

DERELICT - EPISODE THREE
"INSIDIOUS CONSEQUENCES"

by
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INT. CRICHTON BRIDGE

The sounds of the bridge of the Crichton. Computers, controls, etc.

A door opens. FREED enters.

FREED
You rang?

RAYNOR
Yeah. Look at this.

Data scrolls on a computer screen.

RAYNOR
Full ship status for the Crichton.

Freed moves to Raynor, studies the readout.

RAYNOR
Minor hull damage, engines nominal, best I can tell... and no heat shield atrophy.

FREED
Well, that doesn't make sense. The Crichton's been docked here for more than a day now. It's been rolling into the atmosphere too.

RAYNOR
Right.

She hits a button. The screens change their display.

RAYNOR
One weird thing... Power fluctuations going through the main lines. See the levels shifting?

FREED
Why's that weird?

RAYNOR
Because the X-Core is powered off. We're docked.

(MORE)

RAYNOR (CONT'D)

Which means we're plugged into the derelict's power system.

(then)

But this level of power going through the lines... that's not just critical systems. That's a lot of juice. Made me wonder...

(then)

Codex...

Holograms flash to life in the air.

CODEX

Query?

RAYNOR

Run a scan for anomalous energy readings.

CODEX

This scan has been run previously.

RAYNOR

I'm aware. Run it again.

The holograms flash, information displays in the air.

CODEX

One energy anomaly detected.

FREED

These metrics are detailed. I didn't know these things could do that.

RAYNOR

The scanning equipment is advanced. They're like something the First Contact teams would have.

(then)

Look at the results.

Freed does.

RAYNOR

See the spike on the waveform?

FREED

What is it?

RAYNOR
Langmuir waves. Oscillations of
electron density.

Freed studies her, confused.

RAYNOR
The shields are on. It's detecting
the plasma.

Freed looks back at the status monitor.

FREED
But... the shields show Off on the
status display.

RAYNOR
Yeah. Someone hot wired them.

Freed moves towards a computer.

FREED
Wait a second...

She starts typing. Data scrolls. She keeps typing.

Raynor looks over her shoulder at the computer.

FREED
You're right. Ship permission
hierarchies have all kinds of hard
coded mods... vast majority of
which are illegal, by the way.

Freed keeps typing. Studying the programming changes.

FREED
The shield override was done...
looks like three days ago. In
fact, a bunch of augments were.
Overrides to the cargo bay door,
the transponder, signal
acquisition.
(then)
Whoever was in this ship had a
plan. Probably a naughty one.

They stare at each other.

Then the door opens. Chambers enters.

FREED
Chambers...

CHAMBERS

Stevens vitals are normalized, the pod repaired most of his tissue damage.

FREED

Is he awake?

CHAMBERS

No. Not yet. But he should be relatively soon.

RAYNOR

Chambers, we have something to show you. About the ship. The shields are on.

CHAMBERS

The shields...

RAYNOR

We were trying to figure out why the Crichton is in as good of--

CHAMBERS

Why is that more important than the prisoner in the cargo bay?

Raynor looks at him.

RAYNOR

Because one has a direct impact on why we're still breathing?

CHAMBERS

So might a criminal loose on the ship. Did you see him? He's huge. He's clearly dangerous.

FREED

We don't know anything about him, Chambers, other than he's locked up.

CHAMBERS

Well, what kind of people get locked up?

FREED

Me. For one.

Chambers clears his throat uncomfortably.

CHAMBERS

Well, what are we going to do
about him?

RAYNOR

Nothing. We leave him where he is.
The physical shell of the pod is
open, but the energy shield is up.

CHAMBERS

What if he gets through that?

RAYNOR

You clearly don't understand
multi-phasic energy shields.

FREED

(unnerved)

Did you see his eyes?

(then)

They were... white.

CHAMBERS

(unnerved too)

Yes. "Phthisis bulbi". It's caused
by atrophy of eye tissue due to
lack of blood circulation.

(then)

He's blind.

FREED

Huh...

They all stare at each other.

RAYNOR

Why do ice miners have a prisoner
containment pod, anyway? It's
restricted technology.

FREED

Yeah. Bounty hunters, cops,
corporate security, that's about
it.

RAYNOR

How do we know they are ice
miners? Where did that info come
from?

CHAMBERS

It was in the mission brief. From
the corporation.

FREED

The brief may have been wrong. Raynor and I were just looking at a host of changes that were made to the ship's operating protocols. Weird changes.

RAYNOR

Yeah...

(then)

Look. In the grand wide scheme of our current predicament, whoever the hell this guy is and what to do with him is a downstream problem. We've been here more than an hour and we haven't even been inside the derelict. Its heat shields are dying and so are the engines.

FREED

What if we get this ship undocked? The Crichton's in great shape. Could we use it to tow the derelict out of the degrading orbit?

CHAMBERS

The Captain of the Eldridge said not even his frigate could do that.

RAYNOR

Right, the derelict is just too big. The only way is to get its main engines back on.

FREED

Seems like we could use a propulsion engineer for that. We might need to wake Stevens up.

CHAMBERS

I wouldn't recommend it. He's experienced a great deal of--

Everything around them rocks violently suddenly.

RAYNOR

What the--

Everything rocks violently again. This time the three of them go careening into the walls and work stations. Sparks shoot from the computers.

And then... the lights flash off. The computers die. The sound of power whining down all around them.

When it's over, it's deathly quiet.

CHAMBERS
What happened?

RAYNOR
We just lost power.

Then power being restored. The computers reboot.

CHAMBERS
It's back...

FREED
No. It's not full power, it's emergency. Battery power.

CHAMBERS
You sound like that's bad. Is it bad?

FREED
If we're on emergency power, then...

Freed and Raynor stare at one another.

RAYNOR
The shields are down. We're not protected from the atmosphere anymore.

Raynor starts moving.

RAYNOR
Codex?

CODEX
Query?

RAYNOR
How long until we roll back into the atmosphere burn?

CODEX
The Crichton will be rolled into the atmosphere burn in 4 minutes, 19 seconds.

FREED
What do we do?

RAYNOR

If we lost power, then the connection is severed from the derelict. We have to power up the Crichton's X-Core!

FREED

The ship's still docked. You can't power it up.

RAYNOR

Every other damn safeguard's been overwritten. Get into the systems, overwrite the security protocol for X-Core power up.

FREED

Okay.

RAYNOR

Chambers, I need you!

CHAMBERS

Me?

She starts running. Chambers stares, unsure.

RAYNOR

Chambers!

CHAMBERS

Okay!

They run out of the bridge into...

INT. CRICHTON - PRIMARY CORRIDOR

Raynor and Crichton run through the metallic corridor.

CHAMBERS

What do you need me to do?

RAYNOR

Go to the engine room, find the electronics panel. We need to pull out the distributors for the docking connections.

CHAMBERS

What are--

RAYNOR
Basically, giant fuses. I'll walk
you through it.

They keep running. Raynor slaps a button on the wall. A
pressure door opens. They tear through a door into...

INT. CRICHTON - CARGO BAY

They run inside.

CHAMBERS
(unnerved)
This is the cargo bay.

RAYNOR
(annoyed)
Yeah. I see that. Engine room,
through there. Go.

CHAMBERS
But what about him?

RAYNOR
Don't worry about him! Go!

We hear Chambers branch off, hear him open a door, enter.

Raynor keeps moving through the cargo bay, past all the
crates and equipment.

CODEX
4 minutes to atmosphere contact.

RAYNOR
Freed. What do you got?

A second. Then...

FREED
The OS on this thing isn't like
anything I've seen. It looks...
custom. It was made to augment all
the different platforms--

RAYNOR
Less detail, please.

FREED
It was made to augment ship's
functions, so...
(MORE)

FREED (CONT'D)

I need five minutes to isolate the X-Core's safeguards for powering up while docked.

RAYNOR

What if you just remove all the safeguards?

FREED

Well...

(then)

Then I'd need like one minute.

RAYNOR

Great. Do that. Chambers, are you in the engine room?

CHAMBERS

Yes. But I don't know what I'm looking for.

RAYNOR

On the walls. Giant cabinet with a whole bunch of warning signs on it.

(then)

I'm opening the X-Core door.

CODEX

3 minutes, 30 seconds to atmosphere contact.

Raynor comes to a stop at the door. She slaps a button on the wall. It doesn't open. There's just a negative tone.

RAYNOR

Or, I thought I was...

She hits it again. Same result.

FREED

What?

RAYNOR

X-Core door's sealed.

She examines the door closer. As she does, a voice from nearby. Calm. Calculated. Slightly amused.

