

ODYSSEY OF THE PSYGONAUTS

Episode 1: Keep the Shalk Growing (Part 1 of 2)

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WGA Registration
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EXT. ANCIENT GREECE - GROVE - DAY

An Ancient Greek temple made of stone lays in ruins among fig trees and tall grasses.

MALE NARRATOR (V.O.)

In the beginning, there was Chaos.
From Chaos sprang Creation. And
from Creation stepped the Gods.

A SMALL BOY (8), dressed in robes and sandals, climbs over the stone blocks.

His MOTHER (30s) watches him while she picks figs and places them in her basket. An eagle circles overhead.

MALE NARRATOR (V.O.)

Those who wielded their hegemony
over the spark of Creation like a
club. Meddling in the affairs of
our ancestors, the Hellecians, and
demanding our reverence. Just as
the parents they usurped had done.
And so on, and so on.

The boy sees a peacock scamper into the grove. He chases after it while his mother's back is turned.

EXT. ANCIENT GREECE - CLIFFSIDE - DAY

The boy carelessly chases after the bird through the brush.

Just then, a hand grabs the boy and pulls him back up before he falls off a steep cliff.

He looks up to see ZEUS (40s) kneeling next to him with his white hair and greenish-blue aura. His visage matching the giant statue in the distant harbor.

MALE NARRATOR (V.O.)

But...under their protection, the
cosmos continued to spin. Unaware,
the cycle was about to make its
final turn.

BOOM! A fleet of warships land in the harbor, lighting fires across the distant city. The angry god stands to his feet.

Just then, the mother's SCREAMS echo through the trees. Zeus turns into an eagle and races to the mother.

EXT. ANCIENT GREECE - GROVE - DAY

The boy follows Zeus back to the grove and hides behind a tree near the cliff's edge.

A unit of rock-like GREEK HOPLITES hold the boy's mother hostage. Zeus summons his lightning bolts when:

A swarm of floating drones ambush the god. The boy runs to help him.

BOOM! Zeus hurls a lightning bolt at the ground before the boy's feet. His son flies off the cliff.

INTERCUT: EXT. HANGING OFF CLIFF/HARBOR - DAY

Dangling off the cliff from a tree limb, the boy watches the distant city burn.

The soldiers drag Zeus to the cliff's edge. Zeus looks down at the boy. He smiles.

PHOOM! The head of Zeus' statue is blown to pieces. The rest TUMBLES into the sea.

MALE NARRATOR (V.O.)

From their corpses, the four tribes of the Patrokonoi-Hellecia claimed equal hegemony over the gods' Cosmic Aurora. Powering their conquest over the Cosmos and themselves with every drop of Ichor in their veins.

The boy looks up towards the sky to see an armada of space vessels descending from low-orbit.

MALE NARRATOR (V.O.)

A new generation of heroes must answer the call. Those who'll mend the discord and prevent our family from sending Creation back to the Void from which it came. For what can save a universe destined to destroy...

A drone with a glowing blue eye appears. It spots the boy and BLASTS him with a blue laser down to the surf below.

MALE NARRATOR (V.O.)

...itself.

CUT TO BLACK

ACT ONE

OVERBLACK

MISSION CONTROL (V.O.)
Liftoff in Four. Three. Two. One.

BOOM! A distant explosion snaps to:

EXT. LAUNCHPAD - DAY

A launchpad tarmac. SIRENS blare as flames consume rocket shrapnel.

MISSION CONTROL (V.O.)
Mayday, Mayday. Catastrophic
booster malfunction. Argo-Eight is
down. Repeat Argo-Eight is down.

A swirl of greenish-blue energy lights up the sky over the burning wreckage.

MISSION CONTROL (V.O.)
Commander Jadovski?! AJ, do you
copy? My God! It's so bright,
Ollie. Ollie?! Ollie!

INT. OLLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Startled awake, OLLIE DYLOS (30s): a bookish but sleep-deprived astronaut with a chip on his shoulder sits up at his desk in a cluttered office.

A phone RINGS from underneath mountains of crumbled notes. He scrambles to find the phone and picks up the receiver.

OLLIE
(phone conversation)
Yeah...No, I'm fine. Just walked
into the office...What?! Is she
crazy? We aren't ready for that...
Call CECILE and meet me in PENNY'S
office. I'll be right down.

Ollie hangs up and sweeps together the notes on his desk.

As he scrambles, Ollie looks down at the wedding ring on his finger. He pauses for a beat.

Defiant, Ollie takes his ring off and sets it down on his desk just as:

INT. PENNY'S OFFICE - DAY

Ollie spills his pile of notes before PENNY PAVONA (30s): a commanding woman hiding her exhaustion behind a thin smile and the "FLIGHT DIRECTOR" plaque on her desk.

PENNY

To what do I owe the pleasure,
Ollie?

OLLIE

This mission is a mistake, Penny!

His colleagues TERRENCE PHILIPS (30s): an African-American with brutal honesty covered only by his glasses and CECILE AKINTOS (40s): a petite Greco-American woman, step in.

TERRENCE

What Captain Dylos is trying to say, Ms. Pavona. According to the limited data we have, a manned mission is ill-advised. We don't fully understand the nature of the anomaly inside our lower atmosphere.

PENNY

Then what do we know?

Cecile steps in.

CECILE

Approximately seventy-two hours ago, a "Cosmic Anomaly" appeared in Earth's exosphere over the Atlantic Ocean. While posing little danger in terms of harmful radiation or gravitational influence on our planet. It has done considerable damage to our global communication satellites passing through the Northern Hemisphere.

PENNY

What have our colleagues at the ISS found? Roscosmos? JAXA? ESA? CSA?

OLLIE

No one's talking. Every agency on the planet wants the credit for fixing the second major astronomical anomaly inside...

PENNY

The first anomaly, Captain. Guess colleagues are only good for sharing the glory.

Penny glances down at the same photo of AJ and Ollie on her desk.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Regardless, the Argo-Nine launches tomorrow. Terrence and Cecile will study the anomaly and find a way to dissipate it before it jeopardizes our national security any further.

Terrence and Cecile give each other an uneasy look.

OLLIE

Who's leading the mission?

Penny meets Ollie's gaze.

PENNY

Terrence. Cecile. Could you give me and Captain Dylos some privacy?

Reluctantly, Terrence and Cecile shuffle out the door.

OLLIE

You can't be serious?! I'm more valuable on the ground than up...

PENNY

You know more about these new rockets and spent more time behind the sim than any other pilot. We need you up there. The Argo-Eight was an...isolated incident.

OLLIE

No, it wasn't.

Ollie shuffles through his pile of notes.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

(exasperated)

I've found reports of similar anomalies associated with missing person cases dating back to the twenties. Now, I recreated the conditions from five years ago in the sims. There's no way AJ was in the rocket when it exploded. He must've been pulled somewhere...

She stands to her feet.

PENNY

He's dead, Ollie! Burned to a pile of ash after his fuel tank ruptured. It's the risk he took. We all took. Now pull yourself together and get ready for your mission, Commander. Millions are counting on us!

Speechless, Ollie storms out of Penny's office. Penny sweeps Ollie's notes off her desk until:

THUD! A picture frame hits the floor. Penny picks it up.

AJ (V.O.)

Forgive me. I misplaced my notes. A rare sight for those who know me, right Penny?! O-D?!

Ollie leans against the wall, holding a tattered book.

INT. WEDDING RECEPTION - DAY

SNAP! A camera flashes at a wedding reception.

A happier Ollie and Penny sit at a long table as AJ (30s): a gentle giant of a man in a poorly fitted tux, fumbles his way through his best man's speech.

AJ

Life...is a voyage. Those our ancestors took to travel to new lands and achieve the impossible.

INT./EXT. THE TRIO'S FRIENDSHIP MONTAGE - SERIES OF SHOTS

- At NASA, a fresh-faced Ollie and Penny bump into each other, dropping their box of things to the ground.

- Ollie offers to help, Penny refuses it. Offput, the two sweep their stuff off the floor and go their separate ways.

AJ (V.O.)

It would've been nice to have calm waters, clear skies, and an idea of where the hell they're going?!

- A group of scientists stand at a whiteboard. The diagram for a rocket is scribbled on it with the word "ARGO" at the top.

- A commanding AJ, holding a clipboard and a cup of coffee, grouping scientists into workgroups as:
- He points at Ollie and Penny, standing opposite each other.

AJ (V.O.)
But fate has a better plan.

- AJ walks down the aisles of cubicles where:
- He sees Ollie and Penny arguing over their rocket diagram, while their fellow team members watch.
- Staring at their scribbles, AJ takes a sip of coffee and puts a hand on Ollie and Penny's shoulders.

AJ (V.O.)
They could've waited for the waves
to die down, the storms to stop
blowing, and Jobs to invent the
smartphone.

