The Starliner

By: Regan Burnsworth
**Characters**

Aurora: 37 years old and mother of Nova. Only astronaut to go into deep space so far, lost on mission.

Nova: 17 year old girl, daughter of missing astronaut, Aurora Proxima, she’s very intelligent and self-aware.

Centauri: 18 year old astronaut who is on the same mission as Nova, he’s a loverboy and a good cook.

Vega: Nova’s friend who works in the SIS, she gives her any information on her mother and helps her get assigned to the mission.

Leo: Nova’s roommate in the home since there was an uneven number of boys, they grew up together and are very close. He’s very comforting and protective of her. Goes to the same school as Nova with his scholarship.

Rosette: Nova’s lover on Earth, they send emails and do video calls back and forth once Nova is in space.

News: Program that announces, Aurora’s disappearance, at the home

Transmission: Message from The Starliner.

Setting: The play takes place in Antares, Nova’s home town with the SIS building down the street of her school. She goes to the school Telos, a fairly fancy school for space scientists to help them get into SIS and other places like it, although Nova got in with her scholarship. She lives in a home with 11 other kids her age, two kids per room.

**Act I, Scene 1**

At the SIS the scientists gather around Nova and take off their hats, breaking to her the news of her lost mother.

**NOVA**

(Throws hands in air in defense)
What do you mean she’s gone? How could you just lose a ship, what about the signal? Or the location? My mother is still out there! You can’t just leave her. Send another starliner, anything.

(Runs after the scientists as they walk away from her)
VEGA
Nova look, we’ve tried everything and I’m sorry to say that we can’t find her. We have sent out a repair ship and Courier out to find you mother but we haven’t had much luck yet. We’re trying to track down the location but the beam is gone and the backup beam isn’t up. It must be damaged so there is a chance that your mother is still out there but is fixing the problem.

(She pulls her in for a hug and slips a piece of paper into her pocket and whispers)
Read this when you’re alone, don’t let anyone see it.

NOVA
So either the beacon is down or she’s gone. Isn’t the Starliner faster than the other ships, how will they ever catch up?

VEGA
When a big part of the ship is down, like the beacon, the ship controls most of its power to that one part to help fix it and save power, and to support and set up the backup part. But if both aren’t working then it has to be done manually, so the ship only powers what is absolutely necessary and needed and slows down a little slower than our other two ships just sent out, so they should be able to catch up. We won’t know for another two years if they ever reach it, that’s how long it will take to reach its location, if it hasn’t gone off track that is.

NOVA
I see. Well that’s helpful to know. So I have to wait two whole years for news if my mother if found or not. Great. Thank you Vega, I think I’m gonna go back to the home now.

Act I, Scene 2
Nova goes home and everyone finds out about the missing starliner while Nova finds out a new hope.

NOVA
(She runs home and into her room before changing for the evening meal. After, they eat and everyone settles into the living room doing their own thing.)
I think I’m gonna go to my room and do my homework. Leo you wanna come with me?
NEWS
We interrupt this program to inform you that the astronaut, Aurora Proxima, was lost on her mission. The SIS cannot find her and her ship and labeled it as a dead mission. Thank you for listening and carry on.

NOVA
Excuse me. I need some alone time.
(She runs away to her room.)

LEO
Hey Nova wait up!
(Runs after her and into their shared room.)
Why didn't you say anything? No wonder you've been so bummed.

NOVA
Because, Leo. What was I supposed to say? Just casually say at the dinner table that my mom is missing on a dead mission.
(She throws herself onto her bed and starts to cry.)

LEO
(Goes over to her and hugs her while she cries.)
It'll be okay. Somehow we'll get through this. You have me still, I'll take care of you.

NOVA
Thanks, Leo. Without you here I don't think I could've gotten through this.
Oh! I almost forgot, Vega gave me a paper to read, she said it's important, kinda.
(opens paper and reads outloud.)
We have a new mission soon. The same as your mother's. Contact me if you're interested and I'll prepare you with training.
I can't wait, of course I'm interested! I'll go see her tomorrow to start my training. Maybe you can come with me on this mission, too, Leo.

LEO
Sure! We'll be so famous, just me and you neck and neck. I wouldn't miss it for the world!
(He sits at his desk and high fives Nova.)

