

Vacuum

written by

Ham the Chimp

(c) 2021

OVER BLACK:

WEE-OWW-WEE-OWW. An ear splitting alarm.

A button is CLICKED.

WOMAN

Come on girl, enough of the alarms,  
alright?

A deep, drawn out SIGH.

WOMAN

"One of the great adventures" my  
ass.

Two quick computer BEEPS.

MAN (COMMS)

Explorer Two, do you read?

WOMAN

This is Commander Goodwin of the  
adrift Solar Explorer two. The  
weather outside is a cool minus  
two-hundred-and-seventy degrees  
with a gentle southerly breeze  
coming from the small hole in my  
hull.

Out of the left window I have a  
great view of Neptune for the  
next... two minutes until the  
oxygen runs out. How are things  
there?

CONTROL (COMMS)

Copy Explorer two, control  
receiving. Stand-by for an update.

COMMANDER GOODWIN

That's fine control, take your  
time, I'm enjoying my leisure  
cruise anyway.

CONTROL (COMMS)

Okay, Explorer Two, systems look  
good, continue on your present  
trajectory and we will continue to  
monitor.

COMMANDER GOODWIN

I don't think you are really  
listening to me, are you, Control?  
What about the Kuiper belt?

CONTROL (COMMS)  
Stand-by Explorer Two, we've  
detected movement in the Kuiper  
belt.

COMMANDER GOODWIN  
Maybe I should change my trajectory  
now?

CONTROL (COMMS)  
Explorer Two, We have detected a  
large collision in the Kuiper  
ahead, potential debris, continue  
on your current trajectory and we  
will monitor.

COMMANDER GOODWIN  
Or, maybe you should tell me to  
change my fucking trajectory!

CONTROL (COMMS)  
(frantic)  
Shit, Explorer Two, change course,  
change course, incoming debris,  
change course, change course.

COMMANDER GOODWIN  
Too late.

CONTROL (COMMS)  
Explorer Two, Explorer Two, please  
respond. Holy shit I think we've  
lost--

BEEP BEEP BEEEEEEEEEP.

Feint cries, a runny nose wiped, a clear of the throat.

COMMANDER GOODWIN  
(solemn singing)  
*Fly me to the moon, don't let me  
die among the stars...*

BEEP BEEP.

CONTROL (COMMS)  
Explorer Two, do you read?

COMMANDER GOODWIN  
*...I don't care what life is like  
on, Jupiter and Mars.*

CONTROL (COMMS)  
Copy Explorer two, control  
receiving. Stand-by for an update.

COMMANDER GOODWIN  
Please come and get me.

CONTROL (COMMS)  
Okay, Explorer Two, systems look  
good, continue on your present  
trajectory and we will continue to  
monitor.

Laboured breaths.

COMMANDER GOODWIN  
(laboured)  
I don't want to die.

CONTROL (COMMS)  
Stand-by Explorer Two, we've  
detected movement in the Kuiper  
belt.

COMMANDER GOODWIN  
(laboured)  
I don't want...

Sound of something heavy hitting a metal panel.

CONTROL (COMMS)  
Explorer Two, We have detected a  
large collision in the Kuiper  
ahead, potential debris, continue  
on your current trajectory and we  
will monitor.

WEE-OWW-WEE-OWW. An ear splitting alarm. It's not turned off.

THE END