

west space

by Phil Hawkins

(512) 906-4573
philhawkins221@gmail.com

1 PROXIMA CENTAURI B - CENTAURI SYSTEM 1

A rocky, brown sphere orbits a small red sun, the sun's larger yellow cousin a bright spark in the distance. Proxima Centauri b's powerful aurora forms a thin, bright green halo nearly enclosing the planet.

2 EXT. AIRFIELD - DUSK 2

Starship *Exposition*, a flying mass of twinkling steel and glass, breaks across the purple-orange sky, pulls dangerously low to the surface, and fires two torpedos.

The ground shakes and a rumble tears through the air as the torpedos hit their target on the ground. WILSON points an armed blaster at STAR CAPTAIN TYRELL FOSTER, hands restrained. Ty watches helplessly while his ship sails into the upper atmosphere.

Wilson takes a moment to revel in his trap. His slicked back salt-and-pepper hair twitches in the wind and his black leather jacket lightly skims the ground as he takes a couple steps towards Ty. Obviously he's the bad guy.

WILSON

It's over, Ty. I have you dead to rights. You've failed.

Ty stares at the ground, panting, held up by two of Wilson's armed thugs behind him. His face is covered in dirt and dried blood. He looks up slowly at Wilson.

TY

(manly voice)

That's what you think.

WILSON

What do you mean?

Ty gives Wilson a steel-eyed glare.

WILSON (cont'd)

I'm pointing my gun at you...
That's your ship. They're flying away.

TY

That's what you think.

WILSON

(agitated)

That's not just what I think--

PEW. Wilson freezes and his eyes go dead mid-sentence. The rest of his body also goes dead and slumps to the ground. Behind him, TRISH ROGUE, dressed in full bounty hunter armor, points an armed blaster where he stood.

Ty takes a swing at one of the thugs. They break out of their shock and rejoin the fight.

Trish joins the fight as well. She skillfully fends off both the thugs long enough to break Ty's restraints. The two of them working together make quick work of Wilson's lackeys.

They both stop for a moment and strike a badass power pose. Ty turns to Trish.

TY

Who are you?

Another rumble tears through the air, sharper and higher-pitched, pulling Ty and Trish's focus. A small ship rockets out of the atmosphere from a hangar a hundred meters away. Trish runs off towards the hangar.

COMMUNICATOR (O.S.)

(fuzzy)

Captain Foster, are you there?

Ty spins around and picks up his com, activated and laying on the ground a few feet away.

COMMUNICATOR

Captain Foster, this is the
Exposition.

TY

(into com)

Exposition, this is Foster.

Ty drops to his hands and knees and starts searching Wilson's body.

COMMUNICATOR

Captain they're heading for the wormhole.

TY

(still searching)

Chase after them, I'll catch up!

Ty reaches into Wilson's inside jacket pocket and pulls out a MEMORY CARD -- exactly what he was looking for!

Elsewhere on the airfield, Trish is in another fight, facing another two armed thugs by herself. She takes them out then is trapped helpless by a third one, his blaster armed and pointed directly at her. It's like he came out of nowhere!

PEW. The last thug slumps and falls to the ground. Ty stands behind him on the entrance ramp to a small spacecraft, pointing an armed blaster where he stood.

3 EARTH - SOLAR SYSTEM

3

Exposition orbits above the cloudy, blue globe. Earth's rich atmosphere gives the planet a pale glow.

4 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

4

An ALARM CLOCK goes off. The walls are adorned with various sky maps, astronomical charts, and starship schematics. Bright white sunshine pours into the room over drawn blinds.

Still half-asleep, JADEN reaches at his nightstand from under the cover. He presses the snooze button then uses his com to pay 3 of his 2,574 credits. The alarm subsides and he returns to sleep.

5 INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

5

Jaden brushes his teeth, watching himself in the mirror. He pays 4 credits to activate the sink then rinses.

A notification pops up on Jaden's com asking if he wants to pay rent due for the month. He turns off the sink then chooses to pay now. Another notification pops up as Jaden's credit total drops precipitously to -633. He watches with shock.

