

His gun isn't loaded.

THREE

Like hell, it ain't.

FIVE

I was nervous about how you were looking at me ever since I told you about my dreams. So when they were questioning you, I snuck into your room and took your bullets.

THREE

Nice try. My door was locked and only I have the passcode.

FIVE

I went through the vents.

THREE

You're bluffing.

FIVE digs into her pocket and pulls out some bullets. She lets's them CLATTER to the floor.

THREE gently weighs his guns in his hands, trying to get a feel.

ONE and TWO swing their aim over to FOUR - who is now officially outgunned.

FOUR considers, then - lowers his sidearm. THREE does the same.

THREE (CONT'D)

(to FIVE)

You little brat. THAT was an invasion of privacy.

TWO moves over to the controls and kills the FTL program. FIVE collects FOUR and THREE's guns.

TWO

I'll stay here and keep an eye on these two. You guys get into your suits. And you better move fast.

ONE, SIX and FIVE head out. TWO trains her weapons on THREE and FOUR.

THREE

Is that really necessary?

TWO

Necessary? Probably not. Satisfying? Very.

EXT. SHIP'S HULL -- SPACE

ONE and SIX, all suited up, arrive at the bottom of the ramp. The Android is still there, frozen in place.

ONE (OVER RADIO)

Switching off his mag boots.

ONE unlocks the Android's mag boots. CLOSE ON his boots as they gently lift a couple of inches off the deck. SIX and ONE each grab an arm.

SIX (OVER RADIO)
Okay. Let's go.

INT. SHIP -- BRIDGE

TWO has THREE and FOUR dead to rights. Waiting.

ONE (OVER RADIO)
Alright, we're approaching the
airlock.

The DISTINCT NOISE of another discharge building echoes around
the ship.

TWO
Might wanna hurry!

INT. RAZA -- AIRLOCK

ONE comes in first, pulling in the Android. Beat. SIX is
halfway through the door when a (VFX) bolt licks the arm of
his suit.

SIX
Aaaaargh!!

ONE hits the door control and seals the airlock, then looks
over at SIX.

SIX (CONT'D)
(groans)

ONE
You okay?

SIX
Maybe you missed the part where I
got hit by lightning. No. I'm not
okay.

ONE
Two, we're in! Hit it!

VFX - SPACE

The Raza jumps into the FTL (possible RE-USE with addition
of supernova remnants in BG).

INT. SHIP -- INFIRMARY

ONE is helping SIX peel off his space suit. SIX is in a fair amount of pain.

ONE
You're okay. You're okay.

SIX
How do you know?

ONE
I mean...you're - just trying to stay positive.

They get his suit off, revealing a nasty burn on his arm.

ONE (CONT'D)
Oh - oh no. That's does NOT look good.

SIX
Thanks for staying positive.

ONE
We should get you under the scanner.

SIX lies down. Beat.

SIX
Okay. Go.

ONE
Uh, it's not voice-activated.

SIX
No, I mean you. Go. Scan me.

ONE
I don't know how to work that thing. I thought you did.

ANDROID (O.S.)
Allow me.

They turns to see the Android and FIVE. ONE and SIX are surprised.

FIVE

I brought him back online.

ANDROID

Thank you for going out there and
risking your lives to save me.

ONE

Ah, you would've done the same for
us.

ANDROID

In fact, I did.

ONE

Uh, right. So - thank YOU.

The Android gets to work, initiating the scanner.

ANDROID

It appears to be a second degree
burn. Very painful, but not life
threatening. You're very fortunate.

SIX

Yeah, I'm feeling super lucky today.

He throws a look to FIVE who smiles back at him.

INT. SHIP -- BRIDGE

TWO still has her guns on THREE and FOUR. Beat.

THREE

Look, they're back on the ship, we're
safely in FTL. We done here?

She doesn't move.

THREE (CONT'D)

It wasn't personal. We were -

TWO

Just looking out for yourselves.

THREE

Looking out for all of us.

Off TWO -

THREE (CONT'D)

If the shields had failed while we were waiting for them to haul him in, we'd be singing a different tune now. We were lucky.

He has a point. She lowers her guns. THREE and FOUR lower their hands.

THREE (CONT'D)

Alright. I'll be in my quarters. Let me know when we get to the station.

He starts off. She stops him with -

TWO

Not so fast. We've got to finish something first.

Off a confused THREE.

INT. SHIP -- MESS

THREE sits opposite the Android. He's the final member of the crew to sit through the lie detector test. THREE's pissed off, but answering. The rest of the crew looks on.

ANDROID

Have you sabotaged this ship in anyway?

THREE

No.

ANDROID

Do you mean any passengers on this ship any harm?

THREE

No.

ANDROID

Have any of the answers you've given here today been lies?

THREE

No.

Beat. The Android releases THREE's arms.

 ANDROID
He's telling the truth.

 THREE
Of course I am.

 ONE
So wait - if we're all telling the
truth...

 SIX
Then whoever did this erased their
own memories too.

 ONE
Why would they that?

 ANDROID
It may have been an accident. The
code was crude, perhaps rushed. A
communal mindwipe was not the
intention.

 FIVE
So what does this mean?

 TWO
It means that finding out who did it
is going to be next to impossible
so...

