

Big Red  
by  
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Although this SP contains the names of real people, this is  
entirely a work of fiction (based on actual events!)

FADE IN

EXT. WEST TEXAS - LAUNCH SITE ONE - DAY

A rocket resembling a red and silver aubergine blasts off. The world's media, gathered at a safe distance are eager to stream every second of this special spaceflight.

ON TV SCREEN: WILLOW BAY anchors.

WILLOW (V.O.)

It's lift off for Big Red and our intrepid female space tourists. Entertainer Katy Perry, Broadcaster Gayle King, Lauren Sánchez, the fiancée of Big Red's founder Buff Jesús, civil rights activist Amanda Nguyen, rocket scientist Aisha Bowe and film producer Kerianne Flynn embark upon the ride of their lives.

INT. CAPSULE - DAY

Acceleration forces soon peak at 3G. The female crew are pressed back into their reclining seats. Although a nervous flyer, Gayle jiggles her kid's doll at the camera and shows off her many Good Luck bracelets.

KERIANNE

Look at the moon!

MICHELLE - FLIGHT DIRECTOR (V.O.)

(on comms)

Approaching Main Engine Cut off. Undo your straps girls, you'll soon be weightless.

They are. Katy takes a daisy flower from her pocket.

KATY

Baby this is for you. The Earth looks very beautiful from here. It's a wonderful world.

There's a BUMPH from outside. The capsule judders.

AISHA

You hear that?!

The crew regard each other hoping they've all imagined it.

MICHELLE (V.O.)

Big Red status report.

AMANDA

Are we at apogee? It looks like  
we've deployed the flag.

The crew look out from the four large capsule windows.  
Three stars and stripes silks unfurl timidly below them as  
they head further towards the edge of space.

KERIANNE

Where? I don't see it!

GAYLE

This side. Look down.

MICHELLE (V.O.)

Big Red switching comms channel.  
Confirm malfunction.

The girls clearly hear the words but they don't compute.

LAUREN

Was this planned?

AISHA

It's our re-entry chutes. Mayday,  
Mayday!

GAYLE

We're breaking news now. Is there  
a profanity delay - FUCK!!

MICHELLE (V.O.)

Big Red you are off air. Sending  
someone to come get you.

EXT/INT. VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE - DAY

Gen. DOUGLAS A. SCHIESS is watching the broadcast as it  
suddenly cuts to color bars and tone. He picks up his  
phone. Speed dials -

SCHIESS

Those gals still alive up there?

INTERCUT

INT. SPACE FORCE OPERATIONS ROOM - DAY

OPS ROOM TECH

SCaN's going wild. They've issued  
a Mayday. We'll know more soon.

SCHIESS

Alert the X-73B crew. Offer our  
covert assistance.

OPS ROOM TECH

Yes Sir.

SCHIESS

I'm coming down.

SPACE - SPACE STATION INSIDE THE MOON - NIGHT INTO DAY

A hallow sphere facing Earth conceals its slowly revolving secret. The translucent surface of the fake moon dims, changing color as fingers of orange and pink sunlight reach around Earth's horizon.

An X-73B craft docks with the Space station.

INT. X-73B COCKPIT - CONT

Bolts engage with a CLANK. The CAPTAIN and FIRST OFFICER shut the craft down. Undo their seat restraints.

CAPTAIN

Hard dock attained. How y'all doin' up here?

COMMS (V.O.)

Immediate re-launch Captain. It's an emergency rescue mission.

The X-73B zooms back towards Earth at full speed.

EXT/INT. TV COMPANY BOARDROOM - DAY

Executives gather in an agitated gaggle to discuss their next move.

EXEC 1

Gayle is not going live on her way down.

EXEC 2

Think of the ratings. The advertising revenue.

EXEC 3

A final message of hope from her and our sponsor.

EXEC 1

Jesus Christ! Is nothing sacred??

INT. GREEN SCREEN ROOM - DAY

Big Red is suspended by wires beneath a complex array of rails. Each crew member wears a harness. Individually they can be lifted, turned and propelled through the air. They are surrounded by green screens.

EXT/INT. BOEING H.Q. - DAY

BOB LAZAR opens the door to an immense Green screen set up. Various OFFICIALS file in behind him.

BOB

And this gentlemen, is where the magic happens.

OFFICIAL 1

The girls are in there - safe?

He points to Big Red.

OFFICIAL 2

You've done it again, Bob.

Official 3 looks around in wonder. Touches a thin wire.

OFFICIAL 3

Are we twelve degrees above Presidential secrecy here - or even more?

BOB

Presidents come and go. The magic never stops. Ask Gary McKinnon. The girls are in the green room - not this one - the Rec room.

OFFICIAL 2

What's on the TV feed?

BOB

An earlier simulation.

OFFICIAL 3

So it's NOT real.

BOB

Can you imagine the insurance premium!  
You'll be telling me you believe everything you see on the tube!

Official 3 grabs Bob's arm. Stares hard into his face.

OFFICIAL 3  
What is going on.

BOB  
Follow me.

INT. REC ROOM - CONT

The female crew are sitting around chatting, some drinking coffee, some eating snacks. They don't seem concerned as Bob and the Officials enter.

OFFICIAL 1  
Ladies - thank goodness.

OFFICIAL 2  
You had us worried.

Official 3 still looks angry and concerned.

OFFICIAL 3  
Just WHAT is going on?

BOB  
The safe word is Fireplace!

The crew become inert. Frozen, still and silent.

BOB  
It's a machine simulation inside  
a simulation.

OFFICIAL 1  
Robots -

BOB  
They prefer Humanoids.

MONTAGE of worried watchers of TV screens around the world.  
Big Red has become a fiery streak in the big blue sky.

EXT/INT. X-73B COCKPIT - DAY

The craft is on course for its rescue mission. FOUR UFO's  
appear beside the stricken Big Red, supporting it.

CAPTAIN  
Flight you see this? Four UFOs.

EXT. X-73B COCKPIT - CONT

The UFO's are Space Manatees from Mars helping out.

EXT/INT. SPACE STATION - CONTROL DECK - CONT

FLIGHT CONTROLLER  
Engage and capture Big Red. Our  
friends are very camera shy.

CAPTAIN  
Big Red is secure.

INT. BIG RED COCKPIT - CONT

Aisha's face is covered by her Bahamian flag. Katy is  
singing "Firework" as the others recite The Lord's prayer.

MICHELLE - FLIGHT DIRECTOR  
(on comms)  
Error code 601 detected.  
Safe word is Fireplace -

INT. REC ROOM - CONT

The female crew are inert. Bob smiles at his own joke.

OFFICIAL 1  
Where are the real ones?

OFFICIAL 2  
Tell us they are safe.

Official 3 still looks exasperated.

OFFICIAL 3  
SHOW US NOW!!

BOB  
No. You don't have that level of  
security clearance.

INT. UNKNOWN LUXURY BUNKER - DAY

The female crew (casually dressed) look up at an enormous  
screen. A human avatar gazes down at them.

KATY PERRY  
Are we dead or alive?

AVATAR  
That rather depends on the  
ratings.

FADE TO BLACK.