

The Reachable Moon

By
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FADE IN:

EXT. HOTEL FUNCTION ROOM - NIGHT

MOLLIE (6), wearing a yellow party dress, is lost in a sea of well-dressed adults, sipping from wine glasses and laughing at each others' jokes.

She looks up at the party goers like one would standing in a forest and looking up at the tall trees.

As she moves through the foliage of legs a hand appears from the crowd and lifts her up above the canopy of adults. She lands in the safety of her father's arms.

Her father, SIMON (30), is dressed in a tuxedo.

Above the sea of party goers is a large banner with the words "Bon Voyage to NASA's Finest" printed across it.

Mollie's mother, SARAH (30), dressed in her sky blue party dress, joins them. Proud of her husband, she kisses him on the cheek.

EXT. HOTEL TERRACE - NIGHT

On a bench outside the hotel, Mollie sits nestled between her parents with a toy rocket in her hands.

Simon points to the stars as Mollie watches intently, captivated in her father's presence.

A shooting star falls across the sky and Simon whispers to Mollie.

SIMON
Make a wish, Mollie.

Mollie closes her eyes, then opens them.

SIMON
Did you make a wish?

Mollie nods then goes to speak.

SIMON
No, don't tell me.

He lifts her onto his knee.

SIMON

It won't come true if you tell me.

He takes Mollie's toy rocket ship and from her perspective appears to land it on the large, exaggerated moon suspended in front of them.

Simon takes away his hand and the rocket stays perched on the moon as if by magic. Mollie watches in awe.

But the rocket starts to slip. The sound of a real ROCKET failing its launch and falling to the ground is heard.

Mollie sits up, eyes transfixed on the tragedy. The rocket slides and comes hurtling to the floor.

Mollie looks at her dad, helplessly. CRASH.

She shuts her eyes tightly, her world fallen apart.

INT. MOLLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Mollie opens her eyes.

She is sat on the top step of a staircase wearing a black dress.

The stairs overlook the living room, filled with mournful-looking people also dressed in black.

Mollie watches as relatives take it in turns to talk to and comfort her mother.

Her eyes dart around to everyone in the room, taking in every smile, every laugh and every physical sign of affection. She starts shaking.

It all becomes too much. She puts her hands on her head, squeezes her hair and SCREAMS!

Everyone looks up.

Mollie stands as the screaming turns to anger.

She grabs hold of the railing to the stairs and starts shaking it violently, kicking the banisters clean out of their nests and into the crowd below.

Sarah runs to her aid but as she reaches her...

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD - DAY

Mollie, now ten years old, is in the same fit of rage. A frenzied crowd of school children surround her. It's a school fight.

Mollie and another, much older, girl swing fists at each other.

Mollie gets the better of the other girl and wrestles her to the floor.

A teacher pushes through the crowd and separates the two girls. He grabs Mollie's arm and drags her away.

Mollie, out of breath and bleeding from her nose, looks back at the crowd who survey the damage of the fight like survivors after a hurricane has passed.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Mollie, fresh from the fight, sits outside an office by reception.

She looks longingly out the window at the children playing on the playground.

A sign on the door reads 'Headteacher'. It opens and a stern, terrifying woman, MRS BOWEN (50), appears.

Mollie stands, head down, and enters the room. Mrs Bowen closes the door behind them.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Children, aged about 10, are taking it in turns to stand at the front and address the class.

Their heavily pregnant teacher, MISS JENKINS (30), watches from the side.

The first student to address the class is BEN, a good-looking popular kid with a fancy haircut.

BEN

When I'm older I want to be a...
doctor.

Cut to

STUDENT 1
Hairdresser.

Cut to

STUDENT 2
Business... something to do with
business.

Cut to

STUDENT 3
Lawyer.

Cut to

MOLLIE
Astronaut.

The class erupts with laughter. Miss Jenkins gestures for the children to stop laughing.

MISS JENKINS
Mollie, you can't be an astronaut.

MOLLIE
Why not?

MISS JENKINS
Well, astronauts have very high
grades and don't spend half their
life in detention.

MOLLIE
Ben said he wanted to be a doctor and
that's not going to happen.

MISS JENKINS
True, and maybe it was a little
unfair he didn't get laughed at as
well. Can you think of anything else?

MOLLIE
... No.

JESS, a pretty girl with wavy blond hair calls out.

JESS
Miss? Haven't they already sent a
monkey into space?

The class erupts back into laughter.

Mollie's eyes survey the class laughing at her before targeting a smug-looking Jess.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD - DAY

A frenzied crowd of school children surround Mollie and Jess. It's another school fight.

Mollie once again gets the upper hand and wrestles her to the floor.

A teacher pushes through the crowd and separates them. Grabbing Mollie's arm, he drags her away.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Mollie, fresh from the fight, is back outside Mrs Bowen's office.

INT. MOLLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mollie is stood on her desk, dressed in an adult sized NASA overalls. Her body is almost lost in it as she slowly places an empty fish bowl over her head. The curved glass magnifies the bruising on her face.

MOLLIE
(Pretend radio)
Houston do you copy? Over.

Mollie reaches out with her foot and drags a chair close to the desk.

MOLLIE
I'm at the the ladder. Over.

She climbs down from the desk using the chair.

MOLLIE
This is one small step for man but
one giant leap for me.

Mollie jumps onto the floor, landing on the "moon".

She walks around as an astronaut would on the moon's surface. The sound of her heavy breathing in the fish bowl mimics the sound made in space helmets.

The name on her suit reads "Simon Barnard".

SARAH (O.S.)
Mollie! Dinner.

Mollie panics. She rips the fish bowl from her head and steps out of the overalls.

She lifts up her mattress and hides the overalls underneath.

INT. KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Mollie sits at the dinner table as Sarah prepares a meal in the open plan kitchen.

SARAH
Do you have any homework tonight?

MOLLIE
No.

SARAH
No? You never have homework.

MOLLIE
I do it all in detention.

SARAH
So you're always up to date with homework then?

MOLLIE
It's pretty much the only thing I don't get detention for.

Sarah places two plates of cod and lentils on the table.

She sits down opposite Mollie, leaving an empty chair at the head of the table between them.

Mollie takes one look at her plate.

MOLLIE
I don't like fish.

SARAH
I know.

MOLLIE
What's this?

SARAH
Lentils.

MOLLIE
I don't like lentils.

SARAH
Again, I know.

Mollie starts eating, pulling a face of disgust with every tiny bite.

Sarah leans over and lifts Mollie's fringe to check on her bruises and cuts.

SARAH
That school nurse is useless.

Mollie looks up at Sarah.

MOLLIE
I know.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Mollie sits on the side of an emptying bath tub, wrapped in a towel. Sarah looks through a cabinet above the sink.

She pulls out a blue ice cream tub filled with plasters and medication.

SARAH
Tomorrow, do me favor?

MOLLIE
What?

SARAH
Stay out of trouble. I'm leaving work early to move Granddad in at one. I don't want to have to leave him to come in and speak to Mrs Bowen... again.

MOLLIE
I'll try... as usual.

Mollie winces as Sarah puts anti bacterial cream on her cuts and applies fresh plasters.

INT. MOLLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mollie is in bed in her dark room. She lies on her side, gazing at the bright moon watching over her from a gap in the curtain.

She then glances at her toy rocket, stood proudly on her bedside table.

She closes her eyes and falls asleep.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah lies down on one side of her big empty bed. She rolls onto her back, looking up at the ceiling.

She shuts her eyes then cups her hand by her side as though holding a hand tightly that isn't there.

Her eyes open and look at the empty space beside her.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The morning news on the television.

NEWS ANCHOR

In just ten weeks, NASA will be attempting yet another manned mission to the moon. In the NASA team is Britain's very own Emily Strong.

A picture of Emily (32), curly hair, pops up on the corner of the screen.

Mollie, in her pajamas, is sat on the floor watching TV and eating cereal.

She glances at the cereal box which is covered with promotional images of rockets and space for the NASA launch.

NEWS ANCHOR

This will be the second attempt for a manned mission to the moon after the tragic attempt four years ago---

SARAH

You're not dressed! You'll be late.

Sarah stands in the doorway.

Mollie holds her stomach and acts ill.

MOLLIE
My tummy hurts.

SARAH
You've got ten minutes. I'll drive
you.

Mollie sighs as she runs upstairs.

Sarah picks up the remote from the floor and turns to the TV. A picture of her husband, Simon, appears on the screen.

She hesitates for a second before switching the TV off.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr Gilligan (24) sits at his desk in an empty classroom. He looks nervously at the clock on the wall. 8:55am.

MRS BOWEN
Are you ready?

Mr Gilligan jumps. He looks over to the door to see Mrs Bowen.

MR GILLIGAN
I am... a tiny bit nervous.

MRS BOWEN
Don't let them know that, they'll eat
you alive.

MR GILLIGAN
I won't, thank you. That's really
calmed me down.

He still looks nervous.

MRS BOWEN
You just need to get them through
this last term.

MR GILLIGAN
I should be okay. I think they'll be
pretty excited about the project. Who
doesn't like rockets and space?

MRS BOWEN
... Yea.

Mrs Bowen Leaves. The school bell RINGS.

Mr Gilligan looks over at an object next to him wrapped in a beach towel.

He smiles confidently before turning pale and dry heaving a little.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD - DAY

Mollie and her class have gathered on the school field.

Mr Gilligan places the wrapped object on the floor then turns to address the class.

MR GILLIGAN

Okay, now while Miss Jenkins is on maternity leave, we're going to do a very special project which I really think you're going to love.

The class are quiet, uninterested.

MR GILLIGAN

In a few weeks NASA will be launching a manned mission to the moon... and you ladies and gentleman will be doing the exact same thing. Except for the moon bit, of course.

Mr Gilligan utters a nervous laugh. The class don't respond.

MR GILLIGAN

We will be taking part in a national competition to build our very own---

JESS

Sir, Ian's got a nosebleed.

The class turn to see Ian, a tall and lanky boy with scruffy shoulder-length hair, ignoring a pretty bad nosebleed.

MR GILLIGAN

Oh Ian... you're not even trying to stop it.

IAN

I don't wanna to get blood on my hands.

Blood flows down his face and onto his uniform.

MR GILLIGAN

Has anyone got any tissues?

The class search their pockets but find none.

Mr Gilligan approaches Jess and pulls a clip from her blond hair causing it to drop to her visible annoyance.

MR GILLIGAN
Right, clip this on your nose and
pull your head back.

Ian puts the clip on his nose but doesn't move his head.

Amy, a petite, sweet chubby girl stood with Ian places her finger on his forehead and very carefully pushes his head back with little resistance from Ian.

MR GILLIGAN
So, your task this term is to build
one of these...

He pulls the towel from the mystery object with a flourish to reveal a clearly home made bottle rocket.

The class don't react, much to his disappointment.

MR GILLIGAN
Nothing? Okay, why don't I just show
you.

Mr Gilligan pulls out a lighter.

MR GILLIGAN
This is a bottle rocket and over the
next few weeks you guys are going to
build and launch your very own.

He lights the fuse and steps back.

MR GILLIGAN
Five, four,
(the pupils join in)
three, two...

Just as they reach 'two', the rocket falls on its side, aiming itself directly at Ian, whose head is still up and can't see.

MR GILLIGAN
Oh my god, Ian, move!

The rocket fires!

Mollie turns and kicks Ian hard in the back causing him to drop to the floor, head in the mud. The rocket narrowly misses him.

Everyone sighs in relief, all eyes following the rocket as it crashes through a window. A class of children scream.

Everyone turns back to a worried Mr Gilligan.

BEN

That's going to take some beating,
sir.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Mr Gilligan anxiously sits outside Mrs Bowen's office.

INT. MOLLIE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mollie enters the living room dressed in her school uniform.

She stops, confronted by her Granddad, PHILLIP, sat alone in the dark living room.

Phillip (70) is thin with gray hair and faded eyes.

They study each other for a moment before Mollie turns and runs upstairs.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mollie enters the spare bedroom filled with boxes. She finds Sarah throwing clean bedding on the bed.

SARAH

Hey, did you see Granddad?

MOLLIE

Yea.

SARAH

Did you say hello?

MOLLIE

Yea. How long is he staying for?

SARAH

I don't know.

INT. KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM - DAY

Mollie, Sarah and Phillip sit at the dinner table eating. Mollie notices her Granddad pushing food around his plate and lost in thought.

She looks at Sarah for reassurance.

Sarah smiles at Mollie then puts her hand on Phillip's arm, causing him to snap out of his daydream. They continue eating in silence.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

The class have settled into their seats, all but one in pairs. Mollie sits at the back, alone at her desk.

Mr Gilligan addresses the class.

MR GILLIGAN

In teams, you will research, design and make your very own rockets to launch on the same day NASA launch their rocket. The winner will be the one that reaches the highest point.

JESS

Not the one that can reach year seven's drama class window?

MR GILLIGAN

No. That record has already been set.. by me.

The class laugh. Ben puts his hand up and Mr Gilligan points to hear his question.

BEN

Do we have to?

MR GILLIGAN

Yes.

BEN

Even if we have a note?

MR GILLIGAN

I have no idea what that note would look like.

MR GILLIGAN

But here's the exciting bit. Every school in Britain is competing and first prize wins a trip to the NASA space camp.. in America!

The class breaks out into excited chatter. Mollie sits up.

Mr Gilligan starts handing out a brochure about space camp.

MR GILLIGAN

You'll actually get the chance to train to become a real astronaut.

The entire class turn and look at Mollie, who fights hard to control her smile but fails.

She takes a brochure. The front page shows a boy Mollie's age dressed as an astronaut.

