

STARSHIP INFINITY

A live-action, sci-fi, space comedy
about a very much not-alive robot

"PILOT"

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TEASER**EXT. SPACE**

A lifeless seeming, frozen over, **ANDROID**'s face with an eery blue eye, exposed to the freezing temperatures of deep space.

As it drifts by, a beam of **SUNLIGHT** glints off it, the ice cracks a little, and the eyelid **BLINKS**...

We can now see the full picture. This is **BEN FISCHER**, half his humanoid skin has seemingly been **BURNT** off. He's a lanky android, built to look perpetually 30ish and kind of a dweeb.

BEN (V.O.)

This is the story of the adventures
of... me.

He's drifting towards an **ENORMOUS, BRIGHT WHITE CUBE**. A spacecraft? Something else?

BEN (V.O.)

The story of how a heartless,
soulless, cold, metal, calculator
found not just his creator... but
THE Creator. And, in the process,
got his soul.

Ben collides with the hull. His bare robot arm and human-looking arm cling to its surface, trying to find a seam.

He **TEARS** a panel off the hull like a bad-ass space warrior.

Inside is a blue/green squid-like **ALIEN**, sitting on what is unimstakably...

A toilet.

ALIEN

Next door down.

TITLE CARD: "THREE MILLION LIGHT YEARS EARLIER"

INT. SPACE CORP. - COST ELIMINATION DEPARTMENT - DAY

BEN (still totally humanoid looking), in a suit and tie, walks down a never-ending hallway of what once were cubicles.

A cute little box of a **ROBOT** wheels by, **BEEPING**.

BEN

Hello Office Drone.

It stops at a nearby cubicle and LIGHTS IT ON FIRE with a flame thrower attachment!!! Do not mess with these dudes!

Ben is shocked to see DEVON in the next cubicle.

DEVON

Ben! Looks like we made it!

The floor beneath Devon opens up, sucking him and his things down into a series of tubes with a SCHLOOP. Oh man, Devon.

Ben SPRINTS down the hall towards the front desk, and a sign that reads "**Cost Elimination Department: We cut corners.**"

A **HOLO ASSISTANT**, a translucent projection of a secretary ala Annie Potts in Ghostbusters, turns to Ben.

HOLO ASSISTANT

Employee 257-Xq6, Ben Fischer, what are you doing away from your workspace during mandatory computation time?

BEN

I needed to see Mr. Channing.

HOLO ASSISTANT

According to C.E.D. Waste reports, every second you are not working costs Space Corp --

BEN

I know what it costs! I'm the one who filed that report! That's what I need to talk about.

HOLO ASSISTANT

Switching to hospitality mode.

The Holo Assistant JERKS, flickerings as she boots another (older, jankier) operating system. She's back, so polite now.

HOLO ASSISTANT (CONT'D)

Please, have a seat.

She gestures towards a waiting area. Ben hears another SCHLOOP, SCREAM, and FLAMES as someone else is sucked into the Human Refuse Division.

He looks at the floor below him, steps off of a little grate.

BEN

I'll stand.

Ben loosens his tie. The PHONE RINGS and the Holo Assistant tries (and fails) to pick it up. She's a hologram, remember?

INT. SPACE CORP. - MR. CHANNING'S OFFICE - DAY

Holographic displays and wall to wall windows overlook a dystopian skyline of the future: smog, floating buildings, neon lights. Very Blade Runner.

MR. CHANNING, (90+), a hawkish EVP at Space Corp is kept alive only by modern medicine and his distate for inefficiencies like "illness" or "mortality."

BEN

Sir?

Channing doesn't turn around.

MR. CHANNING

I'm going to let you in on a little secret, 257. We're eliminating the cost elimination department.

DEVON has somehow escaped and is banging on the glass doors.

BEN

I had a sneaking suspicion.

An OFFICE DRONE stuns Devon, dragging him away.

MR. CHANNING

And it's all thanks to you.

BEN

Well... keeping our expenses in check, that is my job after all.

MR. CHANNING

Which I do appreciate. So I'm going to give you a choice. You can join your coworkers, at the work camp they'll be reassigned to.

BEN

A work camp sir?

MR. CHANNING

On Neptune, not the worst in the galaxy. Or I'm prepared to offer you the position of on-board auditor to the Starship Infinity.

BEN

They're the rockstars of the fleet.

MR. CHANNING

And like any rockstar, could use a representative of a multinational corporation breathing down their neck.

BEN

I'm honored to be considered for the position, sir.

MR. CHANNING

It will not be easy. You should think it over.

BEN

Okay, thank you.

MR. CHANNING

You have six seconds.

Mr. Channing's hand hovers over a large red button.

BEN

Can I go home and pack?

MR. CHANNING

Your things have already been incinerated.

BEN

I don't know how I'd do in space. Even the hoverbus gives me motion sickness.