- Ollie and Penny tinker inside the rocket simulator. Red lights flash as Ollie and Penny give frustrated looks.
- AJ leans in and hands them cups of coffee.
- Several attempts follow with red lights. Exhausted, Ollie and Penny knock the plans to the floor when:
- The two look at each other in a moment of inspiration.

AJ (V.O.)
But life doesn't wait for us. We
can either wait on the shore...

- Ollie and Penny scramble over the console until:
- A green light follows over the sim.
- Ecstatic, Ollie and Penny step out of the simulator. Unaware they're holding each others' hands.
- Just as AJ rushes over and gives the pair a bear hug.
- From a bench overlooking the launchpad, the Argo rocket lifts off. Ollie and Penny kiss passionately.

AJ (V.O.)
...or risk the unknown to find our
Golden Fleece. "Everything is more
beautiful because we're doomed." So
Ollie and Penny, my beautiful
friends...

- A quick burst of images roll of the trio enjoying every moment together in AJ's office. All while a potted plant on his desk grows taller, budding into a beautiful flower when:

- AJ, in his spacesuit, puts his hands on Ollie and Penny's shoulder.

AJ

Keep the stalk growing for everyone
to reap.

EXT. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER - LAUNCHPAD - DAY

BOOM! A somber Ollie and Penny are startled as they watch the work crew prep the Argo-Nine rocket for launch.

The pair sit far apart on the bench overlooking the launchpad, staring at a faded patch of scorched tarmac.

Ollie clutches a tattered copy of "THE ILIAD" in his lap, "AJ" written on the inside cover.

OLLIE

I've been thinking a lot about what he said. Like AJ was telling us to water the plants while he was leaving for Troy.

Penny holds AJ's severed flower bud, sealed in cellophane.

PENNY

For an airhead, he always remembered to water this thing.

An awkward silence falls over them.

Penny rubs her ring and scoots closer to Ollie. He stands up and starts pacing.

OLLIE

This is wrong! Sending a manned mission up there is suicide. It wouldn't be the first time they ignored our advice. We gave them their next-gen rockets and it killed our friend. I won't sacrifice more people to politics. I'll fight this, even if I...

PENNY (CONT'D)

(insistent)
Ollie. Ollie. Ollie. Ollie!
I'm going!

Ollie pauses. Both of them look up at the swirling anomaly in low-orbit.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 Congress wanted a senior staff
 member on mission...I volunteered.

Devastated, Ollie sinks back to the bench.

He rubs his bare ring finger. Penny holds his hand.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 You're the smartest person I know,
 Ollie. And if we had time, you'd
 find a way. But if we wait, people
 will get hurt.

EXT./INT. CREW MODULE - DAY

An elevator door opens as four astronauts walk to the Argo-Nine crew module, obscured by billowing clouds of smoke.

The crew files into the cramped module. Terrence and Cecile strap into the back seats and latch their helmets on.

PENNY (V.O.)
 I was hard on you after AJ died and
 the divorce. For that, I'm sorry.

Penny straps into the front seat right next to:

PENNY (V.O.)
 I'll find someone else if that's
 what you want. Just know, I'm not
 commanding your compliance. I'm
 asking for help. To bring us home
 safely.

Ollie, giving her an assuring grin as the door SEALS shut.

MISSION CONTROL (V.O.)
 T-minus twelve seconds. Ten. Nine.
 Ignition sequence start...

PHOOM! The rocket propellant SHAKES the crew module.

The anomaly flashes in Ollie's eyes. He flips his helmet's sun shield down.

PENNY (V.O.)
 To keep the stalk growing. For AJ.

As the COUNTDOWN continues, the anomaly gets brighter until:

MISSION CONTROL (V.O.)
 Four. Three. Two. One.

ACT TWO**EXT. OCEAN SHORE - DAY**

Laying on his back for a beat, Ollie flips his sun shield up just as:

The swirling anomaly disappears in the sky above.

Ollie sits up to find himself alone on a beach.

He looks out at the ocean and watches the Argo-Nine crew module sink beneath the waves.

OLLIE

(into comms)

Argo-Nine to Houston. Come in, Houston. We've crashed off the coast of what looks like somewhere in the Pacific. And the anomaly seems to have vanished. Copy?

No response.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

(into comms)

Penny, Terrence, Cecile. Anyone read me?

No response. He stands up and takes off his helmet.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

(shouts)

Hello! Can anybody hear me?!

Looking inland, Ollie sees a plume of smoke in the distance.

EXT. PRIMITIVE VILLAGE - DAY

Following the smoke to a clearing, Ollie finds a primitive village of straw huts with a communal fire at the center.

Looking around the treeline for lookouts, Ollie bends down and takes off his spacesuit.

Ollie sneaks into the village filled with wicker baskets, tanning animal hides, and a seeming lack of villagers.

He bends down and picks up a broken spear point.

OLLIE
Where is everyone? A roaring fire
with no villagers?

Ollie notices dried blood on the side of a hut.

Scorch marks and dried blood litter the ground throughout the village.

Outside the largest hut, Ollie finds a pile of discarded space suits.

INT./ EXT. LARGE HUT - DAY

Holding up a flashlight, Ollie walks into the dark hut.

OLLIE
(whispers)
Penny?! Are you in here?

PENNY (O.S.)
Ollie? Don't come any closer!

Ollie follows Penny's voice until his flashlight finds Penny in a deep pit among humanoid skulls.

OLLIE
What happened?

PENNY
When we crashed and went looking
for help, those...things separated
us and took Terrence and Cecile
away.

Ollie looks around for something to lower down into the pit.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Get out of here! They'll be back.

OLLIE
I'm not leaving you! I'll find
something to...

VOOM! A deafening engine SHAKES the hut.

Ollie rushes outside as a massive shadow RUMBLES overhead.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
(stupified)
What on Earth?!

PHOOM! A blue energy bolt whizzes over Ollie's shoulder.

A group of five humanoid ASSAILANTS wearing brown hoplite helmets enter the village with their glowing energy rifles.

PENNY (O.S.)
Run, Ollie! Run!

Reluctant, Ollie runs into the woods as bolts WHIZ past him.

EXT. FOREST - CHASE SEQUENCE - DAY

Ollie sprints through the forest, vaulting over tree trunks and through thick brush as the five mercenaries chase after him.

He breaks left as one sends a bolt into a nearby tree. He breaks right as another fires a barrage into boulders.

A third appears behind Ollie and tries to grab him.

Ollie pulls a large tree branch. It whips back and sends the assailant to the ground.

Before he can react, Ollie is caught by MYRIAX (20s): a giant, blue-skinned warrior wearing an ant helmet.

Hoisted by his neck, Ollie struggles for a beat when he notices a gap in the helmet by his neck.

Taking out his spear point, he stabs Myriax in the ear. He drops Ollie and CRIES out in pain. Pulling out the spear point, Myriax turns around to find Ollie is gone.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

Myriax and his men wade through a patch of dense undergrowth. After a beat of searching, the assailants move on.

Near the edge of a steep cliff, Ollie emerges from a veil of thick vines draped over a large rock. Noticing the sturdy vines, Ollie tries to pull them down.

A loud YELP startles him, causing him to lose his footing. He grabs the vines to keep him from falling off the cliff.

Stupified, Ollie sees two women materialize from the vines.

EUCIDRIE (20s): a spunky woman made of seaweed-like tendrils wincing as Ollie is seemingly pulling on her hair.

Just then, the ground crumbles under Ollie as he pulls Eucidrie over the edge.

GALIA (10): a younger girl made of mossy curls grabs a tendril and struggles to keep the pair from falling.

Ollie and Eucidrie struggle to pull themselves up when:

Myriax looks over the cliff, his men restraining Galia. Furious, Eucidrie YELLS at Myriax in an ALIEN LANGUAGE.

Myriax gleefully reels in his catch until something in the distance startles him. Myriax straightens up.

Urgently, he points to the forest as his men take Galia away and in one motion:

Drops Ollie and Eucidrie off the cliff.

EXT. BOTTOM OF CLIFF - DAY

Plummeting through the tree canopy, Ollie HITS every branch before slamming to the ground.

OLLIE

Ow! Never thought I'd see the day
when I wished I was wrong.

He rubs his bare ring finger.

Just then, Ollie hears soft WEEPING from a nearby bush. He struggles to his feet and cautiously follows it.

Ollie finds Eucidrie clutching her knees. He inches closer to the inconsolable creature.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

Look, I don't know if you can
understand me. But...what are you?!

Eucidrie lunges at Ollie. A scuffle in the dirt ensues.

EXT. MAIN ROAD - DAY

The pair roll from the brush onto a well-traveled dirt road.

After a beat of fighting, a blue bolt CRACKS by their heads. The pair look up to see:

A small army of futuristic hoplites, armed with energy rifles and large shields, standing before them.

Several soldiers rip Eucidrie from Ollie, putting collars around Ollie and Eucidrie's necks.

EUCIDRIE

I'll make you wish you took Galia's place, pinky. I'll...