MR GILLIGAN

Pretty exciting right?
Now, I want you all to get in teams...

The class descends into chaos as pupils throw themselves into teams.

Mollie stands, looking for direction, but is left in the eye of the storm as everyone rushes around her.

The dust settles and the pupils have arranged themselves into teams. Mollie stands alone.

MR GILLIGAN

Mollie, you need to be in a team.

Mollie's eyes scan the teams, who do their best to avoid her eye contact.

Mr Gilligan points to a team of three.

MR GILLIGAN

There, Mollie you go in that team.
That makes another team of four.

The team contains Amy, Jess and Ian. Mollie doesn't move.

MR GILLIGAN

Today, please.

Mollie walks over to her team and stands by them but not with them.

MR GILLIGAN
You've got ten minutes of class left.
Start planning.

The teams turn in on themselves.

Ian and Amy offer a smile to Mollie but Jess stares coldly.

MOLLIE
What?

JESS
You're not on our team.

AMY
Be nice, Jess.

JESS
Why? She attacked me and she kicked
Ian.

AMY
To save him from the rocket.

JESS
Yea, but she didn't need to kick him
that hard. Even when she's being
nice, she's being mean.

Jess leans in to Mollie.

JESS
If you think you're going latch on to
our team, so we do all the work and
you get a free ticket to space camp,
then think again.
You're too stupid to be on our team
and you're too stupid to be an
astronaut.

Mollie sees red. She stands, her chair slides back
violently...

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Mollie is back outside Mrs Bowen's office.

INT. MOLLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mollie sits at her desk which is covered in arts and crafts materials. On a laptop she looks at a video called "how to make a bottle rocket".

Following the instructions on the video she feeds a bike pump through a hole at the bottom of the bottle on her desk.

In the video someone pumps the bike pump and the rocket shoots off.

Mollie pumps the bike pump. The pressure starts to build until... the bike pump shoots out of her hands, flying across the room and out the open window.

She heads over to her window and looks down at the pump on the lawn then up towards the moon.

MOLLIE

I hope you didn't see that. I'll get better I promise.

KNOCK KNOCK.

Mollie slams the computer screen down and pushes the materials into a draw.

Sarah enters. She notices how out of breath Mollie is and becomes suspicious.

SARAH

You're not watching animal attack videos again are you?

MOLLIE

It's homework.

SARAH

No detention today?

MOLLIE

I tried.

SARAH

Whats the homework?

MOLLIE

Nothing.

Sarah goes to look at the laptop.

MOLLIE

It was animal attacks.

SARAH

Mollie, you'll have nightmares. I'm off to get something for tomorrow's lunchboxes. Can you watch Granddad?

MOLLIE

(Whispering)

I don't want to be left with Granddad. I don't know him.

SARAH

Well, get to know him. Talk about that time he dropped you as a baby and that's why you're such a weirdo.

MOLLIE

What?

SARAH

Nothing. I won't be long.

Sarah kisses Mollie goodbye and leaves.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mollie enters the living room to find Phillip studying a picture on the shelf.

Mollie stands beside him. The picture is of Phillip and her Dad in NASA overalls, stood in front of a strange, shuttlecock-shaped spacecraft.

MOLLIE

Mum hates that picture.

PHILLIP

It is a little out of focus.

MOLLIE

That's not why.

PHILLIP

I know.

MOLLIE

What did you do? When you worked with Dad.

PHILLIP

I was an engineer. Did your Mum not tell you?

MOLLIE

No. She doesn't like talking about it.

PHILLIP

About me?

MOLLIE

I don't know, she doesn't talk about it, does she?

They share a glance then return their attention to the photo.

PHILLIP

(Proudly)

Look, I built that.

Phillip points to the spacecraft in the picture.

MOLLIE

Wow. I have to build a rocket for a competition at school. Everyone is in a team except me. I could win if you help.

PHILLIP

No.

MOLLIE

So you'll build one for Dad but not me? That's fair.

PHILLIP

I built a real rocket for your Dad. Not a toy.

MOLLIE

It's not a toy, it's for school. But fine, forget it. I'll do it myself.

PHILLIP

Good.

Phillip starts walking away from Mollie, towards the kitchen.

Mollie picks up the photo.

MOLLIE
I've seen Dad's launch on YouTube.
That's not the spacecraft he used.

Phillip stops and turns back.

PHILLIP
You shouldn't be looking at that.

MOLLIE
Did it ever get used?

Phillip looks embarrassed.

PHILLIP
No.

MOLLIE
Not much of a rocket if it never
leaves the ground.

Phillip has nothing to say and turns to leave. Again, Mollie
doesn't let him.

MOLLIE
Why did Dad's crash?

PHILLIP
It's complicated

MOLLIE
But you worked with him.

Phillip turns around but doesn't look Mollie in the eyes.

PHILLIP
We can't talk about this.

MOLLIE
No one talks about it. It's like he
never existed, like I just made him
up.
I don't know why we have to pretend
we've all forgotten.

PHILLIP
Who's pretending?

Sarah comes in, immediately sensing an atmosphere.

SARAH
You guys okay?

Mollie hands the photo to Phillip then pushes past Sarah and runs upstairs.

Sarah looks at Phillip for answers.

SARAH
What happened?

She notices the photo in his hand.

SARAH
Don't upset her with that stuff, Dad.
It's not fair.

Phillip looks down at the photo. His old, thin face reflects against the photo where he looks happier and healthier.

SARAH
How you feeling?

He runs his fingers over the spacecraft in the background.

PHILLIP
I'm fine.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Phillip studies himself in the mirror on the cabinet above the sink.

Opening the cabinet he pulls out a wash bag filled with medication. He pulls everything out and lines it up along the sink.

Confronted and overwhelmed by the army of pill bottles, he stumbles back and sits on the bath, surrounded and defeated.

He turns his head to the window. The bright, white moon peers back at him.

Phillip stands, picks up a bottle of pills and from his prospective appears to land it on the moon.

He smiles, an idea!

He takes his hand away from the bottle and it falls in the bin below.

EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT

Phillip walks with purpose to a garage at the bottom of the long narrow garden.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Phillip enters the garage from a side door and switches on the light to reveal a large, cluttered, grubby room.

His breathing is heavy as he takes a seat on a box.

He contemplates the room's possibilities then pulls out a mobile phone and makes a call.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Mollie sits at the back of the class. She clumsily tries to put together a bottle rocket following instructions from a print out.

Mr Gilligan talks to the class.

MR GILLIGAN

You guys have a few choices for your rockets. My advice... experiment! You can try a water bottle and a bike pump. Or maybe baking soda and vinegar.

He clears his throat.

MR GILLIGAN

The type of rocket I used however, will no longer be allowed after a few letters from your parents... and the drama department... and the fire department.

Mollie concentrates on her bottle rocket.

MR GILLIGAN

Remember to work with your team. That's the key to winning this.

Mollie's rocket implodes in her hands.

The two girls in front of Mollie notice. They turn back, giggling.

Mollie unzips the girls rucksack hanging on the back of one of their chair. She opens her bottle of water then puts it in the bag. The bag instantly starts leaking.

Mollie turns her head and notices Amy, Ian and Jess watching her. They quickly look away when Mollie spots them.

INT. CAR - DAY

Sarah drives Mollie home after school.

SARAH
How was school?

MOLLIE
The usual.

A few seconds of silence pass before Mollie speaks.

MOLLIE
How come Granddad's staying with us?

SARAH
It's just worked out like that.

MOLLIE
He was telling me about when he worked with Dad and---

BANG! Smoke starts pouring out of the engine. Sarah swears under her breath as she pulls over.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

Mollie stands on the pavement next to the broken-down car. Sarah lifts the bonnet, releasing thick smoke.

MOLLIE
Can you fix it?

SARAH
I don't even know what "it" is.

MOLLIE
What should we do?

Sarah puts the bonnet down.

SARAH
We ask for help.

INT. TOW TRUCK - DAY

Mollie sits in the middle of Sarah and the driver, NICK.

Nick (30), quietly good looking behind long years of fixing cars.

Nick notices Mollie's uniform.

NICK
You go to St Mary's School?

MOLLIE
Sadly.

NICK
Does Mrs Bowen still teach Maths?

MOLLIE
She's the headteacher.

NICK
Jeez. Does she feed you gruel and
make you break rocks all day?

MOLLIE
If we're good.

Nick laughs.

NICK
(To Sarah)
I can't believe you send her to a
school run by Mrs Bowen.

SARAH
Trust me, it's Mrs Bowen you should
feel sorry for.

NICK
(To Mollie)
Good for you.

Mollie and Nick share a smile.

SARAH
Have you got kids?

NICK
Just a cat. Do you have any pets?

SARAH
Just Mollie.

Sarah and Nick share a smile.

INT. KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM - DAY

Mollie and Sarah enter the kitchen. Mollie throws her school bag and coat on the table.

SARAH
Mollie, go see if Granddad needs a hand.

MOLLIE
Why? With what? Why?

SARAH
He's cleaning the garage out for me.

MOLLIE
Why do I have to do that?

SARAH
You can either think of it as punishment for one of the many things you've done or for one of the many things you'll do in the future.

MOLLIE
... Fair enough.

Mollie exits the back door to the garden.

EXT. BACK GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Mollie walks down the long garden towards the garage.

As she approaches she hears strange noises, banging, drilling and things crashing.

She puts her ear to the door then KNOCKS. The noises stop.

MOLLIE
Granddad?

PHILLIP (O.S.)
What?

MOLLIE
Mum sent me to help.

PHILLIP (O.S.)
Don't need it.

MOLLIE
I have to. Mum said.

No response.

MOLLIE
Can you at least help a bit with my
rocket?

No response.

As she turns to walk away the noises start up again.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD - DAY

Mollie sits against a wall during lunch break. She opens the
space camp brochure. It looks very exciting.

Mr Gilligan approaches her.

MR GILLIGAN
Looks fun, doesn't it?

Mollie closes the brochure.

MOLLIE
I guess.

MR GILLIGAN
How's the project going?

MOLLIE
Okay.

Mollie looks across the school field to Amy, Jess and Ian
standing around their bottle rocket. The rocket launches a
few feet in the air. They cheer.

MR GILLIGAN
Your team's doing well.

Mollie shrugs.

MR GILLIGAN
With a little help, they might even
win.

Mr Gilligan gives a suggestive smile before walking off to
patrol the playground.

Mollie looks at the group then back at the brochure.

She stands up and approaches the group.

AMY
Hi, Mollie. Did you see the rocket?
It's not finished yet, its going to
go much further.

IAN
It's gonna to be way more powerful.

MOLLIE
I want to help.

JESS
Why?

MOLLIE
I want to.

JESS
Because it looks like we might win,
that's why.

AMY
You can help. We still have a long
way to go.

Mollie picks up the rocket and studies it.

IAN
That tube carries air to the rocket
by pressing this button air and
pushes it up through this tube.

Mollie looks impressed.

MOLLIE
You built this?

IAN
We all did. I'm rubbish at English,
Maths, two types of science and P.E
but stuff like this is easy.

AMY
Did you want to press the button?

MOLLIE
Really?

JESS
No.

AMY

Yes. You can have my go.

Amy hands the control over to Mollie as she places the rocket back on to the ground.

IAN

On my count, Mollie. Five, four...

JESS

Crash it and you're dead, Mollie.

This hits a nerve with Mollie. She looks up at Jess then narrows her eyes in anger.

Mollie pulls on the controls causing the attached tube to pull the rocket onto its side, aiming at Jess.

She hits the button. The rocket launches horizontally.

Jess jumps out the way. The rocket misses and crashes into a tree.

Jess gets up from the floor, her uniform covered in mud.

JESS

You did that on purpose! I knew you would ruin it, I knew!

AMY

Mollie, how could you?

Mollie hands the controls back to a shocked-looking Ian.

MOLLIE

(To Jess)

Doesn't look like you're going to win now.

JESS

That's it!

AMY

Jess, no!

Jess launches at Mollie and the two fall to the floor. Every student on the field rushes over to watch.

They roll around, throwing any punch they can.

Eventually Amy and Ian are able to pull Jess off and stand between the two.

Mr Gilligan rushes over.

MR GILLIGAN
Mollie and Jess, inside now!

INT. MRS BOWEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Mrs Bowen sits at her big desk. Mr Gilligan stands behind her like a lieutenant.

On the other side of the desk sits a beaten and bruised Mollie, cradling a bandaged hand, and Sarah.

MRS BOWEN
So, here's what's going to happen...
I'm going to suspend Mollie for two days and this will mark her last disciplinary at this school.
If she gets in trouble one more time, no matter how small, then she will be excluded.

SARAH
She isn't a bad kid she just does bad things sometimes.

MRS BOWEN
We're defined by our actions and Mollie's have been unacceptable for some time.
Two days suspension and no more chances.
And Mollie, you will apologize to Jess and her friends for what you did to their rocket.

SARAH
What rocket?

Mollie winces when her Mum mentions the rocket.

MR GILLIGAN
The rocket the students are making.
It's for the NASA launch... Did Mollie not tell you?

Sarah leans forward.

SARAH
And you're wondering why she's acting up?

MRS BOWEN
Did you not get the permission slip?

MR GILLIGAN
Was I meant to send permission slips?

MRS BOWEN
I'm sorry, Mr Gilligan is new.

She turns sharply to Mr Gilligan.

MRS BOWEN
And only here for one term.

Mr Gilligan sadly diverts his eyes to the floor.

SARAH
Are you so blind you can't see what
you're doing? You can't poke a tiger
then complains when it bites.

