

S P A C E

PART 2 OF 2

Written by

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January 13, 1995 (Full White)
February 17, 1995 (Full Blue)
February 20, (Pink Pages)
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76 CONTINUED:

76

Vanessa searches the Tracker. She cautiously reaches down and opens a small square compartment. Upon it, are the line drawings of Earth carried aboard Pioneer 10 and 11. Damphousse produces what appears to be a micro-CD made out of gold.

DAMPHOUSSE

This it?

WANG

That's the Earth message. They made it a requirement in the 21st century that all off Earth installations had to have one.

Cooper walks around the satellite.

WANG

It has pictures and sounds of Earth in case an extraterrestrial found it.

Cooper takes the micro-CD and inserts it into a tiny metallic disc drive. He engages a switch. Then, from the orbiter... Mozart, "Piano Concerto in D minor, K: Second Movement." Slow... sad... passionate.

The Marines listen to the music as the distant sun descends in the horizon. The music is out of place and at the same time... absolutely belongs. Nathan listens.

NATHAN

Mozart.

The MUSIC continues.

SHANE

If only this had been our first contact with them.

(beat)

They never would have killed the Colonists.

Cooper punches the button again. A Scottish fling with heavy bagpipes BLARES.

WANG

If they had heard this, they would have wiped us out a long time ago. And I wouldn't blame them.

(X)

Cooper hits the button. From the machine, the opening barrage of guitar from the Ramones "Blitzkrieg Bop." They react as if this is the strangest thing they have ever heard.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: (2)

76

They laugh when Joey Ramone begins to sing.

(X)

DAMPHOUSSE

What the hell is that?!

Pags subtly moves to the music.

PAGS

I know this. I heard this in my
20th Century history class. This
was called Rock 'N Roll. I think
this group was called... The Pink
Floyd. They went like this.

(X)

In his space suit, Pags does a little Johnny Ramone. He
spreads his legs and fans an air guitar. The others laugh, as
a unit. Even Cooper smiles at Pags.

(X)

(X)

PAGS

(singing)

Hey, Ho, let's go... Hey, Ho,
let's go...

(X)

Suddenly, in the sky... two THUNDEROUS POPS. Sonic booms. All
heads turn. Pause. BOOM! BOOM! Two more.

CARTER

Look!

(X)

He points to the near horizon. A fiery streak arcs eighty
degrees across the sky. It vanishes behind a volcano summit.
A flash of light strobes the dusk.

(X)

PAGS

Whoa!

(X)

SHANE

One one thousand... two one
thousand... three one
thousand...

The EXPLOSION shakes the ground more than is heard.

SHANE

On Mars... about ten miles away.

BARTLEY

A Bolide, maybe?

(X)

NATHAN

A Mars' Mach 4... too slow to be
a meteor.

Shane looks to the horizon, considers...

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: (3)

76

SHANE

A twenty-mile hike cuts into our
O2 ration.

PAGS

I'm willin' to lower O2 flow
during sleep.

Shane gauges everyone's willingness to do so. She looks to
Nathan, who nods.

SHANE

We all go. Everyone carries
water and their M-590's.

(X)

The troop mobilizes, burning with excitement. Cooper seems to
have a bad feeling about it.

77 OMITTED

77

77A EXT. MARS PLAIN - DUSK

77A

The recruits move across the plain in the dark night. The
moons of Mars are in the sky. Deimos appears as Venus does to
our naked eye, only brighter. Phobos is forty times brighter.
It is 2/3 as big as our moon.

78 EXT. MARS CANYON - NIGHT

78

Shane leads the way as she climbs a small cliff face. The
others follow.

79 EXT. MARS HILLTOP - NIGHT

79

A mysterious orange glow burns beyond the hillside. CAMERA is
over the shoulders of the Marine recruits as they cautiously
peer above the summit, REVEALING...

An odd black metallic craft. It is smoldering. About the size
of a Gemini space capsule, it has crashed in an area full of
boulders. CAMERA SWINGS AROUND to see the wide eyes of the
young soldiers. Shane flips down her night-vision face shield.

NIGHT VISION MATTE - GREEN FILTER

The image is far superior to the CNN night vision, however, it
is difficult to discern quite what the hell it is.

SHANE (O.S.)

Is it a Mars orbiter?

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED:

79

RETURN

Shane looks to Cooper. He shrugs.

STONE
Maybe it's a classified recon
ship.

CARTER
Somethin' to do with the war.

Shane considers.

SHANE
Damphousse, West, Pags and me.
The rest of you spread out.
Provide cover.

COOPER
You want me to go?

Shane readies herself, shakes her head "no."

SHANE
Stay here... in case something
happens.

Cooper is surprised by Shane's confidence in him.

Nathan, Shane, Damphousse and Pags move over the hill and start toward the wreckage. CAMERA LEADS them as they move down the hill. Their orange halogen lamps cast beams of light in the Martian fog. Their BREATHS can be heard as their exhaust systems are taxed by the exertion. It creates an unsettling, odd metronome as they move toward the object.

SHANE
Radiation levels?

Pags consults a gauge.

PAGS
Let's say we don't stay long.

COOPER AND THE OTHERS

watch from their positions on the hill. They ready their weapons, M-590 photon rifles.

(X)

WRECKAGE

The four recruits near the ruined craft. Its indescribable origin is eerie. Their lamp beams crisscross as they near. Pags raises his M-590 as he approaches.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

"Space"

2/17/95

(Full Blue)

62A.

79 CONTINUED: (2)

79

He's the closest to the object.

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED: (3)

79

DAMPHOUSSE
What the hell is it?

PAGS
Looks like it's open. There's
electronics and...

Pags sticks the barrel of his rifle into an opening. He pushes. Suddenly, a body falls from the craft. Organic. Deep dark gray. What the audience has seen to be an alien.

PAGS
AHHHH!

Pags hustles backwards. Trying to keep from hyperventilating. After a beat... a yellow light flashes on his suit. His Urine Fecal Collection Device is full. He sighs, embarrassed.

Nathan, weapon raised, moves toward the body.

NATHAN
It looks like... I don't know...
Like it's... like it was...
alive...

BOOM! BOOM!

WEAPONS' FIRE RINGS out. Pags is BLASTED in the chest, a ring of smoke pulses as he falls back in a mist of blood. More FIRE, from an unseen SNIPER.

CHAOS. FRENZIED TERROR. Damphousse grabs Pags, lifts him over her shoulder and takes off. Shane and Nathan begin wildly FIRING their rifles.

COOPER AND THE OTHERS

Horrificed, immediately open FIRE, providing cover.

SHANE

moving, stumbles on the rocks. She falls. Her rebreather tube disconnects. Pressure escapes. She begins to SCREAM, then CHOKES as she tries to hold her breath in the thick carbon dioxide atmosphere. (X)
(X)

WEAPON FIRE RINGS OUT over her head.

NATHAN

sees Shane in trouble. Darting quickly from boulder to boulder, Nathan removes a tube from his flight suit.

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED: (4)

79

DAMPHOUSSE

bravely continues up the hill with Pags on her shoulder. The fire FIGHT erupting all around her.

NATHAN & SHANE

Nathan engages some O2 flow, disconnecting his tube. Air pressure WHISTLES out. He shares his oxygen supply. They alternate breathing, like the buddy system for sea divers.

WIDER

Weapons FIRE as Damphousse charges up the hill.

DAMPHOUSSE

MOVE OUT!!

Nathan pulls Shane to her feet. As WEAPON FIRE EXPLODES about them, the young man and woman race up the hill, continuing to share a single life line.

HILL SUMMIT

Nathan, Shane and Damphousse with Pags make it to the top of the hill. Vanessa lowers Pags to the ground with help from the others. Wang and Low quickly attend to Shane, replacing her visor and administering aid. Nathan closes his visor and tries to repressurize his suit.

(X)

(X)

Nathan moves to Damphousse and the others hovering over Pags.

DAMPHOUSSE

Pags... is dead.

Light headed, Nathan collapses to his knees. A recruit moves to him, commencing to engage pressure and oxygen. Cooper sits in the Martian soil... head spinning.

The exchange of gunfire has ceased. All is silent. The Company sits huddled and scared. As the inner Martian moon Phobos rises in the pink dusk...

FADE OUT:

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

80 EXT. MARS - NIGHT - CLOSE - M590 RIFLE

80

The bolt is COCKED!

NATHAN

stands on the summit of a dune with his weapon, wild-eyed with intensity and anger. On the weapon is a night vision sight - a small video screen, tinted red. He searches the area. A Martian wind storm kicks up.

SHANE & COOPER

are with the others loading their weapons. Shane still appears groggy but is on her feet. Pags' body lies in the dirt, uncovered. The wind flaps at his flight suit.

NATHAN

furiously, checks his night vision sight.

NATHAN POV - NIGHT VISION SIGHT

In the darkness... near covering boulders... movement.

NATHAN

takes off. Alone.

WIDER

Hearing him run off, Low realizes what has happened.

