

Aboard the Celestara: A Family Vacation to the Stars

Main Characters:

- 1. Greg Jenkins (Dad)**
Late 40s, the practical and protective patriarch of the family.
A bit cautious, but genuinely excited about the trip and its opportunities.
Often tries to keep the family grounded and focused on enjoying the experience.
 - 2. Dana Jenkins (Mom)**
Enthusiastic and sentimental, loves capturing memories with her camera.
Acts as a calming presence, encouraging everyone to enjoy the trip.
Eager to explore the ship's amenities and have a dream-like adventure.
 - 3. Harper Jenkins (Older Daughter, 20)**
The eldest sibling, witty and a little sarcastic.
Often teases Ethan but has a soft spot for her family.
Appreciates the ship's grandeur but maintains a grounded attitude.
 - 4. Jace Jenkins (Older Son, 18)**
The middle sibling, skeptical and sarcastic.
Often pokes fun at Ethan, especially about his celebrity fascination.
Accompanied by his girlfriend, **Raven**, who shares his dry humor.
 - 5. Raven (Jace's Girlfriend, 18)**
Edgy and confident, with a sharp sense of humor that complements Jace's sarcasm.
Often joins in teasing Ethan but isn't malicious about it.
Enjoys exploring the ship's fun activities and indulging her curiosity.
 - 6. Ethan Jenkins (Younger Son, 13)**
The youngest sibling, energetic and idealistic.
Obsessed with Victoria Stellar and sees the trip as a chance to meet her.
Enthralled by the ship and its many futuristic activities.
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Part 1

The Jenkins family stands at the observation platform of the bustling terminal, their gazes fixed on the shimmering Celestara floating majestically in orbit. The ship's sleek, otherworldly design catches the sunlight, its massive structure almost defying belief. The distant hum of departing shuttles and the murmur of excited passengers fill the air.

Greg: (holding up their golden-edged tickets) "Can you believe this? We actually won. A whole month on the Celestara, traveling to the Moon and back! Do you know how much this would normally cost? One hundred thousand dollars per person!"

Dana: (snapping pictures rapidly) "It's even more incredible than I imagined. Look at it! It's like a work of art."

Ethan: (bouncing with excitement) "This is insane! I'm recording this to show my friends later. And... guess what? Victoria Stellar's supposed to be on the ship!"

Jace: (raising an eyebrow, smirking) "How do you even know that? Are you stalking her or something?"

Ethan: (defensively) "No! I saw it on social media. Everyone's talking about it!"

Jace: (crossing his arms) "Listen, dude, Victoria Stellar is way out of your league. Security's not even going to let you anywhere near her."

Ethan: (voice rising, frustrated) "You don't know that! Maybe I'll meet her, and she'll think I'm cool!"

Harper: (sarcastically) "Cool isn't the word I'd use, but okay."

Dana: (stepping in, placing a hand on Ethan's shoulder) "Ethan, calm down. This is supposed to be fun. Don't let your brother get to you."

Greg: (firmly) "Jace, lay off. Let him enjoy the trip. You never know what might happen."

Jace: (holding up his hands) "Alright, alright. Just saying."

Ethan glares at Jace but takes a deep breath as Dana gives him a reassuring smile. The family begins walking toward the terminal gates. Overhead, holographic advertisements showcase various onboard attractions: zero-gravity pools, interstellar dining, and exclusive concerts. Ethan freezes when he spots a glowing poster featuring Victoria Stellar's face with the words: "Live in Concert - Aboard the Celestara!"

Ethan: (whispering, almost reverently) "She's really going to be there. This is my moment."

Harper: (mockingly) "Yeah, wouldn't want you to miss your chance to wave at her from ten miles away."

Dana: (laughing) "Leave him alone, you two. Let's focus on getting through security."

The family approaches the bustling security checkpoint. Robotic attendants scan tickets and guide passengers through glowing arches that hum with energy. Ethan fidgets, craning his neck to catch a final glimpse of the poster as they pass.

Part 2

INT. SHUTTLE TO CELESTARA - DAY

Inside the shuttle, soft ambient light creates a serene atmosphere. Massive windows offer a stunning view as Earth grows smaller. ETHAN presses his face against the glass, his breath fogging it up, while the rest of the family takes in the surroundings.

The CELESTARA dominates the view, a colossal, glimmering vessel with sleek curves, glowing lights, and sprawling decks. Holographic displays project images of the ship's interior: infinity pools, virtual reality lounges, high-tech sports arenas, and gourmet dining halls.

HARPER

(leaning closer to the window, genuinely impressed)
"Wow. That thing is massive. It's like a floating city."

RAVEN

(crossing her arms, trying to hide her awe)
"A floating city for people with way too much money."

GREG

(grinning, savoring the moment)
"Hey, don't knock it. We're living like millionaires for a month. Just look at that thing!"

The holograms flash images of passengers enjoying the ship's features: zero-gravity dance classes, a galactic viewing dome, robot-assisted spa treatments, and a massive water park with slides that seem to float in mid-air.

DANA

(pointing to the hologram)
"Did you see that? A zero-gravity yoga studio. I've always wanted to try yoga, but this takes it to another level."

ETHAN

(excitedly)
"They have a drone racing arena! And laser tag. Like, actual laser tag in space! This is going to be insane."

HARPER

(half-joking)
"Don't hurt yourself trying to win at laser tag, Ethan. We don't need to spend the trip in the med bay."

GREG

(leaning back, scanning the holograms)
"They've got something for everyone. Look—an interstellar golf course. And a gourmet chocolate fountain the size of a car. I'm starting there."

RAVEN

(snickering)

"Of course you are. Meanwhile, I'm checking out the VR lounge. If it's anything like what I've seen, it'll blow everything else out of the water."

JACE

(nodding, smirking at Ethan)

"And while we're enjoying the ship, Ethan will be too busy stalking the observation deck, hoping for a celebrity sighting."

ETHAN

(rolling his eyes)

"I'm not stalking anything! I'm just... keeping an eye out. And anyway, did you see the sports deck? They've got simulated space football! I'm definitely signing up for that."

The shuttle begins docking with the CELESTARA, the ship's lights illuminating the interior of the massive hangar bay. A holographic welcome message beams onto the shuttle walls:

"WELCOME TO THE CELESTARA: YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS NOW."

DANA

(sighing in amazement)

"It's like stepping into a dream. I still can't believe this is real."

GREG

(grinning, adjusting his bag)

"Believe it. We're about to spend the next month in space, on a ship that has everything we could ever imagine."

The family gathers their belongings as the shuttle doors hiss open. The hangar bay is a hub of activity: sleek robots unload luggage, holographic guides assist passengers, and a live band plays a cheerful, futuristic tune.

HARPER

(grinning)

"Okay, I have to admit. This is pretty cool."

RAVEN

(raising an eyebrow, smirking)

"Yeah, it's... alright."

JACE

(teasing her)

"'Alright'? You were practically drooling over the VR lounge a minute ago."

RAVEN

(smirking)

"I have standards. But fine—this place isn't terrible."

ETHAN

(spinning around, taking it all in)

"Not terrible? Are you kidding? This place is awesome. I don't even know where to start."

GREG

(firmly)

"Let's start by finding our cabin. Then you can all scatter and explore. But no one gets lost, and no one tries to sneak into restricted areas. Got it, Ethan?"

ETHAN

(grinning)

"Got it. But don't blame me if I 'accidentally' find the drone racing track first."

The family steps onto the CELESTARA, joining the crowd of wide-eyed passengers. Around them, the ship comes to life: sleek transport pods zip through glowing tunnels, a holographic concierge offers schedules for the day's activities, and the hum of futuristic technology fills the air.

For a moment, even RAVEN drops her usual sarcasm, her gaze lingering on the shimmering lights and the sheer scale of the ship.

INT. CELESTARA – CENTRAL ATRIUM

The family enters the **Central Atrium**, a massive open space with towering glass walls that reveal the endless starscape outside. A holographic fountain in the center ripples with light, shifting into images of galaxies and planets. The atmosphere hums with a blend of soft music and the buzz of activity.

ETHAN

(spinning in circles, awestruck)

"This is amazing! It's like walking through the future!"

HARPER

(leaning against a railing, smirking)

"Yeah, definitely beats that road trip where the car broke down in the desert."

RAVEN

(deadpan)

"And we ate gas station sandwiches for dinner. A real highlight."

JACE

(grinning, pointing at a holographic directory)

"Look at this—drone racing, zero-gravity pools, VR combat arenas. I don't even know where to start."

DANA

(amused, gesturing to a spa ad)

"I'm starting with the spa. Robot massages? Yes, please."

GREG

(scanning the directory)

"They've got something for everyone—wine-tasting lounges, infinity mazes, and a chocolate fountain taller than me. This place is next-level."

Ethan is distracted, his eyes darting around the atrium. He seems preoccupied, scanning the upper levels.

HARPER

(raising an eyebrow)

"What are you looking for? Did you lose your mind somewhere in the zero-gravity pool?"

ETHAN

(mumbling, still looking around)

"I just... thought I might see someone. Someone famous."

RAVEN

(grinning)

"Oh, let me guess. You're still hoping for your celebrity crush to show up?"

GREG

(cutting in)

"Ethan, focus on the trip, not chasing after some star. Let's keep exploring."

Before Ethan can argue, a deep chime echoes through the atrium, and glowing arrows appear on the floor.

ANNOUNCER

(cheerful, echoing)

"Attention, passengers. Please proceed to the Grand Theatre Hall for an important orientation meeting. Attendance is mandatory."

Passengers begin moving toward the glowing arrows. Greg gestures for the family to follow.

GREG

"Come on, let's not be late. Sounds important."

Part 3

INT. CELESTARA – GRAND THEATRE HALL

The Grand Theatre Hall is a breathtaking spectacle of futuristic design. Rows of sleek, cushioned seats spiral outward, while holographic constellations shimmer and shift above. VIP suites line the upper tiers, glowing faintly with exclusivity.

The Jenkins family settles into seats near the middle of the main floor. Ethan, jittery with excitement, keeps sneaking glances at the VIP suites. His eyes widen as he spots Victoria Stellar.

Victoria sits at the center of a semicircle of luxurious chairs. Her beautiful brown hair gleams under the suite's lights, and she is surrounded by her glamorous, stylish girlfriends. Laughter spills from the group, their movements exuding confidence and charm. Standing guard around the suite are five imposing security guards, their black uniforms sleek and spotless. The guards' sharp eyes sweep the room, and their holstered weapons glint faintly.

Ethan grabs Harper's arm, nearly vibrating with excitement.

ETHAN

(whispering loudly)

"Harper! Look! It's her! Victoria Stellar! It's really her!"

Harper follows his gaze, her expression shifting from mild annoyance to surprise.

HARPER

(whispering back)

"Okay, yeah, that's definitely her. And wow, those guards look like they'd tackle someone for sneezing in her direction."

DANA

(leaning in, glancing toward the suite)

"That's amazing. She's really here. But can you imagine living like that? Always surrounded by guards?"

JACE

(grinning)

"Not bad, Ethan. But what are you going to do? Shout her name? 'Hey, Victoria! It's me, Ethan!' I'm sure her guards would *love* that."

RAVEN

(smirking, deadpan)

"Or climb up there, knock on the glass, and ask her out. They'll totally let you through."

Ethan flushes, his excitement dimming slightly as he glances nervously at the guards.

ETHAN

(defensively)

"I'm not going to do anything! I just think it's cool she's here, that's all."

GREG

(firmly)

"Alright, knock it off, you guys. Leave Ethan alone. He's not going to do anything stupid."

HARPER

(raising an eyebrow, smirking)

"Yeah, sure, Ethan. You're *totally* not going to do anything. Next thing we know, you'll be memorizing all the places she goes on the ship."

JACE

(grinning, leaning closer)

"Bet he's already figured out which deck she's staying on. Got a plan to 'accidentally' bump into her at the pool, Ethan?"

RAVEN

(deadpan)

"Step one: Lurk near the buffet. Step two: Follow her to the spa. Step three: She'll magically fall for the guy who knows every inch of her route."

DANA

(frowning, whispering more seriously)

"Guys, stop. That's not funny. Ethan wouldn't... right, Ethan?"

ETHAN

(eyes widening, whispering defensively)

"What? No! I'm not stalking her! I just think it's cool she's here, okay? That's it!"

HARPER

(narrowing her eyes, half-joking)

"That better be it. Don't turn this vacation into a *Lifetime movie*, Ethan."

GREG

(cutting in sharply, glaring at the others)

"Enough! He's not going to stalk her, for crying out loud. You guys need to knock it off."

JACE

(holding up his hands, smirking)

"Alright, alright. We're just saying... maybe someone should keep an eye on him. Just in case."

GREG

(giving Jace a warning look)

"You want me keeping an eye on you instead? Because I'm more than happy to volunteer."