MR. CHANNING

We're all making sacrifices Fischer, I've had to let my secretary go.

The Holo Assistant looks over to him. *What? Betrayal!*

HOLO ASSISTANT

Switching to emotional mode.

She jerks, rebooting, her projection now has split ends, lipstick on her teeth, bloodshot eyes and wadded tissues.

HOLO ASSISTANT (CONT'D)

What will I do? What will I do?

Crying, she runs out of the room, straight through a wall.

MR. CHANNING

Never hire a hologram.

Ben looks out at the desolate skyline. He makes a decision.

BEN
I'll take it.

Mr. Channing presses a button. Nothing happens at first.

MR. CHANNING
Oh, nope. Here we are.

He presses a DIFFERENT button. A FLASH of bright white light.

EXT. STARSHIP INFINITY - SPACE

The Starship Infinity, grey, hulking and slow, drifts through space. A lumbering behemoth. Scarred but still functional.

A small EXPLOSION erupts from its side.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - TELEPORTATION HALL

Ben crumples to the floor in a stark white room. He's been teleported. ALARMS flash.

BEN
Oh dear.

Ben hoists himself up as another EXPLOSION rocks the ship.

The SHIP'S VOICE (cordial, British, of course) greets him.

SHIP'S VOICE
Welcome to the Starship Infinity.
Accident free for: thirteen days.

On a display: "13 DAYS SINCE: **SLIME INCIDENT.**" There's a photo of a smiling guy named GUGOR.

"RIP GUGOR" someone's written beneath. "MISS YOU GUGOR" someone else has written. Then "GUGOR SUCKED."

Ben steps towards automated doors which slide open to reveal

THE CORRIDOR

A curved, gunmetal grey corridor that's surprisngly... dirty? JIM, a crew member, runs towards Ben at full speed.

BEN
Wait, what's going on? I'm new!

Jim fucking sprints past. Behind him runs a vicious, rabid alien dog -- it's headed straight for Ben!

HUNTER (O.S.)
Hey Jim, he's around this way, huh?

HUNTER KARLSON, 46, mullet, appears behind Ben with a large ray gun. He's a grizzled "Neutralizer," who kills the shit out of anything that gets in the crew's way. Hunter oozes testosterone, and sweats space-age creatine powder.

HUNTER (CONT'D)
Jesus Space Christ! Don't just stand there!

The Kravlon continues bounding towards them.

BEN
Should I run or look bigger or --?

HUNTER
Shoot the damn thing!

BEN
I don't have a gun!

HUNTER
Hit it!

It's closing in!!! With what???

The Kravlon leaps through the air, jaws wide. As Ben reluctantly, eyes closed, swings his fist at it.

Ben opens his eyes to see the monster's teeth clamped down at his shoulder, his entire arm inside it.

BEN
Uhhhhh.... Help?

Hunter lifts his ray gun, and fires. It's a cool looking laser. The Kravlon explodes into a mist of green goop that sprays all over Ben. Overloaded, he faints.

HUNTER
Oh, not into the blood.

Hunter pulls out a camera and poses in front of his kill and the passed out Ben. Hunter smiles, and throws a hang loose, snaps a pic.

SHIP'S VOICE
Accident free for: zero days.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE**INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - MEDICAL DECK - LATER**

Ben lays on a high tech cot. **DR. ALARIA REID**, 35 stands over him, finishing an examination with a little techno-wand.

She has three large, curious, compassionate eyes, and turquoise skin. She's got a serious soft spot for all animals, and a serious distrust of institutions.

Ben's eyes flicker open.

BEN
Am I alive?

Dr. Reid looks at him with a smile.

DR. REID
Interesting you should ask that...

BEN
(oh, shit)
Please.

But before either of them can say anything (about what Ben must assume is her knowing he's an android) the doors open.

Hunter and **CAPTAIN PAT YATES** (late 50's) enter. Yates is sharp, obsessively proud, and prone to migraines.

HUNTER
How's he looking, doc?

DR. REID
I'm not that kind of doctor.

BEN
Wait what kind of doctor are you?

DR. REID
Galactic philosophies.

CAPTAIN YATES
Listen Reid, you're all this ship has since Dr. Leonard was killed by those gamma rays...

Yates and Reid give Hunter a pointed look.

HUNTER
What? How was I supposed to know those worked?

DR. REID

Do you want a sign on everything
that works around here?

HUNTER

Frankly, yes, that would be
helpful, because nothing works.

YATES

A scrappy old thing, ain't she?

Yates pats the wall affectionately and the LIGHTS FLICKER.

HUNTER

Yeah a scrap heap. Half the time
our phasers don't even --

Hunter fires his phaser, hitting DAN, a nearby technician.

DAN

Ow!

HUNTER

Sorry Dan, it wasn't working
earlier.

