THE ASTRONAUT

Written by:

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"THE ASTRONAUT"

FADE IN:

OUTER SPACE. But not the glowing ocean of stars we know it as. No, this is the perpetual sea of black. An endless void, moreover.

CLOSE ON -- Earth. Hovering over it. Then, suddenly, we start to see flashes of --

AN ASTRONAUT. Working in the zero gravity atmosphere. Tinkering around with a NASA satellite. Then, we FLASH RIGHT TO --

The satellite. Something went wrong with it. Parts of it break out. Pushing our Astronaut away, sending him soaring, and CRASHING through flying debris.

ASTRONAUT (V.O.)
Houston? This is mission specialist John Weston! Do-you copy!? Do you copy?

We begin FLASHING THROUGH a whole cut of sequences. A ship, gliding away from the satellite mess. Headed out into the depths of space. Until -- It starts to lose track. Being pulled by something. As it heads out of frame --

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

An eye flips open -- WIDE CUT TO --

JOHN WESTON (30s), a space engineer, lying on a hospital bed. He wakes up. In an alarmed state of mind. Breathless... disoriented... confused.

He looks around. Aside his bed is an ivy machine. Tubes hooked up to it. An EKG machine is in the corner. And the heart rate monitor is beeping away.

JOHN
Is-Is anyone here! Hello? (Then,)
Nurse! Nurse!

After a beat, a NURSE walks in. Checks John over.

(CONTINUED)
NURSE
Mr. Weston..? Are you -- Are you okay?

JOHN
Where am I?

NURSE
You’re in the hospital, sir. They brought you in last night after your -- you know...

JOHN
My what? Who brought me in?

NURSE
The NASA team. Or whatever their rescue squad’s called.

JOHN
How long have I been out?

NURSE
About eight hours. Are you okay? I think you need more rest. Maybe you should --

JOHN
No. No -- I need to get out of here. I need to get answers.

NURSE
Sir? You crashlanded back to earth less then eight hours ago, you need --

ANSEN (O.S.)
Listen to the medics, spaceman. You need the rest.

The Nurse and John look to the door. HOWARD ANSEN (50’s) head of the NASA space task group enters in. Studies John.

John’s eyes get anxious. He instantly recognizes Ansen.

JOHN
Howard! What happ -- Did you find me or something?

ANSEN
Wait a second -- you know who I am?

JOHN
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)
John second glances Ansen. This guy doesn’t know him.

ANSEN
Who are you?

JOHN
I’m John. John Weston. I’m the space engineer you sent in a spaceflight up there to identify the malfunctions in the satellite. I’m --

(Then,)
You really don’t remember who I am, do you?

ANSEN
I’ve never met a John Weston.

JOHN
You selected me for --

NURSE
Mr. Ansen, I think it’s time for him to rest. He’s completely worn out.

The Nurse goes to help John get back to bed. He pushes her hand away.

JOHN
No don’t touch me.

(To Ansen,)
Howard? Howard? I need answers here! I don’t remember what happened. My ship got off course after the satellite broke apart. Then I blacked out. I don’t --

ANSEN
The satellite broke apart? Mr. Weston, the satellite’s fine. There’s nothing wrong with --

JOHN
No it’s not! It’s not -- I swear -- I was stuck in the middle while it was falling apart. I had to -- I --

ANSEN
(To Nurse,)
I think you better put him to rest --

(CONTINUED)
Ansen walks out. Bewildered. We can hear John scream in the b.g. As the Nurse doses him with the sedative.

JOHN
Howard! Tell me what happened! Tell me what happened -- I need to know!

INT. ANSEN’S OFFICE - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS

IVY WESTON (30’s), the strong-willed quiet wife of our astronaut, sits on the visiting side of a crowded desk. Filled with papers and files laying around all over.

Across from Ivy, sits HOWARD ANSEN. He’s a bit different looking now. Clearly, not the befuddled person we just met.

ANSEN
Ivy... I... I don’t know what to tell you. It’s been three years. Three years since we sent our rescue team up there. To repair the satellite and... to try and locate John.