The siblings exchange amused glances, but Greg's stern tone puts an end to the teasing—for now. Ethan sinks further into his seat, determined to prove them wrong by focusing on the

cruise activities, even if his occasional glances at the VIP suite don't entirely help his case.

ANNOUNCER CALLS FOR SILENCE

A soft chime rings out, and holographic arrows light up on the floor, directing passengers toward the stage. The murmuring in the room begins to die down as a soothing yet firm voice fills the theater.

ANNOUNCER

(cheerful, yet commanding)

"Attention, passengers. The captain will now address the ship. Please remain seated and silent for the duration of the announcement."

A second, deeper chime reverberates through the room. A faint hum of machinery fills the air as the holographic screen at the front of the theater flickers to life. The chatter stops completely, and the room falls silent, the atmosphere now heavy with anticipation.

CAPTAIN KANE'S INTRODUCTION

The holographic screen lights up fully, displaying the imposing image of Captain Silas Kane. His chiseled features and sharp, crisp uniform exude authority. His piercing gaze sweeps across the room as though he can see every passenger individually.

CAPTAIN KANE

(voice calm and commanding)

"Good evening, passengers. My name is Captain Silas Kane, and it is my privilege to welcome you aboard the Celestara. You are not just passengers; you are part of an extraordinary voyage—a journey that will take you to the Moon and back."

The screen transitions to breathtaking footage of space: the Earth shrinking in the distance, the Moon's rugged surface illuminated in stark detail, and the Celestara gliding majestically through the stars.

CAPTAIN KANE

(continuing, his tone warm yet authoritative)

"This ship is more than a vessel. It is a marvel of human ingenuity, a testament to what we can achieve when we dream beyond the confines of Earth. Over the next month, you will experience wonders few have ever known: zero-gravity adventures, interstellar views, and the finest amenities humanity has to offer."

The screen cuts to scenes of passengers enjoying the Celestara's many attractions: drone racing, floating in zero-gravity pools, and dining in elegant, glass-domed lounges overlooking the cosmos.

CAPTAIN KANE

(continuing)

"But with great opportunity comes great responsibility. To ensure the safety and enjoyment of everyone aboard, I must emphasize the importance of discipline, respect, and adherence to the ship's rules."

CAPTAIN KANE'S WARNING: THE PUNISHMENTS

The screen abruptly transitions to surveillance footage: passengers being scanned by glowing security beams, towering security bots patrolling hallways, and flashing red alarms. The cheerful tone evaporates, replaced by an icy tension.

CAPTAIN KANE

(leaning forward slightly, his tone hardening)

"Let me be clear: the Celestara is not a place for recklessness or lawlessness. The rules aboard this ship exist to protect you, your fellow passengers, and the integrity of this voyage. Breaking these rules will result in consequences—consequences that are immediate, severe, and inescapable."

The screen transitions to an eerie space cell, a small, stark metallic room encased in a glowing energy barrier. Inside, a passenger sits on a cold bench, their head in their hands, the energy field casting harsh, shimmering reflections on the walls.

CAPTAIN KANE

"If you are caught violating the rules, you will first be detained in our space cells. These high-security holding areas ensure total isolation. While detained, you will have no access to amenities, no communication, and no contact with others. Your meals will be delivered by automated systems, and you will remain under constant surveillance."

The screen zooms in on the cell's glowing barrier, which hums ominously. The detained passenger paces back and forth, their desperation evident.

CAPTAIN KANE

(continuing, his tone sharper)

"Once your violation is confirmed, you will be subjected to The Walk of Shame."

The screen cuts to footage of a passenger being escorted down a busy corridor by towering security bots. Above them, a holographic sign flashes RULEBREAKER, and their offense scrolls in bold red letters: JAMES ROWE – THEFT. Other passengers glare and whisper, their judgment palpable.

CAPTAIN KANE

"This public display ensures all passengers understand the consequences of defying the rules. Your name and offense will be permanently recorded in the Celestara's passenger logs and shared with interstellar travel companies. A single violation could bar you from future space voyages permanently."

The screen transitions to the offender being marched into the escape pod bay, a cold, sterile area bathed in harsh white light. The pod door opens with a hiss, revealing the cramped interior.

CAPTAIN KANE

(firmly)

"Following the Walk of Shame, you will be removed from the Celestara immediately. You will be placed in an escape pod and ejected into space, returning to Earth. No refunds. No appeals. No exceptions."

The screen lingers on the escape pod as it launches, its thrusters igniting. It becomes a faint speck against the vast emptiness of space.

CAPTAIN KANE

(finally, his tone chilling)

"Upon your return to Earth, you will be handed over to local authorities for prosecution. Penalties may include heavy fines, community service, imprisonment—or all three. Breaking the rules aboard this ship will not just end your journey; it will destroy your reputation, your finances, and your future."

The screen cuts back to Captain Kane's cold, unyielding gaze.

CAPTAIN KANE

"Let me be clear: respect the ship, respect your fellow passengers, and follow the rules. Do this, and you will have an unforgettable journey. But step out of line, and your time aboard the Celestara will end in disgrace, isolation, and regret."

SIBLINGS' TEASING

As the lights rise and passengers file out in hushed silence, Ethan sneaks one last glance at the VIP suite. Victoria and her girlfriends are still laughing, unbothered. The guards remain motionless, scanning the crowd.

As the family walks out, Harper leans toward Ethan, smirking.

HARPER

"So, Ethan, when's your Walk of Shame scheduled? Should we start preparing the holograms?"

RAVEN

(mock serious)

"Yeah, and we'll make sure your sign says ETHAN JENKINS – CELEBRITY STALKER. Nice and bold."

JACE

(grinning)

"And don't forget the space cell. You'll get plenty of time to enjoy those glowing walls before your grand exit."

Ethan flushes, scowling.

ETHAN

(defensively)

"I'm not going to stalk her! I said I wouldn't do anything stupid!"

HARPER

(grinning)

"Sure, sure. Famous last words."

DANA

(cutting in firmly)

"Enough, all of you. Ethan's not going to do anything, and you're not going to keep teasing him."

GREG

(backing her up)

"Exactly. Let's enjoy this trip as a family. No one's ending up in a space cell, understood?"

The teasing subsides as the family walks into the glowing corridors of the Celestara, Captain Kane's warning hanging ominously in the air.

Part 4

INT. CELESTARA – CENTRAL LOUNGE – DAY

The Jenkins family sits in a cozy, brightly lit lounge in the heart of the Celestara. Passengers stroll by, laughing and chatting as they explore the ship's amenities. A holographic directory near their table displays the day's top activities, and Greg leans over to scroll through the options.

GREG

(grinning)

"Okay, listen to this—there's a zero-gravity dance floor, a virtual safari, and... wait for it... a bowling alley that's out of this world."

HARPER

(laughing)

"Bowling? That's the big draw?"

GREG

(excitedly)

"It's not just *any* bowling alley. It's got glowing lanes, floating pins, and free food and drinks. Come on, it's a family activity! We've got to try it."

DANA

(nodding in agreement)

"That actually sounds fun. Plus, free food? You don't have to convince me."

JACE

(smirking)

"Yeah, because you'll just park yourself at the snack bar."

DANA

(playfully swatting Jace's arm)

"I'll have you know I was a bowling champ in college. I'm going to wipe the floor with all of you."

HARPER

(teasing)

"Bowling champ? Mom, the only strikes you'll be getting are hunger strikes when the nachos run out."

The group laughs, but Ethan, seated at the edge of the table, fidgets awkwardly. He glances at the holographic display, then down at his hands.

GREG

(noticing)

"Ethan, what's wrong? You've been quiet."

ETHAN

(looking up, hesitant)

"I... uh, I don't feel so great. I think I might skip the bowling and just head back to the room to rest."

The table falls silent for a moment. Harper raises an eyebrow, and Jace exchanges a knowing glance with Raven. Dana leans forward, her face softening with concern.

DANA

"Are you okay, honey? Is it your stomach? Or maybe all the excitement is just catching up to you?"

ETHAN

(nodding quickly)

"Yeah, I think it's just everything hitting me at once. I just need to lie down for a bit."

HARPER

(skeptical, crossing her arms)

"Uh-huh. Sure. You're totally going back to the room. Not, I don't know, sneaking off to *stalk* someone?"

ETHAN

(defensive)

"What? No! I'm not doing that! I really don't feel good."

RAVEN

(grinning)

"Right. And I'm a Jedi. Come on, Ethan, you're not fooling anyone."

JACE

(leaning back, smirking)

"Let me guess—you're planning to bump into a certain celebrity, right? Maybe pretend you're lost? 'Oh, hi, Victoria! Fancy seeing you here!'"

ETHAN

(scowling)

"I'm not doing anything like that! I just need to rest, okay?"

DANA

(interjecting, her tone firm)

"That's enough, you three. Ethan says he's not feeling well, and we're going to respect that."

GREG

(backing her up)

"Exactly. He's going to his room, and that's it. No sneaking around, no detours. Right, Ethan?"

ETHAN

(quickly nodding)

"Right. Straight to my room."

HARPER

(rolling her eyes, muttering)

"Yeah, and straight to the VIP section, if you ask me."

DANA

(giving Harper a pointed look)

"Harper."

JACE

(raising his hands, mock surrender)

"Alright, fine. But don't come crying to us when he shows up on the Walk of Shame."

GREG

(sternly)

"Jace, that's enough. He's not going to do anything. Let's get going."

Dana turns back to Ethan, her concern softening her voice.

DANA

"Make sure you drink some water and get some rest, sweetheart. If you start feeling worse, call us, okay?"

ETHAN

(nodding)

"I will. Thanks, Mom."

Greg pats Ethan on the shoulder as the rest of the family stands and begins heading toward the glowing holographic arrows pointing to the bowling alley. As they leave, Harper glances over her shoulder, narrowing her eyes at Ethan.

HARPER

(whispering to Jace and Raven)

"He's definitely not going back to the room."

JACE

(whispering back, grinning)

"Ten bucks says he's trying to find her."

RAVEN

(mock serious)

"I'm not betting against a sure thing."

INT. CELESTARA – CORRIDOR – DAY

As soon as the family disappears around the corner, Ethan exhales sharply. He straightens up, glancing around the corridor. Passengers mill about, but no one pays him any attention. With a determined look, he starts walking—away from the path leading to his room and toward the glowing arrows marked **VIP Section – Observation Decks**.

ETHAN

(muttering to himself)

"Just one look. That's all. Just one chance to see her."

He quickens his pace, weaving through the crowd as the Celestara's shimmering corridors stretch ahead, his heart pounding with anticipation.

Ethan weaves through the exclusive, quieter corridors of the Celestara, his heart pounding in his chest. Ahead, the shimmering glass doors to the **VIP Section** glow faintly with an energy field. Two towering security guards stand on either side, their sharp eyes scanning the area. Ethan slows his pace, hesitating but trying to appear nonchalant.

As he approaches, the guards immediately shift their attention to him. One steps forward, his voice deep and commanding.

GUARD #1

"Stop right there."

Ethan freezes, forcing an innocent smile.

ETHAN

"Oh, uh... hi! I think I took a wrong turn. I was just looking for the observation deck!"

The second guard steps closer, crossing his arms.

GUARD #2

"The observation decks are on Level 3. This is the VIP Section. Access is restricted. Turn around and leave."

ETHAN

(nodding quickly, stammering)

"Right! Of course! My mistake! I'll just—"

The first guard steps into his path, his tone unyielding.

GUARD #1

"No excuses. This area is off-limits. If you're caught here again, there won't be a second warning. Now leave."

Ethan's face flushes as he nods frantically, backing away.

ETHAN

"Yes! Got it! Sorry! I'm leaving!"

The guards watch him closely as he retreats, their gazes like lasers burning into his back.

INT. CELESTARA – VIP SECTION OUTSKIRTS – DAY

Ethan rounds a corner, his heart pounding in his chest. He leans against a wall, trying to catch his breath. His face is pale, and his legs feel like jelly.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself)

"That was so stupid. What was I thinking?"

He glances back toward the corridor he just left, but the shimmering glass doors and imposing guards are out of sight. With a heavy sigh, he turns to head back to the main areas.

As he begins to walk, a ripple of laughter catches his attention. His head snaps toward the sound, and his breath hitches. Down the hall, stepping out from a private side door, is **Victoria Stellar** and her group of glamorous friends.

Victoria is radiant, her signature beautiful brown hair gleaming in the corridor's soft light. Her girlfriends are chatting animatedly, their laughter echoing in the otherwise quiet area. Behind them, **two of the guards** trail a few steps back, their sharp eyes scanning the surroundings.

Ethan freezes, his heart pounding all over again. For a moment, he hesitates, the guards' earlier warning still fresh in his mind. But as the group begins moving down a different corridor, curiosity and determination take hold.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself)

"Just one look. That's all. Just... see where they're going."

