



featuring the music of
Jefferson Airplane
Jefferson Starship
Paul Kantner

Blows Against the Empire

A Space Rock Musical

Book by Alan Neal Levy
Music and Lyrics by Paul Kantner



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Starship Jefferson

Characters

Caroline.....	21, tattoo artist
Ben.....	23, political blogger
Country.....	21, marijuana cultivator
Rose.....	20, a Wiccan healer
Moon.....	18, a free spirit
Frost.....	19, a soldier in the Space Force
Ginger.....	13, a runaway
Manny.....	18, street magician/hustler
Bethany.....	17, Manny's partner
Brian.....	18, GeoTec pantechicon
Gillian.....	43, GeoTec engineer
Stuart.....	46, Geo Tec security guard
Doktor of Space.....	70s, homeless
Juris Clayton.....	50s, minister
Collins/Gypsy.....	50s, DOGE agent
CEO/General.....	an old white man with orange hair
4-8 Young People, Street People, Prostitute, Elevator Operator, Soldiers, Gypsies	
.....	Chorus

Scene Outline

Act I

- Scene 1: Outside of the GeoTec corporate offices
- Scene 2: Chrome Nun Tattoo Parlor
- Scene 3: The Park, a Saturday afternoon protest rally
- Scene 4: Chrome Nun Tattoo Parlor, Saturday evening
- Scene 5: The Park, early Sunday morning

Act II

- Scene 1: Outside the GeoTec Space Station, Mount Shasta, New Mexico
- Scene 2: Inside the Mount Shasta Space Station
- Scene 3: On board the starship: the Control Room
- Scene 4: On board the starship: A Deck
- Scene 5: On board the starship: the Control Room
- Scene 6: On board the starship: The Hydroponic Gardens
- Scene 7: The Hydroponic Gardens, four months later

Blows Against the Empire

Act One

Scene 1: GeoTec Corporate Offices

A city street window features a holographic image publicizing the soon-to-be-launched *Starship Jefferson*, Earth's first commercial interstellar spacecraft. The starship hurtles through the depths of the cosmos as Jerry Garcia space-guitar riffs create a dreamy soundscape. The starship finishes its journey across the holo-display screen. The ad is heard, as the image recycles and plays again.

VOICE

*It will be black and white in the dead of night, eyes flashing
in the clear moonlight. You have to ride... ride the starship.*

Reserve your tickets today for the maiden voyage of the
Starship Jefferson.

First flight will blast off on September 14, 2030.

GeoTec is the company that built the new starship. Other corporate interests include a network of satellites, cameras, scanners and facial recognition software that monitor everyday life. They also control most of the Earth's dwindling fossil fuel supplies. A car horn sounds from afar. Muted voices are heard: angry voices. Lights come up on the street in front of the GeoTec office, where young people protest. They carry signs: "GeoTec sucks oil," "GeoTec pollutes," "Keep Space Free," "Free Starship Jefferson." The young people set fire to a barricade, stopping the street traffic. The CEO of GeoTec looks out the front window. He is in his mid-50s and remains nameless throughout.

CEO

Collins. Put an end to this. Now.

The violence of the demonstration increases. Several young people throw rocks at the GeoTec building. Others are trying to break through the front door.

YOUNG PEOPLE

GeoTec sucks. GeoTec sucks.

GINGER, a 13-year old runaway stands amidst the chaos. A bottle crashes by her feet. A homeless man in a dirty overcoat pulls her into an alleyway. It is unsure whether this is a rescue, or an assault on the young girl.

YOUNG PEOPLE

GeoTec sucks. GeoTec sucks.

The homeless man is DOKTOR Albert Houston, mid-70s a former Professor, who has seen better days. Not so long ago he taught at the University. Was it Astronomy or Philosophy of Religion? For some reason, he thinks his name is Bear.

GINGER

Hey! Let go of me. What are you doing?

Doktor removes his hands from Ginger's shoulders. She pushes him away. Ginger looks at his clothes, the paper bag, finds him harmless. She decides to stay in the alley, for now.

DOKTOR

There is no more order. And Yale is a sheet of radioactive glass thirty miles across.

He laughs and goes running into the middle of the demonstration. He does not take part in the violence, instead, he starts dancing a jig, laughing like crazy. Music begins.

GINGER

Crazy old coot.

Sirens are heard approaching.

DOKTOR

(sings)

Look what's happening out in the streets

YOUNG PEOPLE

Got a revolution, Got to revolution

DOKTOR

Hey I'm dancing down the streets

YOUNG PEOPLE

Got a revolution, Got to revolution

DOKTOR

Ain't it amazing all the people I meet

YOUNG PEOPLE

One generation got old

One generation got sold

This generation got no destination to hold

We pick out one young man who is right in the center of things. BEN, 23, is a hard-core revolutionary, yet he is committed to the principles of non-violence. He maintains a blog

called *Ben's Almanak*, in which he posts evidence of government cover-ups, corporate greed, and military blunders. GeoTec is one of his favorite targets.

BEN

*Pick up the cry!
Hey, now it's time for you and me.*

YOUNG PEOPLE

Got a revolution, Got to revolution

BEN

Come on now, we're marching to the sky

YOUNG PEOPLE

Got a revolution, Got to revolution

BEN

Who will take it from you?

YOUNG PEOPLE

We will!

BEN

And who are we?

BEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

*We are volunteers of Amerika
Volunteers of Amerika*

The POLICE arrive in riot gear. They surround the young people on both sides and use their plastic shields to herd the protestors away from the GeoTec building.

BEN

(punching his fist)

*We got to fight back. Fight back.
We got to fight back. Fight back.*

YOUNG PEOPLE

Fight back! Fight back! Fight back!

A PROTESTOR hurls a bottle at the police. Others pick up rocks, bricks and other improvised weapons.

BEN

*No! No rocks! No bottles! Or else we're no better than
them.*

The young people disarm themselves.

	BEN
You got to fight back.	Peacefully.
Fight back.	Peacefully.

The crowd surges towards the line of police officers.

YOUNG PEOPLE
Fight back. Peacefully.
Fight back. Peacefully.
Fight back. Peacefully.

The chant continues as a young woman joins Ben, urging the crowd on non-violently. CAROLINE, 21, is the owner of the "Chrome Nun Tattoo Parlor," and Ben's partner.

BEN AND CAROLINE
Look what's happening 'round the world.

YOUNG PEOPLE
Got a revolution, Got to revolution

BEN AND CAROLINE
Facebook riots in Cairo Square

YOUNG PEOPLE
Got a revolution, Got to revolution

BEN AND CAROLINE
Young people with visions like you and me.

YOUNG PEOPLE
Got to revolution

The young people surge towards the police. A MALE PROTESTOR is hit on the forehead with a billy club, as are other young people, A policeman tases another PROTESTOR. The young people push forward without weapons.

YOUNG PEOPLE
We are volunteers of Amerika
Volunteers of Amerika

The young people force the police to retreat. The protestors regain the street and the police control the sidewalk in front of GeoTec. An uneasy truce settles. Caroline pulls Ben up onto the barricade in the street.

BEN
Something's happening, Amerika.
Can you feel it?

CEO watches BEN on a surveillance monitor.

BEN
(sings)
*Something's happening...in Amerika.
Can you feel it coming?
It's like...*

We see the CEO's ruddy face now. He is impeccably dressed in a 3-piece suit. He stares at Ben's image intently.

CEO
(to himself)
Interesting.

BEN
*The Facebook revolution in Egypt.
Young people's visions and dreams.
In Tunisia, Libya, China and Iran.
Freedom's spreading
It's an uphill dream.*

CEO
(on his phone)
Call them off.

The police depart. The crowd celebrates. Ben is given a hero's reception.

BEN
Don't be afraid of anything.

The tension in the crowd dissipates. Some protestors start to leave.
BEN approaches a YOUNG MAN and hands him a flyer announcing a weekend rally in the park.

BEN
Big rally on Saturday. Bring your friends.

YOUNG MAN
Right On!

AGENT COLLINS, a DOGE agent in his 50s uses a handheld facial recognition scanner to identify participants of the demonstration. He scans BEN. A picture of Ben appears along with his personal info, credit data and work history: Ben Talbot, DOB: 5/27/07; SSN: 513-62-4428; Unemployed; *Ben's Almanak* (podcast). Domestic Partner: Caroline Wing. No children. Disturbing the Peace 8/17/16. Disturbing the Peace 11/9/28. Inciting to riot 5/23/29.

BEN waves to his best friend, COUNTRY, 21, a self-proclaimed marijuana farmer. He does not sell his high-quality product; it is for his own personal consumption.

COUNTRY

Yo, Ben. That was crazy!

BEN

Yeah. Got kind of hairy there, for a second.

COUNTRY

What? No, I'm talking about the ladies. Righteous!

BEN

(shaking his head)

Country.

A young woman, ROSE, walks past. COUNTRY walks up to her, pulls a joint out of his pocket. He raises his eyebrows - an invitation. She smiles. They head down the street.

COUNTRY

Righteous.

BEN

You coming to the tattoo parlor?

COUNTRY

Later, Ben. Much later!

DOKTOR

Washing my soul in the public fountain. Building my
brains in the shadow of the mountain of glass and steel.

GINGER emerges from the alley. She picks up one of BEN's flyers.

GINGER

(sings)

What am I doing here?

CEO stands by the front window with AGENT COLLINS and a priest, FATHER JURIS CLAYTON, also in his 50s. COLLINS shows the scan of BEN to CEO. CEO nods. GeoTec Security guards escort two GeoTec workers from the building.

The GeoTec employees walk through the protestors. No one bothers them.

DOKTOR

Shatter the glass and all the walls between us. Strip your
body naked... flying dangerous.

CAROLINE stares longingly at the holographic poster of Starship Jefferson.

CAROLINE

(sings)

I want to go to the stars.
I want to go to the stars.

DOKTOR

Go straight up...
past all numbers...

FROST, a 19 year old Space Force soldier, in uniform, approaches CAROLINE.

CAROLINE

We're having another rally...in the park.

FROST stands silent.

CAROLINE

Hope to see you...

DOKTOR

... past God, past Mars...past light where there are no
numbers.

FROST points to CAROLINE and raises his eyebrows. She smiles and nods yes. FROST pats his chest, nods and exits.

MOON, 18, runs up to Ben. She is a free spirit. MOON grabs a flyer from BEN and pirouettes.

MOON

Saturday? I'll be there.

BEN

Great.

MOON

Can I help?

BEN

Sure...you could hand out some fliers.

MOON

Really?

BEN

Sure.

He hands her a pile of fliers and starts to leave.

MOON

I guess I'm a volunteer now?

BEN

Huh?

MOON

You know, a ... "Volunteer of Amerika"

She dances around and hands out fliers.

MOON

Volunteer of Amerika

BRIAN, 18, a GeoTec pantechnicon exits the GeoTec building. He receives a flyer from the dancing MOON. He tries to ask her a question, but she dances off.

MOON

Volunteer of Amerika

MANNY sets up a table for three card Monty. MANNY, 18, is an amateur magician, street hustler and part-time pickpocket. He's been on the street since he was kicked out of his house at fifteen.

DOKTOR

The corporate state has co-opted the planetary symbiosis in the name of multi-nationalism.

CAROLINE crosses to BEN.

CAROLINE

Good?

BEN

Great. I really think we're going to have a big turnout on Saturday.

CAROLINE

Hey, Ben?

BEN

Yeah?

CAROLINE

I have a revolution for you.

BEN

Well, sign me up, sweet Caroline.

They kiss. MOON stops dancing and watches them.

DOKTOR

The Empire is breaking down from the inside.

BETHANY, 17, enters. She grew up in the projects and has been on the streets since she was thirteen: running drugs and turning tricks. She works as MANNY's magic assistant and sometimes his shill, as is the case right now.

BETHANY places a twenty dollar bill on MANNY's card table. He shows BETHANY the Queen of Spades, and shuffles the three cards around. She picks one. He turns it over. It is the Ace of Hearts.

BETHANY

Damn. I hate this game.

BETHANY starts to go, turns back, throws another twenty on the table.

BETHANY

Here, one more time.

MANNY

Okay. See the lady.

BETHANY nods.

MANNY

Now follow her. Follow the lady.

FROST moves closer to observe the game.

MANNY
Okay, where's the lady?

BETHANY (To Frost)
I think I got it.

She picks a card. MANNY turns it over. It is the Queen of Spades.

BETHANY
Yeah, baby.

MANNY hands her two twenty dollar bills.

MANNY
Damn.

BETHANY
Come to Mama.

She pockets one of the twenties and throws the other down on the table.

BETHANY
Again.

They play again. BETHANY wins again. She turns to Frost and whispers the secret.

BETHANY
Look. The Queen has a bent corner.

Frost bends to look.

BETHANY
Chill, man. Let me play one more, then you can have a go.

The con continues. Bethany wins again, and then she lets FROST take a turn. A SAX PLAYER enters, opens his sax case, takes out his sax and plays a musical riff.

FROST loses repeatedly. A PROSTITUTE walks past. Other STREET PEOPLE look on. Ginger, tries to find a place to blend in to the scene. The DOKTOR approaches GINGER. He smiles.

DOKTOR

Wrap yourself in a cloak of fire and drive on through.
Bathe in the waters of Isis, and the light... it will amaze
you.

GINGER

(sings)

What am I doing here?

DOKTOR

(sings)

*Young girl in the city
She's a small town girl
in the middle of the city of light.*

GINGER

*What am I doing here?
I want to be dangerous
Like a fire in the sky
There's burning barricades
in the streets
And fire in my eyes.*

GINGER takes out her headphones and sings along with the tune.

GINGER

Nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah

DOKTOR

So there she sat with a diamond bullet in the center of her heart.

