

MIND PIRATES

By

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INT. SPACECRAFT

ASTRONAUT (35) sits in his space ship. He looks out into the vast blackness of space. A pneumatic sound grabs his attention.

A panel slides open, revealing a compartment within.

COMPUTER
(dry monotone voice)
Your meal is now 100% rehydrated.
Enjoy.

The astronaut reaches over and pulls out a meal tray. He removes the aluminum foil and begins to eat

ASTRONAUT
How long before we reach our next destination?

COMPUTER
2 months, 15 days, 11 hours and 23 minutes ...

ASTRONAUT
Can't you be a bit more precise?

COMPUTER
I'm sorry, the precision parameters cannot be modified.

ASTRONAUT
I was being sarcastic ...

COMPUTER
I'm sorry, I do not understand your sarcasm. Would you like to rephrase that?

ASTRONAUT
(sighs)
Forget it..

The astronaut continues to eat, staring out into the blackness of outer space.

A faint glow appears in the distance, sparks begin dancing about. A freak electric storm begins to form replacing the black emptiness of space. The astronaut stops eating.

His stupefied eyes lock on the strange phenomenon ...

ASTRONAUT
(hushed voice)
What the heck is that?

The lights and controls within the space craft dim..The astronaut looks around. Signs of distress become evident within the space craft...mild shaking, items falling, sparking ...

COMPUTER
Warning, system damage identified.
Warning ...

ASTRONAUT
(panicked)
Identify external energy field

COMPUTER
The energy is of an unknown origin

The astronaut grimaces in pain. The food tray is overturned violently as he grabs the two hemispheres of his skull

ASTRONAUT
Ugghhhhh ... Get ..us ..out ..of
here ...

The cabin goes dark, red warning lights and sounds fill the space ship..a line of blood flows from the astronaut's nose

COMPUTER
Danger System failure
imminent..Danger....

The astronaut let's out an agonizing howl and collapses unconscious to the floor.

Everything goes black ...

INT. ALIEN LABORATORY - DAY

A humanoid begins to regain consciousness. He lies on an alien laboratory table. He is wearing a large pod-like helmet, his arms and legs are strapped to the alien gurney.

A small group of ALIEN creatures surround the humanoid. They become agitated, almost excited and speak among themselves in a strange alien language.

One of the aliens straps himself into a strange contraption. The alien lowers a pod-like helmet over his large cranium. It is identical to the one worn by the humanoid.

ALIEN(V.O)
(speaking telepathically)
Greetings

The humanoid starts to panic, trying helplessly to break his restraints...He glances his image off a reflective surface inside the laboratory.

He gasps in shock. The captive humanoid clearly does not recognize his own face

ALIEN(V.O)
Do not be alarmed. Remain Calm

HUMANOID(V.O)
(speaking telepathically)
Where am I? Where's my ship?

ALIEN(V.O)
Your craft remains functional and is orbiting our planet.

HUMANOID(V.O)
What is this place? What have you done to my body?

ALIEN(V.O)
Your physical body remains safe within your craft. Your mind, however, has been transplanted to the humanoid body you now occupy.

HUMANOID(V.O)
(struggling)
Get me the hell back to my ship. Why are you doing this?

ALIEN(V.O)
We have searched the cosmos for lifeforms similar to our enemy. Yours appears to be quite compatible.

HUMANOID(V.O)
Compatible? What are talking about?

ALIEN(V.O)
We are not talking ... we are communicating telepathically through these cranial pod helmets.

HUMANOID(V.O)
That was a figure of speech --
(interrupting self)
Forget it... Look, can you explain
what you want with me?

The other aliens begin speaking to each other in their alien language.

An alien picks up a syringe like tube and fills it with a green fluid.

The alien walks towards the humanoid

HUMANOID(V.O)
Hey... Hold on ... What are you
gonna do with that? --

The alien places the syringe on the humanoid's neck. He pushes it in, releasing the fluid into the humanoid's body.

HUMANOID(V.O)
Oww, what did you just stick me
with?

ALIEN(V.O)
Your body is now weaponized with a
lethal virus. The humanoid body you
now inhabit will die in less than 2
days.

HUMANOID(V.O)
Die? What do you mean? What will
happen to my mind?

