

MIND PIRATES

By

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INT. SPACECRAFT

ASTRONAUT (35) sits in his space ship. He stares into the vast blackness of outer space.

A pneumatic sound grabs his attention. A panel slides open to reveal a hidden compartment.

COMPUTER

Your meal is fully rehydrated.
Enjoy.

The astronaut reaches for the meal tray. He peels away the aluminum foil.

ASTRONAUT

How long before we reach our next destination?

COMPUTER

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

ASTRONAUT

Can you be a bit more precise?

COMPUTER

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

ASTRONAUT

So much for sarcasm...

The astronaut takes a mouthful and chews. A blank look on his face.

In the distance, SPARKS dance about, emitting a faint GLOW. An electric STORM replaces the black emptiness. The astronaut stops eating, stupefied by the strange phenomenon.

ASTRONAUT

(muttering)

What the heck is that?

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

COMPUTER

Warning, system damage. Warning ...

ASTRONAUT
Identify external energy field.

COMPUTER
The energy is of unknown origin.

The astronaut grabs his head -- meal tray flips over -- food scatters.

The astronaut grimaces, falls to his knees.

ASTRONAUT
Ugh ... Get .. us .. out .. of ..
here ...

The cabin goes dark -- warning lights and sounds fill the space ship. A trickle of blood appears under the astronaut's nose.

COMPUTER
Danger, system failure imminent.
Danger...

The astronaut screams ... his eyes roll behind his head ... he collapses and is out cold.

Everything goes black.

INT. ALIEN LABORATORY - DAY

Three ALIENS circle a HUMANOID strapped to a gurney. A large pod-like helmet covers his head.

The humanoid opens his eyes.

The aliens become agitated, almost excited and speak in their alien language.

An alien sits in a seat next to the gurney. He lowers an identical pod-like helmet over his large head.

ALIEN(V.O)
(telepathically)
Greetings

The humanoid jumps, pulling on his restraints. He turns, notices his reflection off a nearby shiny surface.

He gasps at the sight of his own face.

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

HUMANOID(V.O)
(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.

The humanoid pulls on his restraints.

HUMANOID(V.O)
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 you talking
about?

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

HUMANOID(V.O)
What? No ... I mean what do you
want from me?

An alien walks to a metal table, picks up a syringe. He
fills it with green fluid.

The alien walks towards the humanoid.

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

The alien jabs the syringe into the humanoid's neck.

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

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

HUMANOID(V.O)
Die? Hold on a minute ... that
can't be good for my mind, can it?

ALIEN(V.O)
No, without a living host body, you
will die.

HUMANOID(V.O)
Oh my God! Wh...Why are you doing
this?

ALIEN(V.O)
Pay attention. We are running out
of time. If you wish to live, you
will carry out a mission to save
our species.

HUMANOID(V.O)
Mission? What mission?

ALIEN(V.O)
We have received reliable
intelligence that our enemy plans
to attack our prison barracks
tonight.
(beat)
They want to free their highest
ranking general. His capture a few
days ago presents us with an
opportunity to win the war.

HUMANOID(V.O)
What does any of this have to do
with me?

ALIEN(V.O)

The body you inhabit belongs to the general, but his mind is now under our control, thanks to you.

(beat)

We need you to infiltrate the enemy's heavily fortified command center.

HUMANOID(V.O)

So you want me to be your Trojan horse.

ALIEN(V.O)

Your metaphor is apt. Once inside their fortress, you will be surrounded by important leaders. Kill them, and our race will have a fighting chance.

HUMANOID(V.O)

And if I fail?

ALIEN(V.O)

Then our entire race dies with you. Our survival as a species rests in your hands.

An alien speaks with some urgency.

ALIEN(V.O)

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

HUMANOID(V.O)

But I don't even speak the same language as these humanoids.

ALIEN(V.O)

We have enhanced your cognitive capabilities to be able to speak their language fluently.

HUMANOID(V.O)

Just how contagious is this virus I carry inside my body?

ALIEN(V.O)

It is extremely contagious to their species. You must understand, we do not wish to harm the civilian humanoid population -- only the

ALIEN(V.O)
leaders and architects of this
tyrannical power structure.
(beat)
We have tried everything to stop
their military without resorting to
chemical warfare but we are out of
options.
(beat)
Our losses have been heavy. We now
face the real possibility of
extinction if we don't strike back.