(X)

LOW
West is solo.

(X)

SHANE
Dammit! What the hell's he
doing?

Shane jumps to her feet.

SHANE
Four of you, move out with me.
Rest stay here.

Shane and four others disappear over the hill. Cooper remains. He looks to Pags' dead body.

NATHAN - BOTTOM OF THE HILL

The Martian soil kicks up into dust as Nathan tears down the hill, rifle raised. The wind whips up the dust, obscuring the scene.

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED:

80

A BOULDER

In the f.g., a dark BEING races PAST FRAME, taking cover in the shadow of the rock. In the b.g., Nathan appears. As he pauses to look about, the Alien turns and FIRES! A chunk of boulder becomes rubble from the blast. Nathan dives for cover behind a rock. He returns FIRE, then moves out.

HILLSIDE

Shane and the others race down the hill.

NATHAN

rabbit-runs from boulder to boulder. As he comes out from cover, a weapon's BLAST from the enemy. The wind violently whips up the smoke. As Nathan ducks, the Alien charges. The Creature's movements are fast and insect-like as it throws Nathan with great strength.

Nathan is stunned as he CRASHES against a boulder. The Creature attacks again. Nathan raises his rifle. The enemy dives as Nathan gets off a shot, BLASTING a hole into a boulder. Nathan follows in the direction of the enemy's retreat.

NATHAN

CAMERA IS LOW, RUNNING with him... WEAPONS' FIRE EXPLODES! Nathan turns toward the direction of the sparks. This time, he cautiously sticks close behind the cover of a long rock formation. He pauses, puzzled by what he sees...

NATHAN'S POV - ALIEN

Submissively on it's "knees." Its arms are raised awkwardly, trembling with apparent terror. It isn't facing Nathan.

NATHAN

MOVING out along the end of the cover, REVEALS Shane and the other Marines with their weapons trained on the enemy. The recruits are as scared as their prisoner. Their exhaust systems RUMBLE from heavy breathing.

WIDER

Shane turns to Nathan, breathing hard, heart pounding.

SHANE

I think... it's trying to
surrender.

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED: (2)

80

The wind HOWLS angrily as Nathan looks back at the prisoner of war...

81 EXT. MARS - I.S.S.C.V. FUSELAGE - DAWN

81

The distant sun rises over the Gledhill crater, burning off the morning fog. The trainee camp appears quiet in the pale light. The I.S.S.C.V. sits silently in the martian morning.

82 INT. SUPPLY ROOM - FUSELAGE - DAWN - CLOSE - ALIEN HANDS

82

Scaly, dark gray hands are bound together with plastic ties and synthetic rope. They seem to tremble. Perhaps from the temperature, more likely from fear.

WANG (O.S.)

I think it thinks we're going to kill it.

CAMERA ADJUSTS, WIDENING to REVEAL the alien prisoner secured to a flight seat, its head bowed submissively. No human facial features can be detected.

The young Marines are gathered across from their prisoner, fascinated and scared. Inside the pressurized fuselage, there is no need for their helmets. Several of the recruits, however, keep their arms across their noses or hold kerchiefs to their faces.

DAMPHOUSSE

The odor's gonna make me puke.

LOW

Smells sulfuric.

(X)

Nathan sits to the side with a dark and angry expression. He doesn't share the same fascination.

DAMPHOUSSE

Must be a scout. Going toward Earth it had to crank the chicken switch over Mars.

WANG

Probably sent a distress call.

SHANE

Means there'll be more coming.

A sick silence falls over the group.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED:

82

CARTER

There's got to be some way to figure it out.

(X)

Cooper stands and steps toward the enemy. It tenses. Cooper holds up his hands to indicate he's not going to hurt the Creature.

(X)

SHANE

Don't. It could carry some disease.

Cooper looks over to Shane.

COOPER

I never had a Mother, but you sound like one.

Cooper studies the Alien.

COOPER

It's wearin' an armored flight suit... I think...

WANG

I would hope we're not at intergalactic war with a naked enemy.

Cooper spots something, he moves to pull it off the enemy's body. The Alien awkwardly shakes its head.

DAMPHOUSSE

It knows some of our nonverbal gestures.

SHANE

They've been studying us. And we know nothing about them.

Cooper reaches in and pulls away a 3"X3" metal card, raised at points, like an old computer key punch card. The enemy SCREAMS, eerily. A protest. The Marines tense. Cooper eyes the card. He shows it to the others.

SHANE

Maybe it operates the vehicle. Like, a key.

DAMPHOUSSE

It's some sort of encoded information.

Cooper turns to the prisoner, shrugs. In a commanding tone...

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED: (2)

82

COOPER

What is this?

The Creature hangs its head, angry.

COOPER

Explain.

The Creature SCREAMS again. Cooper pulls a sidearm weapon and points it at the prisoner's head. This alarms even the recruits, however, no one stops Cooper.

The Alien looks to the weapon... pauses. With a gesture of the head, it indicates toward Nathan. Everyone is put on edge by the response. Successful communication. They all look toward Nathan whose hateful glare is cast at the enemy.

Cooper points to Nathan.

COOPER

Him?

The prisoner nods. Cooper holds up the metallic card.

COOPER

What does this have to do with him?

The Alien gestures with its head, once again. Cooper eyes Nathan and moves to him. An expression of understanding comes over Cooper as he cups in his hands the photo tags of Kylen that hang around Nathan's neck.

Cooper gestures with the card, then the photo tags...

COOPER

This... is this?

The Creature nods, sadly. Shane takes the card from Cooper, curious.

WANG

It's like a picture of his family, or somethin'.

The young people are taken by a surprise sense of pity. Not Nathan.

LOW

Maybe we ought to give it something to eat or drink.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED: (3)

82

The Alien reacts to those words, desperate. Everyone turns surprised. It gestures with its head toward a canteen of water... begging.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED: (3)

82

WANG

It wants water.

DAMPHOUSSE

Right. It's probably one thing
we have in common.

Shane looks at the strange Alien card. Then, sadly...

SHANE

But not the only thing. Give him
some water.

(X)
(X)

Nathan can't take it. He stands, furious.

NATHAN

What the hell is wrong with you?!
We're low on rations already.
We're all cut to thirty percent
O2 flow and you're gonna waste
water on this THING?! NO! NO
WAY!!

Silence. The enemy is afraid of Nathan, who spits on it.

NATHAN

This thing killed Pags!

Everyone is ashamed.

NATHAN

God knows who else it's killed.

Nathan puts on his helmet and disappears through a door marked
"AIR LOCK." After a beat, Shane stands, grabs her helmet and
follows after him.

83 EXT. FUSELAGE - DAWN (X)

83

The small sun is five degrees off the horizon. The morning is
beautiful here. The distant crater summits are a scarlet haze.

Two lonely figures are violet silhouettes away from the camp.
One is standing sadly over the other which lies in a body bag.

(CONTINUED)

83 CONTINUED:

83

CLOSER

Nathan is a man who can no longer cry... but this is the emotion he conveys as he stands over the covered body. In a moment, Shane joins him. Silent, respecting his thoughts, then...

SHANE

Nathan, you were so out of control. It was more than just Pags...

He looks to her, but does not want to explain. Nathan takes the Alien metallic card from her and looks at it.

84 INT. SUPPLY ROOM - I.S.S.C.V. - DAY

84

The room is torn with conflicting emotions. Nathan is right and yet the prisoner seems to beg for water.

DAMPHOUSSE

I'm giving it some damn water.

They turn to her.

DAMPHOUSSE

Let's show what it means to be human.

Damphousse meets no protest as she picks up a container of water. She moves to the prisoner, opens the cap and holds it. A small, slimy orifice opens. The Alien places the water to its mouth.

Suddenly, the prisoner begins to violently convulse, greenish foam froths from inside its helmet. It SCREAMS in agony.

Damphousse backs up in horror. The recruits are frozen with shock. Helplessly, they watch their prisoner suffer. With a final horrifying GROAN, the Alien life form dies. Its head slumping to its chest.

85 EXT. FUSELAGE - DAY

85

Nathan and Shane remain over the body of their dead colleague. Behind them, the fuselage door opens. Cooper, Low, Damphousse and Wang exit in their helmets and flight suits, dragging the Alien's body. Nathan and Shane are shocked. Nathan can't admit to remorse. (X)
(X)

SHANE

What happened?

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED:

85

COOPER
It killed itself.

DAMPHOUSSE
I can't believe it would be so
afraid of us.

NATHAN
We're the enemy.

They drag the body, placing it next to Pagodin. The young
people look upon the two dead bodies. A slight breeze blows
the red dust.

LOW
This is the first time I've ever
seen a dead body.

(X)

Pause... the wind blows.

COOPER
Stick around. Won't be the last.

The terrifying reality of death hangs in the air of the
wondrously surreal landscape. Nathan looks to the enemy, then
takes the metal encoded card and places it back onto the Alien
flight suit.

He studies this oblique and prophetic image. His eyes turn to
Pagodin's body bag.