We CLOSE ON Ansen. Indeed, this is a different man than the one we just met. Almost as if it’s a different version of him. He actually remembers John.

IVY
You haven’t tried your best, Howard. You and your team.

ANSEN
We looked. We looked harder than just harder. I mean -- we launched two ships out into the deep. Three guys farther from the planet than you could say. Out there. Trying to find him. But... he wasn’t there. Hell, his ship wasn’t there.

IVY
He’s not dead.

ANSEN
I never --

IVY
That’s what you’re implying.

(A beat. Then,)
Your radio station still has contact with John’s radio on the ship. Why is that?

(CONTINUED)
Ansen looks off. Fed up of trying to explain. Ivy holds steady. A firm look on her. She’s full of belief.

ANSEN
He hasn’t contacted back from that radio. Which can only lead me to believe that... he didn’t make it.
I’m sorry. I know -- it’s hard...

IVY
No you don’t.
   (Looks at him,)
No. You don’t.

Ivy takes a breath. Waits a beat. Then --

IVY (CONT’D)
   (Placidly)
You know, Abby was only a year old when John left. She was only a year old. She barely ever recognized her own dad.
   (Then,)
And now... every night before bed she asks me -- “Where’s daddy? When’s he coming back home?” And all I can say is... “Daddy’s up there. He’s up there... fixing the machine... So that we can watch TV... and fly in planes... and...
   (A beat,)
You know she’s three years old now. She can only remember her dad through the pictures. She still hasn’t really met him because the people that were supposed to find him gave up on him.

ANSEN
We never gave up. We kept looking. We still have a connection on that radio. But nothing’s came through. Not in the last three years.

IVY
What’s Dr. Wang been up to?

ANSEN
You can ask him yourself if you want.
INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

JOHN sits up on the bed. The NURSE beside him. And on the other side of the bed, there are two NASA INVESTIGATORS. Holding clipboards. Filling out a sheet as they both look at him. Hungry for answers.

JOHN
I don’t remember a thing after the crash.

NASA INVESTIGATOR # 1
Mr. Weston... we’re trying to find out why the satellite crashed.

JOHN
Look -- I don’t fully know why, okay? Some malfunction, something went wrong. Some part... some part must have been latched on wrong... the only thing I know is that it just fell apart, and I had to get out of there.
(Then,)
Anyway -- why does the satellite matter more than me? We’re trying to find out how I came back here. I was headed away from earth when I was --

NASA INVESTIGATOR # 2
We’re trying to figure out what happened to the satellite because it never broke. If it did, we’d know about it.
(Confidently,)
Nothing’s wrong with the satellite, Mr. Weston. All our connections with it are all normal. No malfunction. No problems.

ANSEN
Or the more important thing is... who the hell are you? Because I’ve never met you. And I sure as hell never recruited you for a spaceflight to fix the satellite. ‘Cause like they said... the satellite’s doing just fine.

JOHN
You think I’m lying? What have you lost your memory too Howard? Are you playing me?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
Or do you really think I just landed here back on earth randomly?

Ansen

I personally think your an alien, son. None of what your saying is making any sense to me. Because your whole story doesn’t look like it’s ever happened.

John leans back on the hospital bed. Closes his eyes. Lets out a breath. Then suddenly --

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! We get sudden flares of the satellite breakage. John, in his astronaut attire, spiraling away, reaching his ship.

BACK ON JOHN -- He opens his eyes. Sees the Investigators and Ansen leaving the room.

NASA Investigator #1

I think Dr. Wang would wanna see a report of this...

John

Dr. Wang? You mean -- Dr. Tai Wang?

Ansen and The Investigators stop. Turn back to John.

Ansen

Great -- you know him too?

John

He was involved in my mission. He’s the one who instructed me.

(Then,)

I wanna talk to him.

Nurse

You can’t leave the hospital. The doctor hasn’t --

John

To hell with him. I’m not sitting here without any answers. I need to find out what the hell happened!