DAN

(waves, cheery)
No worries! These things happen.

CAPTAIN YATES

I figured if Space Corp were
sending a Neutralizer they'd at
least give him a weapon.

HUNTER

Cheap bastards.

BEN

Oh there's been some sort of
miscommunication here. I'm an
auditor. Not a Neutralizer.

CAPTAIN YATES

I specifically requested a
Neutralizer. We're understaffed.

BEN

I'm on special assignment to get
your financials in order.

Hunter gestures at Ben's still clenched fist.

HUNTER
You wanna let go of that?

Ben unclenches his fist to reveal... a PURPLISH ORGAN.

BEN
What is that?

HUNTER
Kravlon heart. You ripped it right
out of there.

Ben's horrified, amazed. He's never done anything like that.
Then Hunter takes it from him and TAKES A BITE OUT OF IT.

HUNTER (CONT'D)
Good for muscle mass.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - FISCHER'S QUARTERS

Ben's room is spare: a bed, a desk with a large monitor over
it displaying ship diagnostics and heading.

Ben looks out a porthole into the vast emptiness of space.

CAPTAIN YATES (O.S.)
I would have Jim show you around,
but since that Kravlon tore his leg
off...

Ben turns, startled. Captain Yates stands in the doorway.

BEN
Do things like that happen often?

CAPTAIN YATES
It's dangerous but I try to run a
tight ship, at least until my
retirement. Then I'll finally
collect my pension and start that
Loquacian Beetle Ranch.

Ben LAUGHS. Yates gives him a "what's so funny" look.

BEN
Oh, you're serious. That sounds
really great.

CAPTAIN YATES
So, you stay in accounting
department, I'll stay on the
bridge, and that's that. I won't
have Space Corp screw me any more
than they already have.

BEN
And how have they --

CAPTAIN YATES
They sent me you.

EXT. SPACE - LATER

A gorgeous nebula cloud swirls in the distance. Stars twinkle and shine and the entire horizon is filled with the stuff that makes up the universe. It's phenomenal to behold.

BEN (O.S.)
(gasps)
It's beautiful.

The CAMERA swings down to reveal BEN. Beneath a window in...

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - ACCOUNTING - CONTINUOUS

Ben's actually looking at an enormous projection screen labeled "CASHFLOW." Not the gorgeous view.

ACCOUNTANTS are crunching numbers, filing cabinets as far as the eye can see. Ben finally looks at ease.

BEN
I've never seen anything like it.

FRED, one of the ship's accountants walks up. He's got a constant, *relentless* positivity to him -- think Ed Helms.

FRED
Pretty nifty, huh?

BEN
It's enormous.

FRED
Second biggest department on the ship.

BEN
(looks at some paperwork)
And first would be the... morgue?

FRED
You're the new auditor?

BEN
Ben Fischer.

FRED
Fred.

An OFFICE DRONE comes up to Fred, and its arm protrudes. Ben jumps back frightened, but it's just handing over a file.

OFFICE DRONE
Fuel order from the bridge.

Fred takes the file and whistles.

FRED
Go ahead and -

BEN
May I?

FRED
I always just approve these.

Ben studies the report.

BEN
We're using triple the fuel to navigate around this planetary system when we could hyperjump straight through?

FRED
I don't have the authority to alter course, no matter how expensive.

Ben finally takes a stand.

BEN
Well, I do.

Kinda impressive.

BEN (CONT'D)
I think.

Nevermind. Ben takes the file and leaves. He looks almost confident, until he accidentally steps on an OFFICE DRONE rolling by. It SHATTERS into a million little robo-pieces.

BEN (CONT'D)
Sorry.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - FISCHER'S QUARTERS

Ben sits at his desk looking at

A hologram of a shriveled... old... penis...

BEN
Oh my! Sorry!

MR. CHANNING
Don't be, I picked up. What?

Mr Channing is in leather bondage, occasionally getting whips and nipple play from some sort of ORANGE BLOB-LIKE ALIEN.

BEN
Um...

MR. CHANNING
Spit it out.

The Orange Blob starts to try to spit something egg-like out.

MR. CHANNING (CONT'D)
No. Not you,
(he points to Ben)
him.

BEN
I just...

MR. CHANNING
What? An old man can't fuck? The
only people who have sex are young
and attractive with bouncing
breasts and firm buns?

BEN
(Ben sheilds his eyes)
Do I have your permission to
override the captain's orders?

MR. CHANNING
If it saves us money, yes.

BEN
Thank you sir.

MR. CHANNING
Don't stop.

BEN
Me? The ship?

MR. CHANNING
No, not you.
(to the blob)
You.

BEN
Very good.

MR. CHANNING

... Remember you've signed an NDA.

He clicks out of there.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - BRIDGE

Ben enters the bridge, with a view and monitors showing diagnostics. Yates sits in a captain's chair in the center.