The soldiers force them to kneel before their blue-skinned COMMANDER PRISCOS (40s) in regal silver armor.

PRISCOS

You two are disturbing Hellecian peace and delaying our business. Explain yourselves.

OLLIE

I can understand you, thank God! My name's Captain Ollie Dylos and...

The commander SMACKS Ollie across the face.

PRISCOS

We'll have none of that. Zeus and his kind aren't in charge anymore.

Ollie is taken aback as Priscos recognizes Eucidrie.

PRISCOS (CONT'D)

I know you! You're that plant woman who escaped the Delot compound weeks ago. Four-oh-four will pay good Ichor for you.

(to soldiers)

Take them.

The soldiers stand them up. An energy beam extrudes from the pair's collars and restrains them.

OLLIE

Wait! A guy in an ant helmet is holding my crew hostage. Along with her OWW!

Eucidrie stomps on Ollie's foot.

PRISCOS

Myriax and his mercenaries are no longer your concern.

Ollie and Eucidrie are dragged into marching formation. Priscos yells a COMMAND as the army marches off.

EXT. MAIN ROAD - DAY

The hoplite army marches in file down a large dirt road, separating vast fields of cereal crops.

Working the fields with primitive tools, the pale blue and gray-skinned colonial serfs gawk at the passing troops.

From a distant plume of industrial smog, a spaceship lifts off and disappears into the upper atmosphere.

Ollie watches in awe while he and Eucidrie are tethered to the supply cart at the rear of the formation.

OLLIE

Incredible! A sentient alien race somewhere in the universe. Like something out of "The Iliad" but with spacecrafts. AJ would've loved it here.

A livid Eucidrie SCOFFS.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

Listen, I'm sorry about...what happened. But have you seen a large man, looks like me, forgetful?

Eucidrie turns away from Ollie.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

Nevermind. Look, I need to save my crew. And you have...

She glares at him.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

We have a common interest. Maybe we can help each other escape before this Myriax harms our families.

The army halts. Ollie cranes his head to see a crew of people setting up a post on the side of the road.

The army starts moving again. Ollie and Eucidrie pass the post revealing:

One of several pikes, sporting the bodies of mythological creatures, along the dirt road.

EUCIDRIE

My family's already dead, pinky. These people made sure of that.

EXT. ILOCANOS SHIPYARDS - OUTSIDE GATES - DAY

Ollie and Eucidrie are thrown to the ground in front of a large iron gate. Several guards hold their restraints.

Priscos approaches a GATE INTERFACE and scans his badge.

GATE INTERFACE (V.O.)
 Welcome to your local star
 cluster's (static) hub of the
 Delothian Collective. Bringing
 prosperity to the Hellecian Sector
 from your hegemons: the tetrarchy
 of the Patrokonoi-Hellecia. Please
 type in your...

Priscos interrupts the prompt and types on the interface. The interface BLEEPs an error code.

Impatient, he BANGS on the wall.

PRISCOS
 Floater technology. Open up! I want
 my Ichor!

Just then, a floating metal orb pops out of the gate. DELOT #404-52DFSNT: a glitchy blue humanoid construct with a cowardly demeanor appears before Priscos.

DELOT #404-52DFSNT
 My deepest apologies. We're due for
 a software update. The Collective's
 been very busy with all the
 (static) in the Ionite colonies,
 trade embargos from the Aeonite
 (static), and defensive
 preparations against those
 Lanaxdrian (static). It is the
 highest priority of Archon
 NEROGONESE to...

PRISCOS
 Enough, Four-oh-four! We found your
 escaped prisoners.

Four-oh-four turns to Ollie and Eucidrie. He holds his incorporeal fingers to their foreheads and scans them.

DELOT #404-52DFSNT
 There seems to be an error. Let's
 bring them inside, shall we?

PRISCOS
 They stay here til I get my reward!

DELOT #404-52DFSNT
 It's (static) protocol to verify
 our property.

Just then, a small service door materializes from the wall.
 GORAM THE PERSUADER (50s): a tall, imposing purple humanoid
 with hypnotic green eyes steps out.

DELOT #404-52DFSNT (CONT'D)

(angry)

Goram! What are you doing outside
 the barracks?

GORAM

Just thought you should know Work
 Pod J's down a man. Dedro picked a
 fight with ATANICA. Would you like
 to guess who lost?

DELOT #404-52DFSNT

Nevermind that. I'm in the middle
 of verifying which of these
 prisoners belongs to us.

Goram looks at Ollie and Eucidrie.

GORAM

That's Eucidrie from Work Pod E.
 And her brother Gale from Pod D.

Confusion wafts over Ollie and Eucidrie. Four-oh-four pulls
 up a page of records.

DELOT #404-52DFSNT

They don't look related.

Goram takes Four-oh-four aside. A beat of WHISPERING ensues
 before the two turn back to Priscos.

DELOT #404-52DFSNT (CONT'D)

(to Priscos)

The Collective always rewards its
 citizens for a job well done.
 Goram, pay the man while I do what
 I love. Processing new prisoners.

Priscos hands the tether over to Four-oh-four.

OLLIE

Wait, I don't belong here. I'm...

ZAPP! Ollie gets shocked through his collar.

Goram and Priscos shake hands as Ollie and Eucidrie are
 dragged inside the walls.

INT. WORK POD J PROCESSING CENTER - DAY

Traveling down a conveyor belt, Ollie is probed and cleaned in an automated room, emerging in a blue uniform at the end.

DRONE #408 plugs into his collar and hands him a blanket.

DRONE #408

Bunk number three-eight-five. Work
Detail: Hull plating. Report to
supervisor A-J-M dash zero-zero-
one. Glory to the Collective.

INT. WORK POD J BARRACKS - DAY

Ollie stumbles into a barracks full of creaky bunk beds and colorless humanoids with shriveled physical features.

Passing a nearby window, Ollie sees a heavily-guarded vault at the center of a courtyard. Two guards open the door as a cart filled with glowing liquid disappears inside.

OLLIE

This place is...depressing.

EUCIDRIE

Yeah! Thanks for the reunion.

Eucidrie claims the top bunk. Ollie, the bottom.

OLLIE

I'm sorry about your sister. But if
we're going to rescue our...

Furious, Eucidrie pins Ollie against the opposite bunk.

EUCIDRIE

Let's get one thing straight. There
is no "we!" And as far as I'm
concerned, you died at that cliff.
So stay away from me or you'll wish
you had!

Just then, a large figure appears and breaks the two apart.

OLLIE

Sorry. We were just...

Ollie pauses as he examines the large hand on his shoulder then its owner. Speechless, Ollie looks up in shock at:

AJ standing between him and Eucidrie, hands on their
shoulders.

ACT THREE**INT. WORK POD J BARRACKS - DAY**

Standing in the barracks, AJ introduces himself to Ollie and Eucidrie.

AJ
Glory to the Collective, newcomers.
I'm your new supervisor...

OLLIE
AJ?! Is that really you?

Ollie examines AJ, poking and prodding him for a beat.

EUCIDRIE
Wait, you know this guy?

Satisfied, an overcome Ollie hugs his long-lost friend.

OLLIE
I never thought I'd see you again!

AJ
Do I know you?

Ollie pauses and looks up at AJ.

OLLIE
Buddy, it's me! Ollie. No one
believed me when I said you...

Ollie examines AJ again.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
How'd you survive the Argo-Eight?
Was it a wormhole, like I
postulated? When did these Delots
get you? What happened to your
head?

Pointing at a glowing head wound, a self-conscious AJ covers it up.

AJ
You must have me confused with
someone else. I'm A-J-M dash zero-
zero-one and...

OLLIE

There's no way you could be anyone but our Alexi Jadovski. "Keep the stalk growing." Remember?

Just then, AJ stumbles back lightheaded and THUDS into the row of bunk beds behind him.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

Are you alright? Listen, we don't have much time. Penny's in trouble, so we gotta get outta here ASAP.

AJ composes himself.

AJ

You seem nice, Oliver. But I don't know you. This is our home and we better get back to work.

Just then, DRONE #507 appears.

AJ (CONT'D)

Follow me to your new post, Orville and Eddie. Oh, almost forgot.

AJ pulls out a potted plant from under his bunk, across from Ollie and Eucidrie.

He waters it with his canteen, before sliding it back under his bunk as the trio follows the drone out of the barracks.

INT. WORK POD J HANGAR - DAY

The drone leads the trio through a bustling hangar: filled with dismantled ships, conveyor belts, hundreds of laboring prisoners, and mountains of spare parts.

Eucidrie nudges Ollie.

EUCIDRIE

How do you know this oaf? I thought you just arrived with a crew.

OLLIE

I did...I do. He walks and talks like he did when he left. He's just...not all there.

Eucidrie watches AJ scratch his glowing head wound.

CRASH! A gray-skinned prisoner flies through a stack of crates before the trio. He draws two shivs from his boots.

BANG! BANG! Two slugs rip through his hands.

