

'Xortex'

By

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XORTEX

Fade in:

EXT. SPACE

A huge energy distortion field wave is traversing the galaxy. It is a swirling mass. The blackness of space is twisted and contorting beyond comprehension illuminated from within by a red glow as if it's alive and writhing with furious rage. It's approaching Earth's solar system which appears in the distance and in the background ahead of it.

EXT. OMEGA PRIMUS ONE

Jupiter's Jovian lunar space station is a virtual city in space and is a jumble of activity and commotion. Ships, both large and small, swarm around it with an almost ballet like precision.

INT. OMEGA PRIMUS ONE CENTRAL COMMAND AND CONTROL

A klaxon alarm signals an alert status as it's personell scramble to track the anomaly on their computer monitors. A commanding officer hurries in and peers over a sitting officer's shoulder at his computer console's screen's scans of the phenomina.

COMMANDER (Still buttoning his uniform)

What is it? (Looking at approaching blip)

SCIENCE OFFICER

An electromagnetic distortion field of some kind.

It's scrambling our signal.

COMMANDER

Where did it come from? Point of origin?

Why didn't we detect it sooner?

OFFICER

Unknown. It's not holding a steady course.

It just came out of nowhere.

COMMANDER

How soon until it enters our solar system?

OFFICER

In four point two hours at it's current speed.

COMMANDER

Alright, alert Alpha fleet's border patrol and get

Johanson on the com.

OFFICER (Presses controls)

Immediately.

EXT. CO-OP'S UNISCOM'S FREEDOM ONE SPACE STATION - Alpha fleet's base of operations high above Mars.

INT. BANQUET ROOM

AMBASSADOR ZIN HABIB is there being honored at a gala dinner event. Across from him and his aides at his table are ADMIRAL JOHANSON and members of the system's interstellar World's Congress Alliance.

HABIB

I tell you right now, Freedom One is the eye of the storm. The only thing the malicious malcontents of the outer world colonies fear more than themselves is the telepathic protectorate on Mars. Ironically, something they themselves helped to create.

I should know. I'm from Mars. (He laughs)

JOHANSON

Well, a little knowledge can be a very dangerous thing as we know, especially if the reports of them developing new insidious technologies are true, but, are we just as guilty by association?

HABIB

They thrive on lies and deception and could never be happy with conformity or establishment but seek rather to condemn, corrupt and destroy all forms of conventional social systems in the name of justice as they feel excluded and passed over by the elite who consider them unworthy of any power or control over their own destiny and are therefore being exploited.

AIDE

As well as marginalized and relegated to a meaningless existence of virtual slavery, according to General Horvath, which, of course, is not true.

An aide whispers in Johanson's ear and he reacts concerned.

JOHANSON

Gentleman, the Co-op's very existence depends on exploration, knowledge and conquest beyond the pale of our meager imaginations into the face of the infinite. I hope that we can continue to remain viable in the future, but if you'll excuse me...

He gets up and motions for the others not to and he leaves with an aide whispering in his ear.

INT. JOHANSON'S OFFICE - FREEDOM ONE SPACE STATION - overlooking Mars.

Earth's chancellor is on the vidcom. He looks worried.

ADMIRAL JOHANSON

Chancellor, we are analyzing all the data now.

Our distant outer relay station XY-1000 picked it up approaching the Helios grid array at 1900 hours but it is wreaking havoc on all our systems.

CHANCELLOR

Is Earth in any danger?

JOHANSON

We believe it might lose cohesion once it hits the outer leading edge of our solar system and dissipate or its trajectory might be deflected away.

CHANCELLOR

Might?

JOHANSON

We recommend not firing on it or using any hostile force against it other than trying dispersal beams as it might make things worse.

CHANCELLOR

Is it a natural phenomenon or could it be alive in some way on some sort of mindless rampage?

JOHANSON

We don't know yet, we...

CHANCELLOR

What? What are you saying?

JOHANSON

What I'm saying is, at this time, it is a complete
and utter unknown.

EXT. SPACE

Six Earth Alpha Fleet border patrol ships are intercepting and investigating it.

INT. I.S.F. HORIZON

COMMANDER HARRISON

Approach pattern delta vector seven. Bring dispersal
emitters on line.

OFFICER

Dispersal beams optimal.

HARRISON

Activate.

The ship fires an energy dampening weapon at the distortion field to no effect.

OFFICER

The field has absorbed the full effect of the beam
and is now exerting a magnetic pull on us.

Readings are fluctuating.

HARRISON

Adjust course and speed to compensate.

OFFICER

Sir, it is altering it's course and heading towards us.

The huge energy field heads towards the border patrol ships.

HARRISON

Break formation and head back to the border.

OFFICER

Sir, I am unable to set a course back to the perimeter as it's jamming our systems. We are being pulled into it's gravity well.

HARRISON

Emergency propulsion systems on line. Escape velocity. Get us out of here.

OFFICER

The phenomina's speed is increasing and will overtake us in t-30 seconds.

HARRISON

Cause of system's overload?

OFFICER

Transeunt analysis indicates a divergant anomolous temporal energy field vortex.

HARRISON

It's from the future..

OFFICER

Contact in ten seconds.

HARRISON

Attention crew! Brace for impact!

The ships are hit by the energy barrier and the crew is thrown to the floor. The collision with the leading edge of the distortion field is quite violent. Crew members scream and one by one, the six ships

are sucked into it. It then continues on and sweeps by the Helios grid array destroying it as well.

