

TROUBADOUR

Episode 2:

Celestial Gardens of Ice

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TROUBADOUR

II

CELESTIAL GARDENS OF ICE

1. INT. TENT, BEACH, RINGED PLANET - NIGHT

Stars and a bright straight thin line can be seen shining in the sky through the mesh roof of a tent. The sides of the tent flap in the breeze and the sounds of lapping waves can be heard.

PAL-MYRA lies on her back, staring upwards with a dreamy gaze.

The stars continue to glisten through the mesh, the sky bifurcated by the glowing thin line.

PAL-MYRA pulls herself up and clasps her arms around her legs, as she continues to gaze upward at the sky. After a moment, she turns to leave the tent.

2. EXT. BEACH, RINGED PLANET - NIGHT

PAL-MYRA emerges from the tent onto a sandy stretch of beach dunes, wearing loose flowing clothes which flutter in the sea breeze. Other tents can be seen dotting the shore nearby. Everything is bathed in a strange nocturnal glow.

PAL-MYRA wraps herself in her clothes and gazes out at the sea. Behind her palm fronds can be seen flapping in the wind. PAL-MYRA gazes wistfully out at the water. In the background, partially obscured by the sound of the waves, voices can be heard.

PAL-MYRA turns her head slightly to the sound of the voices.

Behind PAL-MYRA, bobbing lanterns can be seen as a group of OTHERS emerge onto the beach, laughing and conversing. One of the voices stands out.

VOICE

Troubadour!

PAL-MYRA smiles and turns back to the ocean with a placid gaze.

PAL-MYRA faces the ocean, the waves lapping the shore. Coming straight up out of the horizon, the rings in the sky are a thin bright line running all the way up and across the equatorial firmament.

3. INT. PAL-MYRA'S CABIN, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

PAL-MYRA raises herself up in bed drowsily. She looks around, slightly disoriented as if coming out of a deep sleep. She turns towards the window.

The cosmos glistens through the glass.

PAL-MYRA pulls her legs up and wraps her arms around them, resting her chin on her knees in thought.

*Cue opening theme music (SirRoland, "the snows are coming",
excerpt).*

Opening titles and cast intro with music.

Title card:

II
CELESTIAL GARDENS OF ICE

4. INT. OBSERVATION DECK, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

DEL-PHI, seen in profile, sits in a lotus position on a seat, practicing her pipe as she gazes out into space. Her melody is beautiful, modal, fluid, and dancing.

ARG-OS and ANG-KOR come around DEL-PHI'S side and sit facing her in the same position. They both gaze upon her with joyful smiles, as if she were conjuring something magical.

DEL-PHI smiles at them through her melody.

ARG-OS and ANG-KOR continue to listen to DEL-PHI'S piping in rapt attention. ARG-OS turns his gaze briefly and acknowledges someone behind DEL-PHI with an enthusiastic smile and nod.

DEL-PHI pauses in her playing and turns to look over her left shoulder.

A large number of CREW MEMBERS are standing or seated in silent, enraptured attention behind DEL-PHI, listening to DEL-PHI play.

DEL-PHI smiles awkwardly, turns back to ARG-OS, ANG-KOR and the cosmos, and resumes her improvisation.

As DEL-PHI plays, the City-Ship suddenly lurches forward. DEL-PHI ceases playing and looks around.

ARG-OS and ANG-KOR all look around as well.

The CREW MEMBERS look around with befuddled expressions, and then look at one another with shrugs.

After a moment's pause, DEL-PHI resumes playing.

TI-KAL comes onto the observation deck and looks around in consternation, hands on his hips. He looks up at the glass enclosure.

The entirety of interstellar space outside appears unchanged.

TI-KAL scratches his head, and then turns to leave. He pauses, turns back around, and gazes at DEL-PHI with a smile of pleasure, as if hearing something beautiful for the first time.

DEL-PHI pauses to take a breath.

ARG-OS and ANG-KOR enthusiastically applaud.

The CREW MEMBERS enthusiastically applaud.

DEL-PHI turns and beams at the CREW MEMBERS. She looks up at TI-KAL in the back.

TI-KAL claps and nods at DEL-PHI with a smile of esteem.

DEL-PHI beams at TI-KAL.

DEL-PHI turns to ARG-OS and ANG-KOR.

AGR-OS and ANG-KOR finish clapping. They gaze upon DEL-PHI and sigh.

ANG-KOR
That was wondy!

ARG-OS
Most felicitous!

DEL-PHI bows to ANG-KOR and ARG-OS with a humble smile.

ANG-KOR
Would you come and play for us while we paint?

DEL-PHI smiles coyly at ARG-OS and ANG-KOR, brings the pipe up to her lips, and winks.

5. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

CY-REEN is at the helm on the lower control panel. She is focused in earnest on the viewscreen while manipulating touch controls on the panel.

TI-KAL enters the bridge behind her. He looks around pensively for a moment before addressing CY-REEN.

TI-KAL
Cy-Reen, are you aware of any phenomena which may have caused the ship to lurch a few moments ago?

CY-REEN does not reply for a moment as she is focused laser-like on the viewscreen.

CY-REEN

Forgiveness, Ti-Kal. The lurch occurred when I took manual control of the ship. I shall endeavor to affect smoother transition from automated control in the future.

TI-KAL nods, a bit distractedly.

TI-KAL

Oh, no bother, that is sensible.

TI-KAL pauses for a moment with a furrowed brow before looking back up at CY-REEN.

TI-KAL

What did you just say?

CY-REEN doesn't reply but remains focused on the screen.

6. INT. CORRIDOR, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

BYB-LOS strolls casually along a corridor, working with a portable device. As he passes a side chamber, PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA emerge, attempting to get his attention. BYB-LOS continues on without noticing them. PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA follow after BYB-LOS, attempting, unobtrusively, to get his attention. After a few moments, BYB-LOS becomes aware of their presence and stops.

BYB-LOS turns to PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA with a jolly smile.

PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA smile politely.

FAI-YUM

Forgiveness, Byb-Los. We hoped that you might render us some small aid.

BYB-LOS

Certainly.

PAL-MYRA

Do you have knowledge of particular stuffs which might contain potent properties for the retention of memory?

BYB-LOS nods and thinks for a moment.

BYB-LOS

There are food stuffs that contain elements which can foster brain health, including memory. But I cannot guarantee that their ingestion will return your memories to you with any greater speed than the stasis wash would allow.

PET-RA bites her lip pensively.

PET-RA

What if we were to synthesize them?

BYB-LOS scrunches his face and ponders for a moment.

BYB-LOS

You posit that rendering them into liquid nourishment might affect the desired result?

PET-RA

It is our hope, yes.

BYB-LOS taps his chin in thought.

BYB-LOS

The refreshment center on the upper level may proffer the needed service. Come!

BYB-LOS invites PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA to follow him.

As BYB-LOS, PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA proceed up the corridor they leap out of the way to let a cleaner pass.

7. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

TI-KAL sits in the middle seat at the upper control panel, hunched over and fixed on the viewscreen. CY-REEN sits at the left-hand station at the lower control panel, also fixed on the viewscreen.

The viewscreen shows the City-Ship working its way through the cosmos.

