

EXT. SPACE - CONTINUOUS

FADE IN:

SHOT OPENS IN SPACE, THERE ARE SEVERAL SHIPS ORBITING AROUND THE PLANET. SLOWLY ZOOM IN ON A PARTICULAR SPOT, BECOMES A BUILDING.

EXT. GALACTIC COUNCIL BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

ZOOMING CONTINUES AND YOU ARE LOOKING AT A LARGE ROUND BUILDING. ZOOMING CONTINUES TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE OF THE BUILDING AND THE CAMERA STARTS TO FOLLOW A DARK-HAIRED MAN.

INT. GALACTIC COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

IT'S A LARGE STADIUM-LIKE ROOM. THERE ARE A SET OF SEATS WHERE THE GALACTIC COUNCIL SITS. THE CIRCLE OF SEATS ARE FILLED WITH AN AUDIENCE, EXCEPT FOR THE AREA DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THE COUNCIL, WHICH IS VISITOR SEATING. CAMERA CONTINUES TO FOLLOW THE MAN AS HE MAKES HIS WAY TO THE CENTER OF THE ROOM.

ERIK walks to the center of the room. On the way he glances up at the visitor seating area.

CAMERA FOLLOWS HIS LOOK.

CUT TO:

ALEX FAULKNER SITTING IN THE VISITOR AREA.

ERIK finds his sister, ALEX sitting in the visitor area. He catches her eye and they exchange a look.

BACK TO:

ERIK makes it to the center of the room and turns to face the council.

COUNCIL LEADER
You have come before the Council
today to address us, Mr. Erik
Faulkner of Earth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

I'm here to ask that Earth be considered for membership in the Galactic Council. We've been in space for 100 years and we've proven adapt at dealing with the hazards of space. We've also proven useful to the Council many times.

COUNCIL LEADER

We have received your planets' petition. The application has been reviewed and we are prepared to ask questions.

COUNCIL MEMBER 5

If Earth is admitted, what do you expect to gain?

ERIK

We have a more solid record completing jobs for the Council than 90% of the Council ships that run similar jobs. We receive less compensation than they do, however. We work just as hard as anyone else and deserve equal compensation.

COUNCIL MEMBER 5

Isn't that a bit presumptuous?

ERIK

I will admit, sometimes humans can be a bit arrogant. We've also overcome a lot of things that in the past have caused war on our planet and have earned us a bad reputation throughout the galaxy.

COUNCIL MEMBER 3

Are you sure about that?

ERIK

We're not perfect as a race and still make mistakes, but we are not the same people we were 100 years ago.

COUNCIL LEADER

(Looks around the seating area at the other council members)

The questions have all been asked.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COUNCIL LEADER (CONT'D)

We now will take a short recess to deliberate and will return with our decision shortly.

The Council stands up and walks out of the room.

INT. GALACTIC COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TITLE ON SCREEN: 30 MINUTES LATER

THE COUNCIL SEATS ARE EMPTY. IT LOOKS LIKE ERIK IS STILL STANDING WHERE HE WAS.

The Council comes back in and sits down again. Everyone other than the Council have stood up as the Council enters and sit down once they're seated.

CAMERA FOCUSES ON ALEX AS SHE WATCHES THE COUNCIL COME BACK IN AND AS SHE SITS DOWN. CAMERA THEN MOVES BACK TO THE COUNCIL'S SEATING AREA.

COUNCIL LEADER

I want to thank you for presenting you petition for admittance. We have discussed it and the decision is that Earth is not ready for admittance to the Council.

JUMP CUT TO:

ALEX stands up in the Visitor area. People around her are surprised.

BACK TO:

| | | | |
|--------|------|--------|-------------|
| | ERIK | | ALEX (O.C.) |
| What?! | | What?! | |

ERIK takes a couple of deep breaths.

ERIK

How long before Earth can reapply

COUNCIL LEADER

Earth can reapply again in 30 years.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK
(Has a defeated look on
his face)
Thank you for the audience and for
your consideration.

COUNCIL LEADER
This council session has ended,
dismissed.

Everyone stands as the Council leaves. After they have left,
ERIK starts to make his way out of the room, his head hung
slightly.

CUT TO:

ALEX, who is still standing watches as ERIK starts to walk
out. She turns and storms out before he is even halfway out
of the room.

EXT. GALACTIC COUNCIL PLANET

FOLLOW ALEX AS SHE MAKES HER WAY BACK TO THE HORIZON, BUMPING
INTO PEOPLE. FOLLOW HER UP RAMP OF SHIP.