KILLIAN

I believe you will regret the opening of that door. The path you are on, angel...

He clicks his tongue.

KILLIAN
...not the right one.

RAYNOR
What the hell... This is...
(then)
This is the radiation shield.

KILLIAN
Indeed.

CODEX
No Xytrilium levels detected
within the cargo bay. No Xytrilium
levels detected past the barrier.

RAYNOR
If there's no Xytrilium leak, why
would the radiation shield be
down?

CODEX
Posit: It was brought down
manually.

RAYNOR
Manually?

CHAMBERS
I see... Three fuses for "Docking
Bay..." "Systems Interface",
"Utility Connections",
"Computer--"

RAYNOR
The second one. Pull them. Pull
all of those!

FREED
Safeguards are down. You should be
able to power up.

RAYNOR
If I can get in.

CODEX
2 minutes, 30 seconds to
atmosphere contact.

KILLIAN
At some point, you may want to ask
about--

RAYNOR
(annoyed)
Codex, shut the prisoner pod's
physical barrier.

CODEX
Acknowledged. Sealing prisoner
containment pod.

Killian clicks this tongue.

The sound the of the physical barrier SLAMMING SHUT and
sealing Killian away.

RAYNOR
Much better. Codex, is the
radiation shield hydraulic or
pneumatic?

CODEX
The radiation shield door is
pneumatically powered.

RAYNOR
Where's the compressor?

CODEX
It is present in the cargo bay and
can be controlled through panels
in this room.

RAYNOR
Can you access them?

CODEX
Connection established.

RAYNOR
Vent the pneumatics from the
secondary air treatment and open
the radiation shield.
(then)
Chambers? Talk to me.

CHAMBERS
Pulling the last fuse, or whatever
it is, now. They're bolted in.

CODEX
1 minute, 30 seconds to atmosphere
contact.

RAYNOR
And the door, Codex?!

CODEX
Opening now.

The sound of air violently hissing out of the secondary filter behind the walls.

Then the door begins to raise...

RAYNOR
Here we go!

...and everything goes insane.

Everything inside the cargo bay shakes and blows wildly. Debris sprays everywhere.

Raynor is ripped off her feet, slams into the bottom of the door, grabs it. She groans in pain.

Tools, benches, chairs, anything not bolted down is somehow violently pulled towards the X-Core door. It SLAMS against it, SLAMS into Raynor.

She groans louder.

RAYNOR
Codex!

CODEX
Query?

RAYNOR
Repressurize the pneumatic system!
Get the door back down!

CODEX
Confirm. Override previous instruction with new--

RAYNOR
Confirmed God damn it!

CODEX
Initiating override.

Raynor groans as everything not bolted down around her slams into the walls and the door and her.

She's about to be torn loose. About to be...

The radiation shield begins to lower back down.

Raynor groans with exertion pushing free...

...right as it slams back closed.

Everything else that was flying around now SLAMS DOWN around her into the cargo bay floor.

RAYNOR
Holy shit...

CHAMBERS
Did it work?

RAYNOR
No... It didn't...

Sounds of electromagnetics, weird pulses of sound.

Raynor groans in pain.

FREED
Raynor? Where are we at?

Raynor just lays on the floor, in pain.

FREED
Raynor?!

RAYNOR
Nowhere... Nowhere at all...
(then)
The X-Core, it's...
(then)
I can't power it. It's...
(then)
I can't...turn it on...

CODEX
10 seconds to atmosphere contact.

CHAMBERS
Wait, what does that... What does that mean?

FREED
It means we're screwed.

The rumbling of the approaching burn overtakes all other sounds. The room SHAKES violently.

CODEX
3... 2...

FREED
It means hold on to something!

CODEX
Atmosphere contact.

And then fire and explosions and sparks overtake everything...

...and Raynor passes out.

INT. CRICHTON - CARGO BAY

Everything is quiet now. Just the shifting of the bulkhead. The occasional SPARK. Items falling off shelves.

Raynor, on the floor, groaning in pain. The sound of electricity jolting in her head.

RAYNOR
Mmmmm...

She unzips her pants pocket, pulls out the stopwatch.

It beeps. Begins counting down...

Raynor's breathing slows as it does, counting with it.

RAYNOR
(pained)
10...9...8...

Raynor's breathing slows as it does, counting with it.

RAYNOR
(Less pained)
7...6...5...4...

Raynor's breathing slows as it does, counting with it.

RAYNOR
3...2...1...

The stopwatch counts a few more seconds. Then it silences.

Raynor breathes. Slow. In and out.

RAYNOR
Oh, man... Oh, man.

She groans, pained, lifting herself back up, leaning against the cargo bay door into the derelict's airlock.

She sits there, breathing. Recovering. Then, finally...

RAYNOR
Codex.

CODEX
Query?

V RAYNOR
Reopen... the prisoner
containment... shell.

CODEX
Reopening prisoner containment
pod.

The sound of the pod's shell lifting up and off.

No one says anything for a moment. Then...

RAYNOR
Okay...
(then)
Let me have it. I'm ready.

Killian studies her.

RAYNOR
Say it. You tried to tell me. I
didn't listen.

Killian studies her some more. Then...

KILLIAN
Ah... Gloating. Never had much use
for it. But... Appears you emerged
unscathed all the same.

RAYNOR
Debatable...

Raynor groans slightly, in pain. Killian observes.

KILLIAN
Looks like pain of an internal
sort.

RAYNOR
Reactor... Radiating EM, probably
gamma rays. EM and I don't... get
along. Not for a long time...

KILLIAN
Jet effect... It is a bitch.

Raynor breathes out. The pain fading.

RAYNOR
That obvious?

KILLIAN
To the initiated.

RAYNOR
You a user?

KILLIAN
No. But I've known... those who
have suffered.

RAYNOR
Then you don't know anything.
Unless you've lived with it.

KILLIAN
Oh, I've lived with it.
Intimately.
(then)
No "withdrawal" from Jet. Never
better, never worse. Even if you
wanted, couldn't take the edge off
with another fix. Won't ever work
for you again, once the nanobots
are starved. Give up the drug...
live in purgatory.
(then)
Insidious consequences, angel.

RAYNOR
Stop calling me that...

Raynor groans as she stands up.

RAYNOR
I'm no one's angel.

KILLIAN
Don't get to choose how other
people see us.
(then)
And you're no ordinary angel.
You're my angel.

RAYNOR
Why's that?

KILLIAN
Because you're going to be the one
to let me out of here.

Raynor laughs.

RAYNOR
Is that right?

Raynor moves, stops, starts hitting buttons on a panel.

KILLIAN
Cargo bay airlock...
(then)
Got a feeling... not gonna like
what you find there either.

She hits a button. A negative tone. The door doesn't open.

COMPUTER VOICE
Alert. Exterior airlock door
inoperable.

RAYNOR
Uh huh...

KILLIAN
Ship's misaligned. Atmosphere burn
shifted it towards the stern. Few
inches, maybe a foot. But enough.

RAYNOR
There's no way you could know
that.

KILLIAN
Try me...

She looks at him.

RAYNOR
Codex.

CODEX
Query?

RAYNOR
What's up with the docking
connections? Why can't I open the
airlock door into the derelict?

CODEX
Scanning...

Sounds as Raynor's device scans the door.

VCODEX

The impact from the atmosphere burn shifted the Crichton on its docking axis. It is no longer aligned with the airlock connections. As such, safety protocols will not allow the airlock door to open.

RAYNOR

Can you tell me which way the ship shifted?

CODEX

Scanning...

Sounds as Raynor's device scans the door.

CODEX

The Crichton shifted nine inches out of position, towards the stern of experimental vessel XTX-38523.

MUSIC: Dark Shot, Taubert

KILLIAN

How about that...

She turns and looks at him.

RAYNOR

How did you know that?

KILLIAN

Unlikely you'd believe it, angel, were you to hear. Most do not.

RAYNOR

Try me.

He thinks a moment. Then exhales, long and slow.

KILLIAN

This ship. This galaxy. All made of the same thing. All connected by the same thing.

Raynor looks around.

RAYNOR

Air?

KILLIAN

Metal...

(then)

Metal... touching metal, touching
metal, touching... me.

(darkly)

I have a... sense of metal.

RAYNOR

Some kind of... extrasensory
thing?

KILLIAN

Along those lines.

RAYNOR

You're right, I don't believe it.

KILLIAN

Where you're standing. Floor
panel.

A sound, faint, barely perceptible, like an electronic hum
in the air.

KILLIAN

Your right boot's on the edge.
Left's in the center. Panel's...
three feet by three feet, square.
Feels like. Engraved, too.