He waits a few beats, letting the group gain some distance. Then, keeping to the shadows, he begins following them. His steps are light and deliberate, his breathing shallow as he tries to stay unnoticed. The guards occasionally glance over their shoulders, and each time, Ethan ducks into an alcove or behind a decorative panel, his pulse racing.

The group turns a corner, heading toward an area marked **PRIVATE LOUNGES**. Ethan slows, careful to keep his distance while still keeping them in sight.

INT. CELESTARA – VIP CORRIDORS – DAY

The corridor stretches ahead like a gleaming labyrinth, illuminated by soft, futuristic lighting. **Ethan** crouches behind a decorative panel, his heart pounding so loudly he's sure someone will hear it. His breathing is shallow, his chest tight with a mix of fear and exhilaration.

Ahead, **Victoria Stellar** and her glamorous entourage exit the restricted VIP area. Victoria's laughter is light and melodic, her beautiful brown hair catching the light like it was made of stardust. She walks gracefully, dressed in an elegant yet understated outfit that only enhances

her radiance. Her friends—equally stunning and fashionable—chat animatedly, pointing out features of the ship and occasionally laughing.

Behind them, **two towering security guards** in jet-black uniforms move like shadows, their piercing eyes scanning the corridor for potential threats. Their presence is imposing, their body language screaming vigilance.

Ethan's hands tremble as he clutches the edge of the panel, his face flushed with excitement. His thoughts are racing.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself, awestruck)

"There she is. Oh my gosh, it's really her. This is my chance."

For a moment, his rational mind fights back. He remembers the guards' earlier warnings. Trespassing into restricted areas would result in severe consequences—punishments he didn't want to imagine. Yet the pull of the moment is irresistible. His idol is right there, only a few steps away, and this could be his only opportunity to meet her.

ETHAN

(whispering, nervously)

"Just... just follow them. Stay quiet. Don't let the guards see you. Just one autograph."

As the group continues down the corridor, Ethan carefully steps out of his hiding place. He follows at a safe distance, his movements deliberate, his body tense with anticipation. Each time one of the guards glances back, Ethan freezes, ducking behind a decorative column or flattening himself against the wall. His heart feels like it's about to explode.

The group turns a corner and stops in front of an opulent **women's boutique**. The entrance is adorned with holographic signage that glimmers with elegance: **EXCLUSIVE ACCESS – WOMEN ONLY**. A soft hum emanates from within, hinting at the boutique's serene atmosphere.

The guards stand at attention as they hold the doors open for Victoria and her friends. The group disappears inside, their laughter fading into the boutique. Ethan hesitates outside the doors, torn between caution and desperation. A holographic attendant materializes in front of him, smiling warmly.

HOLOGRAPHIC ATTENDANT

"Welcome! This boutique is reserved for women only. Male passengers are invited to explore our other shops nearby."

Ethan ignores the hologram entirely. His focus is on the boutique's glowing doors. His hands clench and unclench as he swallows hard. The warning signs are flashing in his mind, but his obsession has overtaken his judgment.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself)

"Just go in. She won't even notice at first. I can explain... It'll be fine."

Before his nerves can catch up to him, his legs move of their own accord. He darts through the doors, ignoring the hologram's polite reminder.

INT. WOMEN'S BOUTIQUE – CONTINUOUS

The boutique is a pristine paradise of high-end fashion. The walls are lined with shimmering displays of gowns, sparkling accessories, and luxurious fabrics that catch the warm light. Mannequins in elegant poses showcase the latest trends, their presence almost lifelike.

At the back of the boutique, **Victoria** and her friends are gathered around a rack of dresses, their laughter soft and melodic as they compare options. Victoria holds up a glittering gold gown, her smile radiant as her friends nod in approval.

Ethan freezes the moment he spots her up close. His breath catches in his throat. Her presence overwhelms him, her every movement graceful and effortless. For a moment, he forgets to move. His hands tremble as he clutches the notebook and pen he brought for her autograph.

The soft music in the boutique suddenly feels muted. The world narrows, focusing entirely on Victoria.

He takes a shaky step forward, his voice breaking through the quiet.

ETHAN

(loudly, overwhelmed)

"Victoria! Victoria Stellar!"

The boutique falls silent. The soft music cuts out abruptly as every head turns toward Ethan. Shoppers and staff freeze, their eyes darting between him and Victoria. Her friends stop mid-conversation, their brows furrowing in confusion.

Victoria stiffens, her hand hovering over the gold gown. Slowly, she turns, her radiant expression shifting to one of irritation and disbelief. Her cheeks flush slightly, but not from embarrassment—it's frustration bubbling beneath her composed exterior.

VICTORIA

(voice trembling, breaking)

"Are you serious right now?"

Her voice echoes through the boutique, shattering the silence. Her guards, stationed at the entrance, immediately stride toward Ethan, their faces dark with anger. Their footsteps are heavy and deliberate, the tension in the air thickening with every step.

Ethan stammers, stepping closer as his excitement turns into desperation.

ETHAN

(pleading)

"Victoria, please! I'm Ethan! I'm your biggest fan—I've followed your career forever—I just wanted to say hi, and maybe... maybe get an autograph."

Victoria's eyes narrow as her lips press into a tight line. Her hands tremble slightly as she lowers the gown back onto the rack. She takes a deep breath, her frustration finally spilling over.

VICTORIA

(voice rising, trembling with emotion)

"I can't even shop without someone chasing me down? I came here to get away. To have one vacation without being hounded by fans, by strangers who think they're entitled to my time."

She turns to her guards, her voice sharp and breaking.

VICTORIA

"Get him out of here. Now. I don't want to see him."

The guards grab Ethan roughly by the arms, their grips firm and unyielding.

GUARD #1

"You're not supposed to be here. Let's go."

GUARD #2

(venomously)

"You think the rules don't apply to you? You're about to learn the hard way."

Ethan struggles against their grip, his voice cracking with panic and regret.

ETHAN

(crying)

"No, wait! Please, I didn't mean to upset her—I just wanted—"

GUARD #1

(interrupting, furious)

"Quiet! You've done enough damage."

Victoria presses her hands to her temples, her voice shaking as tears begin to spill from her eyes.

VICTORIA

(to her friends, emotional)

"I just wanted one day. One day to feel normal. Is that too much to ask?"

Her friends gather around her, their voices soft with concern. Ethan's sobs echo faintly as the guards drag him out of the boutique, leaving Victoria trembling with frustration and exhaustion.

INT. CELESTARA – SECURITY HOLDING AREA – DAY

Ethan is dragged through the cold, metallic corridors of the ship. The air feels heavy, the sterile lights casting long shadows. The guards' boots echo ominously with each step.

They stop in front of a heavy door with glowing red text: **ISOLATION CELL**

The guards press a button, and the door hisses open, revealing a small, stark room cloaked in darkness. The faint glow of containment fields outlines the metallic walls and a single hard bench.

GUARD #1

(voice icy)

"Wait here until we figure out what to do with you."

GUARD #2

(leaning in, menacing)

"And trust me—you don't want to know what happens if you try anything else."

They shove Ethan inside, and he stumbles, falling to his knees. The door hisses shut behind him, the hum of the containment field activating like a final sentence. The room is plunged into silence, broken only by Ethan's muffled sobs.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself)

"I didn't mean to ruin anything... I just wanted to meet her."

The darkness presses in on him, cold and unrelenting, as he curls into himself. Outside, the guards exchange glances, their faces hard.

GUARD #1

"Some people never learn. Let's see if the captain wants to eject him."

They walk away, their footsteps fading into the distance. Inside the cell, Ethan's regret and isolation feel suffocating.

INT. CELESTARA – SECURITY HOLDING AREA – DAY

The sterile hum of the ship's systems fills the small, metallic holding area. Ethan sits slumped on the hard bench inside the containment cell, his head buried in his hands. His shoulders tremble with quiet sobs, his face flushed from crying.

Outside the containment field, Guard #1 and Guard #2 stand nearby. Guard #1, tall and stern, glares through the glowing barrier, his arms crossed tightly over his chest.

GUARD #1

(angrily)

"What a mess. He knew the rules, and he ignored every single one. We should throw the book at him."

GUARD #2, broader and older, leans against the wall with a more relaxed posture. His expression is thoughtful as he watches Ethan.

GUARD #2

(raising an eyebrow)

"Throw the book at him? He's a teenager, not a career criminal. You really want to ruin his trip over this?"

GUARD #1

(snapping)

"Rules are rules. He scared the hell out of a VIP, disrupted her vacation, and ignored the warnings. If we let this slide, what kind of message does that send?"

GUARD #2

(smiling faintly)

"That he's a dumb kid with a celebrity crush? Come on, you've never done anything crazy because of a crush?"

GUARD #1

(flatly)

"Not like this."

GUARD #2

(grinning)

"Okay, confession time. Back when I was his age, I had this massive crush on a local news anchor. Gorgeous, smart, totally out of my league. I memorized her broadcast schedule and 'accidentally' showed up at one of her events. Security caught me hanging around and told me to scram. Guess what? I wasn't a stalker. I was a dumb kid with a crush. That's all."

GUARD #1

(arching an eyebrow)

"Seriously? You?"

GUARD #2

(nods, chuckling)

"Yup. And look at me now—a model of discipline."

GUARD #1

(skeptical)

"That's debatable."

GUARD #2

(seriously)

"My point is, he's not a bad kid. He's embarrassed enough as it is. Calling his family will do the job better than throwing him in the brig."

GUARD #1

(glancing at Ethan, his expression softening)

"Fine. But if he pulls a stunt like this again, we're not having this conversation. He's done."

GUARD #2

(nodding)

"Fair enough."

Guard #2 taps his communicator, calling Ethan's family, while Guard #1 sighs and shakes his head, muttering under his breath. Ethan looks up briefly, wiping his face, unsure if he should feel relieved or mortified.

INT. CELESTARA – HOLDING AREA – LATER

The door hisses open, and the Jenkins family strides into the room. **Dana** and **Greg** lead the way, their expressions a mix of worry and fury. **Harper** follows behind, arms crossed, while **Jace** lags slightly, his hand intertwined with **Raven's**, who walks beside him with her usual cool demeanor. Her dark eyeliner and sharp smirk suggest she's enjoying the drama more than she should.

Dana rushes forward, her voice sharp.

DANA

"Ethan! Are you okay? Are you hurt?"

Ethan looks up slowly, his face pale and tear-streaked. He shakes his head, his voice barely above a whisper.

ETHAN

"I'm fine... Mom, I—"

Before he can finish, Dana's concern transforms into anger. She plants her hands on her hips, her voice rising.

DANA

(interrupting, furious)

"What were you thinking? Trespassing into a restricted area? Chasing after someone who clearly didn't want to be bothered? Do you realize how serious this is?"

GREG

(stepping forward, voice booming)

"You embarrassed yourself and this family, Ethan! You could've been thrown off the ship! Do you even understand what that means?"

Ethan shrinks under their anger, his voice cracking as he stammers.

ETHAN

"I just wanted to meet her... I wasn't trying to hurt anyone."

HARPER

(smirking)

"Well, congrats, Ethan. I'm sure Victoria Stellar is thrilled to have her vacation ruined because of you."

JACE

(grinning)

"Yeah, I bet she's writing you a thank-you note as we speak."

RAVEN

(mockingly, leaning slightly toward Jace)

"Or maybe she's filing a restraining order. Either way, you've really made an impression, kid."

Ethan groans, burying his face in his hands.

ETHAN

"Can you not? Please?"

DANA

(snapping)

"That's enough, you three!"

She turns back to **Ethan**, her voice trembling with frustration.

DANA

"You broke the rules. You ignored every warning. Do you have any idea how lucky you are that the guards didn't throw you off this ship? You've put us all in a terrible position!"

GREG

(sternly)

"And because of that, you're done making decisions for yourself. From now on, you're staying with us. Wherever we go, you go."

Ethan's head snaps up, his eyes wide with alarm.

ETHAN

(pleading)

"What? No! Mom, Dad, I'm sorry! I won't do anything like this again—I promise!"

DANA

(flatly)

"You've already broken our trust, Ethan. This isn't about promises. It's about making sure you don't ruin the rest of this trip for everyone else."

GREG

(firmly)

"Consider yourself grounded. You're with us every second of the day. No exceptions."

HARPER

(mocking)

"Looks like you're our new shadow. Hope you enjoy tagging along to all the boring family stuff."

JACE

(chuckling)

"And good luck surviving Mom's endless photo ops."

Ethan slumps back against the bench, defeated.

ETHAN

(mumbling)

"Great."

The guards step forward, their expressions stern. **Guard #1** speaks first, his tone clipped.

GUARD #1

"Your son is lucky we're letting him off with a warning. But make no mistake—this is his one and only chance. If he steps out of line again, he's out of here."

GUARD #2

(softer)

"We're hoping he's learned his lesson. Just keep him close, and we won't have any more problems."

Dana nods, her voice tight with gratitude.

