

F A R S C A P E

EPISODE 10422

"NO TURNING BACK"

WRITTEN BY
DAVID KEMPER

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FARSCAPE

"NO TURNING BACK"

COLD OPEN

1 CLOSE UP OF SCORPIUS 1

SPOTLIGHT on his face, SURROUNDED BY BLACKNESS. There's fire in his eyes. HIS LIPS MOVE, but we hear CRICHTON.

SCORPIUS (Crichton V.O.)
Your infantile obsession with
"betrayal" is misplaced, John.

2 INT. COMMAND 2

CRICHTON and AERYN. He's agitated. She's patient.

AERYN
I was there. I heard.

CRICHTON
Sonofabitch. Can you believe him?

INTERCUT SCORPIUS IN HIS SPOTLIGHT LIMBO

SCORPIUS (Crichton V.O.)
Look past my actions, towards my
goal. Our common goal.

CRICHTON
He leads Braca and a damn Command
Carrier here; that's not betrayal?

REVEAL, out the Forward Portal, the COMMAND CARRIER (CG).

3 INT. HANGAR - COMMAND CARRIER - INTERCUT 3

BRACA at the helm.

BRACA
...Should you initiate StarBurst,
your ship will be crippled.

4 FLASH - FRAG CANNONS ROLL INTO POSITION 4

BRACA
If Scorpius is harmed in any way,
the Leviathan will be destroyed.

AERYN
John, do you believe them?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

CRICHTON

Hell no!

AERYN

I realize you don't want to believe,
but is it possible they're telling
the truth? That the message--

BRACA (Aeryn V.O.)

--was intercepted from the decimated
Scarran base on Katratzi.

5 INT. SCARRAN STRYKER -INTERCUT

5

CLOSE UP PENNOCH -- AS A HOLOGRAM (CG) -- A GUARD behind
him.

PENNOCH

Using the navigation graphs you have
supplied, Emperor, our course is set
for the wormhole that leads to
Crichton's home planet.

6 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - KATRATZI - INTERCUT

6

CLOSE ON EMPEROR STALEEK -- AS A HOLOGRAM (CG) -- amidst
the devastation.

EMPEROR STALEEK

Upon arrival, begin the process of
subduing their defensive forces and
signal for reinforcements.

PENNOCH

As decreed, Eminence.

THE HOLOGRAPHIC TRANSMISSION ENDS.

CRICHTON

(more plea than certainty)
There's no way they can know where
Earth is. No way.

AERYN

Also... why would they go?

CLOSE ON CRICHTON--

7 INTERCUT FLASH - SCENE FROM EPISODE 10420

7

*Crichton tells Emperor Staleek that Crysterium Utilia
grows on Earth.*

CRICHTON

They think their magic mushrooms
grow on Earth.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

AERYN

Do they?

He nods. She's rational. Treads carefully.

AERYN

Perhaps we should set aside hatred
and listen to what Scorpius proposes.

CRICHTON

Aeryn. Everything he does is
manipulation. This. Us. Everything.
Since the day we met, nothing he's
said is real.

AERYN

And if the Scarrans are heading toward
your planet...? What did he say to
you? Alone?

SCORPIUS (Crichton V.O.)

I assure you, I had nothing to do
with this. That said, reality
presents opportunity. Ally yourself
with the Peacekeepers, and I shall
see that our entire might is thrown
into defending your world.

AERYN

That's something you have to consider.

CRICHTON

(long beat)

Or I could just close the wormhole,
and seal off Earth forever.

Aeryn is stunned. Stares at him.

AERYN

You can do that?

CRICHTON

Yes. No. In theory. I-- the
knowledge-- it's just not in order.

AERYN

What if they get there first? What
happens to your Dad? Your sisters?

SCORPIUS (HIS OWN VOICE)

Make a decision, John. Do not be
afraid of this commitment.

Aeryn and Crichton look at each other.

AERYN

Are you?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED: (2)

CRICHTON

What?

AERYN

Afraid of... commitment?

For a moment, there's something different in the air.

CRICHTON

No.

8 INT. PASSAGEWAY - ON THE MOVE

2 INT. COMM

Crichton and D'ARGO in full stride. Crichton's in his SPACE SUIT. They each carry SOMETHING UNSEEN BELOW FRAME.

D'ARGO

Did she think you were talking about her?

CRICHTON

I don't know. I think so. Maybe not.

D'ARGO

What did she say next?

3 INT. PASSI

9 INT. COMMAND - CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS SCENE

AERYN

Then... perhaps you should consider that kind of... commitment?

10 INT. PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS SCENE

D'ARGO

Did she hesitate like that, or is that just you?

CRICHTON

D'Argo, what does it matter?

D'ARGO

It matters because if she hesitated, she knows you were talking about her.

11 INT. HATCHWAY

4 INT. COMM

CLOSE ON Aeryn and Chiana. They're each HOLDING SOMETHING UNSEEN BELOW FRAME LINE (PULSE RIFLES).

CHIANA

You said what?!

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

CRICHTON

I have to have faith I can figure this out. That I can close the wormhole. Failure means... everything I've been afraid of comes true. Because of me.

AERYN

I'm behind you, John. We're all behind you.

15 INT. HATCHWAY - CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS SCENE

15

CHIANA

Good job. Always position yourself so they have to come to you.

AERYN

Chiana -- this is not about us.

CHIANA

Sure.

Just then, Crichton and D'Argo ROUND THE CORNER. REVEAL that Crichton carries a NUCLEAR BOMB (DORMANT, NO LIGHTS OR SOUNDS), D'Argo carries Crichton's HELMET. Aeryn and Chiana level PULSE RIFLES AT--

SCORPIUS and SIKOZU, both standing inside the Hatchway, both wearing SPACE SUITS, both holding HELMETS.

CRICHTON

Ready?

AERYN

Yes.

SCORPIUS

John. We are natural allies. The Scarrans will ravage your planet. And I can prevent it.

CRICHTON

Miss Britannica... what kind of ship they flying?

SIKOZU

Stryker. Swift attack.

CRICHTON

Zoom zoom fast? Can we beat 'em to the wormhole?

SIKOZU

Utilizing StarBurst? Possibly.

CRICHTON

Braca and the Queen Mary beat 'em?

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

SIKOZU
(deferential to Scorpius)
No.

CRICHTON
How you gonna save Earth, Scorp?

SCORPIUS
With a simple declaration of alliance.
Even infuriated as he is, Emperor
Staleek would be forced to stay his
attack, or by it's inception, incur
the war he is still afraid of losing.

CRICHTON
I see where this is going, Elm Street.
You want a little piece of Earth for
yourself? Here--

Crichton presses the DORMANT NUCLEAR BOMB to Scorpius's
chest. It STAYS ATTACHED to him, and instantly SNAPS TO
LIFE, LIGHTS FLASHING, TONES RHYTHMICALLY SOUNDING.

CRICHTON
--welcome to the nuclear age. Put
your helmets on.

SCORPIUS
John, see reason.

CRICHTON
See red's more like it. I'm in deep
Scarranville because of you. I retire
as a chess piece.

SIKOZU
He is not wrong, Crichton. You have
to trust him.

CRICHTON
Bad choice, Goldilocks. Call our
eight-hundred hotline for counseling
when you figure it out.

D'ARGO
(to Chiana)
Lock down the Maintenance Bay. I'll
have Pilot plot a course to the
wormhole.
(to Scorpius and Sikoze)
Good riddance.

Chiana gives A LITTLE, SARCASTIC WAVE to Scorpius and
Sikoze, and then EXITS with D'Argo.

(CONTINUED)

15

CONTINUED: (2)

15

CRICHTON
(ordering them)
Helmets.
(to Comms)
Captain Braca, here's the deal.
Fearless Leader's wearing a bomb.
We're leaving. Try to stop us --
boom. Once we're gone, the bomb
shuts off. Couldn't be simpler.
Don't bother responding, we're not
listening.
(clicks off Comms)

Scorpius and Sikozu HAVE PUT THEIR HELMETS ON.

SCORPIUS
Officer Sun. Explain to Crichton
the futility of resisting the Scarrans
without allies.

Aeryn stares at Scorpius. REMAINS SILENT.

SCORPIUS
I see. Reason has fled you, also.

AERYN
Thank you for the good things you
have done, even if the motivation
was selfish.

She backs out of the hatchway and BEGINS CLOSING THE DOOR
as Crichton PUTS ON HIS OWN HELMET, staying in the Hatchway
with Scorpius and Sikozu.