(To Ansen,)

Howard, please... I wanna talk to Dr. Wang.
IVY is led by ANSEN into Wang’s office. They head in. Up on the walls, are screens, monitoring live footage from the NASA satellites.

On his computer, clacking away at the keyboard, we find DR. TAI WANG (40s), the oriental, tall research specialist and monitor for the Houston station.

ANSEN
Hey Wang. Gotta a sec?

DR. WANG
I thought I told you to stay out of my lab, Ansen.

Then, Ivy steps forth. Hoping to make her presence felt.

IVY
Tai? It’s me. Ivy. I’m here about John.

Wang’s eyebrows rise. He turns away from his computer, and faces Ivy.

DR. WANG
(Nods,)
Hello Ivy.

IVY
Wang, how far along are you on finding John?

JUMP CUT TO:

THE DESK --

Ivy and Ansen sit on one side of Wang’s desk as he sits on his side. Pulling out old files and pictures.

DR. WANG
If you’re looking for progress, then you’re not going to find anything, Ivy. We’re still with this where we were three years ago when John went MIA.

Wang slides the photos over to Ansen and Ivy. Ivy takes a look at them. They’re pictures of broken metals. From the satellite. And debris spread out all over the area.
DR. WANG (CONT’D)
We sent three men farther to go
look for John’s ship after the
satellite was repaired, hoping he
left some trail, but nothing showed up.

Ivy scans through the pictures once more. Then --

IVY
Do you think -- do you think he’s
still out there. Maybe he’s on his
ship. Lost in the depths, but do
you even have a doubt? I mean his
radio is still connected. The
station can still read it. Can’t
you track it?

ANSEN
We don’t put trackers on our
radios. Astronauts are responsible
for providing us their location.
Hence the radio for them to reach
out to us.

DR. WANG
Our radios can run for ten years
wherever they are in space. Humans,
cannot. In cases like these, a
human could survive only a few days
in space with the oxygen supply.
But not three years.

IVY
Wang... you’re giving me nothing
here.

DR. WANG
Nothing is unfortunately all I
have. I’m sorry, Ivy. But it’s
highly likely that John is no more.
I know it can be hard, but --

IVY
Don’t. Just... don’t.

Ivy gets up. Heads out.

INT. WANG’S OFFICE - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS

This version of the room is much more messy looking. Papers
everywhere. Lab reports lying around. All the monitor screens
are turned off. And yet, it’s the same room we just saw.

(CONTINUED)
JOHN studies the place while entering. Not fully recognizing it. He is being led in by ANSEN.

Ansen approaches A MAN. He’s got slightly longer hair. We CUT ON his face to see --

It’s DR. TAI WANG. Almost the same as we last saw him. He’s vigorously scribbling notes in a notebook while glancing back and forth from his computer screen.

ANSEN
Tai. Got someone that wants to meet you.

DR. WANG
I’m on a break, Ansen. No time for --

JOHN
Tai Wang? Do you hear me?

DR. WANG
I hear the sound of a stranger.


JOHN
You don’t know me either, do you?

DR. WANG
Should I?

JOHN
Dr. Wang, you and I were working on the mission for the satellite repair while we were developing the operation. Pre-mission? Remember?

DR. WANG
I’m sorry, what? Satellite repair? (To Ansen,)
Is the satellite misbehaving?

ANSEN
No. This man here -- John Weston -- knows everything about us here. Claims he works here at NASA, and that we sent him on a mission to --

JOHN
I’m not making any of this up. Alright? My name is John Weston. I do work for NASA.

(MORE)
JOHN (CONT'D)
And I did go on a mission that-
(Points to Ansen,)
That you sent me on.

ANSEN
(To Wang,)
Know what to make of any of this, Wang?

DR. WANG
You were on a mission in outer space, Mr. Weston?

JOHN
That’s right.

DR. WANG
NASA hasn’t sent any astronauts up in space since 2011. So... that would be last July.

ANSEN
STS-35. That was it.

And now it hits John. He begins to realize as --

JOHN
Hang on there.
(Then,)
Last July? No -- my mission was launched in 2014. October of 2014.