Jaden hastily puts away his toothbrush then pays credits to

flush. The toilet makes an error noise.

6 INT. LEASING OFFICE - DAY

6

Jaden walks into an empty office with only a desk and one chair faced towards it. A virtual assistant unit sits ominously on the desk.

JADEN

Oh, hell no.

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

Is that directed at me?

JADEN

(testily)

Were you listening?

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

My programming is such that I am only listening when needed to assist. This prevents any unwanted eavesdropping.

JADEN

Then how did you hear me just now?

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

(beat)

Sorry, I was unable to process your request.

JADEN

Uh huh.

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

How may I assist you today?

JADEN

I have a-

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

You can say: "rent", "maintenance", or "something else."

JADEN

Rent.

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

We received your rent transaction earlier this morning. Thank you for visiting. Goodbye!

JADEN

(scrolling through his com)
My rent went up 900 credits from last month for atmosphere... I don't know what that means.

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

Horizon Property Limited has adjusted its rent policy to reflect the market value of the comfortable, breathable atmosphere provided in each of our units-- based on a rate competitive to the leasee.

Jaden processes for a moment.

JADEN

You're charging for air?

The virtual assistant processes for a moment.

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

Air is Earth's most valuable commodity and one of the planet's top exported goods. If you could breathe air for free, how would that be fair to the ones who worked hard to provide you the space to breathe that air in the first place?

Jaden presses his hands to his eyes.

7

INT. HANGAR FLOOR - DAY

7

A placard posted next to a door reads: JADEN SCALES - FLOOR MANAGER.

Jaden reads the day's announcements from a clipboard to a room full of factory machinery.

JADEN

Alright on deck for today: got a totaled sky cruiser brought in last night, need it out and ready by 4. Big job so let's get to work and have a great day out there!

No response from the machinery.

8

INT. EXECUTIVE OFFICE - DAY

8

Jaden opens the door, walks in with his clipboard, and takes a seat in front of the desk.

JADEN

Hey boss, you wanted to see me?

A virtual assistant unit sits on the desk opposite Jaden.

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

Hello, Jason. Thanks for dropping by! I want to begin this conversation by expressing our appreciation for all your hard work and dedication to our firm. Great job!

JADEN

(extremely suspicious)
What's your angle?

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

Here at Sky's Edge we depend on maintaining a competitive advantage in our industry and constantly assess our resources to do so, including personnel.

Jaden is def about to get fired. The virtual assistant continues to endlessly rattle off HR speak. Jaden surreptitiously slides his chair over to the WIFI ROUTER, a plastic box of blinking lights and wires, sitting in the corner of the room.

Keeping one eye on the virtual assistant unit, he gently pulls one ethernet cable out of the router.

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT
 (still going)
 ...these conversations are tough,
 but know that your contributions
 have made Sky's Edge a better
 comp--

The virtual assistant unit cycles through several light blinking patterns before finding itself.

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT
 I seem to have lost connection.
 Working in offline mode. How may I
 assist you today?

Jaden gets up and leaves, hoping he's in the clear.

9

EXT. HANGAR ENTRANCE - DAY

9

Jaden, assisted by the robots, rolls the newly repaired sky cruiser off the hangar floor and out into the sun. It looks like a Maserati but it's also a spaceship.

A teenage boy walks on to the airfield and approaches the hangar entrance. He's like 15 at the most. Jaden walks over to him.

JADEN
 Hi, uh can I help you?

CUSTOMER
 (points at the Maserati)
 Hey, I'm here to pick up my ship.

JADEN
 (checking clipboard)
 Oh. You are... Mr. Starline?

CUSTOMER
 Yea.

JADEN
 Okay, just sign here...

Jaden hands Mr. Starline the clipboard. He signs then uses

his com to pay 61,493 of his 2,982,688,431 credits for the repairs. He takes the keys then pulls off in his Maserati. It turns into a ship then flies into the sky.

10 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING 10

Jaden lies in bed, eyes wide awake. The ALARM CLOCK next to his bed goes off.