ALEX walks at a quick pace as she makes her way back to the
ramp for the Horizon, bumping into people as she goes.

INT. HORIZON

CAMERA FOLLOWS ALEX FROM THE RAMP OF THE HORIZON TO THE
COMMON AREA ON THE HORIZON, ONLY A COUPLE OF PEOPLE ARE
SEATED THERE.

ALEX boards the Horizon and KISHI YOSHIMOTO, the ship's helm
officer, is the first to see her.

KISHI
Hey Al, didn't go well?

Alex sends a dark look her way.

KISHI (CONT'D)
That answers my question.

Several other crew members ask her how it went and she walks
right past, making her way to her quarters.

INT. ALEX'S QUARTERS - ABOUT 15 MINUTES LATER

ALEX IS IN HER QUARTERS SEATED ON HER COUCH

Her intercom activates.

BRIDGE OFFICER (V.O.)
Lieutenant, you have an incoming
communication.

ALEX doesn't reply.

BRIDGE OFFICER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Lieutenant?

ALEX
Yes, who is it?

BRIDGE OFFICER (V.O.)
Your brother I believe.

ALEX
(Rubs her eyes before she
answers)
Transfer it to me.

BRIDGE OFFICER (V.O.)
Of course, Sir,

The intercom deactivates. ALEX stands up, walks over to her
computer and sits down. She sits there looking at the
flashing indicator on the screen.

ALEX
(She reaches out and hits
a button on the computer)
You wanted to talk.

ERIK
Don't sound so excited.

ALEX
Haven't exactly had a great day.

ERIK
And I have? You didn't even wait
for me.

ALEX
They made a decision, that was the
end of it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIK

It would have been nice to talk to you...to see you.

ALEX

And what would they say about that?

ERIK

They don't control my life.

ALEX

And are you doing what you want to be doing?

ERIK

You really want to do this?

ALEX

You could be doing so many other things, instead you travel around the galaxy with your parents doing exactly what they expect of you.

ERIK

My parents?

ALEX

They told me I was no longer part of the family, remember?

ERIK

They were...

ALEX

Pissed at me for refusing to bow down to their wishes and not join up.

ERIK

They were scared. You were so hell bent on following in his footsteps, they don't want you to end up like him.

ALEX

Does that mean they actually talk about me?

ERIK

Of course they do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

I'm shocked.

(She reaches up and rubs
her forehead)

Erik, I should have waited to see
you, but I am so sick of this
bureaucratic bullshit...I had to
get out of there.

ERIK

That temper of yours still getting
you into trouble?

ALEX

A bit. I miss you, Mathan, but I
probably need to go vent.

ERIK

(Smiles)

Don't break any bones, Arach.

ALEX

Whose?

ERIK

(Laughs)

Does it really matter?

ALEX

If you meant mine, then you're
saying be careful. If you meant
someone else's, then you're saying
not to hurt anyone else.

ERIK

Remember, I use to spar with you.

Alex snickers

ERIK (CONT'D)

In other words, be careful either
way.

ALEX

(Laughs)

Keep in touch and let me know where
you are and if they're with you. I
might find a way to get away and
see you, only if you're alone.

ERIK

You stay safe...I know how you get.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They both reach out and touch the screen. She hits a button on the computer and the channel closes.

INT. HORIZON - TRAINING ROOM - ABOUT 30 MINUTES LATER

TRAINING ROOM ON THE HORIZON, ALEX IS ALREADY IN THE ROOM

ALEX is changed and in the training room. She is already sparing with a holographic partner, when LIEUTENANT DOUG COLE, a security officer, enters the room.

DOUG
I thought you didn't need to
practice?

She stops practicing and the hologram stops as well.

ALEX
Everyone needs to practice.

DOUG
But you're supposed to be **so** good.

ALEX
I would be the last person to
suggest I'm better than any
security officer on this ship.
(With a smirk she says)
Maybe you'd like to give me a
lesson?

DOUG
Anytime baby.

ALEX
(She quietly sighs)
How bout right now, we have to the
room to ourselves?

DOUG
You sure you're ready for that?

ALEX
I won't know until I try.
(Aside)
Computer deactivate holographic
opponent.
(Directed to DOUG)
So are we going to have any rules
for this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DOUG
Who ever is standing at the end is
the winner?

ALEX
No, we fight until someone says
"uncle"?

DOUG takes off his duty jacket and then goes into a fight
stance instead of answering. ALEX smiles and goes into a
stance as well.

ALEX (CONT'D)
So what are you going to show me
first?

DOUG
This...

He takes a swing at her and she dodges. He takes another
swing and she catches his arm, then uses his momentum to flip
him. The fight continues.

DOUG (CONT'D)
You aren't really even
fighting...this is a waste of my
time.

They're stopped fighting and are in fighting stances walking
in a circle.

ALEX
(Smirks)
So is the training done?

DOUG
You aren't even worth training.

ALEX
That was quite...helpful. Want to
try for real?

DOUG
You really think you stand a
chance?

ALEX
I'm willing to try.

DOUG moves towards ALEX and takes a few swings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLOSE ON DOUG

DOUG starts to sweat, his breathing quickens and he backs up a few steps.

CREWMEN AS SPECTATORS P.O.V.

ALEX knocks him down. He corner of his mouth is bleeding and he is covered in sweat. ALEX's breathing is fine and she doesn't appear to be sweating.

CLOSE ON DOUG

DOUG

You win...I may have been wrong.

ZOOM OUT:

ALEX offers him her hand and helps him stand up. He moves off to the side and grabs a towel to get cleaned up.

ENGINEERING OFFICER

Bet you can't do that again.

ALEX

(Smiles)

So are we actually betting or was that just a figure of speech?

ENGINEERING OFFICER

What would the bet be?

ALEX

You pick something.

ENGINEERING OFFICER

Winner has to clean the others area for a whole week.

ALEX

I think I come out worse on that

(Beat)

Hmm, why not. Last one standing?

ENGINEERING OFFICER

Yup.

The fighting starts and the Engineering Officer lands several hits.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLOSE ON ALEX

She slowly start to pick up the pace of the fight after about 15 seconds.

ZOOM OUT:

He gets knocked down a couple times. His lip is bleeding and he has a bruise forming near his eye. ALEX has sweat on her skin, but her breathing is normal. Finally she knocks him down and he doesn't get back up.

A couple other crewmen step forward to challenge her.

BRAVE CREWMAN

(As he says this, he
points out the crewman
next to him)

So you think you can take both of
us at the same time?

ALEX

(Sigh)

I don't know, this would be my
third fight and to take on two
people at once doesn't exactly seem
like a fair fight.

BRAVE CREWMAN

Scared?

ALEX

Not really, just don't want to end
up in sickbay. I like Doc just
fine, but when he starts pulling
out all his toys, I start to get
worried.

The three of them just look at each other.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What do I get if I agree? I've
already got someone cleaning my
area for a week.

He looks at the other crewman who's going to be fighting.
They nod at each other.

BRAVE CREWMAN

Next time we hit a bar, we'll buy
you and two of your friends a round
of drinks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

Good start. How bout you sing two songs as well?

BRAVE CREWMAN

What? I don't do that, especially not in front of aliens.

ALEX

They give you the words.

(Beat)

How bout one song and the drinks.

If you win I'll do the same.

Both guys nod and the fight starts. As the fight gets underway, CAPTAIN JACK HAWKE walks in and watches.

CUT TO:

HAWKE'S P.O.V.

Both men land some good hits on ALEX. Her lip is bleeding.

CLOSE ON ALEX

She narrows her eyes and plows into both men. The Brave Crewman who was doing all the talking, ends up on the ground.

ZOOM OUT:

HAWKE steps forward to stop the fight.

HAWKE

That's enough!

ALEX takes a step back and reaches for a towel. She wipes off her face as she looks at HAWKE.

HAWKE (CONT'D)

(Looks at the two crewmen)

Go get cleaned up and then pay a visit to sickbay.

(Walks over to ALEX)

Have fun?

ALEX

Hey, I didn't start it. I just came here to vent on a hologram.

Lieutenant Cole offered to teach me some things and it deteriorated from there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HAWKE

You didn't have to accept.

ALEX

I guess I need to watch my temper.

HAWKE

We both know this had nothing to do
with your temper and more to do
with your pride.

ALEX

Not pride...I just don't appreciate
it when people assume that because
I'm a woman I can't fight.

HAWKE

Pride.

ALEX

Be very careful Captain...
(Quietly finishes)
I might just cancel what we
arranged earlier.

HAWKE moves closer to ALEX.

HAWKE

(Smirks)

Are you sure you want to do that?

ALEX

(She meets his eyes)

And what is my incentive not to
cancel, Sir?

HAWKE

(He reaches out almost as
if to touch her face)

I think you know the incentives...

IAN BROCHAN, the Head of Engineering walks into the room.

IAN

What are you all standin' around
fur, aren't we supposed tae be
havin' a poker night in the mess?