Ansen starts to chuckle.

ANSEN
Oh, I see. So you’re a time traveller now.

JOHN
No I’m serious. Did you check my ship at all when you collected it? The technology, it’s all updated by now. I mean -- by 2014.

ANSEN
Your ship burned.

Ansen looks off. This is a joke. But Wang now leans in. Interested in what John has to say.

DR. WANG
2014, you say?

(CONTINUED)
JOHN
Yeah. I was recruited for the mission in March of 2014. It was an urgency. I trained for three months. Helped develop the operation. And then I went up.

ANSEN
Bullcrap.

JOHN
Dr. Wang, you would know what I’m trying to get at here. You’ve done extensive research on quantum physics and time dimensions? Right?

DR. WANG
I do that for fun. But what you have, Mr. Weston, is an intriguing case.

ANSEN
Oh you can’t be serious, Wang.

JOHN
(to Dr. Wang,)
Am I in the past?

JUMP CUT TO:

Dr. Wang pulls out his research packets. Starts reading through them. Then, we CUT ON --

Wang. Talking Ansen and John through the specifics as he shows them pictures and draws them diagrams.

DR. WANG
I don’t necessarily think you’re in the past, Mr. Weston. My theory -- based on what you’re telling us -- is that you’ve merely ended up in an alternate dimension.

JOHN (V.O.)
Merely?

DR. WANG
It’s highly unlikely that is what would happen in the most normal of situations, but... your story... escaping the satellite crash... and then being pulled off course. You may have been in close proximity to a wormhole.
ANSEN (V.O.)
Wormholes only lead to other galaxies. Not dimensions.

DR. WANG
Not necessarily. Not always. They can be the bridge to other worlds. Perhaps they may hold the doors to even more worlds... or what we call the multiverse.

John, Ansen, and Wang are looking at his computer screen. An image of a wormhole is being shown.

JOHN (V.O.)
So I fell into a portal?

DR. WANG
You flew through one... and by the miracle of god... you survived it.

We’re back at the desk. Ansen, John, and Wang in conversation. And now, even Ansen is interested.

ANSEN
Alright. This has piqued my interest somewhat...
(To John,)
Technically, you are from the future?

DR. WANG
Not really, no. He’s crossed over from his world. Where he’s already been on that mission to repair the satellite. Look at it as another reality, if you want.

JOHN
Then why does this world seem so familiar to me? You... Howard... the hospitals... the streets... everything. It’s all the same.

DR. WANG
Because you’re in a parallel dimension. A dimension that’s alternate, but still the same as your’s. A parallel dimension, or a parallel universe, is a hypothetical self-contained separate reality co-existing with one's own.
ANSEN
Not hypothetical anymore.

DR. WANG
Things may seem the same. But really, they’re just a different version of what we say them as in our own worlds, respectively.

ANSEN
Hold on... so there’s more than one me out there?

JOHN
Yeah. And you’re just like him. Just a little less accomplished than the Howard I know.
(To Dr. Wang,)
What about the time zones? If the dimensions are co-existing? How is it still 2011 here?

DR. WANG
Time works differently in every dimension, Mr. Weston. When you go through a wormhole, from your world, into another, time is sure to change. It either moves faster, or slower. Here, it moves slower. What you’re experiencing, is time dilation. Where time slows down.

ANSEN
I’m not getting it.

DR. WANG
Take this basic example.
(A beat,)
I am getting ready to throw a football across a field in this world. But in another world, where time is faster, I’ve already thrown that football. And in a world that runs slower in time, I haven’t even thought of throwing that football. Time, ultimately varies among dimensions.

ANSEN
So we’re not even close to another spaceflight. That’s -- three years away.

(CONTINUED)
JOHN
No. But you will. Eventually, you’ll follow in the same footsteps as my world did.
(To Dr. Wang,)
Right? Isn’t that how this works?

DR. WANG
Precisely. Every dimension ends up doing the same thing as the other because they are all co-existing. But they all run on time differently. So perhaps, there could be a world out there in which you’ve made it back to earth safely, Mr. Weston.

