

GARNET
Scene 1

16

INT. PAYLOAD - MAIN HOLDING - NIGHT

16

The last of the stragglers join about 150 assembled crew. This is a large open space designed to hold equipment and supplies until they are moved to the appropriate section of the ship.

FYI

People sit on crates, stand around in crowded bunches and the younger ones sit on the floor. Angus takes a seat next to a nerdy teenage girl, ALICIA NEVINS.

ANGUS

Mind if I sit here?

1/11

ALICIA

(rapid-fire)

Sure! I'm Alicia Nevins, some people call me Ali, not that that's a preference, it just kind of happens. I'm on the Waste Management team. I know, gross. But it's not like I didn't apply to every other branch of the ship first, but hey, it got me on the ship. My family was actually really supportive, but why wouldn't they be, right? If we succeed in building a sustainable colony, all our families get to be the first to come and settle there, so--

(aware she's gone off)

Who are you?

ANGUS

Call me Angus. In Horticulture.

ALICIA

Wait, I know you! You're that farmer boy! You grew crops in the Mojave Desert! I can see why they'd want you. Growing food on an alien planet we've never seen is gonna be insane.

ANGUS

Everything about this just scares the bejesus out of me. But to get to learn from Major Andrews is a dream of mine. He's a legendary horticulturist.

Garnet enters, followed by Brice, Lane and Strickland.

START

GARNET

Okay, listen up. I'm not going to beat around the bush. Here's the status. We've all been in cryogenic sleep for exactly five years and ninety-two days. Which means we still have over a year to go before reaching our destination.

There is a collective GROAN from the crowd. Garnet touches something on her wrist and a HOLOGRAM appears, showing a calendar outline. Harris blurts out.

HARRIS

No one's told us what happened to the ship?

GARNET

We don't know.

PAULINA

What do you mean you don't know?!

GARNET

It coulda been an asteroid, space junk... hell, a fuel cell coulda burst.

This isn't sitting well with this restless crowd. The Hologram begins to show system analysis and navigation displays. Brice steps forward, jumping in.

BRICE

There have been a series of malfunctions while we were asleep. The ship's monitoring cameras were down for well over a month, so there's no recording of what happened. But regardless of what caused the event, it knocked us off course. The good news is navigation systems are back up and I've corrected.

GARNET

But the incident did cause significant damage to the ship.

On the Hologram, we see a digital representation of the enormous ship, it's back portion torn off. Strickland steps forward.

STRICKLAND

Both Sleeper Pod Bays were destroyed, the rear storage units as well as two ballasts and the Reclamation Unit. Which means, we can't recycle our water. We carry roughly what would amount to a four-week supply on board.

GARNET

We believe the water recycling unit we have, for when we build the colony, can be retrofit to work here on the ship. We just have to re-purpose it.

(MORE)

GARNET (CONT'D)

Until then, we're on tight rations.
This means no showers, laundry, or
any unnecessary water uses.

The crowd reacts with concern, displeasure and worry. Trent stands.

TRENT

And what if we're not able to re-
purpose it? Even with rationing,
how long will we have before the
water runs out.

GARNET

Let's think positively. We'll make
a functioning unit.

On the other side of the room, Cat stands, on the verge of
freaking out.

CAT

In the manifest, it said we were to
wake up only two weeks before
landing. Aside from the water, what
about food? Do we have enough
supplies to survive a year out of
the sleeper pods?

GARNET

We had been carrying a year's worth
of food supply, but that was held
in the rear Storage Units that were
lost. The ship had an additional
six weeks of food on board for us
for the last leg of the journey,
but we will need to reserve some of
that for post arrival.

TRENT

You expect to ration that for over
a year?

The crowd is near losing it as panic sets in.

CAT

I demand to hear from Captain
Lester! Where's the Captain?!

GARNET

He's dead.

TRENT

Then Stuber, Monroe, Rodriguez?!!

GARNET

We lost them all in the incident.
The four of us standing before you
are the highest-ranking officers we
have left on the ship.

This silences the room as the shock settles in. Finally--

PAULINA

Then who's in charge.

GARNET

I am.

This comes as a surprise to the other Lieutenants.

BRICE

Excuse me?

LANE

What?

STRICKLAND

We all have the same rank--

Garnet cuts them off and takes control quickly. It's simply
who she is.