NOVA
I need to do my homework.
   (Pulls open laptop and dials Rosette.)
Hey! How are you. Have you done your homework yet?

    LEO

Homework huh.

    NOVA

Oh hush Leo this is important.

    ROSETTE

Yeah but you should really do your homework, it’s getting late. Besides, I was just about
to kick the can. Sleep well Nova. I’m gonna miss her a lot once we’re in space.

    LEO

Yeah. Okay.

Act I, Scene 3

Nova and Leo try out for the new mission and start their training

    NOVA

   (Runs to the SIS with Leo to talk to Vega.)
Vega I’m here. I brought cargo. It’s just Leo. We’re here for the thing.

    VEGA

Good. But it hasn’t been released to the public yet so let me get you two in the system
and talk to my supervisor about it. We already had an eye on you two and we have one
person who will be going with you two, so there will be three of you on this mission if
you all succeed in your training. Wait in the living area. There should be games and
other things, I have some things to do real quick. I’ll be back in a few minutes.
   (Walks down corridor and into an office.)

    NOVA

Wanna chill on the couch?
   (Vega and Leo walk into the spacious living area and see another boy of umber
skin.)
Hi, my name is Nova, and this is my friend Leo. What’s your name?
   (Sits at table with Leo.)
CENTAURI
(Stands up and smirks while putting hand out to shake.)
The name's Centauri. Pleased to meet you.

LEO
(Smacks hand away.)
Please don’t touch her. Or me for that matter.

CENTAURI
Woah man. Sorry, did I push a button? I'll back off.
(Turns and sits back down on the couch.)

NOVA
Leo. That was a little unnecessary, just sit down until Vega returns for training.

CENTAURI
You guys are here for the training too. Cool, so am I.

LEO
Sigh. You have to be kidding me.

VEGA
Good. You've all met that saves me some time.
(Throws hands out in front of her and yelled excitedly.)
Welcome to the SIS! From now on everyday after school you will report here for five hours of training. You will be exempted from all or any club activities. You have weekends off unless absolutely necessary. Your mission and your ship is called the The Dreamer.

NOVA
Well there goes my fun, Rosette is going to be disappointed we can't hang out.
(Crosses arms.)

LEO
Well you get to have vigorous training with me and Lover Boy over here, then more work at the home.
CENTAURI
Wait wait wait.
   (Tilts head and smiles.)
You two live in a home? Let me guess, you’re also roommates.

LEO
Yes and yes. It’s not that big a deal. Nova is practically my sister, I’ve known her for years.
   (Stares down CENTAURI until he looks away.)

NOVA
Well thank you Vega, but me and Leo have lots of work to do at the home.

VEGA
Okay Nova. Have fun at home.
   (Hugs her off.)
Goodbye everyone, I’ll see you tomorrow after school. Just report back here. Oh Centauri. I forgot to hand these out, give these two to Nova and Leo at school please, you have to be in these outfits before you come here.

CENTAURI
   (Leans out and takes them before leaving.)
Okay, miss.

Act  I , Scene 4
Everyone starts their training and learns the hardship of what their responsibilities really is.

NOVA
Hey Rosette. I did all my work and have some news for you. It’s kinda exciting in a way.

ROSETTE
What is it Nova? Are you finally going to come over and play games with me all night?

NOVA
Maybe this weekend. But I got in to the SIS!
   (Leans in and whispers.)
I was put on a new mission that wasn’t released to the public yet.
   (Pulls away and meets her eyes.)
It’s me, Leo, and this other guy.

**CENTAURI**

(Leans against door opening.)
I have a name you know. It’s Centauri.

**NOVA**

(Looks over at him.)
What are you doing here?

**CENTAURI**

I was told to bring this to you.
(Tosses jumpsuit at her.)
Vega said we need to wear these before we show up, we need them everyday for training.
(Walks out and leaves.)

**NOVA**

(Holds it up and looks at it.)
It’s silver and spandex. Perfect.
(Rolls eyes at it.)

**ROSETTE**

Well it’s kinda cute though at least. You'll be a giant disco ball. Send me a picture of you guys in it.
(Winks at her and laughs.)

