

INTERN-NATIONAL SPACE STATION

by

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EXT. EARTH ORBIT - MORNING

The space station SPACEPLACE3 floats in Earth orbit with the planet looming behind it. The station is cream and orange, smooth like a cross between an iPod and a nose trimmer.

There's a loud "CRUNK".

INT. SPACE STATION - MORNING

A cream and orange living space. On a table are unwashed plates and a laptop.

WOMAN'S VOICE

(off)

Don? What was that?

DONALD (27, clean cut) staggers in, pulling on a shirt. He's clearly just woken up.

DONALD

I'm finding out.

He sits down at the table, moves some plates, grabs the laptop and starts typing.

JANET (23, sturdy, untidy) comes in, wearing pyjamas.

JANET

What was it?

DONALD

Just a meteorite. Go back to bed.

JANET

Sounded like a big one. What's the diagnostics say?

DONALD

I can't seem to... why isn't it showing?

JANET

Let me have a look.

DONALD

No, it's fine, I just can't -

JANET

Give it!

She grabs it off him. Donald fold his arms in a huff.

DONALD

Never had this problem with dials.

JANET

Yeah yeah, I know, Grandad. This isn't NASA.

DONALD

You got that right.

JANET

I think it's knocked something. Have you called base?

DONALD

I was just about to before you interrupted.

He picks up a telephone

JANET

What time is it down there?

INT. SPACEPLACEBASE, CALIFORNIA - DAY

A phone RINGS in a darkened open plan office. Keys CLATTER and a door opens. NAOMI (21, glasses, flowery) hurries in, switching on the lights.

NAOMI

Coming! Coming!

She dashes across the room and picks up a phone.

NAOMI (CONT'D)

Hello, Spaceplacebase, how can I help you?

INT. SPACE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Donald is on the telephone, Janet stands next to him.

DONALD

Hey control, this is Spaceplace 3, we have a small issue we'd like your advice on.

INTERCUT -- PHONE CONVERSATION

NAOMI

Oh dear, is it urgent?

DONALD

What's that control?

NAOMI

It's just that there's nobody else in today and I'm only an intern.

JANET

Put it on speakerphone.

Donald puts the phone on the table and clicks the speaker on.

DONALD

Can you repeat control?

Naomi switches on a laptop.

NAOMI

I've got a spreadsheet of emergency contacts, if that's any help?

JANET

Two million dollars on advertising and they're staffing the control centre with interns.

NAOMI

Sorry!

DONALD

Okay control, in that case, I guess we have an issue with the diagnostics program being down. Do you have anything for us?

NAOMI

Checking for you now.

She presses a button on the phone and turns to look at her computer.

INT. SPACE STATION - CONTINUOUS

HOLD MUSIC plays. Donald and Janet are astonished.

JANET

Has she put us on hold?

EXT. CAMBRIDGE - EARLY EVENING

ELLIE (22, slim, summery) cycles through the streets. Her phone RINGS . She stops the bike and answers it.

ELLIE

There in a mo, I've just left the office. White wine, make it a big'un.

INT. SPACEPLACEBASE, CALIFORNIA - DAY

NAOMI

Sorry, is that Professor Wilson's office?

INTERCUT -- PHONE CONVERSATION

ELLIE

Oh right, sorry. Yes, I've got his phone for the weekend. I'm his Research Assistant.

NAOMI

Can you get hold of him?

ELLIE

Not really, he's scuba diving. Can I help?

NAOMI

I don't know, do you know anything about Spaceplace, the space station?

ELLIE

Do I? It's only my PhD topic, what do you need to know?

INT. SPACE STATION - CONTINUOUS

HOLD MUSIC still plays. Donald looks annoyed. Janet drinks out of a plastic pouch with a straw. A loud "BLOOP BLOOP" noise rings out. Donald leaps up.

DONALD

What's that? Fire alarm?

JANET

It's Skype, Don.

She leans over and clicks the laptop.

JANET (CONT'D)

Hello?

Naomi appears on the screen.

NAOMI

(on screen)

Hello! It's Naomi again, at base. Everything OK?

DONALD

Is it them?

JANET

Quiet!

NAOMI

Sorry to keep you waiting. Are the diagnostics still down?

JANET

(to Donald)

Can you turn the phone off?

DONALD

With pleasure.

The HOLD MUSIC stops.

JANET

Yes, still broken. Any ideas?

INT. SPACEPLACEBASE, CALIFORNIA - CALIFORNIA

NAOMI sits at a laptop, with Janet's face on the screen.

NAOMI

I got hold of the science team but she was on the way to a bar, so she's given me the computer team's number while she heads back to the office. I'm calling them now, OK?

JANET

(on screen)

Is there really nobody else there?

NAOMI

I'll let you know what they say.

JANET

Don't -

Naomi clicks a button and the Skype screen disappears. She clicks another button.

EXT. MUMBAI INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - NIGHT

A five storey office block with one light on inside. Behind it is a factory and a mountain. A phone RINGS.