Aeryn CLOSES THE HATCH FROM INSIDE MOYA. Crichton,
Scorpius and Sikozu -- ALL HELMETED -- remain inside the
airlock.

*

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (3)

15

Scorpius stares at Crichton. A sincere, quiet moment.

SCORPIUS

So many things you misunderstand.
These actions put your world at risk.

CRICHTON

I can't trust you anymore.

SCORPIUS

You must. Just once again.

CRICHTON

I caused it. I'll fix it. And live
with it either way.

(to Sikoze, quiet)

Nice meeting you.

Crichton GRABS A HANDHOLD with one hand, TRIGGERS THE
HATCH with the other. THE HATCH SWINGS OPEN AND--

SCORPIUS (wearing a live nuclear bomb, clutching takeaway
soup) and Sikoze (holding a ladle) are SUCKED OUT INTO
SPACE as CRICHTON HOLDS ON AGAINST THE EXPULSION OF AIR.

16 EXT. SPACE (CG) - CONTINUOUS

16

Moya begins the StarBurst sequence.

17 INT. HATCHWAY - CONTINUOUS

17

PUSH CLOSE on Crichton in the doorway watching Scorpius
and Sikoze drift toward the distant Command Carrier (CG).

SIKOZE (over Comms)

Crichton?... Weak species.

SCORPIUS (over Comms)

(less threat than prediction)

John. Reconsider. If not, you doom
Earth to destruction.

OFF CRICHTON'S EXTREME CLOSE UP--

18 EXT. SPACE (CG) - CONTINUOUS

18

Moya STARBURSTS.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

19 EXT. SPACE (CG) 19

Moya speeds past.

20 INT. MAINTENANCE BAY 20

A WHIRRING NOISE. METAL or PLASTIC SHAVINGS scatter the deck. 1812 DRD carves something (the Gondola) we can't yet identify. Plays FINAL STRAINS OF THE 1812 OVERTURE.

REVEAL Crichton scribbling WORMHOLE EQUATIONS on butcher paper; white boards; etc. The equations PHYSICALLY BRANCH OUT into many dead ends. The result is like WORKING IN A MAZE. He's frustrated.

CRICHTON

Again.

1812 "looks" at him like, are you serious? Then, BEGINS THE 1812 OVERTURE AGAIN.

STARK ENTERS. Goes right up to Crichton.

STARK

How are you?

CRICHTON

Not good.

Stark nods, stares. The BAREST HINT OF A GIGGLE.

STARK

I'm worried for your planet.

CRICHTON

Me, too, Stark.

ANOTHER TINY GIGGLE.

STARK

The Scarrans, they're brutal. After enslavement, they'll--

(giggles)

--subject your people to--

(more giggles)

--such degradations that--

(starts laughing)

Crichton stares at him. Stark struggles to reign in the LAUGHTER. Each time he loses, the LAUGHTER IS STRONGER.

STARK

I'm sorry. Sorry. Just nervous, and...

(effort to calm down)

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

CRICHTON

You alright?

STARK

Hm. Zhaan's gone. Corporeally.

Stark's alone again.

(CHOKES OFF THE LAUGHTER)

Think I'm okay now.

CRICHTON

Scarrans hurt you, Astro Boy?

STARK DISSOLVES INTO UNCONTROLLABLE LAUGHTER, CLOSE TO TEARS. Pathetic, he NODS, motions apologies, then, EXITS.

Crichton turns back to his work, desperate.

21 EXT. KATRATZI BASE (CG)

21

The base in partial ruin. REUSE OF SHOT from 10421.

22 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - KATRATZI BASE

22

EMPEROR STALEEK stands amid the rubble that used to be his glorious room. AHKNA ENTERS and crosses to him.

AHKNA

Why send a Stryker force to Earth?
For impotent revenge against Crichton,
or to separate me from my lover?

EMPEROR STALEEK

The fortunes of our empire do not
revolve around your physical affairs,
despite what you may think, Minister.

AHKNA

Then, to what benefit?

EMPEROR STALEEK

We are political enemies, you and I.
But Scarrans, both... Do you have
the fortitude to ally for a greater
good than your own advancement?

AHKNA

You destroyed my father. Your
political fortunes -- the bounty of
your rank -- were stolen.

EMPEROR STALEEK

As he took from his predecessor.
Can you set that aside?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

AHKNA

(guard comes down)

What does it matter? The Tribunal shall judge us both harshly. The Crystherium Matriarch is gone -- this region of galaxy denied to us.

EMPEROR STALEEK

(pressing harder)

A partnership?

Ahkna finally NODS. Staleek's boot kicks a piece of rubble aside to REVEAL A SINGLE, PARTIALLY DAMAGED CRYSTHERIUM UTILIA. He picks it up and holds it before her.

EMPEROR STALEEK

Your lover, Pennoch, travels to Earth, Ahkna, because these grow there.

And off the widening realization in Ahkna's face...

23 INT. MAINTENANCE BAY

23

NO MORE OVERTURE. 1812 STILL CARVES. We see a bit more without realizing it's a Gondola. Crichton's EQUATIONS are more voluminous. He stands, motionless, staring. We sense defeat; fear; rising desperation.

D'Argo and Chiana enter. Hang back. Finally, the frustrated artist acknowledges them. They approach.

D'ARGO

At this range, Pilot can still contact Scorpius. One more StarBurst...
(and he can't)

CRICHTON

No turning back.

D'ARGO

John... some advice? Focus on what Katoya taught you. Inner strength.

CRICHTON

I know it's there, I just can't find the Rosetta Stone to make sense of it.

D'ARGO

Katoya.

CHIANA

Sex.

D'ARGO

Chiana.

(CONTINUED)

CHIANA

Sex does it.

D'ARGO

For you.

CHIANA

For everyone.

(to Crichton)

Sex.

CRICHTON

With you? Or him?

CHIANA

Whatever.

Feeling the vibe against her, Chiana EXITS.

D'ARGO

My friend -- words no one else will speak. The Peacekeepers as a whole are not represented by Scorpius. If they make a pact, they honour it. Your planet will not be enslaved by joining an alliance.

CRICHTON

We can't even get back to the moon. No will. No way. We shouldn't be out here. I should've died on the first day. Better that than this.

D'ARGO

Too late. Now what?

CRICHTON

(surprises even himself)

I'm not sure. I'm numb.

D'ARGO

Focus. Katoya.

CRICHTON

It may be impossible, D.

D'ARGO

I've known you for four cycles, John, and I've seen you do the impossible before.

D'Argo squeezes Crichton's shoulder, then EXITS.

Crichton turns back to his work, studies it. Long beat.
PUNCHES THROUGH ONE OF THE WHITEBOARDS!

24 ANGLE - REVEAL RYGEL WATCHING SURREPTITIOUSLY 24

Up to something, he disappears back into the shadows.

25 BACK TO SCENE - CONTINUOUS 25

CRICHTON

Pilot? Yo, Pilot!

26 INT. PILOT'S DEN - INTERCUT 26

PILOT

Commander?

CRICHTON

Why haven't we StarBurst again? We need to StarBurst.

PILOT

Scarran Stryker craft have a unique propulsion system that allows them to cover great--

CRICHTON

Pilot! Annnd...?

PILOT

We require three additional StarBursts to reach the destination. At our current rate, they will arrive before us.

Crichton is silent. Stunned.

PILOT

Moya and I have discussed the options, and elected to employ an extended StarBurst technique.

CRICHTON

Extended StarBurst?

PILOT

Exactly as it sounds. Potentially dangerous; definitely uncomfortable in the extreme. For everyone.

(to the ship)

Will you all please prepare.

Then, A STRANGE BUILDING HUMMMMM begins to RESONATE THROUGHOUT THE SHIP. As Crichton looks around--

27 EXT. SPACE (CG) - CONTINUOUS 27

Moya begins a SLOWER THAN USUAL STARBURST. Then, three-quarters of the way through, the STARBURST SWITCHES TO ULTRA-FAST, and Moya is gone in the blink of an eye.

28 BACK INSIDE THE MAINTENANCE BAY - CONTINUOUS 28

Crichton is FLATTENED BACK by the G-Force!

29 INT. PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS 29

D'Argo and Chiana are similarly FLATTENED AGAINST A BULKHEAD as Moya takes off...

30 EXT. SPACE (CG) - SOME TIME LATER 30

Moya in the midst of an EXTENDED STARBURST.