ATANICA (30s): a crimson-skinned woman with long steel-wool hair and metallic protrusions grafted to her body appears, brandishing two pistols.

ATANICA

Zeus help you! You're lucky I found you sneaking off, GRUL. Next time, I'll leave you to the Delots. Take him away!

Atanica struts away as prisoners drag the injured prisoner away. Ollie and company continue on their way.

INT. WORK POD J HANGAR - DISASSEMBLY LINE - DAY

The trio arrives at the base of a massive vessel, surrounded by scaffolding as prisoners cut away at the hull plating.

The drone halts at the base of the scaffolding.

DRONE #507

Prisoners Eucidrie and Galia. Your directives: Dismantle hull plating for twenty-one rotational hours.

The drone activates a new tether, connecting the trio as one.

DRONE #507 (CONT'D)

Any deviations will result in termination. Glory to the Collective.

INT. WORK POD J HANGAR - HULL DISASSEMBLY PLATFORM - DAY

Ollie and Eucidrie struggle to follow AJ up the scaffolding, their combined tether getting in the way.

They pass other prisoners cutting away the hull while swarms of drones circle above.

OLLIE

(to AJ)

Hey AJ. Why does everyone keep talking about Zeus? Like "Greek God" Zeus?

The trio finds open spots at the rear of the vessel. AJ hands Ollie and Eucidrie hull cutters plugged into a power strip.

EUCIDRIE

Probably because the Hellecians exterminated Zeus and the Pantheon, usurped their hegemony over the sector, and turned their blood into a commodity.

OLLIE

That's impossible! You're saying gods are real and these Hellecians killed them all?

VOOM! AJ powers his cutter on, interrupting Ollie and Eucidrie.

AJ

(yells over noise)
The trick is not getting caught in the ribbing.

AJ SEARS into the hull. He cuts out a large metal square and tosses it down a chute.

Looking between their supervisor and the cloud of circling drones, Ollie and Eucidrie attempt to copy AJ.

AJ (CONT'D)

So how'd you end up here, Oddie?

Eucidrie eyes the pair, eavesdropping on their conversation.

OLLIE

A cosmic anomaly. Larger than the one that took you. Penny talked me into going, only to get separated by a monster in an ant helmet.

EUCIDRIE

And this Penny is your partner?

Ollie stops cutting and rubs his bare ring finger.

OLLIE

Ex-partner. After you died, we couldn't agree on anything. Until one day, we chose our careers over each other. I stayed in R&D while Penny got your old job.

AJ stops cutting too, picking at his glowing head wound.

AJ

And what was this...AJ like?

OLLIE

You...he loved people. A bit of an airhead sometimes. But he always had a way to bring everyone together when all they wanted to do was break apart.

A drone stops right behind AJ and Ollie. They get back to work.

After the drone leaves, Eucidrie discreetly tries severing the tether with her hull cutter to no effect when:

She sees a handful of disguised soldiers sneak onto the dismantled ship. Just then, the HANGAR INTERCOM blares over the loudspeakers.

HANGAR INTERCOM (O.S.)

(intercom)

Hull plating crews: report to deck three for internal dismantling.

Eucidrie looks down at the tether and grins.

INT. DISMANTLED SHIP - CORRIDORS - DAY

A line of workers follow Atanica and her drones down the dismantled ship's dimly lit and patchy corridors.

Passing any open hatches, Atanica swipes her badge across each access panel and seals every hatch they pass.

Being the very last person in line behind Ollie and AJ, Eucidrie discreetly runs her glowing tendril across the access panels. One by one, each hatch flies open.

As the workers disappear around a corner, a drone enters one of the opened hatches. After a flash of blue light, it drops to the floor with a loud CLANG.

INT. DISMANTLED SHIP - COMMAND DECK - DAY

Inside a stripped-down command deck filled with exposed wires, workers dismantle dusty consoles and everything of value while Atanica and her drones supervise.

Ollie and Eucidrie SEAR away wall panels, covered in reliefs of Greek mythology blended with spaceships and lasers.

EUCIDRIE

Just ask your question. You're going to anyway.

OLLIE

Do you have any idea what that anomaly was? A Rosen-Einstein bridge? A black hole?

EUCIDRIE

I'm not sure. Most instances of influence over the Cosmic Aurora require a conduit.

OLLIE

Cosmic what?

Eucidrie holds up her glowing tendril.

EUCIDRIE

Cosmic Aurora, the spark of Creation. Influenced by the metabolism of Ichor in a god's bloodstream. Now just another power source to these usurpers. The more Ichor, the greater the influence.

OLLIE

Right, and the Earth is flat. Look, I deal in reason and logic. Gods and magic blood aren't based in either, no matter what universe you're in. Are you saying everyone in here's a god? Are you...

Eucidrie gives Ollie a dirty look. He shuts up.

EUCIDRIE

I'm saying the Aurora has a will of its own. Whatever brought you here was no accident. But your friend...

The pair looks over at AJ and his glowing scar, then a relief of a king and his son on the wall, sporting an identical scar.

OLLIE

You don't say.

CHUN! The lights in the ship shut off. The drones' lights illuminate the deck as the disgruntled prisoners MUMBLE.

Just then, one of the drones goes offline. Then another. Atanica draws her weapons.

ATANICA

If this is a riot, you all must have a death wish.

Atanica presses a button. Every prisoner on the command deck drops to the ground, sinched by their energy tethers.

More drones drop. Atanica's composure wavers until:

Myriax hurtles down from the ceiling and swings his large ax at Atanica. She rolls away as his mercenaries catch her.

MYRIAX

Listen up! Whoever wants to toil
under the floaters for the rest of
your miserable cycles, stay on the
ground. Anyone who wants to join
the Psygonauts with me as your
Commander-Ultimos, follow me!

Excited, prisoners hold up their tethers. The armored mercenaries go around breaking their restraints and letting them leave through a single hatch.

Ollie watches a smug Eucidrie get her energy tether cut when:

Myriax reaches down and holds Ollie up.

MYRIAX (CONT'D)

First one to give me an ear from
this one will be my first mate.

Several ambitious prisoners scamper towards Ollie.

Seeing an opening, Atanica bites down on a false tooth. Glowing red metal protrusions bubble from her skin.

BOOM! Shrapnel explodes from her body, peppering her guards and blanketing the command deck with dense gas.

Bleeding from her shrapnel exit holes, Atanica pulls out her pistols. A fire fight ensues:

INT. COMMAND DECK - FIGHT SEQUENCE

Her sulfur-red slugs EXPLODE through the dazed mercenaries while Myriax drops Ollie and shields himself with his ax.

Laying under the smoke while the fight continues, Ollie struggles at his bonds as Eucidrie grabs a dead mercenary.

She smears the gushing green Ichor across her restraints. MUTTERING a chant, her energy tether slowly vanishes.

Just then, Myriax pins Atanica on top of Ollie with his ax.

MYRIAX

You're just full of surprises,
Aeonite Lackie.

ATANICA

I've got more. But I don't think
you'll hear them.

Furious, Myriax raises a knife to Atanica and Ollie.

Watching from a distance, a restrained AJ hops over and body-checks Myriax off them when:

BANG! A mercenary shoots AJ in the head.

OLLIE

AJ!

AJ drops to the floor and starts seizing violently. Now freed, Eucidrie looks between AJ and the open door.

She rushes to AJ and starts CHANTING over him. Nothing happens.

EUCIDRIE

Something's wrong. My prayers to
the Cosmic Aurora aren't working.

AJ stops moving. Ollie notices AJ's scar is a pulsing growth.

OLLIE

I have an idea. Let me up.

Eucidrie removes his restraints. Ollie wires AJ's cutter to exposed wiring on the floor and presses it to the growth.

He squeezes the trigger. Nothing happens. Ollie panics until Eucidrie wraps her glowing tendrils around the wiring.

Together, Ollie and Eucidrie SLICE the growth open as:

A torrent of cosmic energy erupts from AJ's head. Watching in awe, Ollie covers his face before being wrapped in light.

INT. DREAM CAVE - DAY

Ollie opens his eyes to find him and Eucidrie in a cave covered with symbols and a large metal door flung wide open.

EUCIDRIE

Believe in gods now?

OLLIE

I'll reserve my judgment for now.
Where are we?

A puzzled Eucidrie shakes her head. Looking around, Ollie points to a set of large stairs.

At the top, they find an astronaut lying before a golden throne. Ollie finds AJ inside the suit.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

AJ?! Help me get him up!

EUCIDRIE

Something's not right. We should
leave.

Ollie gives her a look. The pair hoist a limp AJ.

OLLIE

Alright, toss him on the throne on
three. One. Two. Three!

They toss him on the throne. Yellow lights shoot up the walls.

ORACLE (O.S.)

Two of Three shall tip the scale...

A pale-blue ORACLE (90s): covered in pagan trinkets appears.

ORACLE (CONT'D)

Against the third, none shall
prevail.