**NOVA**

We’ll see Rose.
(Looks at clock.)
Crap! I’m gonna be late. Rose, I have to go. I'll be at your house tonight to play those video games.
(Runs out of room to get **LEO** and get to the SIS.)

**VEGA**

Welcome back guys. Good to see that you’re in your suits. Let’s get right into it why don’t we. I hope you have all read the rules I had emailed you. So today we are going to start your training.
LEO

(Leans over to whisper to NOVA.)
Don’t you think these suits are just to call us out? They’re so bright, and it takes forever to get into.

NOVA

Yea, you’re not wrong. It took me a good five minutes. But loverboy here seems to love them.

(Pointing finger at CENTAURI.)

CENTAURI

Of course I do darling. They’re so cool. I can move so freely in them.

VEGA

Are you guys done, we have loads of training to get done.

Act 1, Scene 5

After two years of hard work, the three of them are ready to head into space on their new mission, to continue what Aurora has started and explore deep into the unknown.

NOVA

(Hugging ROSETTE and pulled away by LEO.)
Goodbye Rose! I’ll see you soon!

LEO

Nova, we have to go, it’s time.

(Dragging her to meet CENTAURI and board the ship.)

CENTAURI

Nice! I’ve been waiting forever to do something like this.

(They all count the countdown and get blasted off onto their new journey)

NOVA

It’s a dream come true really. I’m gonna take a look around and get to know the place now that we’re actually on it.

(She walks around to the main control room, the huge storage rooms, the three bedrooms, and bathrooms. Then she walks back to the living area and sits down.)
This place is actually huge, don’t you think? I wonder if there are any video games.
   (His watch dings and he looks at it.)
Vega said we can make videocalls in a few hours after we get the beam properly set up.
I’ll go do that with loverboy shortly.

(Walks in room.)
For the last time it’s Centauri. And I just did it while you goons were looking around.
Now since we won’t have any real work for a a day or so I’m decorating my room.

That actually sounds like a good idea. Leo, you wanna help me?

I doubt you’d leave me a choice anyways. I take it you just want me to play music, huh.

Vega checks in on them and their real mission begins.

(He wakes up to a huge dinging noise from the main room and runs into
Centauri on his way out. He sees Nova already there and it’s a call from Vega.)

Good morning everyone! Your mission is finally beginning. You will start drills and
practices today. Now, I would like you all to report to the training deck and begin stage
two. I want you to continue training your hand-to-hand combat with the bots, then at
stage four use your weapons. You may use both the bots and each other. After you
finish stage four I want you to make sure the ship is in order, and then you may do as
you please. And please, keep the ship clean. Later.
   (She salutes the crew with two fingers to her brow and a flick of the wrist)

Ready guys? ‘Cause I’m not.
   (He slouches his shoulders and slumps over to the training deck.)
CENTAURI
Oh come on! It’s not so bad, just like on Earth.
   (He slaps LEO on the back and runs ahead of him.)

NOVA
I’m totally gonna kill him.

Act I, Scene 7
The crew finishes their tasks for the day and relaxes. But at the end of the day Nova
starts her on secret mission.

NOVA
   (She creeps down into the main control room and tries to find any data on her
mother Aurora. She knows that the SIS must be hiding something. They have to be
keeping something from her.)
I can’t find anything past these blockers. They aren’t that hard to get through so this
should be easy.
   (She smiles and decides to wait until tomorrow night to dig through it. She walks
over to LEO’S room to see if he’s awake.)
Leo are you awake?
   (She hears a small thumping from behind the door and LEO emerges as he
cracks it open.)

LEO
Nova? Why are you up at this hour? It’s Earth hour...
   (He looks at his watch.)
Three am. What couldn’t sleep or something?

NOVA
Yea… It’s just really weird y’know.
   (She rubs her arm.)

LEO
Yea, in a way it is. You wanna come in?
   (He opens the door and steps aside as she walks in. He follows her to his bed as
they sit down on it.)
So, what’s up Nove?
NOVA
I don’t really know. I just couldn’t sleep. I miss Rosette, and I kinda miss the home too.

LEO
Yea, I miss the home as well. I wonder what will happen with our rooms.
(He laughs quietly.)
I mean hey, I’m not here for a long time I’m here for a fun time, am I right or am I right?