EXT. UNISCOM SPACE STATION TRITON ONE - orbiting Jupiter

INT. RESEARCH FACILITY - MARIA RISKONSIA is there talking on the comm to a researcher in New Dehli on Earth.

RESEARCHER

'Project Longreach' is in it's third and final stage of development and the Chancellor has approved initial trial runs of the prototype. The I.S.F. Ganymede (he shows her specs of it). Isn't she beautiful? The first ship to leave the confines of our solar system to Alpha Centauri or Andromeda and back.

MARIA

With a new experimental quantum inversion drive but to investigate anomolous indeterminant amounts of radiation in star system M-133, sector J, quadrant L-14. Not just anywhere, but specifically there. We've pinpointed it to that location.

RESEARCHER

Signs of alien life? Who gets to test pilot her?

MARIA

That's the secret. We don't know yet but we think...

Her C.O comes in and she pipes down.

C.O.

Discussing top secret information on a non-secure channel again, Riskonsia?

MARIA

Sorry, sir. (She closes the comm.)

C.O.

We're here on Triton to reestablish it's atmosphere,
not to retcon future Co-op wet dreams and delusions
of grandeur. Clear?

MARIA

Yes, sir. Sorry, sir. (She works her controls)

INT. JOSHUA LAWLESS' HOME BEDROOM - on Earth. He is asleep but woken up by a vidcom call from
ADMIRAL JOHANSON.

JOHANSON

Sorry to wake you.

JOSH (Groggy)

As long as it's not another war.

JOHANSON

No, but it is an emergency. We need you here
again at the Co-op. There's been an incident at
the border of our solar system and now the astral
core has found something on one of our outer
monitor relay stations.

JOSH

What is it?

JOHANSON

We don't know yet. We need you here to come
and see for yourself personally. The Damascus,

your old ship, is secured and waiting in drydock for you. I'm even recalling your former crew on this one, Josh.

JOSH

She's not that old. It's that important, huh?

JOHANSON

I need you, your experience. You're the best we got. A special envoy escort is on it's way and will be there within the hour to pick you up. You can dress on the shuttle.

JOSH

Well, I can't say I'm not curious.

JOHANSON

Johanson out.

JOSH (To himself)

Said the cat..

He pets his cat and feeds his goldfish.

LAWLESS exits to a waiting space module on his telepad and gets in and a vid monitor is on with a reporter outside the white house talking about the recent space news amidst all the turmoil and a violent, angry mob protest.

REPORTER (On screen)

The Co-op has reported that a huge energy field has been discovered just outside of the solar system and has destroyed several distant relay stations including the Helios grid array. The station was unmanned but reports are coming in that several

ships were sent out to investigate it but have gone missing. Uniscom and the Co-op have not released a statement yet as to the nature of this phenomina and have denied any assertions that it poses any threat or danger to Earth. So far, Admiral Johanson has been unavailable to comment on this recent event which raise the question of allegations that he may be using this situation as a political bargaining chip tactic to further his political aspirations and agenda to become chancellor someday. His ambitions to enter the political arena are well known, but never before has he shown such disingeniousness to his constituants and supporters as now. We all know of his constant...

LAWLESS turns it off in disgust at the personal attacks.

PILOT

Sir, we should be there in one point three hours.

Lawless nods and nods off to sleep.

EXT. FREEDOM ONE SPACE STATION - High above Mars.

LAWLESS arrives and enters JOHANSON'S office.

INT. JOHANSON'S OFFICE

JOHANSON

Josh, good to see you! Take a look at this.

They both view a monitor on the wall which shows a detainment room with one occupant - a bald man in what appears to be his 50's sitting in a chair wearing fantastic apparal. He is still and what appears to be meditating with his eyes closed.

JOSH

Who is he?

JOHANSON

Not who, but what. They found him on Helios before it was destroyed in a no oxygen environment. We can't explain that either. He looks human but he is not alive in any traditional sense that we can understand yet. He speaks perfect English which makes us think he may be telepathic as well. He is cooperating with us but what he has to say doesn't make any sense or shall I say is hard to believe.

JOSH

He looks harmless enough. (The being opens his eyes and looks directly at him) Is he reading my mind now?

JOHANSON

Josh, he's beyond our science. We get no readings on him at all. It's as if he's not even there. Even our hyperbarium chamber has no effect on him.

JOSH

A hologram or a machine?

JOHANSON

Neither or both. He claims to be the universe itself and that everything and everybody is just his unconscious mind and imagination.

JOSH

Is that all? What is his connection to that energy

field out there?

JOHANSON

He claims not to know anything about it or his identity or reason for being here.

JOSH

Or is unwilling to tell us. What's the plan?

JOHANSON

We have to get him out of here, out of our solar system and away from Earth. We think and hope that if he leaves, that phenomina will follow him out as well. It's our only hope.

JOSH

Is he willing to go?

JOHANSON

Why don't we ask him?

The two leave his office and down a long hallway to where he is being held in an observation room guarded by security. They enter.

XORTEX (To himself)

For we were once gods and now we are men.

LAWLESS

What is your name?

XORTEX

Xortex.

LAWLESS

Xortex, can you tell me who or what you are?

XORTEX

I am a metaphysically manifested avatar simulation.

LAWLESS

Metaphysically manifested? What does that mean?

XORTEX

I am the last sentinel of a long forgotten war. You created me and I created you. My end is just your beginning.

LAWLESS

You seem to talk in riddles. Where do you come from and why you are here?

XORTEX

My universe is intersecting with yours. The real and the unreal are switching places. I have always been here. There is no place that I am not.

LAWLESS

In my world, reality and fantasy have a tendency to clash. What is your connection to that energy field out there? Do you control it or does it control you? is it following you?