JOHN
So what did I do by coming here? Disrupt time?

DR. WANG
Think of yourself as a constant. You crossed the barriers of time and space. You are a little older than yourself in this world, that much is certain. But... you must avoid seeing yourself, Mr. Weston. If you do, serious repercussions could occur. Starting with incongruity within the time zones.

A Beat. John takes all this in. Then --

JOHN
So what now? I mean -- I need to get back there. Back to my world. I have a wife and a daughter back there. And here... we haven’t even had a daughter. Not in 2011.

ANSEN
Does a wormhole close on it’s own, Wang?

WANG
(Shrugs,)
It’s hard to say without actually being close to one.

JOHN
(Rises; Nods to Wang,)
Thank you doctor. I’ll -- try and get out of here as fast as I can.

(CONTINUED)
WANG
(to Ansen,)
You should provide him with a ship.

INT. HALLWAY - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS - DAY

IVY takes a lonely walk down the hall. In a state of concavity. Ready to give up.

As Ivy walks down, we CLOSE ON her. A woman who’s devoted all this time trying to find her husband, and now she’s almost ready to believe that he doesn’t exist anymore.

INT. HALLWAY - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS - DAY

-- ANSEN and JOHN. Walking down the same hall.

JOHN
What remains of my ship? The Cruiser?

ANSEN
Whole thing’s crashed. All burned to shit. I had the workers collect whatever didn’t burn. But otherwise, we threw out all the scrap metal.

JOHN
I need to contact NASA, Howard. The NASA in my world. I’ve gotta use your connections. Can I do that?

ANSEN
Use whatever you need. But I don’t think there’s a way to talk across worlds. I mean --

(Then,)
Wait hold on a sec.

(Thinks; Then,)
Your walkie. Your radio. It never burned. I remember they brought it in.

JOHN
Where is it? Does it still work?

ANSEN
Might be in working condition. There’s no harm in trying.
INT. EVIDENCE LOCKER ROOM - NASA FACILITY

JOHN walks in. Opens a locker. Inside, he finds --

His Astronaut helmet. He holds it in his hands. Looks into it. Then, he puts it aside on the table. Next, he finds --

His astronaut gloves. He slips one of them on. Then, puts both of them aside.

And now, John finds A SHAVING KIT. He takes it. Smiles at it. Unzips it open. Finds a razor. A toothbrush. Some mouthwash. Then, he pulls out --

A SMALL PHOTO. Of him and his daughter Abby as a baby. He starts to tear up. But then he drops the picture back in the bag. Next, he finds -- THE RADIO.

JUMP CUT TO:

JOHN. Sitting at a table. The RADIO held up to his ear. He turns it on. Turns the volume up a bit. A beat. He listens closely. Hearing muffled voices. Until --

IVY (O.S.)
(From radio,)
Hey John... just checking in on you. It’s been a few days since we talked. I figured you would be done by now but... satellite must be really messed up huh?

John smirks. It’s that same light humor he recalls from his wife.

IVY (O.S.) (CONT’D)
(From radio,)
Well, anyway... hope you’re doing okay. Getting lot’s of exercise, I hope. You know what being in that zero-gravity can do to ya... well... take care... bye.

John tears up. Almost crying. Then, the radio cuts to the next message.

IVY (O.S.) (CONT’D)
(from radio,)
Hey... I just called to say that I miss you... and that Abby misses you too. She asks me every night where you are. And I just tell her to look at the sky. I took her to the facility the other day.

(MORE)
IVY (O.S.) (CONT’D)
She seemed to have fun. Well I just wanted to --

The voicemail cuts off. Showered by muffled noises. And then, a new message starts --

IVY (O.S.) (CONT’D)
Hey... I heard what happened. The station’s in a frenzy right now. All of ‘em are worried about the satellite.
(Then,)
God I hope you’re okay, John. They lost contact with your ship. And I know you can’t reply, but I really do hope you didn’t get hurt. I just wish you had made it back down here before that thing snapped.