NOVA
(He punches his arm lightly and laughs.)
Yeah, you’re right. But hey, don’t forget our mission. We’re exploring the great unknown in deep outer space.

LEO
Yeah yeah yeah I’m aware.

NOVA
Well I’m finally getting tired so I’m gonna leave you be and hit the can. Night Leo.

LEO
G’night Nove.
(He waved her goodnight and went to bed.)

Act I . Scene 8
The crew keeps at it with their training and share their backgrounds.

CENTAURI
Hey Leo.
(He flicks him on the side of the head.)
What’s your background? Tell me your story.

LEO
And why, in all the universe, would I want to do that?
(He glares at CENTAURI who sat beside him.)

CENTAURI
Well if we’re going to be here for a long time then I don’t see the problem. Look if you tell me yours, I’ll tell you mine.
LEO

(He sighs and crosses one leg over the other. Intertwining his arms as well.)
Fine. When I was young my parents died in a terrible meltdown at a factory. Then I was put in the home for the rest of my life. Nova came when I was fourteen. She came after her mother went on the mission. But I won’t tell her story, it’s for her to tell.

CENTAURI

Alright. Well that sounds rough. Now my story isn’t as harsh but I won’t try to sound better than you or relate or anything.

LEO

Good. I also don’t want your pity.

(He scowls at CENTAURI.)

CENTAURI

Okay okay. Well let’s start at the beginning. I lived with my mother and father in an average house in downtown Antares. That is until my father left when I was at the age of three. I haven’t seen him since and I don’t remember him. But I still had my mother at least.

(He smiles at a memory.)
She was really fun too. We used to play games all the time when I was a child. But that’s in the past and now I’m in space.

(They both look over at the sound of footsteps.)

NOVA

Hey losers. What are you doin’?

CENTAURI

(Gasps.)
First off, I am not a loser. And second, we’re sharing our life stories. Care to join?
(He pats the open seat next to him.)

NOVA

(She rolls her eyes and sits next to Leo instead.)
Sure. My father left when I was two, and my mother disappeared two years ago on the same mission we’re on now. They labeled it as a dead mission. No pilot, no mission, they said. Even before she went into space I was put in a home and met Leo.

(Shes brings her hands together and claps.)
Anyhow, that’s basically my life.
CENTAURI
Wow. None of us had good childhoods.
(He fills her in on his own since she missed it.)

LEO
Aren’t we a bunch then. You guys wanna play a game? It’s technically a flying simulator for the hovercrafts but… It’s basically a video game.
(He gets up to turn on the holo screen and hooks up the simulator. Passing a controller to the other two, they play for hours.)

Act I, Scene 9
Nova gets caught by the wrong person.

NOVA
(Once again she pads her way into the control room to try and hack her way to the central data and get past the blockers. She’s making progress and works vigorously.)
I’m almost there, I can finally know the true story.

CENTAURI
(He sees a bright light on in the main deck and walks over to check it out.)
Nova? What’re you doing at this hour?

NOVA
(She gasps and jumps back, trying to exit what she’s done.)
Nothing! Just uh… Making sure everything works, haha.
(She darts her eyes away from his avoiding eye contact.)

CENTAURI
Riiiight. In the middle of the night. Let me see.
(He pushes past her and brings it up.)

NOVA
No! Don’t look at that!
(She tries to pull him and his eyes away from the screen.)

CENTAURI
Oh my god! You’re hacking your way into the central database.
NOVA
Be quiet, idiot! You'll wake up Leo! And it's not that bad, trust me. It's for, uh, research.

LEO
(He walks into the deck to see what the commotion is.)
Hey hey hey. What is going on in here?

CENTAURI
This sneak is hacking into the SIS's main database!
(He points his finger at NOVA.)

NOVA
Look, Leo, it isn’t that bad. There is no other way to know what really happened. We both know that the SIS isn’t telling us everything. There is more to it and I know it.

LEO
(He shares a look with CENTAURI and walked over to NOVA to see what exactly she broke into.)
Well as long as we don’t get caught I think it’s fine.

CENTAURI
Well if we’re all in on it then I guess I’ll join too. But when we get caught I’m holding you guys responsible.