31 INT. PASSAGEWAY 31

Crichton wanders down the corridor like a drunk. A LOUD, SUSTAINED, DISCORDANT HUMMMM VIBRATES UP through the soles of his shoes. He looks ill.

As he stops to rest against a bulkhead, Noranti rounds the corner and moves toward him. She hurts less than he.

NORANTI

You look awful.

CRICHTON

Can't... think.

NORANTI

Extended StarBurst is worse than Pilot suggested. Rygel's vomiting continuously, though of course, that's perhaps not so unusual. Stark, however, has passed out. And just as well, as he is not.

CRICHTON

Will you leave me alone?

She rummages and produces a CHEWY GLOB of something.

NORANTI

Momentarily. Chew. This will decrease the symptoms.

(as Crichton CHEWS)

How fares the wormhole? Can you close one down?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

NORANTI (CONT'D)
(nauseated, he SHAKES NO)
I know of one surefire curative for
brain lock.
(produces something else)
Natural, organic, drugs.

As he stares at her, Aeryn ENTERS.

AERYN
Noranti. Go.

NORANTI
How's your nausea, dear?

AERYN
Better. Please go.

Noranti nods and EXITS dutifully.

AERYN
Looked for you in the Maintenance
Bay. Punched your way through a few
problems, I see.

CRICHTON
Come to give me your home remedy for
writers block?

AERYN
You know me better than that.

CRICHTON
Sorry... I'm gonna fail. It's there,
Aeryn -- so close. That's the sin.
If I just had a little more time.

AERYN
You don't.

CRICHTON
What... would your advice... be?

Aeryn studies him fondly; piercingly. One chance--

AERYN
I'm not qualified. But... what would
your mother have told you?

He stares. Where the hell did that come from? Then--

32 OMITTED

32 *

33 BACK TO PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUOUS 33

CRICHTON
(stares at Aeryn)
Why did you bring up my mother?

AERYN
I-- I don't know. Just, when we
were on Earth -- I saw the way you
looked at her picture. Heard your
voice when you spoke of her. Was it
the wrong thing to say?

Crichton takes Aeryn's face and gently kisses her.

CRICHTON
No... I love you, but I have to be
alone right now.

He turns and strides away.

34 EXT. SPACE (CG) 34

Moya EXITS STARBURST and settles RIGHT IN FRONT OF
CRICHTON'S WORMHOLE TO EARTH!

35 INT. COMMAND 35

D'Argo and Chiana react from separate consoles.

D'ARGO
Outstanding, Pilot. My compliments
to you and Moya.

CHIANA
No sign of the Scarrans. We beat
'em!
(into Comms)
Crichton! We beat em!

36 INT. PILOT'S DEN 36

Crichton hops onto the console, jazzed. Sets 1812 down.

CRICHTON
Proof me, good buddy?

PILOT
If I can. Remember I'm a bit woozy
myself from Extended StarBurst.
You're looking well.

CRICHTON
I'll have Grandmama whip you something
up.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

Crichton TAPS 1812. 1812 WHIRS and EMITS A HOLOGRAM (CG)
which illustrates the following--

CRICHTON

Wormhole's a disturbance in space-
time, right? Well, immediately before
one opens, a pressure bubble forms.
You can't see it, but it's--

PILOT

I can see it.

CRICHTON

(beat)

You can see the bubble?

PILOT

Yes. Can't you?

CRICHTON

Okay... So then you know. The bubble
starts real tiny, and expands outward.
When the bubble bursts, the wormhole
opens behind it.

PILOT

Correct.

Crichton stares at Pilot. Continues--

CRICHTON

Here's my theory -- stop me if you've
heard it. I go down the wormhole to
Earth in my module. I let the
wormhole close. I wait. When it's
about to open again, I time it so
right before the bubble bursts, I
dive in, puncturing it.

(triumphant)

This causes the wormhole to collapse
in around me, over and over and over,
all the way back to here. I seal it
up forever. Gone. Finito. Road
closed.

PILOT

(stares a beat, then--)

That is brilliant, Commander.

CRICHTON

It'll work?!

PILOT

(studies the HOLOGRAM)

The math is impeccable. The *quantical*
relationships line up perfectly.

(CONTINUED)

CRICHTON

Okay, I sense a qualifier there.
The Scarrans are coming, Pilot.
What's wrong?

PILOT

The timing required to puncture the
bubble at its maximum radius, thereby
beginning the chain reaction you
describe, is in the *milli-microts*.

CRICHTON

I can't do it?

PILOT

Your eye-limb coordination is...
lacking. Even if you could see the
bubble.

CRICHTON

I hate to ask another favour, Pilot,
but... I'm begging.

PILOT

(pained to say this)
Getting you here ahead of the Scarrans
has left Moya severely debilitated.
Setting aside her comprehensive dread
of wormholes -- she requires a number
of solar days just to recover enough
for normal space flight.

CRICHTON

There's got to be some way to--

PILOT

Commander -- I'm sorry. There is
nothing I can do.

D'ARGO (over Comms)

John -- Chiana's picked up the Stryker
on long-range sense scans. They'll
be here in less than four arns.

And as we PUSH CLOSE on Crichton's desperation...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

37 EXT. SPACE (CG) 37

Moya hovers in space, the wormhole NOT VISIBLE.

38 INT. MAINTENANCE BAY 38

Crichton checking over the module. 1812 continues CARVING SOMETHING. Aeryn enters. Crichton finally sees her over the wing of his ship. Long looks.

AERYN

Wormhole going to open again?

CRICHTON

Little bit before the Scarrans arrive.
I'll get one chance.

AERYN

Pilot explained this maneuver to me.
He's not optimistic.

Crichton shrugs.

AERYN

I'm going with you.

She may expect some resistance. He offers none.

CRICHTON

If we survive, we may be stuck on
Earth.

AERYN

There are a few worse places.

CRICHTON

Not if the Scarrans get there.

AERYN

We'll do the best we can. I'll follow
in the Prowler, that way, we get two
chances to collapse the bubble and
seal the wormhole.

Quiet beat. It's done then. They fly.

CRICHTON

What did you imagine? For your life?

AERYN

(thinks)
Military service. Promotions.
Retirement.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

AERYN (CONT'D)

Maybe meet another officer I could tolerate sharing a residence with. Hopefully, he'd be good at recreating.
(smiles)
You?

CRICHTON

Couple of trips into low Earth orbit. Marry someone smarter than me. Real good at recreating. Grow old. Have kids.

She looks away, unable to hold eye contact. (NOTE: RECAP should include Aeryn visiting Command Carrier Surgery.)

AERYN

And so it goes.

CRICHTON

Comes and goes.

They meet each other's gaze again.

39 INT. PILOT'S DEN

39

Pilot works quickly, all four arms never stopping.

PILOT

Yes, Captain, I am doing the best I can to restore Moya's full operational status, but you must understand -- it will take time.

D'ARGO (over Comms)

That's the only thing we don't have. Cut corners... D'Argo out.

As Pilot continues working, Rygel ENTERS.

PILOT

(acknowledging)
Dominar.

Rygel does not speak. Pilot keeps working. Long moments pass. The silence becomes uncomfortable.

Rygel continues to regard Pilot. Pilot continues to focus on his work. Avoiding a conversation? Finally--

RYGEL

(simply)
You should do it.

PILOT

(stops working; direct gaze)
Would you?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

Rygel thinks a moment.

RYGEL

No. But I'm not you.

His piece said, Rygel turns and EXITS. HOLD ON Pilot's enigmatic reaction...

40 EXT. PEACEKEEPER COMMAND CARRIER - SPACE (CG)

40

The giant ship slowly steams past.

41 INT. HANGAR - DINING AREA - PEACEKEEPER COMMAND CARRIER

41

The table is set befitting the return of Scorpius: LINENS, CRYSTAL, FINE PEACEKEEPER CHINA. Scorpius and Sikoze sit alone, each eating soup, Noranti's TAKEAWAY CONTAINER and LADLE before them. A BOTTLE OF FINE RASLAK chills on ice, their GLASSES FULL. Braca stands over them.

BRACA

Sir -- allow me to take this moment alone to tell you how pleased I am to have you back aboard.

SCORPIUS

Delightful to be here, Captain. Is Commandant Grayza not joining us?

BRACA

She is handling her confinement badly. I believe she may even be... sedated.

SCORPIUS

Pity.
(to Sikoze)
What do you think?

SIKOZE

(sipping soup)
I can see why this is your favorite.

SCORPIUS

When we encounter Crichton again, Captain -- and I intend for that to be soon -- please see that the old woman is brought aboard unharmed.