John listens. Almost feeling the voice. The next message starts --

IVY (O.S.) (CONT’D)
Hey it’s me again... I know you probably have no time to talk to me. You must be busy -- trying to get back home... but I miss you. I’m uh -- getting lonely down here. They say that they’re sending a rescue team up there to come get you. And to repair the satellite, of course. So don’t panic. Just keep drinking water, keep eating. Just hang tight. Bye.

John starts crying. Hard tears coming down.

IVY (O.S.) (CONT’D)
(From walkie,)
Hi John. Your father died last week. We buried him in the same cemetrey we did your mom. I saw your cousin Miranda at the funeral. Been years since I last saw her. She said she’s down in Albuquerque. Doing some kind of plant research.
(Then,)
Abby started day-care. She’s about two months in.

John laughs. Shallow humor.
IVY (O.S.) (CONT’D)
(From radio,)
They stopped your investigation.
Everyone thinks your dead, honey.
They said I should start mourning
you too.

John fights back his tears. Listens --

IVY (O.S.) (CONT’D)
I don’t know where you are exactly,
John. But if I don’t believe that
you’re alive, then I don’t know how
I’ll live. So I’m just waiting.
Biding my time. Waiting for you to
come back. And I’ll wait for as
long as I need to. Till Abby grows
up... till her graduation... her
twenty-first. Her wedding. Hell,
I’ll wait even beyond all that.

She stops for a second. Then --

IVY (O.S.) (CONT’D)
Come back home, John. Please. Our
daughter needs you.
(Then,)
Oh, speaking of, our little two
year old wants to say something to
you. Hang on a sec, okay?

John gets anxious. Lets his tears flow.

ABBY (O.S.)
(From radio,)
H-Hi... daddy...

John raises his hand to wave. Speaks into the radio --

JOHN
Hi sweety --

He stops. Realizing he’s talking to no one.

IVY (O.S.)
(in b.g.)
Say I love you daddy.

ABBY (O.S.)
(From radio,)
I-- I love you! Bye!

(CONTINUED)
John breaks down. Starts to weep away at the mere joy of hearing his daughter’s voice.

Abby’s voice fades. Ivy comes back on the line.

IVY
That was her. That’s our Abby.
She’s growing up fast. She just wants to meet you.
(Then,)
You're not listening to this. I know that. All of these messages are just out there, drifting in the darkness. But I’m just full of hope, you know?
(Then,)
They’re saying that I should just give up now. I mean -- that’s what everyone’s done. They’re all saying that you’re gone forever, and you’re not coming back. But I just hope that wherever you are, you’re okay, and that you’re alive. Okay?
...Bye.

The last message cuts off. John slams the radio down. Buries his head in his hands. Everything he’s missed out on hits him.

INT. ANSEN’S OFFICE - NASA FACILITY - HOUSTON, TEXAS

ANSEN holds up a picture. Him and JOHN. Sitting on the other end of the desk is IVY. Lost in her thoughts.

ANSEN
He was... he was a good man, Ivy.
Hard worker. That’s what... He should be remembered by. That’s how Abby should remember him.

IVY
He’s not dead, Howard. He’s just lost.

ANSEN
Ivy --

IVY
I haven’t seen a body. Until then, I’ll believe what I wanna.
INT. EVIDENCE LOCKER ROOM - NASA FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

-- JOHN. He flips on the radio again. It buzzes for a second. Then, he pushes a button on it. Holds it up to his mouth. Talks into it --

JOHN

...Hello?
(Then,)
Houston? Do you copy? Houston? This John Weston. Mission number three-five-one-nine. I was aboard the Cruiser.
(A beat,)
Houston? This is John Weston. Astronaut and Space engineer sent up in spaceflight in the Cruiser. Do you read me?

INT. RADIO STATION - NASA FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

NASA WORKERS are watching the monitors. Then, suddenly, from the RADIO STATION, they hear --

JOHN (O.S.)
Houston? Do you copy? Houston? This John Weston. Mission number three-five-one-nine. I was aboard the Cruiser. Houston? This is John Weston. Astronaut and Space engineer sent up in spaceflight in the Cruiser. Do yo read me?