Raynor looks down at her feet. Sees the panel. Sees her
feet. Sees words engraved on the panel.

KILLIAN

"Cabling access. Conduit current.
Lift here." The letters... should
be upside down for you, standing
like that.

The hum in the air fades away... Killian breathes out
slightly, releasing some kind of tension.

KILLIAN

Am I wrong?

RAYNOR

No. It's like you said. It's all
there.

She looks back at him.

RAYNOR

Magic trick like that, what's it supposed to do?

KILLIAN

Enlighten you. Got bigger problems than how I find the world. Don't you? Need power. Quick like. Because you're not cycling up the engines without that X-Core.

RAYNOR

And you can help me. Is that it?

KILLIAN

Can feel inside that room. Feel the reactor. Tell you what's wrong.

RAYNOR

I already know what's wrong, the containment shield's punctured. Only thing that explains the gravity influx.

KILLIAN

But not where. Not how to find it. Can tell you that. Tell you where Roche made his mark.

RAYNOR

Roche?

KILLIAN

Was on the ship with me.

RAYNOR

And where is Roche now?

KILLIAN

With all the others. Other side of that door you want through. Dead. If they are lucky.

She studies him.

RAYNOR

What happened on this ship?

Killian laughs.

KILLIAN

You really have no idea where you are, do you? What's on the other side of that door. They didn't tell you anything... before they packed you up and sent you off. Gave you those little... wrist pieces. Gave them to you so they only had to reveal what they had to reveal. You know what that means, right?

RAYNOR

Why don't you tell me?

KILLIAN

Means they are more interested in what they want done getting done, than they are in you surviving it.

RAYNOR

And whoever locked you in that thing? What did they want?

Killian smiles.

KILLIAN

Oh, who is to say, angel? Maybe they had my best interests at heart.

They stare at each other.

FREED

Raynor. You there?

RAYNOR

Yeah. I'm here. You okay, Freed?

FREED

I may... have hit my head. Lost my balance when the burn hit. Sitting on my ass in the bridge.

RAYNOR

We have complications.

FREED

What now?

RAYNOR

The airlock door back into the derelict is jammed, because the Crichton shifted on its axis.

FREED

Well... Still disconnected from power. Batteries are online, but it's not enough to power the shields.

RAYNOR

Yeah. We're going to start taking damage every burn rotation now.

FREED

What's up with the X-Core?

RAYNOR

There's a gravity influx from the Xytrilium reaction happening inside the core. I think the containment shield is punctured. Like a near microscopic hole.

FREED

How do you know that?

RAYNOR

Because any bigger, and the influx would implode the ship. It's still strong, though. Almost sucked the whole cargo bay into the reactor room when I opened the door. Me included.

FREED

Can we fix it?

RAYNOR

I don't know...

(then)

But we're going to have find a way to readjust the Crichton, get it back in alignment with the derelict. It's the only way to open the airlock door.

FREED

We need engines for that. Which means we need Stevens.

RAYNOR

I'll find Chambers. Meet us in the med-bay.

FREED

Got it.

Raynor starts to move for the engine room.

KILLIAN
You and your friends... Out of
sorts.

He clicks his tongue.

KILLIAN
Out. Of. Sorts...

RAYNOR
(hard)
Codex. Shut the prisoner pod's
physical barrier.

CODEX
Confirmed. Sealing prisoner
containment pod physical shell.

Killian chuckles. The containment pod seals. She moves off.

INT. CRICHTON MEDBAY

Raynor, Freed, and Chambers stand around Stevens' medpod.
Medical equipment beeps and hisses all around them.

CHAMBERS
I want to state again this isn't
the best course of action. He
isn't completely healed, and there
are significant risks to
prematurely waking someone from a
medical pod.

RAYNOR
Look, the only way out of here is
through the cargo bay door. We
need engines for the realignment,
and I don't know enough about
propulsion tech to get them
running in time.

They all keep staring at Stevens, unconscious.

CHAMBERS
Okay... Okay...

Chambers moves for the pod. He enters commands on the
control panel.

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Premature termination of
medical procedure. Removing
subject carries risk of further
complications. Confirm.

CHAMBERS
Confirmed.

A confirmation tone. Sounds from the medical pod as it
begins to shut down. When it does, the sound of the pod's
main door lifting up, the sound of venting air.

Then silence.

FREED
Is he...?

Nothing.

CHAMBERS
Stevens? Stevens, can you hear me?

Nothing. Stevens just lays there, breathing.

CHAMBERS
Stevens?

RAYNOR
What about a stimulant? Something
to kickstart his--

Everyone shudders as Stevens SCREAMS out loud, bolts
upright in the pod, reliving his last conscious moments.

FREED
Bloody tears...

RAYNOR
God...

STEVENS
What the--!? Where--?!

CHAMBERS
Stevens! Stevens, you're okay.
You're alright. You're on the
Crichton. In a med pod. You're
safe, you're okay.

Stevens breathes heavy, coming back to normal.

STEVENS
What happened?

RAYNOR
You don't remember?

STEVENS
I remember... I remember the God
damned ship exploding. I remember
the debris wave.

FREED
Yeah, you took it in the face.
You're lucky to be here.

STEVENS
Lucky to be where? This... is the
derelict ship?

RAYNOR
No, it's the Crichton. The ice
miners' ship docked on the
derelict.

FREED
We'll fill you in.

STEVENS
Yeah. Good. Fill me in... Let's
start with...

Stevens starts to rise up off the bed of the pod.

CHAMBERS
Stevens... Wait.

STEVENS
(In pain)
...oh, holy... balls...

We hear him lay back down.

CHAMBERS
You're not in any shape to get up.
Much less move around. You're
going to need some time--

STEVENS
What do you know about it?

RAYNOR
A lot, actually.

FREED
Chambers is a doctor.

STEVENS

The suit's a... doctor... too?
(pained)
It's like waking up in an
alternate dimension...

RAYNOR

Stevens. I need you to listen. The
ship's dislodged from its airlock
connections. We need to realign
it.

STEVENS

My head feels like it's gripped
between a body builder's thighs...

They stare at him.

FREED

Okay, that's... a lot to unpack.

STEVENS

Just... Flight computer'll do it.
It's just a button push, it's not
rocket science.

FREED

It literally kind of is.

RAYNOR

The X-Core's offline. We're on
emergency power. And the engines
aren't working. We need thrusters
in order to get us realigned on
the docking bay so we can open the
derelict's airlock.

CHAMBERS

Everything feels colder in here.
Did we lose life support?

RAYNOR

We're on batteries now, so just
basic life support. Going to get
cold real fast.

FREED

Computers are running, but just
one terminal in each section.

CHAMBERS

So we don't have shields.

RAYNOR

No. Not on batteries. We need real power. For shields and engines.

STEVENS

You guys have really screwed this whole thing up, haven't you? Why did you morons even bring me here? Huh? Why not the med-bay on the derelict ship, the one we're actually supposed to be on? Why are we even dealing with this shit?

RAYNOR

Because it meant leaving you to die in the secondary airlock, and we chose to risk our asses to get you here instead. That's why.

FREED

Full disclosure... I voted to kill you. Twice.

RAYNOR

We're wasting time with this. We need the engines, which means we need the X-Core. I think... maybe the prisoner can help.

CHAMBERS

Oh, no...

FREED

Help how?

STEVENS

What prisoner?

RAYNOR

He knows what's wrong with the reactor. I think he might be able to help me get it back on.

STEVENS

What prisoner?

FREED

There's a containment pod, Stevens, like for bounty hunters, in the cargo bay. There's someone in it.

STEVENS

Who?

RAYNOR

We don't know.

STEVENS

Why not?

RAYNOR

I didn't think to ask his name.

STEVENS

You didn't think to ask his name?
Did you think to check the user
logs? I mean, holy hell. Does
anyone think for themselves on
this job?

CODEX

This device has direct access to
all ship systems. This query can
be performed remotely.

Stevens stares around the room, confused.

STEVENS

What was that?

RAYNOR

We call it Codex. Each of us has
one. You do too. Goes on your
wrist. Just a small VI with access
to lots of info about the ship.

STEVENS

And the ability to remotely access
computers?

RAYNOR

Among other things. Codex. Do you
have an identity on the prisoner
in this ship?

CODEX

The prisoner is identified as
"Killian Sager".

(MORE)

CODEX (CONT'D)

Killian Sager is wanted by all three human space governments for the following crimes: homicide, terrorism, piracy, grand larceny, smuggling, distribution of narcotics, distribution of weapons of mass destruction, destruction of government property, destruction of--

RAYNOR

We get the the gist of it, Codex.

STEVENS

Holy fucking hell... This guy is locked up in the next room?

CHAMBERS

I knew it! I told you! I told you he was dangerous! I said--

FREED

This can't be right, he's blind. How can he be this super criminal if he can't see?

RAYNOR

He can see. Not like we do... but he can.

CHAMBERS

What does that mean?

RAYNOR

It's... complicated.

STEVENS

Hey, little girl... device thing?

CODEX

"Codex" is an acceptable designation.

STEVENS

Yeah, okay... Do you have any info on how much... the bounty might be on this Killian Sager?

A moment of processing. Then...

CODEX

The highest current bounty for Killian Sager, conveyed alive, is six million UEG credits.

CHAMBERS

Six. Million?

FREED

Who the hell is this guy?

CODEX

Correct. Six million UEG credits.

Everyone stands in stunned silence.

STEVENS

Well, I think... we just found a golden ticket out of this situation.

CHAMBERS

What do you mean?

STEVENS

How did I get thrown in with this lot? Listen closely, children. I'd guess, wholeheartedly, that six million credits split four ways is a lot more than whatever the hell M-D-land is offering us.

They stare at him.

STEVENS

Starting to register now?

CHAMBERS

You're proposing... we turn him in? For the bounty?

STEVENS

I'm proposing we're all pretty smart. Like next level smart. I'm proposing instead of bailing our corporate masters out of whatever shit storm they've stirred up this time, we use the very skills we were hired for to fix this ship, undock, cash in Mr. Sager... and then, ideally, never see each other again.

They all stare at him.

FREED

Could we... I mean, could we do that?

STEVENS

Way I see it, "bounty hunting's" two parts. Hunting. And bounties. He's locked up. That's the hard part. We just show up at an Extrapol station, hand him over.

CHAMBERS

I imagine there's a little more to it than that. We aren't licensed bounty hunters, for one.

STEVENS

We'd figure it out. I promise.

RAYNOR

This isn't... about money.

STEVENS

Give me a break, everything is about money.

FREED

I don't know... This... Maybe Stevens has a point? That's one point five million each.

CHAMBERS

We'd need... false identities, linked to PPG bank accounts. A tax shelter, certainly... A forger who would work on spec, which is probably... 12 to 15 percent commission at least...

FREED

So... If we wanted to get the ship running, we'd still--

RAYNOR

This isn't about money.

STEVENS

You seem to be in the minority here, Raynor. Everyone else is thinking smart, what's your problem?

RAYNOR

I have a lot more than one, and none of them are solved with six million credits.

STEVENS

Well, they do solve ours. And we aren't obligated to dig you out whatever holes you've made.

Raynor stares at him.

STEVENS

Cheer up, Raynor. One point five million may not solve your problems, but it'll make them a lot more palatable.

CODEX

This conversation subject matter is flagged restricted.

Everything stops at the codex voice in the room.

STEVENS

Uh, what?

Stevens cuts off as holograms flash in the air. They show four images. Images of four people, like headshots. The four people in this room. Freed. Chambers. Stevens.

FREED

What's this?

The holograms flash again, showing more info.

CHAMBERS

They're... our pictures. On some kind of... document? Or...

FREED

Bloody tears...

STEVENS

They're documents alright. They're bounty notices.

CHAMBERS

Wait... Bounties?

The holograms flash again.

CODEX

Extrapol arrest warrants have been issued with United Earth Government, Pangea People's Conglomerate, and Autonomy Nomadic Fleet licensed bounty reclamation officers. The posted reward for your capture is two million credits.

CHAMBERS

Oh, God... Oh, God...

STEVENS

Is this a fucking farce?

FREED

Two million... Every bounty hunter in human space would be hunting us.

STEVENS

Will be. Look at the time stamp, these are active warrants.

CODEX

Bounty warrants will be rescinded upon completion of your assignment. New mission imperative: Focus solely on mission goals.

STEVENS

This little VI... just screwed us sideways.

FREED

Every way, really.

They stare at the floating holograms in the air. Soberly.

CHAMBERS

These... These list everything. Everything about us... Every...

FREED

(Bitter)

Sin. All our sins. Posted for all to see. Love reading mine... Embezzlement. Corporate espionage. Grand larceny. Oh my...

CHAMBERS

Criminal negligence. Falsification
of pharmaceutical test results.
Constructive manslaughter...

STEVENS

Extortion.
(scoffs)
Illegal gambling. Embezzlement.
(laughs dryly)
Conspiracy to subvert patent laws.

FREED

No wonder they picked us. You see
the common thread...

STEVENS

Yeah...
(then)
All last chance losers. All at the
end of our roads. All expendable.
(then)
One of us, I notice, though...
conspicuously unrepresented here.

CHAMBERS

He's right. Why doesn't Raynor
have one?

CODEX

Asset Raynor has exhibited
operation cohesion and adherence.
With ISD Asset Blayne terminated,
Asset Raynor has been promoted to
Team Lead position.

RAYNOR

What?

CHAMBERS

This can't be happening...

RAYNOR

No. No. I'm not a leader.

FREED

Oh, give me a break, Raynor,
you've been barking orders since
we got here.

RAYNOR

Because we'd be dead otherwise!
Because no one else has--

CODEX

Project assignments have been
made. New mission imperative:
Focus solely on mission goals.

They stare at their images.

CHAMBERS

What do we do?

No one says anything.

CHAMBERS

What do we do?

RAYNOR

We finish the job. We get the ship
back for M-D. We... fix all this.
Everything listed on these.

(then)

It's why we came.

STEVENS

You really are pathetic, Raynor.
You actually think they're just
gonna line everything up for us in
thanks? Huh? You think once this
is over, they don't put a bounty
out on your head too?

RAYNOR

If you believe that, then why did
you sign on?

STEVENS

Because like every other pathetic
loser in this room, I didn't have
any choice.

CODEX

New mission imperative: Focus
solely on mission goals. Asset
Stevens must wear a Codex device.

STEVENS

What?

CHAMBERS

It wants you to put on one--

STEVENS

Yeah, I heard it. And I'm not
wearing that.

(MORE)

STEVENS (CONT'D)

(then)

I'll smash it to pieces instead.

RAYNOR

Stevens, this is the boat we're in.

(then)

I don't know what you did to get in here, but... it seems like you've been running a long time.

STEVENS

Bet your ass...

RAYNOR

And what did that get you? What did it get any of us? Taking this ship and running doesn't get us anything new, it just digs us deeper.

(then)

At some point... we have to stop running.

No one says anything.

RAYNOR

We don't have to like each other. But we do have to work together.

CODEX

New mission imperative: Focus solely on mission goals. Asset Stevens must wear a Codex device.

RAYNOR

This is the moment, Stevens.

Stevens sighs. He looks up at them.

STEVENS

Give me the damned thing.

Chambers hands Stevens his Codex, he puts it on.

It beeps as it powers up.

CODEX

New mission imperative: open Crichton airlock door. Proceed into ship interior. Focus solely on mission goals.

The ship shakes. A reminder of what's happening outside.

RAYNOR
Alright then. Alright...

FREED
So, how do we do this?

RAYNOR
If I repower the X-Core, can we
get the engines on enough to
realign the ship on the airlock?

Stevens doesn't say anything.

RAYNOR
Stevens?

STEVENS
It's... problematic.

CHAMBERS
Why?

STEVENS
Because the ship has a matter
anti-matter drive. Carbon and
anti-carbon get combined in an
intermix chamber and the
exothermal reaction moves the
ship. But you lost power, so the
antimatter tunneler and the matter
injector are offline.

FREED
So we restore power, we restore
the engines?

STEVENS
Sure. Yeah. After a full reboot.
Takes about six hours.

CHAMBERS
We don't have that long.

STEVENS
(annoyed)
Obviously. Hence the problem.

RAYNOR
And the fix?

STEVENS

There's anti-matter in the intermix chamber, the tunneler always repopulates it, but we need carbon to react with the anti-carbon. And it's not like you can just open the intermix chamber and throw in some graphite. Only one way I can think of in our situation. Manually open the external shutters on the intermix chamber, that's what feeds thrust into the engine cones. Shove carbon in from the back. Fortunately we have a good source for that.

RAYNOR

The burn... The atmosphere. We wait for the burn to come back around... let it fill in the engine cone... then open these shutters?

STEVENS

In a nutshell.

CHAMBERS

We would need to drop the shields for that. Correct?

STEVENS

And get the shutters open in the first place. Won't be easy, they aren't designed to open like that.

RAYNOR

But you can figure it out?

He isn't pleased about it.

STEVENS

I can figure it out.

They all look at one another.

FREED

Well. Sounds like we have a plan. And... a fragile, tenuous alliance.

Everyone looks at Raynor.

CHAMBERS

Raynor?

Another moment.

RAYNOR

Fragile and tenuous.

INT. CRICHTON - CARGO BAY

The sound of the prisoner pod's shell lifting up and off.

When it is, Killian exhales, stares at Raynor.

KILLIAN

My angel...

RAYNOR

Do you want to live?

He studies her.

KILLIAN

A question that needs no asking.

RAYNOR

I don't know who you are. Why you're trapped in that thing. What you're doing here. I do know you're walking the edge of a razor. Because you have a six million credit bounty on your head and everyone on this ship wants to cut loose and turn you in.

He smiles.

KILLIAN

Not everyone.

She stares at him.

KILLIAN

Told you, you were my angel. Sticking up for me in there. Keeping the wolves at bay.

She stares at him, perplexed.

RAYNOR

You're guessing.

KILLIAN
 Promotions, too. Team lead?
 (then)
 Sounds important.

RAYNOR
 There's... No way you could have
 heard that. Not in that pod.

KILLIAN
 Hearing... It is not the right
 word.

RAYNOR
 How did you know that?

KILLIAN
 Metal... Metal is not something
 people see the right way. It
 flexes. It bends. Absorbs.
 Vibrates. It... sings. To me, at
 least, angel.

She stares at him. Hardens.

RAYNOR
 My name... is Raynor.

KILLIAN
 I like you, Raynor. You have...
 something. But liking someone and
 trusting them are two different
 things.
 (then)
 No way to trust someone, without
 knowing what drives them.

RAYNOR
 What does trust have to do with
 it? Either we open that door, or
 we die. Can you help me do that?

He stares at her, studying her. Raynor finds it
 uncomfortable.

KILLIAN
 To be certain. But only so much.
 Heavy lifting, I am afraid, will
 fall to you. And you've already
 experienced what it's like inside
 there. Just a glimpse. Gravity.
 Electromagnetics. Your brain is
 not a fan of either, is it?

RAYNOR
I'll make it work.

KILLIAN
Remains to be seen... But. I need
to touch the floor.

She stares at him.

RAYNOR
What?

KILLIAN
The floor. Need to touch it. Just
in front of the pod will be fine.

RAYNOR
Why?

KILLIAN
I can feel what's going on in the
cargo bay inside this pod.
Anything beyond that... can't feel
into the reactor. EM's too strong.
I need a... more connected source.

RAYNOR
Drop your containment shield?
That's what you're asking?

Killian chuckles.

KILLIAN
You thinking... what? Same thing
the others were worried about?
Once I'm loose, I... rear up. Snap
you in half, do the same with
everyone else on board?

RAYNOR
Why do I think you've done similar
things before?

He smiles.

KILLIAN
Call it... intuition.
(then)
But I'm strapped in here, at the
waist. You see? Metallic bonds.
Keep me in my spot, shield or no
shield. And you can reactivate
that in milliseconds.
(MORE)

KILLIAN (CONT'D)
Keep your finger on the trigger,
angel. Cut me in half if I do
anything... untoward.

Raynor says nothing. Studies him.

KILLIAN
Or don't. But, unless I feel the
floor... you don't know what
you're dealing with inside that
reactor.

She studies him a second more. Then...

RAYNOR
Codex.

CODEX
Query?

RAYNOR
Can you deactivate the prisoner
containment's energy shield?

A moment as it calculates.

CODEX
This operation is possible.

Another moment. Then...

RAYNOR
Do it.

CODEX
Confirm. Potentially dangerous
subject is housed inside
containment pod.

RAYNOR
Confirmed.

CODEX
Deactivating electromagnetic
prisoner containment shielding.

The containment powers down. The shield goes offline.

Killian smiles.

KILLIAN
Ah. Free at last...

RAYNOR
Get on with it.

KILLIAN
First thing's first...

The binds holding Killian waist burst apart in a spraying of shrapnel.

In a flash of motion, Killian grabs Raynor, pulls her hard against him.

She groans as she slams into him, struggles. Killian clamps her mouth shut.

KILLIAN
Sssshhhh, angel. Calm yourself.
(then)
Calm. Yourself.

She quits struggling. Breathes through his hand.

KILLIAN
Good. Nice. Gonna let you breathe.
Let you talk. But do not scream.
Is that understood?

Raynor says "uh-huh" under his hand. He lets her loose.

KILLIAN
Real nice. Real good.

RAYNOR
How did you-- Break the waist
shackle? No way you're that--

She cuts off as his hand wraps around her throat.

KILLIAN
Does not feel good, does it? That
grip on the throat? Tightening.
Feel the devil tugging on your
shoes, my grandma used to say.
(then)
Need to establish two things if we
are going to cooperate. Trust. And
understanding.

RAYNOR
This is trust?

KILLIAN
Will be. See the screwdriver?
Right there, on that bench? Take
it.

Raynor doesn't move.

KILLIAN
Go ahead. Take it.

Raynor moves, reaches out, grabs the screwdriver.

KILLIAN
Good. Now. Put it, all gentle
like, right against my throat.

Raynor hesitates again.

KILLIAN
It's fine, angel. Here. Right on
the side. The tender, soft part.
You can do it...

Raynor places the screwdriver against Killian's throat.

KILLIAN
Beautiful. Perfect. Now you see.
Could drive that bit of metal
right into my larynx. Got the
leverage for it, this position.
And I could crush your neck like
an egg. Don't we each got the jump
on the other?

Raynor just breathes, frightened.

KILLIAN
Just sit here a moment. See what
happens. See how it feels.

They stand in silence for a long moment.

KILLIAN
Why don't you start that timer of
yours?

Raynor hesitates.

KILLIAN
Go on, now. Give it a whirl.

She reaches in her pocket with her free hand. Hits the
button on the timer.

It beeps. Begins counting down...

KILLIAN
Five seconds ought to be enough.
Starting... now.

It keeps counting. 1. 2. 3. 4...

KILLIAN
No small thing, is it? A deathly
synergy?

Raynor stops the timer.

KILLIAN
Promising start to a relationship.

RAYNOR
This isn't a relationship.

KILLIAN
Of course it is. Short as it may
be. And all relationships thrive
on trust. And understanding. Trust
we've dealt with. And what you
need to understand, angel, is that
I am no one to double cross. I am
no one to set intentions with you
do not intend to keep. There have
been those, in my time, that made
that mistake.

(hard)
They are no longer among the
living.

Raynor just breathes.

KILLIAN
Help you with the X-Core. Help you
get the power on. Help you open
that door. And when I do... I will
no longer be inside this pod. I
will be set free. Completely. That
is the only deal we are
discussing.

(then)
We are in agreement, I presume?

RAYNOR
Yes...

KILLIAN
Nice. Good.

He holds her another moment. Then... lets her go.

KILLIAN

Free to go now. Raynor.

Raynor leaps free of him, moves away.

She rubs her throat. Glares at him.

KILLIAN

That wasn't so bad, was it?

RAYNOR

It goes both ways. Lie to me, stop me from getting what I want. And I'll shrink the containment shield on this thing with you inside it until you're nothing but a mass of gelatin.

Killian chuckles. Low. Slow.

KILLIAN

Means a lot to you, whatever it is you lost. That's good. Right kind of motivation. Believe me, I know.

(weighted)

I have lost things, too.

RAYNOR

I don't care. Get on with it... Before I start losing faith.

Killian smiles. Then bends over in his seat...

KILLIAN

I'd take a few steps back. The... effect will be in the air.

Raynor steps back, breathing.

RAYNOR

Codex. If he leaves his seat... immediately reengage the energy shield.

CODEX

Order confirmed.

KILLIAN

To be certain...

Killian bends over more. Then... places his fingers on the metal floor of the cargo bay.

A strange sound. Like a humming. Deep. Powerful.

Killian groans. Just slightly. Like some kind of sensation washes through him.

He sits there. Frozen. Then...

RAYNOR
What's happening?

KILLIAN
You were right. Containment shield, punctured. But... very, very small. Just a... just a pin prick. Lot of debris... big, small... stuck to it. Blocking it.

RAYNOR
Where?

KILLIAN
Near the floor. Right side of the reactor core, as you look at it. Right above...
(then)
Right above... Feels like a conduit. Round. Not powered though. Some kind of... pressure valve?

The humming stops. Killian's eyes snap open. He exhales, sits back in the pod.

He groans again, a little louder, rubs his head.

RAYNOR
If it's near the floor, on the right... with this orientation... that would be the thermal bleed off valve.
(then)
You're sure about this?