BRACA

Of course. Shall I continue to trace his movements and pursue?

SCORPIUS

(knows something we don't)
Unnecessary. I believe our reluctant human may soon find himself returning of his own volition.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

BRACA
(nods; beat)
May I offer the helm, sir?

SCORPIUS
You have earned this command, my
loyal friend. Let no one -- even me --
ever take it from you.

Braca nods warmly; proudly. To Sikoze--

BRACA
Ma'am -- if there's anything you
require, see me immediately.

SIKOZU
Thank you, Captain Braca. But I am
a woman of simple needs.

Braca gets every hint. Nods one more time and EXITS.
Scorpius raises his glass. Sikoze toasts it with hers.

SIKOZU
To victory over Scarran domination.

SCORPIUS
To you. Your bravery.

SIKOZU
For resisting the enemy?

SCORPIUS
For not resisting your friends.

He sweeps her close and begins to ravage her. She responds
in kind. Animal. Aggressive. The way he likes it.
Stay with them as the table gets trashed. The soup gets
spilled. Too bad we can't stay longer...

42 INT. CRICHTON'S QUARTERS

42

Crichton sits on his bunk, DUFFEL BAG packed. He dictates
a message into his SMALL RECORDER (previously established).

CRICHTON
People of Earth; this message is
intended as--
(rewinds with a SQUEAL)
Too Charleton Heston.
(begins anew)
The wormhole theory found on this
recorder will allow--
(rewinds with a SQUEAL)
Saddam Hussein to own your ass.
(deep breath; once more)
My name is John Crichton; an
astronaut.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

CRICHTON (CONT'D)

Four years ago, I got shot through a wormhole to a distant part of the galaxy. I ended up on a ship -- a living ship -- populated by escaped prisoners who became my friends... and more.

Crichton waves a hand by his ear, as if a fly is buzzing.

CRICHTON

By now you may also know that I have inadvertently made enemies, too. The danger these forces present is--

Crichton waves again, pissed off--

CRICHTON

No! You sonofabi--

43 EXT. GRASSY LAWN - DAY

43

Crichton is squatting in the grass. Harvey squats beside him. Both wear FULL BUNNY SUITS. Scorpius holds a straw-lined EASTER BASKET partially filled with COLOURED FOIL CHOCOLATE EASTER EGGS he's found in the grass.

Crichton takes in the situation, incredulous.

HARVEY

Curious holiday, Easter. A religious leader dies, comes back from the dead, and you celebrate like this.

CRICHTON

No, I don't. You do.

HARVEY

Three years old. Bunny suit. Ate your weight in chocolate.

(studies him)

Interesting that you yourself are skeptical of some of the holiday myth, and yet, still a believer. Perhaps that's what these trappings are for -- to give cynics something to connect with.

CRICHTON

You know that what I'm doing is the most important thing I've ever done in my life?

HARVEY

Of course. Ooooh--

(finds another EGG in the grass)

Look at this one!

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

Crichton KNOCKS THE FOIL EGG AWAY and grabs Harvey. They grapple like crazed wrestlers and end up ROLLING OVER A FEW TIMES in the grass, locked in combat.

CRICHTON

Why?! Why mess with me now? You want me to fail, don't you?!

HARVEY

On the contrary, John. Should your planet fall victim, I would not wish to reside in the head that blames itself.

CRICHTON

Then... why?!

HARVEY

To tell you that I have examined this as thoroughly as possible from my -- "unique" -- vantage point. I believe your fears are correct. I believe that you will fail.

CRICHTON

After everything that's happened, I'm supposed to trust anything you say?

HARVEY

Well, now, John... I think that -- like religion -- is an individual decision. Either you believe, and therefore bunnies are unnecessary -- or you don't, in which case...

(offers a CHOCOLATE EGG)

Egg?

44 INT. CRICHTON'S QUARTERS - CONTINUE PREVIOUS SCENE

44

Crichton on the bunk, recorder in hand. Beat. He shuts off the recorder. Sits quietly with himself...

45 INT. PILOT'S DEN

45

Pilot operating controls; troubled. Noranti enters.

NORANTI

You wanted to see me?

Slightly furtive, Pilot motions her closer. HUSHED TONES.

PILOT

In my travels, I have come to respect the wisdom of experience -- and I have a question.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

PILOT (CONT'D)

(off Noranti's look)

Is it true what they say... that everyone dies alone?

NORANTI

(with a curious look)

I believe so, Pilot. No matter how close we are to others while alive, when the time comes, death isolates us, since we are the only one experiencing it in our soul.

PILOT

Then, even if, say, Crichton and Aeryn are together when they die, they will still be... alone?

NORANTI

Dear, Pilot -- "alone" is the only way our simple mortal selves can make peace with the deities, and prepare for the journey beyond.

And off Pilot absorbing this lesson...

46 INT. COMMAND

46

D'Argo and Chiana at work. Crichton bursts in.

CRICHTON

Change of plans. I have to contact Scorpius.

CHIANA

What?!

D'ARGO

John--?!

CRICHTON

If I make a deal before the Scarrans get here, maybe he can stop a massacre.

D'ARGO

Are you sure this is what you want?

CRICHTON

Can't risk anything else. Can't risk Earth.

CHIANA

Why would you do this? Why sell out your own people?

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

CRICHTON

You think I like this?! Think I'm proud bringing Peacekeeper "protection" to my backward little planet?

CHIANA

Then don't do it.

CRICHTON

Alternative?

CHIANA

Pop the bubble. Collapse the wormhole.

CRICHTON

I can't do it, Pip! I can't. I'm not smart enough. I'm not fast enough. I'm not alien enough.
(defeated)
I'm only human.

D'Argo and Chiana trade looks at his impassioned agony.

D'ARGO

We're out of range, and Moya can't move. We'll take Lo'La -- head back the way we came.

D'Argo STARTS FOR THE DOOR, Crichton following.

47 INT. PILOT'S DEN

47

Aeryn holds Pilot's claw as he HYPERVENTILATES.

AERYN

Just calm down. That's it. Now, tell me what's wrong.

PILOT

Moya and I are at great odds. We've never disagreed so fiercely.

AERYN

Over what, Pilot?

Pilot is pained. Looks away. A FEW MORE QUICK BREATHS.

PILOT

I haven't been entirely honest about not being able to help Crichton.

And off Aeryn's reaction...

48 INT. PASSAGEWAY OUTSIDE PILOT'S DEN

48

Crichton and Rygel on the move.

CRICHTON

Pilot says it was you who turned him around. You, Sparky. You self-centered, egotistical, selfish, little Dominar. You did it.

(kisses Rygel)

I love you, man!

RYGEL

Do you want to pay me back?

CRICHTON

(expectant as to how)

Yes.

RYGEL

Good.

49 INT. PILOT'S DEN - CONTINUOUS

49

Crichton and Rygel ENTER, crossing to where Noranti and Stark console and counsel Pilot at his console.

PILOT

Moya is enormously distressed by what we're about to do.

NORANTI

Tell her she must be brave. It's for the good of the "family."

STARK

(to Moya)

Beautiful ship. Blessed protector. Zhaan is here with you. Always here. Feel her presence; her calm.

Crichton and Rygel trades looks; Rygel rolls his eyes.

CRICHTON

How's it work, Pilot?

PILOT

Because the Transport Pods are built of Moya's own elements, I will be able to live in one for up to an arn. But if we are not rejoined by then, both wounds will scab over, and our neurological connections will have no chance of regenerating.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

CRICHTON

There's a wormhole cycle brewing.
We go. Let the hole close. When it
opens again, pop the bubble, back
home.

PILOT

If not, my death is assured.
(a glance at Noranti)
And without Moya, I shall die alone.

THE SHIP SHUDDERS in agreement. Stark speaks to Moya.

STARK

You won't be alone. He'll come back.
And I'm here. We're here. All here.

Noranti gently BLOWS MIST INTO PILOT'S FACE.

NORANTI

This will relax you... Aeryn?

50 INT. COMMAND - INTERCUT

50

Aeryn busy between the two consoles.

AERYN

Most life-sustaining systems are on
manual bypass. Ready as can be.

RYGEL

Then do it if you're gonna do it.

Pilot nods; ready. Crichton sees his fear; is humbled.

CRICHTON

D? Pip?

51 INT. NEURAL CLUSTER - INTERCUT

51

D'Argo and Chiana adjust GOGGLES; hold CUTTING TOOLS.