There is no answer, then..

XORTEX

I am just a link in a chain. It is the next link that is important. Our destiny's are indelibly linked. You must be prepared for what awaits you - transcendence -

your ultimate destiny.

LAWLESS

Is there something inside of it?

XORTEX

Yes.

LAWLESS

What?

XORTEX (Cryptically)

Everything.

JOHANSON

It's no use. We questioned him for hours.

Circular thinking.

LAWLESS

Does he eat?

JOHANSON

Apparently not, nor sleep.

LAWLESS puts his hand out to shake and XORTEX reciprocates.

LAWLESS

Warm to the touch. It doesn't seem possible.

He reaches for his face to touch him.

LAWLESS (Cont.)

Do you mind?

Lawless touches him and feels that he is real and solid.

LAWLESS (Cont.)

He seems human enough.

Lawless jabs quickly at his mid section but his hand passes right through his body.

JOHANSON

He can tell the difference - obviously a defense mechanism.

The two leave.

INT. HALLWAY

JOHANSON (Cont.)

He is not to be trifled with. He's a very sophisticated computer program.

LAWLESS

Maybe he's interdimensionally trapped?

JOHANSON

We think he is from the future. Our last transmission with the Horizon indicated a temporal anomaly. Top brass wants him out - out of our solar system - and back to wherever he came from, and they want a human crew to take him to find his creators.

LAWLESS

What if he's not from somewhere but sometime? We would be going nowhere.

JOHANSON

We think, we hope, the energy field will follow him. We need the best crew and best man to command them. I'm reinstating 'Project Longreach' to find out where he came from and solve the mystery of this spatial disturbance that is threatening Earth.

LAWLESS (Says ominously and half jokingly)

Maybe he's always been here.

JOHANSON

Invasion is not off the table yet obviously.

We were able to track it's possible point of origin by its trajectory and trace it back to a specific star system.

LAWLESS

Which one?

JOHANSON

That's the funny part. One that we've been looking at for quite sometime because of the unusual amounts of radiation emanating from it.

LAWLESS

So we were going anyway, eventually, maybe.

JOHANSON

I remember when you were eleven years old and standing in this very room looking out that window. It was always your dream, wasn't it? to be the one to go.

LAWLESS

Could they still be alive?

JOHANSON

Border patrol's sweep of the area could only account for a fraction pf the debris from three

of the six ships sent out. It is possible they were sucked into the phenomina and are still alive.

LAWLESS

And my crew?

JOHANSON

Most of them are signing aboard even as we speak even knowing the risks. You'll be getting a new mission specialist - Admiral Pilar DeArker, who's relinquishing his command to serve under you.

LAWLESS

It's an honor.

JOHANSON

He will be your comm officer and liason with the Co-op.

LAWLESS

I see, and will you be authorizing him to take over if I decide to sell the planet cheap?

JOHANSON

You'll also be getting a new mission specialist and chief engineer - Jaqueline Nomoros. She'll be in charge of the new experimental ion inversion space drive.

LAWLESS

Great.

JOHANSON

Your crew compliment will be thirty five plus Mr.

Xortex. Bring 'em back alive.

EXT. ALPHA FLEET STATION - Circling the moon was 'Project Longreach's' base of operations and launching site that housed the I.S.F. Ganymede.

EXT SPACE - The I.S.F. Damascus makes it's way there. As they approach the Ganymede for a pass over inspection, LAWLESS and his old science officer friend, THOMAS 'SKY' SKYLAR, are talking about it. The Ganymede comes into view.

LAWLESS

Well, Sky, the mission of our lives - testing a new star drive unit that will propel us millions of light years away in a matter of seconds. Maybe they should have used a giant rubber band instead.

SKYLAR

All of our lives depend on a scientist's theory of a new experimental ionic inversion drive that he said he thought of in his sleep.

LAWLESS

Ready to board her?

The two leave and make their way to a space module and take it over to the Ganymede's docking bay.

INT. I.S.F. DAMASCUS LANDING BAY - SPACE MODULE - They pilot it over.

INT. SPACE MODULE

SKYLAR

I've examined her stem to stern and she's fully operational. The Co-op's astral core has been working on her for the last nine months.

LAWLESS

It's ironic how they seemed to know that we

would need her.

SKYLAR

She is optimal and as ready as she'll ever be. If she doesn't explode, she'll be fine.

LAWLESS

That's comforting.

SKYLAR

Our new engineer is by any standards a genius - first in her class in bio-engineering. She talks fast but she knows what she's talking about, I hope.

EXT. SPACE - The two pilot the space module over to the space station housing the Ganymede. The ship comes into view on their screen and they are in awe of it. It shines brightly as it is illuminated from within. They steer the ship into the Ganymede's landing bay. They are met by JAQUELINE NOMOROS who greets them. She is a stunning beauty her mid - thirties with long brown hair.

INT. GANYMEDE'S LANDING BAY AREA -

LAWLESS

Situation?

NOMOROS

The null space divergance field inversion drive manifold is in a state of quantum flux but fractal analysis indicates a hyper-balance equilibrium.

LAWLESS

In English, please.

NOMOROS

Oh, we're ready to go. All systems are nominal.

LAWLESS

Good, we've been given the go ahead green light on this as soon as everyone's aboard. This is science officer Thomas Skylar. He will be your C.O..

NOMOROS

Good to meet you.

They shake hands.

SKYLAR

The pleasure is all mine.

INT. GANYMEDE HALLWAY

MARIA RISKONSIA and MAXWELL XAVIER GUSTAFFSON are coming aboard. Max has a backpack on.