NATHAN'S POV - BODY BAG

The black plastic is motionless in the red dirt.

HARD CUT TO:

86 EXT. CEMETERY - DAY - CLOSE - UNITED STATES FLAG

86

Red and white stripes with a corner of blue angle across FRAME.
HOLD... before white gloved hands begin to fold the cloth into
a triangle.

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

86

WIDER

An Honor Guard folds the flag before a casket that sits poised to be lowered into a grave. The recruits, along with Bougus, stand at attention. Lush green grass covers the ground. Deep blue fills the sky. Colors of home. O.S., a SNARE DRUM ROLLS. (X)

NATHAN & SHANE

are sharp in their dress uniforms. They salute. Nathan's white gloved hand trembles as a BUGLER plays "TAPS." (X)

THE CASKET

(X)

is lowered, REVEALING Cooper who appears especially affected. He is confused and troubled by this. He doesn't know how to cry, but this is the closest he'll ever come. Cooper raises his arm in a crisp salute. (X)

CUT TO:

87 EXT. MARINE AIR FIELD - DAY

87

Against the orange light of dusk, Nathan, Shane, Cooper and the remaining recruits stand on a vast field of tarmac. ROLLING INTO FRAME in deep violet silhouette is a SA-43 Endo/Exo Atmospheric Attack plane. It is shaped like a bullet and can fly a thousand times faster. (X)

NATHAN, SHANE & COOPER

As the shadow of the plane sweeps over them.

BOUGUS (V.O.)
Today... you have been assigned
your SA-43 Endo/Exo Atmospheric
Attack jets.

CUT TO:

88 INT. HANGAR - MARINE BASE - NIGHT - CLOSE - BOUGUS

88

The Marines stand at attention before Sergeant Bougus.

BOUGUS (CONT'D)
Your current orders are to take
48 hours leave.

(CONTINUED)

88 CONTINUED:

88

DAMPHOUSSE
Sir, two days, sir?

NATHAN
Sir, ship us out, sir!

SHANE
Sir, why have we been on
accelerated training if we're not
going to be used, sir?

Bougus moves, out of habit, to bust Shane a new hole. He
pauses, looking over the young faces. He takes a deep breath.

BOUGUS
Other than what you found last
week... we have no idea what lies
ahead. We know basically nothing
of the enemy. Numbers. Tactics.
Weapons. That is why we have
been losing... and losing
badly... in every battle of this
war. Don't be in such a hurry.

The recruits take pause.

BOUGUS (CONT'D)
My advice, see your families. It
could be for the last time. Go.

Bougus lets this sink in before CLICKING his heels into
attention. He eyes his troops and executes a crisp salute.
They return the salute, holding it longer than required.

BOUGUS
Dismissed.

The group silently disperses, except for Shane who suddenly
appears lonely and confused.

NATHAN
You gonna go see your sisters?

Shane shakes her head, shrugs.

SHANE
I don't think they want to see
me.

Nathan nods, understands.

(CONTINUED)

88 CONTINUED: (2)

88

NATHAN

I don't know if my folks want to
see me. I never told them I was
joining the corp.

She eyes him, smiles.

SHANE

They'll want to see you.

NATHAN

You wanna be a witness to that?

(X)

Shane gently nods, smiles and accepts the invitation.

He and Shane walk past Cooper who stands alone on the tarmac.
He watches them leave, then turns and looks off...

COOPER'S POV - SA-43 ATTACK JET

McQueen appears in his flight suit and helmet.

(X)

WIDER

Cooper moves toward him. McQueen doesn't acknowledge him,
cool, not rude. McQueen readies his plane for war.

COOPER

I'll never get in one of those.

McQueen continues to prepare, not looking at Cooper.

MCQUEEN

Ten of us tanks were with the
Tellus Colony.

COOPER

Only makes the Aliens just as
bad.

Cooper eyes McQueen.

COOPER (cont'd)

I'm not gonna die for them.

McQueen coolly, pointedly, wisely... nods... then...

(CONTINUED)

"Space"

2/17/95

(Full Blue)

76.

88 CONTINUED: (3)

88

MCQUEEN

What would you die for?

(X)

The question seems to jar Cooper. McQueen waits a beat, then, receiving no response, and never expecting one, returns to his plane.

Cooper eyes him, weighing the question, before turning and walking away in a direction opposite that of the other recruits.

88A EXT. HANGAR - NIGHT - EXTREMELY WIDE

88A

A flat desert of tarmac... seemingly leading nowhere... As Cooper moves into the distance... with a stride that projects the intent of never coming back.

FADE OUT:

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

89 EXT. NATHAN'S HOME - DAY

89

A farmhouse sits against a green landscape. It rings of Americana, except for several 6" diameter satellite dishes sitting on the roof. Yellow ribbons are tied on the porch. HOLD on the home... let it establish and soak in.

A uniformed silhouette ENTERS the f.g., pausing before the house. Another uniform trails. The screen door flies open. The youngest brother, JOHN, 14, tears out onto the porch. The screen door SLAMS!

JOHN
NATHAN! NATHAN! MOM! DAD!
IT'S NATHAN!

A female form moves to the screen door, remaining behind it, so, for a moment, ANNE WEST could be anyone's mother. After a beat, the door slowly opens. She appears, a modern woman, not matronly, but without a doubt a mother sadly seeing her boy as a man for the first time.

NATHAN & SHANE

stand sharp in their green military suit.

(X)

Nathan approaches his mother. Shane, envious and respectful, hangs back. Nathan climbs the steps. Anne pulls his head to her shoulder. There are no tears.

SHANE

watches, sad... for herself. O.S., the PORCH DOOR opens.

RICHARD WEST

his expression is uncertain and tense, however, he clearly loves his son.

NATHAN
Mom, Dad, John. This is my
friend.

Shane gives her best presentation.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Shane Vansen.

Everyone exchanges a polite greeting. Shane smiles...

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

89

SHANE

It's a pleasure, Mr. and Mrs.
West.

ANNE

Dinner's almost ready.

She moves off, no tears, but choked up. Nathan moves to his father.

NATHAN

I was gonna give you a rock I
pocketed on Mars... but they took
it.

The father eyes his son, sighs. He'd rather have his son safe than any rock from a distant world. Unable to convey this, Richard simply walks away.

RICHARD

Come on inside.

Nathan tenses, feeling his father's emotions.

He looks back to Shane, embarrassed. She reads the obvious tension in this family but opts to ignore it. She starts toward the house. Nathan holds.

Shane looks back and gives Nathan a slight head nod, encouraging him to enter. He starts toward the house. Nathan's brother, NEIL, 17, exits the front door, visibly concerned.

NATHAN

Hey, Neil. Shane, this is my
brother Neil.

Neil stops the soldiers before they enter the house. He lowers his voice.

NEIL

The TV said we're about to begin
another battle.

The fear and concern reflect in everyone's expression.

CUT TO:

90 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (X)

90

Nathan and Shane sit in the living room along with his brothers. A 64" flat screen TV, mounted into the wall, is tuned to the news of the approaching battle.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED:

90

A REPORTER stands in front of a hangar, the military is mobilizing.

(X)

REPORTER

(X)

(on T.V.)

I'm here at the U.N. Task force headquarters at Vandenburg, California receiving the latest reports from the mobilization of the Russian Kiev Starship carrier. They have joined the battle lines with the French Carrier Clemenceau and the U.S.S. Colin Powell...

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED: (2)

90

Everyone is scared.

NEIL

I heard the Alien fighters are
made of an unknown metal. That
we can't harm it.

NATHAN

They only started reverse
engineering the one we found.
It's just rumors.

NEIL

Kylen's brother told us...

Nathan reacts strongly to the mention of Kylen. Neil stops,
aware of his faux pas.

Nathan stands and must leave the room. Shane is puzzled by
Nathan's reaction.

NEIL

It doesn't seem like we can win.

SHANE

Don't worry. This time out,
we'll beat them.

JOHN

How do you know?

SHANE

Because this time they're goin'
up against the 127th. The Angry
Angels. They'll knock the enemy
into Andromeda.

Everyone seems a bit reassured. Shane feels the pressure of
their fears and expectations. (X)

CUT TO:

91 INT. KITCHEN - DUSK - LATER (X)

91

Anne is preparing dinner. Richard is too upset to sit down with his son at the table. There is a long tense pause.

NATHAN

Any word?

He dreads the pause.

RICHARD

Kylen's father was told it had been... difficult to... identify the bodies. They don't know, Nathan.

(X)
(X)
(X)

91A INT. DINING ROOM - DUSK

91A

Shane enters the dining room. O.S., in the kitchen, Richard's VOICE is HEARD, low, whispery. Shane moves through the darkness of the dining room, looking into the kitchen at Nathan and his parents. Shane studies this family with more intensity and curiosity than anything on Mars.

(X)
(X)

KITCHEN

Nathan nods. Anne reaches for a plate in the cupboard. She begins to break down and SMASHES the dish against the counter.