The Oracle opens both of AJ's closed hands.

ORACLE (CONT'D)

The lost are found, and union
sprouts...

In one of AJ's hands is Ollie's wedding ring. The other, a fresh strand of Galia's hair.

ORACLE (CONT'D)

Raising of the Psygonauts.

Ollie and Eucidrie look back to see the metal doors closing.

The pair see the village from earlier from the top of a hill until the doors SLAM shut.

CUT TO BLACK

ACT FOUR**INT. ARCHON'S OFFICE - DAY**

Restrained, Ollie and Eucidrie kneel before a large desk inside a throne room converted into an opulent office.

NEROGONESE (60s): a fat, reptilian bureaucrat sits behind the desk while a quivering Four-oh-four floats around him.

Ollie looks down at the real wedding ring around his finger.

He looks at a traumatized Eucidrie, staring at the lock of hair in her hand and mouthing the words "Psygonauts."

SLAM! Ollie and Eucidrie's heads snap back up to an angry Archon POUNDING on his desk.

NEROGONESE

I want answers! How did a band of armed mercenaries bypass our security?

DELOT #404-52DFSNT

Forgive me, (static). If you recall, I mentioned our security systems, myself included, required a software update last...

NEROGONESE

Software update?! I seem to recall walls don't need software updates to work, you useless black hole of idiocy!

Nerogonese walks through Four-oh-four's projection. He examines Ollie and Eucidrie.

NEROGONESE (CONT'D)

So these are the troublemakers who sent my hangar into disarray. Where's the third one?

DELOT #404-52DFSNT

In critical condition, sir. While my agent Atanica nearly subdued the fanatics' commander. These hooligans, who escaped several weeks ago I might add, aided these mercenaries in assaulting your facility.

Shocked, Ollie and Eucidrie stare at Four-oh-four.

OLLIE

That's insane! My friend got...

ZAPP! Four-oh-four shocks them through their collars.

DELOT #404-52DFSNT

I suspect they were the ones who let these Psygonaut fanatics inside our facility to cripple Delot operations in the cluster. We found all the hatches leading up to the command deck opened from the inside.

Ashamed, Eucidrie looks down at the floor.

OLLIE

Archon-sir! Their commander Myriax kidnapped my crew in a nearby village. We can lead you...

ZAPP! Four-oh-four shocks the pair again.

NEROGONESE

Let's make this quick. Per the judiciary source code of DTOS version, etcetera. Is there any directive you know of that will alter your sentencing?

(cuts off Ollie)

Four-oh-four! Any other gems you'd like to add?

DELOT #404-52DFSNT

There is one irregularity. Atanica!

A heavily-bandaged Atanica hobbles over to the desk.

DELOT #404-52DFSNT (CONT'D)

Suspicious energy readings were found during the (static). Can you confirm any godlike use of the Cosmic Aurora, making the guilty party fugitives Pantheones and demand immediate execution?

Atanica looks down at the pair. After a beat, she replies.

ATANICA

No.

The pair is relieved. Nerogonese returns to his desk.

NEROGONESE

Then, I sentence the three of you
to death for disturbing the peace.
Submit the incident report, and
execute them by the end of the day.

Just then, Goram enters the room.

GORAM THE PERSUADER

Am I interrupting something?

DELOT #404-52DFSNT

Forgive me, Archon. Pod J's
persuader. He's just leaving.
Dismissed.

Goram kneels down at Ollie and Eucidrie.

GORAM THE PERSUADER

Having a good first day in Pod J?

DELOT #404-52DFSNT

What do you want, Goram?

Goram stands and faces Four-oh-four.

GORAM THE PERSUADER

Just thought you should know Pod
J's been asking for more rations of
Attican Sappa. They could use a
pick-me-up after the Ichor
Repository.

DELOT #404-52DFSNT

Request denied! Leave!

Nerogonese leans over his desk.

NEROGONESE

What about the Repository?

GORAM THE PERSUADER

It's been raided by mercenaries in
brown armor. All the Ichor in the
compound is gone.

Nerogonese rushes over to the window and sees:

The vault's massive door blown clean off its hinges with a
massive hole cut through the complex's high walls.

GORAM THE PERSUADER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It was quite a sight. Would've been an impressive firefight, if the guards weren't sent away to contain this diversion.

Turning away from the window, the furious Archon grabs one of Atanica's pistols and aims it at Four-oh-four's floating chassis.

The Delot's projection cowers in fear.

GORAM THE PERSUADER (CONT'D)

Kept saying something about "Mirrors and Axs."

Ollie perks up.

OLLIE

Myriax?

Nerogonese pauses.

GORAM THE PERSUADER

That's the one! According to Priscos, he's a local warlord who's been harassing local militia for months. Even claiming he's the destined Commander-Ultimos of the Psygonauts.

Ollie and Eucidrie look at each other astonished. The Archon then turns to Ollie, pistol pointing at him.

NEROGONESE

You! Could you find this Myriax's village again?

Ollie nods. Nerogonese tosses Atanica her pistol back.

NEROGONESE (CONT'D)

Four-oh-four! Destroy the report and contact Commander Priscos. I want my Ichor recovered and this Myriax dead.

ATANICA

I volunteer to supervise this mission.

Goram interjects.

GORAM

That's unnecessary. Priscos is more than capable. Not to mention her injuries, she'd be a Psygonaut sent to save a comet from melting.

The two shoot disapproving looks at each other.

NEROGONESE

Enough! Atanica will supervise.

A smug Atanica smirks at Goram.

NEROGONESE (CONT'D)

Four-oh-four: make the arrangements. You leave first thing tomorrow morning. Now get out of my sight!

INT. WORK POD J BARRACKS - AJ & OLLIE'S BUNKS - NIGHT

Back at their grimy bunk in the barracks, Ollie paces in front of AJ's bunk while Eucidrie cradles her head in her hands on her bunk.

OLLIE

He's gonna pull through, right?

EUCIDRIE

If we had Ichor to transfuse, maybe. But if the supply's gone...

Ollie turns back to AJ: the right side of his face around his scar is completely singed.

OLLIE

No! Come on, AJ. You're strong. You can pull through this.

He checks his pulse and listens for his breathing. He then starts performing chest compressions.

EUCIDRIE

Ollie, he's gone. Even if that vision was true, it doesn't mean...

OLLIE

Mean what? He'd save a thousand comets from melting if it meant saving us.

EUCIDRIE

It's a common Hellecian joke.
 Psyg...they were world-less, honor-
 less brutes sent to die for
 meaningless work.

Ollie turns back to Eucidrie.

OLLIE

And what work is that?

Just then, a hand grabs Ollie's arm.

AJ

The work of Fate, Ollie.

OLLIE

AJ! You're alive!

EUCIDRIE

You took an Ichorized bolt to the
 head. We saw Aurora spew from your
 head. How're you not dead? Do you
 remember anything?

AJ

My friends, I remember everything.

CHUN! The lights in the barracks shut off for the night.

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

Well, almost everything.

EXT. ARMY MARCH - DAY

Early morning, Priscos and his army march out from the walls
 of the shipyards and down the dirt road into the wilds.

Several beats pass as the column of hoplite soldiers march
 through various terrain.

Near the back with the baggage train, the trio are tied to
 the back of the alien horse-drawn carts under heavy guard.

AJ

My memory's slowly coming back.
 After I was shot, I felt like you
 two went inside my mind and put me
 back in the driver's seat.

Ollie and Eucidrie look at each other in disbelief as:

AJ gives them both a suffocating bear hug.

AJ (CONT'D)
Thank you for freeing me!

Several Hoplite guards train their rifles at AJ. He lets them go, the guards lower their weapons.

OLLIE
I'm glad you're back, buddy. What were you saying earlier about fate?

AJ
Assembling the Psygnauts, of course. Whoever they are.

Eucidrie turns pale.

AJ (CONT'D)
First we need to get the Oracle's blessing. Luckily, I saw her in a cave close to the village we're heading for.

OLLIE
I know you're not back to your old self yet. But...

AJ
I've never been clearer. Now, if they take us towards the coast...

EUCIDRIE
I refuse to let you resurrect a new band of world-less murderers who made fugitives out of my loved ones. You're not from here. Why do you have to bring them back at all?

AJ clutches his head as ALARMS overtake his senses.

BEGIN INSERT

Blurry glimpses of AJ's returning memories flash:

Someone sitting on a gold throne in a ship. A figure holding a glowing crown in its hand.

The Oracle stands at the mouth of a cave, bleeding profusely.

ORACLE
The lost are found, and union
sprouts. Raising of the Psygnauts.
The lost are found...

Her CHANTING continues until:

END INSERT

AJ opens his eyes back in the camp.

AJ

That's not entirely accurate. After the Six's decommissioning, I started getting these dreams of a past I never knew. Never remembered.

OLLIE

Look, AJ. I get it...

AJ

No, you don't!

The Hoplite guards turn to the trio. AJ calms down.