ALEX

(To HAWKE)

I like his timing.

(To Ian)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX (CONT'D)

Let me go get cleaned up and I'll be there...I just hope everyone brings enough money.

IAN

Yur all mouth and trousers Ah think, lass.

ALEX

Just bring the money.

(To HAWKE as she smirks)

Are you going to join us, Captain?

HAWKE

And lose all my money to you? No thanks, I'll be in my quarters.

ALEX and HAWKE exchange a look, but don't say anything. She walks out of the training room.

INT. HORIZON - MESS HALL

ALEX walks in about 15 minutes later and finds they have already started playing poker. There are three other people playing besides IAN playing.

ALEX

Boys, you started without me.

IAN

You werene here, love. Are you ready ta play?

ALEX

(She pulls out a wad of money, slaps it down on the table, and sits down at the table across from IAN)

Deal me in next hand.

POKER PLAYER 1

So we gonna talk while we play?

ALEX

We can. Did you have something you wanted to talk about?

ALEX gets dealt into the hand of poker.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

POKER PLAYER 1
How about how shitty it is we still
are gonna get lousy pay as we work
for that damn council?

ALEX
(Narrows her eyes)
Not a topic I think any of us want
to talk about while we're trying to
enjoy ourselves.

The POKER PLAYER doesn't say anything else as he just looks
at his cards while they play.

ALEX (CONT'D)
If you want to talk, how bout you
tell us why you joined up?
(Aside)
Two cards please.

POKER PLAYER 1
I joined cause I wanted to get out
into space.

ALEX
No other reason than that?

POKER PLAYER 1
I didn't want to be stuck on the
planet.
(Beat)
Why did you join?

ALEX
Because my brother was in and I
wanted to be just like him.

POKER PLAYER 1
Your brother?

OPTION 1:

ALEX
If anyone can take credit for how I
turned out, it would be Steven.

POKER PLAYER 1
Didn't your parents raise you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX
(Short laugh)
Only when they were around and that
wasn't very often.

IAN
Were they really that bad?

ALEX
You've no idea.

OPTION 2:

ALEX (CONT'D)
(Touch of sadness in her
voice)
He gave me a tour of his ship once.

IAN
What ship was he on?

ALEX
The Challenger...

IAN
Was he on 'er when...

ALEX closes her eyes and nods.

A couple of hands are dealt in silence. ALEX is slowly
collecting all the money.

POKER PLAYER 1
So do we have any new assignments?

ALEX
Haven't heard about one, but we
could get one tomorrow.

IAN
Ah heard that ye and the Keptin are
havin' a private dinner, maybe you
can find it then.

ALEX
Private dinners are generally
supposed to be private and I would
be very curious where you heard
that, because I am not aware of any
private dinner between the Captain
and I.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OPTION 3:

ALEX (CONT'D)

He pretty much raised me and was
one of the most amazing people I've
ever met...subject now closed.

MAIN DIALOG TREE:

IAN

Once Ah get a little alcohol in
you, it will loosen yur tongue.

ALEX

Sure about that? I recall you
literally ended up under the table
last time.

IAN

Did Ah? Don' recall that.

ALEX

I'm not surprised, you and I were
the last two standing before you
passed out.

IAN

(Smiles)

Then at least Ah didne look an
arse.

ALEX

(Using a fake British
accent)

Of course not, you did your fellow
Scots proud.

IAN

(Shakes his head)

Nae around me.

ALEX

(With a smile showing she
knows exactly why he's
upset)

What?

IAN

Can we jist play?

The game continues. (The game could actually be a mini-game,
with tricks to make it easier to win).

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The last hand, ALEX starts raising the anti, she hasn't been blowing them away, so they aren't sure if she really has the hand. Finally most are all in and the hands are revealed, she has a straight flush, Ace high. She pulls all the money in front of her and smiles.

IAN (CONT'D)

The Keptin said that wood happen,
didne he?

ALEX

He predicted he would lose all his
money if he joined and he did say
it would be to me, so I guess he
did.

IAN

Why did Ah let you do that tae me?

OPTION 1:

ALEX

Because you know you need to get
away from those engines every once
in a while.

IAN

Na, they need my lovin' touch or
they are jist gonnae fall apart.

ALEX

They will do just fine without you
for an hour or so. Besides we'd
hardly ever get to see you if we
didn't coax you out of engineering
once in a while.

IAN

You get tae see me more than most,
lass.

OPTION 2:

ALEX

Because you think you're going to
win.

IAN

Hav I never won?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX
Don't think so.