TI-KAL

How did you make discovery of the manual mode?

CY-REEN responds distractedly.

CY-REEN

Oh, a peculiarity in the coding eventually presented itself.

TI-KAL

I see.

CY-REEN

And - I feel as though I gained experience piloting such a vessel in the past. But, as you know, the past is a sealed portal to us.

TI-KAL nods.

TI-KAL

Are we still on course?

CY-REEN

Yes. If I move us off course - a little light comes on.

TI-KAL

A little light.

CY-REEN

Yes.

CY-REEN smiles as she steers the City-Ship.

CY-REEN
It's quite endearing.

TI-KAL nods, but still a bit befuddled.

TI-KAL
Therefore - if circumstance compels us to leave our course trajectory, it is possible to retrace our way back to the path.

CY-REEN
It is possible; though the further we digress, the more perils present themselves.

TI-KAL nods again.

TI-KAL
I would despair if the success of our mission were dependent upon a little light.

CY-REEN
I accord.

TI-KAL stands.

TI-KAL
Are you in need of aid?

CY-REEN pauses a moment, still fixed on the screen.

CY-REEN
A bridge crew would be most welcome.

TI-KAL smiles, nods, and leaves.

8. INT. REFRESHMENT CENTER, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

BYB-LOS peers at a food dispenser on the wall, surrounded by PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA, who huddle in around him.

BYB-LOS

This dispensary is well-stocked with healthy stuffs. For example -

BYB-LOS points at one slot. It is labeled in alien characters, suggesting the written version of the crew's language.

BYB-LOS

Bushberries have potent properties related to cellular growth in the hippocampus, where we suffer most of our memory loss.

BYB-LOS points at another slot.

BYB-LOS

Sea nuts are a good source of proteins, fats, and oils which help with cellular regeneration in the brain. You'd have to mince them first, though.

PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA nod and gaze pensively at the dispenser. BYB-LOS points at another slot.

BYB-LOS

Oh, yes, and funnel root is an excellent source of antioxidants. It's got a touch of the bitters, though.

BYB-LOS steps away from the dispenser, his charges all attendant to his instruction.

BYB-LOS

I would suggest blending in a portion of tree cabbage. It is replete with essential vitamins.

PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA give each other encouraging smiles. PAL-MYRA bows to BYB-LOS.

PAL-MYRA

Many thanks.

BYB-LOS bows in reply.

BYB-LOS

Please, keep me and the others apprised of your success.

PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA
Yes! Of course! Most assuredly!

*BYB-LOS, PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA all bow to one another.
BYB-LOS continues on his way.*

PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA turn and gaze at the dispenser.

9. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

*The City-Ship, guided by CY-REEN, traverses interstellar space,
an enormous nebula of deep color in the background.
Transcendent, ethereal space music in the underscoring
accompanies the images.*

10. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

*The ethereal music continues in the underscoring as CY-REEN
pilots the City-Ship, a look of blissful, almost spiritual
contentment on her face.*

11. INT. CORRIDOR, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

*BYB-LOS strolls casually along a corridor, working with a
portable device. As he passes a side chamber, TI-KAL, holding a
cup of water, emerges, attempting to get his attention. BYB-LOS
continues on without noticing him. TI-KAL follows after BYB-
LOS, attempting, unobtrusively, to get his attention. After a
few moments, BYB-LOS becomes aware of TI-KAL'S presence and
stops.*

BYB-LOS turns to TI-KAL with a jolly smile.

TI-KAL
Felicities, Byb-Los!

BYB-LOS
Likewise, Ti-Kal.

TI-KAL

I wanted to inform you that we have successfully stopped up the portal to the agra-dome.

BYB-LOS throws his head back and sighs with relief.

BYB-LOS

Many thanks! By the way, our tests show no sign of blight or contamination to the vegetation.

TI-KAL

Excellent news! Now then - the agra-portal is held by a lock, copied from the mechanism which seals the shuttle bay, and only you may now operate access to our garden.

BYB-LOS

Much appreciated! I will go forthwith and set the lock myself.

TI-KAL pauses BYB-LOS with a gesture.

TI-KAL

Have you, perchance, encountered Pal-Myra, Pet-Ra and Fai-Yum in your windings?

BYB-LOS

Indeed! I left them to their experiments in the refreshment center on the upper level.

TI-KAL pauses with a deadpan expression.

TI-KAL

Experiments.

BYB-LOS

Something to do with manufacturing a memory draught.

TI-KAL pauses with a deadpan expression.

TI-KAL

Mm-hm.

TI-KAL turns to leave before pausing and turning back to BYB-LOS.

TI-KAL

Oh, one query more, if I may - do you have knowledge of the source of our drinking water?

TI-KAL holds his cup up.

TI-KAL

It is quite brilliant.

BYB-LOS

Yes.

TI-KAL waits a moment.

TI-KAL

What is the source?

BYB-LOS fixes TI-KAL with a peculiar look.

BYB-LOS

Do you really want to know?

TI-KAL cocks an eyebrow.

TI-KAL

Yes.

BYB-LOS

Well, then - it's an invention of quite ingenious device, really. Our, er, material is collected and processed through a series of filters, extracting all particulates and bacteria, leaving behind, at the end of the process, perfectly clean, perfectly safe, and quite delectable drinking water.

BYB-LOS gives TI-KAL an impressed smile.

TI-KAL looks slightly bewildered, gazes down at his cup, and then looks back up at BYB-LOS.

TI-KAL
Our -

BYB-LOS
Material.

TI-KAL
So as long as we produce - material -

BYB-LOS
We'll have water.

TI-KAL pauses to think for a moment.

TI-KAL
There are three hundred inhabitants on this vessel.

BYB-LOS
That's quite an abundance of material.

TI-KAL looks down at his cup again.

TI-KAL
Extraordinary.

TI-KAL closes his eyes and takes a sip of the water. His face then registers approval. He glances at BYB-LOS. BYB-LOS smiles at TI-KAL with a raised brow.

12. INT. REFRESHMENT CENTER, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA all stand in a semi-circle, with FAI-YUM in the middle. FAI-YUM holds a bowl-shaped drinking vessel filled with a greenish smoothie-like liquid.

PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA exchange serious glances.

FAI-YUM lifts the bowl to his lips, closes his eyes, and drinks from the vessel. He swallows the liquid down, pinches his mouth, and hands the bowl to PAL-MYRA.

PAL-MYRA pauses, closes her eyes, and takes a sip from the bowl. She swallows the liquid down, pinches her mouth, and hands the bowl to PET-RA.

PET-RA takes the bowl, raises it to her mouth, leaves her eyes open, and sips from the vessel. She lowers the vessel and pauses, gazing blankly at PAL-MYRA, before swallowing a mouthful of the liquid, making a loud gulping sound. PET-RA pauses a moment.

PET-RA

It's all coming back to me now.

There is another pause before PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA burst out laughing.

TI-KAL enters the refreshment center and looks around. As soon as he sees PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA, TI-KAL approaches them.

TI-KAL stops and gazes pensively for a moment at the bowl in PET-RA'S hands. TI-KAL spares a quick look at the drinking water in his cup, sets the cup down on the table, quietly takes the bowl from PET-RA, sets it down on the table, and, with a smile, motions for PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA to follow him.

PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA exchange confused glances and shrug before following TI-KAL.

13. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

CY-REEN is seated as before, steering the ship. TI-KAL enters the bridge behind her with PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA in tow.

TI-KAL
Cy-Reen?

CY-REEN

Hm?

TI-KAL holds out his arms towards PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA.

TI-KAL

I present to you - your bridge crew.

CY-REEN pauses, and then turns to face the others. PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and PET-RA smile and wave at her.

14. INT. ARTS LAB, THE CITY SHIP - DEEP SPACE

DEL-PHI sits in a lotus position on a table, playing her pipe, her melody beautiful and mellifluous.

ANG-KOR sits nearby at his easel, blissfully drawing away, glancing over at DEL-PHI with a smile of affection and appreciation.

ARG-OS sits over at his easel, casting smiling glances at DEL-PHI as well.

DEL-PHI comes down off of the table, never breaking her improvisation. As she plays, she looks over ANG-KOR'S shoulder at his work.

It is the night sky of the ringed planet from DEL-PHI'S dream.

DEL-PHI taps ANG-KOR'S head and, still piping, wanders over to ARG-OS to inspect his work.

ARG-OS is drawing an image of DEL-PHI lying naked in the natural pool in her dream, her eyes closed, head resting on one arm.

DEL-PHI blows her pipe teasingly in ARG-OS' face. She then circles around ARG-OS, taunting him with her pipe.

Eventually ARG-OS drops his stylus and begins to pursue DEL-PHI around the room. DEL-PHI continues to taunt him with her pipe.

ANG-KOR sets his stylus down with a flushed expression of excitement and joins the pursuit.

DEL-PHI dodges ANG-KOR and ARG-OS around the various seats, tables, and easels in the room, sometimes dancing as she plays a beguiling melody on the pipe.

Eventually ANG-KOR and ARG-OS corner DEL-PHI. They grab her and drag her down onto the floor out of sight behind a group of seats, all of them laughing and giggling. DEL-PHI'S hand reaches up and sets the pipe onto one of the seats. Sounds of joy and contentment continue from behind the seats.

After a few moments, a cleaner comes scurrying into the room. It begins by turning towards the corner where DEL-PHI, ANG-KOR and ARG-OS are occupied. It pauses for a moment, then backs up, turns, and goes back out the door.

15. INT. MANUFACTURING CENTER, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

DEL-PHI enters into the austere room, filled with humming machines. A CREW MEMBER sits on top of a table, playing with a device and eating nuts.

DEL-PHI looks around for a moment, scrutinizing various machines along the wall. She then turns to the CREW MEMBER.

DEL-PHI

Which beast makes our clothes?

The chewing CREW MEMBER points at one particular machine.

DEL-PHI

We can have a uniform made to our taste, yes?

The CREW MEMBER nods and chews, playing with their device.

DEL-PHI turns to the machine, thinking.

16. INT. CORRIDOR, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

To the tune of "Casanova 70" by Air in the underscoring (starting at 0:33), DEL-PHI emerges from her cabin, sporting her new uniform: a one-piece tunic reaching down to her thighs with long sleeves, tied at the waist by a belt which has a pouch for her pipe. The uniform still includes her Guild stripe, shoulder name tag, and communication sensor. Over her shoulders, a short cape has been added. [Note: let the actor make changes to the above design if desired.]

DEL-PHI struts with a confident smile in slow-motion down the corridor, other CREW MEMBERS smiling and admiring her new look as they pass.

17. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

TI-KAL peeks inside the bridge.

PET-RA and PAL-MYRA are huddled together at the upper control panel, enthusing over its various functions.

PET-RA

The computation variables alone are limitless!

PAL-MYRA

We can even measure the density of any object within a light revolution of the ship!

Meanwhile CY-REEN is letting FAI-YUM pilot the City-Ship. CY-REEN smiles at FAI-YUM as he grins, eyes-peeled with excitement, at the viewscreen.

TI-KAL smiles and nods to himself, and leaves.

18. INT. IMMERSION STUDY, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

HA-TRA and TI-KAL sit in the lotus position, facing two 2-dimensional holographic screens floating side-by-side in the air before their faces. The screens are heavy with text and some illustrations. The text is written in the crew's native language. Chimes and other light electronic sounds murmur in the background.

TI-KAL
How curious.

HA-TRA
Indeed.

TI-KAL
Nothing at all?

HA-TRA
Not a hint, or even an abstraction, or any glimmer which could speak to us of our homeworld.

TI-KAL
The Mission Designer did allude to the "distractions of sentiment", as they painted it. Perhaps any such narratives were removed with intention.

HA-TRA
There was evident concern, then, that somehow our memories might adversely affect our journey.

TI-KAL
And yet those memories are due to return upon our arrival.

HA-TRA frowns and nods, thinking.

TI-KAL
Well then - what remains in the archive?

HA-TRA raises a finger and scrolls through one of the screens.

HA-TRA
Poetry, beautiful in style but bereft of anything useful to our searches. Dramatic works, most quite humorous and ribald -

TI-KAL smirks.

HA-TRA

- but, again, offering no such clues as to our history. Much of the archive is devoted to philosophical treatises. Ways and paths of living, being. Ways of seeing one another.

TI-KAL

Guidance and counsel.

HA-TRA

Imbued with the greatest import.

TI-KAL pauses and contemplates for a moment.

TI-KAL

As if we were children, meant to tend our lessons.

HA-TRA and TI-KAL turn to one another in mutual perplexity, as "Blue Shift" from Hawkwind comes up in the underscoring. They turn back to the screens and continue their scrutinies.

19. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

As the music continues in the underscoring, the City-Ship heads towards an area of space dominated by a greenish-orange cloud.

20. INT. OBSERVATION DECK, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

As viewed from the observation deck, the City-Ship moves inexorably towards the orange-green cloud.

CREW MEMBERS seated on the deck stare up at the cloud with fascination, and a hint of trepidation.

21. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship continues on its path towards the cloud. As the City-Ship gets closer, various lights, like distant suns, become visible, twinkling through the cloud.

22. INT. MEDITATION CHAMBER, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

TI-KAL and a few other CREW MEMBERS, including BAL-BEK, silently make slow solemn movements in synchronization, led by HA-TRA at the front of the room.

The movements are balletic, similar to tai-chi. The CREW MEMBERS make the movements in a kind of waking reverie.

HA-TRA leads the group. Perhaps influenced by DEL-PHI, HA-TRA, like the other CAST and CREW MEMBERS, has begun to slowly modify and personalize her uniform; though the Guild stripe, name label, and communication sensor remain for everyone (Note: let the actors design their characters' uniform modifications).

TI-KAL'S communicator lights up. TI-KAL waves his right hand in front of it to the left. CY-REEN'S face appears a few inches from TI-KAL'S. TI-KAL continues with his movements.

TI-KAL
Felicities, Cy-Reen.

CY-REEN
Likewise.

TI-KAL
May I be of aid?

CY-REEN affects a concerned expression.

CY-REEN
There is a phenomenon in our path.

TI-KAL pauses in his movements and moves away from the group.

A few of the other CREW MEMBERS turn distractedly to TI-KAL as he moves away from them.

TI-KAL
It occupies our path?

CY-REEN

Yes.

TI-KAL

Can it be circumnavigated?

CY-REEN pauses and scrunches her mouth.

CY-REEN

It is quite immense.

TI-KAL

I will attend presently.

CY-REEN smiles and nods. TI-KAL waves his hand to the right and CY-REEN'S face disappears. TI-KAL then leaves the chamber, the other CREW MEMBERS gazing after him with concern.

23. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

As the City-Ship gets closer to the cloud, more elements become defined. The cloud is filled with floating rocks or small asteroids. The lights seen earlier suggesting suns now appear to be huge floating blocks of ice and crystal.

24. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

TI-KAL enters the bridge. At the upper control panel, PAL-MYRA is seated at the right-hand panel, with PET-RA at the left. CY-REEN and FAI-YUM are seated, respectively, at the left- and right-hand sides of the lower panel.

TI-KAL seats himself in the remaining seat in between PAL-MYRA and PET-RA, completing the bridge crew. TI-KAL exchanges brief smiles of greeting with PAL-MYRA and PET-RA.

TI-KAL

Have we entered it yet?

CY-REEN

A few decans and we'll be in its midst.

TI-KAL

Are we still on automated course?

CY-REEN

Perfectly.

TI-KAL pauses and thinks.

PAL-MYRA

It's composed primarily of particles of the finest dust and powder.

TI-KAL

Beauteous of color.

PAL-MYRA

And harmless to the vessel.

TI-KAL

Yet not so the larger rocks and ice. Does the viewscreen afford us closer inspection?

FAI-YUM waves his hand over a section of his control panel.

The interior of the cloud grows larger on the screen. The rocks and ice are sharper in clarity.

TI-KAL

Alah-loo!

PET-RA gazes at her control panel.

PET-RA

The rocks and ice range in size from pebbles to -

PET-RA turns her gaze to the screen.

PET-RA

- several leagues larger than our ship.

TI-KAL purses his mouth.

TI-KAL

And yet the Mission Designer chose this course.

FAI-YUM turns to TI-KAL.

FAI-YUM

Perhaps this quadrant was free of debris at the time of design.

TI-KAL

If such be the case, then we will have to circumnavigate the cloud.

CY-REEN turns and looks at TI-KAL with a pensive frown.

CY-REEN

Ti-Kal, it is several light revolutions across.

TI-KAL echoes CY-REEN'S frown and turns his gaze to the screen.

25. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship moves inexorably towards the cloud.

26. INT. CORRIDOR, DEL-PHI'S CABIN, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

Various CREW MEMBERS are talking loudly and hurrying down the corridor. The door to DEL-PHI'S cabin opens and her head pops out, looking around at the excitement. Her head retracts back into the cabin for a moment. DEL-PHI then reappears with ANG-KOR and ARG-OS in tow. They stand to one side to let the other CREW MEMBERS pass.

DEL-PHI

There's a ruckus amuckus.

ANG-KOR

Shall we fall in with the others?

DEL-PHI

Yes, we would despair if we missed the plot. Here -

DEL-PHI places herself in between ARG-OS and ANG-KOR.

DEL-PHI

A grennel for each hand.

ANG-KOR

We make a well-oiled team.

DEL-PHI smirks.

DEL-PHI

In many ways.

DEL-PHI leads ANG-KOR and ARG-OS by the hand down the corridor.

27. INT. OBSERVATION DECK, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

DEL-PHI, ANG-KOR and ARG-OS arrive at the observation deck in the midst of a large number of CREW MEMBERS in a state of consternation, regarding something outside the ship.

As seen from the deck, the City-Ship is slowly entering the dust cloud.

DEL-PHI looks up at the cloud.

DEL-PHI

We're in a soup!

Amongst the CREW MEMBERS standing near DEL-PHI, ANG-KOR and ARG-OS are CAR-AL and TAX-ILA. TAX-ILA turns to DEL-PHI.

TAX-ILA

Our navigator will be sorely pressed to negotiate this morass.

TAX-ILA points at her name label.

TAX-ILA

My designation is Tax-Ila.

DEL-PHI

Felicities. I am Del-Phi, and this is Arg-Os and Ang-Kor, er, Ang-Kor and Arg-Os.

TAX-ILA, DEL-PHI, ANG-KOR and ARG-OS bow to one another. CAR-AL continues to look up at the cloud with increasing concern in her face.

TAX-ILA

We meet under timorous circumstances.

DEL-PHI

Well, our journey has us on a messy route. Was this part of the plan?

TAX-ILA

Ti-Kal's briefing made mention of an automated path, but this -

TAX-ILA gestures at the dust cloud.

The dust cloud envelops the City-Ship, the larger rocks and ice looming in the distance.

TAX-ILA

This gives pause.

CAR-AL

We must pause this ship.

CAR-AL turns and hurries away.

TAX-ILA and DEL-PHI gaze after CAR-AL and then exchange looks of concern.

28. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The bridge crew continue to monitor the City-Ship's progress into the cloud.

As seen from the viewscreen, the cloud washes over the City-Ship.

TI-KAL

What is our range of speed?

CY-REEN

From static to several parsecs per cycle.

TI-KAL

And so often I feel we are merely floating through the void.

CAR-AL silently enters the bridge.

FAI-YUM

At present the ship is automated for sub-light speed, but our rate of dispatch varies with each moment.

CAR-AL looks around at the bridge crew with a tinge of confusion, and disappointment.

TI-KAL (o-s)

We remain solidly on the path then. Quite astonishing.

CY-REEN

I can regain the helm at any time, but hopefully not in haste.

CAR-AL

We should pull to a stop.

The bridge crew turns at the sound of CAR-AL'S voice.

CAR-AL'S face remains fixed on the viewscreen.

TI-KAL rises and goes to CAR-AL.

TI-KAL

We had entertained that thought, and may return to it again. At present we are staying the path, to see it through . . . until we cannot.

CAR-AL nods, sparing TI-KAL a glance.

29. INT. OBSERVATION DECK, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

Debris, ice, and rocks from the dust cloud begin to strike the outside of the glass enclosure of the deck, making audible impact sounds. "Space Dust" from Hawkwind now comes up in the underscoring.

The CREW MEMBERS watch, pointing at the various collisions.

A rock about the size of a man crashes against an upper portion of the glass enclosure.

The CREW MEMBERS instinctively fall back.

DEL-PHI, ARG-OS, ANG-KOR and TAX-ILA react with fearful expressions.

30. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The bridge crew are focused intently on the viewscreen. CY-REEN'S eyes dart back and forth between the screen and her control panel.

TI-KAL continues to stand near CAR-AL by the doorway.

BAL-BEK and HA-TRA appear in the doorway.

TI-KAL becomes aware of BAL-BEK'S and HA-TRA'S presence. He turns to them.

BAL-BEK

Shall I prepare the healing center for casualties?

TI-KAL replies to BAL-BEK by affecting a jocular smile.

TI-KAL

We will endeavor not to bring about that eventuality.