The bridge is filled with exciting crew members we'll meet later: **THORGA**, a green skinless cat-man in charge of weapons, **DESTRO**, a little puffin creature who manages the shields, **LIZZIE**, a human lady with rams' horns.

There's also **HUGH**, the ship's navigator, who's kinda just like a normal guy. Not as exciting as everyone else but... I don't know what to say about Hugh. I guess he's... nice?

BEN

Captain Yates!

Ben looks out and is thrown off by the large window to space. He shimmies along towards Yates, trying not to look out.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm denying your fuel requisition for the maneuver around Blerkmerq.

CAPTAIN YATES

Fischer, nobody tells me how to pilot this ship.

An alarm begins BEEPING loudly.

HUGH

Captain, we need 45 degrees yaw.

CAPTAIN YATES

Hugh, I'm trying to make a point.

HUGH

Trying to avoid that asteroid, sir.

See? He's like a totally decent guy.

CAPTAIN YATES

45 degrees yaw!

The ship jerks violently, barely missing an asteroid that flies by. Ben topples over, visibly shaken as he stands.

HUGH

Thank you sir.

CAPTAIN YATES

We're avoiding Blerkmerq for a reason and I'd appreciate it if --

BEN

I'd appreciate it if you'd let me do my job. Hyperjump through the system, save money and time, everybody wins.

CAPTAIN YATES

The risks associated with crossing into an alien species' starspace --

BEN

I hate to pull rank on you Captain.

The entire crew at this point is watching.

BEN (CONT'D)

But this isn't a request.

Yates HATES this. He's pissed.

CAPTAIN YATES

(to Hugh)

Do it.

HUGH

Hyperjumping through Blerkmerq.

The ship jolts forward then awkwardly stalls.

BEN

Is that normal?

HUGH

The drive's just pretty antiquated.

Finally, they're off. Stars and galaxies WHIZZ by in a flash. Hyperjumping looks awesome and psychedelic.

Yates quietly pulls Ben in close to him.

CAPTAIN YATES

Do not pull that shit in front of my crew again.

A SIREN. Ben jumps, covering his ears.

LIZZIE

Incoming, sir!

CAPTAIN YATES
Battle stations!

An EXPLOSION rocks the bridge, throwing Ben onto the Captain.

CAPTAIN YATES (CONT'D)
Evasive maneuvers!

DESTRO
Alien fighters seven o'clock.

There's another loud THUD, as the ship shakes.

BEN
Are things actually exploding?

Fred flies by the window in the cold vacuum of space,
countless files, robots, and receipts are sucked out into
deep space surrounding him and the ship.

HUGH
There goes the accounting
department.

Ben's HORRIFIED.

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO**INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - CORRIDOR**

Ben stands in front of accounting. Inside, a RESCUE CREW of OFFICE DRONES try to grab the bodies of accountants.

BEN
(shouting order)
No, not the people!

DR. REID (O.S.)
How compassionate.

She's been listening in over his shoulder. Shit.

BEN
If we lose all those files, I'll
have no records of recent
expenditures, salaries, anything.

DR. REID
I figured you'd be glad the
department blew up.

BEN
Why? Do I look like I enjoy
explosions? Or danger of any kind?

DR. REID
That just saved you a lot of money.

BEN
I don't want anyone to die. Space
Corp insurance premiums will be
affected.

DR. REID
That why you ripped that Kravlon's
heart out? So you could finally
have one, Tin Man?

She taps his chest.

SHIT. She knows.

DR. REID (CONT'D)
Gotta keep an eye on you.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

Ben floats through the scorched remains of the department. Bodies and W-4's float by. A MAN in a space suit approaches.

VOICE (O.S.)

Hey Ben.

Ben sees... it's **FRED!** Yes!

BEN

Fred! You're alive!

FRED

Well, yeah, I am.

BEN

How? What? I saw you in space.

FRED

Oh, we're an inter-connected hive-like organism with thirty separate consciousnesses. There are 30 Fred.

Twenty Freds nearby in space suits wave: "*Hey, howdy, yo...*"

BEN

Fantastic!

FRED

Still sad. We mourn the lost Fred.

All the other Freds bow their heads in mourning.

BEN

Yeah. What even happened there?

FRED

We entered Bombula starspace, which they probably interpreted as a threat.

BEN

The Bombula?

FRED

The locals. Some sort of farmer civilization? Yates will probably just destroy their whole system.

A little DRONE rocket boosts over, bumping into Ben.

DRONE

New orders from Space Corp HQ regarding the Bombulan Situation you caused.

BEN

Okay we don't need to assign blame.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - THE BRIDGE

Ben enters the bridge to see Yates talking with Hunter.

HUNTER

If it isn't our resident mass murderer. Better slow down or I'll be out of a job.

BEN

Your job's to kill the crew?