DANA

"Thank you. We'll make sure he understands how serious this is."

Ethan glances at the guards, his voice trembling.

ETHAN

"I'm sorry. Thank you for giving me another chance."

GUARD #1

(flatly)

"Don't waste it, kid."

As the family exits the holding area, Dana keeps a firm hand on Ethan's shoulder, steering him forward. Her voice is sharp, but there's a touch of relief underneath the frustration.

DANA

"You're not leaving our sight, Ethan. For the rest of this trip, wherever we go, you go. No arguments."

GREG

(grimly)

"You're lucky you're still on this ship. Don't make us regret giving you another chance."

HARPER

(teasing)

"Guess that means you're coming to the boring art exhibits and Dad's history tours. Enjoy."

JACE

(grinning)

"Better start brushing up on your trivia skills for Family Quiz Night."

Ethan groans softly but doesn't argue. He nods, his shoulders slumping as he walks with them down the corridor.

The guards exchange a glance as the door hisses shut.

GUARD #2

(smirking)

"You think he'll actually stay out of trouble?"

GUARD #1

(flatly)

"He'd better. Next time, there won't be a discussion."

The two guards turn and walk away, their boots echoing in the quiet holding area.

INT. CELESTARA – FAMILY CABIN – DAY

The Jenkins family is gathered in their cabin, the sleek, futuristic space glowing with soft ambient light. Dana is at the dining area, reviewing a holographic itinerary. Greg stands by the door, checking his communicator. Harper and Jace lounge on the couch, with Raven, Jace's girlfriend, sitting cross-legged on the floor nearby. Ethan sulks in a chair off to the side, his arms crossed.

DANA

(excitedly)

"Okay, everyone, I've got our spots reserved for the Captain's Tour! We'll get to see the bridge, learn about navigation systems, and even step inside Captain Kane's quarters. Isn't that exciting?"

GREG

(nodding)

"This isn't just a regular tour, you know. It's extremely exclusive. Only a select few passengers ever get to do this."

HARPER

(skeptical, scrolling through her tablet)

"Sounds like a school field trip. Except in space. I think I'll pass."

JACE

(grinning, leaning back)

"Yeah, same here. Sorry, but standing in the captain's quarters doesn't exactly scream fun to me."

DANA

(cutting in firmly)

"Fun or not, this is a privilege. Do you realize how many people on this ship *wish* they could be in our place right now? They had to turn people away for this."

HARPER

(shrugging)

"Still sounds boring. I already signed up for the virtual art exhibit. That's way more my speed."

JACE

(grinning at Raven)

"And we've got our moves to work on. Priorities, Mom."

RAVEN

(teasing)

"Hey, don't knock the gaming lounge and dance floor. We've got important things to prep for."

GREG

(sternly)

"You three need to understand how special this opportunity is. This isn't just some sightseeing tour. It's a behind-the-scenes look at the *Axiom's* most restricted areas. People save for years to even get on this ship, let alone do what we're about to do."

DANA

(pleading)

"You'll regret it if you don't go. Trust me, this isn't something you get to do twice in a lifetime."

HARPER

(skeptical)

"I'll take my chances."

JACE

(grinning, gesturing toward Raven)

"And we've got our plans, so... thanks, but no thanks."

GREG

(sighing in frustration)

"Fine. But don't come complaining later about what you missed."

DANA

(turning to Ethan)

"Ethan, you're coming with us."

ETHAN

(whining)

"What? Why me? I don't care about the captain's quarters!"

GREG

(firmly)

"Because you've already shown you can't be trusted on your own. And you're not missing something this important. End of discussion."

ETHAN

(groaning)

"Come on! I already said I was sorry!"

DANA

(flatly)

"And sorry doesn't change the fact that you're coming with us. Now go get ready."

HARPER

(grinning at Ethan)

"Have fun being Mom and Dad's shadow. Maybe ask Captain Kane how to polish a command console."

JACE

(laughing)

"Or if he'll let you push some buttons. Big moment for you, Ethan."

RAVEN

(trying to lighten the mood)

"It might be cooler than you think, Ethan. And hey, you'll have something to brag about later."

ETHAN

(sulking)

"Yeah, sure. Great."

DANA

(clapping her hands)

"Alright, enough complaining. We leave in twenty minutes. Ethan, go get ready."

Ethan drags himself out of the chair, muttering under his breath as he heads to his room. Harper and Jace exchange amused looks, while Raven gives Dana an apologetic smile.

GREG

(watching Harper, Jace, and Raven)

"And the three of you—stay out of trouble. I mean it."

HARPER

(mocking innocence)

"Trouble? Us? Never."

JACE

(grinning)

"Totally innocent. Just dancers, Dad."

RAVEN

(nodding)

"Yeah, just dancers with smoothies waiting afterward."

The three exit, leaving Dana and Greg shaking their heads.

DANA

(sighing)

"Teenagers. They'll regret missing this someday."

GREG

(nodding)

"Let's just hope Ethan gets something out of it."

Dana returns to her itinerary, while Greg checks his communicator. The cabin settles into quiet preparation for the tour.

Part 5

INT. CELESTARA – VIP LOUNGE – DAY

Dana, Greg, and Ethan step into the VIP Lounge, a luxurious space with plush seating and a panoramic view of the stars. Standing at the center is Captain Kane, a tall man with a commanding yet approachable presence, dressed in his crisp, white captain's uniform. Two other families, each with their own mix of parents and children, are already gathered, chatting quietly.

As the Jenkins family enters, Captain Kane claps his hands together, drawing everyone's attention.

CAPTAIN KANE

(with a warm smile)

"Welcome, everyone! I'm Captain Kane, and I'll be your guide for this very exclusive Captain's Tour. It's great to see so many eager faces today. Before we begin, let's take a moment to get acquainted, shall we?"

He gestures toward the first family, a well-dressed couple with two teenage daughters.

CAPTAIN KANE

"Let's start over here. This is the Sandoval family, all the way from Buenos Aires. It's a pleasure to have you aboard."

The Sandovals smile and wave politely.

CAPTAIN KANE

(nodding toward the next group, a young couple with a small boy)

"And over here, we have the Martins from Sydney. Young Zach here might just be our youngest space enthusiast on this tour."

The little boy beams as his parents chuckle.

CAPTAIN KANE

(finally turning to Dana, Greg, and Ethan)

"And last but not least, the Jenkins family from...?"

DANA

(speaking up)

"New York. We're thrilled to be here."

CAPTAIN KANE

(acknowledging with a nod)

"Fantastic. New York, Buenos Aires, Sydney—we've got a truly international group today. Now, Jenkins family, I noticed you're missing a few members. Are they on their way?"

GREG

(slightly sheepish)

"Actually, Captain, they decided to do their own thing. Virtual exhibits and dance practice sounded more appealing to them."

CAPTAIN KANE

(laughing heartily)

"Ah, I see. Well, I can't blame them—this tour isn't everyone's cup of tea. Some folks hear 'ship systems' and think it's all technical jargon. But for those of us who love space, it's a front-row seat to how the magic happens."

He looks at Ethan with a friendly grin.

CAPTAIN KANE

"And what about you, young man? Ready to see how this ship works, or were you roped into this?"

ETHAN

(sulking slightly)

"Definitely roped into it."

CAPTAIN KANE

(chuckling)

"Fair enough. Stick with me—I'll do my best to make it interesting. Who knows? You might leave this tour with a newfound appreciation for space travel."

The other families laugh lightly, easing the mood. Captain Kane gestures toward a sleek corridor.

CAPTAIN KANE

"Alright, now that we're all introduced, let's get started. You're about to step into the heart of the Celestara—the bridge. This is where everything happens, from navigation to communication to

ensuring we all enjoy a smooth and safe journey. Follow me, and feel free to ask questions along the way."

INT. CELESTARA – BRIDGE ACCESS POINT – DAY

The group approaches a checkpoint guarded by two sleek AI robots. The machines are tall, silver, and equipped with glowing blue visors. They scan Captain Kane's badge as the doors slide open smoothly, revealing the pristine bridge ahead.

Ethan's eyes flick between the motionless robots and the badge clipped to the Captain's uniform. Unlike the VIP section he had tried to sneak into earlier, there are no human guards, no layers of stern faces watching every move. Just the quiet, unfeeling AI and a badge.

His brow furrows as he glances back at the robots. They don't even acknowledge the tour group, only scanning for authorization before resuming their automated patrols.

ETHAN

(thinking, to himself)

"That's it? Just a badge? No guards?"

The thought lingers in his mind. Compared to the VIP section, where human security scrutinized every person and movement, this area seems... vulnerable. Almost too easy.

Greg nudges Ethan gently, breaking his train of thought.

GREG

(quietly)

"Starting to see how cool this is?"

ETHAN

(snapping out of it)

"Yeah, totally."

But his mind isn't on the tour anymore. He lags behind slightly as the group moves forward, watching the AI robots and mentally cataloging every detail.

INT. CELESTARA – BRIDGE – DAY

The group steps into the bridge, a stunning expanse of technology and sleek design. Holographic displays float in the air, and the stars outside form a breathtaking backdrop. Captain Kane leads them to a glowing console and begins explaining the navigation systems, but Ethan's focus isn't on the Captain's words.

He glances back toward the checkpoint, his mind still turning over the lack of human presence and how easily someone with a stolen badge could slip through.

ETHAN

(softly, to himself)

"Way easier than the VIP section..."

Greg notices Ethan zoning out and places a hand on his shoulder.

GREG

(whispering)

"Come on, pay attention. You're lucky to be here."

Ethan nods absently but keeps glancing toward the door, an idea starting to form—one he knows could get him into a lot of trouble.

INT. CELESTARA – ENGINE ROOM – DAY

The group stands inside the ship's massive engine room, a cavernous space filled with towering machinery and glowing energy conduits. The low hum of the engines reverberates through the air as Captain Kane gestures toward a massive control panel, his voice steady and enthusiastic.

CAPTAIN KANE

"And here we have the heart of the Celestara's propulsion system—the Quantum Core Drive. This beauty allows us to travel light-years in mere days. The energy you see coursing through those conduits is a stabilized quantum flow, carefully monitored 24/7 by our engineering team."

The Sandoval daughters exchange a glance, clearly uninterested, while little Zach from the Martin family tugs on his mom's sleeve, looking restless. Meanwhile, Ethan shifts his weight from one foot to the other, his eyes glazing over as he stares blankly at the glowing machinery.

ETHAN

(muttering under his breath)

"Great. Fancy glowing pipes. So exciting."

Greg notices Ethan's boredom and places a reassuring hand on his son's shoulder.

GREG

(quietly, leaning down)

"Hey, come on, give it a chance. This is the kind of stuff that makes everything else on this ship work. Pretty cool when you think about it, right?"

ETHAN

(skeptical)

"It's just a bunch of machines. What's so fun about that?"

GREG

(grinning)

"Fun? Are you kidding? This is like being inside the engine of a race car—except it's a spaceship. Think about it: without all this, we'd still be stuck on Earth."

Ethan looks at his dad, trying to match his enthusiasm but only half-succeeding.

ETHAN

(half-smiling)

"I guess it's kinda cool... if you're into this stuff."

GREG

(encouragingly)

"That's the spirit. You're learning how the most advanced ship in the galaxy works. How many kids back home can say they've done that?"

Ethan glances back at the Quantum Core Drive, his interest slightly piqued. He tilts his head, watching the glowing conduits pulse rhythmically.

ETHAN

(softly)

"Okay, maybe it's not *totally* boring."

Greg chuckles and gives him a small nudge, glad to see him coming around.

CAPTAIN KANE

(continuing his explanation)

"This drive is powered by a combination of dark matter and solar fusion energy. It's one of the most efficient systems in the universe. In fact, the Celestara is the first of its kind to use this technology on a commercial scale."

Little Zach tugs on Captain Kane's jacket, his curiosity overcoming his restlessness.

ZACH

(excitedly)

"Does it go really fast?"

CAPTAIN KANE

(smiling warmly)

"Faster than you can imagine, Zach. At full speed, we can travel over 100,000 light-years in a single jump."

The group murmurs in awe, including Ethan, who raises an eyebrow, impressed despite himself.

ETHAN

(whispering to Greg)

"Okay, that's actually kinda cool."

GREG

(grinning)

"Told you."

The Captain moves to another section, gesturing toward a glowing holographic display showing the ship's power systems.

CAPTAIN KANE

"Alright, let's head over here. I'll show you how we balance power across the ship's key systems—navigation, life support, and, of course, entertainment. Any questions so far?"

The group begins to follow him, with Dana eagerly jotting down notes on her holographic pad. Ethan tags along, his curiosity growing as Greg leans down with a quiet, satisfied smile.

GREG

(whispering to Ethan)

"Sometimes it just takes a little patience to see how fun something really is."

Ethan gives a small nod, his earlier boredom fading as he starts to look around with a bit more interest.

