

A LINE CROSSED

by

Steven P. Dilworth

FADE IN:

Series of Hubble telescope images. Starscapes, nebulae, brilliant novae, ending with the Milky Way.

JOHN(V.O.)

I just think it's a line we shouldn't cross.

DAVE(V.O.)

Why not? It's science. It's what we do. Science crosses lines all the time. It's how we learn.

JOHN(V.O.)

This line scares me. It's one line we should stay behind.

EXT. CERN CAMPUS, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND - DAY

DAVE GARRETT (32, blonde and tall) Strides purposefully toward the staff entrance for the Large Hadron Collider.

JOHN HOLLAND (30, black hair and not tall) with an air of desperation, tries hard to keep up with his companion.

DAVE

There is no such thing as a line we shouldn't cross.

John grabs Dave's arm to stop his progress and gets in front of him.

JOHN

Don't play God, Dave. No matter how stupid that sounds, I mean it.

Dave takes a deep breath and calmly removes John's hand from his arm.

DAVE

John, I am not going to let you ruin the greatest day of my career. If you'll stop being so stupid, it can be the best day of both our careers. Now, if you'll excuse me, and you are welcome to come, I have a parallel universe to create.

Dave pushes past John and enters the building.

John stares after him and takes a few deep breaths, closes his eyes and gathers his resolve. Then follows.

INT. CERN MAIN BUILDING LOBBY - DAY

John enters to see Dave sign his name in the register and head for the elevator.

John rushes to the desk, flashes his badge, signs his name and reaches the elevator just in time to join Dave.

DAVE

I knew you couldn't resist.

The doors close.

INT. CERN UNDERGROUND CONTROL ROOM - DAY

KAREN FRIEND (40, blonde hair) and GREG LONG (30, blonde hair) gather up folders and log out of computers as Dave and John walk in.

DAVE

Morning.

They look up and smile.

KAREN

Good morning, Dr. Garrett. Is today the big day?

Greg's smile becomes an attempt not to laugh.

Dave pretends not to notice.

DAVE

It certainly is, Dr. Friend.

He gives a sly glance toward Greg.

DAVE

I look forward to writing it all up for next month's Science Journal.

Both Karen and Greg fight back laughter as they move quickly from the room.

GREG

We look forward to reading it.

The fading sound of giggles comes from outside the room.

Dave turns to the bank of computers and begins to log in.

DAVE
It's not a joke, John.

JOHN
(with great anguish)
I'm very aware of that, Dave. Far too aware. If they knew you the way I do, and if they had read your notes as I have, they wouldn't be giggling. They'd be scared to death...just like I am.

Dave reaches into his pocket and pulls out a flash drive.
He holds it up as though it were a sacred relic.

DAVE
(shaking his head)
That is the part I don't understand, John. Why be scared? This experiment is nothing more than an exercise to see how far our knowledge and abilities can extend.

JOHN
I think I know how far they shouldn't.

Dave turns and puts the flash drive into the usb port.

DAVE
I'm not going to listen to this anymore. You do know me too well, which means you know I plan every detail to the 10th power. I also do not experiment unless I truly believe it will be a success.

JOHN
(resigned to failure)
I know it will. Let's just see if we live to see tomorrow.

Dave laughs and punches keys on the computer.

DAVE
I'll buy you breakfast.

INT. CERN LARGE HADRON COLLIDER - NIGHT

The smooth interior walls of the LHC tunnel fill the screen, cold and impersonal.

DAVE(V.O.)
All the data is entered, and we're
ready to roll. You ready, John?

JOHN(V.O.)
(whispers)
Yep. Ready.

DAVE(V.O.)
(exuberant)
Then let's go!

SFX computer key CLICKS.

DAVE(V.O.)
Beam one away!

SFX PHASER-LIKE Sound. A glowing beam shoots left to right
across the tunnel background.

A new LHC tunnel background fills the screen.

SFX computer key CLICKS.

DAVE(V.O.)
Beam two away!

SFX PHASER-LIKE Sound. A glowing beam shoots right to left
across the new blank tunnel background.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Focus on the swollen tip of each glowing beam as they speed
along:

Left to right.

Right to left.

Left to right.

Right to left.

DAVE(V.O.)
(almost a scream)
Almost there!

Left to right.

Right to left.

JOHN(V.O.)
(almost inaudible)

I know.

Draw in closer and closer on the tips of the beams as they speed faster and faster.

Left to right.

Right to left.

Left to right.

Right to left.

DAVE(V.O.)

And...Now!

The beams collide. SFX a huge EXPLOSION and the screen:

FADES TO WHITE:

FADE IN:

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SFX computer key.

DAVE(V.O.)

Beam two away!

SFX PHASER-LIKE Sound. A glowing beam shoots right to left across the new blank tunnel background.

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Right to left.

Left to right.

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 (almost a scream)
 Almost there!

Left to right.

Right to left.

 JOHN(V.O.)
 (almost inaudible)
 I know.

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Left to right.

Right to left.

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Right to left.

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FADE TO BLACK

OVER BLACK

SUPER: WHITE LETTERS TYPE: "AND SO ON..."

(pause)

OVER BLACK

SUPER: WHITE LETTERS TYPE: "BUT WHO FIRST CREATED THE UNIVERSE DAVE AND JOHN OCCUPY?"

THE END