MAX

You were always the one to take chances, weren't you? I don't know how you talked me into this.

MARIA

Oh, yea, I get all the blame and you get all the credit. We've come back from worse. Besides, if I didn't talk you into it you would have talked me into it. This is also a once in a lifetime opportunity. How could you pass that up?

MAX

I've passed up plenty of once in a lifetime opportunities mainly because they weren't

good for me.

DR. ZURENGA comes out of his room and joins them on their trip to Command.

MAX (Cont.)

Doctor, at last, finally, some sanity. Good
to see you again.

ZURENGA

Well if everybody is crazy or guilty, then
noone is.

They pause outside of LAWLESS' room.

MARIA

I got to stop in. I'll meet you up top.

The two continue on.

MAX

Good, say hi, I mean why.

He turns to the doc.

MAX (Cont.)

Doc, I'm glad you're here. I have this
pain in my shoulder, right here.

He moves his arm showing him. The two get in an aero-lift and MARIA rings LAWLESS' bell. The door opens and LAWLESS is there to meet her.

INT. LAWLESS' ROOM - MARIA steps in.

LAWLESS

Maria! Good to see you!

They embrace and she's as perky as ever.

LAWLESS (Cont.)

It's been a while.

MARIA

Six months.

LAWLESS

Where does the time go? What have you
been up to?

MARIA

I have been giving Uniscom a hand and
working on the Triton project for the Co-op.

LAWLESS

They're lucky to have you.

MARIA

I was assigned to their advisory board in
New Dehli but I couldn't pass up this
commission considering our history together.

LAWLESS

We've been through quite alot with the
multi-front wars and all.

MARIA

Are we talking about the existence of aliens here?

LAWLESS

We have a mystery but there may be some things
that we can't know.

MARIA

Even the word existence means out of something.

LAWLESS

Yea, like out of their minds (They laugh)and it seems
out of the solar system for the first time too.

MARIA

And Commander Harrison?

LAWLESS

We don't know. He could have survived. That is
what we're going to find out.

MARIA

And Xortex?

LAWLESS

We can't even prove that we exist sufficiently let
alone him.

MARIA

Well, maybe we have big shoes to fill... our own. You
know I always wanted to be Christopher Columbus
one day.

LAWLESS' vidcom chimes and he answers it and Admiral Johanson appears on his screen.

JOHANSON

Your destination is star system M-133 seven
hundred and thirty thousand light years away.

LAWLESS

Any guesses on what we'll find there?

JOHANSON

Hopefully some answers. Good luck and

God's speed.

LAWLESS

Thank you, admiral. Lawless out.

INT. MARIA RISKONSIA'S ROOM - Her vidcom is on and she is talking to her parents. They're worried.

MOTHER

We're gonna miss you, darling, and

Marc too.

She wipes a tear away with some tissues.

MARIA

I know. He gave me this pendant to remember

him by. He said it would bring me luck.

She shows her a necklace Marc gave her.

MOTHER

Honey, we're very worried. Why do you have to do this? Even when you were a kid I was worried about you climbing to the top of every tree and all.

MARIA

Oh, mom, I'll be back, I promise.

FATHER

So now, after a hundred and fifty years of being in space, they suddenly believe in aliens?

MARIA

Dad, I have to go. I love you and mom.

Tell Marc I miss him. Bye, bye.

PARENTS (Together)

Bye, bye, honey.

The vidcom screen goes black and Maria stares in the mirror and then looks down at her pendant and is startled by the ship's launch warning alert alarm. She rushes to Command.

INT. GANYMEDE COMMAND

LAWLESS enters and takes his seat. SKYLAR is there amidst commotion with Lt. MARIA RISKONSIA and Lt. MAXWELL XAVIER GUSTAFFSON manning the helm and navigation respectively. They are all expertly working their controls in last minute adjustment of ship operations in preparing to engage ion inversion drive. Dr. Zurenga is there as well.

SKYLAR

We're short one crew member - Ambassador

Pilar DeArker.

LAWLESS

I hear he speaks over twenty languages and could talk the spots off a leopard and we do need a comm officer.

SKYLAR

He was Commander Harrison's C.O for twenty years aboard the Horizon and is already a legend in the fleet.

DEARKER steps onto Command and greets them finally.

DEARKER

I was just enjoying a good cigar on C deck.

LAWLESS

Good of you to join us.

DEARKER

Hopefully by this time tomorrow we'll be the ones through the looking glass, looking in and seeing out.

LAWLESS

Is Xortex still aboard?

SKYLAR

Yes, sir.

LAWLESS

Navigator, set course for the periphery and take us
out when ready.

EXT. SPACE - EARTH'S 'PROJECT LONGREACH'S' DOCKING BAY - The I.S.F. Ganymede powers out of the habitat that held it out into open space and toward the solar system's outer boundary rim.

INT. GANYMEDE'S COMMAND

LAWLESS

Bring Mr. Xortex to Command.

SKYLAR

Are you sure you want to do that, Josh?

INT. XORTEX'S HOLDING AREA - Two guards come in and motion for him to follow them which he does. They bring him to Command.

INT. COMMAND

XORTEX enter with the two guards escorting him.

LAWLESS

Mr. Xortex, come in. We're headed for the outer
edge perimeter - the border of our solar system
and beyond.

Xortex is quite and unscrutable.

LAWLESS (Cont.)

Is that energy field a weapon controlled or being
controlled by you? Is it after you for some reason?

It was no use. Xortex remained firm and stood looking out into space.