KILLIAN
Sure...

RAYNOR
Codex, reactivate the energy barrier.

CODEX
Order confirmed.

The energy barrier crackles back to life. Killian is imprisoned again.

RAYNOR

A pinhole puncture in the X-Core's containment shield, right above the bleed off.

KILLIAN

(pained)

Long and... short of it.

(then)

But what's the solution? Lot of problems, aren't there?

RAYNOR

Getting crushed is one problem, the gravity influx would make short work of me. Other problem is that EM field in there. Triggered my Jet remnants last time. Could use one of the space suits. Whichever has the most atmosphere left. Buy me some time. With both. But still got to seal the hole.

KILLIAN

Roche knew what he was doing. Seemed to me, anyway. Plan wasn't for us to stay here. Guy like that, clever guy, would have had a way to fix the core when it was needed.

She looks at him.

RAYNOR

You're saying Roche punctured the containment core intentionally?

KILLIAN

I am saying it.

RAYNOR

Why would... Puncturing the containment core of a...

KILLIAN

Roche seemed to think it would make the pulse stronger.

Raynor stares at him.

KILLIAN
Increase the feedback, he said.
Make it pointed.

RAYNOR
A feedback pulse?

KILLIAN
Right into the power system of the
big ship. Once we were docked.
Once they let us plug in.

Raynor thinks through that.

RAYNOR
You modified the X-Core to...
pulse forward, through the
auxiliary power lines from the
derelict. You'd need a shit ton of
capacitors, some kind of
distributor to set the whole thing
off... and a way for the reactor
to vent out the excess EM build up
it would get from pushing against
the derelict's current.

(Then)

That's why he punctured the
containment shield, right by the
bleed off.

(then)

What the hell were you doing here?

KILLIAN
Afraid to say, nothing
respectable.

She studies him. Frowns. Thinks.

RAYNOR
Xytrilium reaction is a negative
gravity effect, it's why
everything's being sucked towards
it. But... it radiates gamma
rays... That's what messed with my
head.

(then)

Gamma rays...

(then)

Stevens?

No response from comms.

RAYNOR
Stevens?

STEVEN
(annoyed)
What?!

Raynor frowns at his tone.

RAYNOR
Do you know what model ship this
is?

STEVENS
Yes...

He offers nothing else.

RAYNOR
Stevens, can you please just
answer the question?

STEVENS
Oh. I'm sorry. Sure. Let me drop
everything over here. It's an
AeroDyne Marquis III, about thirty
years old. Not in great shape
either, judging by this engine,
which looks repurposed from some
kind of--

RAYNOR
Does it use ferrofluids for heat
transfer or vibration dampening?

STEVENS
Yeah. Both. Why?

She thinks a moment. Then...

RAYNOR
Are they stored?

STEVENS
Are they stored?

RAYNOR
Yes, like in a container? Or are
the ferrofluids already--

STEVENS
Is this really important to what's
going on?

RAYNOR

Yes, Stevens, it is. I need ferrofluids. Are they stored in containers?

STEVENS

I mean...

(then)

Yeah, okay, I see the distributors for the heat dampening right here.

RAYNOR

How much is in the container?

STEVENS

I'd guess... Half a gallon? You realize that stuff is dangerous, right? Ferromagnetic nanoparticles--

RAYNOR

If I didn't know what ferrofluids were, Stevens, why would I be asking? Have Chambers bring me one of the containers.

STEVENS

What are you going to do with it?

RAYNOR

Plug a hole.

She disconnects from the comms.

KILLIAN

Ferrofluids?

RAYNOR

Basically... a liquid of electromagnetic sensitive nanoparticles. When exposed to EM, it solidifies. On a starship they help with inertia dampening, heat transfer near the engines.

KILLIAN

Starting to get it. Toss that on the reactor's puncture wound, it'll solidify from the EM, seal it.

RAYNOR

That's my thought.

INT. CRICHTON - CARGO BAY

The sound of the atmosphere burn passing over the ship. Sparks. Rattling. The sounds of the shields struggling.

Then it passes...

The sound of Raynor's space suit feet, moving towards the X-Core door. Her voice is filtered by the space suit.

RAYNOR

Stevens, how are we looking?

STEVENS

Shutters are rigged. Once the burn comes back, they'll blow open, and that will start the reaction.

(then)

You realize we get one shot at this, right? If the X-Core isn't on by the time the antimatter reaction starts, this is all for nothing.

RAYNOR

(Firm)

I'll get it on. Just be ready to go.

She stares at the door. Breathes out.

RAYNOR

Chambers. Tell me again.

His voice is filtered by a space suit too.

CHAMBERS

(nervous)

The gravity will pull you to the X-Core. When you're there, I'll send over the winch line from my suit. You'll attach it to the debris blocking the puncture on the reactor's shield and I'll winch it out. One piece at a time.

RAYNOR

You'll be fine. Your suit will do most the work.

CHAMBERS

And... you're sure I won't get pulled through, too?

RAYNOR

A Xytrilium gravity effect has a tight fall off. I guessed at the distance to the reactor from the door, I only got a glimpse, but...

She taps the floor with her boot.

RAYNOR

Stay behind the line I drew on the floor and you'll be fine. We've moved everything else away, so there shouldn't be any flying debris.

CHAMBERS

Do you have to do anything special with the ferrofluids?

RAYNOR

Just open the container. Gravity influx will suck them right into the puncture hole.

(Then)

Should be all there is to it.

She looks at Killian.

RAYNOR

Any last cryptic words of encouragement?

KILLIAN

Anyone needs encouragement ought not be doing what they're doing.

RAYNOR

Fair...

(Then)

Codex.

CODEX

Query?

She hesitates. Breathes. Steels herself.

RAYNOR

Vent the secondary air filter. Open the X-Core radiation shield.

CODEX

X-Core malfunction previously detected. Gravity influx previously detected. Confirm.

Raynor swallows.

RAYNOR
Confirmed.

The sound of air violently hissing out of the secondary filter behind the walls.

Then the door begins to raise...

The sound of the gravity influx roaring on the other side.

Raynor takes a step forward in her suit. Nothing happens.

Another step. Still nothing.

Another. The suit vibrates under her.

RAYNOR
I can feel the pull now...

Another step. The suit strains against the influx.

RAYNOR
Much stronger here...

Another step.

RAYNOR
Okay... Here we go. I'm going to let it... pull me inside the--

Another step. And then the suit is ripped off its feet.

It slams HARD to the floor. Raynor groans at the impact.

Then we hear it sliding forward.

RAYNOR
Oh, boy...

The suit is pulled, fast, into...

INT. CRICHTON - X-CORE

The sound of the reactor and the influx of air and matter being sucked forward.

Raynor yells as she is pulled faster and faster towards the looming X-Core...

And then groans hard as she SLAMS into it in a blast of metal and debris and sparks.

RAYNOR
 Computer... mute all external
 sounds.

The sounds fade out, becoming quieter, more muted, but
 still present.

COMPUTER VOICE
 Warning. Exoskeleton impact.
 Structural integrity compromised.
 Life threatening situation
 detected.

RAYNOR
 You don't... say...

CHAMBERS
 Raynor, are you okay?

RAYNOR
 (dazed)
 Present... Accounted for...

The sound of the environment, going crazy.

RAYNOR
 Pinned to the reactor...
 (then)
 Lost... my grip on the ferrofluid
 container. But... it's here. Stuck
 nearby. Can reach it...

The sound of the servos on her suit moving under strain.

COMPUTER VOICE
 Warning. Mechanical systems under
 strain. Mechanical failure
 possible.

RAYNOR
 Can barely move...
 (then)
 Lot stronger gravity force than I
 expected.
 (then)
 Give me... second... Chambers.

The servos strain again. The suit grinds against the
 reactor.

We hear the whirring of objects sailing past.

RAYNOR

Okay... I'm situated. I see... See
the bleed off vent. I see where
the puncture is.

(then)

Let's start... Getting this debris
off...

(then)

Send your winch line in.

CHAMBERS

Here it comes.

A whirring sound over the comms as Chambers' winch unwinds.

CHAMBERS

It's in. The gravity has it.

The winch begins unwinding fast.

RAYNOR

I see it...

The end of the winch keeps coming.

RAYNOR

Keep it coming. Almost here.

(then)

Got it!

Raynor groans as her suit servos whine. We hear the debris
shift on the reactor shell. Hear the hook of the winch wire
attach to the first piece of debris.

RAYNOR

Okay. It's on. Pull it.

The winch wire goes taut. The debris shakes as it tears
loose of the reactor. The piece is pulled through the
gravity influx, backs towards the door.