 ONE
Move on?

 TWO
We move on.

TWO leaves the mess. And off the rest of their uneasy looks -

END OF ACT FIVE

TAG

EXT. SPACE -- VFX

The Raza flies through FTL.

INT. SHIP - THREE'S QUARTERS

THREE has wheeled a welder into his room. He puts on a pair of dark goggles, and steps on a chair to get up to the level of his air vent. He lifts up a piece of sheet metal and holds it in place over the vent. He begins to weld it over the vent.

INT. SHIP -- TRAINING ROOM

TWO is working the bag with kicks and punches. She's surprisingly quick. She leaves off her workout to throw a look across the room at ONE, watching.

TWO

Wanna spar?

ONE

Don't think I'm quite up to your sparring level.

He approaches, smiles.

ONE (CONT'D)

Pretty crazy day.

TWO

Can't remember one that wasn't.

ONE

So, what're we gonna do about our two mutineers?

She shrugs, takes a drink of water.

TWO

Truth is they didn't mean us any harm. We felt the risk was worth it to save the Android; they didn't.

ONE

What about the sabotage?

TWO

The Android analyzed the part he replaced. Turns out it really was defective. There was no sabotage.

TWO lies down on the mat, pats the spot beside her. ONE comes over.

TWO (CONT'D)

Anchor me.

She swings her legs into his lap. He is surprised - then realizes. He anchors her legs as she runs through her crunch routine.

ONE

I've been thinking. Why would whoever did this target our memories? What was their endgame?

TWO

The kid seemed to think it was because we were "dangerous".

ONE

Right but dangerous how?

TWO

As far as I can tell dangerous in every sense of the word.

ONE

No, I know, I just - we all have bounties on our heads. If you wanted to capture us - subdue us - what would be the best way to do it?

TWO

There's got to be easier ways than erasing our memories.

ONE

Maybe what he actually wanted to do was only target a part of them.

TWO holds up.

TWO

"He"?

ONE

Look, we might have lost our memories, but I think it's fair to say it didn't erase our *personalities*. And there's only one person on this ship that's made no bones about looking out for number one.

TWO

So looking out for you?

ONE

You know who I mean. He wants to sell the ship. He could care less about "team".

She playfully grabs him by the collar, partly fucking with him, partly to rest her tired abs.

TWO

I understand the need to make sense of all this, but you've got to make peace with the fact that we'll probably never know. And throwing around accusations isn't going to help. Your mind would be better put to other pursuits.

He locks eyes with her.

ONE

Such as...?

TWO

I don't know. Working out. You might be getting a little doughy -

He leans in and kisses her. She pulls back, surprised, then lowers herself back down. He immediately backs off.

ONE

Sorry.

TWO

It's - don't worry about it.

She gets up.

ONE

I just thought - I - don't know what I thought. Besides wanting to kiss you.

She grabs a towel, smiles down at him.

TWO

I think our lives are complicated enough right now, don't you?

ONE

No, of course.

He jumps to his feet.

ONE (CONT'D)

I should...I think Six needed me to -
(beat)
G'night.

He heads out. She watches him go.

TWO

(sighs)

That was awkward. She resumes her routine.

INT. SHIP - THREE'S QUARTERS

THREE finishes with the welding and steps down off the chair to admire his handiwork. It's a rough, sloppy job, but there's no way FIVE will be sneaking his room anytime soon.

We hear the Android's voice over the P.A. -

ANDROID (O.S.)

Good evening everyone. This your report from the bridge. Ship's engines are operating within acceptable parameters.

THREE throws his head back and exhales loudly - not again.

ANDROID (O.S.) (CONT'D)

At current rate of travel, we should be arriving at the space station in approximately -

THREE throws down his equipment and marches out of the room.

INT. SHIP -- FOUR'S QUARTERS

FOUR sits up in bed, opens the mystery box and pulls out the ring inside. He studies it, wondering...

ANDROID (O.S.)

- Eleven hours and twenty-three minutes. I've programmed an eight a.m. wake-up call for the entire crew -

INT. SHIP -- SIX'S QUARTERS

SIX is at his mirror, wincing as he applies a topical cream to the burn on his arms.

ANDROID (O.S.)

- To ensure you'll all be ready by the time we dock.

INT. SHIP - BRIDGE

The Android, alone on the bridge, informs the crew -

ANDROID

Tomorrow's breakfast will be comprised of hydrated protein packets, bacon and egg flavor, as well as orange juice, simulated of course. We will also be -

THREE pokes his head into the bridge.

THREE

Hey Tin Man, once and for all: knock it off!

The Android falls silent. Satisfied, THREE ducks back out. The Android turns and then, composed -

ANDROID

Goodnight.

INT. SHIP -- UTILITY ROOM

The door slides open and FIVE steps into the room. She stands there, thinking, staring down at where she found the body. She closes her eyes, concentrates. Beat. Beat. Beat.

She opens them suddenly, like she's had a thought - a *memory*. She goes over to a section of the wall and runs her hand along it - then pushes. A section gives way to a hidden compartment. She reaches inside and pulls out:

A Key (TBD). She looks it over, curious, sets it aside, then reaches back into the compartment and pulls out -

A gun. Holy shit. Off a wide-eyed FIVE we...

FADE OUT: