

Space Camp

(A young girl, Andi, is sitting out in her back yard. She's waiting for the space shuttle to fly overhead.)

Andi's Mother: (calling from the house) Andi, you're gonna miss it. You can't see it from out there. (goes back inside.)

Andi: Can too see it. (looks up and sees something.) He winked at me. John Glenn winked at me. I'm going up. I am. I'm going up.

(Present Day – Air Field)

(Andi is now all grown up. She's wearing a pilot's jump suit and has just climbed out of an AF plane. Her husband Zack meets her.)

Andi: I'm not going up. I can't believe it. They chose Eddie Miller instead of me. He gets air sick in cars.

Zack: That's why I married you instead of Eddie Miller.

Andi: I thought for sure I was getting up there this time.

Zack: You'll get your chance.

Andi: You bet your ass I will. You're not gonna be the only person in this family to walk on the moon.

Zack: Just think, you get to spend your summer with me, at Space Camp.

Andi: Oh, no.

Zack: You promised.

Andi: Great. I get to play 'Let's Pretend I'm an Astronaut' with a bunch of kids. (She climbs into the car.)

Zack: These aren't just kids you know. These are clean cut, well motivated, all American kids.

(Space Camp)

(They pull up in Zack's car but Kevin is already in their parking spot. He's playing his music very loud.)

Andi: I think this is one of your kids now. Yep. I'd recognize him anywhere. Clean cut, well motivated...all American. (She gets out of the car and walks towards the building.)

Kevin: Hey! (Andi turns around) Great boosters!

(She smiles and keeps on walking. Zack walks up to Kevin.)

Zack: Would you mind turning that down?

Kevin: What?

Zack: I said, would you mind turning that down.

Kevin: Sure. (tuns the music down) No sweat right.

Zack: Do you want Space Camp?

Kevin: No. My father wants Space Camp. I want my head examined. But it was worth it for the car, don't you think?

Zack: Yeah, well let's hope so. By the way, would you get your ass out of my parking spot?

(Kevin turns around and sees Zack's car.)

Zack: Oh, right, right. Sorry.

(He's about to move his car when an airplane flies over head. It's a two-seater, very small.)

Kevin: Whoa! Space age technology, huh? Have a great summer.

(He moves his car to another spot.)

(The plane lands and a young girl, Catherine, gets out.)

Catherine: Better check that left MAG, Dad. It's sticking.

Catherine's Dad: Okay

Zack: (on PA system) Hello campers. I'm Zack Burkstrom. I'd like to welcome you to Space Camp. We're going to train you just like NASA trains the astronauts. I didn't say 'Real Astronauts' because at Space Camp you are real astronauts.

(Orientation)

(All the kids are in a line and they are picking up their assignments. What color team their on, their clothing, etc.)

Man: Lonnie Picket? Purple Team. Lonnie Faller? Red Team.

Woman: Catherine Fayley?

Catherine: Catherine Fayley.

Woman: Blue Team.

Man: Kadayo Takamini?

Kadayo: Kadayo Takamini.

Man: Blue Team.

(Catherine takes her stuff and moves on. Kevin sees that she's on the Blue Team.)

Woman: Uh, Kevin Donaldson. Yellow Team.

(While Kadayo isn't looking Kevin takes his badge and moves on in line.)

(Later)

(Catherine and 3 other kids are lined up listening to Andi talk.)

Andi: Four years ago Space Camp was created not only to provide you with hands on access to space hardware, but also to teach you how to work together as a team. Hi. I'm Andi Burkstrom.

Catherine: You're an astronaut! First female pilot.

Andi: Yeah. How'd you know that?

Catherine: I read all about you in the young astronauts program. Let's see you were the backup pilot for the first Discovery flight. But Coats got it instead.

Andi: Yeah, I remember.

Catherine: What are you doing here?

(Andi smiles but doesn't answer. Instead she moves on to the next person in line. It's a teenage black boy. He's chewing gum.)

Andi: Hello, and what is your name?

Rudy: Rudy Tyler, ma'am.

Andi: Spit it out, Rudy.

Rudy: (military style) RUDY TYLER, MA'AM!

Andi: (jumps with surprise) (laughs) I meant the gum, Rudy.

(He throws the gum on the ground.)

Andi: You look like a guy with a lot of energy. I'm making you Mission Specialist #1. Equipment Function and Operations.

Rudy: Oh, wow. Thanks, ma'am. You know my father told me that when you come to Space Camp they give you all sorts of different...

Andi: Rudy, we'll talk about it later, okay?

Rudy: Yes, ma'am.

Andi: Oh, by the way this is Space Camp and not the Marine Corps.

Rudy: Yes, ma'am.

Andi: You can call me Andi. Rudy: Andi.

(Andi moves on to the girl standing next to Rudy. She's very wildly dressed.)

Tish: Hi, Andi! I'm Tish. (Andi just looks at her.) Tish Emrosay. Right there. (points to her name on Andi's list.)

Andi: Yeah, so what brings you to Space Camp, Tish?

Tish: Well, I did the audit at GPL & Radio Astronomy. It was unbelievable! I mean

can you imagine an extra terrestrial disc jockey. Like, listening to radio waves from space. I mean, like, waiting for signs of intelligence.

Andi: Like I know the feeling. I'm gonna make you Mission Specialist #2. Communications.

Tish: Oh. Cool!

Andi: (sees the boy next to Tish) Max! What are you doing here?
(Max is about 13 years old while the rest of the team are 17-18.)

Max: Checking in for my next mission against the Empire, your Highness.

Andi: Your next mission is to haul ass back to Junior Camp right now.

Max: Oh, come on, Andi! I've been at Junior two summers running. Don't kick me out.

Andi: You're just not ready.

Max: I am too ready!

Andi: Okay one screw up and it's back to the little leagues, got it?

Max: Copy Rogue Leader. Roger and out.

Andi: Kadayo Takamini? (louder) Kadayo Takamini?
(Kevin runs up beside Catherine.)

Kevin: Right here.

Andi: Kadayo Takamini?

Kevin: Actually it's pronounced Kevin Donaldson.

Andi: I don't have a Donaldson.

Kevin: Well, you have one now.

Catherine: (steps up) Uh, I'm Catherine Fayley, and it's an honor to meet you. Sorry.

Andi: It's okay. Now I have two positions left. Pilot and Shuttle Commander. Kevin, why don't you tell me why you'd like to be Shuttle Commander?

Kevin: Oh, wouldn't, wouldn't. I was thinking of something more along the lines of Mission Regent. Or...um...sovereign maybe. Something like that.

Andi: Catherine, what about you?

Catherine: I know a lot about the Space Program, and I'm going into the Air Force Academy, and I want to be the first female Shuttle Commander.

Andi: You think that's more important than pilot?

Catherine: Oh yeah.

Kevin: It's okay, let her have it. I mean, I don't care.

Andi: Really?

Kevin: Yeah.

Andi: Well now that you're Shuttle Commander you're gonna have to start to care, aren't you Kevin?

Catherine: But wha...

Andi: Catherine, you can be pilot.

Catherine: Wha...

Andi: Pilot.

(Mock Cargo Area)

Andi: This is a mock up of the cargo bay and the storage pallet. That arm is the remote manipulator system. It can be used for repairs and to link up with satellites or other vehicles. This is the zero gravity chair. It rides on a cushion of air and creates the feeling of weightlessness you would encounter when you leave the Earth's atmosphere. Come on, Max.
(They all enter the mock space shuttle.)

Max: Oh, this is like the greatest thing since that X-Wing fighter!

(Shuttle Simulator)

Andi: This is the shuttle simulator, which you're gonna learn to fly at speeds up to Mock 25. I know it looks complicated now, but when you get the basics down it's

real easy. In fact the computer does most of the work. (Rudy places his hands on the piloting stick.) Now, the first lesson I want to teach you...(Rudy shifts the pilot stick and they all fall backwards as the shuttle moves. Kevin catches Catherine.) Why I won't touch anything until I know how to use it.

Rudy: By Rudy Tyler.

Andi: Right.

Max: Yeah, Rudy.

Andi: Is everybody okay?

(Museum)

(Andi is showing the group the Sigma 7. Kevin, very bored, wanders off as she speaks.)

Andi: This is the Mercury Sigma 7. When they were building these capsules the astronauts demanded the engineers create a way for them to be able to pilot the capsule back through the re-entry through the Earth's atmosphere. Otherwise the would feel like monkeys...

(Kevin sits down next to what he thinks is a display of machines. But as he sits down one of the machines moves and hits him on the ear.)

Kevin: Ow! What the hell is that?

(The others come over as Jinx unfolds himself.)

Max: Prototype Maintenance Droid. NASA built him for the space station.

Rudy: When's he going up?

Max: He's not. They blew it on his shielding. His chips become unpredictable in about two hours.

Andi: He's such a complex piece of machinery NASA hasn't been able to iron out all the bugs. So he helps out here and at Kennedy.

Man: Jinx!

(Jinx lowers himself to the ground.)

Tish: You mean he's an extra terrestrial?

Andi: No, he's the worlds only 27 million dollar handy man.

Man: Jinx, where the hell is that ratchet?

Jinx: (he hands the man the ratchet) In your hand.

(The kids all laugh.)

Andi: He's also quite literal. Okay, we've all met Jinx. Let's get going. (The others walk off, but Max sticks around and watches Jinx for a few more moments.) Max! Come on.

(Girl's Dorm)

Girl: How many pounds of thrust does the shuttle produce at liftoff?

Tish: 6,981,400.

Girl: How'd you know? (to her friend) How in the world did she know all that?

(Tish leans down to look in the bottom bunk where Catherine is studying.)

Tish: You know that Kevin is a real babe.

Catherine: He's a jerk.

Tish: Oh really?

Catherine: He's completely un-serious.

Tish: Did you check out the size of his hands?

(Cathy doesn't answer.)

Tish: Earth to Catherine, come in please. (she climbs down to sit on Cathy's bunk.) What are you doing?

Catherine: I'm trying to figure this thing out.

Tish: The multi axis trainer?

Catherine: It's one of the most difficult parts of the training. It's scary for a pilot. You know anything about it?

Tish: (closes her eyes and thinks) Three concentric circles spinning in different directions simultaneously. Object to stabilize from central point utilizing hand controls. (offers gum) You want a piece?

Catherine: (takes the gum) How'd you know all that?

Tish: I remember everything I read. It's a real drag sometimes when my mind gets totally cleathered.

Catherine: What'd you get on your SAT's?

Tish: 800's. You ever talk about anything aside from learning things? (Cathy looks down.) You know, you're real pretty. Kinda understated...but you've got great eyes. (Reaches up to the top bunk to get her make-up kit) You know, I could do this make-up job on you...guys go for eyes...kind of. (grins)

Catherine: (pulls back) Guys go for what I haven't got, and make-ups not gonna help. But thanks. (She gets up to get a towel out of her locker.)

Tish: Um, what's your essay gonna be about?

Catherine: Mine's "Why I want to be the first Female Shuttle Commander."

Tish: Oh that's gonna go down real big.

Catherine: Yeah, Andi'll get a kick out of that. (Tish climbs up to the top bunk.) What about you?

Tish: I'm gonna do: "I want to go into space to find creatures that exist on chemicals other than carbon and oxygen."

Catherine: You should visit my high school. (laughs)

(Outside)

(Rudy and Kevin are walking around the camp.)

Kevin: So we struck this deal. He got me to Space Camp, and I got me a Jeep. So what are you doing here?

Rudy: I wanna be the first guy to have a fast food franchise in space. Rudy-T's.

Kevin: Are you serious?

Rudy: Yeah. Some guy in the space station's gonna have a big mac attack. Rudy-T's gonna be there.

Kevin: Uh huh. So that's why you're here?

Rudy: Well...

Kevin: Come on.

Rudy: I like learnin'. Some guys in my school say, 'Hey Rudy, how come you taking science? You don't need to be taking science, man.' They don't even ask me if I like science.

Kevin: Do you like science?

Rudy: Yeah. I love science. Now ask me if I'm any good at it.

Kevin: Not so hot, huh?

Rudy: There's just some things I can't figure out.

Kevin: That's a bummer man. My philosophy is to sleep late, drive fast, and not take any of this shit seriously.

Rudy: Straight up?

(They hear a commotion from inside the Boy's Dorm.)

Max: (os) Hey booster breath, leave me alone.

Guy: (os) Let me see it kid.

Kevin: Come on!

(Boy's Dorm)

(Max is standing in front of a locker, refusing to move.)

Max: Who are you, the Imperial Guard, or something?

Guy: Come on, kid, what have you got in there anyway? Let us take a look!

Kevin: Hey! What's going on?

Guy: This kid's got this thing in there.

Guy2: Yeah, we just want to see it.

Max: Why don't you evaporate laser brain?!

Guy: (grabs Max) Yeah, I'll give you a laser brain.

(The guy moves Max out of the way.)

Kevin: Hey, lay off the kid!

(The guy opens the locker to find Jinx inside.)

Rudy: Holy shit!

Jinx: Shit! Solid waste aboard space station. Can be handled in one of two ways.

Max: Jinx! Jinx! Cancel! (He frees himself from the guys holding him back.) Okay, get down.

(Jinx lowers himself down and rolls out of the locker.)

Guy2: What is it? What's it do?

Max: Anything you ask it to?

Guy3: Sure moves slow.

Guy: Hey Jinx, shake a leg.

(Jinx lifts up one of his legs and shakes it.)

Max: Don't do that!

Guy: Oh man, you mean he literally does what he's told.

(Three of the guys proceed to call Jinx in different directions why Max tries to stop them. Jinx finally gets overloaded and collapses to the ground. The crowd disperses leaving Max standing over Jinx with a sad look on his face. Kevin and Rudy watch him.)

Kevin: Sorry, kid.

(NASA Lab)

(Max is trying to fix Jinx.)

Max: ...activating. Generators, okay. Image analyzer, clean. Stabilizer. I'll put your shield on now, Jinx. Don't worry. I'm your buddy Max. And when I'm done with you, you'll be as good as new. (He puts Jinx's shield back on.) Yo Jinx. Yo Jinx.

Jinx: Yo Max.

Max: All right! (laughs) All right. I can't believe it. I can't believe those goon jerkoffs did that to you. What a bunch of monkey clones. They ought to be zapped. (Jinx starts rolling away.) Hey, where are you going?

Jinx: To zap them!

Max: No, no Jinx, stop it! There you go again. Why do you have to take everything so literally?

Jinx: How else should I take it?

Max: No, it's okay. Don't worry. You'll be okay. You know, you're really neat Jinx.

Jinx: You too Max.

Max: Friends forever?

Jinx: Friends forever.

(The next scenes are all a montage of the different areas of the space camp. Andi talks over all of the scenes.) Andi: (vo) By the time you leave Space Camp you will know the function of every circuit on the shuttle. You may never get the chance to fly in it, but it won't be because you don't know how. If you ever get to be astronauts you'll thank us for making you wear these jumpsuits because they provide ease of movement and additional storage space in orbit. The cushions of air the zero gravity chair rides on helps you simulate the weightlessness you'd experience during EVA. That's Extra Vehicular Activity. That's the work you'd be doing outside the shuttle. To work in space you have to know how to move in it. Don't push off, Tish. Nothing will stop you unless you're acted on by an outside force. Catherine, it's your job as pilot to monitor all the onboard systems and feed that data to Kevin who, as Commander, is in charge of the orbiter. You can suit up in your EMU in five

minutes, Rudy, once you get the hang of it. EMU, that's Extra-Vehicular Mobility Unit. You're going to need it to do any activity in the vacuum of space. Catherine, give me the coordinates of the space station at 0100 hours. You have to call up whatever information I ask for in a moment. Split second decisions are essential. You're traveling at 17,000 miles an hour, there's no room for error. You'll find your space suits stored in the air lock. You're on your own there when you depressurize as you prepare to move from the cabin environment into the cargo bay.)

(Multi-Axis Trainer)

Andi: Okay Catherine, now it's your turn in the Multi-Axis trainer. This is one of the most critical tasks to master. Especially if you want to achieve top ranking here as a shuttle pilot. Secure? (Catherine nods.) You have 30 seconds to stabilize. 30 seconds. All right, start it up.

(The men in charge start the machine and Catherine begins spinning around. Personally, I don't understand how she doesn't get sick. Just looking at the Multi-Axis Trainer makes me a little woozy.)

Andi: If the shuttle is spinning when it re-enters the Earth's atmosphere the astronaut has just seconds to stabilize or he might enter a flat spin. Keep your head centered, don't turn it right or left. Push your stick forward.

Catherine: I got it.

Andi: 15 seconds. You're yawing to the right, turn it left.

Max: Go right! Right! Come on you can...(Andi holds up a hand for him to be quiet.)

Andi: Come on, Catherine. You're not a passenger you're a pilot. Fly it!

Catherine: I'm trying!

Andi: You've got 10 seconds.

Tish: Oh, I'm gonna be sick.

Andi: 5 seconds! Come on, Catherine, fly it! (looks at her stop watch) Okay, shut it off.

(They shut off the machine and pull Catherine so she's sitting up.)

Catherine: Why'd you stop me? I'd have gotten it in another minute.

Andi: Another minute you'd have been burned up on re-entry. Come on, and get out. We're running late.

Catherine: Andi! I can do it! You're just not giving me a chance.

Andi: (regards Catherine) Okay, five minutes. But that's all. Come on Kevin. (walks away)

(Kevin walks over to where Catherine is trying to set herself up in the trainer again.)

Kevin: You know, I wouldn't let Andi get to you.

Catherine: I'm gonna please that woman if I have to spend the rest of my life trying.

Kevin: Well, why do you want to please anybody but yourself?

Catherine: (smiles) I don't know...

Kevin: Uh, seems to me that if you just ease up on the thing, you could handle it. You could fly it.

Catherine: Maybe we have something in common.

Kevin: Um, you know there's this full moon tonight.

Catherine: What, do you turn into a werewolf or something like that?

Kevin: (smiles) No. But I know this great spot where we could check the shuttle out.

Catherine: We'd get caught breaking curfew, no way.

Kevin: Well, if I can handle that...will you go?

Catherine: Okay.

(Boy's Dorm)

Kevin: Say Max, you got a minute? You've been coming here for a couple of years, right? Um, what's the best way to get to the beach?

Rudy: You're gonna ask him?!

Kevin: Shhh!

Max: Distract and destroy the Imperial Guards.

Rudy: (makes a tick-tock sound) Got 10 seconds.

Kevin: All right! What would Luke Skywalker do? How would he get to the launch pad?

(Max goes over to his closet, and opens it to reveal Jinx.)

Guy: Kid's gonna go for the droid.

Max: Yo Jinx.

Jinx: Yo Max!

Max: Jinx, what's the best way to the launch pad?

Jinx: Go out to main gate. Go to highway. Turn left.

(Rudy makes a buzzer sound.)

Kevin: That takes me right by Zack Burkstrom's office. There's gotta be another way.

Max: Is there another way to the launch pad, Jinx? A secret way?

Jinx: Secret. Turn left before Zack's office. Turn right at Rocket Park. Avoid maintenance building. Go East. Depending on ground speed launch pad can be reached in 10-15 minutes.

Kevin: (to Rudy) Go on, talk! (leaves)

(The others stare at Jinx in amazement while Max grins.)

(Beach)

(Kevin pulls up in his Jeep. There is a great view of the launch pad.)

Catherine: Look at that shuttle! (laughs) Can you believe that it can go from the Earth up into the stars? (points to a star constellation) Look there's the seven sisters.

Kevin: Oh yeah?

Catherine: It's beautiful up there. I wish it was like that down here.

Kevin: So, uh, you're really into this space stuff, huh?

Catherine: Yeah. Ever since I was a little girl. My dad used to take me up in his plane and hold me on his lap. Sometimes at night, I used to reach out and try and touch the stars. I couldn't wait to grow up.

Kevin: What's so special about going up?

Catherine: In space anything is possible. I mean, maybe we could even do things right up there, I don't know. Instead of screwing them up like we have down here.

Kevin: Yeah, but what's the point? I mean, we're all gonna get nuked anyway.

Catherine: Kevin, that's just an excuse for people who are afraid to try.

Kevin: Hold it, one second here. It's not that I'm afraid to try. It's just that uh...I don't care.

Catherine: Yes, you do.

Kevin: Oh, I do huh?

Catherine: Uh huh. It's just that it's easier to say that you don't care than it is to try, and fail.

(Space Camp – Boy's Dorm)

(Zack is questioning Max.)

Max: I'll never tell! Torture me! Kill me! I'll still never tell!

Zack: Fess up! Where's Kevin?

Andi: (walking in) Catherine's gone too.

Zack: All right, where are Kevin and Catherine?

Jinx: Kevin and Catherine are at launch pad. It is a secret.

Max: Jinx!!

Jinx: Max!!

Zack: Let's go.

(Beach)

(Kevin and Catherine begin to kiss as Zack's van pulls up on the beach. Catherine looks up as the headlights hit them.)

Catherine: I thought you said you cleared it.

Kevin: Yeah, well, I kinda cleared it.

Catherine: Yeah kinda. Ah shit!

(Space Camp – Walkway)

(Catherine is walking ahead of the other three.)

Andi: (to Zack) I'll just be a minute. (she runs after Catherine) Catherine.

Catherine: We were just talking.

Andi: That's not the point and you know it.

Catherine: Nobody cares about Space Camp more than I do. And you've been on my case since day one, why?

Andi: The first time I met you I saw it in your eyes. It was like looking in a mirror.

Catherine: Then why are you so hard on me?

Andi: Because someday you're going up. And the only way you will is if you have every drill down better than everyone else. There's no room for mistakes. Every 'I' dotted, every 'T' crossed. That's the way I learned it. That's the way you'll learn it.

(Boys Dorm)

(Kevin comes in and turns on the lights. Max is already sitting up in bed looking very upset.)

Kevin: Who talked?

Max: It wasn't me Han Solo. Zack got information out of Jinx.

Kevin: Max! I'm not Han Solo. Okay? And you're not Luke Skywalker. There's no Empire and there's no Force and there's no Dark Side. You're just an ordinary kid and so am I! And maybe nobody lives happily ever after, all right? So just stay away from me. Far away. (he walks off)

(Max sits there for a moment, looking about ready to burst into tears, and then he runs out of the room. Jinx follows him.)

(NASA Museum)

(Max comes running in, still upset.)

Max: I wish I were far away. I wish I was anywhere except here! I wish...I wish I was in space. I wish I was in space.

(Jinx overhears him.)

(NASA Computer Room)

(Jinx comes in and interfaces with the NASA central computer.)

NASA: Hello Jinx. How can NASA help you?

Jinx: Put Max in space.

NASA: There is no Max listed in astronaut program.

Jinx: (hits a button) There is now.

(Outside Shuttle Simulator)

(Max, wearing an EMU, walks outside the shuttle over to a chair attached to a mechanic arm.)

Max: How come I have to do all the dangerous stuff?

Catherine: (on headset) Come on Max. Joe, Allen, and Dale all did this on the Discovery flight.

(Shuttle Simulator)

Catherine: Come on.

Kevin: Somehow I don't think that's going to make him feel any better.

(Space Camp Mission Control)

(Other students are working the Control stations. We can see the inside of the shuttle on a screen at the front of the room.)

Kevin: (on screen) Um, range scale at orbit, um, primary.

Catherine: (on screen) Roger, primary and secondary.

(Shuttle Simulator)

Kevin: Um, enter OMS one, burn program, pilot.

Catherine: Roger. OMS one, commander.

Kevin: Stand by, pilot.

(Space Camp Mission Control)

Guy: Atlantis, this is Control. We have orbit confirmed, 125 nautical miles.

Inclination of 35 degrees.

(Shuttle Simulator)

Guy: (on headset) You are in position for satellite recovery.

Kevin: Rudy, man. You're on.

(Rudy gets up from his spot at the rear of the cabin and goes to the console.)

Rudy: Rudy's the best on the RMS.

(Outside Shuttle Simulator)

(Max is now strapped into the chair as it is raised off the ground.)

Rudy: (on headset) Don't worry about a thing, Max. Rudy knows this arm like the back of his hand.

(Shuttle Simulator)

(As Rudy works the controls, Tish accidentally bumps him as she enters the cockpit from a jeffries tube.)

Rudy: Oh!

Tish: Sorry, Rudy! I didn't know you were there.

(We can hear Max screaming outside the shuttle as the chair jerks.)

Max: (os) Help Rudy!

Rudy: Watch out, I almost dropped Max!

(Outside Shuttle Simulator)

Max: Rudy!

(Space Camp Mission Control)

Guy1: Instigate emergency power loss scenario.

Guy2: Killing power, sir.

(Guy2 hits a button and the power in the shuttle simulator goes out.)

(Shuttle Simulator)

(The others all look around as the power goes off.)

(Outside Simulator)

Max: Somebody get me down from here or I'm gonna be sick.

(Shuttle Simulator)

Max: (os) Help!

(Rudy is frantically trying to fix the mistake.)

Tish: (laughing) Rud, relax man. You're freaking out.

Max: (os) Get me down from here!

Catherine: (into headset) Control, this is Atlantis, uh, we're experiencing electrical failure. Switching to auxiliary cells.

Kevin: Hold it! That's my decision, not yours.

(Catherine gives him a dirty look. Tish tries to help Rudy at the other console.)

Tish: No, it's that one.

Rudy: I know, right here. It's the green one right next to the red.

(Rudy touches two wires together and even more power goes out.)

Catherine: Rudy, what are you doing?

(Space Camp Mission Control)

Rudy: (on screen) I think that was the wrong one, I got it right now. Here ya go.

(Outside Simulator)

(Max's chair is going all over the place.)

Max: Help!

(Shuttle Simulator)

Catherine: Rudy, just cross wire it!

(She gets up from her seat and takes her headset off. She goes over to where Rudy and Tish are.)

Kevin: Hey, sit down! Get back here! Sit down! That's an order!

Rudy: It's this one right here.

Kevin: Forget it.

(Space Camp Mission Control)

(The other campers are laughing at all of this.)

Rudy: (on screen) Would you sit down, I can handle this.

Catherine: (on screen) Oh yeah...

Andi: What the hell is going on in there?

(Shuttle Simulator)

Andi: (on headset) They've shot another OMS burn.

Kevin: Yeah, well the pilot must have hit the switch when she stood up.

Rudy: Yeah!

(Space Camp Mission Control)

Andi: Why isn't she at her post?

(Shuttle Simulator)

Kevin: Well she's just too busy doing everyone else's job.

(Space Camp Mission Control)

Guy: Orbit is decaying, shuttle.

Andi: Okay, take over, commander.

Kevin: (on screen) Hey, it's not my job, man. You ask the pilot do to that! I'm sick and tired of doing it all...

Guy: You're falling out of orbit, Atlantis. You're coming up on atmospheric interface.

(Shuttle Simulator)

Guy: (on headset) You're gonna be toast.

(On the screen's in front of Kevin it appears that the shuttle is in a flat spin. Kevin watches the earth spin around and around as the other continue to argue about the

wiring.)

Kevin: Wow! My God!

(Space Camp Mission Control)

Andi: (into headset) Pilot, do you copy? Pilot?

(Shuttle Simulator)

Kevin: I'm sorry, Catherine's not in right now.

(Space Camp Mission Control)

Kevin: (on headset) But if you'd like to leave your name and number at the tone, she'd be glad to get back to you.

Guy: You're coming up on interphase, Atlantis.

(Andi takes off her headset and hands it to Zack. She then heads for the simulator.)

(Shuttle Simulator)

Kevin: Roger that, Atlantis. (to others) Uh, ladies and gentlemen, please return your seats and tray tables to their full upright positions. And extinguish all smoking materials, as we're about to land in the red zone. (turns back to the screens that have gone red and say 'No Survivors'.) Ah! No survivors.

Catherine: Rudy, we're gonna flunk!

Rudy: Catherine, we're not gonna flunk if you'd just listen to me for a second.

(Andi opens the door with Max right behind her.)

Andi: All of you stop it!

Catherine: I'm sorry, but Rudy was...

Rudy: (interrupting) Rudy?!

Andi: Quiet! Shut up! I don't want to hear about it. I can't hear it, you know why?

Because you're all dead. You just disintegrated during re-entry. Don't you understand what that means? You're all dead because you didn't work together as a team. (She looks at Kevin.) And you're responsible.

Kevin: Me?!

Andi: That's right, you. You're a shuttle commander. That means you are responsible for everything that happens on this ship!

Kevin: I didn't ask to be responsible, remember?

Andi: That's a pitiful excuse for killing 4 people.

Kevin: Oh God, I don't believe this. Look, nobody got killed, okay. I mean it's just Space Camp.

(NASA Computer Room)

(Jinx stands before the NASA computers.)

NASA: Launch possibilities.

Jinx: What are possibilities of launching Max into space?

NASA: There is no possibility at this time.

Jinx: This is not going to be easy.

(Space Camp Hallway)

(Tish and Andi run into Zack Burkstrom. He is putting a list into the one of the display cases.)

Catherine: Hello, Commander Burkstrom.

Zack: Well hi you two. How are you doing?

Tish: (looking at the sheet) What's a firf?

Zack: That's FRF. Flight Readyness Firing. That's how NASA tests the main engines of the shuttle. This is the first year we've gotten permission for you guys to experience it. And some of you aren't even going to be able to sit in this, from an

astronauts point of view. See ya.

(He walks off as Tish and Catherine grin at each other and then walk in the opposite direction. Jinx comes around the corner and looks at the FRF sheet.)

Jinx: Engine test. Jinx must be ready Thursday, four PM.

(NASA Computer Room)

(Jinx waits for the final NASA person to leave the room before coming in. He once again uses his power to start the computes.)

Jinx: Max on shuttle during engine test. How do we change engine test into launch?

NASA: Worst case scenario: Thermal Curtain Failure.

Jinx: Define Thermal Curtain Failure?

NASA: During engine test only one booster will ignite, result, forced launch.

Jinx: Why launch?

NASA: If you do not light second booster and launch the shuttle with lift off and crash.

Jinx: That is unacceptable.

NASA: To avoid worse case scenario 2nd booster must be ignited, result, perfect launch.

Jinx: Thermal Curtain Failure possibilities?

NASA: One Thermal Curtain Failure every 4.9 million years.

Jinx: Max won't live that long. Max needs Thermal Curtain Failure. Max and Jinx, friends forever.

(Thursday)

(The Space Camp kids are on their way to NASA Mission Control and the shuttle via two buses.)

Tish: (os) I can't believe our luck. We get to sit inside the shuttle.

(Kevin walks up the aisle to sit beside Max.)

Kevin: Pretty cool, huh?

Max: Yeah.

Kevin: Yeah. (pause) You all right?

Max: Yeah.

Catherine: It's amazing, isn't it?

Tish: I can't believe our luck!

(Atlantis Shuttle Platform)

(The kids stand in the lift that has brought them to the shuttle door.)

Andi: The next 20 minutes are going to be the most exciting of your lives.

Max: 20 minutes? I wish 20 days...

(NASA Computer Room)

(Jinx stands before the NASA computer, waiting. He watches the video feed of the kids getting on to the shuttle.)

Jinx: Max into shuttle. Engine test into launch. Max into space.

(Shuttle Atlantis)

(Everyone enters and heads for their seats.)

Andi: Okay everyone, we don't have a lot of time in here. Watch your heads when you come in.

Tish: Look at this place!

Max: I feel like a real explorer.

Tish: This is so incredible.

Andi: Everyone take the seats you were assigned in the simulator. Catherine and Kevin, get up into your seats.

Kevin: How do you get up on them?

Andi: Kevin, just hop up. (Kevin hops up into his seat like Catherine has already done.) There you go.

Kevin: The only thing missing here is the tape deck.

Andi: Pilot and Commander, strapped in.

(Tish and Max watch everyone get strapped in from their view point in one of the tubes that leads to the mid-deck.)

Tish: This is amazing!

Max: It's better than the Millennium Falcon!

Tish: I can't believe we get to actually fly this...

Andi: Max, Tish, take your seats on the mid-deck. If you need any help, just holler.

Tish: Okay.

Max: Roger, Commander. I'll arm the laser guns. (Rudy chuckles as he gets into his seat.) May the force be with you.

Andi: Please put on your helmets and make sure that your headsets are plugged in.

Pilot and Commander, unstow your cue cards.

Catherine: (pulls hers out) Roger.

Kevin: (looking around) Cue cards...right.

Andi: Is everybody set?

(Mid-Deck)

(Tish and Max have put their helmets on and have strapped into their seats.)

Tish: Roger!

Max: Roger!

(Command Deck)

Rudy: Kevin look at that!

Kevin: It's a bunch of numbers man. (laughs)

Andi: (into headset) Control, this is Atlantis, do you copy?

Mission Control: Roger, Atlantis, this is launch control.

(Mission Control)

Control Leader: Radio check, over?

Man2: Solid boosters A & B, ignition. Stand by for main engine test.

Control Leader: Atlantis, do you copy?

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

Andi: (to Kevin and Catherine) She's all yours.

Kevin: Um, go ahead.

Catherine: What, you sure?

Kevin: Yeah. Come on, will you answer the man.

Catherine: Thanks. (They smile at each other. She turns to answer Mission Control.)

Control, this is Atlantis, radio check satisfactory, over.

(She lets her finger off the reply button and gives a whoop of delight, as do the others.)

Tish: I heard that, Catherine! Whoa!

(Mission Control)

(They can hear the kids and they smile.)

Control Leader: Stand by for FRF ignition. Counting down...10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5...

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

Control Leader: (on headset) 4, 3, 2, 1. Go for main engine test.

(The button is hit at Mission Control and the kids all grip their seats in excitement as the engines fire.)

Control Leader: (on headset) We have main engine start.

(NASA Computer Room)

Jinx: Max needs Thermal Curtain Failure.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

Kevin: Ah, oh my god! Ah! (laughs)

(NASA Computer Room)

Jinx: Thermal Curtain Failure. (pushes a button) Max and Jinx, friends forever.

(Mission Control)

(An alarm sounds as one of the boosters begins to overheat from the Thermal Curtain Failure.)

Guy1: We have overheat on booster B.

Control Leader: Temperature?

Guy1: 1200 degrees, and rising.

Control Leader: Get that thing operational.

Guy2: The Thermal Curtain is failing.

Guy1: We're past shut down temperature, we can't stop it.

Guy3: We have Thermal Curtain Failure.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(They can all hear the alarm going off.)

Tish: (os) What does that mean?

Max: (os) Andi!

(Mission Control)

Guy1: Booster B, temperature is critical!

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(Andi quickly realizes what's going on and unstraps herself.)

Andi: Catherine, get out of there now!

(Catherine unstraps herself from the pilot seat, and leans by Kevin.)

Rudy: Andi, make it stop. Make them turn it off.

Andi: They're trying!

(Mission Control)

Guy1: Booster B is near ignition, it's gonna light!

(Atlantis – Mid-Deck)

Max: Andi, help us!

(Command Deck)

(Andi plugs her headset in and hits the talk button.)

Andi: Light booster A, god dammit. Launch us or we're gonna explode!

Tish: (os) What's happening?!

Max: (os) Please Andi!!

(As Andi climbs into the pilot seat Kevin loses his grip on Catherine and she falls back toward Rudy, who catches her.)

Kevin: Grab her, Rudy!

(Mission Control)

Zack: Do it!

Control Leader: Zack, we're not authorized.

Zack: Light it or they're gonna die.
Control Leader: Ignite booster A.
Black Operator: 5, 4...
Control Leader: Mark booster ignite.
Black Operator: Booster ignites, on.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)
Kevin: Rudy, hold on to her!
Rudy: I'm trying!
Andi: Go for launch! Now!

(Mission Control)
Control Leader: Light it!
(The black operator hits a button and the shuttle is launched.)

(Atlantis – Command Deck)
Andi: Catherine, get in the seat!
(But Catherine doesn't make it in time and she's thrown back into the control panel.
Rudy still holds on to her hands.)

(Mission Control)
(The entire control center and all the kids from Space Camp watch as the shuttle is launched.)
Man: Go baby, go!
Zack: God, we have lift off.

(NASA Computer Room)
Jinx: Bye, Max.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)
(Catherine still hangs on to Rudy for dear life. Max looks very scared until he realizes his wish of going to outer space has come true.)

(Mission Control)
Control Leader: Instituting roll maneuver, Atlantis.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)
Andi: Roger, Control.

(Mission Control)
Control Leader: Roll maneuver complete. Atlantis you are looking good. (to Zack)
Hey, you want to take it? (hold out a headset)
(Zack takes it.)
Zack: Uh, Andi...

(Atlantis – Command Deck)
Andi: Jesus Christ, Zack.

(Mission Control)
Zack: (into headset) I guess you're not going to have to wait so long after all. Andi, you're gonna have to throttle. (There is a pause, but no response.) Atlantis, this is Control, throttle.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)
Andi: (into headset) Copy, Control. Main engines at 65%. (to Catherine) Catherine,

just hang on. It's 3 G's, I know it's tough! Kevin, you're got to drop the solid boosters. They're on your side. Now arm SRB separation.

Kevin: I don't know which one.

Andi: Panel C3. (Kevin looks on his left side.) On your right side! (Kevin looks on his right side.)

Mission Control: (on headset) Atlantis, you are go for SRB separation.

Andi: Hit it! (Kevin hits the button and they drop their solid boosters.) Control, this is Atlantis. We have SRB separation, over.

(Mission Control)

Guy1: They have SRB sep.

Zack: (into headset) Atlantis, this is Control, press for MICO. You are go for main engine cut off.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

Andi: (into headset) Roger. (She cuts the main engine.)

(Mission Control)

(Operators come flooding into the room.)

Andi: (on headset) MICO is on schedule, over.

Zack: (into headset) I don't know where this drills gonna end, baby. Hang in there.

Andi: (on headset) Roger. MICO is on schedule, over?

Zack: (into headset) Andi?

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

Andi: (into headset) Control, this is Atlantis, do you read, over?

(Mission Control)

Zack: (into headset) Atlantis? (to Control Leader) We're losing her.

Control Leader: This bird wasn't flight ready, Zack. They only have short range radio.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

Andi: Shit! Kevin, we have MICO. Go for ET sep on my mark. 3, 2, 1. Do you know where it is?

Kevin: Think so!

Andi: Push!

Kevin: Got it!

(Kevin pushes the button and they have ET sep.)

(Mission Control)

Zack: They got their OMS burn. They're still climbing.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(They make it through the outer atmosphere and are suddenly in space.)

(Mission Control)

Guy1: Tracking reads Atlantis at 180 by 33, they're in orbit.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

Rudy: I didn't touch a thing, Andi. Honest.

Andi: (smiles) I know, Rudy. Well, ladies and gentlemen I think we've achieved orbit.

(Kevin turns and sees Catherine floating right by him.)

Kevin: Jesus!

Andi: Catherine are you okay?

Catherine: I think so.

Kevin: You're floating!

Andi: Just relax and allow yourself to flow with it.

Catherine: Wow! I could lose the liftoff but this is incredible.

(She turns around to go to the back part of the ship as Rudy unstraps himself.)

Rudy: Wow, this is unreal.

Catherine: I feel like I'm flying.

Kevin: Rud, man!

Rudy: We're in space, Kevin.

Kevin: I can't believe it.

Andi: Max, Tish, are you okay?

(Mid-Deck)

Tish: Oh, I feel sick. Oh, we're gonna die. (she sees Catherine floating) We're already dead.

Catherine: It's just like a dream.

(She and Tish grin at each other.)

(Command Deck)

Rudy: Kevin, is this incredible or what?

Kevin: You got more guts than me, Rudy

(Mid-Deck)

Rudy: Rud Man coming through.

Tish: It's like magic.

Rudy: Max, you gotta try this flying!

(He unstraps Max who floats right up and bumps into the ceiling. Tish and Catherine laugh.)

(Command Deck)

(Kevin unstraps himself.)

Andi: Are you all in one piece?

Max: (os) Yeah.

Andi: Oh good. Well I think we have a few things to talk about.

(Everyone comes to the command deck.)

Tish: ('well duh' tone) A few things?

Andi: Yeah. Catherine?

(They all turn around and see Catherine gazing out the window at the Earth. They all move over to join her.)

Kevin: Oh wow. Maybe you can touch those stars now, huh?

(Catherine turns and smiles at him.)

Tish: Intense!

Max: Wow. Let me see. Is that Earth?

Tish: Sure is, Max.

Rudy: That's the coast of Africa, right there. And the Swiss Alps.

Catherine: It goes by so fast! Amazing sunset.

Rudy: Boy, I could stay up here forever.

Catherine: Me too.

(Max finally pulls away from looking out the windows.)

Max: Andi, I want to go home.

(The others chime in their agreement.)

Rudy: Yeah.

Kevin: What's Thermal Curtain Failure.

Tish: How did this happen?

Andi: It's not important how it happened. What's important now is how we get back home. (she looks at Max) And we are going home. Folks, I'm gonna need all your help to get there. Rudy, you and Kevin stow the Aft Deck seats. (she heads back the pilots seat) We have no voice contact with NASA. Telemetry is still on so the safest procedure would be for them to bring us down on auto at the next available window.

Max: There are windows out there?

Catherine: No, it's where we re-enter the Earth's atmosphere at the right time and place so we can land at Edwards Air Force Base.

Andi: The first re-entry for Edwards is in 12 hours. Okay. We just sit time and keep everything running until then. In the mean time, I'm gonna check this mother out.

(Mission Control)

Ray: This is absolutely unprecedented.

Zack: I don't know what to tell you, Ray.

Ray: Well I have to have some statement. I was standing right there.

Zack: Look all I know is that I want that gallery cleared out and do me a favor and take those kids back to Space Camp.

Ray: Christ, the President has to be told.

Zack: They'll be back in 12 hours, Ray.

Ray: How the hell am I supposed to keep a lid on this? People for 500 miles know the shuttle went up.

Zack: Tell them the truth. We launched my wife and 5 kids from the Space Camp. They'll never believe it. (Ray walks off.) What're you reading, Jim?

Jim: ...by 5 55.

Black Operator: Zack?

Zack: Yeah?

Black Operator: We have to find an earlier re-entry.

Zack: Why, what's the problem?

Black Operator: The shuttle wasn't flight ready. They...they won't be alive in 12 hours.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(Kevin is looking at the oxygen tank measurements.)

Kevin: One tank of oxygen? Uh, Andi?

Andi: Yeah?

Kevin: How long will one tank last?

Andi: (looks at the gage) 12 hours. That's not enough. We'll need more for re-entry, at least another hour.

Kevin: So what are we gonna do?

(NASA Computer Room)

NASA: Re-entry to landing 14 hours. Estimated oxygen supply 11 hours 56 minutes.

Jinx: Max will erase.

NASA: Probability 100%.

Jinx: Get Max out of space now. How?

NASA: NASA is working on the problem.

Jinx: NASA needs help!

(Mission Control)

Zack: Any suggestions?

Control Leader: Datalis.

Zack: Of course. Datalis. Now if only we could talk to her.

Control Leader: She's a good pilot, Zack. She'll think of it.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(Andi checks some of the other systems.)

Andi: Great, no oxygen was provided for the life support system.

Rudy: What about the propulsion system. We can raid the liquid oxygen from there.

Tish: The propulsion system uses Nitrogen Tetro-oxide, Rudy. We want to breathe, not dry clean our lungs.

Andi: Come on everybody, lets think. Where are we gonna get more oxygen?

Kevin: Well I could run down to the 7-11.

Tish: Right, Kev.

Andi: That's it! (she moves over to the Commander's seat)

Max: What's it?

Tish: Wanna, like, share this with us?

Andi: Uh huh, we're going to Datalis.

Catherine: Space Station!

Andi: That's right.

Catherine: But isn't it still under construction?

Andi: Uh huh, but they already have oxygen stored. Kevin, get in the seat. The rest of you hang on and prepare for maneuver, we're gonna transfer to another orbit.

(Kevin moves into the pilot seat.) I just hope we have time. We're going for Datalis rendezvous, prepare for OMS burn.

Kevin: Roger. Power up.

Andi: All right Kevin, give me a course bearing.

Kevin: Course bearing, right. (pauses) Um...

Andi: Kevin, you did this in the simulator.

Kevin: I faked in the simulator.

Andi: Then get out of the chair. Catherine.

Kevin: I'll get it just a...

Andi: Out! (Kevin unstraps and gets out of the chair. Catherine gets in.) Catherine give me a course bearing.

Catherine: 0 niner 5 5 niner.

Andi: Stand by for OMS burn. (pause) Go for OMS.

(Catherine hits the button.)

(The shuttle moves to a higher orbit.)

Catherine: Roger.

(Mission Control)

(They watch as the shuttle heads higher in orbit.)

Guy: We have Atlantis transferring to a higher orbit at 76.4 degrees.

Zack: She remembered! Yes!

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

Andi: Give me Datalis ETA.

Catherine: The estimated time of arrival at Datalis is 26 minutes 13 seconds.

(From further back in the cabin Kevin is watching all of this. Max comes in from the mid-deck.)

Max: Um, Kevin?

Andi: I've got to say, this rendezvous would be a whole lot easier if we heard from Mission Control.

Kevin: (to Max) Did you do it?

Max: It was too difficult.

Kevin: Max, do I have to do everything for you? You've got a 180 IQ, you can't figure it out?

(Bathroom)

(Kevin opens the door to the toilet stall.)

Kevin: Allright now Max, it's very simple, okay? It's just like a dentist chair. (he holds up the suction valve) Mr. Thirsty?

Max: (looks at the valve) I'm not gettin' in there?

(He turns to go but Kevin brings him back, and puts the valve back in the chair.)

Kevin: No, no Max, don't worry, okay? It's not like you're using it for much else anyway, you know? Hop in. (He helps Max into the chair and shuts the door.) Don't forget to turn the fan on.

(Max goes with a sigh of relief.)

(Datalis)

(Atlantis finally arrives at Datalis.)

Catherine: (in awe) There's Datalis.

Andi: We made it.

Catherine: Andi, I know we made it here, but how are we gonna make it through re-entry without help from ground control?

Andi: Well I've been giving that a lot of thought lately. And I've come up with one good idea...

Tish: I had an idea.

Andi: What?

Tish: (holding a candy bar) Well, you know you said...(hands the candy bar to Catherine)...Max. Like how you said they had that telemetry stuff? And they could read all our instruments?

Andi: Right.

Tish: Well, I was thinking, or maybe I was just like inspired by the view and all, but...whoa, is that India we're coming up on?

Andi: Tish, what idea?

Tish: Oh, yeah well, code. CXT switch?

Andi: You mean Morse Code.

Tish: Yeah...

Tish/Catherine: I read a book on it once.

(They all laugh.)

Andi: Terrific. Go get on the switches. Good idea, Tish.

Catherine: They've gotta hear us.

(Tish goes towards the aft deck and gets on the CXT switch.)

Andi: All right, Catherine, I need you to help me get ready. It's time for me to get into the airlock.

(Mission Control)

(The CXT light begins to blink as Tish tries her hand at Morse Code. However, there is no one at that station and no one around spots the light.)

(Outside Walkway)

(Jinx makes his way to Mission Control.)

Jinx: Jinx help NASA. Jinx help NASA. Jinx help NASA.

(Atlantis)

(Andi is now prepared to go into the airlock. The kids have gathered around her.)

Andi: Catherine did you double check to see if the portable life support system was charged?

Catherine: Check.

Andi: I'll be in there a while suiting up and depressurizing. I'll establish contact with you when I'm ready to go into the cargo bay. Okay Rudy, open the air lock.

(Rudy does so.) I'm going to bring back 2 tanks of oxygen. We've got to have a backup. Okay, once I'm out there I'll be gone about 20 minutes. Don't talk any more than you need, and don't move around unless it's absolutely necessary.

Max: (hands Andi a headcap) Here Andi.

Andi: Catherine, you're in charge until I get back.

(Kevin doesn't look to happy about that. More embarrassed than angry though. They shut the air lock.)

(Command Deck)

(All the kids sit around waiting for Andi to head into the cargo bay. Tish is back on the CXT switch. Rudy takes a deep breath then begins talking as the others just look at him.)

Rudy: You know, I once knew this guy who could hold his breath underwater for hours. Nobody could ever figure out exactly how he did it. Well, maybe it wasn't hours but it sure was a long time.

Kevin: Rudy.

Rudy: That was when I was on the swim team. That was Freshman year. He used to do it too. Hold his breath for hours. Just by thinking about eating french fries. Guess he really got off on eating french fries, and uh...

Kevin: Rudy? (Rudy looks at him.) You're using up oxygen man.

Rudy: Yeah.

(Cargo Bay)

(Andi makes her way into the bay, now suited up in an EMU.)

Andi: Catherine, do you read me?

Catherine: (on headset) Roger, Andi.

Andi: I've entered the cargo bay and I'm securing the hatch.

Catherine: (on headset) Check.

Andi: Kind of makes you miss the good old days back at camp, doesn't it?

Catherine: (on headset) Really!

Andi: When I'm locked into the MMU prepare to open the CBD's. (She climbs into the MMU and locks herself in.)

(Command Deck)

Andi: (on speaker) Catherine, do you copy?

Catherine: Roger, Andi.

Andi: (on speaker) Prepare to open the CBD's.

Catherine: It's a go for cargo bay doors, Rudy.

Rudy: (flips a switch) Cargo bay doors, activated.

(Cargo Bay)

(The lights go out in the cargo bay as the doors open. Andi gazes in awe as space looms before her. She flies herself out of the bay slowly.)

Andi: Oh Zack...

Rudy: (on headset) What was that, Andi? Didn't quite copy.

Andi: Oh, God.

(Command Deck)

(Tish is looking at the oxygen cage.)

Tish: Guys? (the others look at her) We only have one hour left.

(Datalis)

(Andi finally makes it to the space station.)

Andi: I found them.

(Atlantis)

(The others whoop in delight.)

(Datalis)

(Andi realizes that she is unable to reach the oxygen tanks. She's just too big.)

Andi: Shit! Oh God. I just can't reach them. They're still in their storage modes. I'm gonna have to try it without the MMU.

(Atlantis)

Tish: No, tell her not to. She'll have no power, no control. She'll tumble out into space without her jet pack.

Catherine: Where is she? (looks out the window)

(Datalis)

(As the others watch Andi gets out of the MMU and tries for the oxygen again. No luck.)

Andi: Damn it. It's no good. I just can't reach it.

(Atlantis)

Tish: Well she has to. Tell her she has to get them!

Kevin: Tish, Tish. She can't, all right?

Tish: Make her.

Catherine: She just isn't small enough.

Max: Well, I am.

(They all turn to look at him.)

Tish: You can't go out there.

Kevin: It's a good idea guys.

Max: I am ready.

(Mid – Deck)

(A little bit later they are all trying stuff Max into an EMU, but it's way too big for him.)

Catherine: Double check everything you guys.

Kevin: Is he in? Is this the only suit you could find?

Tish: It's the best I can do, it's the only one down there.

Catherine: Oh, Tish, give me your belt.

Tish: (realizes) Excellent idea! (takes her belt off)

Kevin: What are you gonna do with a belt.

(Tish and Catherine begin to work the belt around Max.)

Tish: We are going to make this suit as small as Max so he can fit through Datalis.

(They give a final tug and Max's head appears. The suit now fits.)

Kevin: All right, Maxwell!

(Cargo Bay)

(Max climbs out and shuts the air lock behind him.)

Max: Commander Skywalker, reporting in.

(Command Deck)

Catherine: Rudy, I want you to make sure that RMS arm is locked and double check everything.

Tish: Catherine? Radio check is okay.

Kevin: Wait a second. What about these doors over here guys?

Tish: No, no it's okay. They have to be able to get back in.

(Cargo Bay)

Catherine: (on headset) Okay Max, get strapped into the RMS and Rudy will swing you over to Datalis.

Max: Roger.

(Max goes over to the edge of the cargo bay where the RMS chair is. He attaches himself to a wire running along the edge of the bay. He happens to glance over the edge and sees nothing but space and this totally freaks him out.)

Max: No way!

(Command Deck)

(The others look up in shock as Max begins to pound on the windows to be let back in.)

Max: (outside) Let me in! I've changed my mind! Let me in, please! Let me in!

Catherine: Max, you have to help Andi.

Max: (outside) No. Let me in! Please let me in!

Kevin: (into headset as Obi Wan Kenobi) Luke. (Max quiets) Luke? Use the force Luke. Stretch out your feelings. The force is always with you. (Max smiles)

(They turn to see that Max is beginning to make his way back to the RMS chair.)

Tish: Look.

Rudy: Good Max. You can do it.

Tish: Unbelievable.

(Cargo Bay)

(Max climbs into the chair and straps himself in. Rudy then begins to swing him over to Datalis.)

Max: Help me Obi Wan Kenobi. Help me. (suddenly the chair begins to waver and Max freaks) Whoa! Yo Rudy!

Rudy: (on headset) Sorry Max. Hang in there.

(Datalis)

(Andi is still trying to reach the oxygen tanks. She turns and screams as she spots Max. Max screams at almost the same time.)

Max: It's me. I'm here to rescue you!

Andi: God!

Max: I'm small enough to reach the oxygen.

Andi: Oh, yeah. (she smiles)

(Time Lapse)

(Max is now inching closer to the oxygen tanks and Andi talks him through it.)

Andi: That's the way, Max. Now unstrap the tank and pass it over to me.

(Atlantis)

(Tish has been keeping watch on the oxygen levels.)

Tish: Only one minute left.

(Datalis)

Andi: Okay Max, I want to take this back to the ship. The sooner you get that second tank the sooner we can go home.

Max: I'm hurrying, Andi, honest.

Andi: I know you are.

(She heads over to the RMS chair.)

(Atlantis)

Catherine: Rudy! Rudy please keep that arm steady. Please!

Kevin: Relax man. He's doing the best that he can.

Catherine: I know! But she is trying to load the oxygen!

Tish: Could you guys argue without talking?!

(Suddenly the alarms go off. Kevin floats over and turns them off.)

Kevin: Well, that's it campers. All we have left is the air in the cabin.

(Datalis)

(Max is trying to move 2nd tank of oxygen to the RMS chair, but is having some problems. He's got the tank attached to a rope (of sorts) that is attached to his EMU. The tank is stuck inside Datalis and won't come out. Max gives a good yank and the tank comes loose. However, there was so much force behind his yank that the tank goes floating by him, out to space, and since he is attached to it he goes right along with it. He tries to stop himself by grabbing onto a piece of Datalis, but the piece breaks off and out to space he goes.)

Max: Oh my God! Oh no! Andi!

(Atlantis – Cargo Bay)

(Andi looks up as she sees Max floating by. And since Max is not using an MMU he has no control.)

Max: Save me!

Andi: Max!

(The others look out the window to see what's going on and see Andi going after Max.)

(Space)

Max: I can't stop!

Andi: Max, I'm right behind you.

Max: I can't stop!

Andi: Don't worry. I'm not gonna let you get away from me. I'm getting closer.

Max: I can't...I can't stop!

Andi: Steady. Reach your hand out.

Max: (reaches out) I'm trying to.

Andi: I'm gonna get you. (She misses) I'm almost there. (She reaches out and grabs the belt that's wrapped around his foot.) I've got your foot! Okay, I've got your foot! (She pulls Max to her until they are face to face. He's calmed down some. They hug.) You think you're scared now? Wait till your parents get the bill for breaking Datalis.

(Max smiles and laughs. They head back to the ship.)

(Mission Control)

Zack: Forty minutes to re-entry.

Guy4: Look at this. They're cradling the arm.

Zack: Let's hope there's oxygen on the end of it.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(Rudy is talking Andi through hooking up the oxygen tanks. He watches her out the windows.)

Rudy: Andi, connect the tank hose cap to the, um, blue valve.

(Cargo Bay)

Andi: Which one? There are two. Rudy, remember, this is pure oxygen. We make the wrong connection, we're going to be sitting in the middle of a fireball. You must get it right.

(Command Deck)

(Rudy looks in his book.)

Rudy: It's the blue valve next to the green.

(Cargo Bay)

(Andi looks in the connection box, and then looks back up at Rudy.)

Andi: There is no blue valve next to a green.

(Command Deck)

Rudy: No, no. Not green, I meant yellow.

Catherine: (takes the book from him) Rudy, we're all gonna be dead before you make up your mind. Uh, Andi, it's the blue valve next to the red.

Rudy: It's the wrong hose.

Catherine: No it's not, it's the red one!

(Cargo Bay)

Andi: Will somebody please make a decision.

(Command Deck)

Catherine: Andi, it's the red one, Andi.

Rudy: I'm telling you it's the yellow. Now I've been studying this damn book since I came to came. Believe me! (Catherine shakes her head no.) Do it, Andi.

(Cargo Bay)

Rudy: (on headset) It's the blue valve next to the yellow valve.

(Andi reaches down and picks up the right blue valve. She hooks it up to the oxygen tank.)

Andi: Please.

(Andi turns the valve on and the oxygen tank on the ship begins to fill.)

(Command Deck)

Andi: (on headset) Good job, Rudy.

(The others, aside from Catherine, go over to the vents and breathe in the new air.)

(Mission Control)

(They see the tank begin to fill with oxygen.)

Guy: All right.

Guy2: That was close.

Zack: They got air! (They all cheer.) All right, put them on Auto and bring them on home!

(Atlantis – Cargo Bay)

Andi: Okay Max, I have it now. You can go in the air lock. (Max turns to go.) And Max...(Max turns back)...thanks.

(Max opens the air lock door just as Andi turns the valve on the second tank. But the tank is not hooked up correctly and oxygen begins to shoot out of the tank. The force propels Andi, who is still holding the tank, back across the cargo bay.)

Max: Andi! (He closes the air lock door. Andi is slammed into the other wall by the tank.) Andi? (Andi begins to float out of the cargo bay. She is still attached to the rope so Max grabs the rope and tries to pull her back in. But the cargo bay doors begin to close before he can bring her in.) What's happening?

(Mission Control)

Zack: Status check.

Black Operator: We are closing the cargo bay doors.

Zack: Prepare for DR return.

(Command Deck)

(Catherine is frantically trying to figure out what's going on. She's checking all the instruments.)

Catherine: What's going on? Nothing's responding.

Rudy: I know.

Kevin: Who's closing the cargo bay doors?

(Cargo Bay)

Max: Help me! Andi's not in yet! Come on Andi. Please. Andi.

(Command Deck)

Catherine: It's NASA. They're bringing us down on Auto.

Tish: Well make them stop!

(Cargo Bay)

Max: Come on! I don't have her! Stop the doors! She's not in!

(Command Deck)

Tish: Oh, look at Andi.

Catherine: Andi, do you hear us? Andi come in! Andi, can you read us? Andi?

(Cargo Bay)

(The doors finish closing. Andi is still trapped outside.)

(Mission Control)

Guy1: T minus 23 minutes for re-entry window.

Zack: Prepare for RCS burn. Let's turn them around for deceleration.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

Catherine: (looking around) There's a manual override switch here. I saw it. Where is it? (spots it) Oh, here it is.

(She moves to hit the switch but Kevin stops her.)

Kevin: Hold it. If we override NASA we'll miss the window. We've got to go now!

Tish: We can't leave Andi, she'll die.

(Mission Control)

Black Operator: YAW maneuver complete.

Zack: Stand by for OMS burn.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(Andi suddenly speaks to them.)

Andi: (on headset) Catherine, take the window. It's your only chance.

(Mission Control)

Zack: Prepare for DR return.

Black Operator: Ready for countdown.

Zack: 10...

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(They are all watching the clock tick down.)

Catherine: Nine seconds.....five...

Rudy: Do something, Catherine! Two seconds...

(Kevin suddenly reaches over and hits the switch.)

Kevin: All right, Rudy open the cargo bay doors. Tish, un-stow the medical kit.

Max?

Max: (on headset) Yeah?

Kevin: Can you copy? All right, now listen, we're gonna open the doors. Bring Andi in, and this time use the foot restraints, okay? Hang in there buddy. (He climbs into the pilot seat) All right, Rudy, do it.

(Rudy hits the button and the cargo bay doors begin to open.)

(Cargo Bay)

(Max slowly but surely brings Andi in.)

Max: Come on, Andi.

(Command Deck)

Kevin: Catherine... (no response) Catherine? (she looks at him) Help me run a check on the manual systems.

(Catherine is shocked at herself. You can see it in her eyes. She can't believe that she froze up like that.)

(Cargo Bay)

(Max finally brings Andi in. He gives her a hug. The doors close.)

(Air Lock Door – Inside)

(Max opens the door and passes Andi out to the others. They take her carefully. Tish is still working the CXT switch.)

Rudy: Okay Max.

Kevin: I've got her. All right guys, let's take this thing off her. Andi? Andi?

Catherine: I'll get her gloves. Let's get her out of the EMU.

Rudy: Good idea.

Kevin: Tish, anything?

Tish: Nothing.

(Mission Control)

Guy3: I don't get it. Why would they override Auto?

Black Operator: They missed the window. How much oxygen did they buy?

Control Leader: Not enough to make it to the next window at Edwards.

Zack: They missed their last chance. What the hell else has gone wrong up there?

(Atlantis – Mid Deck)

(Andi is now out of the EMU and they are putting her in a kind of stretcher. Kevin zips her in.)

Tish: How is she?

Kevin: Uh, I think she's hit her arm...a few broken ribs...I don't know, really.

Rudy: So Kevin, what the hell do we do?

Kevin: Rudy, I don't know.

Tish: Well we have got to do something!

Kevin: Christ, I'm not a doctor! I don't know what to do! Look guys, just get back to your stations, and I'll stay here with Andi.

Max: I want to stay with Andi.

Kevin: (loudly) I'll... (calmer) I'll stay with Andi, okay. Just get back to your stations. (They all head for the command deck except for Catherine.)

(Command Deck)

Rudy: (to Tish and Max) I guess we just keep doing what we're doing.

(Tish goes back to the CXT switch.)

(Mid Deck)

Kevin: We missed the window.

Catherine: I know.

Kevin: And we don't have enough oxygen to last to the primary for Edwards.

Catherine: You did the right thing.

Kevin: Yeah? You really think so?

Catherine: Andi's part of the crew. You took responsibility for her. Somebody had to. (sigh) That's what makes a good flight Commander. I'm a good pilot, but I'm no commander. My mom always says that being bossy and being the boss isn't the same thing. (begins to cry) I'm never gonna see her again am I?

(Kevin pulls her into his arms and hugs her.)

Kevin: Come on.

(Mission Control)

Control Leader: (into phone) No, sir, there's nothing new. Yes, Mr. President, we'll stay in touch. (hangs up)

Black Operator: The only thing we're missing her is a miracle.

(No one sees the CXT light blinking.)

(Atlantis – Mid Deck)

Rudy: (os to Tish & Max) Hey, I think I have an idea.

Tish: (os) Well let's here it.

Rudy: (os) Come here. (He enters mid deck with Tish and Max) Hey guys, I got a question. I was looking outside and, uh, wondering. Is Edwards the only place we can land this thing?

Kevin: (looks at Catherine) I don't know, is it?

Catherine: I don't know.

Rudy: It seems I remember reading something about the shuttle landing in White Plains or something...

Kevin: White Plains, Rudy? Come on, that's in the middle of New York.

Catherine: (her face lights up) White Sands! White Sands, New Mexico. Columbia of 82 landed there because the strip at Edwards was too wet. It was a big emergency!

Tish: So if we can make the window to White Sands...

Catherine: We can land there!

Kevin: Tish, get going.

Catherine: Make them hear us.

Tish: All right! (heads back to the CXT switch)

Kevin: Rudy, I love ya. Check out the coordinates, okay. Max, could you take care of Andi for me? Let's see if we can navigate this bird ourselves!

(Mission Control – Computer Room)

Guy: We're not going to speculate about anything.

(Mission Control)

(Jinx comes in and heads for Zack.)

Jinx: Jinx put Max in space. Jinx can get Max back! Jinx put Max in space. Jinx can get Max back! Jinx put Max in space!