HA-TRA

Disquiet is growing amongst the crew. I would recommend an appraisal of the situation.

Just then TAX-ILA, DEL-PHI, ARG-OS and ANG-KOR appear in the doorway as well.

DEL-PHI

A rocky glob the size of Ang-Kor just bounced off the glass on the viewing deck.

TI-KAL turns to the bridge crew.

TI-KAL

Do we know if there is a shield for the glass?

The bridge crew are focused intently on the screen and their respective control panels.

TI-KAL sighs and turns to the others crowding the doorway.

TI-KAL

I will - I will come down to the observation deck presently and we will seek remedy of the situation -

CAR-AL

Cessation of movement would still make for safer caution.

TI-KAL turns back to the viewscreen.

TI-KAL

Indeed, I -

ARG-OS

Or perhaps we can drift backwards through the cloud.

CY-REEN, trying to focus on her control panel, throws her hands in the air. TI-KAL notices this.

TI-KAL

Yes, let us clear this room.

TI-KAL gently ushers CAR-AL, BAL-BEK, HA-TRA, DEL-PHI, ANG-KOR, ARG-OS and TAX-ILA out of the bridge.

Meanwhile FAI-YUM, PAL-MYRA and PET-RA turn and look at one another, shrug, and head towards the door as if to leave as well.

Once the others have left, TI-KAL turns and is startled to see FAI-YUM, PAL-MYRA and PET-RA standing behind him.

31. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship makes its way through the cloud, its shimmering green and orange dust highlighted in yellow. Rocks and chunks of ice and crystal are drifting around the ship, but many are now bouncing off the hull.

32. INT. OBSERVATION DECK, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

TI-KAL arrives at the observation deck, where a huge number of CREW MEMBERS remain assembled, staring in fascination and concern at the scene outside the ship.

TI-KAL pauses a moment and then endeavors to get the crew's attention.

TI-KAL

Er, uh, if I may -

The CREW MEMBERS turn to him.

TI-KAL

The bridge crew is endeavoring to ascertain the most, um, promising mode of action to ensure safe passage of the ship through the cloud. We are still on our course, so the path

we are set upon remains fixed. Yet - we will assume control of the ship and stray from the path should an obstacle of sufficient danger present itself. Meanwhile -

TI-KAL looks up.

Another large rock bounces off the glass.

TI-KAL

Let us ascertain the means by which we can protect this deck.

33. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

As seen from the viewscreen, an enormous block of ice and an enormous rock formation loom in the distance on either side of the City-Ship.

PET-RA gazes intently at her control panel.

PET-RA

The glacier on the left is three kloms wide and another eight in length.

PAL-MYRA

The rock on the right has a density a klom thick.

FAI-YUM

Muckers! And we must pass betwixt the two upon the slimmest of threads.

FAI-YUM turns to CY-REEN.

CY-REEN fixes FAI-YUM with a smile.

CY-REEN

When the time comes, would you navigate, or steer?

FAI-YUM smiles at CY-REEN.

FAI-YUM

I will lay the map, and guide the pilot.

CY-REEN and FAI-YUM smile and nod at one another.

34. INT. OBSERVATION DECK, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

TI-KAL and the other CREW MEMBERS are scurrying around the observation deck, looking for anything that might provide a means of shielding the deck's glass enclosure.

TI-KAL pauses next to a large nondescript circle on the wall, scratching his head. He then brings his hand down in front of the circle.

TI-KAL
Mayhaps it's -

TI-KAL suddenly looks up.

An alloy shield silently lowers itself over the glass on the exterior of the ship.

The CREW MEMBERS pause and gaze up at the lowering shield.

TI-KAL waves his hand again over the circle.

The shield starts going back up.

TI-KAL waves his hand again over the circle.

The shield starts lowering again, sealing the glass enclosure.

TI-KAL stands perplexed. BYB-LOS approaches him with a deadpan expression.

BYB-LOS
An operating manual would be most expedient.

TI-KAL spares BYB-LOS a look.

35. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship continues its course through the dust cloud, rock and ice passing it and bouncing off of it as it progresses. The observation deck is now obscured by the metal shield.

36. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

TI-KAL bustles onto the bridge and takes his place once again at the upper control panel.

TI-KAL

The observation glass and cabin windows are now secured.
Where stand we?

PAL-MYRA

Cy-Reen is about to assume manual control, in order to plot us through the larger crags ahead.

TI-KAL

A more skillful aeronaut could not be found.

CY-REEN smiles in appreciation.

TI-KAL

Oh! We must secure the screen. Yet how may we view our progress?

There is an awkward pause. PET-RA turns to TI-KAL with a befuddled look.

PET-RA

The screen does not itself look out upon the vastness. The information is fed to us by remote.

There is another awkward pause while TI-KAL processes this information.

TI-KAL

Perhaps discovery can be made of the other half of my brain, which apparently lies derelict upon the ship somewhere.

PET-RA bites her lip while PAL-MYRA leans into the side of TI-KAL'S face, squinting into his ear. TI-KAL pulls back slightly and gives PAL-MYRA a strange look. PAL-MYRA fixes TI-KAL with a deadpan expression.

PAL-MYRA

It remains intact.

TI-KAL and PAL-MYRA turn back to the screen, both attempting to suppress a smirk. PET-RA continues to bite her lower lip, which TI-KAL also notices.

As "Sirens of the Cityscape" from atonalis comes up in the underscoring, CY-REEN and FAI-YUM nod to each other and take manual control of the City-Ship.

37. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship accelerates forward towards the narrow gap between the large ice and rock formations.

38. INT. VARIOUS CORRIDORS, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

As CREW MEMBERS strap themselves into fold-down seats situated along the walls throughout the living spaces of the City-Ship, an automatic COMPUTER VOICE, similar to the MISSION DESIGNER'S voice, can be heard throughout the ship.

COMPUTER VOICE

Attention. Attention. The ship is entering a hazard zone. Crew members are instructed to secure themselves to prevent injury.

The message repeats.

BAL-BEK and BYB-LOS strap themselves in next to one another. They share a lingering smile of encouragement.

CAR-AL straps herself in, a pensive frown on her face.

HA-TRA straps herself in next to a male crew member, KU-MASI, and a female crew member, AS-MARA. All three nod in greeting, sign their names to each other (which are subtitled), and give each other smiles of support.

DEL-PHI straps herself in next to ARG-OS and ANG-KOR. She smirks at both of them and addresses them in a low voice.

DEL-PHI

These may be employed for a variety of matters.

ARG-OS and ANG-KOR giggle.

TAX-ILA seats herself next to DEL-PHI. They both exchange a smile of camaraderie.

TAX-ILA

Let us make smooth passage.

DEL-PHI

My belly is mad with tremors already!

TAX-ILA and DEL-PHI laugh nervously and clench their shoulder straps.

39. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The ice and rock loom large on the viewscreen.

CY-REEN steers the City-Ship, gazing intently at the screen, as FAI-YUM navigates beside her.

40. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship moves with delicacy through the gap.

The shadow of the City-Ship passes along the surface of the rock formation, its craters like gaping orifices. Smaller rock formations can be seen ping-ponging off its craggy surface.