HUNTER

No... but it seems like yours is?

BEN

I've received word from Space Corp. We are to begin peace accords with the Bombula.

He hands Yates the slip of paper. He reads it.

CAPTAIN YATES

(sighs)

Did anyone ever tell you you're nothing but a headache?

BEN

Yes. All the time. Everyone.

HUNTER

Captain, I say we just do the standard. Tactical deployment of gamma bursts, incinerate the entire star system.

BEN

Do you have any idea how expensive that is?

HUNTER

No.

BEN

This isn't up for debate, unfortunately. Orders are orders.

CAPTAIN YATES

Since you are determined to micromanage, suit up and accompany Hunter to the nearest Bombula ship.

BEN / HUNTER

What? No!

BEN

I'm an accountant! You can't just send me out into space.

CAPTAIN YATES

I think that's exactly what the company had in mind for you.

Ben storms off.

HUNTER

Come on! Negotiate peace? Peace? You're kidding, right? Peace? Why??

CAPTAIN YATES

It would be nice to scare a little sense into the kid. Let him know how things actually work out here.

Ben reappears walking the other direction.

BEN

My room's the other way.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - TELEPORTATION CHAMBER

Hunter and Ben suit up in antiquated space suits, held together with what looks like duct tape. It's peeling.

With them is **MARCUS GREERY**, mid 30's, nerdy, a translator. He's also a giant bear, FYI. Dr. Reid & Captain Yates watch.

BEN

I don't think I'm at all necessary. I mean, you've already got Marcus.

HUNTER

Ugh, don't remind me.

MARCUS

Hey!

CAPTAIN YATES

Of course you're necessary. We need someone down there who has the FULL AUTHORITY to make decisions.

DR. REID

You'll be fine.

She shoves his helmet on, as Hunter and Marcus strap on their own. Captain Yates and Dr. Reid move to the control booth.

INT. CONTROL BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

Which is manned by FRANCES MCQUEEN, a pink-skinned anarcho-communist punk chief engineer.

HUNTER

Man up, Fischer. McQueen's butcher than you are and she doesn't have any genitals.

MCQUEEN

I am. And I don't.

Hunter winks at her.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

Sending you down now.

Ben fiddles with the duct tape on his suit.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)

Don't move. If I press this button, while you're moving your atoms won't bond.

HUNTER

I have no idea what that means.

MCQUEEN

You'll be like human jelly in a ziploc bag. Alright, three...

BEN

Do I have to hold my breath, or --?

MCQUEEN

...Two...

HUNTER

Really? Really?

MCQUEEN

...One...

BEN

Does that mean yes, or no?

Ben takes a deep breath. The teleportation drives SPATTER.

MCQUEEN

Shit, it's gotta warm up.

(to Captain Yates)

(MORE)

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
 You gotta let me know about these
 more than thirty seconds in
 advance.

Ben looks into the control booth, when quite suddenly he,
 Hunter, and Marcus disappear in a FLASH.

MCQUEEN (CONT'D)
 Oh, there it goes.

INT. ALIEN SHIP - TELEPORTATION HALL

Ben, Hunter, and Marcus appear on the alien ship. **BOMBULAS**
 everywhere, they look like very large bees, with laser guns.

Ben immediately collapses, grabbing his limbs.

BEN
 My legs are jelly. My legs are
 jelly!

HUNTER
 Haven't you ever teleported cross-
 ship? Oh, no, you've never even
 left stupid Earth before.

MARCUS
 Is now really the time, fellas?

One of the Bombula approaches. Ben scrambles up.

HUNTER
 Whoa, whoa, whoa, creepy alien
 thing. We're not here to fight.

BOMBULA
 Human. Follow me.

HUNTER
 Guess we didn't need a translator
 after all.

The Bombula heads out the doorway towards a corridor. The
 three dudes look to one another. Alright, let's do this.

INT. ALIEN SHIP - BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Ben, Hunter, and Marcus stand on the bridge, which is WAY
 nicer than the Infinity's -- it looks like everything still
 works -- flanked by Bombula guards with photon blasters.

HUNTER
 Crap, this ship's like a thousand
 times nicer than ours.

Hunter looks to see Ben's visibly pale, his hands shaking.

BEN

Why are we just waiting here?

HUNTER

Either for an alien ambassador, or to be killed in a firing squad, I'd say.

BEN

Killed?

HUNTER

I mean, how do they know you're not planning on blowing their whole ship up?

The Bombula next to Hunter looks over.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

(to the Bombula)

Not that he's going to. But you know, he could easily be carrying a concealed Protonuclear grenade in his space suit.

BEN

I'm not.

HUNTER

Of course, that's what he'd say. He killed a bunch of people on our ship, and we're the same species!

BEN

(trying badly to blend in)

Ha ha right.

(realizes that's worse)

I mean...