INT. CELESTARA – CORRIDOR LEADING TO THE NEXUS COMMAND – DAY

The tour group walks down a dimly lit, sleek corridor. The hum of the ship's systems is louder here, almost rhythmic, as if they're approaching the ship's very brain. Captain Kane leads the way, his badge glowing faintly as he approaches a large, circular door with the words "**NEXUS COMMAND**" illuminated above it in bold, glowing letters.

CAPTAIN KANE

(gesturing to the door)

"And here, ladies and gentlemen, is the most secure and powerful room aboard the Celestara: The Nexus Command."

The families exchange curious glances, except for Ethan, whose interest is immediately piqued.

CAPTAIN KANE

"This is where the ship's most critical decisions are made. From this room, we can control everything—navigation, security, even the atmosphere in any section of the ship. Only a handful of people, including myself and a few administrators, have access to this room."

He places his badge against a glowing scanner, and the circular door slides open with a quiet hiss. The air inside feels cooler, almost electric, as if the room itself is alive.

INT. CELESTARA – NEXUS COMMAND – DAY

The group steps into a cavernous room filled with towering holographic displays, pulsating energy conduits, and a massive central console that looks more like a throne than a workstation. The walls are lined with screens displaying real-time data from every part of the ship—cameras, passenger activity, system diagnostics, and even menus from the ship's restaurants.

Ethan's eyes widen as he takes in the scale of the room.

ETHAN

(amazed, whispering)

"This is insane..."

Captain Kane walks toward the central console, gesturing to the displays.

CAPTAIN KANE

"From here, we can manage every aspect of the ship. Need to adjust the menu at the Stardust Café? Done."

(he taps a hologram, and a list of menu items pops up)

"Want to lower the temperature on Deck 12? Just a swipe."

He demonstrates, sliding his hand across a holographic control. A temperature gauge on one of the screens changes, and the group watches in awe.

CAPTAIN KANE

"Security, communications, energy distribution... you name it. Everything happens here."

Little Zach tugs on his mom's sleeve, his eyes glued to the displays.

ZACH

(excitedly)

"Can you make it rain inside the ship?"

Captain Kane laughs, shaking his head.

CAPTAIN KANE

"Not quite, Zach. But I could make it snow in the observation lounge if I wanted to."

The parents chuckle, but Ethan steps closer to the console, his face lit with fascination. He stares at a screen showing live footage from various parts of the ship, including the VIP section and the engine room they had just visited.

ETHAN

(awed)

"You can see everything from here?"

CAPTAIN KANE

(smiling)

"That's right. The Nexus Command is the eyes, ears, and brain of the Celestara. This room ensures everything runs smoothly—and keeps everyone safe."

Greg leans down to Ethan, noticing his son's wide-eyed expression.

GREG

(quietly, with a grin)

"Pretty cool, huh?"

ETHAN

(nods slowly, almost to himself)

"Yeah... way cooler than I thought."

Captain Kane taps another hologram, and a list of commands appears, ranging from **"Adjust Gravity Levels"** to **"Issue Detention Order."**

ETHAN

(pointing)

"What's that? 'Issue Detention Order'... what does it do?"

Captain Kane steps closer to the console, his sharp gaze shifting to the holographic display.

CAPTAIN KANE

"That, Ethan, is one of the most important tools we have to keep the Celestara safe. If someone breaks the rules or endangers the ship, we issue a detention order, and the system immediately takes action."

Before Ethan can ask more, a chime interrupts. A red alert flashes on the main display:

"Unauthorized Activity Detected: Art Gallery – Deck 5."

The group murmurs in surprise as Captain Kane's demeanor shifts to calm but focused authority.

CAPTAIN KANE

"Well, it looks like someone's testing their luck. Let me show you how this works in real-time."

He swipes across the display, bringing up a live feed of the art gallery. The camera zooms in on a man in a dark jacket hurriedly removing a small, framed painting from the wall. He glances nervously around, clutching it as he moves toward the exit.

DANA

(gasping)

"He's actually stealing it!"

Captain Kane narrows his eyes as he pulls up a secondary display. The system runs a biometric scan of the man's face, and within seconds, his profile appears: **Anthony Reyes, Passenger ID 7849.**

CAPTAIN KANE

(typing on the holographic keyboard, his voice sharp)

"Name: Anthony Reyes. Passenger ID: 7849. Offense: Attempted theft of Celestara property."

He taps a few keys, selecting "**Confirm Detention Order**" and swiping to authorize the command.

CAPTAIN KANE

"Let's handle this."

INT. CELESTARA – ART GALLERY – DAY

The live feed shows the coordinated response. Two human guards and two AI robots enter the gallery from opposite sides. Anthony freezes mid-step, still clutching the painting, his face pale as the guards approach.

GUARD #1

(firmly)

"Sir, step away from the painting. Now."

Anthony stammers, clearly panicked.

ANTHONY

"I-I wasn't stealing it! I just wanted a closer look!"

The AI robot scans him and emits a calm but commanding voice.

AI ROBOT

"Anthony Reyes. Passenger ID 7849. Detected violation: Unauthorized removal of Celestara property."

The guards move quickly. One removes the painting from his grip and returns it to its display, while the other secures his wrists with magnetic restraints.

GUARD #2

"You're being detained. Resistance will escalate the consequences."

Anthony lowers his head in defeat as the guards escort him out of the gallery. The AI robots ensure the painting is secure before following the guards.

INT. CELESTARA – NEXUS COMMAND – CONTINUOUS

The group watches the entire incident unfold on the holographic display. Captain Kane turns back to them, his tone sharp and laced with anger.

CAPTAIN KANE

"And that's how we deal with rule-breakers aboard the Celestara. No tolerance for theft or misconduct."

The display shifts to show Anthony being led into a detention area, where a containment cell awaits him. A new alert flashes: **"Pending Confirmation: Detention in Isolation Cell."**

ETHAN

(awed)

"What happens next?"

Captain Kane taps the screen, showing the full disciplinary process. His voice grows harder, his anger evident.

CAPTAIN KANE

"First, he'll be placed in an isolation cell until the violation is confirmed. Total darkness. No sound. No communication. It's not a vacation—it's a reminder of the consequences of his actions."

The screen transitions to footage of **The Walk of Shame**. A previous offender is shown being escorted through the ship, flanked by guards and an AI robot. A glowing holographic sign floats above their head, flashing their crime: **"THIEF."**

CAPTAIN KANE

(his tone rising with frustration)

"After that, he'll walk the Walk of Shame. Everyone on this ship will see what he did. His crime will be displayed for all to read. He'll know the humiliation of being branded a thief."

He pauses, his eyes narrowing as he continues.

CAPTAIN KANE

"And finally, he'll be ejected from this ship. No refunds. No appeals. He'll be packed into an escape pod and sent back to Earth, where he can explain himself to the authorities."

The display shows a glowing escape pod being launched into space, a small dot heading toward Earth. The group exchanges uneasy glances, the severity of the punishment sinking in.

DANA

(quietly)

"That's... harsh."

CAPTAIN KANE

(firmly)

"It has to be. This ship is home to thousands of people. If we allow even one person to break the rules, it threatens the safety and enjoyment of everyone on board."

Ethan stares at the glowing badge on Captain Kane's chest, then back at the holographic displays. His fascination with the Nexus Command deepens, his mind racing with thoughts about the immense power it holds.

ETHAN

(softly, to himself)

"This place is incredible..."

Captain Kane takes a deep breath, his tone softening as he gestures for the group to follow him.

CAPTAIN KANE

"Now that you've seen our security protocols in action, let's move on to navigation and environmental controls. Follow me."

The group begins to leave, but Ethan lingers for a moment longer, staring at the command console and the live feed of the detainee. His curiosity about the Nexus Command—and how easily it can control everything—burns brighter than ever.

INT. CELESTARA – NEXUS COMMAND – DAY

Captain Kane continues to explain the final features of the Celestara's Nexus Command, his voice commanding attention. The group listens intently, their eyes glued to the towering holographic displays. Ethan, however, lingers at the back, his thoughts consumed by the incredible power he's witnessed.

CAPTAIN KANE

"And this here is the Emergency Override System. It's a failsafe that ensures the ship's critical functions can be controlled from any secure location during a crisis, provided proper clearance is granted."

Dana and Greg stand close to Captain Kane, captivated by his explanation. Dana jots notes into her holographic pad, while Greg leans forward, clearly fascinated.

DANA

"This is all so advanced. It's incredible what technology can do."

GREG

(nodding)

"Yeah, and to think, all of this is running seamlessly behind the scenes."

Ethan takes a subtle step back from the group, unnoticed. His parents are too absorbed in Captain Kane's words to pay attention to their son.

CAPTAIN KANE

(gesturing to the display)

"The Nexus Command allows us to control everything with precision, from navigation to security, ensuring a smooth experience for everyone aboard."

Ethan's eyes drift to a nearby door, slightly ajar, marked "**Captain's Office – Authorized Personnel Only.**" He hesitates for a moment, then glances at his parents, who are still deep in conversation with the Captain.

DANA

(enthusiastically)

"And the Emergency Override System—how often does it need to be used?"

CAPTAIN KANE

"Rarely, thankfully, but it's an essential failsafe for emergencies."

Seeing his opportunity, Ethan quietly slips away, his heart pounding with excitement.

Ethan pushes the door open just enough to slide inside. The office is sleek and futuristic, with a desk surrounded by holographic displays and a row of lockers along one wall. The room is eerily quiet, amplifying the thrum of his heartbeat.

His eyes lock onto one locker that's slightly open. A glowing badge hangs inside, dangling from a hook.

ETHAN

(whispering, grinning)

"Gotcha."

He moves quickly but carefully, pulling the badge off the hook. He holds it in his hand, the glow from the badge lighting up his face.

ETHAN

(to himself)

"All-access. This is perfect."

He tucks the badge into his pocket and peeks back out the door. The group is still gathered around Captain Kane, who is gesturing to another feature on the console.

Ethan slips back into the group unnoticed. Dana and Greg are still focused on Captain Kane, who's concluding the tour.

CAPTAIN KANE

"And that concludes our Captain's Tour. I hope you've enjoyed this exclusive look at the Celestara's inner workings. Remember, what you've seen here is what keeps this ship running smoothly and safely. Thank you for joining me."

The group applauds politely. Dana turns to Greg, her eyes sparkling with excitement.

DANA

"That was amazing. The technology here is light-years ahead of anything I imagined."

GREG

(grinning)

"Absolutely. This is something we'll be talking about for years."

They don't notice Ethan standing a little behind them, his hand casually resting in his pocket, where the badge feels heavy with promise.

GREG

(looking at Ethan)

"Pretty incredible, huh, Ethan?"

ETHAN

(nodding, his voice distant)

"Yeah... pretty incredible."

As the group begins to leave, Dana and Greg are still chatting about the tour. Ethan lags slightly behind, glancing back one last time at the Nexus Command.

Walking with the group, Ethan keeps his face neutral, but a sly smile tugs at the corners of his lips. His parents are too engrossed in their own conversation to notice him. The badge in his pocket feels like a key to unlimited possibilities, and his mind races with ideas.

ETHAN

(to himself, grinning)

"This is going to be fun."

His wonderful, awful idea has fully taken root, and he's ready to see how far he can push it.

The group exits the Nexus Command, their faces lit with amazement from the incredible tour they just experienced. Dana and Greg walk side by side, still buzzing with excitement, while Ethan lingers behind, his hand brushing against the badge hidden in his pocket.

DANA

(turning to Ethan)

"So, what did you think, Ethan? Pretty amazing, right?"

GREG

(grinning)

"Yeah, not every kid gets to see the inner workings of a ship like this. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience!"

Ethan hesitates for a second, then lights up with an excitement that feels out of place—but his parents don't notice.

ETHAN

(grinning widely)

"Oh, yeah! That was... incredible. So much fun!"

His tone is genuine, but the sparkle in his eyes isn't from the tour. His parents assume he's excited about the experience, but Ethan's mind is racing with the possibilities the badge in his pocket has unlocked.

DANA

(smiling warmly)

"I'm so glad you enjoyed it. See? We told you it'd be worth it!"

GREG

(placing a hand on Ethan's shoulder)

"Exactly. You'll be talking about this for years, guaranteed."

Ethan nods enthusiastically, though his thoughts are far from their conversation. He can barely contain the grin spreading across his face as ideas begin to solidify in his mind.

ETHAN

"Yeah... definitely something I'll never forget."

His parents smile at each other, pleased that Ethan seems so engaged, and continue talking about the tour as they walk down the corridor.

Dana points to a nearby observation lounge.

DANA

"Let's stop by and grab a snack. I could use a break after all that excitement."

GREG

(nodding)

"Good idea. Ethan, what about you? Hungry?"

ETHAN

(snapping out of his thoughts)

"Huh? Oh, yeah. Sure."

They head toward the lounge, Dana and Greg chatting about the ship's systems and the Captain's demonstrations. Ethan trails behind slightly, his grin turning into a sly smirk. His fingers brush the badge again, the weight of it reminding him of the power it represents.

ETHAN

(to himself, quietly)

"This is going to be... amazing."

The camera lingers on Ethan as he follows his parents, his wonderful, awful idea fully formed but unrevealed.

Part 6

INT. CELESTARA – CELESTIAL DINING HALL – NIGHT

The Jenkins family gathers for dinner in the Celestara's most luxurious restaurant, the **Celestial Dining Hall**. The ambiance is nothing short of magical: soft golden lights shimmer overhead like stars, and a holographic view of the galaxy stretches across the walls. The table is adorned with elegant dishes and crystal glasses, each seat set with care.

A robotic server glides over, presenting menus that hover in front of each family member, displaying a dazzling array of futuristic cuisine.

DANA

(looking around, delighted)

"This is stunning. I've never seen anything like it!"

GREG

(nodding, impressed)

"Yeah, I don't know if the food's going to match the decor, but it's already a win in my book."

HARPER

(smirking, scrolling through the menu)

"Well, let's just hope Dad doesn't order something that moves on the plate."

GREG

(mock serious)

"Hey, I'm trying new things! That's the point of this trip."

JACE

(grinning)

"Just don't eat something that glows. You might end up lighting the room."

The family laughs as the server returns with sparkling drinks and appetizers that look almost too perfect to eat. Dana immediately pulls out her camera, snapping photos of the food and the setting.

DANA

(gleeful)

"Okay, everyone, smile! Let's get a family picture."

The family poses reluctantly, except for Ethan, who stares off, clearly distracted. Dana notices but doesn't comment, thinking he's just tired.

LATER – DINNER IS SERVED

Plates of futuristic delicacies arrive, each dish a masterpiece. The family digs in, their faces lighting up as they taste the incredible food.

HARPER

(savoring a bite)

"Okay, this is insane. Definitely the best meal I've ever had."

RAVEN

(nodding)

"I could get used to this. What's that, Jace? Third plate already?"

JACE

(mock defensively)

"What can I say? A guy's gotta eat."

DANA

(laughing)

"Careful, Jace. Don't eat too much or you'll have to roll back to the cabin."

GREG

(raising his glass)

"Alright, everyone, let's hear it—what was the best part of your day?"

HARPER

(grinning)

"Definitely the virtual art exhibit. The way the colors moved and changed while you interacted with them? Amazing."

RAVEN

"Same here. That, and beating Jace at virtual fencing in the gaming lounge."

JACE

(rolling his eyes)

"You cheated. That bot totally blocked my swing."

RAVEN

(teasing)

"Sure, blame the bot. Admit it, I'm just better."

The family laughs as Jace mutters something under his breath.

DANA

(turning to Ethan)

"And what about you, Ethan? Did you enjoy the Captain's Tour?"

Ethan's face lights up, but not for the reason his parents think. He forces an enthusiastic nod, trying to hide the secret excitement bubbling inside him.

ETHAN

"Oh, yeah! It was... awesome. The Nexus Command was incredible! So much to see, so much... power."

Jace smirks, leaning closer to Raven.

JACE

"Careful, Ethan. Don't go falling in love with the ship now. You've already got your celebrity crush to think about."

HARPER

(grinning)

"Yeah, you gonna ask the ship to prom, Ethan? Maybe Captain Kane will chaperone."

Ethan flushes but laughs it off, his excitement too strong to be dampened.

ETHAN

"Very funny. But seriously, it was amazing. You guys missed out."

DANA

(softly)

"I'm glad you had fun. It looked like you were really enjoying it."

Ethan nods again, his fingers brushing the badge hidden in his pocket. His smile grows as he glances down at his plate, the wheels in his head turning.

GREG

(raising his glass)

"To an amazing first day on the Celestara. Here's to more adventures tomorrow!"

ALL

(clinking glasses)

"Cheers!"

The family laughs and continues enjoying their meal, oblivious to the mischievous glint in Ethan's eye. As they chat and joke, Ethan sits quietly, his mind already plotting his next move, his wonderful, awful idea growing stronger by the minute.

The camera lingers on his sly smile before fading to the shimmering galaxy view surrounding the restaurant.

After the dinner, the Jenkins family strolls through the softly lit corridors of the Celestara, still savoring the memories of their exquisite dinner. Dana walks arm-in-arm with Greg, her voice warm as she leans toward him.

DANA

"That meal was incredible. But I was thinking... how about we take a little time for ourselves tonight? Just the two of us."

Greg glances at her and smiles.

GREG

"Sounds like a plan. The stargazing lounge you mentioned earlier?"

DANA

(nodding eagerly)

"Exactly. Just you, me, and the stars. Let's drop the kids off and head there."

As they continue walking, Ethan's ears perk up. He steps forward, curiosity lighting up his face.

ETHAN

"Wait, stargazing? That sounds awesome! Can I come?"

Dana chuckles, shaking her head gently.

DANA

"Not this time, sweetheart. This is just for your dad and me."

Greg pats Ethan on the shoulder with a reassuring smile.

GREG

"You've had plenty of fun today, buddy. Let us have a little time to ourselves."

Ethan frowns slightly.

ETHAN

"But what am I supposed to do? Just sit in the room all night?"

Dana exchanges a quick look with Greg and shrugs.

DANA

"Of course not. You're free to do your own thing."

GREG

"Yeah, explore, have fun, whatever you want. Just don't stay up too late."

Ethan stops dead in his tracks, his eyes wide in disbelief.

ETHAN

(stunned)

"Wait... what? You're letting me go off on my own?"

Harper, Jace, and Raven all pause, equally shocked.

HARPER

"Hold on. You're seriously letting Ethan roam free?"

JACE

(half-laughing)

"Did you guys hit your heads or something?"

RAVEN

(teasing)

"Yeah, the last time Ethan had 'freedom,' didn't something almost blow up?"

Greg waves them off dismissively.

GREG

"Relax, guys. He's fine. He can handle himself."

DANA

"Exactly. He's on a spaceship full of amazing things to do. Go have fun, Ethan."

Ethan's mouth opens and closes, completely dumbfounded.

ETHAN

(awestruck)

"You're serious? Just like that? You trust me to do... whatever?"

Dana smiles warmly, completely unfazed by the disbelief.

DANA

"Of course. You're a smart kid. Just don't get into trouble."

Greg nods, oblivious to the skeptical stares from Harper, Jace, and Raven.

GREG

"And remember—don't go anywhere you're not supposed to. Simple rules, right?"

Ethan's disbelief melts into a massive grin. He nods eagerly, his excitement bubbling over.

ETHAN

"Right! Got it! No trouble. I'll be good. Promise!"

Dana and Greg smile, satisfied, and wave as they head off down a different corridor toward the stargazing lounge.

DANA

"Goodnight, everyone. See you later!"

GREG

"Have fun, kids!"

The moment they're out of earshot, Harper turns to Ethan, her jaw dropping.

HARPER

"Okay, what just happened? Did they seriously just give you a free pass?"

JACE

(laughing in disbelief)

"Unbelievable. Mom and Dad must be more tired than I thought."

RAVEN

(shaking her head)

"Or maybe they're just trying to get rid of him."

Ethan shrugs, his grin widening as his siblings' teasing rolls off his back.

ETHAN

"Who cares? They said I can do whatever I want. This is amazing."

He pulls his badge from his pocket, the faint glow lighting up his face. Harper notices and narrows her eyes suspiciously.

HARPER

(raising an eyebrow)

"What's that?"

Ethan quickly tucks the badge back into his pocket, his grin turning sly.

ETHAN

"Nothing. Just... something cool I found."

He starts walking away, his steps light and full of purpose.

As Ethan begins to walk away with a spring in his step, Harper strides after him, grabbing his arm and pulling him aside. Jace and Raven exchange glances, amused but curious, and follow behind.

HARPER

(seriously, lowering her voice)

"Hold up, Ethan. We need to talk."

Ethan looks at her, his grin fading slightly.

ETHAN

(confused)

"About what? I'm just going to have fun."

Harper folds her arms, her expression stern.

HARPER

"Listen, you've already pulled one crazy stunt today, and somehow, Mom and Dad are acting like it never happened. But I'm telling you right now—don't even think about doing anything that involves Victoria."

Ethan frowns, trying to play innocent.

ETHAN

"I wasn't going to—"

HARPER

(cutting him off)

"I mean it, Ethan! If you mess up again and get caught doing something stupid, they could kick us off this ship. Do you really want to ruin the trip for all of us?"

JACE

(leaning in, smirking)

"Yeah, because nothing screams 'vacation goals' like being ejected in an escape pod back to Earth."

RAVEN

(mock seriously)

"Or having your face plastered on every screen: 'Ethan Jenkins, Rule Breaker Extraordinaire.'"

Ethan sighs, rolling his eyes.

ETHAN

"Alright, alright. I get it! I promise I'm not going to follow Victoria or do anything stupid. Okay?"

Harper narrows her eyes, studying him closely.

HARPER

"You swear?"

ETHAN

(raising his hand)

"I swear! Cross my heart, hope to die, and all that."

Satisfied, Harper lets go of his arm, though her expression remains skeptical.

HARPER

"Good. Because if you screw this up, you're on your own. Got it?"

Ethan nods quickly, eager to escape the interrogation.

ETHAN

"Got it! Can I go now?"

Ethan walks away with a spring in his step, his grin wide as he disappears around a corner, humming quietly to himself. Harper watches him go, her arms crossed tightly, shaking her head in frustration.

RAVEN

(shaking her head)

"I can't believe your parents just handed your brother a free pass after everything. What are they thinking?"

Jace laughs dryly, glancing in the direction Ethan went.

JACE

"They're not. That's the beauty of it. Mom and Dad are too busy planning their stargazing date to realize they've just greenlit a disaster."

Raven snorts, still processing it.

RAVEN

"Yeah, 'Do your own thing'? After the Victoria stunt? Real top-tier parenting right there."

HARPER

(scoffing)

"They're in complete denial. It's like they've forgotten how sneaky Ethan is."

RAVEN

"Well, we all know how this ends. He's going to do something, and when he gets caught, we'll all pay the price."

JACE

(teasing)

"Yeah, front-row seats to the chaos, and then we get to clean it up. Thanks, Ethan."

Raven sighs, leaning slightly against Jace, her tone shifting from teasing to serious.

RAVEN

"I don't like this. He's up to something—I can feel it."

Harper nods in agreement, her unease growing.

HARPER

"If he gets us kicked off this ship, I'll never forgive him."

Jace's smirk fades as he exchanges a worried glance with Raven.

JACE

(quietly)

"Yeah, this isn't funny anymore."

RAVEN

(seriously)

"Nope. It's not."

The three stand in silence for a moment, their nerves settling in as they turn and head back toward their rooms.

HARPER

(muttering as they walk)

"Mom and Dad have no idea what they've just unleashed."

The camera pans to the empty corridor where Ethan disappeared. The faint sound of his excited humming echoes faintly as the view lingers for a moment.

The lights glow softly, casting long shadows that stretch down the sleek, metallic walls. The tension is palpable as the hum of the ship fades, leaving the corridor in an unsettling silence.

Part 7

INT. CELESTARA – ARCADE – NIGHT

Ethan sits in a corner of the bustling arcade, the vibrant neon lights flashing around him. The air hums with the sounds of futuristic games—laser blasts, cheering players, and upbeat electronic music. But Ethan isn't paying attention to any of it.

At a sleek gaming console, he leans forward, absently spinning the stolen badge between his fingers. The faint blue glow of the badge reflects in his eyes, his expression distant and calculating.

The events of earlier in the day replay in his mind: the humiliation of being tackled by Victoria's guards, the scornful looks from bystanders, and her cold, dismissive tone:

VICTORIA (V.O.)

"I don't want to see him again. Get him out of here."

Ethan clenches his jaw, his fingers gripping the badge tightly.

ETHAN

(whispering bitterly)

"She didn't have to make it such a big deal. I just wanted to say hi, to talk to her like a normal person. But no—she had to treat me like I'm some kind of threat."

He stares at the badge, his thoughts flicking back to Captain Kane's demonstration of The Nexus Command and the "Issue Detention Order" system. The simplicity of it—the unquestioning efficiency of the AI—sparks a dangerous idea.

ETHAN

(softly, smirking)

"She thinks she's untouchable. But this badge says otherwise."

He imagines accessing the system, typing in her name, and issuing a detention order. The image of guards escorting Victoria out of her VIP lounge, her shocked and humiliated expression, plays vividly in his mind. Passengers would whisper, point, laugh.

But a lingering thought stops him. What would he accuse her of? His mind races, searching for the perfect claim—something that would stick, something that would make everyone turn against her.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself)

"It has to be good. Something they can't ignore. Something that makes her look... awful."