RAYNOR

It's working! It's headed to you.
It's about to hit the bottom of
the door, get ready.

The debris hits the door with a clank. Hangs in place...

CHAMBERS

It's stuck!

RAYNOR

Just increase the pull, it'll go.
I can tell...

The wire vibrates as Chambers's suit pulls it harder.

Then the debris shakes and rolls underneath the bottom of the door, flying out of view, back into the cargo bay.

RAYNOR
There it goes!

We hear it crash into the cargo bay on the other side.

CHAMBERS
(flustered)
It almost crashed into me!

RAYNOR
Almost is good...

Sparks. The sound of Raynor's suit collapsing.

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Suit integrity failing.

RAYNOR
Send the winch again! I'm running out of time here.

CHAMBERS
Already on the way...

A whirring sound as Chambers' winch unwinds.

It keeps coming...

RAYNOR
See it.

Raynor groans as her suit servos whine.

RAYNOR
Got it. Attaching...

We hear the debris shift on the reactor shell. Hear the hook of the winch wire attach to the second piece of debris.

RAYNOR
Okay, go! Wheel it back.

The winch wire goes taut. The debris shakes as it tears loose of the reactor. The piece is pulled through the gravity influx, backs towards the door.

The debris hits the door with a clank. Hangs in place...

RAYNOR
It's hung, up the power on the
winch.

Then the debris shakes and rolls underneath the bottom of
the door, flying out of view, back into the cargo bay.

RAYNOR
Here it comes!

We hear it crash into the cargo bay on the other side.

RAYNOR
Chambers, you okay?

Nothing from him in response. Just static.

RAYNOR
Chambers?

CHAMBERS
I'm here... I'm here...
(Then)
That piece almost took my head
off.

RAYNOR
One more piece... then we're good.

A whirring sound as Chambers' winch unwinds.

CHAMBERS
Going easier than I thought.

RAYNOR
Don't jinx it...

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Suit integrity failing.

The winch wire appears. Raynor groans, her suit whines.

RAYNOR
I got it... I got it.

We hear the debris shift on the reactor shell. Hear the
hook attach to the second piece of debris.

RAYNOR
Okay... Yeah. This one's...
bigger.

CHAMBERS
How much bigger?

COMPUTER VOICE
Warning. Suit integrity failing.

RAYNOR
Just pull it! Go! My suit's almost
done.

The winch wire goes taut. The debris shakes as it tears
loose of the reactor. The piece is pulled through the
gravity influx, backs towards the door.

The debris keeps going through the gravity.

RAYNOR
Get ready...

The debris hits the door with a clank. Hangs in place...

RAYNOR
It's on the door.

The debris piece shakes and vibrates. We hear the winch
cable shake and strain.

RAYNOR
It's not moving. Go full power.

CHAMBERS
Are you sure?

RAYNOR
Yes! Do it! Get it out of here.

We hear the servos on her suit whine to life.

RAYNOR
I have to get the ferrofluid
container.

The suit stretches. Raynor groans, reaching...

RAYNOR
Gravity is intense...

CHAMBERS
This isn't working. Raynor...

The winch wire strains. The debris piece shakes.

RAYNOR
Can almost...reach it.
(then)
Can almost...

Her hands connect with the container. Then the sound of the winch wire snapping it half, spraying metal everywhere.

Raynor snaps back around.

RAYNOR

Oh, shit...

The debris piece flies back towards her...

...and she groans hard as it SLAMS INTO her.

Sparks and debris spray everywhere. Alarms in her helmet.

And then the sound of electromagnetics in Raynor's head. She moans in pain...

In the background, over all the pain...

CHAMBERS

Raynor!

FREED

What happened? I'm getting warning lights all over the panel.

CHAMBERS

My winch line broke. The debris got sucked back right onto Raynor. It hit hard.

COMPUTER VOICE

(damaged)

Warning... Impact... detected...
Suit integrity... compromised.
Suit integrity... failing...

The sound of Raynor breathing, trying to focus.

Eventually, the sounds of the world around her return.

Alarms. The groaning of the debris on top of her. And...a hissing. Like air. Air being vented out of her suit...

CHAMBERS

Raynor!? Ray--

RAYNOR

(In pain)

I'm here... I'm here...

(then)

Debris... pinned me. Suit... failing.

FREED

We got bigger problems. That last impact weakened the whole reactor shell. If you don't get that puncture sealed, the X-Core is going to breach.

STEVENS

Eject it! Eject the X-Core!

FREED

Raynor is still in the Core.

CHAMBERS

Raynor, do you see the puncture on the reactor? Can you fix it?

Raynor looks, moans...

RAYNOR

See it... I see it.

(then)

Trying... to reach... ferrofluid container...

CODEX

Warning. X-Core breach imminent. Structural integrity compromised.

STEVENS

Eject the core!

The servos on her suit groan.

RAYNOR

Can't... reach...

COMPUTER VOICE

Warning. Suit power... failure imminent...

The sound of her suit dying, the power draining from it.

RAYNOR

No!

CHAMBERS

Raynor?!

RAYNOR

Suit just died... I can't... Can't get the... container...

STEVENS

She's not going to make it. Eject
the fucking thing!

FREED

You'll kill her if you eject the
core!

STEVENS

The core will kill all of us if we
don't!

The influx roars around her. Her suit starts to buckle. The
sounds of EM ripping through her head.

STEVENS

There's no time.

Then another sound...

Clips detaching on her suit. Pressure venting.

CHAMBERS

Raynor, what are you doing?!

RAYNOR

Venting... My suit. Pulling out...
(then)
Servos... are dead.

CHAMBERS

The gravity will crush you! And
the electromagnetics!

RAYNOR

Not... immediately.

The suit vents more. The sound of the helmet coming off.

CHAMBERS

Raynor, no!

The helmet detaches. The suit buckles.

STEVENS

Fine, no one else has the stomach
for it, I'll do it.

The sounds of the X-Core intensify as Raynor is exposed to
everything inside.

She crawls out of her suit. She groans in pain.

RAYNOR
I can... do it...

FREED
Bloody tears... Raynor.

The EM field rips through her brain. The gravity is crushing.

She groans in pain... stretches out...

She touches the canister, groans as she pulls it to her.

RAYNOR
Got it...

We hear button presses, beeps from the canister. Then... the sound of it OPENING.

RAYNOR
Ferrofluids... Opening.

The ferrofluids burst out of the container, sucked towards the puncture of the reactor's shell.

They hit it, spread outwards on the shell, and SOLIDIFY.

As they do, the sounds of the reactor normalize. The influx roar dies. The EM in Raynor's head calms.

Crashing everywhere as the objects that were trapped in the gravity influx fall to the floor.

So does Raynor, with a groan of pain.

She breathes heavy and long... exhausted. In pain.

CODEX
Alert. Reactor core structural integrity restored.

RAYNOR
Freed... Freed...

FREED
We're green... We're good to power up!

Space suit boots running towards her.

CHAMBERS
Raynor! Good God. Are you okay?
Are you conscious?

RAYNOR
Unfortunately...

Chambers bends down, grabs her.

CHAMBERS
I'm pulling you back to the cargo
bay.

The sounds of the X-Core powering up behind her as Chambers
tries her back into...

INT. CARGO BAY

Chambers drags her a few more feet, then lays her down.

Raynor breathes. Slow. In and out.

CHAMBERS
Raynor?

Raynor moans in pain.

RAYNOR
I think...
(then)
Think my ribs...

CHAMBERS
There were significant g-forces in
there. Just lay still.

The door to the cargo bay opens, Freed runs in.

FREED
We're online! X-Core is up!

She stops, stares at Raynor on the ground.

FREED
Is she okay?

CHAMBERS
No. I don't think so. The pressure
was intense. And the EM... Her Jet
remnants...

STEVENS
Attention, this is your captain
speaking. I am in the bridge. Burn
is almost here. Going to seal the
pressure doors, just to be safe.

The doors throughout the cargo bay and the ship slam down, sealing everything.

RAYNOR

You two... get over to the airlock door... might have to do this fast.

FREED

Got it.

They move off towards the cargo bay door.

The sound of the burn keeps building.

STEVENS

Atmosphere burn incoming... We made it with seconds to spare.

FREED

Thanks to Raynor. Who you wanted to flush out into space.

STEVENS

Get ready. Three. Two. One.

The burn hits the ship, everything shakes.

STEVENS

Dropping shields...

CHAMBERS

Oh, God.

We hear the sound of the shields going down...

...and then the ship contorts violently as the hull absorbs the full brunt of the atmosphere burn.

Sparks spray. Metal bends. Alarms sound.