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.
(beat)
Once outside, you will need to
travel some distance from the
compound to one of our secret
rendezvous points.
(beat)
Your enhanced memory contains all
the navigational details you'll
need to find us.

HUMANOID(V.O)
You don't suppose I can call a cab
in the middle of a war zone?

ALIEN(V.O)
I'm afraid this is all we can offer
you. The compound is simply too
heavily secured and isolated.

An alien places his hand on the the communicating alien's
shoulder. His alien words spoken with greater urgency.

ALIEN(V.O)
We have run out of time. We must go
now.

INT. ALIEN PRISON CELL - NIGHT

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

Space weapons are fired. Alien guards yell outside. Panic, confusion ...

The humanoid turns his head.

HUMANOID(V.O)
Here we go.

HUMANOID SOLDIER
(Humanoid; subtitled)
General, stand clear of the door.

The prisoner moves to a corner.

HUMANOID
(Humanoid; subtitled)
It's clear.

A weapon melts the lock. Hot molten metal drips. Sparks fly, the door springs open.

HUMANOID SOLDIER
General, we must go now.

INT. ALIEN PRISON CORRIDOR - NIGHT

A humanoid team leads the general through tight corridors, killing aliens at will. Two humanoid soldiers fall. A violent battle ensues.

EXT. ALIEN PRISON COMPOUND - NIGHT

The team surround the general. He is led inside a military vehicle. A humanoid soldier is shot. The vehicle races away into the alien landscape.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE - NIGHT

HUMANOID SOLDIER
General sir, are you alright?

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

HUMANOID SOLDIER
Lie back sir

The general leans back. The soldier takes out a hand held scanning device and runs it along the general's body. It blinks and beeps.

HUMANOID
What the hell is this?

HUMANOID SOLDIER
Sorry sir. Protocol. We want to make sure the aliens did not plant anything on you.
(beat)
Please turn on your side, sir.

The general resists.

HUMANOID
I'm clean. No need to --

HUMANOID SOLDIER
-- Sorry sir, just standard procedure.

HUMANOID
(raised voice)
Just get it over with, then!

The soldiers look at each other. The soldier scans the general's back. The device stops beeping.

The general turns his head, pensive.

The device beeps once. A green indicator lights up.

HUMANOID SOLDIER
Everything looks good, sir.

HUMANOID
Let's just get to the command bunker, before I am recaptured.

HUMANOID SOLDIER
Yes sir.

EXT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

The team walks briskly to the security gate. The general stumbles and falls. He looks down at his hand, it trembles.

HUMANOID(V.O)
Oh no... Not yet!

A soldier helps the general back on his feet.

HUMANOID SOLDIER
Sir, are you OK?

HUMANOID
I'm fine.

Two guards stand aside, the team enters the secured bunker.

INT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

CORRIDOR:

A heavily decorated official stands at the end of the corridor. The team meet up with him. The general turns to the soldiers. He performs a military salute.

The soldiers look at him, and then each other, confused.

HUMANOID SOLDIER
(clicking heels)
Sir!

The soldier straightens up. He punches his chest using both fists.

The general looks about, repeats the same gesture. The team leaves.

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
Follow me general...The high
council are in the conference room.

The general follows. His knees buckle, wipes sweat from his brow. The general trails behind the other official.

The high ranking official looks back.

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
General?

The general composes himself.

HUMANOID
Right behind you.

The corridor is guarded by soldier patrols. They enter an elevator.

INT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

CONFERENCE ROOM:

The heavy doors, made of thick slabs of steel, slide open. Two large guards stand on on either side.

Important looking individuals fill the conference room. Sounds of CONVERSATION and the occasional LAUGH.

The general and official enter unnoticed.

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
Gentlemen ...

The room goes quiet. The participants turn their attention to the speaker.

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
Our great general is with us again.

Cheers and clapping fills the room. The participants converge on the general. Hands are shaken, pleasantries exchanged.

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

The room begins to spin. Voices fade in and out, everything blurs. The general perspires.

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

The men proceed to a large conference table. They seat themselves.

The general does not move. A few council members look back, perplexed.

The general vomits in his hand. He falls on one knee.

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
General! What's wrong?

The crowd appears stunned.