MAX

We're approaching the border now.

LAWLESS

Understood. Maximum power. Take us away from the solar system's boundary and out into open space heading toward that stellar phenomina.

EXT. SPACE - The Gaymede powers away and the huge energy field suddenly turns and follows them.

SKYLAR

Sir, it's following us.

LAWLESS

Good. Prepare to engage ion inversion drive.

SKYLAR

Sir, it's picking up speed and gaining on us exerting a magnetic pull on us as well. It's drawing us in. All systems are ready for launch in T-2 minutes. Course and speed locked in by Alpha control.

Dr. Zurenga is clutching the back of Lawless' seat and is terrified.

ZURENGA

Did anyone bother finding out what this ion inversion drive feels like?

LAWLESS

They say it's a walk in the park.

ZURENGA

Except they are gonna be the ones walking in the park

shaking their heads and wondering what went wrong.

MAX

T - 10, 9, 8..

ZURENGA

I knew I should have been a lawyer..

MAX

3, 2, 1..,

In a flash, the Ganymede lights out of space disappearing and suddenly reappearing in another star system but something is wrong. The ship is shaking and not stopping.

MAX

She's on override!

LAWLESS

Channel energizers through the main computer.

MARIA

We're headed straight for the sun!

LAWLESS

Maximize auxilliary power to navigational control.

Boost the gyro-generators. Alter our course thirty degrees to port.

MAX

We're slowing down.

The Ganymede stops shaking and it approaches a planet which appears on their screen.

MARIA

Directional controls responding.

LAWLESS

Bring us around the sun. Initialize gravity stabilizers
and set course for orbit around the planet.

Scan the area. Did the anomaly follow us here?

SKYLAR

I don't know how but it's still with us.

LAWLESS

Time to minimum distance escape velocity intercept?

SKYLAR

Four hours and thirty two minutes.

LAWLESS

What's that?

EXT. SPACE - A huge alien looking space station appears in space before them suddenly out of nowhere.

SKYLAR

It appears to be a space station of some kind.

LAWLESS

Where did it come from?

SKYLAR

It just seemed to come out of nowhere. It is made up
of unusual alloys but is devoid of life as we know it.

It may be abandoned or a derelict piece of technology.

LAWLESS

Could this be the source of the indeterminant radiation
that we detected from Earth?

SKYLAR

Yes.

DEARKER

Commander, we can't assume humanity originated on Earth. There may be other more advanced forms of humanity out there different than us.

SKYLAR

Scans of the planet have come up negative as well. It is totally desolate and uninhabitable.

LAWLESS

Can we board it?

SKYLAR

I don't see how. There are no accessible ports of entry.

XORTEX suddenly speaks up.

XORTEX

I can take you there,. with my mind. It may hold the key to the mystery of my existence.

SKYLAR

We would need EVA suits in any case. It is a no oxygen environment.

LAWLESS

Is that OK with you?

Xortex looks at him and acquiesces. Lawless, Skylar and DeArker are fitted with EVA suits and Lawless directs Xortex to proceed and he bows his head in deep concentration and they all appear inside the darkened space station. They turn on their arm light beacons and see dust flying everywhere. Skylar makes it to a dusty control panel and wipes it off with his glove to see a computer screen.

SKYLAR

It seems to be a sophisticated computer complex.

He tries to access it manually by pressing some buttons to no avail.

SKYLAR (Cont.)

It appears to be out of power. No use.

Xortex approaches it and it suddenly comes on and lights up.

LAWLESS

Sky, what did you do?

SKYLAR

Nothing. I didn't touch it.

XORTEX

I'm commanding it to access my information.

Skylar reads from the screen.

SKYLAR

The Divinity Project, created by Xortex to transcend his dimension by creating a hyper-meta-reality through the use of the Transor...

The rest was unintelligible.

LAWLESS

Sky, download as much of this as possible.

Skylar takes out a hand held device to do so.

XORTEX

The Transor..

MAX (Stacy V.O.)

Commander .. ships... approaching...

LAWLESS

Xortex, get us back, immediately!

The station is rocked by an attack and they all appear back at Command and take off their helmets. Several alien ships swoop in and attack the Ganymede and the station.

LAWLESS (Cont.)

Emergency evasive! Get us out of here!

EXT. SPACE - around alien space station. The Ganymede manuevers away and powers out of range just as the station is destroyed behind them in a spectacular display.

INT. COMMAND

LAWLESS

Status?

SKYLAR

The alien ships are moving away and not pursuing us.

LAWLESS

Ship's condition?

SKYLAR

Undamaged.

LAWLESS

Who were they?

XORTEX

My demons.

LAWLESS

What do they want?

XORTEX

They want to destroy me.

LAWLESS

Why?

XORTEX

They want the Transor.

LAWLESS

What is the Transor?

XORTEX

It is an unreal technological device which
created the universe in a failed experiment.

LAWLESS

Failed?

XORTEX

We must find it.

SKYLAR

Commander, the spatial anomaly is increasing
speed and is exerting a magnetic pull on us
draining our engines.

LAWLESS

Helm, reroute navigational controls through the
main computer.

MARIA

No effect. We're locked out.

LAWLESS

Emergency escape velocity. Auxilliary backup
systems on line. Get us out of it's gravity well,
damn it!

MARIA

Sir, engines not engaging.

EXT. SPACE - The huge energy field is approaching them and they are helplessly being pulled into it.

MAX

Impact with it's leading edge in seven seconds.

LAWLESS (Touches button)

Attention crew! Brace for impact!