A BOMBULAN AMBASSADOR enters. Marcus bows, opens his mouth to speak, but before he can the ambassador talks.

BOMBULAN AMBASSADOR

Hello Humans. Welcome to our ship.

HUNTER

Well, looks like you're useless after all Marcus.

Ben's kinda HOOING and HA-ING with his breath.

BOMBULAN AMBASSADOR
What is its problem?

HUNTER
I don't know, he might be throwing
up a hidden grenade he swallowed.

BEN
I think I'm... sweating... or...
something is happening to me...

The Ambassador turns to the other alien guards, speaking in a complex language of CLACKING noises and SCREECHES.

HUNTER
What are they saying?

MARCUS
Oh now you need me. Let me see...

As Marcus thinks, the Bombulans raise their guns.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
(still thinking)
It's some sort of dialect.

Hunter ducks as they fire, hitting Marcus. In a flash of blue flames he disappears into a CLOUD OF DUST!

BEN
Holy shit!

Ben's FREAKING OUT. Hunter tackles him to the ground.

HUNTER
Quit moving!

He hits a button on his wrist. The aliens FIRE again, and Hunter and Ben disappear in a FLASH OF WHITE LIGHT.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - TELEPORTATION HALL

Ben and Hunter appear, Ben rolling around terrified. He desperately tries to brush Marcus' ashy remains off of him.

BEN
I'm covered in Marcus!

HUNTER
Good going, dipshit. Another day
and you'll have killed more people
than I have.

The doors open for Captain Yates (pissed).

CAPTAIN YATES

Hunter, what the HELL is your problem?

HUNTER

Ben started it. He started short circuiting and the aliens shot Marcus.

BEN

I was nervous, Hunter told them I smuggled grenades on board.

HUNTER

That was a hypothetical. I was asking "what if you smuggled a grenade --"

CAPTAIN YATES

Please! Just one moment of silence!

BEN

Oh, for Marcus.

CAPTAIN YATES

No, so I can think. We're going to have to preempt these sons of bees into oblivion.

BEN

I can help.

HUNTER

Not a single thing you've done so far could be considered by any living soul... helping.

Ben leaves.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - THE CORRIDOR

Ben steps out to find Dr. Reid there, softy that she is, crying and replacing the GUGOR memorial with one for MARCUS.

BEN

I'm sorry. He's in a better place.

DR. REID

You're a glorified calculator. Your kind don't believe in souls, eternity.

BEN

I do.

DR. REID

Why?

BEN

Ever since I was booted up... I
knew I wanted to be human.

Off the fact that that look is not helping.

BEN (CONT'D)

Not human. You know what I mean.
Alive.

(confessing)

I've just always felt this deep...
emptiness? And if that missing
thing isn't... a soul, then I don't
know what is.

Dr Reid smiles. Then laughs. Ben's offended.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm confiding my heart's deepest
desire to you and you... laugh.

DR. REID

I'm just imagining the programmer
who thought it would be fun to give
a robot existential angst.

BEN

You're the doctor of philosophies.
Don't any talk about the existence
of an android's soul?

DR. REID

Some did. But that was before the
Android Wars. Which my parents were
killed in.

BEN

I'm sorry.

DR. REID

They're in a better place.

She gestures out the porthole at the view, which is
terrifying.

A collapsed star in the distance sucks nearby planets into
itself in an eons-long death spiral.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE**INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - BEN'S QUARTERS**

Ben talks with Mr. Channing via holo-display.

BEN

Captain Yates plans to use gamma blasts to incinerate the planet.

MR. CHANNING

Absolutely not.

BEN

I'll acknowledge it is costly, but I do think --

MR. CHANNING

No, there are precious materials on the planet Space Corp would like.

BEN

What sort of precious materials?

A display of what looks like a disgusting blob of an alien thing that's all face and limbs, it's real gnarly.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm gonna be sick.

MR. CHANNING

Oh, sorry, wrong image. That's my wife's ultrasound. Here.

A giant, pulsing, muscular egg appears.

BEN

Not any better.

MR. CHANNING

You and the crew are to retrieve these unborn Bombula and return them to Space Corp.

BEN

These aliens are incredibly dangerous.

MR. CHANNING

Then you'd better be careful.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - THE BRIDGE

Ben rushes onto the bridge.

BEN
Stop everything!

The ship jerks to a halt throwing everyone forward.

CAPTAIN YATES
Can people stop yelling commands
the autopilot will misinterpret?

BEN
I meant the battle planning.

HUNTER
It's a battle, there's no planning.

CAPTAIN YATES
There is absolutely planning.

HUNTER
Yeah, to kill everything.

BEN
You can't use gamma blasts. We
can't even destroy the planet.

CAPTAIN YATES
Standard space diplomacy: If peace
talks fail, destroy every molecule.