SHANE

has seen many violent acts, but this one makes her flinch.

KITCHEN

Richard tries to settle his wife, but she pulls away. Nathan tenses, guilty. The intensity builds...

NATHAN

There was nothing I could do.

(CONTINUED)

91A CONTINUED:

91A

RICHARD

You could have talked to us.

NATHAN

I knew what you would have said.
And I didn't want to hear it. I
enlisted because I had no choice.

Anne turns, erupts.

ANNE

NO... NO... NOW YOU HAVE NO
CHOICE!

NATHAN

As a colonist, you never would
have seen me again!

SHANE

reacts to the revelation that Nathan was a colonist.

KITCHEN

NATHAN (CONT'D)

So, what's the difference?!

ANNE

YOU'D BE ALIVE!

NATHAN

I'd be dead!

RICHARD

Your mother means that... "as a
colonist," your life would have
been about creating life - not
taking it.

NATHAN

So, now it's about saving lives.
Yours, Mom's, John's...
Kylen's...

RICHARD

Son, you can't believe she's
still alive.

NATHAN

I have to believe.

SHANE

CAMERA PUSHES IN on her as she understands her friend.

(CONTINUED)

"Space"

2/20/95

(Pink)

81A.

91A CONTINUED: (2)

91A

KITCHEN

Nathan's mother approaches her son, angry.

(CONTINUED)

91A CONTINUED: (3)

91A

ANNE
You joined the military on a
"chance?" You're willing to die
on a "possibility?"

Nathan is caught off guard by the coincidence of her choice of words.

NATHAN
The tanks had me thrown off. The
Corp was my only chance to get to
her.

SHANE

As CAMERA CONTINUES to CLOSE IN on her... realizing.

KITCHEN

Nathan stands, intense.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
And if there is a possibility
that giving my life will get her
back...

RICHARD
Nathan, you're young, you see
everything as life or death.

NATHAN
Dad, I've seen these things we're
at war with.

RICHARD
When you're older, you'll
understand...

NATHAN
They massacred hundreds of...

ANNE
NOTHING IS WORTH DYING FOR!

Nathan is about to scream back at his mother, until Shane enters. She makes her presence known.

SHANE
There's something I'd die for...
(pause)
I'd give my life for a chance to
argue with my parents.

(CONTINUED)

91A CONTINUED: (4)

91A

Everyone settles. Pause. Shane walks out of the kitchen. The silence is deafening. After a beat, Nathan bends down on one knee and begins to pick up the pieces of the broken plate.

His mother gently places a loving hand on her son's head.

CUT TO:

92 EXT. A FENCE - NIGHT

92

A chain linked fence fills the FRAME. On the fence is a sign, "KEEP OUT. PROPERTY OF U.S.M.C. VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW."

The fence moves. Someone is climbing over it. After a beat... Cooper lands on the other side of the fence, behind it.

REVERSE

CAMERA FOLLOWS Cooper as he stands and proceeds into the restricted area. It is dark and a Gulf breeze blows. The grounds are tree-lined and grassy.

Cooper moves deeper into the area, until pausing at a white cross, like those used at Arlington National Cemetery. Cooper moves on, passing white cross after white cross. In the b.g., silhouetted, is his Harley Davidson type motorcycle.

(X)

(X)

Arriving at a mound of dirt over a fresh grave, Cooper stops. He looks around, feeling more foolish than concerned about getting caught. After a pause...

COOPER

Pags... I... uh... I wanted to say something when they buried you... but I don't know what. And now that I'm here... I still don't. 'Sides, they don't let anybody say much at those things.

Cooper looks around, thinking what to say.

COOPER (CONT'D)

I guess... I just wanted to say.. you were the only guy who was ever okay to me.

The warm breeze blows. Frustrated, Cooper sits on the mound of dirt.

(CONTINUED)

"Space"

2/20/95

(Pink)

83A.

92 CONTINUED:

92

COOPER (CONT'D)

I wish... somehow, you could just
feel my insides... and know.
(more)

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED:

92

COOPER (Cont'd)
(pause)
Maybe right now, you can. I
doubt it.

CAMERA PUSHES IN as he holds a handful of dirt.

COOPER (CONT'D)
I wish... I could know what you
feel now. I thought, before, I
knew what it would be like... but
seein' you... up there... all
blood...

He trails off. His eyes look to the stars.

COOPER (CONT'D)
I wish I could know if anything
is worth it.

Suddenly, he spots something in the sky.

COOPER'S POV - THE SKY

Tiny flashes of light pop amongst the stars. The battle has
begun.

COOPER

As he watches over his friend's grave. The wind grows
stronger.

CUT TO:

93 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (X)

93

CAMERA FINDS everyone glued to the TV screen in the living
room.

(X)

TV MONITOR

The imagery on the screen should recall the CNN coverage of the
Bagdad bombing. Grainy. High contrast. A remote REPORTER
consults an electronic notebook.

REPORTER
The following, we must warn, are
images we regret having to show
you... Earth-based forces report
major casualties...

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

93

MEDIVAC

deep black background, bright lights. MEDICS place dead body upon dead body.

REPORTER (CONT'D) (O.S.)
The Space Carriers Nimitz and
H.M.S. Montgomery have been
destroyed.

SPACE CARRIER MONTGOMERY

STATIC. Poor lighting. One can barely make out the dead craft, adrift in space.

LIVING ROOM

It is quiet. Everyone is terrified.

TV MONITOR

The Reporter stands in the passageway of a Space Carrier.

REPORTER
Here on the USS Yorktown, the
127th Airborne, known as the
Angry Angels, are engaging the
enemy... and meeting heavy
resistance. The enemy have
refused terms of surrender...

LIVING ROOM

Nathan stands, exiting out the front door. After a pause, Shane follows.

94 EXT. NATHAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT (X)

94

Nathan looks up from the front of his home. Shane approaches and stands beside him. In the sky, tiny flashes of light POP from the distant battle. Silence. Otherwise, it would be a beautiful night.

SHANE
Nathan...

His eyes remain on the sky.

SHANE (CONT'D)
Cooper didn't take her away from
you.

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED:

94

Nathan is affected by her comment, but he doesn't look to her. He looks down... a bit ashamed... but does not respond.

95 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

95

On screen, the battle continues. Fierce. The Reporter stands in a smoke filled corridor, obviously under a great deal of stress.

REPORTER

There's smoke... electrical flashes... you can hear the metal buckling in the bow of the carrier... Peter, are we still linked with the feed?!... I'll stay on as long as...

Suddenly, a flash ERUPTS. The screen goes black. Anne GASPS. Richard tenses, scared.

96 EXT. NATHAN'S HOME - PORCH - NIGHT

96

In the sky, a large bright FLASH... then stillness. The Heavens return to a perfect state. Richard exits the house.

RICHARD

It's over.

The two young people eye one another. Suddenly, over the Marines' watch phones, an announcement is broadcast.

WATCH PHONE (V.O.)

Attention all aviators of the Marine Corp Aviators Calvary. You are to report immediately to base for active duty.

Anne appears in the doorway.

WATCH PHONE (V.O.)

Repeat... MCAA pilots are to report to base by O-six-thirty for immediate active duty.

No one can speak. Everyone knows what this means.

EXTREMELY WIDE

The house. The family. The stars of war.

FADE OUT:

END ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

97 EXT. MARINE BASE - HANGARS - DAY - CLOSE - A SMALL PAINT BRUSH 97

Dipped in red, glides over the rivets of the gray, polymeric spacecraft skin.

CLOSE - A STENCIL

black and official: 5th AIR WING. 58TH SQUADRON. USMC. (X)

PAINT BRUSH

fills in a gray area with bright gold.

CLOSE - ANOTHER STENCIL

Along the lip of the plane beneath the canopy: LT. NATHAN WEST.

NATHAN

looks over his artwork, which is not yet revealed, with stoic satisfaction.

SHANE (O.S.)

NATHAN!

He turns, looking down a ladder at the nose of his spaceplane.

NATHAN'S POV - SHANE

As she runs up, out of breath from excitement.

SHANE

Our orders are in.

CUT TO:

98 EXT. MARINE BASE - DAY 98

Shane and Nathan race across the grounds of the base, excited.

NATHAN

Any idea where we're headin'?

SHANE

Damphousse heard we were goin' right to the line.

O.S., SIRENS approach. Nathan and Shane continue their double time hustle until, suddenly, they're cut off by a large van which TEARS past.

(CONTINUED)

98 CONTINUED:

98

Initially, they are pissed off, until they see the red cross painted in a square on the green van. Another military ambulance SPEEDS BY.

98A EXT. MARINE BASE HOSPITAL - DAY

98A

They pull up to the base hospital.

Nathan and Shane pause, watching as soldiers are unloaded from the truck. The survivors are on stretchers. The dead are in body bags. Shane, in barely a whisper...

SHANE

The 127th.

The elite force, burned, some comatose; are carried into the hospital. This is sick, disturbing and foreboding. Another reality of war.