MR GILLIGAN
Sorry, whats the issue?

MRS BOWEN
Mollie's dad was---

MOLLIE
Is.

MRS BOWEN
Is... Simon Barnard.

MR GILLIGAN
No, way! The astronaut?

Mr Gilligan smiles with amazement at Mollie, who flashes
back a proud smile before quickly returning her gaze to the
floor.

SARAH
She doesn't need to be reminded of
what happened every day at school.

She gets up to leave, followed by Mollie.

Sarah opens the door to find Jess pressing her ear to the
door, listening in. They push past her.

INT. MOLLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Sarah and Mollie arrive home. Mollie slips off her shoes as Sarah marches straight upstairs.

Mollie hears a commotion coming from her room.

INT. MOLLIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mollie enters her room to find Sarah, searching through her things. She finds Simon's NASA overalls hidden under Mollie's mattress.

MOLLIE

What are you doing? That's not yours!

Mollie stands between Sarah and the door.

MOLLIE

You can't take it.

Mollie tries to snatch it out of Sarah's hands.

SARAH

All this stuff does is remind us why he isn't here.

MOLLIE

It doesn't. Please, don't take it!

SARAH

You could get excluded, this is serious.

Mollie makes another grab for the overall, Sarah lifts it high over her head.

SARAH

What's wrong? Talk to me!

Mollie screams at her mother.

MOLLIE

Why!?
You don't really want to talk about it! About Dad.

SARAH

Mollie, this will never heal if we keep opening the wound.

MOLLIE
You don't get it.

Sarah kneels to Mollie's eye level. Mollie's eyes water as they refuse to meet Sarah's.

Sarah softens her voice.

SARAH
(Unconvincingly)
Do you want to talk about it?

Mollie decides against it.

MOLLIE
No.

SARAH
Then what can I do?

MOLLIE
Just let me have this.

Sarah loosens her grip on the overalls. Mollie takes it from her.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Mollie sits on the roof extension by her bedroom window. Tearfully, she looks up at a crescent moon.

MOLLIE
I don't want to be here. I don't fit.

She looks down at the well worn space camp brochure.

MOLLIE
I know where I belong.

She looks back up at the moon.

MOLLIE
I just need to get there.

Mollie looks down the garden to the garage. The lights are on.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Mollie is knelt down making final adjustments to a new rocket.

She lights a match and ignites the fuse then steps back.

It burns down, reaches the rocket. Mollie puts her hands over her ears... but the rocket bursts into flames.

She picks up the washing up bowl next to her and pours it over the flames.

She looks over at the garage at the bottom of the garden before approaching the side door.

MOLLIE
Granddad, you have to help.

Mollie hears loud, unusual noises coming from inside.

MOLLIE
What are you doing?

PHILLIP (O.S.)
Clearing the garage out. Shouldn't you be at school?

MOLLIE
I got suspended.

PHILLIP (O.S.)
Get your Mum to help.

MOLLIE
She's at work.

No response.

MOLLIE
I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow this door down.

Still no response.

Mollie walks around the garage to the back road.

She finds a key under a rock then opens the big garage door.

It slides open to reveal Phillip working on a huge, partly-built spacecraft. Phillip is caught.

The spacecraft looks like a shuttlecock the size of a small van with three short legs, a window in the cockpit and three large rocket exhausts underneath.

MOLLIE
What is that?

PHILLIP
It's nothing. Shut the door.

Mollie goes inside and shuts the door.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Mollie circles the spacecraft.

PHILLIP
I meant shut it from the other side.

MOLLIE
You're building a rocket? Without me?

PHILLIP
... No.

MOLLIE
It's the one from the picture. Why do you have it?

PHILLIP
I built it, I keep it.

MOLLIE
You stole it? I want in.

PHILLIP
Definitely not.

MOLLIE
Fair enough. I'm sure Mum will agree.

PHILLIP
You're going to tell on me?

MOLLIE
I don't know, am I?

PHILLIP
... Okay, you can help.

MOLLIE
Great. What are we actually doing?

Phillip answers, deadly serious.

PHILLIP
We're going to finish what I started.
We're going to build this spacecraft
and launch it.

MOLLIE
Launch it where?

Phillip leans in dramatically.

PHILLIP
To the moon.

Mollie starts laughing.

MOLLIE
You're mad.

PHILLIP
No I'm not.

MOLLIE
Why you building it here?

PHILLIP
My room isn't big enough.

Mollie runs her hands over the rocket.

MOLLIE
Because you're not allowed. I know
that game.
This will definitely win me the
competition.

PHILLIP
This is serious.

MOLLIE
So serious you're building it in a
garage? Maybe we should ask Mum what
it's for?

PHILLIP
Fine. You can enter it in your school
project.

Mollie climbs up the ladder and peeks into the cockpit which
contains four seats, two rows of two. This concerns Mollie.

MOLLIE
Is it safe?

PHILLIP
Of course it is.

MOLLIE
Safer than Dad's?

Phillip notices the worry on Mollie's face.

PHILLIP

Yes. That's the point of it. Safer,
faster and affordable.
We're going to do something that has
never been done before and show
everyone something they've never seen
before. So please... don't tell your
mum.

MOLLIE

Who drives it?

PHILLIP

I do.

MOLLIE

Just you?

PHILLIP

You're not coming.

MOLLIE

You just said it was safe.

PHILLIP

Tell on me all you want, you're not
coming.

Mollie jumps down from the ladder and presents herself to Phillip.

MOLLIE

So what can I do?

Later.

Mollie lies on a skateboard. She looks nervous as Phillip hands her some wires.

She closes her eyes and lets out a yelp as he kicks the skateboard which accelerates her under the rocket.

Mollie keeps her head down, her face centimeters from the metal. She comes to a stop.

PHILLIP

Okay start feeding them through.

She opens her eyes and starts feeding the wires through the cramped spaces.

LATER.

Mollie holds a big sheet of metal while Phillip hammers it in place.

He hammers right by her ear, she flinches with every hit.

PHILLIP

Let me know if you want to stop helping.

MOLLIE

I'm good.

She flinches at another hammering. Phillip looks impressed by Mollie's persistence but he doesn't let her know it.

Later.

They sit in front of the half-built rocket, covered head to toe in dust and sweat.

In silence they eat a sandwich like a couple of builders on break.

LATER.

Mollie lies underneath the rocket, attaching small screws in place with her plastered up hand. Phillip's feet are visible as he occasionally kneels down to pass Mollie another screw.

MOLLIE

I can't really turn it properly with this plaster on.

Phillip starts coughing.

MOLLIE

Granddad?

Mollie looks to Phillip's feet. As he coughs he stumbles back and falls on the floor.

MOLLIE

Granddad!

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Phillip sits perched on the side of the bath while Mollie looks through the cabinet. She pulls out the blue tub.

She reaches out and gently extends Phillip's arm then takes some antibacterial gel and places it on his cuts.

PHILLIP

Ouch.

MOLLIE

I know, right.

Mollie takes out a bandage and wraps Phillip's hand.

She notices a number of faint bruises and previous cuts. She lifts his thinning gray fringe to see one clearer.

PHILLIP

Clumsy.

MOLLIE

Yea, me too.

PHILLIP

How's the hand?

MOLLIE

It's okay. I don't make a fuss like you do.

Phillip smiles.

PHILLIP

What was the fight about?

MOLLIE

Nothing.

PHILLIP

That's a silly thing to fight for.

Mollie applies more pressure to Phillip's hand and he winces in pain.

MOLLIE

I'm fine... you're the one building a spaceship in the garage.

He smiles briefly before admitting...

PHILLIP

This is the spacecraft your father was meant to use.

Mollie takes a seat on the bath beside him. She starts unwrapping the bandage on her own hand as she listens.

PHILLIP
I couldn't finish it in time.

MOLLIE
Would things be any different if you did?

PHILLIP
I honestly don't know. That's what I want to find out. I need to find out.

MOLLIE
Is it even possible?

PHILLIP
I don't know but I want to try anyway. Not because its easy but because it's right.

MOLLIE
Do you want me to help? I'm not clever.

PHILLIP
I want you to help.

Mollie smiles. Phillip starts coughing and holds his side.

MOLLIE
Are you okay?

PHILLIP
I'm fine. Just tired. I used to have a huge team working for me. Things aren't as easy when you're on your own.

Mollie rips her bandage off and drops it on the floor.

MOLLIE
I know.

INT. NICK'S GARAGE - DAY

Mollie, dressed in her school uniform, waits with Sarah.

Mollie examines the garage. Her eyes become drawn to the large amount of impressive power tools hanging uniformly on the wall.

One bright orange gun-shaped tool looks particularly impressive.

Nick walks in wearing filthy overalls, washing oil off his hands with a dirty towel. He looks genuinely happy to see them.

NICK
The car's all done.

SARAH
Thank you so much.

He hands the keys to Sarah and they exchange a warm smile. Mollie notices.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

Mollie walks to class. Jess is waiting for her.

JESS
Welcome back.

MOLLIE
What do you want?

JESS
I want you to enjoy your last few days in this school.

MOLLIE
Just change schools then. I'd really enjoy that.

JESS
And I want you to pay for what you did.

Mollie pushes past Jess and continues walking. Jess follows.

JESS
You heard Mrs Bowen, no more chances. I'm going to get you kicked out. I don't know how but I will.

MOLLIE
I'm glad I mean so much to you. Good luck with that.

Mollie enters her class.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

As Mollie enters the class goes silent and watches as she makes her way to the back of the class and sits down at her empty desk.

Mr Gilligan starts taking morning register.

Mollie watches Amy, Jess and Ian sat together a short distance away working on a even more impressive rocket.

Jess turns and catches Mollie looking. Mollie quickly diverts her eyes. Jess smirks.

Later.

The bell RINGS and the children rush out of the classroom.

MR GILLIGAN
Mollie, can you stay behind please?

Mollie approaches Mr Gilligan's desk as the last child leaves the room.

MR GILLIGAN
Welcome back. Do you feel rehabilitated?

MOLLIE
Not now but sometimes when I run.

MR GILLIGAN
No it means... don't worry.
Can I show you something?

Mr Gilligan reaches into his drawer, pulls out a photo and hands it to Mollie.

It's a picture of a younger, dorkier Mr Gilligan, proudly stood by Mollie's father, Simon.

MR GILLIGAN
I queued for about two hours to meet him. He signed my book.

Mollie smiles as she looks into her father's eyes.

MR GILLIGAN
I was up all night rehearsing what I was going to say to him but when I got there I was too nervous.

MR GILLIGAN

I just handed him the book and made a weird noise, like a grunt. I was so embarrassed. When I got home I cried.

MOLLIE

That's really sad.

MR GILLIGAN

Thanks. I thought he might see something special in me. Take me straightaway to NASA to become a famous astronaut.

Mollie takes a long look at the picture.

MOLLIE

Yea, that would be cool.

MR GILLIGAN

It would be very cool. I hope you don't mind me showing you this. I don't want to upset you.

MOLLIE

It doesn't upset me. Everyone thinks it does but it doesn't.

MR GILLIGAN

Good. If my dad was an astronaut you wouldn't be able to shut me up.

Mollie hands the picture back.

MR GILLIGAN

Mrs Bowen means what she says. No more chances.

MOLLIE

I know.

MR GILLIGAN

Good. It would reflect so poorly on me if you got excluded.

They share a smile.

MOLLIE

Thank you, sir.

EXT. SCHOOL FIELD - DAY

Mollie approaches Jess, Amy and Ian working on their rocket.

Jess sees her coming, picks up the rocket and stands in front of Amy and Ian. She grins at Mollie, beckoning her to come closer.

Over Jess's shoulder, Mrs Bowen stands watching.

Mollie turns and walk away.

INT. BOY'S SCHOOL TOILETS - DAY

Ian enters the boy's toilets. He scratches himself as he enters a cubicle.

Before he can close the door, Mollie pushes her way in, knocking Ian to the floor by the toilet. She closes the door behind her.

IAN
Please don't hurt me!

MOLLIE
(Aggressively)
I'm not going to hurt you!
(Softer)
I'm not going to hurt you. I want to talk.

IAN
Why? What's going on? Why?

MOLLIE
I need your help.

Mollie extends her arm and helps Ian to his feet.

IAN
Help? Please don't ask me to help you beat someone up.

MOLLIE
For god's sake, Ian!

IAN
Okay I'll do it!

Mollie grabs Ian by the scruff of the neck and pins him to the wall.

MOLLIE
I'm building a real rocket in my garage. Do you want to help?

IAN
(Intrigued)
Yes, please.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Mollie and Phillip work on the rocket. Mollie runs wires through the body of the ship as Phillip connects them to a control panel.

KNOCK, KNOCK.

Phillip jumps and looks to Mollie.

She gets up and opens the door. Ian and Amy walk in.

Their jaws drop when they see the spacecraft.

AMY
Oh my god.

IAN
I can't believe you were telling the truth. You never tell the truth.

Phillip pulls Mollie to one side as Amy and Ian closely inspect the rocket.

PHILLIP
What are they doing here?

MOLLIE
It's a team, to work for you.

PHILLIP
I don't want people knowing about this.

MOLLIE
Well, you should have said, cos it's a little late for that now.

Ian interrupts.

IAN
You're Phillip Barnard.

Phillip and Mollie turn to Ian.

IAN
They talk about you on the news.

PHILLIP
It's all lies.

IAN
They said you were a great scientist.

PHILLIP
That's true.

IAN
They said you got kicked out of NASA.

PHILLIP
That's a lie.

IAN
They said you nearly went to prison
for theft.

Phillip looks at the rocket then back at Ian.