Breaching the barrier is quite harsh sending the crew to the floor but is quickly replaced by a calm stillness and the disturbance free background of stars.

MAX

We're clear!!

LAWLESS

Status?

MAX

Main drive systems online. Minor damage to the port and aft exhaust systems. Ion inversion drive intact.

ZURENGA

Where are we?

XORTEX

We're inside.

LAWLESS

Sky?

SKYLAR

Confirmed. We are no longer in the same

solar system.

LAWLESS

Can you get a fix on Earth?

SKYLAR

Negative. I am unable to isolate its
signal or locate its position.

ZURENGA

Then how do we go back?

LAWLESS

We may be in another dimension and there
may not be any Earth to go back to.

DEARKER

It could be a future reality in which Earth never
existed.

LAWLESS (To Xortex)

Is this a future reality?

He is silent.

SKYLAR

Commander, I am picking up a ship on an
approaching vector.

LAWLESS

Try to contact it.

EXT. SPACE - An alien ship approaches at breakneck speeds.

DEARKER

Picking up a signal.

ALIEN SHIP (Stacy V.O.)

Please.. you must help us...The machines
are loose.. Repeat... The machines are loose...

A huge energy beam reaches out from the planet and destroys the ship.

LAWLESS

Get us out of range!

The Ganymede pulls away clear of the blast explosion.

LAWLESS (Cont.)

Max, take us to a safe position and keep our
distance and effect repairs. Mr. Xortex, Is this
a future reality?

XORTEX

Yes.

LAWLESS

How do we get back?

XORTEX

You can't go back.

LAWLESS

Did you create this future reality?

XORTEX

My existence did.

SKYLAR

Commander, there's a ship approaching.

Suddenly a burly he man appears behind Lawless at Command. MARIA turns to see him and is shocked.

MARIA

Commander!

Lawless swivels to see him. The man looks around. He is only partially clad.

ALIEN

Please don't be alarmed. I came to help you.

LAWLESS (Gets up)

Who are you?

ALIEN

Please, I mean you no harm. This is the mighty
Xall Empire. I am warlord ambassador to the third
region. I'm sorry you have been drawn into
this. We are at war.

LAWLESS

With whom?

XALL

With ourselves.

LAWLESS

Why?

XALL

This system is controlled by an artificial life
form - a vast mind that is trying to achieve
sentience and it considers us meaningless in
its attempts to understand and glorify itself
and has trapped us here with it.

LAWLESS

What does it want from us?

XALL

It doesn't know but it is getting more powerful.

Soon nothing will be able to resist it and we will
all converge into it. It will become everything.

LAWLESS

We found a being in our solar system who says
that this is a future reality. Is that true?

XALL

This soon may become the only reality.

LAWLESS

Who are you?

XALL

We are Galactans, commander.

MAX

Sir! There's another ship approaching.

EXT. SPACE - Another small ship like the first approaches the Ganymede and suddenly another similar looking alien warlord appears at Command and he fires an energy discharge out of his fist at the other warlord who ducks to evade it and fires back damaging the ship. Xall disappears into the wall and the alien chases him through the interior of the ship chasing each other and fighting by firing at one another damaging the ship. The crew takes cover and the two wreak havoc.

LAWLESS

Emergency bulkhead reinforcements. Security alert
three. Damage control.

DEARKER

They are scaling the conduits down to engineering.
Damage reports coming in on deck six.

LAWLESS

The intruders are to be restrained.

SKYLAR

If they should breach the hull, our oxygen
containment would be compromised.

LAWLESS

Initialize full force field back ups.

The two warlords chase each other all the way down to engineering crawling through the bowels of the ship. Xall makes it to engineering and approaches NOMOROS who is shocked.

INT. ENGINEERING - NOMOROS is there and stares at him.

NOMOROS (Into comm.)

Commander...

XALL

Don't be afraid.

He enters Nomoros' body and disappears. The other warlord comes in looking for him and doesn't find him and moves on. He emerges from her body.

XALL (Cont.)

Thank you.

He exits engineering.

INT. COMMAND

SKYLAR

Sir, they've reappeared aboard their ships and are
pulling away.

EXT. SPACE - The two ships leave firing on one another.

SKYLAR (Cont.)

Sir, I'm reading multiple ships in the area.

LAWLESS

Max, try to steer clear of them and stay
as far away from them as possible.

SKYLAR

Josh, I'm picking up a resonant frequency
of an Earth ship - It's the Destiny.

LAWLESS

Can you get a position lock on her?

SKYLAR

Relaying her location to navigational systems.

MARIA

I see it. She's twelve parsecs out.

LAWLESS

Take us there, maximum speed.

MAX

Engaging thrusters.

EXT. SPACE - The Ganymede makes it's way to the damaged I.S.F. Destiny.

DEARKER

Sir, we're in communications range.

LAWLESS

Put me through.

DeArker works his controls. There is silence, then..

HARRISON (V.O)

Josh, is it you?

LAWLESS

Jordan! You're alive! Are you alright?

HARRISON

We suffered heavy losses but we're alive - most of us anyway. We were the only ship that survived. There were three of us and now just us. Thank God you're here.

LAWLESS

Yes, we came through the distortion wave as well. What happened?

HARRISON

I lost the rest of my squad in here, wherever we are - in some sort of battle zone it seems. The wars go on day and night. We try to keep away for the most part. Where are we?

LAWLESS

In the middle of some future war and reality. We're here with Xortex to find his creators and who might be responsible for all of this.

HARRISON

How can we get back?

LAWLESS

I was told by one of the warlords that the system is being run by an AI.