BETHANY AND BETHANY

*Not a mile from here there are people living ten to a room
Not a mile from here
and a few streets further on*

A poor woman comforts her young child in a bed of corrugated cardboard.

MANNY AND BETHANY

*They're sleeping in doorways, boxes...
some of them children.
And the sound of gunfire cracks the night
in the shadow lands.
And the saxophone,
in the shadow lands, sings...*

CEO exits the GeoTec office building. His suit is impeccable. He approaches the PROSTITUTE.

GINGER AND PROSTITUTE

Nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah

CEO holds a hundred dollar bill out to the PROSTITUTE, hears GINGER singing, and turns. GINGER wraps her arms around her knees, rocks back and forth, listening to her headphones.

GINGER AND PROSTITUTE

Nah nah nah nah nah nah nah nah

CEO returns the bill to his pocket. He moves towards GINGER.

CEO

*She had nothing on but the radio.
Her hair was nighttime black
and her eyes compelling,
Compelling me to dream.*

GINGER

(singing along to her headphones)

"Go out and change the world"

CEO

Compelling me to action...

CEO stands above Ginger.

DOKTOR

*In the night
striped with lightning
he will come and feed on dreams*

CEO kneels down, caresses GINGER's hair.

CEO

*Hair streaming forth,
burning with desire...*

GINGER pushes CEO's hand away, stands up.

GINGER

Hey!

FROST

*And the storm deepens
Screams with thunder*

CEO offers GINGER the hundred dollar bill, she refuses, he offers even more and she still turns him away.

DOKTOR

And lust enters into it.

CEO grabs Ginger by the shoulders. She tries to escape, but he is too big, too strong.

CEO

Sex! Mouth! Sweet! Blood red!

CEO drags GINGER into the alley.

FROST

*And as the sky explodes
And I'm drawn to action*

CEO overpowers GINGER, and throws her to the ground. GINGER tries to escape, but he pins her to the ground with his knees and loosens his belt and lowers his pants.

STREET PEOPLE

And we're on the battle lines

CEO has forced sexual intercourse with GINGER, as she fights back. The night life in front of the GeoTec building continues, oblivious to the assault taking place in the alleyway.

CEO

*And it's the first time that I'm really rocking
Alive, with the woman I rock,
And she's rocking me.
And the world opens up
She is essential, monumental, better than Jesus.*

AGENT COLLINS meanders through the crowd. He scans one or two of the Street People, but walks past most.

STREET PEOPLE

A guide through the chaos.

AGENT COLLINS walks by the alley. He sees the assault in progress. COLLINS takes a step into the alley. He recognizes the CEO and quietly retreats.

STREET PEOPLE

Everything is different.

AGENT COLLINS stands guard at the entrance to the alley. CEO finally rolls off GINGER. He stands up, buckling his pants.

CEO

We will love each other.

CEO offers lots of money to GINGER.

CEO

We will remember our first kiss.

GINGER spits at CEO. He throws the money down on top of her. CEO walks away. CEO passes COLLINS. AGENT COLLINS nods. CEO exits the alley, walks up the street, throws a bill in the saxophone player's case and exits.

STREET PEOPLE

No thought of circumstance...

or consequence.

And all the rules have changed

GINGER emerges from the alley. She is bruised, but quiet. She straightens her clothes.

DOKTOR

(Spoken)

And she's a specialist...

in darkness...

in the shadow lands.

Scene 2 – The Chrome Nun Tattoo Parlor

Painted on the front window of the Chrome Nun Tattoo Parlor is a colorful, alien landscape with a naked human couple holding hands, as they survey the evening sky. Inside the studio, MOON is looking at the artwork which is displayed on the walls. The whine of a tattoo machine is heard.

MOON

Hey! You made all these?

CAROLINE tattoos a YOUNG MAN, who is naked from the waist up. He lies on his back in a reclining chair, while CAROLINE finishes a tattoo on his left bicep.

CAROLINE

Yeah, most of them.

(To the MAN.)

Almost done.

MAN

(wincing)

No problem.

BEN is recording his podcast in the waiting area. He is surrounded by protest signs.

BEN

I thought things were really going to erupt, there.

CAROLINE

But they didn't. Thanks to you.

BEN

No, I think I made it worse. "Fight back!" What was I thinking? And I still don't know why the police left.

CAROLINE

Well, it was a great turn-out, Ben. I bet thousands show up on Saturday.

BEN

That would be amazing. Did you see that guy with the scanner? DOGE, for certain.

COUNTRY

Owww!

ROSE is cleaning COUNTRY's wound. They sit in the kitchen area in the rear of the studio. ROSE, 20, was brought up in a Roman Catholic household and attended a Catholic school until she was 13. In high school, she became a member of a small Wiccan community.

ROSE

You'll live.

ROSE breaks off the end of an aloe branch, squeezes the gel on her fingertip, and approaches COUNTRY.

COUNTRY

What is that?

ROSE

It's nature's antiseptic: aloe!

COUNTRY

Get away from me, witch.

ROSE

Oh, why did I ever tell you that?

She dabs his wound with the aloe. As she leans over him, COUNTRY grabs her rear end.

ROSE

Country!

Moon looks at more of CAROLINE's flash.

MOON

Are these, like, original?

CAROLINE

Well, some of them are pretty standard. You know, the maritime inks, hearts, flowers, animals, tribals...

She finishes the tattoo, turns off the machine, preps and bandages the MAN's arm.

CAROLINE

...marijuana leaves, mushrooms. All of those...

(indicating the side wall)

are my own designs.

The MAN rises and puts on his shirt. CAROLINE removes the needles from the machine, disposes the used needles, removes her latex gloves and disposes of them. She washes her hands.

MOON

Far out! You're a sci-fi freak?

COUNTRY

Oh yeah.

BEN

Big time.

COUNTRY AND BEN

(sing mockingly)

I want to go to the stars

MOON

Hey, that's me. A moon!

BEN

You have a tat?

MOON

No, that's my name... Moon!

COUNTRY AND ROSE

Moon?

MOON

Wyoming Moon Bernstein.

MAN

(as he puts his shirt on)

Hippie parents?

MOON

(Nodding)

Hippie parents.

The MAN follows CAROLINE to the check-out counter. He pays for the tattoo.

CAROLINE

Keep the bandage on for two hours, then give it some air.

Keep it clean, and...

(handing the man a small tin of salve)

put some of this on every couple of hours.

MAN

Thanks, Caroline.

BEN

Coming to the rally?

MAN

Wouldn't miss it!

He exits. CAROLINE sanitizes her work space. MOON sits in the chair.

MOON

My turn. Caroline.

MOON removes her blouse. COUNTRY and BEN stop and watch.

CAROLINE

Are you legal?

MOON

Eighteen years and two months.

(to CAROLINE)

Interested?

ROSE

(hitting Country with a protest sign)

Country!

MOON

Country?

COUNTRY

My name is Daniel, but all my friends call me Country Boy.

MOON

Why? Do you live in the country?

ROSE

Hah!

COUNTRY

No, they just make fun of me, because I'm such a city-boy.

BEN

No, that's not why!

ROSE

It's because of your "job."

BEN

Yeah.

BEN AND CAROLINE

Farmer Dan!

MOON

You're a farmer?

CAROLINE pulls out a new needle kit. She retrieves the moon stencil.

ROSE

Well...

BEN

Yeah, an herb farm.

BEN mimes smoking a joint.

CAROLINE

This one?

Moon nods.

MOON

Cool. How did you get into such a noble profession?

CAROLINE

Noble?

COUNTRY

Welllllll, since the youngun' asks so nahcely.

ROSE

Oh no!

BEN

Here we go again!

COUNTRY starts walking around pretending to be a country boy. He picks up a broom and pretends it's a pitchfork.

COUNTRY is now wearing overalls, a hat and carries a real pitchfork.

COUNTRY

(sings)

*Bought myself a farm
way out in the country*

ROSE joins his fantasy. They stand in the fields like the couple in Grant Wood's *American Gothic*. The field contains towering marijuana plants. COUNTRY uses the pitchfork to aerate the ground. ROSE picks a marijuana bud and places it alongside others in an egg basket.

COUNTRY

*Took to growing lettuce
milking cows and honey
Bought myself a farm*

ROSE

Way out in the country

COUNTRY

*Bought myself a farm
way out in the country
Spent time in the hayloft
with the mice and the bunnies
Spent time in the country*

COUNTRY AND ROSE

*Yes it's good living on the farm
Ah so good living on the farm
You know it's so good
Living on the farm.*

BEN and CAROLINE join the fantasy.

COUNTRY

*Here comes my next door neighbor coming down the road
He always looks so regal
riding on his toad named Lightning.*

BEN gets off his toad.

COUNTRY

*The toad's name is Lightning.
He's ten hands at the shoulder
and if you give him sugar,
you know, he'll whinny like a boulder.
Yes, he will.*

COUNTRY, ROSE, BEN, CAROLINE

*Yes it's good...
Living on the farm.
Ah so good...*

Animals, but not farm animals, dance through the fields: a lion, a chimp, a unicorn, a manticore, Pan, and an alien.

COUNTRY, ROSE, BEN, CAROLINE, MOON

Living on the farm.

You know it's so good

Living on this farm.

COUNTRY picks up the pitchfork, while everyone else is playing with the animals.

COUNTRY

Well I got to get back to work now and clear away some logs.

COUNTRY throws the pitchfork down.

Ah the sun is shining westwards

Yeah I think I'll saddle up my frog and get out of here.

The frog-riding cowboy rides off into the sunset.

COUNTRY, ROSE, BEN, CAROLINE, MOON

Yes it's good... living on the farm.

Ah so good... living on the farm.

You know it's so good.

MOON

So where is this pot farm of yours?

COUNTRY takes a hit on a high-tech marijuana pipe.

BEN

Go ahead. Tell her.

He exhales a cloud of smoke. Smiles.

COUNTRY

My closet.

The others laugh. CAROLINE goes back to prepping MOON for her tattoo.

ROSE

I would love living in the country.

CAROLINE

Not me.

I want to go to the stars.

COUNTRY

I'd rather sail the Seven Seas:
Wooden ships on the water...

CAROLINE AND ROSE

Very free and easy.

MOON

That would be awesome. How 'bout you, Benzene?

CAROLINE (teasing)

Yeah, how about you, Ben?

BEN

What?

MOON

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

BEN

Nowhere. I'm happy right here.

MOON

Boring!

BEN

Why leave? Got to stay here and fight the machine.

MOON

The machine?

COUNTRY

You know: government, big business.

ROSE

The church!

CAROLINE

The man!

MOON

Oh, "the man." You know what I'd like to do to the man?

BEN

What?

MOON

Turn him onto some acid!

CAROLINE

You know, you're all right... Moonbeam.

MOON (flirtatiously)

You're pretty hot yourself, Space Goddess. How 'bout we go to the stars together?

CAROLINE

Sure thing, Luna.

BEN

Ladies!

CAROLINE

Jealous, Ben?

MOON

Why don't you join us, Benny Hill?

(to Caroline)

Don't worry, baby, I'm a switch hitter.

COUNTRY

Okay!

CAROLINE

Won't you come to the stars with us, Ben?

CAROLINE AND MOON

Pretty please?

BEN

Wherever I go I see you people

I see you people just like me

And whatever you do, I want to do.

And the Pooh and you and me together make three.

MOON (spoken)

Pooh?

CAROLINE (laughing)

Pooh!

CAROLINE AND MOON

Let`s Go Together

Let`s Go Together... right now!

GINGER examines a rally flyer, looks at the window of the tattoo parlor, then peers in through the front window.

BEN AND MOON

Let`s Go Together

Let`s Go Together... right now!

MOON

Come on!

CAROLINE

Shall I go off and away to bright Andromeda?

COUNTRY

Shall I sail my wooden ships to the sea?

COUNTRY sees GINGER at the window.

BEN

Or stay in a cage of cold clear Amerika?

MOON

Or shall I be only me?

CAROLINE, MOON, ROSE AND COUNTRY

Wave goodbye to Amerika

Say hello to the Garden.

COUNTRY brings GINGER in from the street.

COUNTRY

Look what I found. A stowaway.

GINGER

Are you going someplace? Can I come with you?

MOON

We were just sharing our dreams.

CAROLINE

About getting away from here.

ROSE
About making a better world.

BEN
Revolution.

GINGER
I saw you guys at the protest.

GINGER turns away. She starts crying.

ROSE
Hey. Are you okay? Did something happen to you? Are you hurt?

ROSE sits GINGER down. She sits next to her and examines her arms and face.
GINGER is uncomfortable.

GINGER
I... it's just... I have nowhere to stay. And the street--

GINGER shivers.

MOON
Why? What happened? Did someone hurt you?

ROSE
Moon.
(To GINGER)
It's okay. You can stay here. We'll take care of you.

GINGER
You gonna call the cops?

ROSE
No. Not unless you want us to.

GINGER
No!

GINGER tries to get up, but Rose keeps her seated. Rose brushes a lock of hair off her forehead.

ROSE
Shhhhhh. It's okay. You're safe here.

ROSE examines GINGER's arms and sees indications of bruising from CEO's attack.

GINGER

Are you some kind of doctor or something?

ROSE

No, not really. I just like to... help people sometimes.

COUNTRY

She's a witch.

GINGER

A what?

CAROLINE

Country.

ROSE

I'm a neo-pagan healer.

GINGER

A wiccan!

ROSE

Well, sort of.

COUNTRY

She's like a doctor... without the pain.

ROSE

Or drugs. Just naturopathic remedies.

GINGER

Sounds good. No pain.

ROSE

I'm Rose.

GINGER

Hi. I'm Ginger.