The Workers exchange looks. Then, they both rush to the radio monitors. Pic up a mic, and a headset.

NASA WORKER # 1
Hello? Mr. Weston? This is the Houston radio station. We read you. Are you okay? Do you copy?

INT. EVIDENCE LOCKER ROOM - NASA FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

JOHN floods with relief, hearing the NASA workers’ voice.

JOHN
Yea -- Yeah. This Is John Weston. I copy. I can hear you fine.

NASA WORKER # 2
(From radio,)
Are you okay, sir?

(CONTINUED)
JOHN
Yeah. I’m fine. I’m -- at another
NASA station. In another... world.
Parallel world. That’s what they’re
telling me.

INT. ANSEN’S OFFICE – NASA FACILITY – CONTINUOUS

ANSEN gets a page on his phone. He answers.

ANSEN
This is Ansen.
(Then,)
What? When?
(Then,)
No. Keep him on the line. I’m on my
way.

Ansen hangs up. Turns to Ivy.

IVY
What?

ANSEN
You’re never gonna believe it.
(Then,)
Come with me.

INT. RADIO STATION – NASA FACILITY – HOUSTON, TEXAS

ANSEN and IVY come bursting in the door.

The NASA WORKERS are on the line with John. Trying to dissect
his story.

NASA WORKER # 1
Okay, so you went through a black
hole and survived? That’s what
you’re --

JOHN (O.S.)
It’s not a lie, I swear. I’m alive.
Completely fine. But I’m just... in
another dimension. They’re about
three years behind us. They haven’t
launched my mission. Not yet.

Ansen grabs the headset and the mic. Ivy flushes over with
relief, hearing John’s voice.

ANSEN
John? This Ansen. Do you copy?

(CONTINUED)
JOHN (O.S.)
(from radio,)
I’m here Howard.

ANSEN
What the hell’s going on? Where are you exactly?

JOHN (O.S.)
(From radio,)
You’re gonna find this hard to believe but I never died in the satellite crash. My ship got off course ’cause I was close to a black hole. I went through one. Woke up here. In another world.

ANSEN
Exactly like ours?

JOHN (O.S.)
(From radio,)
I’m calling from a NASA station. Just like ours. They’re a bit behind, but it’s ‘cause they haven’t gotten to where we are. Not yet.

15 INT. EVIDENCE LOCKER ROOM - NASA FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

JOHN pauses for a beat. Then --

JOHN
Hey, Howard I need you to do me a favor.

16 INT. RADIO STATION - NASA FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

JOHN (O.S.)
(From radio,)
I need to you to ring Ivy up. Tell her what’s going on, and then get her to phone me on --

Ivy hears her name. She quickly rushes over. Grabs the mic and the headset. Talks into the receiver.

INTERCUT between John and Ivy as they talk --

IVY
John? I’m here. It’s Ivy, I’m here babe. Talk to me. What --

(CONTINUED)
JOHN
(Shedding tears)
Hey honey. It’s me.

IVY
Where were you?

JOHN
I’m in another world, sweetheart. But I’m fine. I’m perfectly fine. I’m -- I’m alive.

IVY
Nobody believed me. They all thought you were dead. But I knew you weren’t.

JOHN
I knew you wouldn’t give up on me. (Then,)
But hey -- I’m fine. I’m fine and I’m coming back. Things are slower here, but I’m gonna find a way. I’m going to find a way. And I’m coming back home. To you and Abby.

Ivy starts to tear up.

JOHN (CONT’D)
Ivy? Ivy? Do you hear me, sweety?

IVY
I’m just glad you’re okay... I’ve waited so long for this.

JOHN
You don’t have to wait much longer now. I’m coming home. Alright?

IVY
Okay. I love you.

JOHN
I love you. (Then,)
I need to say a quick word to Ansen. Can you pass it to him?

Ivy passes the mic to Ansen. She gets up, walks to the b.g. to clear her tears.

ANSEN
It’s me, John.
JOHN talks into the radio mic.