MCQUEEN

is carried out of the ambulance. Though burns cover twenty percent of his body, he is still conscious. Medics rush him into the hospital. CAMERA FOLLOWS until REVEALING Cooper. HOLD on him, as he watches McQueen being taken away. Cooper is pale... perspiring...

STONE (O.S.)

AAAH-TEN-TION!

(X)

CUT TO:

99 INT. ORIENTATION ROOM - DAY

99

The 58th squadron rise out of their chairs, SNAPPING to attention as LIEUTENANT COLONEL FOUTS, 48, marches into the briefing. His tone is serious, quick and intense.

FOUTS

Be seated.

They sit. Quickly, the room is silent and attentive.

FOUTS

The information you are about to receive is classified level red.

The squadron reacts, surprised and excited.

(CONTINUED)

"Space"

2/17/95

(Full Blue)

88A.

99 CONTINUED:

99

FOUTS (CONT'D)

I need not remind you of the
consequences of divulging Class
Red information.

Pause, as this sinks in.

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED: (2)

99

FOUTS (CONT'D)

58th... because of you... we've caught a break. A major break. Within the wreckage of the Alien recon vehicle recovered during your H.I.S.T... was an encoded transmission detailing the enemy's projected battle objectives.

The Lt. Colonel eyes his troops.

FOUTS (CONT'D)

Subsequently, all enemy movements have been anticipated. Fearing the captured information may be deceptive... we have not shown our hand... until now.

The squadron feels an invigorated confidence. Nathan is focused on Fouts' words. Cooper, however, is troubled. Something doesn't make sense.

Lt. Colonel Fouts engages a remote control, bringing to life a computer generated, three-dimensional holographic map. Our solar system is located in the far lower portion of the map.

FOUTS

The Earth is here.

He points to it then steps to the opposite end of the map, indicating a star system far from the solar system.

FOUTS (CONT'D)

The enemy intends to attack, with extreme intent... two-thirds of its forces... at the Groombridge 34 star system Naval Base... in seventy-one hours.

The 58th squadron is ready to go. Fouts points to the Groombridge 34 system.

FOUTS (CONT'D)

This is known as point "G."

He moves to the center of the high tech map.

FOUTS (CONT'D)

The Earth forces... the greatest mobilization of military might since the Twentieth century... will surprise attack from behind
(more)

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED: (3)

99

FOUTS (Cont'd)
enemy positions at two points.
Point "F," here, and Point "H,"
here.

Fouts points to the attack points. Nathan studies the map.

FOUTS (CONT'D)
The Marines will participate with
the Eighth Air Wing. This will
be possible due to a fortuitous
projected wormhole opening in the
Galileo regions.

(X)
(X)

Shane looks to Nathan and nods as if "it'll work."

(X)

FOUTS (CONT'D)
From the captured information, we
have ascertained... their planes
are faster, with a better rate of
climb. Ours are more
maneuverable and better armed.
It evens out.

(X)

Everyone is excited and anxious. Fouts feeds his soldiers.

FOUTS
Surprise has been their best
weapon. Now, it is ours.

COOPER
It's too easy.

The entire room eyes him.

COOPER
Sir... if the plans weren't
planted... then they at least
would assume we have them.
They'd change their objectives.

FOUTS
No doubt their Intelligence
reported we would be unable to
decipher the transmission, and in
fact, it has taken fifty Charno
Quantum computers interlinked on
four continents to decode the
enemy's complex language. And,
as mentioned, their movements
have since been in accord with
the captured plans.

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED: (4)

99

Cooper is still not convinced. Nathan is impatient.

NATHAN

Sir, are we deploying to Point
"F," or "H," sir?

A hesitation...

FOUTS

The 58th squadron will operate in
a support capacity at Point "A."

DAMPHOUSSE

(sounds important)
Point "A!"

FOUTS

Here.

He moves back toward the solar system.

FOUTS

Rear left flank.

The 58th squadron protests.

NATHAN

(angry)

Sir, why bother telling us the
plan if we weren't going to be a
part of it?

FOUTS

You are a part of it... rear left
flank.

Nathan stands, at attention.

NATHAN

Sir, request permission to
transfer to Eighth Air Wing.

(X)

Shane looks up, shocked... it's a good idea. She stands.

SHANE

Sir, request permission to
transfer to Eighth Air Wing.

(X)

FOUTS

Denied.

NATHAN

Sir, with all due respect, we
have a right to follow through...

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED: (5)

99

FOUTS
SIT DOWN, LIEUTENANTS!

Nathan and Shane sit down. Fouts allows a moment to settle.

FOUTS
The 58th is to report to the
Naval Space Carrier Saratoga,
across the Jupiter Line by 0-
eight-forty tomorrow. You'll
meet your squadron commander on
board. Dismissed.

CUT TO:

100 EXT. MARINE BASE - APRON - DAY

100

CAMERA IS MOVING. O.S., JET ENGINES WHINE as they warm up.
Heat waves ripple past CAMERA. INTO FRAME ROLLS the nose of an
SA-43 Hammerhead. Nathan is in the cockpit.

On the nose is REVEALED his artwork, a single shining star
comprised of a cross and a circle sits above the words: "BEYOND
AND BACK."

ON THE APRON

Bogus watches his people take off for war, sad, proud. He
salutes Nathan.

RUNWAY

With a ROAR and incredible SPEED, Nathan's SA-43 Hammerhead
SCREAMS down the runway and into the air, multiple sonic BOOMS
accompany him.

APRON

Cooper's jet ROLLS INTO FRAME. On his nose, he has painted:
"PAGS' PAYBACK." Cooper salutes.

100A EXT. MARINE BASE - APRON - DAY

100A

Bogus proudly salutes Cooper. In the b.g., SONIC BOOMS ECHO
like drums calling troops to battle as we see the planes take
off into the sky.

(X)

CUT TO:

"Space"

2/17/95

(Full Blue)

92A.

101 EXT. SPACE - STAR FIELD

101

Silent and beautiful. The squadron THUNDERS INTO FRAME,
disappearing into the blackness as fast as it appeared.

102 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

102

Shane is the leadman of the formation. She engages some switches which affect the image on her Heads Up Display (HUD). A static, grainy video image of a Spacecraft Carrier, small from this location, appears on the inside canopy.

SHANE
(radio filtered)
Gold leader, confirm Saratoga
position at 32.5 megastatute
kilometers...

(X)
(X)

No response.

SHANE
Come in, Gold leader. Confirm.

103 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

103

Nathan engages his Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR). The Heads Up Display is violently static. He flips some switches.

NATHAN
Just a mick, I'm getting
interference on the LIDAR.

Suddenly, with a charge of static, the Heads Up Display flashes a UFO ZOOMING past at close range. Nathan flinches from the unexpected static blast.

Nathan looks out his canopy. He returns to his Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) display.

NATHAN
Check six... I had a bogey on the
HUD... musta been an asteroid
or...

Switching to another frequency, Nathan's expression freezes. CAMERA ADJUSTS to REVEAL what he sees on his Heads Up Display... an Alien reconnaissance craft, exactly like the craft that crashed on Mars, is cruising through local space.

NATHAN
RED LEADER... CONFIRM BANDIT - A
RECON VEHICLE... ON THE LIDAR.

104 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

104

Shane can't believe what she's hearing.

(CONTINUED)

104 CONTINUED:

104

NATHAN (V.O.)
(over radio)
Ten o'clock... thirty-five
degrees south... .96 megameters.

105 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

105

Cooper checks his LIDAR. It's there.

COOPER
Confirm! Confirm! LIDAR channel
four! Bogey, ten o'clock!

106 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

106

Shane switches channels. On her HUD is the enemy craft.

SHANE
Alter intercept angle thirty
degrees... blue team.. white
team... watch six. HACK!!

107 EXT. SPACE - DAY

107

The squadron, flying in formation in four groups of five, banks
to the left and DROPS OUT OF FRAME. (X)

108 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

108

Her eyes are glued on the HUD, indicating the location of the
Alien object... CLOSING IN.

109 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

109

Nathan checks his HUD and searches visually as well. He spots
something.

NATHAN
Twelve o'clock high.

110 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

110

Shane's eyes look ahead and upward.

SHANE'S POV - ALIEN RECON VEHICLE

crossing the sky, in the distance.

(CONTINUED)

"Space"

2/17/95

(Full Blue)

95.

110 CONTINUED:

110

RETURN

Shane engages some switches. Computers BEEP. Weapons BUZZ.

SHANE
Confirm. Let's light the pipes
and head downtown.

Pulling back on her throttle stick, she is rocked into her seat
as flames ERUPT from her engines.

111 EXT. SPACE - DAY

111

The squadron's speed kicks up two notches, two wings veering
off to surround the enemy.

ALIEN CRAFT

Suddenly takes evasive action, dipping and diving OUT OF SIGHT.

112 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

112

Shane clutches her control.

SHANE
He jinked... SCRAM! SCRAM!