The ice glistens with an emerald tint as the City-Ship passes within a few miles of its surface.

The City-Ship can now be seen from above, passing along between the ice and rock.

41. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

As seen on the viewscreen, the large rock and ice formations begin to drift off to the sides of the screen as the ship threads its way through the narrow gap between.

42. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship emerges from behind the rock, the ice looming in the background. It clears the gap and proceeds forward.

43. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

CY-REEN and FAI-YUM exchange a smile of relief.

PAL-MYRA, TI-KAL and PET-RA relax and turn their attention to their control panels.

44. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

As the City-Ship proceeds forward, the cloud becomes more and more cluttered with larger and larger rocks and ice.

The orange-green dust glistens and sparkles with a strange luminosity.

As the cloud becomes denser, comet trails can be seen in the background.

45. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

PET-RA gazes intently at her panel.

PET-RA

The sensor identifies something massive ahead through the mist.

TI-KAL

When can we hope to see it?

PET-RA looks up at the screen.

PET-RA

Anon.

The crew gaze intently at the screen.

After a moment a massive ice crystal formation appears through the dense cloud, filling the screen. Its emerald sheen glistens.

FAI-YUM

Alah-loo!

PET-RA

The glacier measures twenty kloms long, thirteen wide, but only seven deep.

PAL-MYRA takes in the information on her panel.

PAL-MYRA

Incredible density. Solid ice.

CY-REEN

We shall have to scale it. Prepare for lift!

46. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship tilts upwards as it approaches the immense block of ice, propelling up its wall.

47. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The bridge crew hold onto their control panels as CY-REEN pilots the City-Ship upwards.

PET-RA affects an expression of nausea as the ship climbs precipitously.

48. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship climbs over the lip of the ice formation, emerging over an enormous plateau of emerald-tinted ice.

49. INT. CORRIDOR, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

TAX-ILA, DEL-PHI, ARG-OS and ANG-KOR react physically to the steep climb of the ship, each looking a bit frazzled.

ANG-KOR

That was a steep push!

TAX-ILA

We must have scaled a canyon! Alah-loo!

DEL-PHI

I think I just ate my stomach.

50. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship traverses the ice formation, its surface glistening but uneven.

The space above and around the ice formation is littered with rocks and ice big and small, colliding and cascading around the City-Ship.

51. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY SHIP - DEEP SPACE

As seen from the viewscreen, the City-Ship continues to traverse the glittering emerald ice plateau.

PAL-MYRA tilts her head, slightly transfixed by the beauty of the ice.

CY-REEN steers the ship, staring at the screen, while FAI-YUM feeds her navigational data, which comes up on the viewscreen in front of her.

52. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship traverses the ice formation, a few miles above its surface.

As seen from above, the City-Ship is reflected in the ice as it passes over its surface.

53. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

FAI-YUM glances up and notices something unusual in the data on the viewscreen. He studies it for a moment with a furrowed brow.

FAI-YUM

Huh - that's strange.

TI-KAL

Hm?

FAI-YUM

Well, there is a gauge upon the screen, measuring the temperature of the outside hull. It - it appears to have increased.

TI-KAL

The temperature of space outside the ship has increased?

FAI-YUM

No, the ship itself is heating the outer hull, compensating for a lowering of the temperature from without, presumably in response to our proximity to the ice.

TI-KAL

Automated initiative?

FAI-YUM
Apparently.

TI-KAL
Interesting.

TI-KAL turns to PAL-MYRA.

TI-KAL
A ship of many talents.

PAL-MYRA laughs lightly in reply.

54. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship clears the ice formation and continues on through the cloud.

55. INT. CORRIDOR, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

BAL-BEK and BYB-LOS share a nervous laugh.

BYB-LOS
The next time I hitch a ride upon a ferry inform me of the travel restrictions in advance, if you please.

BAL-BEK
Most assuredly.

BAL-BEK gives BYB-LOS a coy smile.

56. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The bridge crew continues to monitor the progress of the City-Ship through the cloud.

TI-KAL
Do we have the means to determine when we are free of this miasma?

PET-RA studies her control panel.

PET-RA

The calculations indicate approximately another twenty thousand leagues of cloud left.

TI-KAL frowns.

TI-KAL

I long for a nap.

PAL-MYRA

And blissful dreams by the sea.

TI-KAL and PAL-MYRA share a smile.

PET-RA glances over at TI-KAL and PAL-MYRA before glancing back at the screen. PET-RA points at the screen with surprise.

PET-RA

Oh!

As seen through the viewscreen, two colossal asteroids collide in the distance, scattering huge amounts of debris throughout the cloud.

The bridge crew responds with gasps.

PET-RA hurriedly checks her readings.

PET-RA

The debris will reach us in approximately seven midis.

TI-KAL

A barrage of such magnitude could pummel us.

FAI-YUM punches up something on his control panel which flashes on the screen in front of CY-REEN.

FAI-YUM

There is a pass through the glacier three kloms to our left.

CY-REEN
I'll take us through.

CY-REEN begins to turn the ship.

TI-KAL
How far does the cavern reach?

PAL-MYRA studies her panel.

PAL-MYRA
The ice has a tunnel which reaches clear to the opposite end, several leagues long, and two kloms wide.

TI-KAL
We can hide ourselves away within its confines until the storm of debris passes.

The enormous ice formation looms up on the left side of the viewscreen, the entrance to the ice cave visible.

FAI-YUM
It appears solid enough.

TI-KAL
May it harbor us well.

57. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship maneuvers toward the giant ice formation, the ice cave forming a huge vacant irregular hole, shimmering with emerald and blue.

Debris from the asteroid collision hurtles towards the City-Ship.

58. INT. VARIOUS CORRIDORS, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

TAX-ILA, DEL-PHI, ARG-OS and ANG-KOR look up and around as the corridor tips to the left.

TAX-ILA
That's a pitch!

DEL-PHI
A giant space beastie must be fast upon us!

ANG-KOR fixes DEL-PHI with a curious expression. DEL-PHI addresses ANG-KOR with a deadpan expression.

DEL-PHI
I once dreamt of one.

ANG-KOR and ARG-OS affect surprise.

DEL-PHI
My dreams are quite interesting.

59. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

CY-REEN steers the City-Ship, contorting slightly in her seat as she maneuvers the vessel.

The entrance to the ice cave looms large on the viewscreen.

60. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship enters the ice cave just as debris from the asteroid collision reaches it, pinging off the hull in the rear of the ship.

61. INT. VARIOUS CORRIDORS, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

Various CAST and CREW MEMBERS look up and around in jolted surprise as the sound of the debris pinging and hitting against the outside of the ship reaches their ears.

62. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship slows down as it enters the giant cave, dark save for the ice's strange emerald and blue luminescence.

Suddenly a battery of exterior lights on the outer hull of the City-Ship comes on, illuminating the cave in glittering intensity.

63. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

FAI-YUM grins at the sudden burst of light on the viewscreen. He turns to CY-REEN and the others.

FAI-YUM

We are luminous!

CY-REEN laughs with pleasure.

CY-REEN

How did you affect that?

FAI-YUM

The ship itself came aglow.

PAL-MYRA

It is surely a magical creature we inhabit.