MOON

Gingerbread! I'm Moon and this is my lover, Caroline.
And her brother... Ben-GAY!

GINGER is unsure what to make of MOON.

GINGER

Hi.

MOON

Another casualty of the machine.

BEN

Fucking machine.

ROSE

We should be the ones running the machine.

COUNTRY

Hey, we should hijack the machine!

MOON

No, we should blow up the fucking machine!

BEN

Uhhh, no bombs, Moon.

MOON

Oh. Okay. I'm cool.

MOON flashes a peace sign. CAROLINE looks at a poster of GeoTec's *Starship Jefferson*.

CAROLINE

You know something... we could sabotage the GeoTec starship.

COUNTRY

Yeah!

ROSE

Cool!

MOON

I'm in.

GINGER

No...we should hijack the starship.

Silence. Everyone is intrigued. Except BEN, who sees their reactions.

BEN

Hijack the starship?

CAROLINE, MOON, GINGER, ROSE AND COUNTRY

Hijack the starship

CAROLINE

Carry 7000 people past the sun

MOON

And I'll wander naked through the cities of the universe

BEN

C'mon... hijack?

CAROLINE

Free minds

ROSE

Free bodies

COUNTRY

Free dope

MOON

Free music

CAROLINE, MOON, GINGER, ROSE, COUNTRY

The day is on its way, the day is ours.

ROSE

A new beginning

CAROLINE

7000 people freed from their cage

MOON

7000 gypsies!

CAROLINE (to Ben)

Carry 7000 gypsies past the sun.

CAROLINE, MOON, GINGER, ROSE, COUNTRY

C'mon hijack!

BEN

C'mon guys. Hijack the GeoTec starship? Get real.

MOON

Why not?

COUNTRY

You're always telling us to think big. Dream big.

CAROLINE (quoting Ben)

Yeah. "The future is about nerve: who has it, and who doesn't."

MOON

Wow, beautiful, sexy... and smart!

CAROLINE shakes her head and points at BEN. MOON looks at BEN.

BEN

Yes, but that's all it is: a dream. We can't just have a sit-in. This is a starship: the eight trillion dollar showpiece of the military industrial complex. There's got to be high tech security. Troops guarding it. And it's up in space! How would we even get there? And even if we got up there, how would we fly the stupid thing? I mean, first we'd have to infiltrate GeoTec. You know, get some people on the inside who know the lay of the land and how things work.

CAROLINE searches the web. COUNTRY takes notes. MOON stares at BEN, impressed.

BEN

An engineer. A computer expert. One of their security guards.

COUNTRY

Sounds like a plan.

BEN

I don't believe it.

CAROLINE

The GeoTec spaceport is in New Mexico. It says they built... an elevator.

GINGER

An elevator?

ROSE

An elevator to outer space?

CAROLINE

A photon elevator.

MOON

You know, I met one of the guys who works at GeoTec. I think he likes me. He looked like he was... you know, nerdy smart, but he's my age.

BEN

Did you get his number?

MOON

No.

BEN

Oh.

MOON

But I gave him a flyer. He'll be there.

BEN gives MOON a high five.

CAROLINE

Sounds like a plan.

BEN

*So I see - I see the way you feel
Pioneer searcher refugee
I follow you and you follow me*

ALL

*Let's Go Together
Let's Go Together... right now!*

CAROLINE

Let's hijack the starship.

ALL

*Wave goodbye to Amerika
Say hello to the garden.*

Scene 3 – Saturday in the Park

Saturday afternoon in a generic urban park with a futuristic city skyline in the distance. COUNTRY and ROSE hand out signs to the crowd. MOON recruits BRIAN, her potential GeoTec mole. A band is on the stage tuning their instruments. FROST stands apart, observing more than participating. AGENT COLLINS circulates through the crowd, scanning everyone. GINGER sees him and avoids being scanned. CEO watches from the distance. Next to him is FATHER CLAYTON, a Catholic priest in his mid-fifties.

CEO

Father.

FATHER CLAYTON

Good afternoon, sir.

CEO

See if you can make friends. Find out their intentions.

FATHER CLAYTON

Yes, sir.

FATHER CLAYTON walks down the hill, into the throng of young people. The DOKTOR OF SPACE rings a town crier bell. He wears a Puritan minister's cape. He is cleaner than before.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

Hide Witch Hide!

GINGER

What does that mean?

The DOKTOR OF SPACE gestures at COLLINS.

DOKTOR

Hide Witch Hide!

GINGER takes the bell from DOKTOR OF SPACE. He hands her a Puritan mop hat.

DOKTOR AND GINGER

Hide Witch Hide!
The Good Folks come to burn thee
Their keen enjoyment hid behind
A Gothic mask of duty

A thrash rock band is performing.

THRASH ROCK STAR

*Put your old ladies back into bed
Put your old men into their graves
Cover their ears
so they can't hear us sing
Cover their eyes
so that can't see us play.*

The young people dance.

THRASH ROCK STAR

*Get out of the way
Let the people play
We're gonna get down on you
Come alive all over you
Dancing down into your town.*

YOUNG PEOPLE

*I am alive, I am human,
I will be alive again.*

THRASH ROCK STAR

*So drop your fucking bombs
Burn your demon babies
I will be born again
Calling for acid, cocaine and grass
And receiving your homemade gin.*

MOON, CAROLINE, ROSE and GINGER remove BRIAN's clothes and give him colorful gypsy attire.

YOUNG PEOPLE

*Push the button, Pull the switch,
Cut the Beam, C'mon make it march*

BRIAN

Sign me up as a diplomat
My only office is the park!

MOON, CAROLINE, ROSE AND GINGER

*You need to be out before you come in
And after you come you go
In the midst of Yang is a smaller part of Yin
And when it happens, you know...
The Dawn comes!*

BRIAN
(flipping middle finger)
Hey, GeoTec!

MOON, CAROLINE, ROSE AND GINGER
*Whatever you think of us is totally irrelevant
Both to us now and to you*

YOUNG PEOPLE
*We are the present, We are the future, You are the past
Pay your dues and get outta the way
'Cause we're not the way you used to be
When you were very young.*

BEN and CAROLINE take the stage. There is a quiet anticipation from the crowd.

BEN
*A starship's circling in the sky,
It ought to be ready by 2030.
They've been building it up in the air ever since 2020.*

BEN AND CAROLINE
*People with a clever plan
can assume the role of the mighty
and hijack the starship.
Carry 7000 people past the sun.*

BEN, CAROLINE AND MOON
*Our babes will wander naked
through the cities of the universe.*

BEN (punching his fist)
C'mon hijack!

BEN AND CAROLINE
*Free minds, Free bodies
Free dope, Free music*

YOUNG PEOPLE
The day is on its way, the day is ours

BEN
*Where we do go from here?
Chaos or community?*

YOUNG PEOPLE

*7000 Gypsies swirling together.
An offering to the sun in the name of the weather.*

BEN (punching his fist)

*Gonna Hijack
Hijack the starship.*

YOUNG PEOPLE

Hijack the starship.

FROST sneaks up on the CEO. AGENT COLLINS appears. FROST lies flat to overhear.

AGENT COLLINS

It's that Talbot kid again. Ben. Collins shows him the scanner.

CEO

Who's his partner?

COLLINS swipes the scanner, locates another scan. Hands it to the CEO. We see Caroline's profile.

CEO

Spoiled rich girl. Tattoo artist?

COLLINS

Yeah, that's where they live. And hold meetings.

CEO

Weapons?

COLLINS

No. Not that we've found. There's a soldier hanging around.

COLLINS shows him FROST's scan.

CEO

Frost. Wounded in action. He could be a problem. Anyone else we need to worry about?

COLLINS shows him another scan. On it is an old picture of the DOKTOR. CEO looks briefly, then hands back the scanner. He laughs, shaking his head.

CEO

Albert.

COLLINS

Harmless?

CEO

Not exactly. What about the girl?

COLLINS

I couldn't find her.

CEO looks at AGENT COLLINS. COLLINS nods, exits. After he passes, FROST rises and follows the DOGE agent. CEO sees this.

CEO

Not good.

CEO looks back at the crowd surrounding the stage. The YOUNG PEOPLE dance as one.

The DOKTOR joins the young people.

YOUNG PEOPLE

*Open your eyes, there's a new world coming.
Open your eyes, there's a new world today.
Open your hearts, people are loving
Open it all, we've ve come to stay.*

BRIAN

Open it, open it, open that door.

BEN pulls GINGER up on stage and she sings. Projections on the stage illustrate GINGER's utopia.

GINGER

*There's an island way out in the sea,
Where the babies they all grow on trees
It's jolly good fun to swing in the sun
but you got to watch out if you sneeze.
For swinging up there in the breeze,
you're liable to cough,
you might very well fall off
and tumble down flop on your knees.
And when the stormy winds wail,
and the breezes blow high in a gale,
there's a curious dropping and flopping and plopping,
and fat little babies just hail.
The babies lie there in a pile,*

*and the grown-ups come after awhile.
They always pass by the babies that cry
and take only babies that smile.
Even triplets and twins...
if they'll smile--*

AGENT COLLINS jumps on stage, zaps GINGER with a taser, throws her over his shoulder and runs off with her. The young people yell, "Hey, Stop him, etc." BEN rushes after them, catches up, tries to stop him, but COLLINS turns and holds him off with a pistol.

AGENT COLLINS

Back up. All of you. She isn't hurt. But if I have to I will.

He turns the weapon and places it on GINGER's temple. BEN and the crowd retreat. FROST emerges from behind a tree and leg whips AGENT COLLINS to the ground. FATHER CLAYTON pulls GINGER to safety. Frost disarms COLLINS and kicks the weapon away. They wrestle on the ground, rise to fight hand to hand. They are evenly matched, but COLLINS finally gives up, battered and exhausted. FROST picks up the pistol. COLLINS reaches out for it, but FROST tucks it in his belt.

AGENT COLLINS

I know who you are, soldier.

He shows FROST the scanner. FROST says nothing.

AGENT COLLINS

These are not your people.

FROST remains silent.

AGENT COLLINS

This is not your place. (Silence.) Very well, soldier.

AGENT COLLINS exits. FATHER CLAYTON cares for Ginger. YOUNG PEOPLE surge around FROST.

ALL

Good job. That was great, etc.

He retreats. CAROLINE goes to FROST.

CAROLINE

Thank you.

FROST looks in her eyes, but remains silent. The others begin to drift away.

CAROLINE

What's your name?

FROST looks away. With gestures, he asks CAROLINE for something to write with. CAROLINE shrugs. FROST writes his name on the ground.

CAROLINE

Frost. Well, it's nice to meet you. I'm Caroline. What you just did... that was really good.

FROST shakes his head no. He points his finger at her and shakes his head no again.

FROST

(Using hand signals only – not sign language: "No. No! It's just what I do. What they made me do.")

CAROLINE

It's okay. I'm not judging you.

He erases his name from the ground, looks at CAROLINE and forces himself to speak in verse. He looks away from CAROLINE as he speaks.

FROST

Color brochures mask liquid courage
Be all you can be... a man...
Frozen adolescence
Raised on intimacy
Fed three squares of rage, savagery and mayhem

CAROLINE

I understand.

FROST turns to look at her. Shakes his head. We hear drums: military drums, and the sounds of combat. FROST is breathing heavily. He tries to fight the flashback, but cannot.

FROST relives his battle injury. He is in basic training. CAROLINE is part of his flashback, as the character Alice.

CAROLINE

*One pill makes you larger,
and one pill makes you small,
and the ones that mother gives you don't do anything at all.
Go ask Alice... when she's 10 feet tall.*

FROST searches in empty buildings and finds White Rabbit, Mad Hatter, Dormouse, Cheshire Cat, etc. dressed in desert fatigues, carrying heavy munitions... and trying to kill him.

CAROLINE/ALICE

*And if you go chasing rabbits,
and you know you're going to fall,
tell 'em a hookah smoking caterpillar has given you the call.
Call Alice... when she was just small*

He is walking through a war torn street in the Middle East that erupts in crossfire. His fellow soldiers are mutilated at his side.

CAROLINE/ALICE

*When the men on the chessboard get up and tell you where to go
and you have just had some kind of mushroom
and your mind is moving slow,
Go ask Alice... I think she'll know.*

FROST hears the cry of the Pig baby in a basket. He reaches for the bottle of milk which has fallen on the ground, and it turns into a grenade. He falls on the grenade. It explodes.

CAROLINE/ALICE

*When logic and proportion have fallen sloppy dead
and the White Knight is talking backwards
and the Red Queen is "off with her head!"
Remember what the dormouse said,
"Feed you head."*

CAROLINE and FROST embrace. They kiss.
BEN addresses the departing crowd.

BEN

We're meeting at the Tattoo Parlor, if you want to help.

BEN sees CAROLINE and FROST's kiss. FATHER CLAYTON hands GINGER a Bible. ROSE walks to them.

ROSE

It's okay, Father. I'll take care of her.

FATHER CLAYTON

Perhaps it is not her body that needs healing.

ROSE

We've got it covered.

FATHER CLAYTON

Are you sure?

ROSE

Positive.

Scene 4 – Chrome Nun Tattoo Parlor

The Tattoo Parlor is filled with young people. CAROLINE sits with FROST. ROSE is tending to GINGER who rests in the tattoo chair.

ROSE

Let me get you some tea.

GINGER smiles. ROSE brews a cup of tea. BEN addresses the crowd of young people.

BEN

The first task is to spread the word. Tell your friends.

FROST

Move on out to the Cool and the Dark.

BEN

We need craftsmen, machinists, chemists, engineers...

CAROLINE

Woodworkers, poets, artists, dancers...

MOON

Got that covered!