AJ (CONT'D)

My past has always felt like a fog. The only time I felt any clarity was reading "The Iliad." And when I volunteered to go into the Argo-Eight.

Ollie's eyes widen. AJ puts his hand on Ollie's shoulder.

AJ (CONT'D)

This might be the only chance I have to find the truth. And if these guys are out here, this Oracle won't be around much longer.

Ollie rubs the ring on his finger. AJ shifts around uncomfortably for a beat, touching his scar.

AJ (CONT'D)

But you're right. Penny and Galia's lives are more important. We can do both if we...

Just then, the column comes to a stop. A HOPLITE CAPTAIN appears.

HOPLITE CAPTAIN

The Commander wants the prisoners at the front.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF PRIMITIVE SETTLEMENT - DAY

The trio are dragged before Priscos, his officers, and Atanica at the edge of the treeline before a primitive settlement made of clay and wood out in open grasslands.

PRISCOS

(to Ollie)

Well, pink one. It appears Myriax is your concern once again.

ATANICA

All of our concern. While you were busy with your figurines.

PRISCOS

Not all of us dream of ending our cycles with spoiled Ichor in our veins.

ATANICA

Keep talkin' and we'll see what's in yours.

His guards draw their weapons. Priscos waves them off.

PRISCOS

At ease! Empty threats.

Ollie examines the village.

OLLIE

This isn't the village. It was up in the cliffs.

Priscos straps his helmet on.

PRISCOS

It'll take a several days march to reach the cliffs. I just wanted to confirm this wasn't the village so we can make this expedition profitable.

He turns to his officers.

PRISCOS (CONT'D)

Platoons of forty, four men deep. Only take their Ichor, idols, and supplies. If they resist, no survivors. If he's in there, a twenty percent bonus for anyone who brings me Myriax's head.

OLLIE

Sir, you can't just extort a civilian population. And, soldier to soldier, it's counterproductive in keeping the peace.

Priscos turns to Ollie.

PRISCOS

Who says I want peace.
(to guards)
Take them away. If they try anything, shoot them.

As Ollie is led back to the cart, he looks back down at the doomed settlement.

EUCIDRIE

I say we run for it. I've survived these purge squads before.

AJ

They'll know where we'll go. Besides, we can't let these people get slaughtered.

EUCIDRIE

I don't care about them. Only my sister. Besides, what can we do?

Tied to the cart again, Ollie notices something fall out of the cart from under its canopy.

As the column moves forward, Ollie scoops the object off the ground to find:

A clay idol of a starship, leaking glowing liquid from its hull.

ACT FIVE**EXT. PRIMITIVE SETTLEMENT - ARMY FORMATION - DAY**

The hoplite army with shining armor holds a perimeter around its clay walls outside the settlement.

Surrounded by the trio and his personal guards, Priscos BELTS OUT a command. The army divides into their platoons.

Followed by another COMMAND, the platoons draw their rifles and form shield walls. After a beat, Priscos YELLS a final command.

The platoons begin their slow march, entrapping the settlement.

They STOMP their feet, THUMP their shields, and raise SHOUTS in rhythm with the march throughout as:

EXT. ARMY MARCH - SERIES OF SHOTS

- The army marches towards the settlement.
- Priscos stands at the gates of a new settlement, holding a picture of Myriax for everyone to see.

PRISCOS

From the representative of the Delothian Collective, release the rebel Myriax to our custody. There is only compliance or death.

- A pale-blue leader pays Priscos crates of Ichor. He inspects one then orders the army to leave in peace.
- The marching platoons' STOMPING grows louder.
- Standing outside another settlement, Priscos repeats.

PRISCOS (CONT'D)

Release the rebel to our custody.
There is only compliance or death.

- CREAK! A trap door flies open as hoplites pull out hidden crates of Ichor vials and people inside.
- Kneeling them all in a row, Priscos inspects their papers. He then tears them up. The trio watch as they gun them down.

- The marching platoons move in closer as SHOUTING drowns out the rest of the march.

PRISCOS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
There is only compliance or death.

- Platoons of hoplites empty houses of their blue-skinned residents, taking statuettes and vials of Ichor.

PRISCOS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
There is only compliance or death.

- Bands of rebel greek deities fire their weapons at the hoplite formations. The bolts bounce off their shields as the rebels are peppered with VOLLEYS of blue bolts.

- The army marches away from a burning settlement.

- The rhythmic MARCH turns into a unison SHOUT until:

EXT. ARMY CONVOY - DAY

Atanica watches the overburdened carts filled with loot pass by.

Just then, a pair of soldiers carry a comrade with a massive head past Atanica.

She touches her forehead in a moment of reflection when:

Priscos appears next to her.

PRISCOS
A successful campaign, all things considered.

ATANICA
Really?! Cause out of all this loot, I don't see our rebel leader.

PRISCOS
If that's really all you see in this expedition, maybe Goram was wrong about you. Especially since you haven't caught your target yet either.

Startled, Atanica follows Priscos along the column.

PRISCOS (CONT'D)
When I was stationed here by Delot colonial defense, I thought this was the end of my career.

ATANICA

If being the pawn of a prisoner and
extorting colonists who can't
defend themselves. Then yeah, I
guess it is.

PRISCOS

Ethics lessons from a bounty
hunter, how quaint.

Atanica rests her hand on her pistol.

PRISCOS (CONT'D)

I'm not here to out you to your
archon or whoever your target is.
I'm here to hire you, per se.

ATANICA

Not interested. Your little
triumvirate between you, Goram, and
Myriax nearly got me...

The pair climb over a hill and see the several-mile train of
glowing liquid before them. Atanica's eyes widen.

PRISCOS

Retirement doesn't have to be
uncomfortable. Find and kill those
three prisoners and three percent
of this haul is yours. What do you
say, partner?

Priscos holds out his hand. Atanica contemplates the offer.

EXT. FOREST PATH - CART (MOVING) - DAY

An overburdened cart, full of idols and straw, rumbles down a
dirt path with an armed guard.

GUARDS #1 and #2 drive the cart while AJ pulling the load.

GUARD #1

Good thing we got yer big friend.
If our horse hadn't broken his leg
and we had to drag this thing,
bleeding the plains dry wouldn't be
nearly as fun or profitable.

Guard #2 looks behind the cart to see Ollie tied to the back,
jamming something inside the overloaded cart.

He raises his rifle.

GUARD #2

Oy! What're you doin' back there?
And where's yer green friend?

OLLIE

I'm just...helping her onto the
cart. She...twisted her ankle.

The guard lowers his rifle.

Ollie hides a cracked idol oozing Ichor inside the cart when:

The cart stops. The guards approach a nervous Ollie and take
him up to the front of the cart before proceeding.

GUARD #2

Easier to keep an eye on you up
here. Keep you from pilfering the
merchandise.

Ollie SIGHS with relief. He looks back at the pile.

OLLIE

Why these idols?

GUARD #2

Personal hobby? Collecting trophies
from these Psygonaut cultists and
their precious Psygorellius.

OLLIE

These cultists worship a ship?

GUARD #1

After the Pantheon took a dirt nap,
the only memory of them no Core
Worlders would exterminate is the
Historia-Psygonautica. If you ask
me, they'd be doing us a favor. Now
every wanker with a shovel claims
they found the real Psygorellius.
Like this Myriax and his followers.

Ollie looks up at AJ.

GUARD #2

My cousin was one of those. Told me
a new Commander-Ultimos was coming.
And he'd beat me up for my sins. So
I tossed the bobble in the drink.
Haven't had a problem since.

BANG! A distant shot farther up the road rings out. Ollie
doesn't flinch.

GUARD #1

You a soldier, pinky? Most civies don't have the guff for a firefight.

OLLIE

Air Force. Used to fly big planes with big bombs to pay for school.

GUARD #2

Get out! I'd trade my own mother for a job like that! Why in Hades aren't you doing that?

OLLIE

I wanted to use my brain to help people, not blow them to pieces.

THUD! The cart goes over a bump. Several idols tumble out of the cart. The guards stop the cart to investigate.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

But not everyone is made to be a "Top Gun!"

At the word "Top Gun," a barrage of glowing idols fly out from the cart.

Some EXPLODE, some solidify onto their target, others shower blinding the guards in a chaotic frenzy.

Guard #2 reaches for his rifle. AJ punches him in the face.

With the guards incapacitated, the cart's straw changes back into Eucidrie. Revealing a handful of smuggled refugees hiding underneath.

The trio helps the refugees out of the cart when:

BANG! BANG! BANG! Everyone freezes as Atanica appears, holding her pistols with a rifle slung over her shoulder.

An intense standoff ensues for several beats.

In an instant, she SHOOTs the soldiers.

ATANICA

Goram and Priscos have been running a racket to smuggle Ichor off-world. He brought you three along to get rid of the witnesses.

OLLIE

But why...

BANG! Atanica shoots a not-so-dead soldier as he slumps to the ground.