TI-KAL smiles and shakes his head in wonder.

64. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship slowly makes its way along the icy corridor, its surface glittering from the City-Ship's lights.

65. INT. VARIOUS CORRIDORS, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

HA-TRA, AS-MARA and KU-MASI turn from looking upward pensively to one another with caring smiles.

CAR-AL gazes upwards pensively, before closing her eyes.

66. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship cruises to a halt some distance away from the exit point of the ice cave. Through its orifice a large amount of

asteroid debris falls and cascades through the dust cloud, pinging and exploding off one another as well as the interior surface around the cave opening.

67. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

CY-REEN

I'm bringing the ship to rest, pending passage of the shower.

FAI-YUM looks up at his screen.

FAI-YUM

The external temperature shield of the hull has climbed precipitously.

PET-RA

A stinging vacuum envelopes our city-ship.

TI-KAL

So - here we shall wait 'til the ebb of the storm, secure in our oven.

PET-RA and TI-KAL share resigned smiles.

68. INT. CORRIDORS, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

TAX-ILA, DEL-PHI, ANG-KOR and ARG-OS, still seated in their security seats, all look around in confusion.

DEL-PHI

Are we home?

TAX-ILA

Methinks we linger upon the cloud still.

ARG-OS and ANG-KOR bite their lips nervously.

ARG-OS

My stomach claws at me.

DEL-PHI

We'll scurry to the refreshment center as soon as we are free from our restraints.

ANG-KOR reaches over and touches DEL-PHI'S cheek. DEL-PHI takes ANG-KOR'S hand with an affectionate smile.

69. EXT. THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The City-Ship sits motionless in the ice cave.

The shower of debris outside the cave continues in a spectacular show of fragmentary collisions.

70. INT. BRIDGE, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

The bridge crew sit and stare at the viewscreen, in various attitudes of boredom.

The shower of asteroid fragments outside the cave continues on the viewscreen. One particular collision results in a spectacular explosion of rock.

PET-RA points at the collision on the screen.

PET-RA

Ooh!

The bridge crew continue to sit and wait.

FAI-YUM turns slightly towards TI-KAL.

FAI-YUM

Oh, Ti-Kal, an interesting note - while you were occupied with the observation deck, we discovered that multiple sensors are affixed on the outer hull which will automatically move the ship out of the path of any oncoming obstacle.

There is a short pause before TI-KAL breaks down in laughter, followed by PET-RA and PAL-MYRA. CY-REEN and FAI-YUM look at each other and laugh as well.

Fade out.

71. INT. MEDITATION CHAMBER, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

CREW MEMBERS are quietly going through their group exercises, led by HA-TRA. Among the group is CAR-AL, PAL-MYRA, PET-RA, FAI-YUM, CY-REEN, BAL-BEK, BYB-LOS and TAX-ILA.

TI-KAL enters the chamber and prepares to join the group. He approaches CAR-AL and falls in next to her, joining the routine. CAR-AL and TI-KAL share polite smiles. After a moment, TI-KAL addresses CAR-AL in a low voice.

TI-KAL

Per your recommendation, we stopped the ship.

CAR-AL replies with a look of confusion.

TI-KAL

In the cave. When we were sequestered in the ice cave.

CAR-AL

Oh.

CAR-AL smiles in reply. They continue with the exercises in silence.

CAR-AL glances over at PAL-MYRA, PET-RA, FAI-YUM and CY-REEN.

PAL-MYRA, PET-RA, FAI-YUM and CY-REEN go through the exercises.

CAR-AL (o-s)

The navigation of the field was quite a labor.

CAR-AL turns her gaze back to HA-TRA as she continues with the exercises.

CAR-AL

Your - our bridge crew is best placed for the service.

TI-KAL

Prior to that placement they were sorely misled. By giving them position on the bridge they've been rescued from certain languishment.

TI-KAL smirks as he goes through his exercises. He and CAR-AL remain quiet for a moment.

CAR-AL

Is there - no place for me on the bridge?

TI-KAL turns to CAR-AL with a bewildered look.

TI-KAL

You oversee the shuttle fleet.

CAR-AL smiles sadly.

CAR-AL

A fitting position for one so alone.

CAR-AL stops mid-exercise and turns to leave the chamber.

TI-KAL turns to respond to CAR-AL but stops himself as she leaves. His face registers confusion.

After CAR-AL leaves the chamber ARG-OS and ANG-KOR enter, dragging DEL-PHI along behind them. DEL-PHI affects an expression of unease and mild embarrassment.

ARG-OS and ANG-KOR drag DEL-PHI to the front of the room and place her next to HA-TRA.

ARG-OS and ANG-KOR whisper something to HA-TRA while DEL-PHI stands there, continuing to look awkward. HA-TRA smiles enthusiastically and nods.

ARG-OS and ANG-KOR smile and nod with encouragement at DEL-PHI before joining the group and falling in with the exercises.

DEL-PHI pauses a moment, takes a few deep breaths, and brings her pipe up to her lips. She takes a breath, pauses, pulls the pipe down, recomposes herself, and then tries again.

As the CREW MEMBERS go through the exercises, DEL-PHI begins to improvise a soft, beautiful, shimmering melody on the pipe.

CREW MEMBERS respond to the inclusion of the melody with expressions of warmth and bliss.

DEL-PHI plays the pipe, a serious look of concentration on her face.

PET-RA, PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM and CY-REEN execute their exercises like dance movements in tandem to DEL-PHI'S music.

BAL-BEK and BYB-LOS do the same, smiling warmly at each other.

TAX-ILA moves with a look of transported ecstasy in her face as the music washes over her.

HA-TRA, leading the group in their movements, turns to DEL-PHI at her side and beams brightly at her. DEL-PHI takes one hand off the pipe, reaches up, and taps HA-TRA on the head.

HA-TRA turns, pauses, and regards the group.

The CREW MEMBERS, many of them with their eyes closed, continue making their own movements to the music.

HA-TRA smiles again at DEL-PHI and steps down off the dais.

HA-TRA joins the group, leaving DEL-PHI to lead the group with her music.

The CREW MEMBERS continue reacting bodily to DEL-PHI'S melody, each making their own movements.

TI-KAL makes movement to the music, his expression contemplative.

After a brief period of time, DEL-PHI finishes her melody, and takes a breath.

The CREW MEMBERS compose themselves at the cessation of their movements.

DEL-PHI scrunches her mouth and looks down at her pipe.

The CREW MEMBERS suddenly burst into applause, grinning appreciatively at DEL-PHI.

DEL-PHI smiles awkwardly and does a kind of curtsy. She glances at HA-TRA.

HA-TRA grins at DEL-PHI and applauds as well.

PET-RA, PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM, CY-REEN and TAX-ILA approach DEL-PHI.

FAI-YUM

Many thanks for your melodies!

PAL-MYRA

Truly full of blisses!

DEL-PHI smiles bashfully and holds up her instrument.

DEL-PHI

The pipe does the labor.

PAL-MYRA, FAI-YUM, CY-REEN and TAX-ILA laugh and, with smiles of appreciation, turn to leave. PET-RA comes up to DEL-PHI and touches her arm.