PHILLIP
There might be some truth to that.

AMY
So, we enter a real rocket in the
competition? Bit extreme?

IAN
Extreme and not to mention
dangerous... which of course means
fun. I'm in.

AMY
How high can it go?

MOLLIE
(Deadly serious)
We're going to land it on the moon.

Amy and Ian start laughing.

AMY
You're mad.

MOLLIE
No, we're not.

AMY
What about Jess?

MOLLIE
She can't know.

AMY

She's on our team as well.

MOLLIE

This is a new team. One that's going to space camp... and space.

AMY

Then we can't.

Ian looks sadly at Amy but understands.

IAN

Sorry, Mollie. She's our friend.

Amy and Ian leave. Ian takes one last look at the rocket before he does.

Mollie chases after them.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Mollie catches up to Amy and Ian exiting the garden.

MOLLIE

You'll throw away your chance of going to space camp for Jess?

Amy turns back at Mollie.

AMY

Why do you want us to be part of this? We're not friends.

MOLLIE

No?

AMY

I've missed school because of you.

IAN

The week I had braces put in, you were so horrible that I had to stay in the boys' toilets during lunch.

AMY

Ian, ate an egg mayonnaise sandwich in the boys' toilets because of you. That's disgusting.

IAN
I practically haven't eaten one
since.

MOLLIE
Listen... It's not my fault.

Amy and Ian roll their eyes and turn to leave. Mollie pushes
past and stands between them and the garden gate.

MOLLIE
Okay, maybe it is my fault but I want
to make it up to you.

AMY
And Jess?

Mollie hesitates.

MOLLIE
Mrs Bowen said if I get in trouble
one more time she'll kick me out, for
good. Jess heard it. She told me
she's going to make sure that
happens.

AMY
She wouldn't.

MOLLIE
What do you think she'll do when she
finds out I'm entering a real rocket
into a school competition?

AMY
Mollie, we want to help...

IAN
Really want to help.

AMY
But...

MOLLIE
Also... In Mrs Bowen's office she
found out my dad died.

Amy and Ian look at each other then back at Mollie.

AMY
We know.

MOLLIE

You do?

IAN

Everyone knows.

MOLLIE

Why does no one say anything?

AMY

No one wants to upset you.

IAN

Or make you angry.

Mollie looks from Ian to Amy.

MOLLIE

Well... then you know how he died?

They nod.

MOLLIE

He was a great astronaut on an important mission. A mission that he never completed.

Well, we're going to complete it. I'm not asking to be friends I just want your help. I'm sorry you missed school because of me... and the egg mayonnaise thing.

IAN

Thank you.

MOLLIE

Me and my granddad are going to build this rocket because if we don't, no one will. It will all be forgotten and I don't want people to forget.

AMY

But you're talking about landing a rocket on the moon. From your garage.

MOLLIE

We're going to try. Not because its easy but because it's right.

Ian turns to Amy for an answer.

AMY

Okay, we'll help...

IAN

Yes!

AMY

But as a team. We include Jess.

MOLLIE

Fine.

IAN

Yes! Can we start now? Can I sit in it?

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Mollie, Ian and Amy walk back into the garage. Phillip is looking over blueprints.

MOLLIE

Okay, we're all in. Let's build a rocket.

Phillip sighs.

Later

Phillip stands in front of Mollie, Amy and Ian beside the rocket.

PHILLIP

Now, I want you all to listen very carefully. As pre-negotiated with Mollie, I'm letting you use my incredibly high-tech, expensive spaceship for your... school project.

Phillip shakes his head in disbelief.

PHILLIP

This isn't like any spaceship anyone has ever seen.

IAN

Except you.

PHILLIP

What?

IAN

You've seen it.

PHILLIP

...Anyway, on the day of your competition we'll wheel it out onto the path behind the garage. After inputting the coordinates onto this laptop...

Phillip directs their attention to a thick laptop the size of a briefcase on the table.

PHILLIP

We launch. It should take me about twenty six hours to reach the moon. Now, I want everyone to stick out their hands.

The three hesitate before nervously extending their arms.

PHILLIP

These are all I need from you. Hands. I don't need anything else. No thinking, no ideas, no gut feelings, no talking back and no questions. Just hands, lifting, building and connecting when and where I say.

Ian puts his hand up.

PHILLIP

This isn't a good start.

IAN

I have a question.

PHILLIP

I know.

IAN

I read that it would take a huge amount of fuel to lift a rocket into space.

PHILLIP

What's the question?

IAN

Can I be in charge of the huge amount of fuel?

PHILLIP

No. We have something better. We have this...

Phillip draws their attention to a huge cylinder at the base of the craft with four thrust rocket exhausts.

PHILLIP

This is what I built. This is what will revolutionize space travel. A safer and more affordable way to travel further into the unknown.

AMY

And does it work?

PHILLIP

Of course.

AMY

Have you tried it?

MOLLIE

If Granddad said it works then it works. Right?

PHILLIP

Yea. It should work.

AMY

But have you tried it?

Later.

Mollie, Ian and Amy stand against the wall at one end of the garage wearing goggles.

Phillip joins them, the laptop beside him on the work bench.

PHILLIP

Okay. Three, two, one.

He presses a button on the laptop and the engine comes alive.

It rumbles and groans and starts shaking.

Like a Tesla experiment, large electricity bolts shoot out of the engine from every direction.

Phillip grabs Mollie and hides her behind a box. Ian and Amy duck under the work bench.

They all peek out to see the rocket start lifting, inches off the floor.

PHILLIP
It's up! It's actually up!

The shaking become unbearable. Shelves fall and boxes smash into the wall.

MOLLIE
Turn it off!

Parts start flying off, narrowly missing everyone. The laptop is knocked onto the floor.

Phillip gets on his stomach and reaches for it. Screws ping off the rocket like shrapnel, narrowly missing him.

He extends his arm, fingertips just reaching. He pulls the laptop into his arms and hits the off switch.

The rocket comes crashing down, smashing into pieces on the floor.

Everyone comes out of hiding and stares at the damaged spaceship.

Phillip starts cheering.

PHILLIP
It worked! Did you see it? It actually worked. I knew it.

MOLLIE
But it's destroyed?

AMY
And it only went up a few inches.

PHILLIP
It still worked. It's these tools, don't you have anything better?

MOLLIE
Me and Mum aren't really "tool" people.

Phillip grabs the laptop.

PHILLIP
I need a gas powered steel nail gun. Like this.

He shows the laptop to Mollie, displaying a bright orange nail gun priced at £4,000.

MOLLIE
Can't you just buy it?

PHILLIP
I don't have any money. What about
you? Do you get pocket money?

MOLLIE
Only if I'm good.

PHILLIP
So you don't get pocket money?

MOLLIE
No.

Phillip picks up his notes from the floor and scavenges for pieces.

PHILLIP
You're first job, tidy up.

IAN
Aw man, I hate tidying.

Mollie whispers to Amy stood next to her.

MOLLIE
What are you going to tell Jess
tomorrow? What if she tells on me?

AMY
We'll just tell her you're in our
team now. If she agrees then we'll
tell her about this.

MOLLIE
And if she doesn't?

AMY
... She will. She's not that petty.

They glance at each other. Unconvinced.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Mollie sits at Jess's old spot with Ian and Amy.

She looks back at Jess, arms crossed and sour faced, sat in Mollie's old chair.

Mollie turns back and smiles.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Mollie, Amy and Ian stand in a semi circle around Phillip.

They watch in amazement as Phillip, dressed in a blue astronaut suit, places a glass helmet over his head. It clicks into place.

IAN
That is so cool.

Phillip looks at a display screen on his wrist which displays ten illuminated bars, green through to red.

Phillip tries talking to Mollie but no noise is audible through the helmet.

AMY
What's he saying?

MOLLIE
I don't know.

Phillip sighs as he picks up another helmet from the table and places it over Mollie's head.

He talks to Mollie through the helmet intercom.

PHILLIP
Can you hear me?

MOLLIE
Yea.

PHILLIP
Good.

He looks back at his wrist.

PHILLIP
These bars indicate my oxygen level.
Enough for one hour.

MOLLIE
Is that it?

PHILLIP
That's just one canister. I can
refill them from the spacecraft.

AMY (O.S.)
Testing, testing.

IAN (O.S.)
 Calling all aliens, come in.

Phillip turns round to see Amy and Ian have put on helmets as well.

PHILLIP
 Don't touch them!

IAN
 There's four. We could all go.

PHILLIP
 No.

MOLLIE
 Four suits, four of us. That's fate.

IAN
 I agree.

Phillip takes his helmet off and forcefully removes the other helmets from everyone.

PHILLIP
 I go to space, you go to space camp,
 and we split the film rights eighty-
 twenty. That was the deal.

MOLLIE
 But we could help.

PHILLIP
 How?

Later.

The garage is empty, no sign of life...

Until the hatch to the spacecraft opens. Mollie, dressed in a complete astronaut suit emerges. Her movement is slow.

MOLLIE
 I'm exiting now. Over.

PHILLIP (O.S.)
 Roger that, Mollie. Over.

Mollie exits the spacecraft and makes her way down the ladder.

MOLLIE
 Taking my first steps now. Over.

AMY (O.S.)
Roger that. Good luck.

IAN (O.S.)
You have to say "over".

AMY (O.S.)
Sorry. Over.

Mollie steps off the ladder, landing on the "moon". Amy and Phillip follow. Ian is the last to exit.

IAN
Any sign of life?. Over.

PHILLIP
No intelligent life. Over.

Amy and Phillip make it down to the surface. They walk around, imitating the low gravity.

Phillip looks down at his display. One of the bars disappears.

PHILLIP
Oxygen levels down ten percent. Suit holding. Over.

It's Ian's turn to exit the spacecraft. He positions himself at the top of the ladder.

IAN
Preparing to descend now. Over.

Ian seems to have forgotten where he really is and steps off the top step of the ladder, expecting low gravity.

He comes crashing to the floor. His helmet smashes on the ground. Everyone rushes over.

AMY
Are you okay?

Ian lifts his head and holds his elbow.

IAN
No idea.

PHILLIP
What were you thinking?

IAN

I got a bit caught up in the moment.
I forgot about the gravity.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Ian sits on the side of the bath holding his elbow. Phillip and Amy stand around him as Mollie fetches the blue tub from the cabinet.

All are still dressed in their astronaut suits.

IAN

I'm sorry about breaking the helmet.

PHILLIP

It's not a problem. How's the elbow?

IAN

Much better now. We can carry on.

PHILLIP

Carry on with what? We can't carry on anything without the nail gun.

There's a KNOCK at the door. They all freeze. Phillip puts his fingers to his lip to signal for them to be quiet.

PHILLIP

Hello?

SARAH

Dad? You nearly done?

PHILLIP

No.

SARAH

Are you feeling alright? Is it the medication?

Mollie looks suspiciously at Phillip who avoids her eyes.

PHILLIP

Yea.

SARAH

Take your time. Have you seen Mollie?

PHILLIP

No.

SARAH

I've invited a friend round for dinner tonight. Not sure how she's going to take it, so be warned.

Mollie looks anxious as she mouth's "who?" to Phillip.

INT. KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Nick sits at the head of the table while Sarah takes a lasagna out the oven. Mollie stands in the kitchen motionless, an obstacle for Sarah as she plates up the meal.

SARAH

Mollie, can you bring yours and Nick's over please?

Sarah grabs one of the plates of food along with an opened bottle of wine and makes her way to the table.

Mollie turns to the two remaining plates. Beside it, a salt shaker. She makes sure no one is looking.

Mollie sits at the table, making no effort to pass the other plate to Nick, who politely pulls the plate towards him.

NICK

This looks really nice. Is your Dad not joining us?

Mollie looks up at Nick.

MOLLIE

What?

Sarah puts her hand on Mollie's arm.

SARAH

My dad is in the garage. He isn't really a people person.

Mollie relaxes back into her chair.

Nick takes a bite of his food and after the initial shock, masks the awful taste. Mollie doesn't break eye contact.

NICK

Wow.

SARAH

Is it okay?

NICK
Yea. Its really... nice

Mollie smiles vindictively.

They eat in awkward silence. Nick searches for something to say.

NICK
So, what's Mrs Bowen like as a head teacher?

Nick forces down another mouthful of salty food as Sarah nudges Mollie under the table to answer.

MOLLIE
Good. I like her.

NICK
She got me suspended once as well.

MOLLIE
I didn't get suspended.

Sarah catches her eye.

SARAH
Mollie.

They continue eating in silence before Sarah speaks.

SARAH
What did you do to get suspended?

NICK
Nothing.

SARAH
Nothing? You know Mollie gets in trouble for nothing as well.

NICK
Well... not nothing.

SARAH
The plot thickens.

NICK
When I was nine and my brother was twelve, he... and me a little bit... borrowed my Dad's Swiss army knife and we... well my brother really...

SARAH

Look at you, you still can't get your story straight.

Nick laughs.

NICK

I don't want Mollie to tell on me.

Mollie rolls her eyes.

NICK

We... but again, mainly my brother, broke every radiator in the school.

SARAH

Classic.

NICK

In January. They had to shut the school for a week. Only I got caught.

SARAH

(Laughing)

You criminal.

NICK

One week's suspension. A fair punishment and I never reoffended again.

SARAH

The system works.

Sarah, still laughing puts her hand on Nick's arm. Mollie notices.

MOLLIE

So your brother let you take the blame? Was he a coward?

They stop laughing, Sarah flashes her a "shut up" look.

MOLLIE

What? People shouldn't betray their family. Right Mum?

SARAH

Be quiet, Mollie.

