

2009 Cyberspace Open
Screenwriting Competition Submission

by
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INT. CYLINDRICAL ENCLOSURE - DAY

Thin shafts of ghostly green light illuminate five solemn figures in a cavernous room.

STERICA, 19, frazzled, chews her nails. Chokes back tears.

STERICA

Where the hertz are we?!

FRY, 16, short in stature, big in attitude, pounds his gloved fists against the wall.

FRY

These walls... It feels like we're in a torking zoo enclosure! That's just perfect. CUSPs on display at the zoo!

HELIO, 30's, a whale of a man with the temperament of a kitten, plods toward him.

HELIO

Fry, please don't call us that.

FRY

Why not? Thanks to Jesse, it's what everyone's calling us. CUSPs -- Citizens with Useless Super Powers.

T-BUD, frail with a long silver beard 70 years in the making, crouches on his hands and knees. Licks the floor.

T-BUD

We're not at the zoo. This floor is made of allotanium. Military grade.

FRY

How does knowing that erase the image of you making out with the floor?

SWISH. A bright rectangle of light appears in the wall. Two hulking men leer at the group from the entrance. An iridescent purple-blue glow envelops them.

They reach back, grab a smaller man. Toss him into the room like a ragdoll. SWISH. The door disappears.

JESSE VEGA, 20's, a blend of mischief and macho, scans the room. Staggers to his feet.

JESSE

Uh, hey guys.

Sterica moves with purpose across the room to Jesse.

He opens his arms. She punches him square on the chin.

STERICA

How dare you come waltzing in here
with that smug look on your face!

JESSE

(rubs face)
Smug? Personally I would have gone
with ruggedly handsome, but--

FRY

You son of a--

Fry moves toward him like a field goal kicker. But freezes
when he hears a PIERCING ALARM. The lighting turns fiery red.

HELIO

What does that mean?!

Jesse surveys the room. Eyes widen with recognition.

JESSE

Oh no. Everyone brace yourself!

T-BUD

You're not in charge any--

The room jerks skyward. Everyone topples to the floor.
Darkness gives way to intense light, as sunshine beams
through translucent walls.

Skyscrapers of Leviathan City become tiny silver dominoes
below. The room ascends through clouds at breakneck speed next
to an enormous cable that stretches from earth to space.

A synthetic computer voice bellows from the roof of the lift.

COMPUTER VOICE

Payload eject in two minutes.

The team groans under the strain of acceleration.

STERICA

Jesse! What's happening?!

JESSE

We're in an ionic garbage lift. We
don't have much time!

The lift speed stabilizes. The group gets to their feet.
Helio creeps to the wall. Peeks at the continents below.

HELIO
I'm going to be sick.

Fry grabs Jesse by the collar. Knees him in the gut. He crumples over. Gasps for air.

FRY
You torked us man!

JESSE
(fights through the pain)
No... I saved you.

FRY
Boonskat! The Baron had you on every vid saying we were useless. Then the Supers show up at our door!

JESSE
The Baron has a doomsday weapon. It was pointed at... I had no choice.

T-BUD
There's always a choice son. Why did you go to the Imperium alone?

COMPUTER VOICE
Payload eject in one minute.

Blue sky ebbs into darkness.

JESSE
We don't have time for this. Fry, I need you to touch my ankle restraint. It's dampening my power.

FRY
What power? You're just a CUSP like the rest of us, remember? Besides, I thought I was a "walking disaster."

JESSE
(looks around)
Helio. Listen to me...

HELIO
You called me a blimpy beluga on the worldwide vid.

JESSE
Guys, I didn't mean anything I said about any of you!
(MORE)

JESSE (CONT'D)

I had to make the Baron believe you weren't a serious threat. Look, I know I fluxed up. I shouldn't have gone to the Imperium by myself. I'm... I'm really sorry.

COMPUTER VOICE

Payload eject in thirty seconds.

T-BUD

What is your plan son?

JESSE

Fry, take off your gloves and hop on Helio's back.

Fry rolls his eyes. Does as he's instructed.

JESSE

Helio, I need you to fly to the roof.

HELIO

But I can't fly. I can only float.

Helio hovers inches above the floor.

JESSE

That's perfect. Now T-Bud, Sterica, push him toward that control box!

The three shove Helio and Fry skyward. Fry flails at the ceiling.

JESSE

Come on Fry.

COMPUTER VOICE

Payload eject in five, four, three...

Fry claws at the control box. Makes contact. It sparks. POWER DRAINS from the lift. The team stares at each other. Elated.

Lights flicker off. A collective gasp. The lift plummets.

JESSE

Flux! Fry short circuited all of the controls! T-Bud, what's this wall made of!

T-Bud makes his way to the translucent wall. Licks it.

T-BUD

It's a nanotube polymer composite. Unbreakable.

JESSE
But not undissolvable. Sterika,
over here!

STERICA
(choking back sobs)
I'm... On it.

She leans against the wall. Cries like an onion prep cook.
Teardrops hit the wall. SIZZLE. BUBBLE.

A large hole opens up. Sterika is buffeted back as gale force
winds rush into the lift.

Leviathan City rushes up fast. Like a giant silver mallet.

Helio and Fry land on the floor.

JESSE
Fry, touch this ankle restraint!

FRY
(grabs the restraint)
You better have something good up
your sleeve!

Jesse's ankle restraint sparks. His body fluoresces.

STERICA
Jesse we all know you can glow like
a Super. It's a nice trick, but
it's not going to help us!

JESSE
(grins)
Everyone back!

The lift plummets like a meteor. Jesse reaches through the
wall opening and pushes against the cable. A shower of sparks
fly in his face. Into the lift.

The group gawks, slack-jawed, as the lift GRINDS to a stop.

HELIO
You're... a Super!

JESSE
I may have been holding back a bit.
(sizes his team up)
Now let's go thank the Baron for that
little sight-seeing trip!