NOVA
Well then. Now that we’re all on the same page let’s get to work. Everyone go grab a laptop and get comfy. We may be here a while.
(She settles on the main computer and gets to work, after an hour of searching she find something remarkable.)
Guys listen to this. Astronaut Aurora has lost communication with the SIS. Although after one week, she has fixed the beam and is back in contact. She is far off course after the ship was hit by a huge meteor and knocked of track. She is trying to get back in place but is alive. We’ve lost contact again and can’t track her from here. We'll start a new mission. It’s too much to try and find her. We can’t afford finding her and wasting time. We’ll lose the race against the Russians.
(Shakes her head.)
What does this even mean? So they’ve just given up on her. All for a stupid race against the Russians.
(She starts pacing around the room.)

**LEO**

(He stops **NOVA** and looks her in the eye.)

Look it’s just like old times. We’ll get through this and figure something out. I’ll do the research on this mission and get back to you, Centauri. I need you to figure out how far a communication beam from us can travel. Then try to figure out where Aurora would be now if she stayed on course. That way we can figure out a way to find her and communicate.

**NOVA**

I’ll go over the blueprints for her ship and check how fast it travels and if it would even be able to capture our message. I believe it’s able to send out bursts of messages into waves until another ship picks them up. Hopefully ours can. Maybe we can even connect them and finish the mission together. We are three times as fast so we can catch up, and she might have even stopped so it could be easier. I’ll look at the maps of space and locate us. Centauri, I need you to figure out where her ship lost connection and got cut off, then get back to me. Alright team. Let’s do this.

**Act I, Scene 10**

The crew comes back together with the knowledge that they found, to try and locate Aurora and send her a message.

**LEO**

Okay so I’ll share first. The mission for the starliner was to explore the depths of deep space and report it back to the SIS. Aurora was the only crew member on that ship. She wasn’t due to return until another ship as sent after her, or she found everything we needed.

**CENTAURI**

I guess I’ll go next. So I’ll start with where she’d be if she stayed on course. She would be a two months travel away from us if we stayed on our highest speed. But if we got there we could start sending out signals and hope she receives them. We could also send out drones to scour the area. If they find her they are able to bring her to us so we can attach. Now, a communication beam from us could reach her in one week from here if she was still on course. Even sooner if we could detect her location. But I have found where she lost connection!

(He stands up now waving his arms around.)

Even better news! It’s not that far from us, only four weeks away!
NOVA
Wow, really?! We could reach her in four weeks… That’s so amazing! Thank you for finding that Centauri!
   (She jumps up and hugs him before jumping around the room screaming.)

CENTAURI
   (His face gets red and he sits down.)
Yea, no prob.

NOVA
Well I’ll go next then. It travels 3 times slower than ours, I already knew that but that’s besides the point. As long as its beam is up it can capture our message. And I was correct about how it can send out bursts of messages. They’re like sos messages basically.

LEO
But if the beam isn’t up can it still send them out?

NOVA
Yea. Since they’re sos messages they’re meant for others to pick them up. They come out in signals so we should be able to pick them up any day now if she sent them out. Even if she went off course a meteor can’t send you far off. Now we just have to keep a lookout on the navigation. I’ll send out transmissions in the hopes that she finds it. The Dreamer is more advanced so it should catch her location or the messages in no time at all.

LEO
Alrighty then. So just keep a lookout and send messages and we should find her. We can have the nav update us on if it finds anything. I’ll send the first few messages, we can take shifts with that.
   (He looks over at the screen that has started blinking.)
I guess that brings our meeting to an end. Vega is calling.

VEGA
Hello crew! I hope you’ve been doing okay out there. You better have been keeping up with training and system checks. I don’t have any breaking news or anything. Just making sure that you’re not all tearing out each others throats and all. I have business to get back to so until I call again, see you later.
LEO
You two go into combat training without me, I'm gonna send out the first few messages.

NOVA
Okay Leo. See you in a bit.

LEO
(He sets up the transmission.)
Date, Earth day June eighth. This is crew member Leo aboard The Dreamer. I'm calling out to The Starliner. I repeat this is The Dreamer crew member Leo reaching out to The Starliner. Get back to us.

Act I, Scene 11
They have a whole lot of waiting around before receiving something.