MOLLIE

Either you want me to talk to him or you don't.

SARAH

Mollie.
(To Nick)
Sorry, Nick.

MOLLIE

Why are you saying sorry to him?!

Mollie pounds her fist onto the table causing drinks to spill.

SARAH

Room, now.

Mollie shakes her head at her mum before standing up and leaving the room.

NICK

I could go, if...

SARAH

No, please. Believe it or not that actually went a lot better than expected. I thought she might poison you or something.

Nick looks down at his plate.

INT. MOLLIE'S HOUSE. STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Mollie, upset and angry, goes to run upstairs.

As she does she knocks some coats hanging on the banister onto the floor.

She "TUTS" and stops and picks them up, throwing them carelessly back onto the banister.

A set of keys falls from one of the coats. She picks it up.

One of the keys is marked "Garage spare". She plays something through in her mind.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Mollie sits at a table with Ian and Amy as the class work quietly.

Mollie looks back at her old spot and notices Jess is absent. She turns to Ian and Amy and whispers.

MOLLIE

Sleep over at my house tonight. I found the nail gun thing we need but I need your help.

AMY

What kind of help?

MOLLIE

I need help borrowing it.

AMY

Borrowing?

MOLLIE

From a friend. I can't carry it by myself.

IAN

If it means we can get back to work then I'm in.

AMY

Okay, I'll bring a sleeping bag.

MOLLIE

Great. Also, bring dark clothes, wire cutters and a large bag.

EXT. MOLLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mollie's house lies in darkness except for one upstairs light. The light turns off.

From another upstairs window Mollie, Amy and Ian climb out onto an extended roof.

Mollie makes it down to the ground with ease, she's done this before. The other two carefully make it down. They vanish down the garden and into the night.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SCRAPYARD - NIGHT

Mollie, Amy and Ian stealthily approach a wire fence surrounding the scrapyard.

AMY

This is scary. Where's your friend?

MOLLIE

Right, we need to cut through this fence. If we go through the scrapyard we should reach the garage. There's a back door. That's how we'll get in.

AMY

Oh my god! We're breaking in aren't we?

IAN

Probably should have seen that coming, to be fair.

MOLLIE

No, I know the owner. He won't mind. Look, he even gave me the door key.

Mollie pulls the key from her pocket to show them.

MOLLIE

I promise we aren't breaking in. Now who's got those wire cutters?

AMY

You're on your last warning, Mollie, and I don't want to get in trouble.

MOLLIE

There's no other way. You know we need this.

AMY

We're not criminals, Mollie. We can't---

Mollie loses her patience with Amy and snaps.

MOLLIE

Then go!
I'm sure you wouldn't fit through the fence anyway.

Amy crosses her arms, hiding her body.

AMY

You're still a bully.

Amy walks off into the night. Mollie, hurt by her own comment, turns to Ian who has used this time to wire cut through the fence.

MOLLIE
You're still with me?

IAN
We're here, we might as well. Plus I
was only really half listening
because I was cutting the fence.

EXT. SCRAPYARD - CONTINUOUS

Mollie and Ian crawl through the hole in the fence then run
and crouch behind an old disused car.

They peek over and spot the back door to the garage. In
between them and the door is a long straight path through
piles of scrap cars and twisted metal.

IAN
That's a long way.

MOLLIE
Yea, it looked a lot closer from
behind the fence.

IAN
Are there any guards or anything?

MOLLIE
Maybe a cat.

IAN
Okay, I like cats. My nan has a cat.

Mollie steps out from behind the car followed by Ian
sheepishly one step behind.

They take small steps to the door which never appears any
closer.

The sound of wind rushing through the cars and of metal
creaking and settling under the weight of the rubble stalks
them.

IAN
Something's out there.

MOLLIE
You're imagining things.

IAN
Okay, I'm imagining that something's
out there.

BANG! The thunderous sound of something large jumping onto the roof of a car.

IAN

There goes my imagination again.

MOLLIE

Mine too. Run!

They run as fast as their feet will carry them. BANG! BANG! BANG! The thunderous sound of footsteps on the cars follows them, catching them up.

The faster they run the louder and faster the sound. It's right on their heels.

Mollie reaches the door first. She pulls out the keys but Ian, running too fast, crashes into her.

They scramble for the keys. BANG! BANG! BANG! Not a moment too soon they open the door and pile into the garage and slam the door behind them.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SCRAPYARD - CONTINUOUS

Amy watches from outside the fence. Her breathing is heavy, eyes fixed on the door but there's no sign of life.

BANG! Amy jumps. She takes one last look at the door then turns and runs off.

EXT. SCRAPYARD - NIGHT

The back door opens. Mollie and Ian emerge, frightened and cautious.

MOLLIE

Let's walk slow and quiet. No sudden movement.

IAN

Okay. I can hear my heart.

MOLLIE

Wait!

Ian lets out a girlish SCREAM as Mollie grabs his arm.

IAN

Sorry.

MOLLIE
I forgot the keys.

Mollie leaves Ian's side and walks back to the door. She pulls the keys out of the lock.

As she does a large shadow of a huge beast engulfs Mollie. Ian, seeing the shadow over Mollie, trembles in fear.

IAN
Mollie.

Mollie slowly turns to see a huge scruffy cat sitting on a car behind Ian.

IAN
What is it?

MOLLIE
It's just a cat.

Ian sighs with relief. The cat then hisses loudly and stands in an attack position.

MOLLIE
Run!

They SCREAM as they set off running down the long path back to the hole in the fence. The cat follows in hot pursuit.

Ian starts falling behind. Mollie reaches the hole but Ian trips just short of their escape.

Mollie grabs his hand, lifts him to his feet and pushes him through the fence.

There's no time for Mollie. She turns to face her attacker head on. She raises her fists, ready for the fight of her life.

The cat charges straight on like a predator.

Ian watches helplessly as a figure appears from behind him.

It's Amy! She throws a cardboard box over the fence.

Mollie, her fists raised, braces for impact. The cat lunges... straight into the cardboard box.

AMY
Mollie, get out of there!

Mollie turns and crawls through the fence to safety.

The cat purrs loudly as it circles in the box before lying down and falling asleep.

MOLLIE
You came back?

AMY
Of course.

MOLLIE
I'm sorry for what I said.

AMY
It's okay, just, think before you
speak.
Where's Ian?

They turn round to see Ian giggling with the cat playfully pacing around his neck.

IAN
Can we keep him?

MOLLIE
I think we've taken enough.

Ian puts the cat down.

IAN
I'll never forget you.

INT. KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM - DAY

Sarah waits by the toaster while Nick is sat down eating breakfast at the head of the table.

Mollie, Ian and Amy walk in from the living room and try to sneak past to the back door.

Mollie holds her rucksack by her side, out of sight.

SARAH
Did you guys want breakfast?

They stop and face Sarah. Mollie's grip tightens on the bag.

IAN
Yes, please.

Amy nudges him.

IAN

No.

Amy nudges him again

IAN

No, thank you.

SARAH

What did you guys do last night? You were very quiet.

All three fall silent. Sarah waits for a response but it doesn't come.

SARAH

(To herself)

Okay, maybe you guys are just quiet.

Mollie doesn't take her eyes off Nick, sat at the head of the table.

The toast pops up. Sarah turns to take it out and place it on a plate.

SARAH

What are your plans today? I thought we might---

NICK

They've gone.

Sarah turns back round to see all three making their way down the garden.

NICK

Why is she always in that garage?

SARAH

She's building a rocket.

NICK

... Okay.

SARAH

It's a school project. I asked her not to... and my dad's helping her.

EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Mollie, Amy and Ian walk to the garage at the bottom of the garden.

AMY
Your mum's nice. Was that your
stepdad?

MOLLIE
No.

Mollie kicks some beautiful white flowers out from a flower bed. They explode through the air.

Amy and Ian share a concerned glance as Mollie powers on.

INT. MOLLIE'S GARAGE - DAY

Mollie takes the nail gun and places it on the work bench.

She steps back and stands with Amy and Ian. They look at Phillip stood in front of them, and wait for a response.

He looks at the nail gun then at them.

PHILLIP
Stolen?

Mollie struggles for an answer. She goes to nervously speak when Amy speaks for her.

AMY
Borrowed, from a friend.

She smiles at Mollie.

PHILLIP
Excellent. No more questions.

He picks up the nail gun.

PHILLIP
Let's build us a spaceship.

INT. MOLLIE'S GARAGE - DAY

The nail gun starts up and effortlessly guides nails through sheets of metal. The garage is a hub of activity.

Under Phillip's instruction, Mollie, Ian and Amy start assembling the rocket. Pieces are slotted together like in a perfect puzzle.

Wires are run and connected and there's excitement in the air.

Everyone knows their job and they work together like a well oiled machine. The rocket takes its shape.

Later.

Phillip sits in the cockpit. He methodically places his fingers over buttons and mutters under his breath, running through the controls for the launch.

From the hatch above his head, Mollie watches in secret. She studies his actions and mutters under her own breath.

Phillip speaks without breaking concentration.

PHILLIP
Shouldn't you be busy?

MOLLIE
I am. I thought I should be ready. In case something happens to you.

Phillip looks up at her.

PHILLIP
What do you mean?

MOLLIE
Like, if you have another accident.

Phillip goes back to what he was doing.

PHILLIP
Have you worked out how it works?

MOLLIE
No.

PHILLIP
That's because it's too complicated for little girls.

MOLLIE
Maybe, or maybe it's because from up here your big head keeps getting in the way.

Phillip looks up at Mollie with a rare smile.

Later.

Mollie, Ian, Amy and Phillip stand back and look at the spacecraft.

They couldn't be prouder as they exchange looks and bask in the accomplishment.

Phillip holds his sides and quietly walks to the back and sits down. He looks in pain.

Mollie notices.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Mollie sits cross-legged on the roof looking up at the moon.

MOLLIE

We're so close. I know you've been watching. And I know you'll be proud. You and Mum.

Mollie whispers.

MOLLIE

She hasn't forgotten you.

The back door opens. Sarah walks out and looks up at the moon.

Mollie shimmies back so as not to be seen as Nick appears and stands beside Sarah.

They notice the garage light on at the bottom of the garden.

NICK

Are you not curious to see what this rocket looks like?

SARAH

I am, but I bet it's dangerous and I'd have to take it away from them. What ever they're doing in there, it makes them happy.

NICK

You know I still haven't met your Dad.

SARAH

He's always in that garage.

NICK

He can't always be in there.

Sarah offers up a smile in lieu of an answer.

NICK

It's none of my business.

SARAH

It's alright. We just don't talk. We don't even talk about how we don't talk. I thought him living here would help but there's still this distance.

NICK

Has it always been like that?

SARAH

For about... four years.

Nick understands. Sarah crosses her arms for self comfort.

SARAH

The accident just pulled us in different directions.

NICK

But he's here. Why move in if not to reconnect?

Sarah wells up with tears and rubs her arm.

SARAH

Because he's dying... and as much as he wants to, he can't afford to do that alone.

Sarah breaks. Nick hugs her tight.

On the roof, Mollie wells up, rubbing her own arm. She gets up and climbs into her room.

INT. MOLLIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mollie enters through the window to her moonlit room.

She climbs onto her bed. Sitting cross legged she throws the covers over her and is drenched in darkness.

She sits there, motionless. Not participating in the world.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Mollie is alone in the garage. She circles the spacecraft, running her fingers along the metal.

PHILLIP (O.S.)
What are you doing?

Mollie turns around to see Phillip standing behind her.

MOLLIE
I can't sleep.

Phillip takes a seat at the work bench and studies some papers.

Mollie studies Phillip. Phillip doesn't look up.

PHILLIP
What?

MOLLIE
Are you scared? About going up?

PHILLIP
Of course.

MOLLIE
What about coming down?

PHILLIP
I'm sure I'll be just as scared.

MOLLIE
You don't talk about it.

PHILLIP
If I kept talking about how scared I am, I'd probably never do it.

MOLLIE
I mean, you don't talk about coming down. About coming back.

Phillip turns his head to Mollie.

PHILLIP
It's all worked out. You don't need to worry about it.

Phillip goes back to his work. Mollie stares at him before finding the courage to say...

MOLLIE
I know you're ill.

PHILLIP
Everyone gets ill.

MOLLIE
I know how ill you are.

PHILLIP
No one knows how ill I am.

MOLLIE
Mum does.

Phillip turns back to a visibly upset and vulnerable Mollie.

MOLLIE
I don't want to lose anyone else.

Phillip stands then kneels down to her level.

PHILLIP
You won't.

MOLLIE
I miss Dad so much. It really hurts.

They both shed tears.

PHILLIP
I know. I miss him too. I've missed you.

They hug with no signs of ever letting go.

MOLLIE
But you're here now.

PHILLIP
I am. And I can't think of anywhere else I'd rather be.

Mollie smiles through her tears.

PHILLIP
I think you've earned yourself a promotion.

INT. COCKPIT - NIGHT

Mollie and Phillip climb in and each take a seat in the now fully completed cockpit.

Mollie's eyes excitedly scan every part of the control panel.

MOLLIE
What does this one do?

She points to a button.

PHILLIP
Don't press that. It decompresses the cockpit, sucking all the air out.

MOLLIE
My head teacher does that.

Mollie sits comfortably in her seat.

PHILLIP
When I first showed this to your dad he picked everything up first time. Quicker than anyone else.

MOLLIE
He was really smart.

PHILLIP
He was. He was also sneaking in after hours to get extra practice.

Mollie laughs.

PHILLIP
He wasn't the smartest but he was the hardest working. And he loved you so much.