D'ARGO

Pilot? I need to hear it from you.

PILOT

Captain D'Argo... I remand this ship
to your control. You may now cut me
free of Moya.

D'Argo and Chiana trade looks; FIRE UP THEIR TOOLS. As
they BEGIN TO CUT MOYA AND PILOT'S NEURAL CONNECTIONS--

PILOT SCREAMS BLOODY FRELLING MURDER from the pain!

Stark prays harder.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

Noranti BLOWS MORE MIST.

Rygel backs away.

Pilot FLAILS in agony.

Aeryn flinches.

D'Argo and Chiana CONTINUE CUTTING.

As Pilot HOWLS--

CLOSE on Crichton, wearing this one personally...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

52 INT. NEURAL CLUSTER

52

D'Argo and Chiana have been cutting for some time. They're exhausted. PURPLE PILOT GOOP drips from recent wounds. Noranti CLIMBS DOWN THE LADDER to them. SHE SHOUTS OVER THE NOISE until D'Argo and Chiana SHUT OFF THEIR TOOLS--

NORANTI

It's not working! Stop! You have to do something!

D'ARGO

What's wrong?

NORANTI

He can't take it. He's getting delirious.

CHIANA

Well, whattaya expect -- we're cutting him in half!

NORANTI

Not Pilot. The other one. Listen...
(points "upstairs")

STARK (O.S.)

(ranting)

Too much. Too fast. Too much. Too fast. Too much too fast too--

Before D'Argo can react, Chiana drops her cutting tool.

CHIANA

Mine.

D'Argo nods and Chiana SCURRIES UP THE LADDER. When Noranti moves to follow, D'Argo stops her.

D'ARGO

Uh-uh. You... magic mist.
Anesthetize these nerve endings.

As Noranti begins rummaging for the proper mixture...

53 INT. PILOT'S DEN - CONTINUOUS

53

Chiana CLIMBS UP to find Pilot in great pain. Stark PACES BACK AND FORTH ATOP PILOT'S CONSOLE, oblivious.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

STARK

Too-much too-fast makes no sense
can't remember too-much sequentially
coded too-fast impossible pattern
too-much wrong order wrong timing
too-fast helpless help me too-much--

CHIANA

Hey! Stark! *Frellnick!*

Stark continues ranting. Chiana LEAPS UP onto the console,
GRABS HIS MASK AND PULLS against the strap until it comes
SLIGHTLY OFF HIS FACE. WHITE LIGHT STREAMS OUT (CG).

Stark SHUTS UP. Chiana lets the mask SNAP BACK.

CHIANA

WHAT -- is the matter?

STARK

(quiet; chastened)
Too much, too fast.

CHIANA

Uh huh.

PILOT

(very weak)
Chiana. These command sequences must
be performed while I am separated
from Moya. Without them, most
regulatory systems will fail.

CHIANA

(whirls on Stark)
You said you flew Talyn.

STARK

I did. There. Sat there. Flew
Talyn. Controlled Talyn. Was Talyn.

CHIANA

So?

STARK

(re Pilot and Moya)
Way more complicated. Four arms.
Too much. Too fast.

CHIANA

Can you slow it down for him?

PILOT

(battling pain)
There is no time.

CHIANA

(knows she's in charge)
Okay, Pilot -- do your thing.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (2) 53

As Pilot uses all four arms to press controls--

54 FLASH INTERCUTS - CHIANA VISION 54

Everything in SLOW MOTION. Camera flits about absorbing the sequence of commands. When the Intercuts end--

55 RESUME SCENE IN REAL TIME 55

Chiana's EYES ARE WHITE.

STARK

Your eyes! What did you do?

CHIANA

Your job. I'm blind... Got it, Pilot. We'll take care of Moya.

PILOT

Thank you... Chiana...

CHIANA

(calling "down")
D'Argo! Go!

From below, THE SOUND OF D'ARGO'S CUTTING TOOL RESUMES.

56 INT. TRANSPORT POD 56

Crichton and Aeryn removing the tiller, ALIEN TOOLS SCATTERED. They work as one. Complimentary. If one reaches, the correct tool is placed into their hand without thinking. They're into each others' "zone."

CRICHTON

What're you thinking about?

AERYN

How your planet was progressing at its own pace. Then we showed up... As a Peacekeeper, I was trained to just go and do. Never think about the effects my presence might cause.

CRICHTON

Yeah. Even we have the Prime Directive.

AERYN

Now it bothers me.
(off his look)
I've changed a lot since I met you.

CRICHTON

That you have.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

ANOTHER SYNCHRONICITY TOOL HAND OFF.

AERYN

What were you thinking?

CRICHTON

Same. How the worst risk I ever wanted to be was cracking up and bits of my module raining down to Earth.

AERYN

That may still happen...

They smile; each liking what they see.

CRICHTON

Don't forget to disconnect the--

AERYN

Already done. But make sure the--

CRICHTON

Got it.

He indicates a PART on the deck. They stare at each other.

CRICHTON & AERYN SIMULTANEOUSLY

You really think Pilot'll be able to fit in--

They stop. Not a breath. Not a motion. It's too freaky. Too right. Without a word, in unison, they lift opposite ends of whatever they're working on.

THE LARGE PART WRENCHES FREE. Crichton and Aeryn continue to stare at one another over the top of the part...

57 INT. NEURAL CLUSTER

57

Noranti holds A LARGE MIXING BOWL. Scoops out a CREAMY, BALM-LIKE PASTE onto her fingers. Smears it on the severed conduits and wires. The SHIP SHUDDERS.

Rygel ENTERS.

RYGEL

They're putting Pilot inside the Transport Pod. He doesn't look well.

NORANTI

I've fortified him with anti-infectious ointment and pain relief -- though I fear both to be wholly inadequate in this case.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

RYGEL
(wrinkled nose)
What's this dren?

NORANTI
Keep the neural circuits moist until
Moya and Pilot can be rejoined.

RYGEL
Don't hold your breath. This isn't
even one you can get odds on.
(off her look)
If they don't make it back, I'm
cutting a deal with Scorpius. You
in?

Noranti looks guiltily at the mess around her. NODS "YES."

RYGEL
Nothing else to be done. Don't feel
bad about it. Just do your best.

Noranti acknowledges the sentiment as Rygel EXITS.

*

58 OMITTED
THRU
60

58 *
THRU
60

61 EXT. SPACE (CG)

61 *

THE TRANSPORT POD flies out of Moya.

62 INT. TRANSPORT POD - CONTINUOUS 62

Crichton piloting (from the consoles if seats are removed).
Aeryn attends to the UNCONSCIOUS PILOT, secure in his
makeshift "well" where the tiller used to be. AERYN SPRAYS
AN AEROSOL MIST around Pilot's base.

AERYN

This moisturizer won't work forever.
I can already see his ganglia drying
out.

CRICHTON

Wormhole cycle begins in thirty
microts. Might wanna grab a seat.

Aeryn makes a final few sprays, touches Pilot's slack
face, and jumps into the seat beside Crichton.

63 INT. PILOT'S DEN - CONTINUOUS 63

Stark pressing controls; instructed by WHITE-EYED Chiana.

CHIANA

Triangular red panel, far right.
Small, circular fusion pad, lower
left, beneath the axilon nozzle.
Levers in sequence, large to small,
left of the square re-circ gauge...

64 INT. COMMAND - CONTINUOUS 64

D'ARGO

John, Aeryn -- the Scarrans are less
than an arm away. Good luck.

65 INT. TRANSPORT POD - CONTINUOUS 65

CRICHTON

(dark; scared)

Just like Independence Day. 'Cept I
ain't no Will Smith. Although Pilot
fills in well for Jeff Goldblum...
God, please don't let me screw this
up.

He SNAPS HIS FINGERS AND POINTS.

Out the front window, the WORMHOLE-TO-EARTH OPENS (CG).

Crichton and Aeryn trade looks.

CRICHTON

(flat)
Yee-ha.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED: 65

He presses controls and--

66 INT. COMMAND - CONTINUOUS 66

D'Argo watches as the Transport Pod DIVES INTO THE
WORMHOLE, WHICH CLOSES BEHIND IT (CG), leaving no trace.

And off D'Argo's pensive reaction...

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

67 EXT. MOON (CG AS NEEDED)

67

Space-suited Crichton is literally walking in his father's footsteps. HE MOVES SLOWLY in the PARTIAL GRAVITY. Stops. Bends to retrieve... A GOLFBALL!

CRICHTON

(admiring)

Oh, Dad -- golf? So bourgeois.

