

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

An empty black expanse. Stars in the distance. Noiselessly, the massive starship E.S.S. UNDAUNTED slowly moves into frame. The Undaunted is old, overdue for decommission. Held together by duct tape.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

Ever since I can remember, I always wanted to be a starship captain.

INT. DATA MODULE 43, E.S.S. UNDAUNTED - CONTINUOUS

DATA MODULE 43 is a small, windowless cylinder. The walls, floor and ceiling are covered with DATA COLLATION MACHINES. They blink, they chirp, they whiz. The only free space in the tube is the small hatch, barely big enough for a man to squeeze through. The room is filthy.

At the top of the cylinder, CALEB JOHNSON (34) floats weightless checking a digital readout. He is balding, and his light blue jumpsuit hides his growing belly.

CALEB (V.O.)

I made it as far as Data Collation.

A red light turns blue. Caleb smiles.

He grabs a data drive from one of the machines. He pushes off the "ceiling" and grabs several more drives from machines as he floats past.

Once on the "floor", Caleb reorients his body 180 degrees, and turns a lever to open the small hatch.

INT. PASSAGE TUBE - CONTINUOUS

The Passage tube is cramped and grey. Every few feet, there are rungs hung from the sides of the tube.

Caleb exits his data module, and grabs hold of one of the rungs. He pulls on the rung to send himself down the passage tube. When he gets to an intersecting tube, he grabs another rung to turn down that tube.

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

STATION CHADWICK, a large spherical space station with several crisscrossing rings surrounding it, orbits a small moon. In the distance, a large blue-gray planet can be seen.

The Undaunted maneuvers to dock with Station Chadwick.

INT. PASSAGE TUBE, E.S.S. UNDAUNTED - CONTINUOUS

Caleb comes to a hatch at the "bottom" of the passage tube. There is a plaque that reads "Dr. Claudette Baptiste, Head of Data Collation"

Caleb pulls a lever to open the hatch and goes through.

INT. CLAUDETTE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Caleb comes through the hatch in the "floor". The room is cube shaped, larger than the data module, but not by much. There is a desk bolted to the "floor", with a computer module bolted to the desk.

CLAUDETTE (41) sits at the desk, strapped into a chair which is also bolted down. She's tall, has long dark hair worn in a pony tail. She has an exotic beauty. She wears a white lab coat over her dark blue jump suit.

She looks up as Caleb reorients himself to the room. They exchange smiles.

CLAUDETTE

What have you got for me, Caleb?

CALEB

It looks like a full work up on that gas giant we passed by last system.

CLAUDETTE

Wonderful!

In the center of the room, Caleb has nothing with which to push off to get over to the desk. He struggles for a moment to reach a rung, and when he finally does he sends himself toward the desk.

He hands Claudette his data drives. As the drives pass between them, their hands touch. They make eye contact for a moment.

Claudette pulls away and looks at the drives. She excitedly begins plugging them into her computer module.

CLAUDETTE

Thank you!

CALEB

My pleasure.

(beat)

I know what you're going to say,  
but I'm headed for the feeding  
module...

She gives him a look.

CLAUDETTE

You know we can't get involved. I'm  
your superior. The regulations are  
clear on this.

CALEB

Aren't rules meant to be broken?

CLAUDETTE

The rules exist to protect us.  
Sometimes even from ourselves.  
Don't ever forget your duty as a  
member of Spacefleet.

Caleb reluctantly nods.

CALEB

Well, I just put in for a transfer  
to navigation. And it's not a date  
if we both happen to be in the  
feeding module at the same time, is  
it?

CLAUDETTE

I've got to go over this data.

Caleb nods and pushes off the desk toward the hatch.

CLAUDETTE

Ask me again when your transfer  
comes through.

Caleb smiles, nods, and pulls the lever and goes back into the passage tube.