Three thugs in body armor ram through the door to Jaden's bedroom. Two of them forcefully restrain him and drag him out of bed and out the room while the other turns the room upside down with no apparent goal.

11 INT. OVERDRAWN DETENTION FACILITY - NIGHT 11

Jaden sits slumped against the back wall of a jailed cell, overstuffed with people dressed in rags, most asleep.

A loud CLANK. The cell gate is thrown open by Ty and Trish Rogue, both cloaked in shadow. None of the detainees move.

TRISH

You!

Jaden looks up warily at the call.

12 EXT. DETENTION FACILITY ENTRANCE - NIGHT 12

Ty and Trish throw Jaden to the grass, watching him fall on his hands and knees. He looks up at his captors.

JADEN

Who are you?

TY

My name is Ty Foster, I'm an officer of Star Force.

JADEN

You're an astronaut?

TRISH

Trish Rogue. We were both following an interstellar fugitive one system over, which led us to you.

JADEN

Damn... the Wild West of space!

TY

I'm offering you asylum on behalf
of the Galactic Society. Also
there's no west in space.

JADEN

I don't need asylum.

TRISH

You were mobbed by a gang of
violent thugs.

JADEN

Those were the cops. I'm just
overdrawn, if I keep working then
when I get paid I'll be fine.

TRISH

That may be difficult.

Ty shows Jaden his com, looping security video of the Sky's
Edge hangar exploding.

TY

This happened a few hours ago. As
the only human employee, you've
been held personally liable for
damages.

JADEN

But I was in jail!

The com switches to a headshot of a guy who looks like an
older Elon Musk. The real Elon Musk doesn't age in the
future.

TRISH

Pierce Collins is a corrupt Star
Captain from Earth. His twin
brother was carrying this.

She holds up the MEMORY CARD from Proxima Centauri b.

TRISH

A copy of your file from the central database. He destroyed the hangar and framed you.

JADEN

Why me?

TY

On this planet, you always follow the credits.

TRISH

What are credits?

Jaden looks at Trish incredulously.

TY

Sky's Edge is a top defense contractor for the United States Government and the Captain is a major shareholder. The attack has already prompted a massive spending increase in the war effort.

TRISH

(to Jaden)

You still have war?

TY

Collins earned 200 billion credits from the appropriation.

Jaden looks like he's on the verge of a panic attack.

JADEN

Well... I'll have to prove my innocence in court!

TY

You'll need a lot more credits for that.

TRISH

We're going after the Captain. If you come with us we can help you.

JADEN

Where would I live?

TRISH

Our society guarantees housing and social security as a right for all life in the Milky Way. You've been labeled a Russian asset, it's not safe for you here. Come with us.

JADEN

Russian...?

(rising to his feet)

I can't just forget everything I know, okay! I can't just leave! This is the way things are!

Jaden turns and sprints away. Ty and Trish watch him go.

TRISH

Why is he running?

13 EXT. SUBWAY STATION - NIGHT

13

Trains pull in and out of the bustling station. Jaden approaches the passenger entrance, taking out his com to pay the credits as he walks.

He tries to pay but the turnstile makes an error noise. Jaden checks his credit balance on his com.

Jaden's face falls to complete horror as his com displays his credit balance has dropped to -16,281,199.

14 I/E. GARAGE - NIGHT

14

PIERCE COLLINS points an armed blaster at Ty with Trish unarmed and several meters away, unable to help.

PIERCE

It's over, Ty. You've failed. Star Force will have your badge for this. And unlike some people, I don't talk before I--

PEW. Pierce's body freezes and falls to the ground, hit in the back by a stun blast.

Jaden stands in the driveway, pointing the blaster where Pierce stood. I mean who else would it be.

15 EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

15

Ty and Jaden carry Pierce's slumpy body around their shoulders. Trish walks with them out of Pierce's garage. Ty pulls out his com.

TY

Exposition, four to beam up.

As they walk, their forms are overtaken by bright, glowing light.

THE END