PET-RA

Did I not declare that your art makes you cherishable?

DEL-PHI gazes at PET-RA with a smile of esteem.

DEL-PHI

Yes. And I declare that henceforth, your designated name shall be Pudding.

PET-RA giggles and embraces DEL-PHI. PET-RA then turns to leave.

BAL-BEK and BYB-LOS leave, smiling and laughing, hands on each other's shoulders.

TI-KAL remains behind a moment, smiling contemplatively if not distractedly before turning to leave.

HA-TRA touches DEL-PHI'S cheek with a broad smile and leaves her side as ANG-KOR and ARG-OS approach with looks of contrition.

ANG-KOR

May we ask forgiveness?

DEL-PHI studies ANG-KOR and ARG-OS for a moment, somewhat haughtily.

DEL-PHI

You will make your amends by -

DEL-PHI pauses and thinks, and then smiles impishly.

DEL-PHI

Munching each cheek with a kiss.

DEL-PHI closes her eyes in expectation.

ANG-KOR and ARG-OS give each other excited smiles and then turn to DEL-PHI.

ANG-KOR and ARG-OS lean in and "kiss" DEL-PHI on either cheek in the custom of their species: a kind of gentle bite or nibble. DEL-PHI beams with joy.

72. INT. REFRESHMENT CENTER, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

UR-UK sits at a table, sipping from a cup, and busying himself with a portable device. In the background, TAX-ILA enters. They are the only two in the refreshment center.

TAX-ILA goes up to one of the nourishment dispensers, holds a cup underneath, and waits while the cup is filled with a smoothie-like liquid. While she waits, TAX-ILA glances around disinterestedly until she spies UR-UK.

UR-UK sits with his back to TAX-ILA, munching nuts and berries from a plate.

TAX-ILA turns back to the dispenser.

When the cup is filled, TAX-ILA turns and leaves the refreshment center. UR-UK continues to sit and busy himself with his device.

71. INT. CORRIDOR, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

TAX-ILA enters out into the corridor, carrying her cup, passing TI-KAL on her left. TAX-ILA smiles at TI-KAL but TI-KAL doesn't notice her as he walks slowly along the corridor, hands behind his back, his head down, deep in thought. TAX-ILA shrugs and continues on her way.

A moment later, TI-KAL passes PAL-MYRA coming the other way without acknowledging her. PAL-MYRA turns and comes up beside him. TI-KAL looks up and smiles at her.

PAL-MYRA
You are vexed.

TI-KAL smiles and shrugs.

TI-KAL
Like everyone, I am . . . attempting to adjust.

PAL-MYRA nods and thinks for a moment.

PAL-MYRA

I think the present offers much solace to fill the void left by our memory loss. And our intellects make for a steady rudder.

TI-KAL nods with a frown.

TI-KAL

Our emotions are more mercurial.

PAL-MYRA

Oh, verily.

TI-KAL

If there could be found a balance of the two . . .

PAL-MYRA

Balance is found in what Pet-Ra calls fair companionship.

TI-KAL and PAL-MYRA share a smile.

TI-KAL

Even in fair companionship there are moments of malaise.

PAL-MYRA

That is not a responsibility for you to carry. We have Ha-Tra for guidance with such duress.

TI-KAL

The Mission Designer said our first duty is to take care of one another. Let that labor not fall upon but one set of arms.

PAL-MYRA gazes pensively at TI-KAL for a moment.

PAL-MYRA

Circumstance may yet put us to the test.

After a moment, TI-KAL returns PAL-MYRA'S pensive gaze.

74. INT. ARTS LAB, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

PAL-MYRA and TI-KAL pass by the entrance to the arts lab, still engrossed in conversation, although PAL-MYRA glances inside the lab as they pass.

TI-KAL

All considered, I felt we made easy passage . . .

A moment later, PAL-MYRA comes back to the entrance and slowly looks inside at a painting which sits upon an easel facing the entrance. PAL-MYRA steps slowly towards it, as if in trance, a quiet but intense expression upon her face. TI-KAL follows in behind her, affecting the same expression. The two stand before the painting.

The painting is ANG-KOR'S rendering of the sky and rings from DEL-PHI'S dream.

PAL-MYRA and TI-KAL stand and gaze transfixed at the painting in silence. After a moment, TI-KAL looks up and notices another painting on an easel facing the wall.

TI-KAL steps slowly over to the second painting, turns and looks at it, before pulling away with a slightly awkward expression, as if looking at something he shouldn't be looking at.

TI-KAL steps slowly back toward the first painting before stopping. He looks back at the second painting with a furrowed brow, turns his gaze towards the first painting, and then back again, as if drawing a connection between the two.

TI-KAL returns to PAL-MYRA'S side. After a moment of contemplating the work, he looks at PAL-MYRA. PAL-MYRA turns to TI-KAL as well. TI-KAL addresses her in a low voice.

TI-KAL

Troubadour?

PAL-MYRA doesn't reply, but glances down with a strange sadness before returning her gaze to the painting.

TI-KAL and PAL-MYRA continue to gaze at ANG-KOR'S painting of the ringed world.

75. EXT. SNOW-COVERED MOUNTAIN, RINGED PLANET - EVENING

The rings in the sky in the northern latitude are a glowing hump on the horizon. All is silent save the sound of falling snow and the distant sound of chimes.

BAL-BEK stands upon a snow-covered hill and contemplates the rings, bathed in the golden lambent glow of twilight.

The hump of the rings glows bright over the mountaintop.

As BAL-BEK contemplates the rings, footsteps in the snow can be heard behind him.

BAL-BEK turns to see who is approaching, the golden rings on the horizon.

A BEAUTIFUL MALE, his cheeks flushed by the cold, approaches BAL-BEK. Behind him, farther up on the hill, stands a domicile of exotic design.

The BEAUTIFUL MALE comes up close to BAL-BEK and regards him for a moment. The BEAUTIFUL MALE then reaches up and caresses BAL-BEK'S face.

The BEAUTIFUL MALE pulls BAL-BEK towards him and begins "kissing" BAL-BEK in their culture's fashion: gentle biting, nibbling, and nuzzling.

After this sensuous exchange, BAL-BEK once more turns back to look at the rings. The BEAUTIFUL MALE comes up close and puts his chin on BAL-BEK'S shoulder, regarding the rings as well. He then whispers in BAL-BEK'S ear.

BEAUTIFUL MALE
Troubadour.

BAL-BEK turns and looks at the BEAUTIFUL MALE. The BEAUTIFUL MALE steps back, takes BAL-BEK by the hand with an alluring look, and starts to lead BAL-BEK back towards the domicile. BAL-BEK turns one more time to gaze out at the rings.

The rings continue to glow on the horizon.

76. INT. BAL-BEK'S CABIN, THE CITY-SHIP - DEEP SPACE

BAL-BEK turns over in bed, rubbing his eyes. He squints.

The cosmos glistens outside BAL-BEK'S cabin window.

BAL-BEK rolls over to face the window. He contemplates it with sadness in his eyes.

Cue "Somewhere Between Waking and Sleeping" by Air featuring Neil Hannon in the underscoring.

Fade out.

The music continues over the closing credits.

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