COUNTRY

I know some hydroponic farming, but I'll need help, if we're going to grow our own food. So anyone - from a gardener to a Ph.D. is needed. Maybe...a masseuse?

COUNTRY looks around to see if there are any takers. ROSE throws a pillow at him.

BEN

So, all jobs are open: Captain, astral navigator, cook, physician.

YOUNG PERSON 1 (as Star Trek's Dr. McCoy)

I'm a doctor, Jim, not a geologist.

MOON

We need experts in wave mechanics, laser technics, trionic physics, labrian tantronics, telemetry...

Everyone looks at MOON.

MOON

What?

BEN

So, spread the word. And get yourself ready.

ROSE

Prepare your bodies.

COUNTRY

(holding a joint)

Move your minds!

MOON

Experiment!

FROST

Search out Atlantis... it lives and breathes inside you.

BEN

So, the Spaceport is in the New Mexico desert. Country has directions. To the Starship!

ALL

To the Starship! Starship! Starship! Starship!

BEN and CAROLINE kiss center stage. MOON interrupts, dragging BRIAN by the arm.

MOON

Ben? This is Brian.

BEN

Brian! My man.

BEN tries to soul shake, while BRIAN tries to shake hands regular. BEN tries to tap fists, and BRIAN tries to soul shake. Ben slaps BRIAN's shoulder.

BEN

Whatever. Hey, I'm really glad you could make it. Listen, we need to talk.

BRIAN

Sure. But I've been running some simulations on my computer, and things don't really look good. According to Mike...

BEN

Mike?

BRIAN

Oh, it's just a little joke. Did you ever read The Moon is a Harsh Mistress? No? Well, that's the name of the computer that leads the Lunar colony in its revolution. So, I-- well, never mind.

BEN

So, what does Mike say about our little project?

BRIAN

He says we have at 13.64 percent chance of succeeding.

BEN

Wow! Pretty grim.

BRIAN

Yeah, I know.

A cymbal is heard. BRIAN looks over to the waiting area. A GUITAR PLAYER strums a hypnotic series of chords. A BONGO PLAYER joins in. COUNTRY lights a marijuana joint. MOON dances over. BRIAN starts towards Moon. BEN stops him.

BEN

Well, that's what I wanted to talk to you about. Do you have any friends?

BRIAN

Huh?

BEN

Friends. At GeoTec, I mean. Do you know a Dr. Benitez?

BRIAN

Gillian? Sure. I mean, we're not... friends. But I know her.

BEN

Well, here's what I need you to do, Brian. Talk to her. We could use her help.

BRIAN
Help? How? (thinks) Ohhhh!

BEN sits down and recalculates the odds. He is surprised to see the difference.
DOKTOR (now calling himself the DOKTOR OF SPACE) appears in ornate vestments with a psychedelic motif. He offers people communion wafers, which he places on their tongues. The effect is a heightened reality - not narcotic.

DOKTOR OF SPACE
Won't you try, Won't you try

COUNTRY and ROSE kneel before the DOKTOR. He places wafers on their tongues. COUNTRY and ROSE stay kneeling, face each other. COUNTRY caresses her cheek.

COUNTRY AND ROSE
*Find a way to need someone;
Find a way and see.
Find a way to need someone,
and the sunshine will set you free*

DOKTOR OF SPACE offers wafers to MANNY and MALE GYPSY 1 and places wafers on their tongues.

DOKTOR OF SPACE
Won't you try

MANNY AND MALE GYPSY 1
With love before we're gone

DOKTOR offers wafers to BETHANY and MALE GYPSY 2 and places them on their tongues.

DOKTOR OF SPACE
Won't you try

A wafer for FROST, placed on his tongue.

DOKTOR OF SPACE
Won't you try

DOKTOR OF SPACE offers a wafer to BRIAN. BRIAN holds it in his hand and looks at MOON.

DOKTOR OF SPACE
Won't you try

MOON shows BRIAN the wafer on her own tongue. He looks at the wafer in his hand, looks back at MOON.

ALL

Saturday afternoon, Saturday afternoon

MOON (to BRIAN)

When your head is feeling fine

BRIAN looks around at the other young people. They still kneel, facing their partners. DOKTOR stands before the Gypsy congregation with arms outstretched.

ALL

Saturday afternoon, Saturday afternoon

MOON AND DOKTOR

You can ride inside our car.

*I will give you caps of blue
and silver sunlight for your hair.*

BRIAN takes MOON's words as a promise. He places the wafer on his tongue.

MOON

*All that soon will be
is what you need to see, my love.*

DOKTOR OF SPACE offers a wafer to CAROLINE. She shakes her head no. He looks at her, puzzled. She places her hand on her belly. The DOKTOR smiles, nods his head, and moves to another GYPSY.

ALL

Won't you try, Won't you try

GINGER steals a wafer from the DOKTOR OF SPACE, but he sees her. He takes it, breaks it in two, and gives her a half.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

I do care that you do see.

The tattoo parlor transforms into a cathedral. The flash on the walls transform into stained glass windows of the same designs. Lights shine through the stained glass flash in multicolored shafts.

COUNTRY

Here we go.

The GYPSY congregation rises. The musicians join DOKTOR OF SPACE at the front. BEN and CAROLINE rise and walk to the front of the chapel. Is this a wedding, perhaps? The DOKTOR seems to offer a blessing, of sorts.

BEN

I'll come through for you.

CAROLINE

And I'll come through for you, my love.

Other couples make sacred oaths, as well.

BETHANY and MALE GYPSY 2

Round about and everywhere: Sunshine instead of snow.

MANNY and MALE GYPSY 1

Times can't change that what I say is true.

COUNTRY

Is it time for us, my lady?

ROSE

Yes, it is. I know.

COUNTRY and ROSE kiss. Brian looks around for MOON, who is playing bridesmaid and best man to BEN and CAROLINE. She fusses with CAROLINE's hair and kisses her. She straightens BEN's lapel... and kisses him, with passion. The tempo increases. The GYPSY congregation starts to clap their hands and stomp their feet.

GYPSIES

Won't you try, Won't you try

The music crescendos. The colors on the wall of the tattoo parlor begin to shift and change. The stained glass flash appear to be made of brighter colors.

GYPSIES

Won't you try... try... try!

The music changes tempo - slower, dreamy. Everyone is beginning to feel blissful and in harmony with each other. The GYPSIES movements reflect their inner changes.

GYPSIES

Saturday afternoon, Saturday afternoon

COUNTRY AND ROSE

Yellow clouds rising in the Lune

Acid, incense and balloons

The walls of the tattoo parlor swim in auroras of melting colors. The tattoo flash animate. Nothing appears frightening. MOON leaves BEN and CAROLINE, dances by herself, finds a FEMALE GYPSY, and dances intimately with her.

COUNTRY, ROSE AND MOON

*People dancing everywhere.
Love is shouting, "I don't care."*

GYPSIES

*It's a time for growing
And a time for knowing... love.*

The music slowly picks up tempo again. Everyone is exploring the wonders revealed by their physical sensations. The walls of the tattoo parlor become semi-transparent and we see the natural and cosmic world around them. Slowly, the walls of the tattoo parlor disappear entirely, and we are back in...

Scene 5 - The Park

The Park is alive with vibrant colors. Trees, bushes and grass emanate an inner Light. Clouds animate into myriad abstract shapes. Birds fly in formations, leaving trails in their wake. The GYPSIES explore the natural world as if for the first time. They discover their inter-connectedness with the Universe, and how that forms the foundation of their group mind. They dance together in a celebratory ritual of freedom and love.

GYPSIES

*Saturday afternoon
Won't you try? Won't you try?*

The song climaxes in a non-sexual orgy of flesh and fascination. Most of the GYPSIES pair off: COUNTRY and ROSE, CAROLINE and BEN, MANNY and MALE GYPSY 1, BETHANY and MALE GYPSY 2, MOON and FEMALE GYPSY, DOKTOR and one female and one male.

GYPSIES

Saturday afternoon, Saturday afternoon

FROST stands by a tree. He touches the bark.

CAROLINE (to BEN)

I'll be right back.

MOON approaches BEN. BRIAN watches MOON from a distance. She leaves her friend and hits on BEN.

MOON
Won't you try?

BEN
Moon.

MOON
Won't you try?

CAROLINE returns.

MOON
My Space Queen. Think on it, Ben.

MOON dances away.

CAROLINE
Think about what?

BEN
Nothing.

The sun is setting in a blaze of colors. BEN stares at the sunset. CAROLINE looks at BEN.

CAROLINE
So, what's it like?

BEN
Amazing.

CAROLINE
Tell me.

BEN
I don't know how.

CAROLINE
Try.

GYPSY 1
Armadillo.

BEN laughs.

CAROLINE

Try.

BEN

Armadillo.

CAROLINE

In your own words.

BEN

(tries... then)

I can't.

Frost takes off his army shirt. He watches the sunset in his tee shirt and army pants.

FROST

I am night, I am day

CAROLINE

*I will help you find the way
If you help us find the way
To your heart*

FROST

Shining citadel, Parallel in time

CAROLINE

*We can find the way to you
Back in to your heart*

GYPSIES

To our heart.

BEN and CAROLINE climb up to the top of a different hill. BEN is distracted, and bothered by memories.

BEN

*Long time since I climbed up this mountain before.
Things I've seen here make me want to go running home.*

CAROLINE

Lean close, put your lips next to my face.

BEN looks into CAROLINE's face. It is beatific. BEN gasps.

CAROLINE

Look further on past the surface...

BEN is drawn into her eyes.

BEN

*Orange, blue, red & green
are the colors of what I feel.
And my mind starts to reel... in time.*

BEN and CAROLINE lie down on the ground.

CAROLINE

*To know your flesh lying by my skin.
And I wonder whenever I'm in.*

BEN

*Warm, soft, nice & now are the word things of what I know.
And my body is so... in time*

CAROLINE

*I see you at the place that I play.
Ah darlin' tell me what can I say.*

BEN

*Dance, sing, sleep & dream
is the music of what I feel.
And to know that you're near... in time.*

BEN and CAROLINE embrace.

GYPSIES (Offstage)

*Come with me my friend...
Come on now and take my hand...
You can be my friend...
Soon be in another country...*

It is full evening with stars blazing in a cloudless sky. Two figures are silhouetted on a hilltop, facing the rising moon. It is not the moon we know, however, for we are on an alien planet. The moon is purple and fluid, and we can see other oddities in the evening sky. Unknown constellations, multiple galaxies, strange planets... and more. The terrain is lush and strange; in fact this scene replicates the painted scene on the tattoo parlor's front window. A FEMALE GYPSY runs on laughing as a male gypsy chases her. Other GYPSY couples stroll across the landscape. Some small groups have formed. BRIAN is by himself, examining one of the alien plants. A human wolf-howl is heard. BRIAN looks around, panics. Laughter echoes. GINGER enters, laughing.

BRIAN

Moon? Oh, it's you.

GINGER

Brian! I was looking for you!

BRIAN

Yeah, right.

GINGER

What's the matter?

BRIAN

Nothing. I'm fine.

A tiny drop shimmers on BRIAN's cheek. GINGER touches his shoulder.

GINGER

I know.

BRIAN

No. I don't care. She can... I don't-- It's not that. I don't understand...

GINGER

This?

BRIAN nods.

GINGER

It's kind of scary. And beautiful. And... real. Like this is the way things are supposed to be. (A beat.) You want to know a secret?

BRIAN

Okay. What?

GINGER

I like you.

BRIAN

Well... don't. I mean--

GINGER

I know... you like Moon. But maybe, when I'm... older.

*When the truth is found to be lies and all the joy within you dies...
Don't you want somebody to love
Don't you need somebody to love
Wouldn't you love somebody to love
You better find somebody to love
Tears are running down your breast
And your best friend treats you like a guest.*

CAROLINE AND BRIAN

*Don't you want somebody to love
Don't you need somebody to love*

GINGER leans her head on his shoulder. As they stare off at the alien landscape, BRIAN puts his arm on GINGER's shoulder.

CAROLINE AND BRIAN

Wouldn't you love somebody to love

GYPSIES sneak up and tackle BRIAN, roll him on the ground, and run off. He chases after them. GINGER watches him go.

GINGER

You better find somebody to love.

The first hints of the dawn paint the sky in psychedelic hues. GUITAR PLAYER strums a guitar. ROSE and COUNTRY touch. Their eyes are bright. Their minds are racing.

ROSE

It's getting brighter.

COUNTRY

The dawn is coming.

GYPSY 2

Feels like a morning

Another wolf howl is heard. More laughter. A monkey chattering.

BEN and CAROLINE listen to the GYPSIES from their hilltop. As it gets brighter, the Park's appearance is altered.

BEN

*Last electric Sunday morning
waiting in the park for the dawn.*

Another wolf howl is heard.

BEN

*Listening to all the animals in the Park and the city beyond.
Flashing with my lady, sky going black to blue. She said,*

CAROLINE

*I got a surprise for you:
A child is coming to you.*

CAROLINE turns to watch BEN's reaction. His joy is all consuming. A GREY ALIEN walks by wearing an Uncle Sam costume. It speaks with the voice of AGENT COLLINS.

ALIEN/COLLINS

I'm watching you, Benjamin.

CAROLINE and BEN laugh.

BEN

*What are we going to do when Uncle Samuel comes around
asking for the young one's name?*

CAROLINE

*Looking for the print of his hand for the files in their
numbers game.*

BEN

I don't want his chances for freedom to ever be that slim.

BEN AND CAROLINE

Let's not tell 'em about him (her).

CAROLINE holds BEN's hand over her belly.

CAROLINE

It's coming.

BEN

So, are you happy?

CAROLINE

Yes. I don't know. Scared?

BEN

I think you'll make a great Mom.