CLOSE - HANDS ON THROTTLE AND STICK (HOTAS)

Shane FIRES!

113 EXT. SPACE - DAY

113

The Alien craft BUZZES the f.g., eluding the laser FIRE.

114 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

114

Cooper searches his HUD and also out his canopy.

COOPER
Lost it.

115 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

115

He reads his gauges.

(CONTINUED)

115 CONTINUED:

115

NATHAN
It must be jamming our LIDAR.
Went below us like a fish on a
line...

116 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

116

She restrains her desire to pound the canopy.

COOPER (V.O.)
(over radio)
Let's go fishin'.

SHANE
Negative. Don't have the fuel.
Return to designated course.
I'll call Spacecom and report ACM
with the enemy...

Shane sighs. Her first taste of aerial combat was too fast to even be aware of, yet now that it's over... her heart races.

117 EXT. SPACE - DAY

117

In the distance looms Jupiter. Still a hundred million miles away. That it's ten times Earth's size is awesomely apparent. The squadron regroups, tearing off in the giant planet's direction.

DISSOLVE TO:

118 EXT. SCVN SARATOGA - DAY - ESTABLISHING

118

Imagine a Supercarrier class ship in the distant Jovian orbit. Of course, it is not designed to sail on water, but its 4 1/2 acre flight deck, upon which rest fighter planes, and its ten stories are reminiscent of a naval aircraft carrier.

119 INT. FLIGHT DECK - DAY (X)

119

The cockpits of the SA-43 "Hammerheads" detach from the plane and are lifted into the lower flight deck. This room is cavernous. Six cockpits, alternately facing one another, line the flight deck. Nathan crawls out of his cockpit and onto the deck of the Saratoga.

Nathan has a look around. The ship's support crew is in a state of frenzy. Flight MECHANICS and PILOTS double time across the warehouse-like room. The squadron members meet up, each one taking note of the panic on the ship.

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED:

119

They're confused.

NATHAN

What's going on here? They seem pretty hairy.

Cooper tries to grab a Mechanic who passes by.

COOPER

Hey, what's goin...

The Mechanic doesn't have time. Wang looks around. He straightens.

WANG

AHH-TEN-TION.

The squadron snaps to attention as the ship's COMMODORE EICHNER (X) moves to them and salutes.

EICHNER

Five-eight. Report to the briefing area immediately.

SHANE

Sir, what's going on?

EICHNER

Spacecom checked out your report of the enemy recon vehicle. Radio telescopes have since found not only no trace of enemy troops in the Groombridge system... but rather a force amassing outside our solar system.

COOPER

The enemy plans were a set up.

EICHNER

At this point, no one needs their plans to know which direction they're heading.

CAMERA PUSHES IN on Nathan, Shane and Cooper, a sick feeling rising from the pits of their stomachs and into their hearts. The direction... is theirs.

FADE OUT:

END ACT SIX

ACT SEVEN

120 INT. ORIENTATION ROOM - NIGHT - CLOSE - L.C.D. BOARD

120

The cramped room is bathed in an eerie red light. Computer generated images are projected on the clear L.C.D. board. The enemy forces are approaching the indicated position of the SCVN Saratoga.

CAMERA MOVES seemingly through the clear board to include the three dozen young men and women pilots in the orientation room. It is quiet, except for the terse and eerily unemotional RADIO transmissions broadcasting commands for the approaching battle.

A table sits in the middle of the room, loaded with equipment, inadvertently preventing everyone from seeing one another across the room.

SHANE

sits at the small desk, head bowed, back of her hand over her mouth.

NATHAN

holds the photo tags of Kylen in his hands.

WIDER

The door to the room opens. Commodore Eichner enters. The pilots stand at attention. The Commodore moves across the front of the room and eyes the pilots.

(X)

(X)

The pilots do not understand the pause until McQueen moves into the room. He hobbles, scarred, but this is too important a moment to allow injury to hinder.

COOPER

is moved by the presence of this man.

WIDE

McQueen, the burn scars on his face only causing his intense eyes to flare brighter, immediately moves to the table blocking everyone's sightlines, and shoves it across the room. The table CRASHES to the floor! The pilots are startled.

McQueen sits, among them. Explaining his actions... intense...

MCQUEEN

I want to be able to look into
your eyes.

He waits for them to settle. Then, in a no bullshit and fiercely honest delivery...

(CONTINUED)

120 CONTINUED:

120

MCQUEEN
Courage. Honor. Dedication.
Sacrifice.

Pause.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
Those are the words they used...
to get ya here.
(pause)
But now... the only word that
means a damn to you... is life.
Yours. Your buddy's.

The entire room knows this to be true.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
The one certainty in war... is
that in an hour, maybe two,
you'll either still be alive...
or you'll be dead.

The fact hangs over the Youths like a storm cloud.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
For the next hour... here's your
best chance of staying alive.
(pause)
The Trojan Asteroid belt trails
Jupiter's orbit. Our objective
is to hide in the debris. This
may be as difficult as engaging
the enemy. You're gonna have to
react to the pitch and yaw of the
asteroids in order to keep out of
sight and shielded from LIDAR.
Intelligence says they'll fly
right by. Then, jump 'em.

He looks into their eyes.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
It's what they used to call an
ambush. Now... no one's asking
you to wax their tails. Your
goal is to stall them. Our
forces at Groombridge 34 have
doubled back and are right now
passing through the Kali
wormhole. If we successfully
delay the enemy, we'll have
reinforcements appearing from
behind them and out of the sun...
(more)

(CONTINUED)

120 CONTINUED: (2)

120

MCQUEEN (Cont'd)
and that's when we teach 'em
something every human knows...
payback's a bitch.

The pilots are ready. They are restless to go.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
Now... I'm here 'cause I've been
in a knife fight with 'em. They
come at you in groups. Check
your six. And they have a low
angle of attack, so keep your
nose level. That could be tough.
The planes you've been issued
have a upgripe in the retro
thrusters. And one more thing...

The young flyers listen to the vet.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
It's okay to be scared. See you
in an hour.

McQueen eyes Cooper as the pilots prepare for battle.

CUT TO:

121 INT. SARATOGA FLIGHT DECK - DAY

121

Total intense chaos. Flight crews remove small electrical
lines from the cockpits in the preparation bays. Vehicles rush
ammunitions to the planes.

Damphousse, Wang and Low secure their flight suits, preparing (X)
to enter their cockpits.

COOPER

appears, carrying his helmet beneath his arm. He marches
toward his plane.

NATHAN

is approaching in the opposite direction.

WIDER

The two young men pass each other without a word. CAMERA
FOLLOWS Nathan who pauses and looks back to Cooper. CAMERA
SLOWLY PUSHES IN on Nathan. As he looks up...

(CONTINUED)

121 CONTINUED:

121

NATHAN

Hawkes.

COOPER

pauses as he is about to step into the cockpit. He looks to Nathan.

NATHAN

From a distance, he gives Cooper a look that says "I'll be there."

(X)
(X)

COOPER

studies Nathan, and understands. With a nod, Cooper steps into his cockpit.

NATHAN

holds, looking to Cooper, then moves off.

COOPER

As he settles into his cockpit. Cooper looks back at Nathan, then turns around, considering. As the cockpit canopy closes...

NATHAN & SHANE

Their cockpit bays face one another. Shane is already strapped in. Nathan climbs into his machine. The two young people look to one another. Shane gives a "thumbs up."

Nathan returns the signal. He closes his canopy. Red lights flash. ALARMS warn flight crews to leave the flight deck. CREWMEN race out. Gases jet from the lifts as the cockpits begin to lower into the ship.

CUT TO:

122 EXT. SARATOGA - DAY

122

The "Beyond and Back" leads the launching. With a SCREAM of the engines, Nathan's rocket jet tears off into space. Another Hammerhead is right behind him. And another after that. They continue into the blackness of space.

- 123 EXT. SPACE - DAY 123
The 58th squadron hurls PAST FRAME, snarling shark's teeth on (X)
Cooper's plane fly over CAMERA. The soundtrack BLARES a MARCH. (X)
BOLD. HEROIC.
- 124 OMITTED 124
- 125 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY 125
CAMERA PUSHES INTO Nathan, focused, determined... scared.
- 126 EXT. TROJAN ASTEROID BELT - DAY 126
The squadron, in tight formation, speeds toward its destiny.
The trailing jets break formation. The others follow. The
rocket-jets dive into the asteroid field.
- 127 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY 127
A massive rock of ice increases in size in Shane's canopy as
she moves into position. She continues to work the controls,
up and down, sideways, mirroring the motion of the asteroid in
order to remain hidden.
- 128 EXT. ASTEROID BELT - DAY 128
The "Beyond and Back" disappears behind an asteroid. Two other
jets do likewise. One Hammerhead comes dangerously close to an (X)
asteroid. (X)
- 128A INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY 128A
Shane barks a command to the errant jet.
SHANE (X)
Red four... nine o'clock! Nine
o'clock!
- 128B EXT. TROJAN ASTEROID BELT - DAY 128B
The errant Hammerhead careens into the asteroid and explodes. (X)
- 128C INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY 128C
She reacts, but there's no time to grieve. She manuevers her
Hammerhead into position.