CENTAURI
Got any threes?

LEO
Go fish.

NOVA
(She walks in on them.)
Hey guys I found something you might want to check out.
(They follow to the control room.)
So I picked up something you might want to see.
(She plays the message.)

TRANSMISSION
Date, Earth Day September nineteenth. This is The Starliner, captain Aurora speaking. I have been cut off from the SIS. I've been knocked off course by a big meteor. I am only twenty miles off course. Not that far off. If anybody is out there send me a message. The Starliner is waiting for you.

NOVA
Mom... That's my mother! She's only twenty miles off course, guys we can find her!

LEO
I'll send out the drones to find her. We should know when they do in a few days. Then we can set up communication with her when they do. So let's continue our day I guess.

**Act I, Scene 12**

They set up communication with The Starliner.

**CENTAURI**  
(He’s woken up by a loud beeping and runs to the main deck and sees the others.)  
What’s happening?

**LEO**  
We found something. A ship. We’re setting up connection now… it’s ready.

**NOVA**  
Hello? This is the captain of The Dreamer.

**AURORA**  
Yes hello? This is Aurora. I’m the captain of the Starliner.

**NOVA**  
Yes, I know who you are. We know what happened. We’d like to connect ships. Me and my crew, Leo and Centauri. We can talk more when we’re together. Is your ship able to move to us?

**AURORA**  
Yes, but it needs better repairs that I can’t do on my own. So it’s slower than normal.

**NOVA**  
That’s alright. We’ll have our drones bring you to us and we can talk more later. Dreamer out.

**AURORA**  
Starliner out. Thank you.

**NOVA**  
Well then now that that’s settled. Let’s get her over here.
I'll make sure it connects okay. You guys get some rest.

Act I, Scene 12
The ships connect and share information on their stories

NOVA
Alright, everyone suited up?

LEO
Well we all look like disco balls with a SIS logo on the sleeve. So I'd say yea.

CENTAURI
Well I don’t know about you but I don’t want to freeze when that pressurizer is off when we connect. The suits will regulate us until the ships do.

NOVA
Enough with the bickering. The hatch is about to open.

(They watch the hatch open and NOVA walks forward.)
Captain Aurora. It’s great to see you. Welcome aboard The Dreamer. Or should I call you mother?

AURORA
Nova? Wow you’re a captain. I’m so proud of you. Haha. How long have you been out here? How long have I been missing?

NOVA
About two years. I think it’s been three.

(She hugs her mother tightly.)
Welcome back. The SIS told us it was labeled a dead mission. They cut you off even though they knew you were out here. All for their dumb race.

AURORA
So you know. How’d you find out? How did you find me?

NOVA
I may or may not have hacked into their database. I knew something wasn’t adding up so I did a little research with my crew. Meet Centauri and Leo.

LEO
Hello, pleasure to finally meet you.

**CENTAURI**
Same here. May I call you by your first name?

**AURORA**
Hello. And of course. Leo, you're the boy Nova was always emailing me about. You're such a good friend.

**LEO**
Thanks. I mean with nobody else to talk to, Nova was a prime choice.

**AURORA**
That she is. Well I hate to break our meeting circle but we have big things to talk about. There is more to the SIS's little race than it being just that. Sit, sit please. When I was placed on The Starliner it was just a simple mission really. Explore into the depths of deep space and report back what I found. I would come back after five or ten years depending on what I found. But then I got knocked off course and the SIS gave up on me after about a week. They cut off all ties with me and cut me out of their system. Now the race, it's against the Russians, yes. They might have found another planet sustainable for holding life. So they want to see if it's capable, and that's why we were sent out here. . .Which is why the SIS was so eager to get in space again first. And when my ship broke down for a bit they quickly set up a new crew and sent you guys out. I bet they never expected for you to find me though. We could finish the mission or find this planet I'll leave the decision to you. We do need to fix up my ship and repair the damages though. It isn't exactly in tip top shape.

**LEO**
Me and Loverboy can fix it up. It can't be too hard. We practically built this ship. I mean we helped put it together, a lot.