CAROLINE (Pulling away, unsure)

Yeah?

BEN

I mean a great artist priestess goddess-Nun kinda Mom

CAROLINE

Yeah. (Beat) But what about you? I mean... us?

The dawn breaks in a riot of colors. BEN and CAROLINE sing of the new child.

BEN

*It's getting better
It's getting better
It's getting better
It's getting better
It's getting better
Together*

CAROLINE

*To be born
To create
To grow
To change
To live
We can be together*

GYPSIES stand at scenic outlooks about the Park, welcoming the new day.

GYPSIES

*It's getting better
It's getting brighter
It's getting brighter
It's getting brighter
It's getting brighter
It's getting finer*

OTHER GYPSIES

*It's growing
Shining
Changing
Gathering
It's spreading
Feels like a morning*

Some GYPSIES dance. Others watch in awe. BEN and CAROLINE stand on the hilltop and kiss. COUNTRY and ROSE greet the dawn of a new age.

GYPSIES

*It's getting better
Getting brighter
Getting brighter
Getting better
Getting better
Getting better
All of us together*

COUNTRY & ROSE

*It's being born
Up in the mountains
Amongst the redwoods
By the Seashore
It's growing
Gathering
Dawn*

CAROLINE sings a lilting lullaby to their baby as BEN ponders the future, and the GYPSIES continue to anticipate the coming day.

GYPSIES

*Getting better
Together
We can work it out
All of us together*

BEN

*Changing
It's Growing
It's Growing
On the starship*

CAROLINE

I want to see his head rise.... next to mine

BEN (Spoken)

What did you say?

CAROLINE

I have no idea.

The sun appears over the horizon, as a lone guitar is strummed by GUITAR PLAYER.
MOON runs over to BEN.

MOON

Ben, c'mon. They're here.

BEN

Who?

MOON

Brian's friends from GeoTec. And wait 'til you hear-- Oh,
hi Caroline. Isn't it a great day?

MOON and BEN exit.

CAROLINE (Holding her belly)

The best. *Sunrise, Surprise, Civilized Man*
You were keeper... to me
Now your animal is free And you're free to die--

FATHER CLAYTON steps out from behind a tree.

CAROLINE

What do you want?

CLAYTON

I heard about your plans. I want to join you.

CAROLINE

Why?
You're old and your hands are gray.
You're old, go home and pray.
We've all heard your stories:
2000 years, 2000 years, 2000 years
Of your God damned glory.

Act Two

Scene 1: The New Mexico Desert

It is evening, outside of the GeoTec Spaceport in New Mexico. A building looms in the distance. It is a monument to science and technology, yet it resembles a cathedral with spires pointing towards the heavens. The desert landscape is crisscrossed with laser beams: the perimeter of the GeoTec security. The GYPSIES are revealed, in formation, approaching the Spaceport, wary of guards. The DOKTOR OF SPACE wears a blue lab coat. It is clean, and so is he.

BEN

All right Mr. Chief of Security. Time to show your stuff.

STUART

Wait here.

STUART, the former GeoTec Chief of Security heads towards the laser perimeter. He approaches what appears to be a shrub.

BEN

Stuart.

STUART turns.

BEN

Don't let us down.

STUART

You still don't trust me, do you Ben?

BEN

Nothing personal. Maybe it's the uniform.

STUART smiles, shakes his head. He activates a hidden control box in the robot sentry shrub. FROST moves off by himself.

BEN (to BRIAN)

What are the odds, now?

BRIAN enters calculations.

BRIAN

Thirty-one point six percent chance of successfully hijacking the GeoTec starship.

BEN

And if Stuart is trustworthy?

BRIAN recalculates. STUART swipes his ID card, punches in a few numbers. One by one the laser beams are turned off, until the New Mexico desert remains bathed in starlight. The GYPSIES cheer.

BRIAN

Thirty-eight point seven percent.

COUNTRY

Boo-yah!

BEN

It's a fresh wind that blows against the Empire.

MOON

Yours? I'm impressed.

BEN

Nope... Nero.

BETHANY

Nothing's gonna stop us now. Hijack!

GYPSIES

Hijack the Starship!

GINGER laughs. BETHANY and MANNY gather their packs.

BETHANY

*The summer was dry like your nose
when you've been behind coke for a day and a season.*

MANNY

*We sail out into the grasshopper night
and we seek the righteous poison.*

ROSE

Sunday morning in the desert.

FATHER CLAYTON crosses himself.

FATHER CLAYTON

Sunday morning, Sunday morning

COUNTRY

*The land is green and you make it grow,
so go to the stars and move.*

DR. GILLIAN BENITEZ, a trionic physicist in her mid-40s, the GYPSIES' latest recruit, ponders the imminent hijack.

GILLIAN

The sound of the thundering electrical energy calls us.

COUNTRY

C'mon anybody - fill my pipe to the brim. To the stars!

BEN

When I feel you coming round me – riding in the sun.

CAROLINE

*Going home.
Move your mind towards Mars, and then beyond.*

MOON

Genesis is not the answer to what we had before.

GYPSIES

I... we... altogether in you.

STUART whistles twice - the all-clear signal. The GYPSIES march across the desert.

DOKTOR OF SPACE (reminiscing)

I remember the 23rd of November...

GINGER

*The witch hunters wail and they bark and they wheeze
and they try to turn us onto their poison.*

BEN

You know, a starship's circling in the sky

GYPSIES

*It ought to be ready by 2030.
They've been building it up in the air, ever since 2020.
People with a clever plan
can assume the role of the mighty,
and hijack the starship.
Carry 7000 gypsies past the sun.*

CAROLINE

*And my babe will wander naked
through the cities of the universe.*

GYPSIES

C'mon hijack!

BEN

So, Gillian. Tell us how the elevator works.

GILLIAN

The photon acceleration tubes create a vortex of quantum heat, tuning the frequency of your particles, which accelerate up the tube. The laser scopes interface with the deceleration ports on the starship, and...

BEN

Just the logistics. Where do we go? How many at a time?

GILLIAN

Well, the main structure is underground. What you see are the tubes. Sixty tubes circle the perimeter of the Temple.

ROSE

Temple?

GILLIAN

You'll see. (to BEN) You just step on the transfer pad and that's it. It takes 17 seconds to complete a transfer.

BEN

So, there's 7,000 of us. Sixty tubes. That's over a hundred transfers. Say 30 seconds to get the next group--

BRIAN

About one hour and 28 minutes... for the whole group.

BEN

So that's why Mike's odds are still so low. Over an hour. We'll be like sitting ducks.

BRIAN

Well, it's not too late to get some guns... maybe a few RPGs?

BEN

No.

CAROLINE

Frost said he could still...

BEN

NO! This must be a bloodless coup... or we're no different than they are. No weapons!

BETHANY (holding out a knife)

How 'bout a little shiv?

BEN

How 'bout we leave you here?

BETHANY looks around at the desert, puts the knife down on the ground.

BETHANY

No, I'm cool.

GINGER

Look at the stars. I can't believe it. In a couple of hours...
We are stardust

MANNY

Oh, God. (to FATHER CLAYTON) Sorry, Father. Another reject from the Woodstock generation. (mocking GINGER)"We are stardust."

BETHANY

Hey, buzz kill! Chill.

GILLIAN

Actually, she's right. Our entire cellular structure is comprised of matter created from the star Tiamat going supernova. We really are made of the same particles that emitted from that dying star. Star-dust, if you will.

GINGER

How special I feel to be alive, here and now!

CAROLINE

I can feel the Universe inside of me.

BEN (Embracing her)
Yeah, I can feel it!

ROSE
And we should get "back to the garden." Time to re-integrate the spiritual with the scientific.

CAROLINE
And the artistic!

ROSE
A new coalition of science, art and religion.

FATHER CLAYTON
Hear, hear!

ROSE
Raise up all your pagan voices!

FATHER CLAYTON
What?

ROSE
Raise up all your primal screams!

One GYPSY cries out like a coyote. Another like a Golden Eagle. The GYPSIES all begin to make primitive sounds.

FATHER CLAYTON
Oh no!

ROSE
Our tribe is at the Frontiers of Light

The GYPSIES slowly form a circle around ROSE. BONGO PLAYER pounds a tribal beat. Other GYPSIES find the bones of bleached carcasses and hit them together. The GYPSIES start a tribal chant.

GYPSIES
Frontera, Frontera
Frontera Luminosa

FATHER CLAYTON
No, no, no. This is not what I thought you meant.

GYPSIES

Frontera, Frontera
Frontera Luminosa

The GYPSIES bid a farewell to the Earth, their history and the Light that pervades All.
FEMALE GYPSY 1 lets out a primal wail.

FEMALE GYPSY 1

Aaaaaaaaaaaaah!

ROSE

In another Universe

FEMALE GYPSY 1

Let Desire rip

MANNY

We would be Lovers

ROSE

In yet another Universe

FEMALE GYPSY 2

(joins in)

One Voice

BEN

We would be Warriors

FEMALE GYPSIES 1 AND 2

One Love...

FATHER CLAYTON

Please, stop. Please! I beg you! Please, in the name of God!

ROSE

Raise up all your pagan voices!
Raise up all your primal screams!

GYPSIES

Our tribe is at the Frontiers of Light.

ROSE AND MOON

Unknown music, Ancient rhythms
Legend evolves, Savage Dancing

FATHER CLAYTON

Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do. For
theirs is the Kingdom and the Glory.

FATHER CLAYTON becomes caught up in the rhythms – and the sentiments.

GYPSIES

*This is the age that Light returns.
This is the country it happens in; and
Now is the Point of Infinite Mass and Infinite Destiny;
The Point at which physics breaks down.*

BEN

This is the year the machine fucks up.

BEN AND GYPSIES

*This is the year the machine fucks up.
This is the year the machine fucks up!*

CAROLINE dressed as a Celtic priestess leads the GYPSIES in an ancient ritualistic dance.

CAROLINE

So behold... the Earth. Behold the Earth and Sky Beyond
This is where we're going
Here is where we've been

FROST

An infinite flight to unquenchable splendor

CAROLINE

Think too, of Children:
Born in space, Conceived in Light,
Fused in zero gravity,
A new creature, descended of Earth, Born to the Sky

ROSE

So be kind...

FROST

*To the Poet in the streets
Lost in the cracks of the highway.*

ROSE

Be kind...

BETHANY

To the woman who weeps For the children in the alleyway.

ROSE

Be kind...

MANNY

*To your Love, the One at your side, who buries his tongue
in your heart.*

ROSE AND CLAYTON

Be kind...

MOON AND GINGER

To the Children of the Light, the ornery hope of a changeling planet.

ROSE AND CLAYTON

Be kind...

COUNTRY

To yourself, to this land, this world, this common ground.

ROSE

And to the One who understands.

FATHER CLAYTON

Amen.

The GYPSIES realize that FATHER CLAYTON was singing and dancing with them.
They welcome him as part of their tribe.

BEN

Stuart, what about security inside the station?

STUART

Eight guards, but they're with us. And the Elevator
Operator.

BEN

Is he armed?

STUART

She is unarmed. And also on our side.

BEN

The odds seem so low. All right. Let's move out.

The GYPSIES approach the Spaceport. A powerful flashlight beam tracks them, as the GENERAL (who looks a lot like CEO) and THREE SOLDIERS enter. The THREE SOLDIERS draw their weapons and fire at the GYPSIES. The GYPSIES scatter behind what little cover is provided by the New Mexican desert: scrub pines, bushes and rocks. BETHANY is hit. FROST surprises one of the soldiers, overpowers him, takes his gun and returns to the GYPSIES.

FROST

(using hand signals: "You go ahead. I'll hold them off.")

CAROLINE

Frost, you don't have to do this.

FROST nods his head.

CLAYTON

Let him. It's for the greater good.

CAROLINE

How can you say that? I'd think a man of God-- Forget it.
(To FROST) Be careful.

STUART

Ben, over here. We can circle around the back. I know what you're thinking, but it wasn't me. They're not with GeoTec. They're military.

BEN

If it quacks like a frog...

STUART (correcting him)

Duck.

BEN ducks. FROST laughs. He takes a breath. BEN and STUART lead the Gypsies to the rear of the spaceport. CAROLINE lingers with FROST. The GENERAL yells across the desert to FROST.

GENERAL

Sergeant Frost, this is General Adams.

GINGER

Hey, I know that voice.

GENERAL

Sergeant Frost, it's time to do the right thing. Step out with your hands on your head.

BEN pulls GINGER away. The GYPSIES race to the rear of the Spaceport.

CAROLINE

When the men on the chessboard get up and tell you where to go.

CAROLINE kisses FROST and exits. FROST pulls out the gun.

FROST

Feed you head...

FROST rises, lets out a barbaric yawp, and sprays bullets over the heads of the GENERAL and two remaining SOLDIERS. They jump for cover and return fire. This same scenario plays out two more times. GENERAL rises.

GENERAL

Frost, I get it: you're deliberately missing us. That's a good thing, son. But we still have a problem here, so I will give you this one chance. Lay down the weapon and step forward with your hands on your head, and we will not shoot you. (Pause) That is a direct order, soldier. Lay down your arms!

FROST rises without his barbaric yawp, and sprays bullets over the heads of the General and Soldiers. The SOLDIERS jump for cover. GENERAL does not. He is not hit by FROST's gunshots.

GENERAL

Very well, Sergeant.

GENERAL motions the soldiers forward. They shoot at FROST, who ducks for cover. They move forward.

SOLDIER 1

Frost, man, it's me Smurf. Don't do this. We're brothers.

SOLDIER 2

Frost, we don't want to do this.

FROST gestures for them to leave.

SOLDIER 2

Can't. You know that.