Mollie smiles proudly.

MOLLIE
Tell me what everything does. Tell me how to fly it.

PHILLIP
Everything? Okay, well this button...

Phillip points and explains the buttons. Mollie hangs on to his every word.

INT. KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Phillip enters to find Sarah washing up and Nick drying. He takes a moment to observe how happy they both are in each others' company before Sarah sees him.

SARAH
Still sorting that garage out?

PHILLIP
I couldn't sleep.

They hear the sound of footsteps walking across the roof and the sound of a window opening and closing.

PHILLIP
She couldn't sleep either.

SARAH
Dad, this is Nick.

Nick dries his hands on a towel and shakes Phillip's hand.

NICK
It's nice to meet you.

PHILLIP
You too. You're a mechanic?

NICK
That's right.

PHILLIP
Very useful person to have around.

He smiles warmly at Sarah. She returns the gesture. Nick decides to leave them to it.

NICK
I'm going to head up. It was nice to meet you.

PHILLIP
You too.

He kisses Sarah on the cheek then leaves them alone.

SARAH
Did you want a cup of tea?

PHILLIP
I'm okay.

SARAH
How you feeling?

PHILLIP
Fine.

SARAH
You'll tell me if you're not?

PHILLIP
Of course.

SARAH
You and Mollie are getting along.

PHILLIP
Yea, we are.

SARAH
I'm glad.

He takes a moment before speaking softly, honestly.

PHILLIP
I wish I hadn't missed so much.

SARAH
Me too.

PHILLIP
I still miss you. Standing here now,
I still miss you. The way Mollie
talks about Simon, that magic. I miss
that.

Sarah also speaks honestly.

SARAH
You didn't have to miss it.

PHILLIP
How could I have stayed? I'm the
reason you have an empty space at the
table.

SARAH
There are two empty spaces at the
table and you're only responsible for
one of them.

PHILLIP
I'm just so sorry.

Phillip hangs his head. Sarah walks up to him, holds his
hands in hers and finds his eyes.

SARAH
It's not your fault.

PHILLIP
There's so much I could have done.

SARAH
Dad, you're not responsible for what
happened to Simon.

She squeezes his hand.

SARAH
I've never blamed you. Mollie has
never blamed you. We just missed you.

Phillip looks up at Sarah. A weight lifted from his
shoulders. They hug.

PHILLIP
I love you.

SARAH
I love you too, Dad.

They stop hugging but hold onto each others' hands.

PHILLIP
Nick seems nice.

They smile through their red, tear covered faces.

SARAH
He's alright.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

The children have arranged themselves into their project
groups. Each group has their homemade rocket on the table in
front of them. Jess sits alone at Mollie's old desk.

Mr Gilligan walks down the classroom inspecting everyone's
rockets.

He stop at Ben's team, standing proudly behind a firework.

MR GILLIGAN
What's this?

BEN
It's a rocket.

MR GILLIGAN
It's a firework.

BEN
You said we could use anything.

MR GILLIGAN
You can't just use a firework. You've
got to start again.

Ben sighs.

Mr Gilligan notices Mollie's group have no rocket in front
of them.

MR GILLIGAN
Guys, where is it? Not long left.

AMY
We forgot it.

MR GILLIGAN
You forgot it?

MOLLIE
We didn't forget it. It's... a
surprise.

They laugh. Jess longingly watches from the back.

MR GILLIGAN
I hope it's a good one.

Mr Gilligan spots Jess, sat alone.

MR GILLIGAN
Jess, come join your group.

Jess looks at her old group then back at Mr Gilligan. She
goes to speak but is interrupted---

BEN
Sir, Sir!

Mr Gilligan turns round to see Ben standing in front of his
"rocket", the fuse has been lit.

Mr Gilligan panics.

MR GILLIGAN
How?

Ben shrugs.

MR GILLIGAN
Everyone down!

They all hit the floor.

The rocket shoots up in the air and flies around the classroom.

The students SCREAM.

Mr Gilligan grabs a bin and stands up.

He turns around, the rocket on course to hit him.

He jumps and traps the rocket in the bin as he lands on the floor.

BANG! The firework goes off in the bin.

MR GILLIGAN
Ben, see me after class.

BEN
About what?

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Mollie walks across the playground. Jess catches her up.

JESS
Mollie, wait.

Mollie stops and turns round.

MOLLIE
What?

JESS
I want back in the group.

MOLLIE
Why? Because it look like we might win?

JESS
No. I don't care about space camp. If I won I wouldn't even go.

MOLLIE
You said you were going to get me kicked out.

JESS
I won't, I haven't even tried.

Mollie takes a moment to look at how sad Jess looks.

MOLLIE
It's not nice is it?

JESS
No. I hate break time because I have nothing to do. I just walk in circles.

MOLLIE
I'm glad you know how it feels.

JESS
So, can we call a truce?

Mollie takes a step closer and looks at her watch.

MOLLIE
You've got ten minutes left of lunch. You've got time for a couple more laps. See? Now you know---

JESS
Screw you Mollie.

Jess pushes past Mollie, leaving her alone on playground.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

Mollie walks along the road towards her house in her school uniform.

She hears the distant sound of pouring rain hiding the faint sound of a siren. It gets louder and louder.

She looks back. An ambulance speeds towards her bringing with it heavy rain like a charging cavalry.

As the ambulance flies past her, she becomes soaked in the rain that follows.

She watches the ambulance disappear round a corner before resuming her walk.

But something is wrong. She picks up the pace, walking faster and faster until she breaks out into a sprint through the rain.

She turns a corner and stops. There's an ambulance outside of her house. She rushes over.

EXT. OUTSIDE MOLLIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mollie reaches her house. But before she can enter, the door opens.

Two paramedics hurriedly wheel Phillip out on a stretcher. Sarah puts on her coat and searches for her keys.

SARAH

Mollie.

MOLLIE

Mum, what's happened?

SARAH

Wait by the car Mollie. Wait!

Sarah rushes into the house.

Mollie follows the paramedics as they load Phillip into the ambulance.

In a split-second decision Mollie jumps into the ambulance before the paramedic and sits beside her granddad.

PARAMEDIC

Sweetheart, wait with your mother.

MOLLIE

I'm not leaving.

PARAMEDIC

You can't ride in---

Mollie SCREAMS, frightening and surprising the paramedics.

PARAMEDIC

Okay.

(To the driver)

Tell dispatch to inform the mum.

They close the door and the ambulance sets off.

INT. AMBULANCE - CONTINUOUS

Phillip lies on the ambulance bed. Mollie sits beside him.

Phillip's breathing is shallow, his face pale and his body weak.

MOLLIE

What are you doing Granddad?

PHILLIP

Mollie.

MOLLIE

What are you doing? Please stop.

PHILLIP

I'm sorry---

MOLLIE

Stop.

To the paramedic.

MOLLIE

Stop! He's fine, look he's talking,
take us home!

Back at Phillip.

MOLLIE

Let's go home.

Phillip holds her hand and looks into her eyes.

PHILLIP

I've decided not to use the rocket.

MOLLIE

We have to. You have to.

PHILLIP

But I wouldn't come back.

MOLLIE

You will. You have everything worked
out.

PHILLIP

I've spent my whole life looking up
and I've missed everything I have
around me.

Phillip starts drifting in and out of consciousness.

MOLLIE

What do you mean? Granddad?

The ambulance comes to a stop. Mollie keeps hold of
Phillip's hand as he's wheeled out of the ambulance.

The paramedics rush him into the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Mollie holds Phillip's hand and runs beside him as the paramedics rush Phillip down a long hospital corridor.

She does her best to maintain her grip on his hand but they become separated in the rush.

Mollie, still running, does her best to keep up. Phillip starts to pull away. With tears in her eyes she runs and runs but he slips further and further out of reach until...

Mollie falls to her knees, exhausted. She watches the paramedics wheel him further out of sight until he is no longer visible.

Mollie sits in the empty hallway, crying, alone.

INT. MOLLIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mollie sits at the top of the stairs dressed in a black dress. She looks down at the small crowd of people also dressed in black.

She watches as people patiently wait their turn to talk to Sarah.

Nick stands beside her, his shoulder pressed as far into hers as it could be without becoming an embrace. He carefully lays his hand in hers.

Mollie stands up. The room goes silent as they brace themselves for the scream.

But it doesn't come. Mollie calmly gets up and heads to her bedroom.

INT. MOLLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mollie enters her room and sits on the side of her bed. She picks up the toy rocket her father gave her and holds it in front of her, examining it.

Mollie then shuffles back on the bed and pushes the mattress back to reveal the metal frame.

BANG! She smashes the rocket as hard as she can against the metal frame.

BANG, BANG, BANG, she continues with all her force until every piece of the rocket shatters from her hand.

She falls to the floor among the broken pieces.

She looks up and notices a distant moon outside her window.

EXT. ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Mollie climbs out of her bedroom window and onto the roof extension of the house.

She stands tall, facing off to the small and distant moon.

She extends her hand as far as she can towards the moon. She tries to grab it, standing on tip toes and stretching her body as much as possible.

Frustrated and devastated she whispers..

MOLLIE
Dad. Dad, please.

With one final loud cry for help.

MOLLIE
Dad!

Her body gives up, she falls to her knees, crying.

INT. MOLLIE'S ROOM - MORNING

Mollie sits on her bed, motionless, staring at the wall.

She hears the doorbell from downstairs, then the faint sound of the door being opened and soft, inaudible voices.

Footsteps get louder from the stairs to Mollie's bedroom door.

KNOCK KNOCK

The door opens. It's Sarah.

SARAH
Ian and Amy are downstairs.

Mollie says nothing.

SARAH
They want to walk to school with you.

MOLLIE
 (Timidly)
 I don't... I don't feel very well.

Sarah understands.

SARAH
 Okay.

Sarah offers up an empathetic smile before leaving the room, closing the door behind her.

Mollie lays on the bed, tucking her knees under her arms. A few tears become dislodged from her eyes and escape down her cheek but she doesn't cry.

INT. MOLLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mollie sits on the floor in her room.

She runs her fingers along the name tag on her dad's overalls then glances out of the window to a tiny, distant moon.

KNOCK KNOCK.

She hides the overalls under the bed.

MOLLIE
 Yea?

Nick opens the door, one hand hidden behind his back.

NICK
 Can I come in?

MOLLIE
 If you want.

Nick enters the room and looks around.

NICK
 I like your room.

Mollie doesn't say anything.

NICK
 I hope you don't mind but...

Nick pulls out Mollie's toy rocket from behind his back. He hands it to her.

The rocket has been fixed, almost as good as new.

NICK

I'm guessing it means a lot to you?

Mollie studies the repairs to the rocket. Clearly a lot of work went into it.

MOLLIE

My Dad gave it to me.

Nick reaches in his pocket and pulls out an old, worn out and dirty Swiss army knife.

NICK

I stole this from my brother when I was fourteen.

MOLLIE

It looks gross.

Nick laughs.

NICK

It is. It's horrible and it doesn't really work.
I guess this is my rocket ship.

Mollie looks at her rocket then back at Nick. They share a moment together.

NICK

I'll see you for dinner?

MOLLIE

Okay. Thanks... for the rocket.

NICK

Anytime.

Nick leaves the room, closing the door gently behind him.

Mollie looks down at the rocket then out the window to see a now giant, white moon almost filling the window.

She gets up and opens the window for a clearer look. She then notices a light coming from the garage at the bottom of the garden.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Mollie enters the garage to find Amy and Ian working on the rocket.

MOLLIE
What are you guys doing?

They jump and turn around.

AMY
Mollie.

MOLLIE
What are you doing?

Amy and Ian share a look.

IAN
Finishing what we started.

MOLLIE
We can't without Granddad.

AMY
We can.

IAN
We just launch it from the laptop. It means we'll probably crash on the moon or maybe even miss but it's more than enough to win the competition.

AMY
We knew you would want to finish it as well, when you were ready.

MOLLIE
I'm sorry I haven't been around.

AMY
It's okay.

MOLLIE
Will it be ready in time?

Amy and Ian look at each other.

IAN
Mollie, it's ready.

MOLLIE
It's ready?

AMY
Yep. There's just one thing.

MOLLIE
What?

Amy and Ian share a more hesitant look.

AMY
Me and Ian talked and... if we do
this... we want to do it as team.

MOLLIE
Me too.

IAN
A team where no one is left out.

MOLLIE
Who's left out?

Later.

Jess is standing in front of the rocket wearing a pink hoodie over her pajamas.

JESS
What the hell is that?

Amy and Ian approach her. Mollie is in the corner, unhappy with Jess being there.

AMY
It's a rocket.

JESS
It looks so real.

Jess reaches out and touches the rocket. A bit snaps in her hand and falls to the floor.

MOLLIE
You idiot! Look what you've done.

JESS
Don't call me an idiot you... idiot.

Mollie and Jess walk up to each other, facing off.

AMY
That's enough! Now you guys have a
choice.

AMY
We can either all do this together,
as a team, or you can both go back to
being alone at school.

JESS
Fine.

MOLLIE
Okay.

AMY
Good.

JESS
So what's going on? What is this?

AMY
This is a rocket Mollie's Granddad
built.

IAN
During the competition, we're going
to launch it and land it on the moon.

Jess bursts into laughter.

JESS
You're mad.

MOLLIE, IAN AND AMY
No we're not.

Jess walks around the rocket.

JESS
What if it doesn't work? It could
fall to earth and hurt someone.

Amy and Ian look to Mollie.

MOLLIE
It works. No one's going to get hurt.

JESS
It looks dangerous. There's a reason
people don't build these in their
garage.