He tosses the ball over his shoulder (MOON SLOW).

Crichton comes to an ALUMINUM FLAGPOLE planted in the sand. A RIGID AMERICAN FLAG unfurled at permanent wave on top. He SALUTES. Then, notices something--

A PHOTOGRAPH stuck halfway up the pole.

Crichton retrieves the photo, moved. It's of his family, circa late 1960s. EARLY COLOUR PRINT, SOFT HUES. Dad, Mom, Susan at about 9, Crichton around 5, Olivia about 3.

Deep breath. He never knew his Dad left this here...

68 EXT. JACK'S CRICHTON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

68

A FULL MOON ILLUMINATES. No Christmas decorations. It's months after Episode 413 and the house is repaired. Jack's CAR pulls up. He's on the MOBILE PHONE. Jack gets out with TWO FULL BAGS OF GROCERIES.

JACK

C'mon, Winters, pretend -- just pretend -- that going into space is a big deal, and get off your ass. Requisition the equipment we ordered and let someone else pay for it. If they wanna bill the Chinese delegation, that's their problem. And no way are five-hundred egghead scientists strapping on handguns as part of their uniform. Help me out, Winters -- make this crap go away.

As Jack hangs up and struggles to open the front door, THE PHONE INSIDE THE HOUSE BEGINS RINGING.

JACK

Yeah, yeah, coming.

He puts down one of the bags, opens the door, rushes in. Pick him up THROUGH THE WINDOW as he answers the PHONE.

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

68

JACK

Jack Crichton. Don't call my house
this late.

69 EXT. MOON (CG AS NEEDED) - INTERCUT

69

CRICHTON

Hey, Dad.

JACK

(suddenly confused)
John...? Wh- where are you?

CRICHTON

Serenity Base.

It takes a moment for Jack to absorb. He DROPS THE SECOND BAG OF GROCERIES and races outside, stepping over the one he left at the front door. Stares up at the FULL MOON.

JACK

Serenity Base?! Why didn't you make
Earth orbit?

CRICHTON

Murphy, Dad. There's a problem.

JACK

(dark; knowing it's serious)
Worse than a three-hundred dollar
clipboard that holds papers even
upside-down?

CRICHTON

The Scarrans have figured out where
Earth is. They're coming.

This conversation is perhaps the most difficult one of Crichton's whole life. Full of nervous energy, he SPRINGS UPWARDS. The low gravity allows him to FLOAT A BIT before SLOWLY DESCENDING to the moon's surface.

As the scene progresses, CRICHTON SPRINGS HIGHER AND HIGHER, until at last, his feet disappear above frame line for a long moment before HE SLOWLY SETTLES BACK DOWN.

At some point, REVEAL the TRANSPORT POD LEG in the sand.

JACK

(reeling)
What-- what can we do?

CRICHTON

Nothing. I have to do it.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED:

69

JACK

What the hell does that mean? You don't have to do anything, son -- you've done enough already.

CRICHTON

I think I can seal up the wormhole. It'll isolate Earth, but protect it.

JACK

Then how do we get into deep space?

CRICHTON

The old fashioned way -- you build a rocket and take the long road. I'm leaving you some wormhole and navigation instructions up here at your flagpole.

JACK

You're not staying, are you?

CRICHTON

Can't. Have to do this right -- the way you taught me. Only one chance.

70 INT. TRANSPORT POD - CONTINUOUS

70

Aeryn tries to rouse the groggy Pilot.

AERYN

It's time, Pilot. You have to wake up. We need you.

PILOT MUMBLES incoherently, in deep pain.

Aeryn looks over her shoulder. OUT THE FRONT WINDOW (CG), she can see CRICHTON SPRINGING UP off the lunar surface.

AERYN

(to herself; urgent)
C'mon, John...

71 EXT. MOON/EXT. JACK CRICHTON'S HOUSE - INTERCUT

71

JACK

(agitated as shit)
There's gotta be a way. You don't have to cut yourself off from--

CRICHTON

Dad...

Jack knows. Understands. He's pained.

JACK

How long do we have?

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

CRICHTON

They're almost here.

JACK

Take me with you. Take us all.
We're ready. Five-hundred of the
world's best. We can help.

CRICHTON

There's no time. There's no time.

JACK

(snaps)

How can there be no time. How long
does it take Moya to get from the
moon to Earth? Blink of an eye?
Two seconds? How? Tell me?

CRICHTON

Dad! I can't! It's minutes now...
How do we spend 'em?

Jack calms. Sits on the porch step, surrendering to it.

JACK

The, ah, U.N. Secretary General now
speaks for the planet on space
matters, John.

(proudly)

We're pulling together, just like
you wanted. Almost every armed
conflict has ceased.

CRICHTON

Now you gotta keep it that way.

JACK

I was looking forward to going with
you.

CRICHTON

Me, too. Me, too, Dad...

A long silence. Just their breathing on the open line.

Crichton stops SPRINGING. Bends to put his SMALL RECORDER
DOWN IN THE DUST at the flagpole's base. When he stands
up, TEARS ARE ROLLING DOWN HIS CHEEKS.

CRICHTON

Tell Liv and Susan I said goodb--
That I love them. And if there's a
way, I'll contact you. Tell everyone.

JACK

You tell my grandchildren about me.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED: (2)

71

CRICHTON

(laughs)

You are an incorrigible optimist,
Dad -- Mom'd be proud. But that's a
no brainer. They'd have to know who
my hero is.

Jack is choked up. The end is near and he's resisting.

JACK

You'll discover when you have your
own. You want 'em to pass you. Do
better. Climb higher...

(emotional beat)

If that's the measure, then I'm the
greatest father on earth.

CRICHTON

I second that -- with all my love.

JACK

You're the heart and soul of my life,
son. You be well.

CRICHTON

(devastated)

You, too.

(barely a whisper)

Goodbye.

As Crichton ENDS THE CALL, Jack lowers the phone and looks
up at the moon one last time, his loss complete...

LOSE INTERCUT -- STAY WITH CRICHTON ON THE MOON

Crichton looks at the family picture in his hand, then up
at the GLOWING EARTH. So close, and yet...

72 INT. COMMAND

72

D'Argo and Rygel at the consoles. Electric urgency--

RYGEL

It's less now. By half!

D'ARGO

(into Comms)

Stark! Can this ship move?

73 INT. PILOT'S DEN - INTERCUT

73

Stark behind the console. Chiana (WHITE EYES) atop it.

STARK

Moya seems too dazed to respond to
anyone but Pilot for navigation.

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

73

CHIANA

D'Argo--?

D'ARGO

The Scarrans will be here momentarily.

Stark PULLS HIS JERSEY UP, covering his head.

STARK

No! No! No no no! Scarrans kill,
torture too. Scarrans kill, torture
too. Torture kill torturekill--

CHIANA

(TOP OF HER LUNGS)

Staaaarrrrrrkkkkkk!

HER PIERCING SHOUT breaks his rant. Stark slowly pulls
the jersey down to REVEAL JUST HIS ONE EYE.

STARK

(quavering)

I think I'm okay now.

74 EXT. MOON (CG AS NEEDED)

74

Crichton staring up at Earth. Aeryn, SPACESUITED, steps
beside him. Sensitive to his mood, but pressing--

AERYN

If your prediction holds, the wormhole
should be reopening shortly.

(he doesn't move)

John... Your rebreather lasts a
quarter cycle. I can jettison the
Pod's cargo container; leave enough
food to--

CRICHTON

Stay here by myself? Wait for IASA
to rescue me?

(off her look)

I don't love you enough to let you
live the rest of your life in peace
without me.

AERYN

(smiles; right answer)

Then we have to go.

He knows she's right. As they climb the Pod's stairs...

75 EXT. SPACE (CG)

75

The WORMHOLE in front of Moya OPENS AGAIN in full glory.

76 EXT. SPACE (CG) - DIFFERENT LOCATION - SCARRAN STRYKER 76

The meanest attack ship in the Scarran fleet rockets past.

77 INT. STRYKER 77

PENNOCH

Emperor Staleek. The wormhole has reappeared as we approach. Scans show Crichton's Leviathan is also present -- though it makes no attempt to flee or defend itself.

78 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - KATRATZI BASE - INTERCUT 78

Emperor Staleek and Ahkna.

EMPEROR STALEEK

Ignore them. Continue on to Earth. Fulfill your mission.

PENNOCH

As decreed, Eminence.