SOLDIER 1

Why have you turned, man? What happened?

FROST
(With hand signals only: "I opened my eyes.
You should do the same.")

SOLDIER 1
You sound like you've been brainwashed or something.

FROST
(Laughs, then with hand signals: "More like
de-programmed.")

GENERAL motions the SOLDIERS forward. They move forward. FROST rises, but does not put down his weapon. The two SOLDIERS hesitate.

GENERAL
Shoot!

FROST snaps to attention, salutes and shoots twice. The two SOLDIERS die. GENERAL crosses to the two bodies and pushes them over with his boots.

GENERAL
Oh, well. There's always more where they came from.

FROST
Someone must sleep with the machine if we're going to get to the stars.

FROST shoots GENERAL. FROST heads towards the spaceport which throbs with mechanical precision. GENERAL rises, removes his uniform, revealing CEO's three-piece suit. A cell phone rings. CEO removes the phone from his jacket pocket. The voice we hear on the other end is disguised.

CEO
Yes?

VOICE
Hi, this is...uh... Baker-One-Two.

CEO
Yes. What is your status?

VOICE
I am in the fold. Repeat, I am in the fold.

CEO
Good. Proceed with Operation Wolf in Sheep's Clothing.

VOICE

Okay, I mean, Roger. Baker Wolf-One-Two out.

CEO laughs maniacally as the lights go out on the New Mexico desert. The sounds of the Spaceport grow louder.

2 – The GeoTec SpacePort

Inside the spaceport, sixty polymorphous tubes soar towards the heavens. The GYPSIES are lined up awaiting their turn on the elevator. The ELEVATOR OPERATOR explains how the tubes work.

ELEVATOR OPERATOR

*You breathe out. You breathe in.
And the glow of the machines will get you on*

He pushes a button and a group of GYPSIES dematerialize and flutter up the tubes.

ELEVATOR OPERATOR

*Moving slow, don't feel the changes
Gracefully growing*

He pushes the button and another group rises up the tubes.

ELEVATOR OPERATOR

As wild as we can be

Another transport takes place. The ELEVATOR OPERATOR continues ushering new groups every minute or so. CAROLINE, BEN and MOON enter. BRIAN follows close behind, doing new calculations.

MOON

I can't believe it. It's really happening.

CAROLINE

Where's Frost?

BEN

Latest odds, Brian?

BRIAN

Forty-six point seven five.

GINGER AND MOON

It's getting' better.

CAROLINE

Stupid soldier boy.

BEN

That's all? What am I missing?

FROST runs on, still carrying his weapon. CAROLINE rushes to him, crying, and kisses him.

FROST

(Hand signal: "How much longer?")

BEN

We're almost done. Just a few more transports. And us.

FROST

(Hand signal: "Let's go. There will be more.")

CAROLINE

Did you...

FROST

(Hand signal: "Yes. I'm sorry.")

CAROLINE

No, I'm sorry.

They kiss. BEN is upset.

BEN

Let's go. (to FROST) Frost...

FROST

(Hand signal: "I know.")

FROST looks around, empties the clip, and lays the gun down.

ELEVATOR OPERATOR

Okay, last group.

He pushes the button and takes his place in one of the tubes.
The GYPSIES approach the tubes individually. They step inside.

BEN

*Only the sun knows what we really need to know.
Only the sun holds the secret.*

CAROLINE

*And more than human can we be, because human's locked
to this planetary circle...don't evolve.*

DOKTOR OF SPACE (hurrying them)

*You got to ride.
I have seen this once before.*

GYPSIES

*7000 Gypsies swirling together.
An offering to the sun...*

The bodies of the GYPSIES slowly rise up the tubes and de-materialize. The tubes and the interior of the Spaceport disappear. The physical bodies continue to dematerialize as egos are disintegrating, floating heavenward amidst the vastness of space. Jerry Garcia pedal steel space effects reverberate with Mickey Hart percussions. The bodies are absorbed into a pulsing aural presence that grows to fill the entire field of vision.

MOON

Let me through.

GYPSIES

Can you believe it? We're on board.

Scene 3 – The Starship Jefferson Control Deck

This is not so much a new environment as it is an alternate reality. Yes, this is the interior of a spaceship, but there is no stainless steel. No hospital white starkness. In fact, in the dim semi-lit interior, there are no walls, just a polymorphous fluidity. There are no views of space from here, although there is a large monitor that will be activated.

GYPSIES

Can you believe it? We're on board.

The GYPSIES explore with the freedom of zero gravity.

FATHER CLAYTON

Oh, my God!

MOON

Excellent!

COUNTRY

Not bad, not bad.

CAROLINE and BEN find each other, navigating like newborns. They grab hold of a hand rail, activate their gravity boots, and walk around the cabin. OTHERS join them.

BRIAN (to MOON)

Ahhhh, home, sweet home.

MOON smiles and floats off.

MANNY

Just what I like: a room with a view. Hey, where's the view?

GILLIAN

We have to power up the ship.

BEN

Gillian, do your thing.

FATHER CLAYTON (still floating)

Oh Lord, We ask your blessings on this company that go up to the sky in ships and experience the wonders of the vast deep of interstellar space, the virgin sky.

BETHANY

Not bad, Father.

GYPSIES

Yeah, cool, pretty good, etc.

BEN

Okay, let's get this show on the road! (to BRIAN) Odds?

BRIAN calculates absentmindedly. GILLIAN goes to the Captain's chair, pushes some buttons.

BRIAN

Uhhh. sixty-three point seven-oh.

The sounds of the ship's engines start up, slow, sputter, catch on, then...

BEN

What? That doesn't make sense.

...Silence. The lights go off.

GILLIAN

Oooops!

GYPSIES

Hey, come on, What the, Gillian, etc.

BEN

Would you please turn on the lights?

DOKTOR OF SPACE appears in a pool of heavenly light. He is wearing a wizard's cape.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

Turning on the Light is simple... if you know where the switch is. (pause)

Only when you know where the switch is...

And, even, that there is a switch, will you see the Light.

MOON

We have a Light?

DOKTOR OF SPACE nods his head.

MANNY

And we have a Switch?

DOKTOR OF SPACE nods his head.

STUART

Oh, really? Where?

GYPSIES

Yes, where, where is the switch?

MOON

How do I turn on my Light?

DOKTOR OF SPACE folds his hands in front of him in a deliberate, meditative pose.

GINGER

Oh!

Star Light, Star Bright

I wish I may, I wish I might

GINGER's light begins to shine, ever so dimly.

GINGER

Make this wish come true tonight

GINGER's light flickers out. A loud thunk is heard.

GILLIAN

Got it!

The ambient sounds of the space ship return. The lights come back on. Everyone looks at the DOKTOR OF SPACE, who is holding a flashlight on himself.

DOKTOR OF SPACE (Shrugging)

Sorry.

GILLIAN

Ready?

GYPSIES

Ready.

GILLIAN

This should do it.

She pushes a button. The sound of the engines is heard.

GILLIAN

Engines powered on.

GYPSIES

All right, Cool, etc.

GILLIAN

Thrusters engaged.

She pushes a button. The sound crescendos. The viewing screen turns on. The viewing screen projects the movement of stars as the ship moves forward. The ship speeds up. The GYPSIES stand in awe of space flight, staring at the viewing screen.

GILLIAN rises and approaches the screen. The ship slows down, tilts to the side. The GYPSIES race to control the trajectory of the ship. They gain control only to lose it again. They demonstrate an inability to control their destiny.

GYPSIES

No, This way, Over there, Let me do it, No, I can't see,
Move, etc.

MOON

Stop! Someone has to take charge!

ALL

Huh? What do you mean? Not me. You do it. I don't want to be in charge, etc.

STUART

She's right. We need a captain.

GYPSIES

Yeah, Cool,etc.

GINGER

I want to be Captain.

BEN

We don't need a Captain. We'll just take turns. Whoever wants to fly the ship, can fly the ship.

MANNY

Sounds reasonable.

They fight again, and again lose control of the ship.

BETHANY

Someone needs to be in charge.

BRIAN

Yeah, just to make decisions... when we don't agree.

STUART

And to make rules.

BEN

Rules? What rules?

STUART

I don't know. But we're bound to need rules.

BEN

Why?

COUNTRY

So we can break them.

All cheer.

BEN

Exactly my point. Name one rule we need to fly this ship.

They think.

COUNTRY

Free dope!

All cheer.

BRIAN

Free love!

All cheer.

GINGER

Free music!

STUART

Free speech!

MANNY

Free Huey!

BEN

But those are freedoms, not laws. And that's my point. We should all be free to do as we please.

ROSE

Like Jefferson said: the pursuit of Happiness.

COUNTRY

I thought that was a movie.

ROSE hits him.

MOON

So, if I feel like taking off all my clothes and strolling around the ship...

BEN

You're free to do so.

MOON

Yay!

BEN

So no rules, okay?

FROST

(Hand signal: "What about, 'Thou shalt not kill'?")

CAROLINE

(translating)

What about "Thou shalt not kill."

Silence.

MOON

Ooooh. Good one, Frost.

FATHER CLAYTON

Yeah. Society is built on the foundation of God's laws.

ROSE

Been to any crusades lately, Father?

CAROLINE

Yeah, how many wars have been fought "with God on our side"?

BEN

Well, Jefferson phrased it Life, Liberty, and then the pursuit of happiness. Those rights – the right to Live and the right to Live freely - supersede the pursuit of happiness.

STUART

What does that mean?

COUNTRY

If your pursuit of happiness messes with my Life? Then I get to fuck you up!

GILLIAN

Meanwhile, back at the ranch...

GILLIAN points to the screen, which projects the aimless path of the starship.

CAROLINE

Floating in a sea of possibilities.

MOON stares at the screen.

MOON

Adrift in the infinite void.

CAROLINE

Good one.

MOON

Thank you.

BETHANY

Gillian, you do it; you're the scientist.

GILLIAN

No, let Stuart. He's the one who wants law and order.

STUART

Brian. He knows the computer systems.

BRIAN

Moon.

Everyone is confused.

BRIAN

I'd follow her anywhere.

MOON (To Ben)

Tag. You're it.

BEN

Uhhhhh...

ROSE

Pick someone, Ben.

BEN looks at the next candidate, FROST. BEN considers.

BEN

No. I don't think so.

BETHANY

See. It has to be you.

CAROLINE

Yeah, you're a born leader, sweetheart.

BEN

No way.

GYPSIES

Yeah, You Ben, You're it, etc.

COUNTRY

It's unanimous, man.

BEN

No, I'm a revolutionary, not a leader.

GINGER

That makes no sense.

FATHER CLAYTON

I will lead you, my children.

Silence. Blank expressions.

GYPSIES

No, Nuh-uh, No way, We're good, That's okay, etc.

GINGER goes to the captain's chair. Fiddles a few controls and straightens out the ship.

GINGER

Hey, I think I know how it works.

GYPSIES

Wow, cool, etc.

FATHER CLAYTON

How did...?

GINGER

Nintendo.

The GYPSIES all gravitate towards the viewing screen, in awe. BRIAN starts to walk towards MOON, but he is cut off.

MOON

*Have you seen the stars tonight?
Would you like to go up on 'A' deck
and look at them with me?*

COUNTRY (sings to Rose)

*Have you seen the stars tonight?
Would you like to go up for a stroll and keep me company?*

They exit.

CAROLINE (sings to FROST)

Have you seen the stars tonight?

They exit.

BRIAN (spoken, to no one)

Have you seen the stars tonight?

He exits.

STUART (to GILLIAN)

Do you want to check it out?

GILLIAN

Sure.

They exit. BRIAN returns.

BRIAN

You going to be okay?

GINGER

Piece o' cake.

He exits.

GINGER

Kirk to Enterprise. I don't know if you're hearing this. I've lost control of the shuttle. I don't know... what to do. Oh no, I'm under attack. By some sort of alien. Grotesque.

She relives the CEO attack.

GINGER

Repulsive. Hot breath. Get off! Leave me alone. "Sex!
Mouth! Sweet! Blood red!" Stop it. Searing pain. STOP IT.

She pushes a button on the controls. A light trail shoots forth from the starship and explodes in the distance.

GINGER

Ooops!

Scene 4 – A Deck, Starship Jefferson

A Deck on the Starship Jefferson. Panoramic views of space dominate the scene. MOON and BEN, ROSE and COUNTRY, FROST and CAROLINE, STUART and GILLIAN and other couples are spread out around A Deck. DOKTOR OF SPACE, BRIAN and FATHER CLAYTON stand by themselves. The ship is moving through a star field.

GYPSIES

*Have you seen the stars tonight?
Would you like to go up on 'A' deck and look at them with me?
Have you seen the stars tonight?
Would you like to go up for a stroll and keep me company?*

BEN and MOON get caught up in the moment. They kiss. They remove their clothing... and gravity boots... and float free amidst the stars. They make love in a zero-gravity ballet of primal and ethereal passions.

GYPSIES

*Do you know, we could go.
We are free. Any place you can think of, we can be.
Have you seen the stars tonight?
Have you looked at all the family of stars?*

The GYPSIES stare at the stars. The journey continues through unknown worlds and unseen vistas.

GILLIAN

In my wildest dreams I never imagined the stars would look like this, with no atmospheric distortion.

MANNY

We did it!

COUNTRY

I'm having a close encounter...

STUART

It's so... fine.

CAROLINE

It's starshine.

ROSE

Like standing in the presence of...

FATHER CLAYTON

God!

GYPSIES

Can you believe it? We are free.

CAROLINE

Mankind free from its cage.

GILLIAN

Seeking to understand the Universe.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

And what is Universe?

GILLIAN

A self-organizing, self-generating, self-creating process.

FATHER CLAYTON

The hand of God.