Jess turns to Ian and Amy.

JESS
I don't want anyone to get hurt.

IAN

No one is going to get hurt.

AMY

We control it through this laptop. We don't have to be anywhere near it.

Jess looks worried as she looks from Ian and Amy, then back to the rocket.

Jess nods but still looks troubled.

MOLLIE

Let's go over the plan. On the day of the competition we'll all meet at school. The competition is after break. During break, me and Ian will sneak out and run back here.

IAN

Cool.

MOLLIE

We'll wheel the rocket out of the garage and into the lane behind our house. Then Amy, and Jess if she wants.

AMY

She does.

MOLLIE

You guys will have the laptop. During the competition you'll launch the rocket.

JESS

Then what? Who steers it?

MOLLIE

No one. Everything is programmed in.

IAN

It's like auto pilot.

JESS

What if you launch it too early and it's still in the garage?

MOLLIE

We won't.

JESS
What if the auto pilot doesn't work?

MOLLIE
It won't, my granddad thought of
everything.

Jess still looks worried.

EXT. BACK ROAD - NIGHT

Ian, Amy and Jess walk home. But something plays on Jess's
mind. She acts on it.

JESS
Hang on, I left something back at
Mollie's.

AMY
We'll wait.

JESS
It's okay, I'll see you in school
tomorrow.

Jess runs back into Mollie's garden.

INT. MOLLIE'S ROOM - DAY

Sunlight pours into the room and birds sing. A perfect day.

Mollie stands in front of the mirror as she proudly puts her
school jumper on.

But through the sound of the birds she hears the faint sound
of BEEPING.

She looks out the window and sees Nick's tow truck backing
up behind the garage and pulling the rocket out.

Mollie can't believe it. She rushes out.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Mollie rushes out of the house and down the garden. Sarah is
stood in her way.

She grabs Mollie and holds her back as Nick drives off with
the rocket.

Mollie cries out, kicking and trying to escape but Sarah holds on to her.

She wiggles free and slowly steps back from Sarah, processing what has happened.

SARAH
What have you done, Mollie?

Sarah reaches out but Mollie turns and runs away.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The students are arriving to class and finding their seats.

Amy and Ian are relaxed as they sit at their desks and take out books and pens from their bags.

Jess sits with them but she's not so relaxed. She bites her nails and doesn't take her eye off the door.

The door swings violently open and Mollie walks in.

Jess stands up and backs up to the wall as Mollie singles her out and approaches her.

MOLLIE
Why, Jess?

JESS
What?

MOLLIE
You've ruined it!

Mollie gets up close to a scared-looking Jess. Amy and Ian watch on, confused.

AMY
What's going on?

MOLLIE
Jess told my mum about the rocket.
It's gone.

IAN
Jess, how could you?

JESS
I didn't!

MOLLIE

You have no idea what we've been through.

JESS

I swear I didn't say anything.

MOLLIE

You liar!

Mollie sees red and punches Jess.

Jess falls to the floor with a bloody nose.

Amy and Ian rush to Jess. Mollie stands motionless, her fist cut, regretting what she has just done.

MR GILLIGAN

Mollie.

Mollie turns round to see Mr Gilligan stood by the door.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

Mollie and Sarah leave Mrs Bowen's office. Their heads are down, never looking at each other.

They walk quietly out of the school.

INT. STAIRCASE - DAY

Mollie sits at the top of the stairs, her arms crossed and knees tucked in.

Out of sight she listens to Sarah and Nick talking in the living room.

SARAH (O.S.)

I don't want to do this.

NICK (O.S.)

Then don't.

SARAH (O.S.)

She stole from you.

NICK (O.S.)

I know.

SARAH (O.S.)
I thought things were getting better
but they're not. I think you've been
a distraction.

NICK (O.S.)
That's not fair.

SARAH (O.S.)
I know. But it's true.

NICK (O.S.)
What should I do with the model
spaceship?

Mollie holds onto the banister, waiting for the answer.

SARAH (O.S.)
Can you destroy it?

Mollie starts breathing heavily and puts her hand over her
mouth to muffle it.

NICK (O.S.)
... Sure.

She gets up and enters her room.

INT. MOLLIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mollie enters her room and closes the door behind her. A
full-length mirror hangs on the back of the door, so Mollie
comes face to face with herself.

She stares at herself. Tears fill her eyes, her sadness
turns to anger. She punches the mirror, shattering it on
impact.

Her hand bleeds but she shows no pain.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Mollie sits on the side of the bath, cradling her bleeding
hand wrapped in a t-shirt. Sarah looks through a cabinet
above the sink.

She pulls out the blue tub.

Mollie doesn't wince as Sarah puts antibacterial cream on
her cuts and applies fresh plasters.

They never look at each other or acknowledged the process.

INT. KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Mollie sits at the dinner table. Sarah plates up some cod and lentils then places one in front of Mollie. Sarah takes a seat opposite her, leaving an empty chair between them.

Sarah doesn't look at Mollie but Mollie sneaks a few looks at her.

Sarah's numb as she moves food around the plate with her fork. A ghost of her former self.

They eat in silence.

INT. MOLLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mollie lies in bed while Sarah picks up some clothes from the floor.

Mollie watches but Sarah pays her no attention.

Sarah goes to switch the light off on her way out.

MOLLIE

Mum.

SARAH

What?

MOLLIE

I am sorry.

SARAH

Okay.

MOLLIE

We didn't build it to hurt anyone.

SARAH

But you did. You lied to me and you stole from Nick.

MOLLIE

We were going to give it back.

SARAH

No you weren't.

MOLLIE
I want to tell him I'm sorry?

SARAH
You can't. Everything's back to
normal now. Goodnight, Mollie.

Sarah leaves. Mollie lies on her back and contemplates.

EXT. MOLLIE'S ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Mollie sits on the roof extension, looking up at the moon
with her toy rocket in her hands.

MOLLIE
It doesn't feel like everything's
back to normal.

She runs her hand over the cracks in the rocket.

MOLLIE
All the pieces are the same but it's
broken.
I broke it. I break everything.

She looks up at the moon.

MOLLIE
What should I do?

No response.

She stands up but before she turns to go back inside she
lifts the rocket up and from her perspective appears to land
it on the moon.

She takes her hand away and to her amazement the rocket
stays perched on the moon as if by magic.

She holds out her arms and rocket falls safely in her hands.

INT. MOLLIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mollie climbs through the window. She picks up the empty
fish bowl and dramatically puts it over her head.

She stands tall and confident, the moon silhouetted behind
her.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

Mollie walks down the street with purpose, in a coat and with a rucksack over her shoulder. She walks against the current of students from her school heading the other way.

Across the street Jess walks the other way, her nose bandaged up. Mollie stops and hesitates before crossing the street to her.

MOLLIE

Jess.

Jess turns. She puts up her guard when she sees Mollie.

JESS

What do you want?

MOLLIE

I just wanted to say, I'm sorry.

JESS

Okay.

MOLLIE

I used to walk in circles around school during break as well. It's not nice.

Jess softens.

JESS

I didn't tell on you.

MOLLIE

I know. To be honest I'm surprised she didn't find it sooner. Anyway, I just wanted to say, I'm sorry.

JESS

Okay.

Mollie turns to leave. Jess spots Mollie's NASA overall hidden under her coat.

JESS

Where are you going?

MOLLIE

Goodbye, Jess. Take care of Amy and Ian. They were always your friends.

Jess works it out.

JESS

Are you going to use the rocket?

MOLLIE

...No.

Mollie acts shocked at the idea but, sensing Jess is unconvinced, makes a break for it, running away as fast as she can.

Jess doesn't know what to do. She decides to run after her.

EXT. NICK'S GARAGE - DAY

Mollie reaches the outside fence to Nick's garage.

She climbs through the hole in the fence and enters the scrapyard.

She stops in front of the rocket, stood proudly in the center.

She unzips her coat to reveal she's wearing her father's overall.

JESS

Mollie!

Mollie turns to see Jess stood on the other side of the fence. Mollie says nothing before running off towards the rocket.

Jess frantically looks for a way into the scrapyard as Mollie climbs up the side of the rocket, opens the hatch and climbs in.

Jess finds the hole in the fence and crawls through. She runs up to the rocket and calls out.

JESS

Mollie! What are you doing?

No response.

Jess looks around but the place is empty. She has no choice but to start climbing the rocket.

She opens the hatch and looks down at Mollie sat in the cockpit.

JESS

Mollie, stop messing around and get out.

MOLLIE

Go away Jess, I need to do this.

JESS

Do what?

Mollie flicks a few switches before hitting one final button.

Suddenly the rocket comes alive, shaking and almost knocking Jess out of the hatch.

She regains her footing. Mollie grabs the hatch door and begins to lower it.

But Jess won't let her. She grabs the handle and pulls it back open.

The rocket engines shoot out thick smoke, flames beat the ground.

MOLLIE

Jess, jump off!

The rocket starts shaking even more violently.

Jess makes a split-second decision and jumps into the cockpit with Mollie.

INT. SPACECRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Jess lands in the cockpit.

MOLLIE

Are you mad?

JESS

Are you?

Mollie shuts the hatch as Jess sits in the second seat.

JESS

Turn it off.

Mollie looks at Jess.

MOLLIE

I can't.

Jess panics and makes a grab for the hatch. Mollie stops her.

MOLLIE

Wait!

Thick smoke engulfs the rocket. The inside of the rocket goes into darkness. Only the lights of the buttons and switches are visible.

Jess puts on her seat belt.

The shaking intensifies, the engine gives one final push...

Mollie and Jess SCREAM and grab each others' hands as the rocket launches from the ground with thunderous power.

From the window behind them the scrapyard quickly shrinks as they shoot through the sky.

The G-force starts taking its toll. The girls are pushed back hard against their seats.

They can't withstand the force anymore. Jess passes out.

MOLLIE

Jess! Jess, wake up!

Mollie goes light-headed until she too passes out.

England shrinks, then Europe, until the earth becomes a large ball suspended in black behind them.

From the deafening sound of the engine to utter silence. The two girls sit slumped in their chairs, unconscious.

The spaceship floats deeper into outer space.

EXT. SCHOOL FIELD - DAY

Every student is on the field as the rocket competition is about to kick off.

Mr Gilligan arranges the children into their teams, each stood in front of their rockets which vary greatly in promise.

Mr Gilligan walks up to Amy and Ian stood alone with no rocket.

MR GILLIGAN

Where's your rocket?

AMY
We don't have one.

MR GILLIGAN
I was expecting something really
special from you guys.

IAN
So were we, sir.

Mr Gilligan walks off.

Later.

Mr Gilligan moves down the line of teams as they launch
their rocket. Some launch, some fail, none are terribly
impressive.

Amy and Ian sit down on the grass, watching in silence.

Mr Gilligan gets to Ben's team. They present a tennis ball
with crudely stuck on bits of card to make it appear like a
rocket.

Mr Gilligan doesn't look impressed.

BEN
We didn't have much time sir.

MR GILLIGAN
As long as you tried. How does it
launch?

Ben pulls his arm back and throws the ball into the air.

Mr Gilligan watches the ball fall back to the ground then
jots down in his notepad.

MR GILLIGAN
That's actually put you in first
place.

Ben's team high-five. Ian and Amy watch helplessly.

Behind them a police car pulls up and two officers walk into
the school.

INT. SPACECRAFT - SPACE

Molly is unconscious as the spacecraft glides silently
through space.

A hand gently tries to nudge her awake. It doesn't work. The nudging intensifies to a full-on violent shake.

JESS (O.S.)
Wake up! Wake up!

Mollie's eyes open and she instantly resumes SCREAMING as she was during the launch.

Jess sits next to her, waiting as Mollie slowly realizes where she is and stops screaming.

JESS
Are you alright?

MOLLIE
I think so.

JESS
Good.

Jess punches her in the arm.

MOLLIE
Ouch.

JESS
Get me down, now.

Mollie looks back to see an ever-shrinking Earth through the window to the cockpit.

MOLLIE
We're alive?

JESS
Get us down, Mollie.

MOLLIE
I can't.

JESS
Yes you can.

MOLLIE
I honestly can't. It's programmed.

JESS
Programmed for what?

The both look out in front of them to see an ever-growing grey moon. Jess starts crying.

JESS

I don't want to go to the moon. I want to go to school.

MOLLIE

You shouldn't have got in. Why did you get in?

JESS

I don't know.

MOLLIE

You do realise it's going to take twenty-six hours to get there, then twenty-six to get back? That's forty-two hours together.

JESS

It's fifty-two you idiot.

MOLLIE

Why did you get in?

JESS

To stop you doing something stupid, like you always do because you're an idiot.

MOLLIE

Well, I didn't ask you too.

Jess turns away from Mollie and folds her arms.

MOLLIE

What are you doing?

No response.

MOLLIE

What are you doing?

JESS

I'm ignoring you.

MOLLIE

You're going to ignore me? In this tiny spaceship? As we drift through space, just the two of us? And land on an empty moon, just the two of us?

JESS

Yep.

MOLLIE

Thank you.

Jess turns her back even more to Mollie. They both divert their eyes to the moon.

Later.

Jess is fast asleep, snoring.

Mollie reaches into her bag and pulls out a sachet of space food. She tears the packet open.

The food flows out, hovering in the zero gravity. Mollie looks fascinated as she plays with the food, pushing it around the air before guiding it into her mouth.

She looks over at Jess. She grins before reaching over and clipping Jess's seat belt free.

Jess, still asleep, starts floating up out of her seat.

BANG. Her head hits the ceiling, waking her up.

JESS

Ouch.

Mollie laughs.