ATANICA

You saved my life, now we're even.
Cost me a lot of Ichor, so do
yourselves a favor: get off-world
while you still can. Go!

The refugees leave, but the trio remains.

OLLIE

Not until we find our loved ones.

Frustrated, Atanica tosses Ollie a small metal orb.

ATANICA

Fine. If you have no other option,
toss this in the open air, and a
swarm of Delots will be there in
five minutes flat to arrest you.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The trio sprints through the thick brush.

ATANICA (V.O.)

Your village is that way. But...

They appear in a clearing, horrified at what they see.

ATANICA (V.O.)

...You won't like what you'll find.

EXT. CHARRED VILLAGE - DAY

The trio walks through the burned-out remains of the village.
Piles of black soot mound where huts used to be.

Eucidrie drops to her knees. Ollie grabs a handful of soot.

OLLIE

Looks like they burned the village
down to cover their tracks.

EUCIDRIE

Then she's really gone.

In the rumble, Ollie picks up:

Penny's pressed cellophane flower bud on a lanyard. Ollie
puts it around his neck.

OLLIE
 They must have a base somewhere
 nearby. Does any of this look
 familiar, AJ?

He and Eucidrie turn around to see AJ is missing.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
 Where'd he go?
 (shouts)
 AJ! AJ!

EUCIDRIE
 Let him find his stupid Oracle.

OLLIE
 I'm not losing both Penny and AJ.
 He's gotta be around here
 somewhere.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Overlooking the charred village, AJ stumbles into the mouth
 of a nearby cave. His eyes glazed over in a trance.

BEGIN INSERT

Blurry flashes of memory become clearer:

A small boy enters the empty command deck of a ship. On a
 raised platform is a commanding and familiar gold throne.

ORACLE (O.S.)
 The lost are found, and union
 sprouts. Raising of the Psygonauts.
 The lost are found...

The boy scurries up the platform and hides in a small
 compartment behind the throne.

Just then, ALARMS blare through the command deck.

VOICES populate the command deck. Someone sits down on the
 throne above AJ.

The CHANTING gets louder, the boy covers his ears.

AJ (O.S.)
 (hysterical)
 Please make it stop. Make it stop!

Unable to take it anymore, the boy leaves his hiding spot as:

EXIT INSERT

AJ steps out from behind a large rock in the cave. Just then, Ollie and Eucidrie sprint inside and find him.

OLLIE

There you are! Where have you been?

The trio stares at the metal door from the vision for a beat.

EUCIDRIE

No Oracle? Great! There are real people in danger, so let's go.

AJ

Maybe if we wait...

Eucidrie steps in the way of AJ and Ollie.

EUCIDRIE

No! You two had pulled on the last strand of my empathy. We're saving my sister now. And your ex-partner, in case you forgot.

OLLIE

That is uncalled for! We're all in this mess together. Now let's calm down and...

A furious Eucidrie glows with cosmic energy as she wraps her glowing tendrils around Ollie and AJ's necks.

EUCIDRIE

(distorted)

The Gods are dead, my family is dead, and Galia's in danger. No more waiting! Either you can help me willingly or force my hand.

AJ pries her tendrils from his neck and runs for the door as:

She drills her tendril into AJ's scar. He drops to the floor.

OLLIE

AJ!

Eucidrie recoils. She drops Ollie as he runs over to AJ.

EUCIDRIE

(horrified)

Ollie, I'm sorry. I didn't mean...

OLLIE
Stay back, you witch!

Ollie tries to revive him. After a beat, AJ opens his eyes.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
Talk to me, buddy. Are you alright?

AJ
Do I know you?

OLLIE
AJ, it's me. Ollie.

AJ
Nice to meet you, Oliver. My name's
A-J-M dash zero-zero-one.

Eucidrie covers her mouth in shock.

OLLIE
(to Eucidrie)
What did you do?!

Before she can answer, a group of brown armored MERCENARIES appear from the rocks and seize the trio.

Ollie hides Atanica's transmitter in his mouth as the mercenaries pick over the trio.

MERCENARY #1
Nothin' on these three but Delot
translator collars with damaged
Ichor dampeners, boss.

MERCENARY #2
Ain't this the pink one who gobbled
the boss in the ear?

The leader takes one look at AJ's blank face and grins.

MERCENARY LEADER
Gentlemen! The day's finally come.
Take these three below.

The leader flips up a hatch leading underground.

The mercenaries force the trio down the hatch. The last one seals it behind them.

ACT SIX**INT. RUSTY METAL HALLWAYS**

The trio is led through rusty brown hallways entropy has nearly reclaimed.

They pass rooms filled with soldiers in brown armor, maps of the Delot shipyards, and dismantled drones.

AJ

Where are we, Ogden?

He tries to speak without arising suspicion of the orb in his mouth.

OLLIE

Their. Base.

Ollie's handler SMACKS him in the head.

MERCENARY #1

Shaddup!

A MERCENARY OFFICER approaches the group.

MERCENARY OFFICER

What's the catch today?

MERCENARY LEADER

Caught these prisoners Priscos and Goram brought from the shipyards. And get this...

He leans in and whispers something to the Officer.

MERCENARY OFFICER

Wait here.

The Officer runs down the hall and leans into a nearby room. After a beat of waiting, he returns.

MERCENARY OFFICER (CONT'D)

The Commander said he's heading back with Priscos right now. Throw 'em in the brig until he returns. I can't believe it's finally happening.

Just as the group leaves, the Officer recollects something.

MERCENARY OFFICER (CONT'D)

(to Ollie)

Oh, and Myriax wanted him to have
this.

He draws his knife and stabs Ollie in the ear.

INTERCUT: INT. PRISON CELLS

The trio is dragged into a rusty brig filled with hundreds of occupied prison cells.

They're each tossed into different cells from each other:

IN OLLIE'S CELL

He's thrown to the floor along with his idol. Spitting out the orb, Ollie MOANS while lying in a pool of his blood.

With blurred vision, a female stands over him.

OLLIE

P...Penny?

IN EUCLIDRIE'S CELL

Eucidrie resists going in the cell until:

THUD! The butt of a rifle cracks her in the back of the skull. Eucidrie falls to the ground as she's locked in.

Still feeling woozy, she tries reaching through the bars only to get shocked repeatedly.

PENNY (O.S.)

Calm down! I've tried that already.

Looking into the dark corner of their cell, Eucidrie sees the frightened form of Penny.

IN AJ'S CELL

AJ walks into the cell with no incident, like a frightened child called into the principal's office.

Unable to process what's going on, AJ nervously paces in the cell until:

ORACLE (O.S.)

Calm yourself, my friend! I've been expecting you.

AJ turns to the old figure in the corner.

AJ

Hello. My name is A-J-M dash zero-zero-one. What's yours?

The frail Oracle from his dream shows herself.

IN OLLIE'S CELL

Examining Ollie's wound, the woman bites off a clump of her hair and chews it into a glowing wad.

She then presses it into Ollie's wound. He seizes in pain. After a beat, Ollie sits up and reveals the wound is gone.

Spotting the flower lanyard around Ollie's neck, she snatches the flower and Atanica's orb and fiddles with both in the corner of their cell.

OLLIE

Hey! Those are...

Ollie soon finds the woman is Galia.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

So...you must be Galia.

IN EUCLIDRIE'S CELL

Penny cowers in the corner, away from Eucidrie.

EUCLIDRIE

I've heard so much about you.

Confused, Penny is disarmed.

PENNY

From who? Ollie? Is he alive?

Eucidrie nods. Penny tears up.

PENNY (CONT'D)

That's the best news I've heard all day. After they took Terrence and Cecile, I thought this Myriax monster...

IN AJ'S CELL

AJ sits cross-legged before the Oracle.

ORACLE

He was once my guardian. Sent to protect me until the day the Aurora sent the rightful Commander-Ultimos to unite this fractured universe. Until his family's death by the Delots warped my dear Myriax's mind. Believing that he can command this ship by killing you and getting his revenge on the Collective.

AJ raises his hand.

AJ

Which ship is that?

The Oracle holds up her hands to the cell.

IN OLLIE'S CELL

Ollie's face fills with surprise.

OLLIE

This is a ship?!

Galia nods.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

Looks more like a copper mine to me. Maybe with your sister's witchcraft, it could've...

Ollie turns and sees Galia forlorn.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

I didn't mean it. Your sister, she...hurt a friend of mine.

IN EUCIDRIE'S CELL

Eucidrie and Penny sit next to each other.

PENNY

He's has a loud bark for a cynical know-it-all. But he's always good in a pinch. I would listen to his advice. Because, as much as I hate to admit it, he's usually right. I just can't believe AJ's been alive this whole time.

EUCIDRIE

Do you know anything about his
past? And that scar?

IN AJ'S CELL

The Oracle lays her hands on AJ's scar.

ORACLE

This is no ordinary injury. But a
curse of the highest order. I can't
fully restore your memory. But
there's one I can see bubbling to
the surface.