ALIEN(V.O)
It will cease to exist and your
physical body will perish

HUMANOID(V.O)
Oh my God, why? Why are you killing
me? I have not done anything to
deserve this!

ALIEN(V.O)
Please pay attention. We are
running out of time. If you wish to
live, you will carry out an
important mission for us.

HUMANOID(V.O)
What mission?

ALIEN(V.O)

We have received reliable intelligence that our enemy plans to carry out an attack tonight.

(beat)

They plan on freeing a high ranking general we captured sometime ago.

HUMANOID(V.O)

And what am I supposed to do?

ALIEN(V.O)

Nothing. For you see..You are that high ranking official. We want the enemy to rescue you from our prison.

HUMANOID(V.O)

I don't understand ... If he -- I mean I -- am such an important prisoner, what will you achieve in having me released back to your enemy?

ALIEN(V.O)

You are our Trojan horse. Once inside their fortress, you will be surrounded by important men. Infect and kill these men, and our race has a fighting chance...

HUMANOID(V.O)

And if i fail?

ALIEN(V.O)

Then it it possible our entire race dies with you. You are our last hope ...

Another alien walks to the one sitting in the contraption.
He speaks to him with some urgency.

ALIEN(V.O)

It seems the enemy's attack is close at hand. We must place you back in the holding cell.

HUMANOID(V.O)

Wait, how are they supposed to believe I am one of them? I don't even speak the same language?

ALIEN(V.O)

We have enhanced your cognitive capabilities to speak in their humanoid language.

HUMANOID(V.O)

And just how contagious is this virus I carry inside my body?

ALIEN(V.O)

It is very contagious to this particular race of humanoid, however the location we are targeting is very secure and isolated. Only someone of your stature would ever be allowed near it.

HUMANOID(V.O)

And how do you intend to return me to my ship once I have carried out your mission.

ALIEN(V.O)

You will have to find a way out of their secure compound without raising any suspicion. Once outside, We have provided secret pick up locations in your enhanced memory. We will bring you back here and safely return you back

Another alien walks up to the two figures. He talk with more urgency...

ALIEN(V.O)

We have run out of time. Good luck

INT. ALIEN PRISON CELL - NIGHT

The humanoid sits in a small holding cell. He HEARS commotion outside.

Space weapons are fired all around. Distressed yelling from ALIENS guards being attacked

HUMANOID(V.O)

(looking behind him)

Here we go ...

A strange language is heard from behind the door.

HUMANOID SOLDIER
(subtitled)
General, stand clear of the door,
we will get you out of here, sir

The humanoid moves to a corner, away from the prison cell door.

HUMANOID
(subtitled)
You may proceed ...

A weapon is heard melting the lock open from the outside.
Hot molten metal ... sparks ... the door springs open.

HUMANOID SOLDIER
General, we must go, NOW!

INT. ALIEN PRISON CORRIDOR - NIGHT

An elite humanoid fighting force leads the general through a series of tight corridors, killing ALIENS at will. A couple of humanoid soldiers fall and succumb to their injuries in a violent battle

EXT. ALIEN PRISON COMPOUND - NIGHT

The elite fighting force surround the general, protecting him. The general is led inside a fortified military vehicle. Another humanoid soldier is shot dead. The vehicle races away into a inhospitable alien landscape

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE - NIGHT

HUMANOID SOLDIER
General sir, are you OK?

HUMANOID
I'm fine ... Just get me back to base.

HUMANOID SOLDIER
Lie back sir

The soldier helps the general lean back comfortably. He takes out a hand held device and begins scanning the general's body from head to toe. The device begins to blink and beep

HUMANOID
What the hell is this?

HUMANOID SOLDIER
Sorry sir ... protocol ... we just
want to make sure the aliens have
not planted any devices on you.
(beat)
Please turn on your side

HUMANOID
(resisting)
I'm clean ... can we just --

HUMANOID SOLDIER
--Sorry sir, we have orders to
perform a complete diagnostic on
you before we can allow you access
to--

HUMANOID
(angrily interrupts)
Fine! Just hurry the hell up

The soldiers nervously look at each other. The soldier scans the general's backside as the device suddenly goes silent.