AHKNA

Conquer swiftly, brave Pennoch, and return to me bathed in glory.

Pennoch salutes again and the transmission ends.

79 INT. COMMAND 79

D'ARGO

Here they come. Everyone brace.

He and Rygel grab hold of something secure as--

80 EXT. SPACE (CG) - CONTINUOUS 80

The Stryker soars past Moya on its way INTO THE WORMHOLE. As it zips by, the Stryker FIRES 3 CANNON BLASTS!

MOYA IS HIT BROADSIDE by the triple salvo!

As the Stryker DISAPPEARS INTO THE WORMHOLE--

81 INT. COMMAND - CONTINUOUS 81

D'Argo and Rygel are tossed as the ship ROCKS from the explosive impacts. ARCS AND SPARKS!

82 INT. NEURAL CLUSTER - CONTINUOUS 82
Noranti is slammed into the panels! ARCS AND SPARKS!

83 INT. PILOT'S DEN - CONTINUOUS 83
Chiana reacts as the console ARCS AND SPARKS! Stark goes to pieces screaming hysterically frightened to death.

84 INT. TRANSPORT POD - HOVERING IN SPACE 84
Crichton and Aeryn work at rousing Pilot.

AERYN
Pilot! Up, now.

CRICHTON
C'mon, big man. You're the only one who can save all those people.

PILOT
(trying to focus)
Did I-- did I miss it? Did I let you down?

CRICHTON
(points out the window)
Right there. Gonna be a wormhole leads back to Moya. Just pop the bubble when it's--

PILOT
--at it's apex. Yes, Commander...

Crichton nods. Moves forward to join Aeryn.

CRICHTON
Y'know what always scared me about you? Unlike everyone else I've ever met in my life -- from the moment I laid eyes on you -- I could never see the end of the relationship.

AERYN
Ironic. What scared me was -- I could always see the end.
(off his look)
It just wasn't something I ever wanted, and yet, I could never find a way to escape it.

They HOLD HANDS. Then, Crichton senses it...

CRICHTON
Pilot... Time it right.

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED: 84

PILOT

(weak)

I see it, Commander. The bubble preceding your wormhole is forming now. Beginning acceleration sequence.

85 FLASH - PILOT VISION - CONTINUOUS 85

Weirdly DIGITIZED and COLOURIZED. Out front, in the blankness of space, A GIANT BUBBLE RAPIDLY EXPANDS.

86 RESUME NORMAL SCENE - CONTINUOUS 86

Crichton and Aeryn release hands; Crichton ready to fly.

CRICHTON

Wormhole in quatro; tres; please; work.

PILOT

Now!

Crichton "floors" it. The craft LEAPS FORWARD abruptly.

87 EXT. SPACE (CG) - CONTINUOUS 87

The Transport Pod PIERCES THE BUBBLE, which immediately COLLAPSES IN ON ITSELF.

As the Transport Pod disappears into the JUST FORMING WORMHOLE, the ROILING DISTURBANCE falls in after it, like a souffle collapsing.

88 INT. TRANSPORT POD - INSIDE THE WORMHOLE - CONTINUOUS 88

SPINNING wildly as they rocket ahead. PILOT COLLAPSES.

89 INT. WORMHOLE (CG) - SLASHING ALONG - CONTINUOUS 89

The Transport Pod is just barely ahead of the ROILING BALL OF BURNING ENERGY chasing them as the WORMHOLE COLLAPSES IN ON ITSELF and SEALS FOREVER.

90 INT. TRANSPORT POD - INSIDE THE WORMHOLE - CONTINUOUS 90

Crichton and Aeryn struggle to hang on.

CRICHTON

We did it. I think we did it!

Aeryn nods, then something catches her eye--

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED: 90

AERYN
Scarrans!

The STRYKER is racing toward them on a collision course!

CRICHTON
Aeryn!

They EMBRACE as--

91 INT. STRYKER - CONTINUOUS 91

SCARRAN ALARMS ARE SHRIEKING. Pennoch sees the Transport Pod racing toward him. SHOUTS--

PENNOCH
Disengage. Disengage!

WHOOOOOOOOOOSSSHHHH!

92 INT. WORMHOLE (CG) - CONTINUOUS 92

The Transport Pod and Stryker PASS THROUGH ONE ANOTHER.

93 INT. TRANSPORT POD - INSIDE THE WORMHOLE - CONTINUOUS 93

Crichton and Aeryn can't believe their fortune.

94 INT. STRYKER - CONTINUOUS 94

Pennoch is likewise relieved. Then, looks up to see--

95 INT. WORMHOLE (CG) - CONTINUOUS 95

The ROILING, COLLAPSING WORMHOLE looming toward him!

96 INT. STRYKER - CONTINUOUS 96

PENNOCH
(panic)
Minister! They've done something!
Crichton has--

97 INT. WORMHOLE (CG) - CONTINUOUS 97

The Stryker is IMMOLATED BY THE COLLAPSING WORMHOLE!

98 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - KATRATZI BASE - CONTINUOUS 98

HISSING STATIC OVER COMMS. Ahkna SCREAMS, her lover killed! Emperor Staleek SNARLS and stalks off, furious.

99 INT. TRANSPORT POD - INSIDE THE WORMHOLE - CONTINUOUS 99
Crichton and Aeryn rocketing ahead until--

100 EXT. SPACE (CG) - CONTINUOUS 100
The Transport Pod emerges from the wormhole mouth right
back where it started. An instant later--

The COLLAPSING, ROILING INNARDS SEAL THE WORMHOLE in a
fiery fusion. In moments, it is clearly gone forever.

101 INT. TRANSPORT POD - CONTINUOUS 101

Stillness. Crichton and Aeryn look back at Pilot. He
lolls, unconscious, but alive! They look out at Moya.

She drifts, THREE BURNING HOLES IN HER SIDE, (CG).

Exhausted, Crichton and Aeryn HUG EACH OTHER TIGHTLY...

END ACT FOUR

TAG

102 EXT. LAKE (CG) - QUJAGA - DAY 102

Moya half-submerged by an alien (different colour?) sea.

103 INT. NEURAL CLUSTER 103

Quiet as a nun in the nursery, Noranti examines the RESEALED neural connections joining Pilot and Moya. Remnants of her BALM are everywhere, as are SCARS from the cutting. Both 1812 and One Eye DRDs SOLDIER CABLES AND CONDUIT. Pleased with what she sees, Noranti pats one of the DRDs and starts CLIMBING THE LADDER.

104 INT. PILOT'S DEN 104

Noranti ENTERS to find Stark alternately soothing and excitedly recanting his tales to a SEMICONSCIOUS PILOT.

STARK

You did a good thing today, Pilot,
for which the goddess always rewards.
Float upon memories and time will
heal your wounds. But-- if you ever
need to leave again, have no
hesitation calling on me.

PILOT

(weak)
Pumps... discharge pumps...

STARK

(doesn't hear him; keeps on)
I was your worthy successor, I was.
Ask Moya, she'll tell you. When the
Scarrans shot her, I seized control,
saved the ship. I know you're proud.

Noranti BLOWS MIST INTO STARK'S FACE. He's instantly FROZEN IN PLACE.

NORANTI

(gently)
Troubled Stykera -- float upon
memories, and perhaps time will heal
your wounds... Head down.

Stark lays his head upon the console, asleep.

PILOT

...discharge...

(CONTINUED)

104 CONTINUED:

104

NORANTI

Yes, Pilot. D'Argo has switched the pumps on. Any water seepage will be expelled.

PILOT

...thank you...

NORANTI

Now allow the minerals in Qujaga's sea to soothe Moya while you rest and regenerate your connection to her.

Pilot nods like a drugged out patient. CLOSES HIS EYES. Noranti settles in to nurse both charges back to health.

105 INT. COMMAND

105

Pissed, still blind with WHITE EYES, Chiana sits with her back to the Forward Portal. DAYLIGHT STREAMS IN. As D'Argo consoles her, RYGEL ENTERS and crosses to them.

CHIANA

I knew this would happen. I knew it. I'm gonna be blind forever.

D'ARGO

Chiana -- the Diagnosan we found is not far from here. I promise, the first stop after we leave.

Rygel WAVES TWO FINGERS in Chiana's face.

RYGEL

How many fingers?

Chiana BITES HIS FINGERS. Rygel YELPS!

CHIANA

Two.

RYGEL

Tralk!

(to D'Argo)

How long till we leave this place?

D'ARGO

Whenever Moya and Pilot are healed.

RYGEL

Wonderful.