CAROLINE

The Universe in a grain of sand.

DOKTOR

And who... is the human in this story?

FATHER CLAYTON

The human is the crown of God's creation.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

And who are you?

GILLIAN

I am the Universe become self-aware.

FATHER CLAYTON

I am the child of God.

CAROLINE

I am God.

FATHER CLAYTON

You are the Crown of Creation

CAROLINE

And we've got no place to go.

GILLIAN

Soon we'll attain stability in a place among the fossils.

ALL THREE

Life is Change. How it differs from the rocks.

New worlds to gain. My life is to survive and be alive for you.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

Very good, children.

ALL THREE

But who is right?

DOKTOR OF SPACE shrugs his shoulders.

MOON

What do you think, Doktor?

DOKTOR OF SPACE

I think... I'm hungry.

Everyone groans.

STUART

Me too. Let's check out the Deli.

STUART, DOKTOR OF SPACE and BRIAN exit.

CAROLINE

The universe striving to become self-aware.

GILLIAN

Energy, matter and dynamics.

FATHER CLAYTON

My, dear sweet Lord.

FATHER CLAYTON exits. For a peaceful moment the GYPSIES just stare off into space. The viewing screen shows the ship speeding through stars. The field of stars tilts, as the ship slowly turns. The Earth appears. It is a truly amazing sight. The ship continues towards the Earth. The sun appears.

GYPSIES

*Sunrise, Surprise, Civilized Man
You were keeper... to me
Now your animal is free...*

The ship continues to move towards the Earth.

CAROLINE

Wait a minute!

BEN

Why are we heading towards Earth?

GILLIAN

We've changed course.

GENERAL/CEO

Attention, crew of the Starship Jefferson. I have taken control of the ship. Your access to ship controls is overridden. The starship will be returned to Earth orbit. If you do not interfere, you will not be harmed.

MOON

Hey, I know that voice!

BEN

It's the GeoTec CEO.

FROST salutes. CAROLINE looks at him, puzzled.

BEN

We have a traitor on board.

COUNTRY

A spy.

ROSE
I bet it's Clayton.

BEN
Rose...

ROSE
I swear I saw him talking to that DOGE guy.

BEN
Collins? Maybe it's him. Maybe he snuck on board... in disguise.

FROST
(Hand signal: "But I killed him?")

CAROLINE
What? Who?

COUNTRY
Maybe it's Manny! That guy would do anything for a buck.

MANNY
Hey? Standing right here?

COUNTRY
Oh... right.

BEN
Then, who is missing?

MOON
Uhhhhh, Stuart...

GYPSIES
Hmmm, maybe, yeah, could be, etc.

MOON
The Doktor of Space...

GYPSIES (More of a possibility)
Yeah, Really, What do we know about him, etc.

ROSE
Father Clayton...

GYPSIES (Decisively)
Got to be, Yes, Definitely him, etc.

CAROLINE
... and Brian.

GYPSIES
What, no way, never, etc.

A beat.

MOON
Uh oh.

BEN
Mister "sixty-three point seven-oh." C'mon.

They all run off of A Deck.

Scene 5 – Control Deck, Starship Jefferson

The Control Deck of the Starship Jefferson, as before, with the main viewing port open. GINGER is tied up. BRIAN is sitting in the Captain's chair. As the GYPSIES enter, the viewing screen changes to a live feed of the CEO/GENERAL's talking head.

CEO/GENERAL
Did you really think I would not have made plans for this contingency? The starship project is vital to the future of the human race.

GYPSIES
Can you believe it? We're screwed!

CEO/GENERAL
And you thought I would entrust my investment to the hands of a few... hippies.

MOON
Hey! We're gypsies!

GINGER
I know that voice! He's the one who attacked me.

FROST salutes. CAROLINE looks at him, puzzled.

ROSE

The CEO attacked you?

GINGER nods. ROSE unties GINGER and comforts her.

MOON

Why, Brian?

BRIAN

I would've travelled to the edge of the Universe... for you.

MOON

Then why?

BRIAN

Because you don't love me.

MOON

Yes, I do, Brian. You know I do.

BRIAN

Not really.

MOON

What do you mean?

BRIAN

Yeah, you love me. You love me like you love Rose and Country and Manny and Bethany. But you don't get it. I don't want to be one of your... little friends. My love for you is different. It's special. It's... only for you.

GYPSIES

Awww!

MOON

Hey, cut the crap. (To BRIAN) But that's not me, Mainframe. I don't know how to love like that.

BRIAN

Yes, you do.

MOON

No, I don't.

BRIAN

Yes. You do.

MOON

What are you talking about?

BRIAN

You love him that way.

MOON

Him? Who, Ben? No way. He's... old! You're nuts, Brian.
Yeah, I love him. I love him like a father.

BRIAN

You do not.

MOON

Yes, I do.

BRIAN

No. I saw you... on A Deck.

BEN

Listen, Brian. If you pulled this stunt just because of some girl...

MOON

Girl?

CAROLINE

Ben, don't!

BRIAN

Don't come at me like some innocent bystander, Ben. You know it's true. And you encourage her. Maybe it makes you feel important. Maybe it makes you feel like you're in charge. Like you have some fucking idea in your head that's... original.

BEN

Chill out.

BRIAN

See! Tell me something original.

BEN

Fuck off.

BRIAN

Ooooh good one, ten-year old. C'mon, say something. Say something!

MOON

Brian, that's enough. You're right. I do love him. Okay? Now, leave him alone.

BRIAN

C'mon Mister Peace-Love-and Revolution. Fight the power! All you need is love! Rage against the machine! Up against the wall motherfucker!

BEN

You're right.

BRIAN

What was that? I couldn't hear you.

BEN

Okay! You're right. I don't have an original thought in my head. I wish I was smart.. like you. Satisfied? Is that what you wanted to hear? You're right. I wish I could create beautiful things... like my sweet Caroline, but I don't have an artistic bone in my body. I wish I could build things, like Gillian. I wish I could grow things, like Country, or heal things like Rose, but I can't. I can't! Okay? Are you happy, now? I even wish I could believe... like you Father, but I have no faith. No reason. No hope. No dreams, that I haven't stolen from better minds. I wish I could love, like you Moon, unconditionally, but I have feet of lead.

MOON

Hey, "Feet of lead." Not bad!

BEN

Thanks, Moonstruck.

MOON

There you go.

CEO laughs maniacally.

CAROLINE

Okay, so is our pity party over?

GINGER (to Ben)

He raped me.

BEN

What?

BEN looks at CEO. BEN's mind is spinning. He feels drained and helpless, but he makes a decision to act.

CEO

Pitiful. Weak. Pathetic.

FROST

I am night, I am day

CAROLINE

*And we'll help you find the way
If you help us find the way to your heart*

BEN

*Shining citadel
Parallel in time...*

BEN takes charge of the situation.

BEN

Brian.

BRIAN

Hey, I'm really sorry, Ben. I didn't mean it, It's just...

BEN

Dig it! I mean, I understand. So listen, about the ship's controls...

BRIAN looks at MOON, who is flirting with COUNTRY. Then he looks at CEO. BRIAN sighs.

BRIAN

Give me 30 seconds.

BEN nods, walks over to the viewing screen to address CEO. BRIAN sneaks over to the Captain's chair.

BEN

Listen, I know what you did.

CEO

What do you think you know?

BEN

I know you ripped the innocence from a pure soul.

CEO

I paid her. It was an honest transaction.

GINGER

I didn't take your stupid money!

CEO

She wanted it.

GINGER

You raped me!

CEO

Now, now. There's no need for this. I'm sure we can come to some arrangement. Once you return to Earth orbit, I will see that you are taken care of. Okay?

BRIAN stands nods at BEN, walks over to the viewing screen to address CEO.

BEN

I have a better idea. How about you let us keep the starship?

CEO

Why would I ever...

BEN

...and I use Ginger's testimony on my podcast!

BRIAN pushes a button on the Captain's chair, resuming control of the starship. He steers them away from Earth. The GYPSIES lean into the turn.

CEO

What the...

BRIAN

Adios, you noxious pestilence!

BEN

Go ahead. You can suck the Earth dry, but you will never have dominion over Space.

CEO

No! Stop!

BEN

The universe must remain free. Free Cosmos!

GYPSIES

Free Cosmos!

CEO

Wait!

BEN

We leave you now.

FROST

Come and go like a comet
We are wanderers

CEO

This isn't over, Gypsies!

BEN

Down with GeoTec!

GYPSIES

Down with GeoTec!

BEN rips the GeoTec logo off the wall. CAROLINE replaces it with one of her flash.

GYPSIES

Down with GeoTec! Up with--

MANNY

What the heck is that?

GYPSIES

I don't know, It's weird, It's cool, It's pretty, etc.

MOON

It is a symbol of our post-modern society.

COUNTRY

It looks vaguely like a...

MANNY

A sea urchin?

GINGER

Like an urchin, touched for the very first time.
Like an ur-ur-chin--

GYPSIES

No, Stop, Stop, etc.

CAROLINE

Better?

BEN

All better.

CAROLINE

Good. So... about Moon.

BEN

Moon? It's nothing. What about you and Frost?

CAROLINE

Frost? We are not lovers.

CAROLINE whispers in BENs ear.

BEN

Oh. Wow. Brutal. (To FROST) Sorry, man.

FROST

My anger floods the gates of time
Like a winter shadow
Hot, breathless, inert
A rage betrayed in silence
My love lays fallow

GYPSIES

Yeah, Frost, Wow, Heavy, man, etc.

MOON

Whooo, whooo, whooo

BEN

Everyone's a poet!

GINGER (to FROST)

I understand.

GINGER and FROST share their battle stories.

CAROLINE

So... you and Moon. Not cool, Ben. Especially now.

BEN

I know. It's not that... I mean... And I want you... more than ever. You're my... you're my rock.

CAROLINE

Oh, that's romantic.

BEN

I know I don't have the words. Never did. But... I need you, Caroline.

CAROLINE

Then why?

BEN

I have this theory.

CAROLINE

Oh, no. Is this where you try to explain how it is the nature of the male animal to spread his seed?

BEN

Well...

CAROLINE

What? You "want me," you "need me," but you want a mistress, too?

BEN

Uhhhhh...

CAROLINE

Well? Say something!

BEN

*Oh, what can I tell you now, Caroline?
Should I hurt your feelings, or keep on lying?
One thing leads to another... and another and another besides.*

CAROLINE

Oh, good one, Shakespeare.

She walks away, losing interest. BEN gets desperate. He speaks from his heart.

BEN

*You always know...whenever I want to make love
And you always know...
all the changes I'm going through*

This gets to her, she turns back, taken with his sincerity.

BEN

*Just as if you could read my mind, Caroline, you know everything I do
Oh, there just ain't no words to describe how I feel inside for you
Yet somewhere out there waiting on a wonder, you lend wings to my words*

CAROLINE

Ooooooh. "Wings to my words."

BEN

*Somewhere... when the band is gone
and the music of my song is just right for lovers.*

CAROLINE

Hey, not bad.

BEN

*You're what I want more than anything else
I love you, but when I'm all by myself, nothing is real, but my feelings and
desires for you.
'Cause everything looks like some sort of scenery, stored in an empty
theatre, with stars on the ground, fences in the sky,
and tears in the curtain of Time.*

CAROLINE (breathless)

Oh my!

BEN

*It's like a wind from the other side of the world,
like a far-off pack of hounds.*

*Sounds like the whole Universe, just a-throbbing with Life.
The lights in your eyes hypnotize me like the gaze of a mantis
Why even Atlantis sank 'neath the waves in a day and a night*

BEN AND CAROLINE

*But in a day and a night, I could write you a symphony
It would be just like a bird, and carry my love over the mountains.*

GYPSIES

*You always fill my heart with wonder
You always fill my soul with love
You always fill my lips with kisses
You always fill my eyes with tears*

BEN

*Oh, I cried Caroline
Yes I cried Caroline*

BEN

You... have the heart of a leader.

BRIAN

Your seat... Captain.

CAROLINE takes her place in the Captain's chair, and assumes control of the ship.
ROSE gets the urge to make a cup of tea. Country starts preparing other refreshments.

ROSE

Tea anyone?

STUART

Coffee?

CAROLINE eases the ship forward. Then, playfully, she steers the ship in a slalom. She proceeds to complete a loop, as the GYPSIES grab for handholds.

CAROLINE

Wheeeee!

GYPSIES

Whoaaaaa!

CAROLINE

Sorry.

MOON

Where to, Captain?

CAROLINE

Uhhhhhh... Shit!

BEN

From your heart.

CAROLINE

Got it.

Any place you can think of... we can be

Okay, let's go...that way.

BEN points with authoritative purpose. CEO bursts in with a gun in his hand.

CEO

Hah!

CAROLINE

What the...

GINGER screams and runs to FROST for protection. Instinctively, he reaches for a sidearm, but he is unarmed.

CEO

Tricked you. I'm not on Earth. Don't you think I prepared for every eventuality? I...

FROST attacks, CEO turns, pulls out a pistol, and aims it at FROST. DOKTOR OF SPACE gestures for MOON to join him. He whispers in her ear, hands her a communion wafer, points to CEO. MOON nods. She crosses over to STUART, takes his coffee cup, drops a communion wafer in the coffee. FROST salutes. CAROLINE looks at him, puzzled.

CAROLINE

Why do you keep doing that?

MOON stands near CEO.

CEO

You and your pathetic little attempt to hijack my starship--

CEO sniffs the air drawn by the scent of coffee. He looks at MOON who pretends to be drinking. He leans over and takes a big long sniff of the coffee. MOON offers him the

cup.

CEO

Thank you, miss.

He tastes a sip, then drinks the whole cup in one swallow.