"Space"

2/17/95

(Full Blue)

102A.

129 OMITTED

129

130 EXT. TROJAN ASTEROID BELT - DAY

130

Nothing but asteroids. The squadron seems to have vanished.
CAMERA RISES above the plane of rock and ice, PANNING AROUND to
REVEAL the squadron in ambush position.

131 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

131

Nathan works hard to hide behind the constantly rising and
dipping asteroid.

132 INT. SARATOGA - COMMAND CENTER - DAY

132

This room is lit with red light. A communications officer, NELSON, sits at a panel with LIDAR readouts. Eichner and McQueen are in chairs behind the panel. Behind them, officers ENTER and EXIT with information.

NATHAN (V.O.)
(over radio)
Saratoga... this is blue
leader... I'm tied on.

Nelson turns, concerned.

NELSON
Commodore, the enemy forces have
adjusted their course. If they
continue... they'll avert the
asteroid field.

(X)

Eichner looks to McQueen, concerned.

133 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

133

Still working the HOTAS to the movement of the asteroid, Nathan engages his LIDAR. The Heads Up Display reflects the enemy's veering position. Nathan is stunned.

NATHAN
Saratoga... LIDAR shows the enemy
to be...

NELSON (V.O.)
Affirmative... blue leader...
will advise.

NATHAN
ADVISE?! They're moving away!

134 INT. SARATOGA COMMAND CENTER - DAY

134

NELSON
Hold position!

EICHNER
Could they know we're here?

MCQUEEN
No. They'd attack.

135 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY - PROFILE - SHANE

135

As she maintains cover, listening to the RADIO communication.

(CONTINUED)

135 CONTINUED:

135

SHANE

Something's gotta bring them our way.

136 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

136

EICHNER (V.O.)

Negative. This is not a suicide mission.

CAMERA PUSHES IN on Cooper as his eyes harden. He reaches into his flight suit and produces the gold micro-CD from the Mars Tracking Station. He places it into the jerry-rigged disc drive.

EICHNER (V.O.)

That's an order! Repeat. Hold your position.

Suddenly, the opening guitar barrage of "Blitzkrieg Bop" BLARES in the cockpit.

137 INT. COMMAND CENTER - DAY

137

As the Ramones play over the radio, McQueen and Eichner pause to look at one another... puzzled.

(X)

138 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

138

Shane checks her radio, confused.

139 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

139

CAMERA PUSHES IN as the song continues. Nathan's expression turns hard, determined. He understands what Cooper is doing and subtly nods, approving.

140 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

140

He readies himself. Turns up the music a notch louder...

COOPER

HEY, HO, LET'S GO!

Cooper cranks on the controls and TEARS OUT OF FRAME.

- 141 EXT. TROJAN ASTEROID BELT - DAY 141
A lone Hammerhead rises out from the asteroid belt and TEARS off into space.
- 142 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY 142
He flies into space. Alone.
- 143 INT. COMMAND CENTER - DAY 143
Nelson turns to Eichner. (X)
NELSON
One of the 58th has moved out of position.
- 144 EXT. SPACE - DAY 144
"Pag's Payback" banks hard, turning back.
COOPER (V.O.)
I'm baitin' them past you.
- 145 INT. COMMAND CENTER - DAY 145
Everyone clearly disapproves, except McQueen... he holds judgment...
- 146 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY 146
Nathan grips his controls.
NATHAN
I'm goin' to help him out.
- 147 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY 147
SHANE
Negative, Blue Leader! Hold your position! He'll bring 'em past... wait 'til we all can go.
- 148 EXT. SPACE - DAY 148
Alien attack ships fly in formation through space as they emerge from the Alien carrier. They clearly outnumber the squadrons.

149 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

149

He reads his Heads Up Display.

COOPER
I'm goin' in! Fangs out!

He pulls up on the control and ROLLS OUT OF FRAME...

150 EXT. SPACE - DAY

150

With the asteroid belt in the near distance, Cooper's jet TEARS toward the rear of the enemy squadron.

151 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

151

He clutches the controls.

152 EXT. SPACE - DAY

152

Cooper's Hammerhead STRAFES the lead squadron of Alien craft. He jinks hard right and rolls off into space. The lead Alien plane takes the bait. The Alien squadron alters course, flying after Cooper.

153 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

153

He checks his HUD.

COOPER
They're locked in! Approaching position.

154 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

154

Hiding behind the asteroid.

SHANE
Wait for it...

155 INT. SARATOGA COMMAND ROOM - DAY

155

It seems out of their hands. McQueen listens, on edge.

156 EXT. SPACE - DAY

156

The Aliens are closing in on Cooper's tail. They FIRE!

157 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

157

WEAPONS' FIRE ERUPTS over his canopy. Cooper cranks the controls to take evasive action, but the jet remains on a straight course.

COOPER
My control's froze!

158 EXT. SPACE - DAY

158

The Aliens are approaching "Pag's Payback."

159 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

159

Cooper struggles with the controls. He loses his breath.

COOPER
I'm dead.

160 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

160

Listening over the radio, her expression reflects total fear.

161 INT. SARATOGA COMMAND CENTER - DAY

161

McQueen appears, approaches the radio, moves Nelson aside and SCREAMS...

MCQUEEN
KILL THE RIGHT THRUSTERS, YOU
STUPID TANK!!

(X)

162 EXT. SPACE - DAY

162

As the Aliens are about to lock onto Cooper...

163 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

163

Cooper hits a switch, yanks on the controls and is rocked back into his seat.

164 EXT. ASTEROID BELT - DAY

164

"Pag's Payback" BLASTS ahead of the Alien pack, past the asteroid field.

"Space"

2/17/95

(Full Blue)

108.

165 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

165

As she pulls back on the controls... and rises OUT OF FRAME.

SHANE
DOWNTOWN!!

166 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

166

He pulls up from behind cover.

167 INT. DAMPHOUSSE'S JET - DAY

167

Lifts up from behind an asteroid and TEARS OFF.

168 INT. WANG'S JET - DAY

168

Likewise.

169 EXT. SPACE - DAY

169

The squadron appears to rise out of nowhere as they come out FIRING.

AN ALIEN FIGHTER

EXPLODES!!

ANOTHER ALIEN CRAFT

OBLITERATED!!

169A INT. WANG'S JET - DAY

169A

WANG
HOOYA!

(X)

COOPER'S JET

Three Alien fighters pursue him, away from the main battle.

170 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

170

She zeros in on two enemy fighters.

SHANE
They do fly in gangs.

She FIRES!

"Space"

2/17/95

(Full Blue)

108A.

171 EXT. SPACE - DAY

171

A spacecraft ERUPTS into sparks and flame. Two Alien fighters near it veer off toward safety.

(CONTINUED)

171 CONTINUED:

171

COOPER'S JET

is still being chased. He tries to shake them.

172 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

172

BUCKING and ROLLING as he tries to evade the Aliens! A BLAST nicks his plane. He rocks from the small EXPLOSION.

COOPER

This is red leader... little help!

173 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

173

Nathan barrel-rolls OUT OF FRAME. In the b.g., a fellow Marine fighter is destroyed by Alien weapons FIRE.

(X)
(X)

174 EXT. SPACE - DAY

174

Nathan tears off after Cooper, approaching the Alien fighters from behind. With a tough maneuver, Nathan STRAFES the lead jet. It pulls off after him. The two other jets continue after Nathan.

175 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

175

He continues evasive action...

176 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

176

With an Alien jet behind him, Nathan pulls up on the controls.

177 EXT. SPACE - DAY

177

Nathan's Hammerhead executes an inverted loop.

177A INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

177A

Upside down, Nathan checks his view as he completes his roll.

(X)

177B EXT. SPACE- DAY

177B

The Alien jet remains tight behind through the maneuver. As they pull out of the loop...

- 171 CONTINUED: 171
- COOPER'S JET
- is still being chased. He tries to shake them.
- 172 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY 172
- BUCKING and ROLLING as he tries to evade the Aliens! A BLAST nicks his plane. The visor in his helmet drops, locking into place. He rocks from the small EXPLOSION. (X)
(X)
- COOPER
- This is red leader... little help!
- 173 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY 173
- Nathan barrel-rolls OUT OF FRAME. In the b.g., a fellow Marine fighter is destroyed by Alien weapons FIRE.
- 174 EXT. SPACE - DAY 174
- Nathan tears off after Cooper, approaching the Alien fighters from behind. With a tough maneuver, Nathan STRAFES the lead jet. It pulls off after him. The two other jets continue after Nathan.
- 175 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY 175
- He continues evasive action...
- 176 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY 176
- With an Alien jet behind him, Nathan pulls up on the controls.
- 177 EXT. SPACE - DAY 177
- Nathan's Hammerhead executes an inverted loop.
- 177A INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY 177A
- Upside down, Nathan checks his view as he completes his roll.
- 177B EXT. SPACE- DAY 177B
- The Alien jet remains tight behind through the maneuver. As they pull out of the loop...