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

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
-- Guard, help the general to his
chair and bring the medic at once.

The guard places a chair behind the general, he sits down.

The guard rushes out.

INT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

CORRIDOR:

Guard runs down the corridor. He meets two guards at the
elevator.

GUARD
Get the medic down here, on the
double!

INT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

CONFERENCE ROOM:

The doctor enters. He walks to the general and checks him.

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL
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. We
need a virologist sent to the
compound, immediately.

HUMANOID

Look, I'm fine, I just need to clear my head.

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL

We just want to make sure we are all safe, General. It's for the best.

He motions the guards.

HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL

Escort the general to solitary confinement. Do not let anyone in or out, except for the virologist.

(beat)

Understand?

The guards double fist salute the official. They take the general by the arms. He is lead out of the conference room.

INT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

CORRIDOR:

The guards carry the general by his arms. They walk towards the elevator.

HUMANOID

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

GUARD

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

They enter the elevator. The doors close.

INT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ROOM:

The general sits on a cot. He looks around the room. On the ceiling, he sees a small camera staring back at him. A green light blinks.

The room has no windows. The general lies on his side. He coughs.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CORRIDOR:

A VIROLOGIST approaches two guards sitting at a desk. A steel door is beside them.

He wears a full HAZMAT suit and HEAD GEAR. He holds a white medical kit.

VIROLOGIST
(speaker voice)
Is he inside?

Taps the monitor.

GUARD
Yeah, that's him on the monitor.

The monitor displays a bird's eye view of the general, lying down.

VIROLOGIST
Alright, open the door.

GUARD
Sure doc.

A button is pressed. The mechanical steel door slides open.

GUARD
Room's sound proof so use the
intercom by the door.

The virologist steps inside. The door shuts behind him.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ROOM:

The general sits up.

VIROLOGIST
Good evening, sir. I understand you
may have contracted some type of
virus while under captivity.

HUMANOID
(groggy)
No, just tired.

The virologist places his kit on the cot and opens it.

The general peeks inside and finds syringes, scalpels and other sharp objects neatly tucked away.

VIROLOGIST

Sir, I will need to do a full body examination. Would you please remove your clothing?

HUMANOID

No. Absolutely not!

VIROLOGIST

Is there a problem, general?

HUMANOID

Look, you may not care about your privacy, but I don't need no goddamn grunts --

Points to the camera.

HUMANOID(CONT'D)

-- looking at me while you probe every inch of me.

(beat)

Forget it.

The virologist looks up at the camera. The general takes a quick look inside the medical kit.

The doctor turns to the general who quickly shifts his eyes back to the doctor.

VIROLOGIST

Of course, sir. We can temporarily shut down the monitors while we perform the examination.

The doctor walks to the intercom. The general grabs hold of the scalpel.

The doctor presses a button on the intercom. The general stares at the green blinking light on the overhead camera.

VIROLOGIST

Hey, the general would appreciate some privacy in here while we conduct his examination.

GUARD

Sure thing doc, lemme know when you're done.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CORRIDOR:

The guard flips a switch on the monitor console. The monitor goes BLACK.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ROOM:

The light on the camera stops blinking, turns off. The doctor turns. The general leaps and thrusts the scalpel deep into his left temple.

The doctor's body slumps over. He removes the head gear and suit from the doctor, wiping the excess blood off the rubberized material.

He applies gauze on the wound to stop the bleeding and places the body on the cot. The body is placed on its side as to not face the camera. He strategically applies towels and pillows to hide the doctors identity.

The general picks up the medical kit and faces the intercom. Heavy breathing ... He presses the button.

HUMANOID
(speaker voice)
I'm done here.

The green lights start to blink.

GUARD
Out like a light, huh?

HUMANOID
Yeah.

The door slides open. The general steps out.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CORRIDOR:

The door closes behind him. The general walks past the guards.

GUARD
Hope you didn't hurt the guy too bad.

He stops in his tracks, slowly turns his head.

HUMANOID
What?

GUARD

You got a spot of blood on your
suit.

HUMANOID

Oh, took blood samples. Clumsy.

The guard nods.

GUARD

The guard at the elevator will
escort you to your car.

Guard looks back at the monitor. The general walks away...

EXT. HUMANOID COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

TO DO: General is driven away ... asks driver left