CEO

Aaaaaaaah. Good coffee. Now what was I saying. Oh yes, my superior intellect. You must agree--

FROST salutes, again. CAROLINE looks at him, again.

CEO

Stand down Sergeant.

FROST stands at ease.

CAROLINE

The General is the CEO?

FROST nods yes.

ROSE

You're the General? But why?

CEO

Stupid Defense Dept. budget cuts. This was going to be the first interstellar fighter craft. But nooooo! "Too expensive." Small-minded bureaucrats. "We'll make a tourist ship and call it the Starship Jefferson! We can sell trips to outer space." Hah! So, I just added a few improvements to the government plans... (looking at BEN) ...and found some suckers to steal the starship for me.

MANNY

What?

CAROLINE

You mean, we were set up?

COUNTRY

You wanted us to steal it?

CEO

*Gonna Hijack
Hijack the starship.*

CEO pumps his fist in the air like BEN and laughs maniacally.

BEN

Oh, no.

CEO

Oh, yes... My pretties.

CEO laughs, chokes on something in his mouth, and pulls the wafer from his mouth.

CEO

What is this? Mickey Mouse? Oh no. Albert, tell me this isn't your doing.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

Just a little bit of Bear-magic.

CEO

Damn. (Aside.) Didn't see that coming. Now, what do I do? What can I do? I need a plan.

FATHER CLAYTON

It's okay, sir. Everything's going to be just fine.

CEO

Father. That's right. You're my fail-safe. It's all up to you now, Baker-one-two. My little wolfie. Cute little wolfie. Did I ever tell you, you have beautiful eyes? Oh my. I feel funny.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

It's okay. I'll stay with you. I'll be your guide. Here, have a seat. Make yourself comfortable. This is going to be a wonderful trip.

MOON (Placing a wafer on her own tongue)

Here, I'll join you.

BETHANY

Me too.

ROSE

And me.

CEO

Oh my.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

Just listen to my voice. Take a deep breath. Pay attention to the muscles which control your breathing.

CEO

What's happening to me?

DOKTOR OF SPACE

Your mind has left your body and for this one moment you are on the polar ice cap in a place we call home...

CEO is a polar bear ruling his domain. He struts, he prowls, he preys on the inhabitants of a miniature city a la Godzilla.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

How is it there, white bear, like that where you grow...

CEO/POLAR BEAR destroys all life. He sits and ponders his future. Alone on a deserted ice cap. CEO breaks down and cries.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

Do you find yourself floating... growing there?

CEO/GENERAL imagines himself in various new guises: a doctor, a minister, a teacher and a Peace Corps volunteer.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

*You can exercise your mind on where you want to go.
You can feel the sands of Zanzibar or pierce the nearest sun.
Find out what and who you are and if you need to run.*

ROSE, MOON AND BETHANY

Rider of the rainbow. Let it grow

MOON

Let it grow

DOKTOR OF SPACE

*There is one moment in your life
and it can come at any time.*

Images of CEO's life flash by.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

*And you remember all of what went on
from the instant you were born.*

CEO transforms into a fourth dimensional hyperspace entity.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

*And if you can fasten on that moment and expand through the afterglow,
you can reverse your mind in time
and travel back to when...
The earth was formed,
The sky was born,
And the universe began.*

The Universe flares forth.

GYPSIES

*Riders of the rainbow
Let it grow let it grow*

DOKTOR OF SPACE

*You have left your body.
Return when you may.
Save it for another day... beyond you*

CEO rises as if he is a new man. He says hello to various GYPSIES. He comes to GINGER. He falls to his knees crying. GINGER turns away. She looks back, recognizes that he has changed... and punches him anyway. DOKTOR OF SPACE exits with ROSE, MOON and BETHANY. MANNY sees the CEO's pistol sitting on the console. He looks around, thinks no is watching, and pockets the gun.

CAROLINE

No weapons, Manny.

MANNY

I was just keeping it away from him.

CAROLINE holds out her hand. MANNY reluctantly hands the pistol over. CAROLINE walks to the disposal chute.

MANNY

Are you sure about this?

CAROLINE

Yup.

MANNY

Why don't we let Frost hold onto it? Just in case.

CAROLINE

Just in case, what?

MANNY

I don't know. Another intruder. An alien attack!

CAROLINE

If we don't have a weapon, no one will get shot.

MANNY

But what if someone attacks us?

COUNTRY

What if your life is threatened?

CAROLINE

For what? Why would someone threaten me?

BRIAN

Money.

COUNTRY

Dope.

GILLIAN

Your baby?

MANNY

Yeah, would you use a weapon to protect your baby?

COUNTRY

Or your husband?

GINGER

Husband?

MANNY

You and Ben are married?

GINGER
Wow. That's so...

CAROLINE
Conservative?

COUNTRY
Predictable?

GINGER
No, elegant.

MANNY
Back to the question.

CAROLINE
Well, first, that's an unfair question. I don't have a baby... yet. So, I can't be sure how it will change things.

DOKTOR OF SPACE
It will.

CAROLINE
But I do have a husband. And I would do anything to protect her.

COUNTRY
See.

MANNY
I knew it.

GILLIAN
So we keep the gun?

CAROLINE
No gun.

MANNY
What?

COUNTRY
But you just said.

CAROLINE

If there's no gun, things will never escalate that far. Even if my hypothetical attacker had a gun, would he use it on me... if I was unarmed?

MANNY

Maybe.

COUNTRY

I wouldn't.

GILLIAN

I couldn't.

CAROLINE

So no gun.

GINGER

But you said no rules.

GYPSIES

Yeah., Hey, etc.

CAROLINE

You're right. So, I'll let Frost decide. If he wants to keep the gun, he may.

FROST thinks about it and throws the gun down the waste chute.

GYPSIES

Figures, I knew it, What?, Don't, Yay, etc.

BEN crosses to FROST and claps him on the shoulder.

BEN

Good man.

GINGER (to BRIAN)

No, you tell him.

BRIAN pushes her towards CAROLINE.

GINGER

Fine. Caroline? So... There's no rule about weapons. Right?

ROSE
Uh oh.

MOON
Not you Gingercake!

This tests BEN's resolve.

BEN
That's right. No rules.

GINGER
That's good, because this starship has some kick-ass
munitions!

BEN covers his head in his hands.

BEN
Hey Country, need some help with your farm?

Scene 6- Hydroponic Gardens, Starship Jefferson

The first crops grown on board the ship are blooming. Like a proud father, COUNTRY is showing the GYPSIES around. Vegetable crops are suspended in a hydroponic system. MANNY is dressed in farmer overalls, pruning small marijuana plants. FROST is with a female gypsy. MOON is with a male and female gypsy. DOKTOR OF SPACE is in a white angelic cape.

COUNTRY
Welcome to "The Garden" everyone!

BETHANY
Whoa! Dude!

STUART
It's like heaven.

FATHER CLAYTON
Paradise on Earth.

ROSE
Eden.

GYPSIES
Wave goodbye to Amerika
Say hello to the garden

BEN
Country Boy, you've outdone yourself.

MANNY
All the comforts of home.

BETHANY
And then some.

COUNTRY
This is where I've been hanging out. Gettin' back to Nature,
so to speak.

ROSE
Ten million miles from home.

COUNTRY
Same-same.

GYPSY 1
No sun!

COUNTRY
We have the stars. Billions of suns. It is the same. The
same light.

FATHER CLAYTON
Let there be Light.

GILLIAN
Photosynthesis.

GINGER
The plants eat the sun and we eat them... and they eat us,
when we die.

GILLIAN
That's right, Ginger.

GINGER
Why can't we just eat the sun?

GILLIAN
Actually we do. Human sight is related to photosynthesis.
We capture photons just as our plant cousins.

GINGER

All right. Let me eat some starlight.

(She opens her eyes wide, walks around the Garden and sings)

GINGER

*Where was the light before it came here?
Who held the power to begin the spin?
What is in store? What are we here for?
Is it love? Is it war? Is there more?*

DOKTOR OF SPACE

*There she stands in my mind again
The age of poetry has begun*

GINGER AND GYPSIES

*Ain't this a time for the light?
Ain't this a time to shake the foundations?
Ain't this a time for love?
Go out and stuff the universe into your eyes*

GINGER runs off and finds BRIAN, who is reading a book. BEN and CAROLINE enter.

BEN

*Out together, on the streets
At the barricades or in the sheets
What a scintillating bitch
with her eyes on the Light
Let's go to hell together in her eyes*

GINGER

*Why do we remember the past and not the future?
What's inside a black hole?
What's the nature of the universe?
How does it work?
Which way is west in space?
Is there sex in heaven? Is it the best?*

GINGER tickles BRIAN's ear. BRIAN swipes it away a couple of times. She continues harassing him until he grabs, flips her over and starts tickling her. She laughs, flips him over, straddles him, and tickles him. He squirms. She stops.

ROSE

Connect with my intellect

COUNTRY

You can't hide the sexual drive

ROSE AND COUNTRY

*Friction makes sparks, Sparks make fire,
Fire makes heat and the heat will endure
'til the animal comes with a ferocity.
Not unlike you and me, in the throes of poetry*

GINGER kisses BRIAN.

COUNTRY

A lover's eye can stare an eagle blind

ROSE

A lover's ear can hear the lowest sound

GINGER

A lover's lips taste like a dream

GYPSIES

*Ain't this a time for the Light?
Ain't this a time to shake the foundations?
Ain't this a time for love and danger?
Go out and stuff the universe into your eyes.*

DOKTOR OF SPACE

*The only answer that I have found
Above the sky or below the ground
Is that there are no answers
There never were any answers
There will never be any answers
And as Gertrude Stein once said,
"That's the answer."*

GINGER

*I am not afraid of the future
I am not afraid of ideas
I am not afraid to shake the foundation
Of the wonder years.*

BRIAN AND GINGER

*These are visions of tomorrow
These are visions of the strength of ideas
Like matter and energy ideas shape the sky of the future years.*

GYPSIES

You know... in my world

BETHANY

There are no hungry children.

GYPSIES

In my world...

BRIAN

Love is true

GYPSIES

In my world...

MANNY

Teachers get paid more than baseball players

GYPSIES

In my world...

MOON

There are space ships, too

GYPSIES

But in the real world...

BETHANY

People get hungry

GYPSIES

In the real world...

MANNY

People need love

GYPSIES

In the real world...

FROST (to MOON)

People need love and food and light and hope and ideas.
And a soothing human touch.

FATHER CLAYTON

Just like they're standing in the presence of God

CAROLINE

Standing in the halls of imagination

BEN

Every boy a lion

CAROLINE

And every girl a tiger

BEN AND CAROLINE

It just takes a moment to step through the fire

Adventure beckons from above

The age of poetry begins again, with love

GYPSIES

Ain't this a time for the Light, Ain't this a time for imagination

Ain't this a time for love and danger, Ain't this a time for the Light

FROST

(spoken, not poetry)

I... am not afraid of the future.

GINGER

Hello, little green cousins.

BRIAN

Did anyone ever tell you you're a strange girl!

DOKTOR OF SPACE

To the Light!

GYPSIES

To Life!

DOKTOR OF SPACE

No... I said Ligh-tuh. With a 't'.

CAROLINE

They heard you. (Holding her belly) They heard you.

MOON

L'Chaim!

DOKTOR OF SPACE

To Life!... with an 'f'.

GYPSIES

To Life!

Scene 7 – Hydroponic Gardens

In the Hydroponic Gardens, four months have passed. It is lush with vegetation. There are trees with enormous mushrooms scattered around their trunks... and huge 20 foot marijuana plants. CAROLINE enters in a hippie/gypsy Captain outfit – very un-uniform, however. BEN enters. He is followed by an infant, floating in zero-gravity. No , not floating, but navigating in zero-gravity.

BEN AND CAROLINE AND GYPSIES

*What you gonna do when you feel your lady rolling?
How you gonna feel when you see your lady strolling
on the deck of the starship with her head hooked into Andromeda?*

DOKTOR OF SPACE removes his cloak. He is young, with flowing locks of marijuana leaf hair and wire-rim glasses.

DOKTOR OF SPACE

*Spilling out of the steel glass
Gravity gone from the cage
A million pounds gone from your heavy mass
All the years gone from your age*

COUNTRY enters with a pregnant ROSE.

COUNTRY and ROSE

*Hydroponic gardens and forests, Glistening with lakes in the Jupiter
starlight. Room for babies...*

MANNY and BETHANY enter in fancy space suits.

MANNY and BETHANY

*and Byzantine dancing astronauts of renown
The magician, and the pantechnicon
The farmer and the physician*

GINGER and BRIAN

*We got to get out and down, back into the future
Beyond our own time again, reaching for tomorrow.*

GYPSIES

It's so fine... Starshine.

MOON and FROST enter as a couple. FROST is not in uniform and MOON is rather conservatively dressed.

MOON and FROST

*The melting acid fever streaking through my mind
makes it so difficult to see you.
And so easy to touch you.
I melt with you, Feel with you,
Make love for you, at you around you, I love you*

CEO appears floating in zero-gravity. He wears brightly striped bell-bottom jeans, tie-dye shirt, large peace sign.

CEO

*At first I was iridescent
Then I became transparent
Finally I was absent*

CAROLINE fires the starship's weapon and CEO explodes like a supernova. The GYPSIES react. Some are glad. Others believe he had changed.

FROST (spoken)

Oh well. There's always more where he came from.

GYPSIES

Can you believe it... we're home!

DOKTOR OF SPACE

Well?

CAROLINE points onward.

The starship's path through the wonders of the Universe: black holes, the birthplace of stars, comets, planets, moons, asteroids and other heavenly bodies are seen in a tapestry of cosmic spectacle.

Blackout.