He leans back in his chair, staring at the badge as if it holds all the answers. For now, he doesn't need to know exactly what the accusation will be. He has the badge, and he knows the system is flawed enough to believe whatever he types in.

ETHAN

(grinning)

"I'll figure it out. Doesn't matter what it is—she'll pay for what she did."

His grin fades slightly, replaced by a focused scowl. He knows this isn't just about payback; it's about reclaiming control. Victoria Stellar had embarrassed him, made him feel powerless. But now, with this badge, the power was his.

He glances around the arcade, making sure no one is watching him too closely. The flashing lights and upbeat sounds provide the perfect cover for his scheming.

ETHAN

(to himself)

"One step at a time. First, get in. Then... I'll figure out the rest."

He pockets the badge and sits back, his confidence growing. The sound of laughter from a nearby gaming station snaps him out of his thoughts.

Harper, Jace, and Raven step into the vibrant arcade, the neon lights flashing in time with the hum of futuristic games. The air is filled with laser blasts, upbeat music, and the chatter of excited passengers. Harper scans the room, quickly spotting Ethan sitting in the corner. She nudges Jace with her elbow.

HARPER

"There he is."

Jace looks over, raising an eyebrow and smirking.

JACE

"Wow. He's actually here. And not anywhere near the VIP section. I'm shocked."

RAVEN

(grinning)

"Yeah, it's a miracle. No drama, no guards tackling him... maybe he's finally learned his lesson."

The three weave through the crowd, dodging clusters of players at gaming consoles. Ethan notices them coming and adjusts his posture, leaning forward on the console and pretending to be engrossed in the game.

HARPER

(relieved)

"Hey, Ethan. Glad to see you're here and not... well, stalking Victoria again."

Ethan glances up, forcing a casual smile.

ETHAN

"Yeah, yeah. I told you I'm done with all that. I'm just playing games, having fun. Totally harmless."

Jace crosses his arms, clearly skeptical.

JACE

"Really? Just playing games? That's suspiciously boring for you."

RAVEN

(teasing)

"Yeah, you're not exactly the 'quietly chilling' type. Are you sure you're not plotting something?"

Ethan rolls his eyes, leaning back in his chair with exaggerated annoyance.

ETHAN

"Come on, guys. Can't I just relax without you all interrogating me? I'm fine. Go do whatever you're gonna do."

Harper studies him for a moment longer, her brow furrowed, but she eventually lets it go.

HARPER

"Alright. We're heading to the ship's movie theater. They've got this insane 4D experience showing tonight—moving seats, real smells, the works. You coming?"

Ethan hesitates for a moment, the stolen badge in his pocket feeling heavy. He quickly shakes his head, flashing a grin.

ETHAN

"Nah. You guys go ahead. I'm good here."

Jace shrugs, already turning toward the exit.

JACE

"Your loss. 4D movies are the best thing on this ship."

RAVEN

(grinning)

"Yeah, but hey, enjoy your riveting time doing nothing, Ethan."

As the three head toward the exit, Harper glances back at Ethan over her shoulder, her frown deepening.

HARPER

(quietly, to Jace and Raven)

"Is it just me, or does something feel off? He says he's playing games, but he's just sitting there doing nothing."

Jace glances back briefly, his tone skeptical.

JACE

"Yeah, it's weird. If Ethan's not running around causing chaos, he's probably scheming."

RAVEN

(shrugging)

"Or maybe he really is just chilling. I mean, he's here, not sneaking into the VIP lounge again. That's something, right?"

Harper hesitates, biting her lip.

HARPER

"I guess. But if he pulls something, I'm not covering for him."

JACE

(grinning)

"Agreed. He's on his own this time."

Raven pats Harper on the shoulder as they step out of the arcade, their chatter and laughter fading into the distance.

Ethan watches them leave, waiting until they're out of sight. His fake smile vanishes, replaced by a sly, determined smirk. He pulls the stolen badge from his pocket, the faint blue glow illuminating his face.

He twirls the badge between his fingers, his mind racing with scheming thoughts.

ETHAN

(softly, to himself)

"Let them think I'm just playing games. They'll never see this coming."

The camera lingers on Ethan's face as the arcade lights flicker around him. The upbeat noises of the arcade fade, leaving only the low hum of his twisted plans.

INT. CELESTARA – CORRIDORS – NIGHT

The corridors of the Celestara are quieter now, the late hour thinning the crowds. The sleek, metallic walls shimmer under the soft glow of the ship's ambient lighting. Ethan's footsteps echo lightly as he walks, his pace quickening with each step.

He pulls the badge from his pocket, holding it tightly in his hand as he approaches the section of the ship leading to the Captain's Quarters. The memory of Captain Kane's demonstration flashes in his mind: the power and control of The Nexus Command, the effortless authority of issuing commands.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself, with a smirk)

"This is it. Time to make things right."

Ahead, the corridor widens into the security checkpoint that guards access to the Captain's Quarters. The area is eerily quiet, illuminated by the cold blue light of the AI security systems. A row of sleek, humanoid AI robots stand at attention, their glowing eyes scanning the area methodically.

Ethan hesitates for a moment, his heart pounding in his chest. He grips the badge tightly, glancing at it to reassure himself.

ETHAN

(softly)

"Come on, they don't care who you are. As long as you've got the badge, you're in."

He steps forward confidently, approaching the sleek security terminal. The AI system springs to life, a soft, synthetic voice greeting him.

AI SYSTEM

"Badge, please."

Ethan holds up the badge, the glowing light reflecting off the scanner. For a moment, he feels the weight of his actions—what he's about to do—but he shakes it off, focusing on his goal.

The scanner emits a soft chime, and the AI system responds.

AI SYSTEM

"Access granted. Proceed."

The metal door ahead slides open with a hiss, revealing the dimly lit hallway leading to the Captain's Quarters. Ethan steps forward, glancing back once to ensure no one is following him. The AI robots remain motionless, their glowing eyes fixed ahead, oblivious to the boy they've just let through.

Ethan's breath quickens as he walks down the corridor, the faint hum of the ship's systems growing louder. The sleek, polished floor reflects the faint blue glow of the walls, and the air feels colder here, more serious.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself, his voice tinged with excitement and nerves)

"This is it. No turning back now."

The massive hallway leading to **The Nexus Command** is dimly lit, its sleek walls glowing faintly with pulsing blue lines. The air hums softly with the vibrations of the ship's systems. In the

distance, the glowing door to The Nexus Command stands at the end of the corridor, both inviting and ominous.

Ethan moves cautiously through the hallway, gripping the stolen badge tightly. His breath quickens as he edges closer to his destination. The vastness of the space, combined with the eerie quiet, makes every sound he makes feel amplified.

Then, the sound of a door hissing open behind him stops him dead in his tracks. His heart leaps into his throat as he whirls around, searching for cover. He spots a **sleek support pillar** nearby, its design seamlessly integrated into the futuristic corridor. Without a second thought, he dives behind it, pressing his back against the cool metal.

From his hiding spot, he peeks around the edge, just enough to see **Captain Kane** stepping into the hallway. The captain is accompanied by a woman in a crisp, official uniform, both of them engaged in a low conversation.

CAPTAIN KANE

(frowning)

"Wait a second."

The captain stops mid-step, his sharp eyes scanning the length of the hallway. Ethan's breath catches as he flattens himself further against the pillar, clutching the badge tightly in his sweaty hands.

WOMAN

(looking around)

"Something wrong?"

CAPTAIN KANE

"I thought I heard something. Stay here."

Kane starts walking slowly down the hallway, his boots clicking against the polished floor. Ethan's pulse races as the captain's footsteps grow louder, each one bringing him closer to the pillar.

Ethan presses himself tighter against the pillar, barely daring to breathe. His mind races, trying to come up with an escape plan if he's caught, but his thoughts are interrupted by the hiss of another door opening at the far end of the hallway.

A **security guard** enters, their posture relaxed but alert.

SECURITY GUARD

"Captain? Is everything alright?"

Kane stops, turning toward the guard. His tense expression softens slightly, though his gaze flickers back toward the pillar.

CAPTAIN KANE

(nodding)

"Ah, it's just you. I thought I heard someone moving around in here."

The guard approaches, their eyes sweeping the corridor methodically.

SECURITY GUARD

"Nothing here, sir. Just making my rounds."

Kane lets out a soft exhale, shaking his head.

CAPTAIN KANE

"Must've been my imagination. Or maybe the ship's systems again. Carry on."

The woman steps forward, holding a datapad.

WOMAN

"Captain, we should finish the diagnostics report. The engineers need your approval."

CAPTAIN KANE

(nodding)

"Right. Let's get it done."

He gestures for the woman to follow, and they walk toward the far end of the hallway. The security guard lingers for a moment, glancing around one last time before following them.

Ethan stays pressed against the pillar, waiting until the faint sound of footsteps fades completely. Slowly, he peeks out, scanning the corridor. It's empty again.

He exhales shakily, wiping his damp palms on his pants as he steps out from his hiding spot.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself, shakily)

"That... was way too close."

He turns back toward The Nexus Command, the glowing door pulsing softly at the end of the hallway. The fear from moments before melts into determination as he grips the badge tightly.

ETHAN

(whispering, smirking)

"Alright. Let's finish this."

With careful, deliberate steps, he approaches the door, the tension building with every movement.

The massive doors to **The Nexus Command** stand before Ethan, pulsating faintly with an ominous blue light. The hum of the ship's systems grows louder here, as if signaling the

immense power contained within. Ethan grips the stolen badge tightly, his heart racing as he steps closer.

He hesitates for a moment, glancing around the empty hallway behind him. No one is there. The tension in the air feels suffocating, but he steels himself, his grip on the badge tightening.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself)

"This is it. No turning back."

With trembling hands, he raises the badge to the scanner next to the doors. The faint blue glow of the badge reflects on his face as the scanner emits a soft chime.

AI SYSTEM

"Access granted. Welcome, Administrator."

Ethan's breath catches as the massive doors hiss open, revealing the dimly lit, cavernous space beyond. He steps inside cautiously, the stolen badge still clutched in his hand, and the doors slide shut behind him with a final, metallic thud.

The room is vast and futuristic, filled with glowing consoles, holographic displays, and sleek panels. The centerpiece is an enormous holographic model of the Celestara, rotating slowly in mid-air, with every system and passenger accounted for in minute detail. The air is cool, and the faint hum of the ship's core systems vibrates through the room.

Ethan glances around, his eyes wide as he realizes the truth:

ETHAN

(awed, whispering)

"I'm... alone. There's no one here."

His footsteps echo as he ventures further into the room, his gaze darting from one glowing console to the next. Each display shows something more incredible than the last: **Navigation Controls, Life Support Systems, Passenger Logs, Detention Orders**, and more.

He stops in front of the central console, his reflection visible in the polished surface. The interface is alive with options, waiting for input. Ethan places his hands on the edge of the console, his fingers trembling slightly.

ETHAN

(softly)

"This... this controls everything. The entire ship."

His grin widens as the reality of his situation sinks in. He turns slowly, taking in the magnitude of the room and the sheer power at his fingertips.

ETHAN

(whispering, a wicked grin forming)

"Nothing can stop me now."

He pulls the badge from his pocket, holding it up and staring at it with a mixture of disbelief and pride. The stolen badge—the key that got him in—felt almost like magic in his hand.

He steps closer to the console, his gaze locking on the "Issue Detention Order" interface. His thoughts drift back to Victoria Stellar, her guards, her cold dismissal of him earlier that day. The humiliation burns fresh in his mind, fueling his anger.

ETHAN

(through gritted teeth)

"She ruined everything. Treated me like dirt. But now? Now I can make her pay."

The glowing console reflects on his face as his grin turns darker. He doesn't yet know exactly what he'll accuse her of, but the possibilities race through his mind, each more twisted than the last.

ETHAN

(whispering, to himself)

"Let them think I'm just a kid. They'll never see this coming."

The Nexus Command hums around him, as if acknowledging his newfound power. Alone in the heart of the ship's operations, Ethan knows the Celestara is now his to control.

Ethan stands before the "**Issue Detention Order**" console, his fingers hovering above the glowing holographic controls. His heart races as he considers his next move, the memory of Victoria Stellar's guards tackling him flashing vividly in his mind.

His jaw tightens as doubt creeps in.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself, frowning)

"If I just accuse her without something big... they'll figure it out. She'll walk free, and I'll be busted."

He steps back, pacing in the vast, dimly lit Nexus Command. The hum of the ship's systems reverberates softly, matching the tension building in his chest. He glances toward the "**Locate Passenger**" console glowing nearby.

ETHAN

(softly, smirking)

"Let's find out where you're hiding, Victoria."

He strides to the console, quickly typing her name into the holographic interface. The system processes the request, and a glowing map of the Celestara appears. A flashing marker zooms in on a private lounge in one of the ship's most exclusive areas.