Jess starts panicking as she tries to control herself.

JESS

That's not funny! Get me down.

Mollie grabs her legs and pulls Jess back into her seat.

MOLLIE

It was just a joke.

Jess gets back in her seat and puts her seat belt on.

MOLLIE

Just trying to have some fun on this trip.

JESS

Well tough, because I'm here. I just want to get this over and done with.

MOLLIE

You fell asleep really quickly?

JESS
I always do on long journeys.

Jess starts squirming in her chair.

MOLLIE
What's wrong?

JESS
I need the loo.

MOLLIE
So, go.

JESS
Where?

Mollie points to a short hose, one end attached to the wall and the other attached to a what looks like a gas mask.

JESS
I'm not using that.

MOLLIE
Why don't I open the hatch and you can pop out?

JESS
I'll go when I get there.

MOLLIE
Go where? Behind a crater?

JESS
Then I'll hold it.

MOLLIE
For two days?

Jess looks at the "toilet", thinking, then decides against it.

JESS
I need a distraction

Mollie thinks of one. She unbuckles her seat belt then gently pushes off and starts floating in the cramped cockpit.

JESS
Don't do that. You'll break something. I don't want us to break down.

MOLLIE
Give it a try.

JESS
No.

MOLLIE
Loser.

Mollie starts spinning in the air and laughing.

MOLLIE
You've got to try this.

It does look fun. Jess unbuckles her seat belt and pushes off.

JESS
What do I do?

MOLLIE
Just spin.

Jess takes a deep breath then spins. But she doesn't appear to move. Instead the cockpit spins around her.

JESS
What the hell? Why is it doing that?

MOLLIE
There's no up or down in space. Your brain tells you the room is spinning, not you.

JESS
It's so strange. Is there still a left and right in space?

MOLLIE
... I don't know.

They continue spinning and pushing off against the walls with their feet.

Later.

Mollie and Jess are fast asleep. In the window of the cockpit, the moon very quickly gets bigger and bigger.

The control panel in front of them lights up. BEEP BEEP BEEP. They wake up.

JESS
Whats going on?

MOLLIE
It's getting ready to land. Hold on!

They both brace for impact as the windows become engulfed in fumes from the engines and dust from the moon.

JESS
I'm scared!

MOLLIE
Just hold on!

They brace. BANG!

The rocket crashes on the surface breaking the landing gear and flipping the rocket on its side.

The girls SCREAM as the rocket flips and spins along the surface before coming to a complete stop on its side.

MOLLIE
Are you alright?

JESS
I have no idea. Maybe. You?

MOLLIE
I think I am. That was lucky.

JESS
Lucky? How is this lucky?

Mollie takes a breath and looks around at the damage.

MOLLIE
We still have oxygen. That means the cockpit is still intact.

Just then they hear the faint sound of CRACKING. They look out the window to see a long crack spider-webbing its way across the glass.

MOLLIE
The glass! We need to put our suits on.

Mollie, already in her suit grabs her helmet and puts it on.

JESS
Mollie, my suit.

Mollie looks round to see Jess holding her suit.

MOLLIE

Put it on!

The glass continues to break.

Mollie climbs over and frantically helps Jess put her suit on. Jess's hands shake so much she can barely do it.

CLICK. Mollie clicks Jess's helmet on.

MOLLIE

We need to decompress the cockpit.

JESS

What?

MOLLIE

I'm going to slowly suck all the air out of this room so it doesn't explode.

JESS

Okay. I'm ready.

MOLLIE

Brace yourself!

Mollie hits the switch.

There's a silence before it slowly starts working, sounding exactly like a long, drawn out fart.

The two look at each before giggling.

EXT. MOON, CRASH SITE - SPACE

On the grey, barren, desert, the spacecraft lies motionless like the body of a whale washed up on the beach in low tide.

The nose digs into the ground and debris lines the path of its crashed landing.

The hatch door opens. Mollie, dressed in her astronaut suit, pokes her head out. She looks around in every direction but every direction confirms the same. They are alone.

She lifts herself up and starts slowly climbing down.

Mollie places a foot on the surface. Smiling with amazement, she then takes a huge jump and slowly drifts down onto the ground. Jess follows, slower, with more caution.

MOLLIE

We're on the moon. I mean, we're actually on the moon.

She turns to Jess, who looks past Mollie at something off in the distance.

Mollie turns around. Where the moon had once been now sits a distant Earth.

JESS

You did it Mollie, you're an astronaut.

MOLLIE

Yea. So maybe Ben could be a doctor.

JESS

So... what now?

They turn back to the unusable rocket.

JESS

How do we get back?

The gravity of the situation sinks in.

MOLLIE

You shouldn't have got in.

JESS

We can't get back can we?

Mollie shakes her head.

JESS

So what do we do?

Mollie looks on her sleeve to the oxygen meter display. 9 out of 10 bars are lit up.

MOLLIE

We have about fifty minutes of oxygen left.

Jess starts breathing heavy, eyes welling up.

JESS

You've killed us, Mollie.

MOLLIE
Don't say that.

Jess starts breathing heavier. A bar from her oxygen meter vanishes.

MOLLIE
Stay calm, your oxygen---

JESS
I want to go home, I don't want to be here. I want to go home.

MOLLIE
I'm so sorry.

Another bar of oxygen goes from Jess's meter as her breathing intensifies.

She falls to her knees. Mollie tries to comfort her but Jess pushes her away.

JESS
Leave me alone. You ruin everything.

MOLLIE
I know. You weren't meant to be here.

Jess gets up and slowly makes her way to the rocket.

MOLLIE
Where are you going?

JESS
I don't like you Mollie. I don't want to spend the rest of my life with you.

She starts climbing back into the rocket.

MOLLIE
It's not safe.

JESS
None of this is safe!

Another bar from Jess's meter fades as she reaches the top of the spacecraft.

JESS
You might as well know. I did tell your mum about the rocket.

MOLLIE

We all trusted you.

JESS

You're so stupid Mollie. You think I did it to hurt you? Look at this thing. Someone would have got hurt. You don't think about anyone else.

MOLLIE

You might as well know something as well. Even if we didn't crash, we couldn't have got back. There was only power for one trip.

JESS

But your Granddad was going to---

MOLLIE

I don't think he planned to come back. He was going to leave us.

Mollie's emotions build, her breathing intensifies and another bar disappears from her display.

Jess briefly empathizes with Mollie before turning to Earth.

JESS

And who have you left, Mollie?

Mollie can't answer so Jess climbs back into the rocket and closes the hatch.

Mollie, riddled with guilt, looks around. A large rock hill about 50 meters away catches her eye.

EXT. MOON, CRATER - LATER

Out of breath and exhausted, Mollie reaches the top of the hill.

She stands tall and looks around but the view provides no relief. Just grey as far as the eye can see.

She looks at her display. 4 bars left.

She looks up at the clear black sky but there is nothing up there except stars and our unreachable planet.

MOLLIE

There's nothing up here, Dad.
Everything's back there.

She takes off her rucksack and pulls out her toy rocket.

She lifts it up and from her perspective appears to land it on the earth.

She takes her hand away, the rocket stays perched on the earth for a brief moment before slowly falling to the moon's surface.

She falls to her knees and looks up. A shooting star cuts through black space.

SIMON (O.S.)
Make a wish, Mollie.

She closes her eyes tight for a second then opens them but her situation is the same. She gives up, until...

The ground starts shaking. Mollie falls on her back. Dust kicks up.

A spacecraft flies over her head.

She gets up and watches as the spacecraft flies over the crater and disappears the other side.

Mollie's face lights up. She looks back to the crash site then at her oxygen meter. 3 bars left.

She takes a few steps back then launches herself into the air.

She cheers with joy as she glides down the side of the hill and lands at the bottom. She rushes to the crash site.

EXT. MOON, CRASH SITE - SPACE

Mollie, bouncing in the low gravity reaches the crash sight. There's no sign of life. Mollie, tries the inter-com.

MOLLIE
Jess?. Come in? Jess!

She climbs the ladder and reaches the hatch. She tries with all her might but it won't open.

She jumps down, gets on her hands and knees and looks through the cockpit window. Inside, Jess lies unconscious.

Mollie gets on her back, lifts her legs and starts kicking the glass as hard as she can.

Her breathing increases with every kick causing her meter to go down to 2.

She kicks one final time. SMASH. The glass shatters.

Mollie climbs in and pulls Jess out, laying her on the floor.

MOLLIE

Jess! We can get home. Wake up.

Mollie looks at Jess's oxygen levels. The bars are empty and it flashes red with the words "Danger, Low".

MOLLIE

Jess! We can make it.

She looks at her meter. Still 2 bars left.

Mollie stands, psychs herself up then clicks off her oxygen tank from her back.

She does the same to Jess's and places her tank on to Jess's and Jess's onto hers.

She picks Jess up, cradling her in her arms and heads off, one small step at a time.

Later

Across the endless grey landscape, Mollie carries an unconscious yet breathing Jess. Slowly, they make progress.

But Mollie is much weaker now. She struggles for air, never able to fill her lungs.

Mollie takes a step and tries to breath but... nothing. She stumbles back and falls to the floor, dropping Jess.

They lie on the ground, unable to move and barely clinging onto life.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

A television has been wheeled into the room. Mr Gilligan and the class sit and watch.

They watch the news, hosted by a single new anchor, which is covering the NASA moon landing.

Ben sits at the front, proudly wearing a first prize badge.

Amy and Ian sit in their usual seats. They look back at Jess and Mollie's empty chairs with a worried look.

On the TV...

NEWS ANCHOR

After the successful launch yesterday, the astronauts have arrived and landed safely on the moon. In a few moments we'll be going to a live feed through their body cams to watch them take their first steps.

KNOCK, KNOCK. Mr Gilligan looks to the door and sees Mrs Bowen and Sarah. He walks over to them.

MR GILLIGAN

Any news?

SARAH

No. Sorry, I can't just sit at home. Did Mollie have anything in her desk? Anything that might help?

MR GILLIGAN

The police had a look. They couldn't find anything.

Back to the news. Mr Gilligan, Mrs Bowen and Sarah continue talking in the doorway.

NEWS ANCHOR

We now go live to Emily Strong's head cam and watch as they take their first steps.

The news cuts to a POV of Emily's head cam.

She makes her way down the ladder of the spacecraft and looks around. Another astronaut, Peter, follows.

EMILY STRONG

I have just made my way down the ladder and onto the moon's surface. This is amazing!

Peter positions himself facing Emily. He freezes, dropping a piece of equipment and stares over Emily's shoulder.

EMILY STRONG

Peter? You alright?

Peter gently raises his hand and points over Emily's shoulder.

Emily turns around to see Mollie carrying Jess in her arms.

Emily, the news anchor, and the class SCREAM.

MR GILLIGAN

Guys. Be quiet, please.

MRS BOWEN

(To the class)

I know everyone has spoken to the police about Mollie and Jess but if you do know anything please let us know.

The entire class put their hands up. Sarah pushes past Mr Gilligan and walks into the classroom with her back to the TV.

SARAH

Do you know where she is?

The whole class nods.

SARAH

Where?

In unison the entire class lower their hands and point to the television.

Sarah turns round. She sees a closeup of Mollie and Jess's face on the news.

Sarah SCREAMS. Mr Gilligan and Mrs Bowen rush over and also SCREAM when they see it.

On the news.

On Emily's head cam, Mollie doesn't look good. She swerves from side to side. She tries to talk but there's no audio.

The news anchor tries to make sense of what he is seeing.

NEWS ANCHOR

I'm not quiet sure what's going on. It looks like there are children on the moon. Those "fake moon landing" conspiracy theorists are going to have a field day with this. I think Emily is attempting to communicate now.

On the head cam.

EMILY STRONG

What's your name? What do you want?

Emily tries sounding it out with her hands but Mollie is too weak to understand.

Mollie goes on one knee and starts writing in the dust on the ground with her back to Emily, obscuring her view.

Emily, the news anchor, and everyone in the class wait in anticipation.

MRS BOWEN

What's she doing?

Mollie moves her body out of the way of the head cam to reveal the message. "lift home?"

SARAH

She's asking for help.

On the TV, Emily nods enthusiastically.

EMILY STRONG

Sure.

Mollie falls back and passes out on the floor.

The astronauts rush to help her.

The live feed cuts out. The news anchor is lost for words.

Sarah runs out of the room.

As the class sit in silence, contemplating what has just happened, Ben stands up, takes the first prize badge off then walks to Mollie's desk and places it down.

INT. MOLLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mollie is searching her room. She clears out drawers, empties rucksacks and pulls things out from under her bed.

Once she has searched through the entire room, she sits on her bed and ponders.

SARAH (O.S.)

Mollie, dinner!

Mollie gets up to leave.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mollie enters the living room on her way to the kitchen.

The TV is on but the sound is off.

On the TV, the news shows various clips of Emily's camera footage from the moon, clips of Mollie and Jess emerging from the NASA spacecraft, and clips of them at press conferences.

Mollie pays it no attention as she enters the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN/ DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Mollie enters to find the dinner table filled with food and guests.

Amy, Ian and Jess lay the table while Sarah and Nick bring out a huge lasagna.

Everyone takes their seat. Mollie sits next to Jess and they exchange a warm smile.

There's a warmth and normality to the meal as if this happens every night.

Although it's cramped around the table there's just room for two empty chairs.

Framed in the window, a bright white moon watches over them.

Mollie looks happily around at her new life with friends and family.

EXT. MOON - SPACE

On the grey desert surface, up the rocky peak, sits Mollie's toy rocket, perched on the moon as if by magic.

FADE OUT