HARRISON

Yes, the warlords. Some are good and some are

bad.

LAWLESS

Who are they?

HARRISON

They are very powerful beings that seem to be

locked in an ideological conflict with the AI.

Some are for it and some are against it.

LAWLESS

We must find this AI. The warlord said it was the

cause of this future war and reality.

HARRISON

Yes, but unfortunately, the warlords are more

dangerous than the other ships are.

LAWLESS

We have to risk interacting with them if we

are to get out of here.

HARRISON

They're hard to avoid. They keep popping up at

unexpected times. If I didn't know any better,

I would think they are pranksters but they seem

to be propegating this war instead of trying to

prevent it while pretending to want peace which

makes me wonder if they are not benefiting

from it in some way.

LAWLESS

Are they trapped here or trapping us here?

HARRISON

I don't know. I don't trust them. They're our worst enemy.

LAWLESS

They may also be our only hope.

HARRISON

Except that when they show up, it's all we can do to prevent them from destroying our ship.

LAWLESS

Do you know who the Galactans are?

HARRISON

They are a legendary, mythical and illusive race also known as the reality dreamers but how they play a part in this, I don't know. They may be the creators of the AI and Xortex as well.

MAX

Sir!

EXT. SPACE - A sudden blaze of electro-magnetic firestorm and dark clouds appears before them and heralds the appearance of a massive AI. The Ganymede is shaken and sparks fly on its consoles. An energy charge hits MARIA and she falls to the ground lifeless. MAX cradles her. The Destiny is destroyed.

MAX (Cont.)

Maria!!

Dr. Zurenga moves in and treats her but finally..

ZURENGA

She's dead.

LAWLESS

Get us out of here!!

Max jumps back to the controls and the ship veers away and escapes. Two guards take Maria down to the med bay.

MAX

We're out of range!

Lawless and the crew react to the Destiny's destruction.

SKYLAR

I am picking up a fleet of ships coming in on
an attack vector.

LAWLESS

How many ships?

SKYLAR

Thirty two.

DEARKER

It doesn't look like a welcoming committee.

EXT. SPACE - The alien ships start battling themselves. Many ships are destroyed and the attack force is slowed.

INT. COMMAND

LAWLESS (Cont.)

What happened?

SKYLAR

The attack force seems to have stopped its
approach.

MAX

What are they doing?

LAWLESS

That's my question, Max.

MAX

Sir, the ships are breaking formation and attacking themselves.

LAWLESS

Set course for their lead ship.

MAX

Course set. Initializing heading.

LAWLESS

Make contact.

DEARKER

No response on the comm channel.

LAWLESS

Mr. Xortex, can you take us there?

XORTEX

Yes.

LAWLESS

Sky, ambassador, Max, you're with me. Let's go.

The four assemble near Xortex who transports them to the alien ship with his mind. There they find the Warlord, Xall, holding a little dead blue child in his arms.

INT. ALIEN SHIP COMMAND CENTER

There are human looking aliens there too looking on.

XALL

I don't understand. This wasn't supposed to

happen. Something is wrong. How can he die?

LAWLESS

Who is he?

XALL

His name was Vrall. I'm sorry, commander, but we are not what you think. Our parents gave life to our imaginations to learn from and for our enjoyment but it managed to get out of our control. It was meant to be fun but the AI won't let the game end for some reason. It must be malfunctioning. We didn't mean to harm anyone.

With that, he and six others exit their VR warlord suits and appear to them all as little blue children.

LAWLESS

Your idea of fun is very curious. A lot of people have died for your entertainment. The price is too high.

DEARKER

You said it was trying to achieve sentience.

XALL

That was a lie, a joke, but it seems it was true and somewhat prophetic but I assure you, commander, we didn't know that to be the case nor could we have ever imagined it.

LAWLESS

I don't hold you responsible for your parent's customs

but we are still trapped here in your parents AI
'play pen' with no way home. Where are your parents?

XALL

They are not like us but it seems they have
abandoned us. We will help you find it.

LAWLESS kneels down and looks the blue boy right in the eye.

LAWLESS

I didn't get your name.

XALL

Xall.

LAWLESS

So you're the mighty Xall.

The blue children all go over and hug Xortex.

LAWLESS (Cont.)

They seem to know you.

XORTEX (Emotional)

They created me.

INT. COMMAND I.S.F. GANYMEDE - They are all there with the children too.

XORTEX

Commander, the children are transmitting to me where
the AI is and I am instructing your navigational computers
to set a course for it. We should be there in minutes.

The Ganymede approaches a giant round object in space that dwarfs the size of the Ganymede. It's the alien's AI. It appears on Lawless' screen.

SKYLAR

Reading negligible energy emissions.

LAWLESS

Mr. Xortex, can you take us over to it?

XORTEX

Yes.

LAWLESS

Let's do it while we still have a chance.

Xortex sends Lawless, Skylar, Nomoros to a small chamber overlooking a huge one, with a small blue box in the middle of it.

INT. AI COMPUTER COMPLEX

AI BRAIN (V.O.)

Please, don't hurt me..

SKYLAR (Scans it with instrument)

Commander, this is the game master.

BRAIN

I didn't mean to be sadistic.. and kill.

LAWLESS

We understand. Sky?

SKYLAR

This small box controls this whole complex.

CHILDREN (V.O.) (Telepathically)

Please don't kill it.

LAWLESS

Maybe we can reprogram it to undo the damage
it has done through the galaxy?

CHILDREN (V.O.)

Please.

NOMOROS and SKYLAR check it out and access it.

LAWLESS

Is it user friendly? Jaqueline?