GARNET

Each of you are specialists and
have specific knowledge of parts of
the ship. I have the most working
knowledge about all of the ship,
its personnel and how it all needs
to function as a unit. Right now,
we're in a crisis that needs all of
us working together to solve it,
and I'm best positioned to
coordinate that effort. We get past
this crisis, you can elect whomever
you like to be in command, I have
no ambition for governing. I care
about survival and, frankly, I'm
our best shot at it.

Her confidence and demeanor silences the room. Even cocky
Brice is impressed.

END

GARNET
Scene 2

32

INT. GEO DOME 3 - LATER

32

Things have come a long way. The soil is evenly spread, drip tubes are in place, the light towers are up, and everyone is marveling at their handiwork.

FYI

6/11

Garnet walks over to a corner where Workers are doing last adjustments to what looks like a futuristic fuse box.

GARNET

Are we good to go?

WORKER #1

We've quadrupled capacity for the breakers. But the storage bay wasn't designed for this kind of juice. I can't promise anything.

Garnet turns towards Angus who's adjusting the last of the light towers. He turns back to her and nods.

GARNET

Light it up.

Worker #1 hits the switch and all the towers, one by one, LIGHT UP with extremely bright WHITE LIGHT until the room is bathed in sunshine. It nearly feels like we're outside on a summer's day.

Angus looks worried, but Alicia is beaming.

ALICIA

It's beautiful.

Just then, Trent and Lane come marching in. Lane walks right up to Garnet, hunting bear.

START

LANE

What the hell is going on in here?

GARNET

Our young 4-H wunderkind here came up with a way to build a farm.

LANE

So pee wee has an idea and you just go steal power from the ship?

ANGUS

It's the only way to get the light intensity for accelerated growth--

LANE

(snapping at Angus)
He speaks! Perfect!

GARNET

Is there a problem?

LANE

Yes! You taking unilateral action without consulting anyone.

GARNET

We have a food shortage. This is an attempt to address it. Why would anyone in their right mind object to that?

LANE

Are you one-hundred-percent sure this will work?

Garnet isn't sure she wants to engage on this further, so Lane turns to Angus.

LANE (CONT'D)

What about you? No doubts this is going to produce edible food for the entire crew?

Angus is too nervous to respond.

GARNET

We're just trying to grow produce--

LANE

And that takes water, doesn't it?

ANGUS

We're planting crops that are extremely stingy with water. Amaranth grain, Corn, Nopale Cactus-

LANE

But they still need some water, don't they?

ANGUS

Yes, sir

LANE

(turning to Garnet)

It's not your water, Sharon. It belongs to everyone on this ship. Maybe this is a great idea, maybe it isn't. But if it uses resources that affect us all, then we should have a say in it. No one put you in charge. We're just tolerating it.

The room goes silent. An awkward pause. Finally, Garnet walks up to Lane, getting close. In hushed tones...

GARNET

You're right. I apologize. I should have brought everyone together and allowed people to weigh in.

LANE

You think?

GARNET

And you could have pulled me aside and spoken with me. Instead you needed to grandstand. Challenge me in front of everyone in this room.

LANE

Don't make this about me.

GARNET

You've done that all by yourself.

She turns and walks towards the exit. Before she's out the door, she throws to Angus--

GARNET (CONT'D)

Hold off on irrigation until further notice.

And she's gone. Everyone's attention turns to Lane. His victory suddenly feeling like a defeat.

FADE OUT:

END ACT THREE

END

GARNET
Scene 3

46

INT. BRIDGE - SAME

46

Garnet rushes in as Science Officers frantically work the controls (everyone in here are in full suit and helmets). Brice is already at the controls, frustrated.

START

GARNET

What the hell is happening, Brice?

BRICE

Once the ship hits ten percent oxygen levels, it automatically goes into lock down.

GARNET

The oxygen! Why are we losing oxygen?!

BRICE

I don't know. A leak? Mechanical malfunction?

GARNET

What do you mean you don't know?!

BRICE

I'm a goddamned Navigation wonk! This isn't my fuckin' area! All I can tell you is this jobby system's diagnostics are stuck in a loop. It won't tell me what's wrong, how to fix it, and I can't--

Frustrated, he slams his fist into the console. Garnet turns to Lane at another console.

GARNET

How long do we have to figure this out?

LANE

Suits should be good for at least an hour of oxygen.

GARNET

And for anyone who wasn't able to
get a suit on?

Lane checks a readout.

LANE

The ship goes into lockdown to try
and preserve air in each section.
But we're at 6% and dropping.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

END