A few nervous seconds. The general looks back pensively.

The device beeps one last time, a green indicator lights up

HUMANOID SOLDIER
Everything looks good sir..

HUMANOID
As I told you...Get me to our
command bunker now before I am
re-captured!!

HUMANOID SOLDIER
Yes sir!

EXT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

The soldiers walk briskly towards the security gate. The general stumbles and falls. He looks down at his hand .. it begins to slightly tremble

HUMANOID(V.O)
No...not yet!

A concerned soldier helps the general back

HUMANOID SOLDIER
Sir, are you ok?

HUMANOID
I'm fine, let's go

Two armed guards stand aside as the team enter a secured bunker.

INT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

CORRIDOR:

An important and heavily decorated official stands ready to greet the general. The two men stand face to face, the general turns to the soldiers. He performs a military salute

The soldiers look at each other confused at the strange gesture.

HUMANOID SOLDIER
(clicking heels)
Sir!

The soldier straightens up punches his chest with two fists in a strange military salute of his own.

The general looks about nervously and repeats the same gesture, nervously.

The team leaves. The two important military men face each other

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
Follow me general...The high
council are in conference for an
emergency session

The general follows the official, his knees start to buckle...he wipes a bead of sweat from his brow with a trembling hand as he does not quite keep pace with the official's stride

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
General?

HUMANOID
(composing himself)
Right behind you ...

The corridor is heavily guarded with soldiers everywhere as the two men enter an elevator

INT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

CONFERENCE ROOM:

The bunker doors slide open with a swoosh. The doors appear to be ridiculously thick slabs of solid metal. Two large guards on either side...

Very important men, drinking cocktails, occupy a large conference room, some military, some appear to be politicians. The room's ambiance is one of conversation and confident polite laughter

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
Gentlemen ...

The room goes quiet, all attention is focused on the two humanoids who have just entered

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
Our great general is with us again

A spatter of jubilant cheers and clapping fills the room. All the humanoids converge on the general. Hands are shaken.

The general repeatedly wipes his forehead, he tries covering a cough. A sea of hands and pats on the shoulder

He does his best to hide his failing health. The voices start to fade in and out...the scenery and faces begin to blur....

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
Gentlemen, let's begin. We have
much to cover ..

All the men walk to the large conference table in the middle of the room. They seat themselves.

The general stands where he is ... The council members look back perplexed.

The general vomits and falls to one knee

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
General what's wrong?

The crowd starts to speak randomly, the mood has suddenly turned serious

RANDOM OFFICIAL (O.S)
He's been poisoned!

POLITICAIN
Those vile Alien bastards, they
will pay for this!

ANOTHER PARTICIPANT (O.S)
Someone get a medic ...

HUMANOID
(protesting)
No! I'm fine ...I just need some
air ... If someone would just
escort me out for --

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
Nonsense! Guard, help the general
to his chair and fetch the medic

The guard complies and places a chair behind the general.
The general sits down and recovers slightly.

The guard rushes out

INT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

CORRIDOR:

Guard is running. Meets two guards at the elevator.

GUARD
Get the medic down here on the
double!

INT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

CONFERENCE ROOM:

A doctor enters the conference room. He walks to the general
and begins checking him

OFFICIAL
What is it doctor? What's wrong
with him?

DOCTOR
Gentlemen, please step aside. This
does not appear to be poison. The
general's illness may be viral.
(beat)
He will need to be quarantined
immediately so that our virologist
can have a closer look at him.

HUMANOID

That's preposterous, I just need to clear my head!

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL

We just want to make sure you are safe General. It's for your own good

Motioning to the guards ...

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL

Escort the general to the solitary confinement room. Do not let anyone inside the room except for the virologist.

(beat)

Do you understand?

The guards perform the double fist salute and take the general by the arms. He is lead towards the conference doors.

They open and close behind them.

INT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

CORRIDOR:

The guards slowly walk along the corridor, holding the general as comfortably as they can.

HUMANOID

Gentleman, I am fine. If you would just bring me out for some air --

GUARD

-- Sorry sir, our orders are to bring you to the solitary confinement room. The doctors will look after you there.

The three humanoid enter the elevator. The doors close