**CENTAURI**
Alright Leo. But please call me by my name. It's been like, two years.

**LEO**
Well, you're still gonna be Loverboy for a while.

**NOVA**
Would you two get out and fix up the ship already.
(She pushes them out.)

Sorry, those two are always bickering. With them gone we can get to work ourselves. We should talk this over while the boys are repairing your ship. But before that, I should probably show you around the ship and explain how everything works.

**AURORA**

Can do, Nova. Let’s get to it then shall we?

**NOVA**

Trust me, you’ll be blown away.

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**Act I, Scene 13**

The Starliner is fixed and they get business.

**AURORA**

Would you look at that. It’s as good as new. Thanks boys.

**CENTAURI**

No problem, ma’am.

**LEO**

What he said.

**AURORA**

Well on my ship I did in fact see other planets around with their own solar systems. But they’re really far out there.

**NOVA**

I suggest that we go back and tell the truth. We need to fix up any damages to Earth before we even try to colonize a new planet. And if those solar systems are really far out then I see no point is going. Besides, I have someone waiting for me back on Earth.

**AURORA**

Then it’s decided. We’re going home. And you better show me this special someone when we get there Nova

**NOVA**

Alright, alright. Let’s go home then.
LEO
Let's load it up already.

NOVA
Hello Vega. This is captain Nova speaking, I found an interesting planet and we're heading back now. We collected samples already.

VEGA
Alright Nova. I trust you that this is worth coming back for. I'll notify the public and get your return ready.

NOVA
Don't worry it is, and thank you.

Act I. Scene 14
Everyone makes it back safely and exposes the SIS

VEGA
Nova what is this? Who is this extra person?

AURORA
The name's Aurora. You know, the human you cut off for a race.

NOVA
Sorry to burst your bubble Vega but the secret is out. Now I need to share it with everyone else.

VEGA
Don’t you dare, Nova. Do you know how bad that will ruin our reputation?

NOVA
You left people to die out there, Vega! My mother was out there and you knew it! Lied to us about our mission! I need to tell the everyone the truth.

VEGA
I forbid you from going on that stage. I am your superior.

NOVA
And I forbid you from standing on my ship any longer. I am the captain of this vessel and you have no right to push me around where I am the boss.

CENTAURI

(Hands Nova a microphone.)

NOVA

Thanks Centauri. Now, people of Antares. Everyone!! I am back to tell you about the lies that the SIS has been telling you. The Starliner’s mission was not to explore deep space, it was a race against the Russians. They have found a planet that may be able to sustain life, and were racing against the Russians to find it first. When the Starliner was knocked off course they cut off Captain Aurora knowing full well she was alive. Then sent out another crew. Which is mine, all for a dumb race. While out there I found Captain Aurora. My mother.

(The whole crowd claps for her and her crew. The police take Vega away.)

ROSETTE

Nova! Over here!

NOVA

Rose!

(She runs to her and kisses her.)

It’s been so long. I totally forgot to call I’m so sorry. It’s been really busy trying to keep up up there.

(She starts to cry.)

ROSETTE

That’s okay Nova. I got you now don’t worry.

AURORA

I take it she’s your special someone?

ROSETTE

Hi ma’am. My name is Rosette. I’m your daughter’s girlfriend.

AURORA

Well welcome to the family, Rosette.

CENTAURI
Well let’s party then! We’re home now!
(He hooks arms with Leo and drags him away.)

LEO
Hey careful, you’ll make me fall! Centauri are you even listening?

CENTAURI
Yes I am. We’re going to party. Wait, you did it! You called me by my name!

LEO
I mean, we are on Earth now.

Act I, Scene 16
The SIS is taken into questioning by the authorities. Everyone aboard The Starliner and The Dreamer are questioned by the authorities as well.

AURORA
Well you guys the SIS is taken into questioning. After that we’re all next. We have about a week of freedom so go back to your families and relax till then.

NOVA
Bye Centauri we'll see you till then!

CENTAURI
Bye guys!
(He waves and walks away)

LEO
Wait Nova
(He grabs her arm)
Where do I go? I can’t go back to the home.

NOVA
Maybe you can stay with us. We have our home still. Let me ask my mother. Mom can Leo stay with us? He can’t really go back to the home.

AURORA
Of course. Leo, you’re family now too. Let’s go then until the real party starts.
THE END