Chiana twists to "look" out the Forward Portal.

CHIANA

What're they doing now?

(CONTINUED)

105 CONTINUED: 105

As D'Argo steps up to look over her shoulder--

106 EXT. GONDOLA ON LAKE - DAY 106

Crichton and Aeryn -- in FULL LEATHERS -- in a SMALL BOAT. *
Crichton stows the OAR. Aeryn is still incredulous. *

AERYN

You wasted a DRD's time building
this?

CRICHTON

I wanted to build a gondola, but *
1812 was kinda busy. *

AERYN

There's no way you could have known
we'd end up here.

CRICHTON

Here, there, next place with water.
Wanted to take you on a boatride.

AERYN

Why?

CRICHTON

It's where I wanted to talk about
some unfinished business between us.

AERYN

(darkens)
Go ahead...

Crichton pulls a COIN from his coat. The coin.

CRICHTON

Remember this? Year ago, we decided
it would make decisions for us.
(FLIPS THE COIN INTO THE AIR)
Call it.

Aeryn remains silent. Watches the coin travel up, then
down. It SPLASHES INTO THE WATER and disappears.

When she looks back, Crichton is ON ONE KNEE. He holds
the CLOSED RING BOX in his hand.

107 INT. COMMAND - CONTINUOUS 107

D'Argo, Chiana and Rygel all facing the window.

D'ARGO

Now he's down on one knee.

CHIANA

Why?

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: 107

RYGEL
I think he hurt himself.

108 EXT. GONDOLA ON LAKE - CONTINUOUS 108

CRICHTON
Aeryn... I don't have anything else *
to say. I only have one question. *

Crichton opens the box revealing MOM'S RING. As he starts *
to speak, Aeryn stops him by putting a finger to his lips. *
Then, she SETTLES ONTO ONE KNEE before him. *

109 INT. COMMAND - CONTINUOUS 109

CHIANA
What? What's happening?!

D'ARGO
It appears Aeryn has hurt herself,
also.

RYGEL
(speculation) *
The boat's sinking. *

110 EXT. GONDOLA ON LAKE - CONTINUOUS 110

AERYN
I have some unfinished business,
myself, John... *
(off his silence)
When I was on the Command Carrier, I
thought it best to see a surgeon.

Crichton takes a breath to steel himself.

AERYN *
I was worried about what the Scarrans *
did to the baby. *

CRICHTON
(afraid of the answer)
What happened, Aeryn...?

Long beat. Tension between them.

AERYN
They released the foetus from its
stasis. The baby's growing, John.

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED:

110

CRICHTON
(stunned with relief)
It's-- it's healthy?!

AERYN
Very. And it's yours. And it's
going to be born. I'm having this
child, John.
(tough beat)
I wanted you to know... in case it
changes anything.

CRICHTON
(tearing up)
Yes. Yes, it does. There's nowhere
else I want to be, Aeryn, than right
here -- with you. *

AERYN
(starts crying, too)
What-- what am I supposed to say?

CRICHTON
Yes.

AERYN
You didn't ask a question. *

CRICHTON
Will you marry me?

AERYN
Yes.

HE KISSES HER with a passion that overwhelms. Pulling
apart, Crichton slips his MOM'S RING ON HER FINGER.

111 INT. COMMAND - CONTINUOUS

111

CHIANA
A ring--?!
(SMACKS both D'Argo and Rygel)
You *frellnicks* -- didn't you watch
any of those movie things on Earth?
He proposed.

RYGEL
Proposed what?

CHIANA
Marriage, Harem Hound.

RYGEL
Marriage?! I always told you he was
an idiot.

Disgusted by it all, Rygel EXITS.

112 EXT. GONDOLA ON LAKE - CONTINUOUS 112
Crichton and Aeryn wipe away tears, kiss again.

AERYN
Now what?

CRICHTON
The way we're going? We find an
Elvis impersonator preacher who
doesn't mind mixed-species marriages.
Maybe a drive through.

WE HEAR THE SOUND OF AN APPROACHING ALIEN AIRCRAFT.

AERYN
(smiles)
The baby's a boy.

Crichton stares. KISSES HER AGAIN. Then--
Both react to the APPROACHING "AIRCRAFT" SOUND.

113 EXT. QUJAGAN SHIP (CG) - FLYING - CONTINUOUS 113
A sleek, one pilot craft, soaring in low over the water,
heading directly toward them!

114 EXT. GONDOLA ON LAKE - CONTINUOUS 114
Crichton and Aeryn react, ducking down into the boat as
the SHIP SLASHES PAST JUST OVER THEIR HEADS!

CRICHTON
What the hell--?!

A SONIC BOOM SHAKES THEM as the ship roars past.

115 INT. COMMAND - CONTINUOUS - INTERCUT 115

D'ARGO
John! Aeryn! Get back here, now!

CHIANA
What's happened, D'Argo? What is
it?

CRICHTON
I thought this planet wasn't
populated.

AERYN
D'Argo -- you know who that is?

D'ARGO
No idea whatsoever. Just get inside.

(CONTINUED)

115 CONTINUED: 115

CRICHTON
(tracking the ship)
He's making another run.

Crichton and Aeryn grabs OARS and begins PADDLING.

116 INT. QUJAGAN SHIP - FLYING - CONTINUOUS 116

The QUJAGAN PILOT -- bizarre alien with a weirdly sectionalized face -- banks hard, leaning into it.

QUJAGAN PILOT
(reporting in)
Tracker Scouts were correct. One Leviathan, partially submerged. Two of the invaders have exited their ship. Request orders.

QUJAGAN RADIO VOICE (over Comms)
Do you have target acquisition?

The Qujagan Pilot's face BREAKS APART, sections moving and unfolding to reveal -- MULTIPLE EYES! *

QUJAGAN PILOT
Positive. I scan no armaments.

QUJAGAN RADIO VOICE
You may neutralize the invaders for analysis.

QUJAGAN PILOT
Acknowledged. Neutralization run, beginning. *

117 EXT. GONDOLA ON LAKE - CONTINUOUS 117

Crichton and Aeryn paddling furiously toward Moya. THE SOUND OF THE QUJAGAN SHIP DOPPLERS AROUND, once again coming toward them.

118 OMITTED 118 *

119 INT. COMMAND - CONTINUOUS 119

CHIANA
Are they gonna make it?!... D'Argo?!

D'ARGO
(operating controls)
Hatch doors open! Paddle!

120 EXT. GONDOLA ON LAKE - CONTINUOUS 120

Crichton and Aeryn paddling like crazy as the Qujagan ship bores down on them from behind, low and fast.

121 INT. QUJAGAN SHIP - FLYING - CONTINUOUS 121

The multi-eyed Qujagan smiles and fires--

122 EXT. QUJAGAN SHIP (CG) - FLYING - CONTINUOUS 122

A SERIES OF RAPID PURPLE LASER BURSTS rip from the front.

123 EXT. GONDOLA ON LAKE - CONTINUOUS 123

The BLASTS STITCH THE WATER BEHIND THEM (CG), coming on strong. Crichton sees they're going to be hit--

CRICHTON

Aeryn--!

He protects her with his body as--

THEY'RE HIT BY A PURPLE LASER BLAST AND--

Crichton and Aeryn SOLIDIFY, TURNING TO CRYSTAL!

124 INT. COMMAND - CONTINUOUS 124

D'ARGO

Noooooooooo--!

Chiana clings helplessly to D'Argo, petrified.

125 EXT. GONDOLA ON LAKE - CONTINUOUS 125

CRYSTALLINE CRICHTON AND AERYN. A moment later, the Qujagan ship roars past just overhead (CG) and--

ANOTHER SONIC BOOM, which--

SHATTERS CRICHTON AND AERYN into ZILLIONS OF FRAGMENTED CRYSTAL PIECES!

126 INT. COMMAND - CONTINUOUS 126

D'Argo lowers his face into Chiana's hair. She can tell by his reaction that something horrible has happened.

CHIANA

(crying)

Crichton...? Aeryn...?

127 INT. GONDOLA ON LAKE - CONTINUOUS

127

BLACK, WHITE AND RED CRYSTALS drop in a heap, creating a little mound in the center of the Gondola.

Some of the pieces bounce off the gunwales, FALLING INTO THE WATER WITH TINY SPLASHES!

PUSH CLOSE on the PILE OF CRYSTALS until camera finds--
THE WEDDING RING, intact, buried in the remains.

SUPER: TO BE CONTINUED

END OF EPISODE