JOHN
Howard. Listen, I don’t know how long I’m going to be. But make sure you take care of my family until I get back. Alright? And have a few rangers there when I come through.

ANSEN
We’ll be waiting for ya, John.

Then, the line goes dead. Ansen puts the mic down. Turns to Ivy who looks at him. I told you so...

ANSEN
You were right, Ivy. Sorry I doubted you. In fact... we’re all sorry.

Ivy gets in her car. Sits for a beat. Then --

Her eyes start streaming with tears. She cries. Laughs darkly. In sheer joy. Everything she had hoped for just happened.

JOHN is standing at a bridge. In a secluded area. He looks off to a stream that is flowing below. Then --

From behind, ANSEN steps on. Freezes for a beat.

ANSEN
I’m sorry I doubted you, John.

JOHN
That’s okay, Howard. Besides, you haven’t met me. At least not the me in this world.

ANSEN
Researches in our facility are in a frenzy. You changed all their perspectives.

(CONTINUED)
JOHN
I didn’t mean to. I’m just... an astronaut. Who was in the wrong place at the wrong time. And landed in a strange place at the right time.

(A beat,)
I’m not staying, Howard. I’ve gotta get back. You know that.

ANSEN
You’re going back up there, aren’t you? To search for that hole?

JOHN
(Nods,)
And I’m going to need your facility’s help.

ANSEN
Right. Yeah.

John turns. Heads off the bridge to leave. Then he stops. Turns back to Ansen.

JOHN
Oh and do me a favor.  
(Then,)
About a year from now, you’re satellite’s gonna start to misbehave. And you’re going to have to send an engineer up there.

(A beat,)

JOHN (CONT’D)
Don’t send him on that mission. My family’s already suffered without me in my world. His family needs him here. He’s going to have a daughter. He’s going to be happy. Don’t ruin that for him. Don’t let him go up there.

(With sincerity,)
Can you do that much for me?

ANSEN
I can do that.

John nods to Ansen. Leaves him on the bridge.
INT. ABBY’S BEDROOM – WESTON HOUSE – NIGHT

ABBY WESTON (3), is getting into bed. IVY stands behind her.

IVY
C’mon. Gotta get up for school tomorrow.

Ivy pulls the covers over Abby.

ABBY
Mommy? Where’s daddy?

Ivy stops. Sits down on the bed beside Abby. A beat. She looks out the window. Then --

IVY
He’s out there somewhere, honey.

EXT. TRAIL – DAY

John walks down the trail. In another world. He looks side to side as he walks. Taking in the reality of this world.

IVY (V.O.)
Alone... in a world... just like ours.

INT. WANG’S LAB – NASA FACILITY – DAY

DR. WANG, among many other scientists are hard at work. Deep into their research.

IVY (V.O.)
Maybe right now, he’s probably looking for a way back. For a way to come home...

INT. ANSEN’S OFFICE – NASA FACILITY – DAY

ANSEN sits in his office. Watching live footage of the NASA satellite. Everything’s fine with it.

INT. KITCHEN – WESTON HOUSE – DUSK

JOHN and IVY. By themselves. They both sit down at the kitchen table. Getting ready to eat. We CLOSE ON them. They’re happy. Meanwhile, in THE BACKYARD --

(CONTINUED)
IVY (V.O.)
Or he’s just thinking ‘bout us...

From afar, we find JOHN (from our world), hiding behind a tree. Looking through the window of the house. Taking in his life in this world.

INT. ABBY’S BEDROOM - WESTON HOUSE - NIGHT

ABBY is sound asleep. IVY turns the lamp off. Leaves the room.

EXT. DECK - WESTON HOUSE - NIGHT

IVY steps out of the house. Walks to the edge of the deck. Looks to the stars...

EXT. HILLSIDE - DUSK

-- JOHN. He steps out on the edge of the hilltop. Looking out at the sun setting.

    IVY (O.S.)
    Just close your eyes... he’ll be home soon.

Off John, a solitary figure, in another world, we --

CUT TO BLACK

THE END