BEN
We're here for a reason. Space Corp
wants us to retrieve something...

A FULL RESOLUTION 3-D DISPLAY OF THE LARVAE

HUNTER (O.S.)
Oh gross.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - THE BRIDGE - LATER

Yates and the rest of the crew stand around the display.

DR. REID
Okay, let me explain.

HUNTER
Not science!

BEN
These aliens' larvae would be
incredibly valuable to the company.

HUNTER

Why don't we just scoop up some
dead ones and clone em?

DR. REID

That wouldn't work, the Bombulans
are like bees.

CAPTAIN YATES

What are bees?

DR. REID

Insects. They've been extinct for
thousands of years.

HUNTER

Oh my god, I am so bored.

CAPTAIN YATES

Quiet.

DR. REID

One queen can controls an entire
colony. If you're starting a new
farming planet, which I suspect is
Space Corp's goal --

BEN

No comment.

DR. REID

-- You need a living queen.

She points at the display.

CAPTAIN YATES

This is my ship. I'm not risking
lives to kidnap a baby alien.

HUNTER

What if it were cute?

BEN

A failure to follow orders in this
case would be considered mutiny.

Yates FUMES.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - TELEPORTATION HALL

Ben, Hunter, Dr. Reid, and Captain Yates are all suited up
and waiting to be teleported.

CAPTAIN YATES

McQueen, how close can you put us to what looks like the hive?

MCQUEEN

I can get you within about six inches.

HUNTER

Oh, I bet you can do more than that.

MCQUEEN

Is that even a joke?

BEN

What exactly do you need me for again? Because this seems like a waste of resources.

CAPTAIN YATES

Decoy.

Ben looks worried as they disappear in a bright flash.

EXT. BOMBULA PLANET - DUSK

The four appear in a FLASH near a small cave's entrance. In the sky above, BOMBULANS fly in complex patterns.

DR. REID

Good thing there aren't any guards posted outside.

BEN

You said there wouldn't be.

DR. REID

Well, it was sixty-forty.

BEN

Can everyone tell me about highly dangerous plans they're following their guts on from now on?

HUNTER

My gut's telling me to punch you in the face.

CAPTAIN YATES

Alright, we're going in folks. Tactical column.

He starts moving towards the cave, followed by Dr. Reid.

BEN
I don't know what that is.

HUNTER
What, are you scared?

BEN
Absolutely I am, now more than ever before.

CAPTAIN YATES
Let's go.

Yates starts into the cave again.

HUNTER
We don't have any flashlights.

DR. REID
They're nearly blind, just light and heat sensitive. Did you not listen to anything I said in my briefing?

HUNTER
I don't even remember a briefing... Was there a briefing?

He looks to the others.

DR. REID
Like ten minutes ago Hunter.

BEN
You were there. We all were.

HUNTER
It's just going to be very dark.

BEN
What? Is the big bad Neutralizer afraid of the dark?

Hunter shoves Ben into the cave, and the rest follow. He is.

INT. ALIEN HIVE - MOMENTS LATER

Ben, Captain Yates, Dr. Reid, and Hunter creep down a dark tunnel which opens into a cavernous room.

The **BOMBULA QUEEN**, a large blob without eyes, is splayed out in the center. She's flanked by TWO GUARDS.

HUNTER

You're sure Channing doesn't just want this to have sex, right?

CAPTAIN YATES

Shh! Blasters to stun.

Hunter rolls his eyes, readjusts his blaster before jumping out and stunning the guards, who collapse.

DR. REID

Don't shoot anything else, I'm going to collect some samples.

Dr. Reid disappears around the Bombula Queen, doing science.

HUNTER

"Don't shoot anything, I'm collecting samples." Hand me the camera.

Ben does. Hunter poses with the Queen, his camera FLASHING! The Queen SHRIEKS! It reaches out with pincer-like engorged disgusting lobster-like claws.

CAPTAIN YATES

No! Idiot!

Hunter and Captain Yates reach for their phasers, but the Queen's too fast, it grabs them in its pincers.

DR. REID

I told you! They're sensitive to light!

Hunter screams as he's thrashed around by the queen.

HUNTER

When?

EVERYONE

In the briefing!

Ben panics and darts behind the same rock as Dr. Reid.

BEN

Hi. Were you able to collect the larvae?

DR. REID

You really only care about money.

BEN

If I don't do my job, they're sending me to the labor camps on Neptune. For the rest of my natural life...

Dr. Reid gets it. That means FOREVER.

HUNTER

That's messed up.

CAPTAIN YATES

Oh for god's sake, some help?

Ben peeks over the rock, the Bombula Queen is dangling Hunter and Captain Yates over its mouth, about to eat them.

BEN

What do you propose we do?

CAPTAIN YATES

Shoot the damn thing you idiot!

Praying this works, Ben aims at the queen.