The guards interrupt them and open their cell door. AJ and
the Oracle hold hands as they leave together.

IN OLLIE'S CELL

Just then, Ollie's cell opens up. Galia runs over to Ollie
and gives him a hug.

She shoves the orb back into his mouth, whispers something
into his ear, and crams something else in his mouth.

The guards break the two up and drag Ollie away.

IN EUCIDRIE'S CELL

The guards open Eucidrie's cell and drag her away with rifles
trained at her. She complies.

Sneaking a sad tendril behind her, she presses it against
Galia's cell as she leaves.

Penny catches a glimpse of Ollie being dragged away.

PENNY

Ollie?!

OLLIE

(yells; stuff in mouth)
Penny! I'm...I'm

The guards drag him away. Just as AJ spots her.

AJ

(to Penny)
Hello, my name's...

The guards shove AJ and the Oracle through the doorway.

INT. CARGO BAY

The trio and the Oracle enter a crowded cargo bay, turned into a fighting ring.

A triumphant Myriax waits as they're brought into the ring.

MYRIAX

(shouts)

My friends and fellow Psygonauts.
The day has arrived!

The crowd erupts into APPLAUSE.

MYRIAX (CONT'D)

(shouts)

I shall crack open the Command
Deck, claim my birthright, and
return The Psygorellius back into
the fight against The Collective!

Myriax points at AJ.

MYRIAX (CONT'D)

...With the blood of this
pretender.

The crowd starts a RHYTHMIC POUNDING. Myriax takes off his armor.

ORACLE

Myriax! This is not the way. Fate
has given AJ...

MYRIAX

Shut up, you old bat! You've filled
my head with enough lies. Fate
can't stop me, and neither can you.
(points to Ollie)
You're next.

Myriax grabs AJ and tosses him into the center of the ring.

AJ

I'm sorry, do I know you?

THUD! Myriax lands a right hook on AJ. Then a left.

EUCIDRIE

Come on, AJ! Fight back.

Myriax tackles AJ to the ground and lands blow after blow on him.

Ollie spits the orb into his hand and nudges Eucidrie.

OLLIE

We gotta get this to the surface.

He also spits out Galia's alien flower.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

Galia said you'd know what to do.
...she also said she loves you.

Eucidrie tears up and smiles.

EUCIDRIE

Penny was right about you.

They both look away from each other.

EUCIDRIE (CONT'D)

Listen, I...

OLLIE

It's fine. Put a pin in the
apologies.

A sweaty Myriax lands punch after punch on an injured but
conscious AJ. His blows having little effect.

MYRIAX

Why. Won't. You. Die?!

AJ

I (cough) dunno. What happened to
your ear?

Enraged, Myriax stands up. A guard brings him his ax.

Lifting it over his head, he sees a cloud of spores falls
over the arena.

Descending on the crowd, the spores blind them as CRIES and
mayhem erupt through the cargo bay.

Myriax runs to his armor and puts his helmet on. As he turns
around, Ollie stabs him in the other ear with his knife.

OLLIE

Keep the stalk growing, bitch.

Running back under Eucidrie's protective flower umbrella, the
four prisoners make a break for the exit.

INT. SHIP HALLWAYS

The group sprints down the hallway, clouds of spores covering the air with smog while:

An enraged and bleeding Myriax chases after them, shoving blinded soldiers out of his way.

MYRIAX

Find them or get out of my way!

The group hobble left and right down the rusty hallways. An injured AJ and a frail Oracle slow them down.

EUCIDRIE

I don't know how much longer this spore cloud will last.

Just then, a blinded MERCENARY #3 grabs Eucidrie by the ankle.

MERCENARY #3

(yells)

I...I got one! Mid deck, they're heading for...

THUD! Eucidrie kicks him in the face as they continue.

The group sprints down the hall, weaving between blinded soldiers.

Slowly, the spore cloud gets thinner as they reach a set of stairs.

EUCIDRIE

Hurry! We can seal ourselves in the brig.

ORACLE

We can't go to the brig.

Ollie and Eucidrie indignantly stare at the Oracle.

ORACLE (CONT'D)

They'll be expecting us. We have to go up to get AJ to the command...

Just then, a loud YELL rings through the air. They turn to find Myriax sprinting towards them.

In a split second, Ollie pulls the group down the hall:

INT. SHIP BRIG

They dart inside the brig, guards stumble around blinded. Eucidrie sparks the door with her tendril, sealing it shut.

Searching the brig, Ollie and Eucidrie find Penny and Galia's cells are empty.

As they turn to the Oracle, the spore cloud vanishes and the flower shrivels to dust in Eucidrie's hands.

ORACLE

The curse of seeing the future.

The Oracle puts her hands on AJ's temples and begins CHANTING in an ALIEN TONGUE.

The blinded soldiers come to as more come to their senses and aim their weapons at the group when:

All the mossy consoles spark to life. Cosmic energy passes through AJ's eyes as streams of yellow light flow from the walls towards him.

Enraptured, the mercenaries drop their weapons and kneel before AJ.

Myriax appears by the door, clutching his bleeding ear. Seeing the display of authority, he runs off.

ORACLE (CONT'D)

You are AJ: Commander-Ultimos of the Psygonauts. And you fight for us all!

EXT. MOUTH OF CAVE - DAY

Priscos and a detachment of his militia at the mouth of the cave wait in formation.

A savage and bleeding Myriax storms out of the cave.

PRISCOS

What in Hades is going on?

MYRIAX

Traitors! Every last one of them. I want a firing line on that cave now. You hear me. Now!

PRISCOS

You're jeopardizing our arrangement.

(MORE)

PRISCOS (CONT'D)

You cause trouble, I put it down,
we all make money. If the locals
see us meeting like this. We will
be...

Myriax grabs Priscos by the throat.

AJ (O.S.)

Will be what?

AJ, Ollie, Eucidrie, the Oracle, and the freed prisoners
appear from the cave. They stand before Myriax and Priscos.

Ollie runs out and tosses the Delot beacon into the air.

AJ (CONT'D)

It's over. Delot forces will be
here any minute.

Priscos whispers to Myriax. He tosses him to the ground.

MYRIAX

Do you realize what you've done!
You just gave the floaters the only
weapon we had against them. They'll
scrap The Psygorellius for parts!

(to militia)

Kill them all!

Just then, Myriax's mercenaries appear and surround the
militia. Everyone draws their weapons until:

AJ

(shouts)

Hellecians! Do not throw your lives
away for commanders who pit us
against one another for their
profit. Go in peace. Only united
can we root out the real enemy.

Looking at one another, the militia toss their shields and
rifles to the ground as every Hellecians leaves.

Myriax seethes until he looks up to the sky and CHUCKLES.

MYRIAX

Do you see that ship, pinky? Plant
woman? Know who's on it?

Horrified, Ollie and Eucidrie watch a ship leave orbit.

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

That's right. A buyer who just picked up two new female slaves for practically nothing. Would you like to know where they're going?

Myriax grabs a rifle and OPENS FIRE on them. In a quick lunge, AJ punches Myriax into the side of the cave.

He BASHES Myriax's head into the rock until his helmet crumples.

AJ hoists a bloodied Myriax in the air and punches him so hard he flies through the wall.

The cave collapses, revealing a metal structure jutting out from underground.

Triumphant, AJ turns back towards Ollie and Eucidrie. A frown smears across his face as he runs back to see:

The Oracle, bleeding from a sizzling wound in her chest.

AJ

Just hold on. Help's on the way.

ORACLE

Thank you for your sympathy, commander. But my time is up. The curse of (cough) seeing the future.

Just then, a swarm of Delots arrive. Priscos surrenders.

AJ

I was so close.

ORACLE

Fate isn't always fair. Even the Gods, in their hubris, tried to silence it.

She sits up and looks at the trio.

ORACLE (CONT'D)

Unlike the Gods, Fate is alive. It's given you two capable companions who will aid you in your quest.

With the last of her strength, Oracle places her glowing hands on AJ's temples.

ORACLE (CONT'D)

You are AJ: Commander-Ultimos of
the Psygonauts. And you fight for
us all!

INT. MONK'S CABIN - SPACE

Awoken from a trace, a HOODED FIGURE (40s) sits up from his desk aboard a ship in a dimly lit cabin.

He looks down at a relic glowing bright yellow. The hooded figure hurries to finish typing a letter on his desk console.

MALE NARRATOR (V.O.)

Which is why I must go. While I
abandon my vows of historical
observation and non-interference. I
pray that one day, my superiors
will forgive me.

He then stands to his feet, gathers his satchel, and heads for his cabin door.

MALE NARRATOR (V.O.)

To anyone who finds this letter,
may this be my testimony. When the
universe cried for help, I did what
I did for the good of Creation...

The door WOOSHES open. The figure takes one last look inside before disappearing into the hall.

MALE NARRATOR (V.O.)

...to keep the stalk growing.

CUT TO BLACK