FREED

Is it working? Is it--?

STEVENS

Standby...

And then, what sounds like an explosion, through the bulkheads. The ship rocks hard as the anti-matter reacts inside the intermix chambers.

We hear the engines flare to life outside. The ship rocks.

STEVENS
And... We've got thrust.

 FREED
Oh thank god...

Freed laughs, relieved.

The engines rumble.

 STEVENS
Shields back up...

 RAYNOR
Freed, check the... alignment on
the airlock connections.

 FREED
Looking.

A monitor starts to beep, progressively longer tones.

 FREED
You're off... Stevens, you're off
starboard, about three degrees.

Stevens says nothing. The engines whine down.

 FREED
Stevens! You're off three degrees.

Nothing.

Then the sound of the engine thrust dying outside.

 RAYNOR
Stevens?

 STEVENS
Well, this is awkward...

 CHAMBERS
You cut the thrust. Why did you
cut the thrust?

 STEVENS
Because I'll have full engine
function in about five minutes.
All the thrust I'll need.

No one says anything.

FREED

You said a full engine reboot
would take hours.

STEVENS

Yeah. I kind of lied about that.
Force an anti-matter reaction in
the intermix chamber, the process
actually doesn't take all that
long. Engines are priming right
now.

RAYNOR

Stevens... What are you doing?

STEVENS

I can't close the cargo bay door.
Bridge controls have been
overridden. You guys are going to
have to do it from your end.

RAYNOR

We need to get into the airlock,
Stevens. Why would we close the
cargo bay door?

FREED

Because when he undocks the
ship... the cargo bay's going to
vent into space.

They all stare.

CHAMBERS

Wait, what?

RAYNOR

Stevens, you son of a bitch. We
decided.

STEVENS

Exactly. You decided one way. I
decided another. I'm not going
into that derelict. I'm going to
cash in all the chips I have
instead.

CHAMBERS

We have bounty warrants, Stevens!
You included.

STEVENS

I thought about that, too. If I turn all of you in, that's, what? Twelve million total? Should go a long way to settling up my affairs.

FREED

Stevens!

STEVENS

I gave you the chance to do the smart thing, and you chose different. Now I'm undocking. You can shut that door, or you can asphyxiate. If I were you... I'd start making better choices.

CHAMBERS

Can we get to the bridge and stop him?

FREED

No, he locked down the whole ship.

CHAMBERS

Can we force open the airlock door?

RAYNOR

It's hydraulically sealed. Hundreds of pounds of pressure.

FREED

Then what do we do?

CHAMBERS

Maybe... Maybe we have to shut it. Maybe... there's no other way?

RAYNOR

I'm not... leaving.

CHAMBERS

I mean, he's right. We'll die. If he undocks with the door open, we--

STEVENS

4 minutes!

RAYNOR

I'm not leaving.

Raynor starts to pull herself up. Then she collapses.

The engines keep priming.

CHAMBERS

Raynor, stay down. You're hurt.
Freed, shut the door. It's the
only thing to do.

RAYNOR

Freed. No.

CHAMBERS

Shut the door! We have to!

RAYNOR

No! Just...

FREED

I'm sorry, Raynor. I don't see any
other way.

We hear Freed press buttons on a console. Then... the sound
of the giant cargo bay door begin closing.

RAYNOR

No...

And, the sound of it slamming down. Sealing off the
derelict's airlock.

KILLIAN

You really want on that ship...
Really... need on that ship.

She turns back to Killian.

RAYNOR

Yes...

KILLIAN

Why? Not credits. Wouldn't be
talking if it was.

Raynor stares. The engines keep priming.

RAYNOR

My son...
(then)
I lost my son.

KILLIAN

Ah... And. Way to getting him
back. It is through that ship.

RAYNOR

The only way.

Killian studies her.

KILLIAN

All is not lost, angel. One choice left.

MUSIC: Faint Frequencies, Taubert

She stares at him.

KILLIAN

Let me out.

She stares at him.

CHAMBERS

What?!

FREED

Raynor... Wait.

KILLIAN

Let me out. The last of your options.

She stares at him.

RAYNOR

You can... open the doors? Both of them? You can get us inside?

KILLIAN

Believe you me.

FREED

Raynor... I don't know about this...

CHAMBERS

Raynor... he is dangerous.

KILLIAN

Trust. We've earned it. You and I.

(then)

You and I... Cut from the same cloth, seems like.

(then)

Let me loose. Have my word. You will be on that ship.

She thinks another moment. Then...

RAYNOR
Codex.

CODEX
Query?

RAYNOR
Open the prisoner containment pod.

CHAMBERS
Raynor!

CODEX
Confirm. Potentially dangerous
subject is housed inside
containment pod.

STEVENS
Raynor! What are you doing?!

RAYNOR
Gotta say, Stevens. Depriving you
of your payday sort of pushed it
over the top for me...
(then)
Codex, confirmed.

CODEX
Deactivating electromagnetic
prisoner containment shielding.

The containment powers down. The shield goes offline.

Killian rises swiftly from his seat, steps onto the floor.

CHAMBERS
You're... larger than I assumed.

RAYNOR
You need help getting to the door?

KILLIAN
I do not.

Killian moves fast, through all the objects in the cargo
bay, somehow avoiding all of it.

STEVENS
The cargo bay door is sealed like
the others now. No way it's
opening. We all know this is done.

KILLIAN
Everyone... Few steps back.

Killian stops in front of the cargo bay door.

He places his hands on it.

CHAMBERS

What is he doing?

FREED

He's touching the cargo bay door.
He's feeling it...

KILLIAN

Covering your ears... another good
idea.

CHAMBERS

Why would we need to--

A very loud, powerful sound rips through the room. Like a miniature sonic boom mixed with high octave ringing of glass

Everyone reacts in pain, stumbles back.

Killian groans in pain too, his body shakes.

A new sound. Loud. The sound of grinding metal as, impossibly, the airlock door begins to rise UPWARDS. Against the force of the hydraulics trying to keep it shut.

FREED

He's... he's opening the doors!
Both of them!

CHAMBERS

That's... hundreds of pounds of
pressure! How can he--

KILLIAN

Talk about it... Or do something
about it...

RAYNOR

He's right! Crawl under. Go, Go!

The sound of the three moving fast for the airlock door.

STEVENS

Raynor!

Raynor crawls through into...

INT. DERELICT SHIP - PRIMARY AIRLOCK

She scampers under the door, falls to the floor. Freed and Chambers move under the door after her.

RAYNOR
Killian! We're through!

Killian groans as he ducks under the door.

KILLIAN
Stay clear of the doors. Going to drop them.

RAYNOR
Do it.

STEVENS
Raynor!

The engines of the Crichton fire and it disconnects from its tethers. Air vents violently out of the airlock...

Then the sound of the airlock door slamming down hard.

The venting stops. Everything goes quiet. We can hear the engines of the Crichton outside the bulkhead, fading away.

FREED
We... We did it...
(then)
I think we did. Right?

RAYNOR
We... did. We're... on board the derelict.

CODEX
New mission imperative: proceed into ship interior. Normalize degrading orbit.

Everyone breathes heavily, exhausted.

FREED
Maybe... could we have a five minute break first?

CHAMBERS
But... our escape plan is gone. The Crichton is gone.

RAYNOR
That's right. Either we fix this ship... or we die on it.

KILLIAN

Always found, grim truths, such as those... very motivating.

Everyone breathes, relaxing, calming.

CHAMBERS

Should we... Should we bind him? Somehow? Tie him up?

FREED

Who's going to do it? You?

Killian laughs.

KILLIAN

Always the same with the civvies. Always blinded by whatever's closest to them.

RAYNOR

What's that supposed to mean?

KILLIAN

Means, angel... Many, many more things on this boat you should be worried about besides me.

From the distance... strange sounds. From the interior of the giant ship.

Eerie and frightening.

The sounds of something rumbling and mechanical. And it is coming closer.

RAYNOR

What... the hell was that?

CODEX

Warning. Internal security apparatus on approach. Avoid detection. Seek shelter.

RAYNOR

Security... apparatus.

The sounds again, from the distance. Loud. And threatening. Coming closer. Fast.

Killian laughs. Everyone looks at him.

KILLIAN

Case in point...

CHAMBERS

Maybe... we should listen to it.

CODEX

Warning. Avoid detection. Seek shelter.

FREED

Seek shelter where?

RAYNOR

I don't know, but... Something's coming. Something big.

The sounds keep coming, louder and louder.

RAYNOR

Everybody... Everybody run.

No one argues. They are on their feet. And running.

As the sounds grow louder and louder behind them.

END OF EPISODE THREE