Zack: How did you know about Max, Jinx?

Jinx: Jinx and Max, friends forever.

Control Leader: Jesus Christ. Get that thing out of here. Get security.

(Jinx turns his head and spots the CXT light blinking.)

Zack: Whoa, hold on a minute. Maybe he can help us, unless you have a better idea.

Jinx: Yo Max!

(Two security guards come to pick up Jinx.)

Zack: Wait a minute! Jinx, how can you help NASA?

Jinx: (spelling out the words) C O M E I N, C O N T R O L.

Control Leader: Take it out of here. Get it out.

(The guards pick up Jinx and begin to walk out with him. Zack walks along the desks keeping an eye on him.)

Jinx: C O M E I N, C O N T R O L. Come in, Control. C O M E I N, C O N T R O L. (Jinx grabs the wall to stop the guards from taking him out. He's stopped right in front of the CXT light.) Come in, Control! (Zack looks over at the light.) Max's code.

Zack: Morse code.

Jinx: Max's code.

Zack: Damn, they're talking to us! We got Morse code! Jack get over here and translate this! Jinx, I'm treating you to a can of oil.

(Jinx beeps in delight.)

Jack: (reading the Morse code) Request alternate landing, White...White...

Zack: White Sands, Columbia 82, check it out.

Black Operator: White Sands re-entry window is nine minutes.

Control Leader: (picks up the phone) Get me White Sands. (to Zack) We'll have to send them a landing software update. Man, I hope White Sands is ready for this.

Zack: They'll make it ready. It's their only shot.

(Atlantis)

(Tish is still working the CXT switch.)

Tish: They're never gonna hear this.

Catherine: Just keep going, Tish.

(Suddenly lights begin to blink all along the station Tish is at. She begins to look around in confusion.)

Tish: What's wrong now? (She then realizes.) Whip me, beat me, take away my charge card...NASA is talking!

(They all yell in happiness. Catherine and Tish hug.)

Max: (comes up from Mid Deck) Did somebody say NASA?

All: It's NASA!

(Rudy gives Max a high five.)

Max: It's NASA...whoa...(he falls back into the Mid Deck.)

Tish: Guys, guys they need an OMS burn like now.

Kevin: OMS burn coming right up.

Tish: Window coordinates?

(Mission Control)

Zack: She's got to slow that thing down to 4800.

Jack: It's not Andi, Zack, I just got that. Andi's hurt. Some kid named Catherine is flying the bird.

(No one looks happy about this.)

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(Tish and Rudy are aft. Kevin is in the Commander seat and Catherine is in the Pilot seat.)

Tish: Window coordinates 113 by 17.

Rudy: Window coordinates 113 by 17.

Catherine: Roger that. (to Kevin) We figured 250 by 19.

Kevin: Well, we weren't that far off.

Rudy: A time perimeter of 0-210. We have to be at re-entry at 0-210, and that's in... (looks at his watch)...that's in 6 minutes!

Tish: Max, Zack wants to know how Andi's doing.

(Mid Deck)

(Andi has finally woken up.)

Andi: Max.

Max: Andi.

Andi: Get me a headset.

(Rudy comes in.)

Max: She wants a headset.

Rudy: She wants a headset?

Max: All right!

(Command Deck)

Kevin: Okay, Andi. Relax, don't worry about it. We can handle it, okay? Max, you and Andi get strapped in.

(Mid Deck)

(Max is helping Andi out of her medical restraints.)

Andi: Get me out of this now.

(Command Deck)

Kevin: Catherine?

Catherine: Uh, Kevin, you know I never knew how to do this. I don't know...

Kevin: Of course you can do it!

Catherine: It's re-entry...

Kevin: Look, look. What's the worst thing that could happen? We'll all die, right?

Well, we'll all die if you don't do it, so relax. You're panicked.

Catherine: You're damn right I'm panicked!

Kevin: (takes the book from her) Okay Ms. Perfect, I'll do it. (thumbs through the book) Tish? You ever read a book on how to fly this thing?

(Tish laughs as Catherine takes the book back.)

Catherine: All right, I'll do it.

Kevin: So competitive aren't we? (laughs) Okay team, let's put these helmets on and let's do it.

(Kevin and Catherine put their helmets on.)

(Mid Deck)

(Andi and Max are now strapped in. Andi is wearing a headset and helmet.)

Andi: Okay Catherine, lock the coordinates in.

(Command Deck)

(Catherine does so.)

Catherine: Coordinates locked in.

(Mid Deck)

Andi: Stand by for OMS burn.

(Command Deck)

Kevin: Okay, 29 seconds and counting. Hey, Max, we're going home.

(Mid Deck)

Max: Great, I'm starving.

(Command Deck)

Kevin: Okay, OMS burn on my mark. 3, 2, 1. Mark.

(They OMS burn and head for the window.)

Catherine: Preparing for YAW maneuver. (Catherine is flying the bird.)

Kevin: You're doing great, pilot.

(Mission Control)

Zack: Come on, Catherine. You can do it! Just take it easy.

Control Leader: Entry interface in 2 minutes.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

Kevin: Re-entry's in range.

Andi: (on headset) Prepare for 180 roll.

Catherine: Standing by.

Kevin: Okay, and uh...(checks his instruments) Go for roll. (Catherine turns the ship so that it's facing the right way for re-entry.) Hey, looking good!

Catherine: We're passing through 135 degrees, on our way to 180, Andi.

Kevin: And you said you couldn't fly this thing.

(Catherine looks around, alarmed.)

Catherine: I think we came around too much. Oh no, wait a minute!

Kevin: We don't have a minute, what's wrong?

Catherine: Look!

(They both look out the window and realize that they are in a flat spin.)

Andi: (on headset) Catherine you're in a flat spin, you have to concentrate.

(Catherine tries to stabilize the shuttle.)

(Mission Control)

Zack: She's lost it. She's coming in out of control.

Black Operator: Ionization block out in 30 seconds.

Control Leader: Tracking's gonna lose them.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

Catherine: We're coming up on re-entry. We've got to stabilize.

Kevin: (to Rudy and Tish) Guys, get strapped in.

(Tish and Rudy strap in. The lights suddenly go out.)

Tish: What happened to the lights?

Kevin: (to Catherine) The trainer. Remember the trainer. You can do it.

Catherine: Andi?

Andi: (on headset) Catherine, listen to me. We talked about when it would be your turn. This is it. Do you copy?

Catherine: (pause) I copy.

(She manages to stabilize the shuttle.)

Kevin: Good work.

(Rudy sighs in relief.)

(Mid Deck)

Andi: Okay, you've got to bring the nose up.

(Command Deck)

Andi: (on headset) You've got to go in at an angle.

Kevin: Right, re-entry angle should be 30 degrees at least. We're at 26...27...all right keep going...(they hit the window)...28!

(They are all slammed back into their seats by the force.)

(Mission Control)

Black Operator: Ionization block out.

Control Leader: We've lost contact.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(Catherine is fighting to keep the nose up.)

Andi: (on headset) Watch the readout on the nose attitude indicator. You can fly it, Catherine. Keep the nose at 30 degrees!

Kevin: 29. Come on, just a little bit more. Push it..30!

(Catherine can't hold it and the angle decreases again.)

Catherine: It's not holding.

Tish: We're burning up!

(Mission Control)

(Everyone waits silently for any sight of the shuttle on the instruments.)

Zack: Come on. Be there.

(Atlantis)

(Catherine still fights to keep the nose up.)

Andi: (on headset) Don't push it. Ease up on the YAW jets.

Kevin: Come on, keep holding it!

Catherine: Come on.

Andi: (on headset) Catherine, you can do it!

(Mission Control)

(Everyone waits silently for any sight of the shuttle on the instruments.)

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(Suddenly all goes quiet. All the alarms go off and the red haze around the nose disappears. Catherine and Kevin sit up expectantly.)

(Mid Deck)

Max: (to Andi) Where are we?

(Command Deck)

Tish: We're all dead. We didn't make it.

Catherine: I know we made it. I know we did.

(Mission Control)

Control Leader: (hears something in his headset) Gold Stone's picked them up.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(We realizes that they made it and are flying to White Sands.)

Kevin: You did it! (laughs)

(Mid Deck)

Max: She did it!

Andi: Good job, Catherine!

Max: Good flying, Catherine! (whoops)

(Command Deck)

(The others are all laughing and Catherine has a huge grin on her face.)

Kevin: Oh God.

Tish: Good job!

Kevin: You did it, Catherine!

Catherine: No, we all did it.

Tish: Damn right we did!

Catherine: We all did it.

(She and Kevin smile at each other. Suddenly the radio comes alive.)

Mission Control: (on radio) Atlantis, this is Control, do you copy?

(Mid Deck)

Max: Mission Control!

(Command Deck)

Kevin: NASA! (into headset) Copy that Control. This is Atlantis!

(Mission Control)

(Every gives yells of happiness.)

Zack: All right! (into headset) Andi are you all right?

(Atlantis – Mid Deck)

Andi: (into headset) Yeah. We're all fine. Just real happy to be home.

(Mission Control)

Zack: Amen.

(Atlantis – Command Deck)

(We pan around and see the smiles on everyone's faces.)

Mission Control: (on radio) Atlantis, we have you on Auto and we are bringing you home.)

(White Sands)

(A beautiful shot of the shuttle landing.)

(THE END)