Hunter frees his blaster arm, just as Ben fires! The stun blast hits Hunter's arm, causing him to drop his blaster.

HUNTER

Are you kidding? Ben just shot me. And it was set to stun!

BEN

We can't kill it! It's worthless if it's dead.

CAPTAIN YATES

So are we you idiot.

They all start stunning the Queen but it isn't working.

BEN

It isn't working!

DR. REID

Fischer, you can sneak up on it!

BEN

Are you kidding me?

He points to the rampaging queen. Hunter and Yates blast it with stun rays. The Queen's vestigial wings BUZZ sickeningly.

DR. REID
Your heat signature.

BEN
What?

DR. REID
(come on!)
How you don't have a soul???

Ben gets it. So does Yates. But Hunter's still confused.

HUNTER
I don't like the guy either but...
That's a little harsh.

DR. REID
She won't be able to SEE you.

HUNTER
Wait, is he a vampire?

BEN
It's the middle of the day.

HUNTER
Werewolf? Invisible man?

The Queen BUZZES menacingly.

CAPTAIN YATES
Just grab the eggs, robot!!!

HUNTER
Oh. That explains everything.
Bloodthirsty. Cunning. Evil.

DR. REID
She'll chase after you, drop the
two of them, and we'll all teleport
outta here.

BEN
I'll turn into jelly!

HUNTER
Not if you're inorganic.

They all look at him, surprised.

HUNTER (CONT'D)
What? I take teleportation safety
very seriously.

The sound of BUZZING off in the distance.

HUNTER (CONT'D)
We're doomed. Can't trust a robot.

Ben rushes past the Queen, around her back, towards a large egg sac. He grabs it. Ew it's squishy and disgusting.

BEN
It's even grosser to touch!

CAPTAIN YATES
Run!

Ben runs for it, out the tunnel. The Queen immediately realizes her eggs are gone, and drops Hunter and Yates.

CAPTAIN YATES (CONT'D)
(into communicator)
McQueen get us out of here!

They disappear in a FLASH.

INT. BOMBULA CORRIDORS - MOMENTS LATER

Ben runs with all his might, the little larvae pod under his arm like a football. The Queen careens after him.

BEN
Oh god oh god oh god. Captain!
McQueen!

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

They watch on the monitor as Ben RUNS and RUNS.

CAPTAIN YATES
Let him sweat it out a minute.

BEN
Come on guys! What's going on?!

Yates YAWNS.

CAPTAIN YATES
Alright McQueen.

Ben trips, falling forward as the Queen lunges for him. A FLASH OF WHITE LIGHT. He, and the eggs, are gone...

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - TELEPORTATION HALL

Ben is flailed out on the floor of the room, trying to catch his breath. The egg-sac squirms next to him.

INT. STARSHIP INFINITY - THE BRIDGE

Ben, Dr. Reid, and Hunter talk with Mr. Channing on the main screen. Hunter's arm is in a sling.

BEN

The cargo is on its way to Space Corp now.

Dan (leg still injured) brings the egg in a high-tech cage over towards a TRANSPORT POD. Bolting it down as they speak.

MR. CHANNING

Good work, Fischer, Captain.

BEN

And, sir, I'd like to request a transfer, if at all possible.

MR. CHANNING

Absolutely not. You'll be staying on the Starship Infinity indefinitely.

BEN

With all due respect --

MR. CHANNING

The ship leaks funds, you know.

HUNTER

That's not the only thing it leaks!

CAPTAIN YATES

Not the time for jokes.

HUNTER

Seriously, it's been leaking fuel.
(off Yates' surprise)
I reported it to Dr. Leonard weeks ago, but he hasn't done anything.

DR. REID

That's because you killed him.

HUNTER

Oh, yeah.

MR. CHANNING

I'm a busy man, Fischer. If there is one dime spent on unnecessary goods, you're heading to Neptune.

Mr. Channing disappears.

CAPTAIN YATES

You did do good work. For a robot.

DAN

I really thought you were a dick
back when you blew up accounting
but, you're not so bad.

HUNTER

Suck up.

Theegg in the pod BURSTS OPEN. A baby BOMBULA QUEEN attacks
him -- legs flying everywhere.

The pod doors close and the pod launches! With Dan inside!

Everyone watches in horror.

CAPTAIN YATES

Ready a rescue pod.

BEN

(shakes his head)

I'm sorry but... That's going to be
too expensive.

(into comms)

You okay Dan? Think you can handle
that thing until you get to Earth?

A HOLOGRAM OF DAN appears, fighting for his life...

DAN

How long will that be?

HUGH

Thirty years give or take.

DAN

Sure thing!

DR. REID

No heart.

DAN

These things happen.

EXT. SPACE

"WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD" plays as Dan's pod shoots by **THE
STILL FROZEN FRED** who waves, cheerful as ever.

END OF SHOW.