NOMOROS

No problem.

LAWLESS

I take that as a yes then.

She begins working.

SKYLAR

Yes.

LAWLESS

Good.

Aboard the Ganymede Command, the kids are all happy and smile.

INT. GANYMEDE COMMAND - The kids are still with them.

LAWLESS

Status?

SKYLAR

I have a fix on Earth. We can go home, sir.

Sir! I'm reading a space station again just

like the one we were on when we first

got here.

LAWLESS

How can that be? It was destroyed. We saw it.

Mr. Xortex, is it the same station?

XORTEX

Yes.

LAWLESS

Why is it still here?

XORTEX

The Transor..

LAWLESS

What about it?

XORTEX

It is responsibel for what is happening.

We must find it.

LAWLESS

Why?

XORTEX

Because if you don't. you will never be able

to go home again.

SKYLAR

Sir, I was only able to get a partial file the

first time.

LAWLESS

Maybe..

MAX

Sir! Alien ships approaching!

LAWLESS

Get us out of here!

EXT. SPACE - The ships blow up the space station again. The Ganymede flies out of range of the explosion.

INT. GANYMEDE COMMAND

SKYLAR

The ships are not pursuing us. We sustained no damage.

LAWLESS

Was the Transor on the station?

XORTEX

I don't know.

SKYLAR

How can we detect this device if it is unreal?

XORTEX

Unreality cannot be destroyed but It still exists.

LAWLESS

But how can we know that if it lies beyond the realm of our senses and scanners?

DEARKER

Maybe it becomes real if we believe it?

LAWLESS

Max, plot a course for Earth back along the same trajectory that got us here and ready ion inversion drive.

MAX (Makes adjustments)

Ready, sir.

LAWLESS

Initiate.

MAX (Presses buttons)

Ion drive is not activating.

SKYLAR

Commander, I'm reading a magnetic barrier blocking
our path back to Earth.

LAWLESS

A magnetic barrier? Can we go around it? Alter our course
thirty degrees to port.

MAX

Altering course.

SKYLAR

The barrier is altering course with us as well.

XORTEX

It is impenetrable and there's no way around it.

LAWLESS

Why is it trapping us here?

MAX

You should know.

LAWLESS

What did you say, Max?

MAX

Um, I said I don't know.

SKYLAR

Sir, I'm picking up a sound.

LAWLESS

What is it? Put it on the speakers.

SKYLAR

Transferring.

A low thumping is heard in a steady rhythm.

LAWLESS

What is it?

SKYLAR

Unknown. It seems to be a harmonic frequency
reverberation coming from the ship itself.

LAWLESS

What's causing it? Can you mute it?

SKYLAR

It's not coming from any of the computer systems
but it seems to be getting louder.

The thumping gradually gets louder and more frequent.

LAWLESS

Can you isolate it or locate its source?

SKYLAR

It's not coming from anywhere I can see. It seems to be
coming from everywhere.

LAWLESS

How can that be? Is it coming from space?

SKYLAR

I'm not reading any energy waves around the ship
or coming from space itself.

LAWLESS

It's a steady rhythm. Could there be a pattern
to it or be some kind of code?

SKYLAR

The computer is not discerning any distinguishable pattern
or inherent meaning to its rhythm other than it is steadily
speeding up and getting louder.

DEARKER

Muting all station speakers and sound systems to
no effect.

NOMOROS (Amidst din)

We know everything..

LAWLESS (Turns her around)

What?!

NOMOROS (Starts laughing)

We are everything..!

LAWLESS

What!!

SKYLAR

Commander, look!!

A mysterious object suddenly appears on Command. Skylar goes over to touch it but it is impervious.

XORTEX

The Transor!

All of a sudden the noise stops and out in space a huge armada suddenly appears and the Ganymede is attacked and shaken. Sparks fly on all systems as everyone is thrown to the floor. LAWLESS makes it up to DEARKER who manages to get up and back to his station.

LAWLESS

Make contact! Open communications. Send out a
distress message!

An explosion at navigation kills Max and Nomoros is hit by a falling steel girder and dies and the Ganymede is nearly destroyed. The children are scared and cowering in the corner.

LAWLESS (Cont.)

What do they want?!

XALL (Gets up calmly)

Give up, commander, you've lost.

SKYLAR

I'm picking up a temporal energy fluctuation.

They're from the future!

LAWLESS

The future?!

The children all look at each other. The Galactan commander appears on their screen in a hazy image.

GALACTAN COMMANDER

We are the Galactans.

XALL (Suddenly realizing)

It's us. We are sabotaging ourselves from the future.

With that, the children suddenly disappear to become the Galactans - their 'parents'.

COMMANDER XALL

Commander, it's me, Xall.

Lawless looks around for the children but they are gone.

COMMANDER XALL (Cont.)

The Galactans explore the universe with their minds as projections of themselves in ships. You were sustained in our thoughts and never were in any danger. We thank you for returning us home and invite you to explore the universe with Xortex as your guide and will now return you to your reality before any of this occurred and even make it possible for you to speak to your Admiral Johanson on Earth. No further contact with us will be possible. We will now return you to your ship three days ago.

Suddenly in a flash, the Ganymede's Command is restored to the way it was with everyone there still alive even as Maria also walks in unaware of what has happened. On the comm is Admiral Johanson.

JOHANSON (V.O.)

Josh, are you alright?

LAWLESS (Looks around)

Alright...

JOHANSON

The anomaly is gone. Earth is safe.

LAWLESS

So are my people.

He hugs MARIA as do they all. She is confused.

Fade out :

The end