"Space"

2/17/95

(Full Blue)

109A.

178 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

178

Nathan's eyes are intense. Behind him, the Alien plane locks on.

NATHAN'S POV - SPACE

Cooper's Hammerhead and the two pursuing Alien attack fighters are directly in front of him. Collision course.

(CONTINUED)

178 CONTINUED:

178

NATHAN

As he begins to nose dive.

NATHAN
HAWKES, HIT THE DECK!!

179 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

179

Cooper nose dives, just as...

180 EXT. SPACE - DAY

180

The three Alien jets collide and EXPLODE!

181 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

181

He SCREAMS with victory!

182 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

182

She answers Nathan's war cry!

183 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

183

Cooper's LIDAR BEEPS with alarm.

COOPER
Not so fast. Bandit is locked on
you, Shane, check six!

184 EXT. SPACE - DAY

184

Shane's jet tears into the cosmos, an alien fighter pulls into
position behind her.

185 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

185

She spots the enemy craft, commences evasive action.

SHANE
Can't jink him.

185A EXT. SPACE- DAY

185A

Cooper's jet barrel-rolls.

"Space"

2/17/95

(Full Blue)

110A.

186 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

186

Cooper strains at the controls.

(X)

(CONTINUED)

186 CONTINUED:

COOPER
West... I can't get to her.

187 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

Nathan's controls rock from the strain.

NATHAN
She's in my line... if I engage
I could hit her!

188 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

Her expression is a mix of terror and determination.

189 EXT. SPACE - DAY

As the alien plane attacks... closer... two WEAPONS' BLASTS
RING out. The enemy is blown away.

190 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

Flame and sparks ERUPT all around her. She SCREAMS with
relief.

SHANE
HOO-YAH! POPPED 'IM GOOD, WEST!

191 INT. NATHAN'S JET - DAY

He appears confused.

NATHAN
I didn't fire!

192 INT. COOPER'S JET - DAY

He appears confused.

COOPER
Who got the kill?!

193 INT. SARATOGA COMMAND CENTER - DAY - CLOSE - L.C.D. BOARD

From behind the enemy, a large mass of force appears.

(CONTINUED)

193 CONTINUED:

193

WIDER

Nelson turns to Eichner.

(X)

NELSON

Sir, the Groombridge forces are
through the wormhole and are
inflicting severe damage on the
enemy.

CAMERA PUSHES IN on McQueen, as he tenses... "one more hour."

193A EXT. SPACE - DAY

193A

Huge cannons from near distant Spacecraft carriers FIRE volleys
upon the enemy. An armada of fighter jets ROAR past,
surprising the enemy from behind, inflicting severe damage.

194 INT. SHANE'S JET - DAY

194

EXPLOSIONS ERUPT in the near distance as she cranks her jet
around.

NELSON (V.O.)

58... this is command... damage
is nominal... enemy in retreat...
return to base... objective
achieved.

Shane's emotions soar, her eyes fill with glorious tears.

195 EXT. SPACE - DAY

195

The squadron returns to formation. The EXPLOSIONS and
ERUPTIONS of the remaining distant battle appear like fireworks
of celebration as the pilots WHOOP and HOLLER across the solar
system. CAMERA HOLDS on the brilliant sun as the squadron
ROARS OUT OF FRAME...

DISSOLVE TO:

196 EXT. ACADEMY GROUNDS - DAY - CLOSE - MEDAL

196

The sun's image transforms into a gold "sun" medal hanging from
a decorative ribbon around Cooper's neck. CAMERA MOVES DOWN
the ranks of the 58th squadron, at attention and proud.

(CONTINUED)

"Space"

2/17/95

(Full Blue)

112A.

196 CONTINUED:

196

CHARTWELL (O.S.)
... because of the valiant
efforts of the Marine Corp 58th
squadron, the many peoples of
Earth breathe a single sigh of
relief. And tonight, at their
graduation ceremony, we honor
them...

(CONTINUED)

196 CONTINUED: (2)

196

WIDER

Seated in the audience are Marines in uniform as well as family and friends of the graduates. A stage is decorated with an American flag as well as the flag of the Earth.

Beneath these banners stands SPENCER CHARTWELL at a podium. He pauses as the audience APPLAUDS and CHEERS the 58th...

CHARTWELL

At the podium...

CHARTWELL (CONT'D)

I believe even the great
Twentieth Century leader, Winston
Churchill, would agree... "Never
in the field of conflict has so
much been owed by so many, to so
few."

THE GROUNDS

More APPLAUSE. The Marines remain at attention, a smile not allowed on their faces. Chartwell pauses... studies the crowd.

CHARTWELL (CONT'D)

We of Earth are proud and
grateful... Celebrate well...
although I suppose the break in
the storm is momentary. The
Thunder shall return. The
Lightning will certainly strike
again.

The reality is not defeatist. It is simply a reality which the crowd, and especially the soldiers are well aware of.

CUT TO:

197 EXT. ACADEMY GROUNDS - NIGHT

197

A party is in progress for the Marines. Gathered at a bar, Damphousse, Wang and Low. Shane waves over Nathan. She hands him a drink, then looks to Cooper, who's off by himself. With a nod, she calls Cooper over.

(X)

(X)

SHANE

We're gonna have a toast.

They raise their glasses, then pause as McQueen approaches. The young pilots straighten out of respect, not need.

(CONTINUED)

197 CONTINUED:

197

MCQUEEN
Congratulations.

They shake hands.

SHANE
Sir... I... your advice... those
words that day. They kept us
alive... and we appreciate your
saying them.

MCQUEEN
Save it. You'll have all the
chances in the world to thank me.
I've just been assigned as your
squadron commander.

Damphousse smiles, reaches for a drink. Everyone is pleased,
until...

(X)
(X)

MCQUEEN
And if you ever pull anything
like what you did, under my
command, the only metal you'll be
wearing are cuffs in the
stockade.

Their inner souls pucker. Damphousse quickly downs her drink
and reaches for another. McQueen moves off toward the end of
the bar. He gestures to the bartender for a drink and joins in
the toast. Wang looks back at him.

(X)

(X)

WANG
At least he doesn't yell.

(X)

Shane raises her glass, as do the others.

SHANE
Here's... to being alive for one
more hour...

They CLINK glasses and drink. Cooper looks to McQueen, who
locks eyes with Cooper. They subtly raise their glasses to
each other and drink at the same time.

CAMERA PUSHES IN on Nathan as he considers the toast. Nathan
looks down to his chest, ashamed to have momentarily forgotten
Kylen. He sets down the drink. Shane looks to him and places
a comforting hand on her friend's shoulder.

As he looks at Kylen's photo tags tangled with his medal...
Nathan's VOICE continues his letter to Kylen.

(CONTINUED)

"Space" 2/24/95 (Green)

114A.

197 CONTINUED: (2)

197

NATHAN (V.O.)
Elsewhere... stars are born.

CUT TO:

198 EXT. NEBULA - NIGHT

198

A brilliant flow of yellow and red gas drifts before distant stars.

NATHAN (CONT'D) (V.O.)
Other systems, much larger, much
older, continue to breathe.

199 EXT. A SPIRAL GALAXY - NIGHT

199

Orbits, spinning like a sparkling pinwheel.

NATHAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The Solar System dies of crib
death...

200 EXT. THE STARS - NIGHT

200

Twinkling and alive. A comet, trailing a brilliant ice blue
tail, STREAKS PAST.

NATHAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
If that's what it takes, then
okay. If I must wait that long,
then alright.

201 EXT. ACADEMY - NIGHT

201

Nathan moves from the graduation ceremonies into the silence
and darkness of the parade grounds. Above him, the glimmering
stars are at rest.

NATHAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Because when I think of this...
nothing is more desirable than
the hope of watching that last
day when the sun flickers out...
with you beside me.

Nathan considers a moment then removes the heroic medal,
holding it in his right hand.

NATHAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
We'll sit, alone, on a dark chunk
of ice at the top of the world.

In his left hand, he holds the photo tags with the image of
himself and Kylen. The picture was taken only months ago, and
yet the boy and girl look so young.

(CONTINUED)

"Space"

2/17/95

(Full Blue)

116.

201 CONTINUED:

201

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

And the stars, above, below and
between us...

With a surge of emotion, Nathan pulls the medal off the ribbon,
then throws the medal into the sky with all his might.

(X)
(X)

STAR FIELD

The medal twists and winds in SLOW MOTION, reaching for the
bright blue star that was to be Nathan's new home. The medal
never reaches it, and tumbles OUT OF FRAME... leaving only the
stars... with one blue pinpoint flaring into CAMERA...

(X)
(X)

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

... will never shine brighter.
As we drift away... into Space.

FADE OUT:

THE END