

SOFTWARE UPDATE

EXT. SPACESHIP - SPACE

A rectangular futuristic spacecraft orbits a lush green planet. A command bridge dominates the top part of it.

INT. COMMAND BRIDGE

A large circular command bridge with windows on all sides providing views of the outside. Various CREW-MEMBERS sit at consoles with screens.

Captain STEPHEN AUGUST (31) sits at the largest console in the center of the room. Suddenly, a warning sound blares throughout the ship. August turns to a crewman seated at an adjacent console, HARMON (25).

AUGUST
Give me a readout on that warning
signal, quickly!

HARMON
Yessir.

Harmon works his console for a few moments.

HARMON (cont'd)
The hell?

AUGUST
What's wrong Harmon?

HARMON
The system's asking me for an
authentication key, sir.

AUGUST
A what?

Science officer RAS KONDULL (35) walks over to Captain August. He is a bright blue alien, highly intelligent.

KONDULL
I apologize for not informing you
sooner, but the Federation recently
updated the ship's software to
prevent tampering by less-than-ideal
individuals.

AUGUST
Yes, you should have told me. But I
accept your apology nonetheless. How
can I obtain an authentication key?

KONDULL

I believe you need to get in contact with the Federation, and they'll provide you one.

AUGUST

Well, isn't this great. I want to get more information about that planet and I run into this.

Captain August turns to communications officer ANDREA GREGSON (27).

AUGUST (cont'd)

Get in contact with the Federation immediately. Ask for an authentication key. The sooner the better.

GREGSON

Yessir.

She presses a few buttons and after a few moments speaks into her headset.

GREGSON (cont'd)

Federation headquarters, this is Andromeda speaking, requesting an authentication key.

A few moments pass as she listens to the response, which we can't hear.

GREGSON (cont'd)

Captain, they say they need your identification code, to prove that you are the captain.

AUGUST

(annoyed)

Well, this is bullshit. I'll get my ID card from my quarters. Ras, you're in charge until I come back.

KONDULL

Yessir.

August gets up from his chair and leaves the bridge.

INT. HALLWAY

August walks quickly down a hallway with the warning signal still sounding. He comes to a door marked "CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS" and enters it.

INT. CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

A spacious, well-appointed sleeping space. The average crew-member on board would give their left arm to have quarters like this.

August hurries over to a desk and begins rummaging through the various objects on it.

AUGUST

C'mon Steve, where did you put that damn thing?

After a painfully long time, he finds his ID card and picks it up. He turns and runs out of the room towards the bridge.

INT. COMMAND BRIDGE

August arrives back on the bridge, visibly exhausted. He walks over to Gregson and hands her the card.

AUGUST

The number's on there. I hope to God that's all we need.

He sits back down at his console while Gregson communicates with the Federation. After a few more moments...

GREGSON

Sir, I've got an authentication key. I'm sending it to Harmon now.

AUGUST

Thank God. Now we can finally find out what this damn warning's about.

Harmon works his console for a while. His eyes widen.

HARMON

Sir, there's an asteroid moving towards us. Estimated impact in 30 seconds.

August, visibly panicked, turns to the weapons officer, DAHILLO (23).

AUGUST
Is it possible to deflect it?

DAHILLO
Weapons have been stowed away for a while, sir. We can't possibly bring them back up in so little time.

August stands up and faces the front of the ship, a look of acceptance on his face.

AUGUST
Crew, it was an honor to serve with you all. But now, we must meet our death with dignity.

KONDULL
Agreed, captain.

Through the front windows, we see the rather large asteroid barreling toward the ship.

AUGUST
Damn you, stupid Federation punks and your stupid software updates.

Harmon nods in agreement.

EXT. SPACESHIP - SPACE

The asteroid hits the ship head on, causing it to explode into a million pieces.

FADE TO BLACK