The display reads: **"Dancing at Private Party, Guest List Restricted."**

Ethan leans closer as a live feed from the lounge appears. The luxurious space is alive with soft, colorful lighting and upbeat music. Guests move gracefully across the floor, their outfits sleek and stylish.

At the center of it all is Victoria Stellar, radiant in a sparkling dress, laughing as she dances with a world-famous actor. Surrounding her are her equally glamorous friends, chatting and taking holographic pictures that shimmer like stars in the air.

Ethan's fists clench as he watches, his anger bubbling to the surface.

ETHAN

(through gritted teeth)

"Living it up while I'm stuck here. Acting like you own the place."

His eyes narrow as the party's carefree atmosphere stings like a slap in the face. The humiliation she put him through earlier resurfaces, fueling his resolve.

But as he steps back from the console, a new idea forms in his mind—something far more devious.

Ethan turns his gaze toward a smaller console on the opposite side of the room. Its label glows faintly: **"Robot Command Center."**

His expression darkens as he strides toward it, his pace quick and determined.

ETHAN

(softly, smirking)

"You think you're untouchable. Let's see what happens when I turn things up a notch."

The glowing menu highlights an option that catches his attention: **"Security Drones: Contraband Search and Retrieval."**

ETHAN

(softly, with a wicked grin)

"Let's see what treasures you've got hidden, Celestara."

He selects the command, and a live feed from a secured storage room deep within the ship appears on the screen. Rows of shelves stacked with confiscated items come into view. The faint hum of the ship's systems is audible as sleek, humanoid security robots activate, their glowing blue eyes scanning the room with precision.

AI SYSTEM

"Searching for contraband... scanning... contraband detected."

Ethan leans in closer as the camera zooms in on the confiscated stash. A sealed, glowing case of crystal-clear methamphetamine sits prominently on one of the shelves. Beside it, stacks of cash—bundled neatly and marked for security logs—rest in clear containers.

Ethan's eyes widen, his grin growing broader.

ETHAN

(excitedly, under his breath)

"Meth and money? Jackpot!"

The security robots approach the shelves, their movements smooth and deliberate. They carefully lift the methamphetamine case and bundles of cash, their mechanical hands gripping the items securely.

But Ethan knows sending the contraband directly into the VIP lounge would be too obvious. He needs a layer of deception to ensure his plan succeeds.

ETHAN

(typing quickly, muttering)

"Let's make this a little more discreet."

He inputs a new command: "**Conceal contraband in discreet compartments.**"

The system processes the order, and the robots immediately begin their work.

AI SYSTEM

"Processing command. Concealing contraband."

On the screen, Ethan watches as the meth is divided into smaller portions and hidden within the robots' internal compartments. The cash is similarly concealed, slipped into retractable storage compartments within their sleek frames. Once finished, the robots stand perfectly still, appearing as unassuming as ever.

AI SYSTEM

"Contraband concealed. Security robots ready for deployment."

Ethan leans back, a look of triumph on his face as he inputs his next command: "**Relocate to VIP Section 1—Private Party Area.**"

The system confirms: "**Command Accepted. Security Robots En Route.**"

He watches the live feed as the security robots leave the storage room, moving silently and efficiently through the ship's corridors. Their glowing eyes and sleek forms make them appear trustworthy, even as they carry a hidden payload of drugs and cash.

ETHAN

(laughing softly, to himself)

"This is too good. Let's see how you handle this, Victoria."

The private lounge sparkles with colorful lights, the music upbeat and lively. Guests laugh and dance, enjoying the exclusive atmosphere. Victoria Stellar is the center of attention, her glamorous dress catching the light as she twirls on the dance floor with a world-famous actor.

Her friends lounge nearby, snapping holographic selfies and chatting animatedly.

At the lounge entrance, two VIP guards stand on alert. The faint mechanical hum of approaching security robots makes them exchange confused glances.

The squad of sleek security robots glides into view, their glowing eyes scanning the path ahead.

VIP GUARD #1

(frowning)

"What's this about?"

The lead robot stops before the guards, its synthetic voice calm but commanding.

LEAD ROBOT

"Security protocol engaged. Requesting entry for investigation."

The guards exchange uneasy glances.

VIP GUARD #2

(whispering)

"They're from the Nexus Command. We can't interfere."

Reluctantly, the guards step aside, allowing the robots to proceed into the private lounge.

Ethan leans over the console, the soft glow of the holographic interface illuminating his triumphant grin. The live feed of the private lounge shows Victoria Stellar and her glamorous friends, completely absorbed in their party.

He smirks, his fingers flying over the controls. In the command menu, he types: "**Locate Victoria Stellar's belongings.**"

The system processes the command, a confirmation message flashing on the screen:

"Command Accepted. Security Robots Scanning for Target Property."

The security robots glide unnoticed into the bustling private lounge. Their sleek forms blend seamlessly into the vibrant backdrop of pulsing lights and upbeat music. Partygoers are too engrossed in their fun to notice the silent intruders moving among them.

The lead robot scans the room, its glowing eyes locking onto a designated area at the back of the lounge. A table sits against the wall, cluttered with designer purses and belongings, including a sparkling, high-end purse identified as Victoria Stellar's.

The system's readout confirms: **"Property Matched: Victoria Stellar."**

The robots approach the table with silent precision, their movements smooth and calculated.

Ethan's grin widens as he sees the robots locate the table of belongings. His excitement grows as he types the next command: **"Deposit contraband into Victoria Stellar's purse. Ensure concealment. Exit immediately upon completion."**

The robot nearest Victoria's purse pauses at the table. Its mechanical arm extends, opening a hidden compartment to retrieve a small packet of methamphetamine and a neatly bundled stack of cash.

Without hesitation, it gently opens the clasp of the glittering purse. The robot carefully tucks the contraband inside, hiding it among the other items. Once the task is complete, it re-seals the purse, the clasp clicking softly—inaudible over the lively music.

The robots retract their arms and begin their retreat, gliding silently out of the lounge. The guests remain oblivious, too absorbed in the party to notice anything unusual.

Ethan watches the live feed as the robots exit the lounge, their work complete. The sense of power coursing through him is almost overwhelming.

ETHAN

(laughing softly, to himself)

"Perfect. No one even noticed. Now here is my chance to get this bitch off this ship..."

Ethan strides back to the **"Issue Detention Order"** console, his heart pounding with anticipation. The glowing holographic interface lights up as he approaches, and his fingers tremble slightly—not with fear, but with the thrill of what he's about to do.

He takes a deep breath and begins typing.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself, smirking)

"Let's see how untouchable you are now, Victoria."

He inputs her name into the system: **VICTORIA STELLAR**. The console processes for a moment, confirming the target. A new screen appears, requesting the reason for detention.

Ethan leans forward, his wicked grin growing wider as he types:

"Possession of methamphetamine and large quantities of cash. Suspected drug dealer in disguise. Immediate detention required."

The console flashes a warning message: "**Are you sure you want to issue this detention order?**"

Ethan presses **CONFIRM** without hesitation. The system processes the request, and the console emits a low hum as the detention order is created.

AI SYSTEM

"Detention order issued for Victoria Stellar. Dispatching security personnel."

Ethan steps back, watching as the system displays a live feed of the VIP section. The screen shows multiple security guards receiving the alert on their wrist communicators. They glance at each other, their expressions turning serious, and immediately head toward the private lounge.

The private lounge is still bustling with energy, the music thumping and the guests laughing as they dance. Victoria Stellar is mid-spin on the dance floor, her dress catching the light, when the doors to the lounge slide open with a sharp hiss.

A group of uniformed security guards enters swiftly, their presence cutting through the vibrant atmosphere. The partygoers stop, turning to stare as the guards move with purpose toward the center of the room.

VICTORIA

(frowning, confused)

"What's going on?"

Her friends exchange nervous glances as the guards approach her.

LEAD GUARD

(seriously)

"Victoria Stellar, you're being detained. Step aside immediately."

Gasps ripple through the crowd. Victoria's face pales as she steps back, her confusion quickly turning to indignation.

VICTORIA

(angrily)

"Detained? For what? This is insane!"

The lead guard holds up a datapad, displaying the detention order.

LEAD GUARD

"Possession of illegal substances and large amounts of unreported cash. Please cooperate while we verify the claim."

Victoria's friends surround her, their faces a mix of shock and disbelief.

FRIEND #1

"Wait, what? That's ridiculous!"

FRIEND #2

"Victoria wouldn't do anything like that!"

Ignoring their protests, the guards move to the back of the lounge, where the table of belongings sits. One of the guards picks up Victoria's purse and opens it, scanning its contents.

The private lounge falls into tense silence as the guards open Victoria Stellar's purse. The vibrant music fades into the background, the partygoers frozen in anticipation.

The lead guard carefully extracts a small packet of methamphetamine, followed by thick bundles of cash. Gasps ripple through the crowd, and whispers quickly escalate into shocked murmurs.

GUARD #2

(sternly)

"Contraband confirmed. Significant quantities of unreported cash detected."

The guests exchange uneasy glances, their eyes darting between Victoria and the incriminating evidence.

FRIEND #1

(stepping back, stunned)

"Wait... is that... hers?"

FRIEND #3

(accusingly)

"Victoria, what the hell? You always said you had connections, but this? Are you actually a... drug dealer?"

FRIEND #4

(aghast)

"Is this how you afford all those trips and outfits? This is insane!"

Victoria's face drains of color as she stammers, tears welling up in her eyes.

VICTORIA

(voice cracking, desperate)

"No! That's not mine! I don't know how it got there! Someone must've planted it!"

One of her friends, **FRIEND #5**, steps forward, visibly torn. Her expression is conflicted as she looks between the guards and Victoria.

FRIEND #5

(pleading)

"This has to be some kind of mistake. Victoria would NEVER do something like this. She's not a criminal!"

FRIEND #3

(angrily)

"Are you serious? They just found meth in her purse. How do you explain that?"

FRIEND #4

(snapping)

"And the cash! No one carries that kind of money unless they're hiding something!"

FRIEND #5

(earnestly, turning to Victoria)

"Victoria, just tell them the truth! You wouldn't do this, right?"

Victoria shakes her head frantically, tears streaming down her face.

VICTORIA

(pleading, through sobs)

"I didn't do this! You know me—I wouldn't! Someone's framing me!"

But the growing accusations drown out her protests.

FRIEND #1

(crossing her arms, coldly)

"Framing you? Really? Why would anyone bother? You've got everything handed to you."

FRIEND #3

(disgusted)

"We trusted you, Victoria. I can't believe you've been lying to us this whole time."

FRIEND #5

(raising her voice, desperate)

"Stop it! You don't know for sure! What if someone really did set her up? She deserves the benefit of the doubt!"

FRIEND #4

(quietly, to Friend #5)

"Open your eyes. This is bad. It's not just one thing—it's everything. Meth. Cash. That's not a coincidence."

The lead guard steps forward, his expression stern and unyielding.

LEAD GUARD

"Victoria Stellar, you're under investigation for suspected drug dealing and possession of illegal substances. You'll be escorted to the holding area for questioning."

The guards surround Victoria, gently but firmly guiding her toward the exit. Her cries grow louder, turning into full-blown sobs as she resists, her heels scraping against the floor as she's dragged away.

VICTORIA

(screaming, sobbing)

"No! Please! You don't understand! This is a mistake! I didn't do this! You have to believe me!"

Her friends watch, their faces a mixture of betrayal, disgust, and, in Friend #5's case, hesitant doubt.

FRIEND #3

(quietly, to another friend)

"I can't believe this... I thought I knew her."

FRIEND #5

(whispering, devastated)

"This can't be real... this can't be happening."

The crowd parts as Victoria is dragged through the room, her cries of agony echoing in the once-lively lounge. The doors slide shut behind her, leaving an uneasy silence in her wake.

Ethan leans back in his chair, watching the live feed with exhilaration. The sight of Victoria being escorted out, sobbing and humiliated, sends a thrill through him.

ETHAN

(laughing softly, to himself)

"Looks like the perfect little star is falling apart."

The glow of the console reflects off his smug expression as he savors every moment of her downfall.

Ethan stands in the now-empty Nexus Command, the glow of the holographic screens still lighting the room. The thrill of watching Victoria Stellar being dragged away by the guards is starting to fade, replaced by a gnawing sense of urgency.

The hum of the room's systems feels louder now, pressing against his ears, almost like an accusation. He swallows hard, beads of sweat forming on his brow. Every second he remains here feels like an eternity, like he's daring the universe to catch him red-handed.

ETHAN

(whispering, to himself)

"If they find me here... I'm done. They'll know it was me, and it'll all be over."

He clenches the stolen badge tightly in his hand, as if it's the key to his survival, and glances one last time at the imposing room. The flickering lights of the consoles seem to taunt him, reminding him of the chaos he's unleashed.

Ethan takes a deep breath and forces himself to move, his steps quick but careful as he heads toward the main door leading back to the captain's quarters.

The door to the Nexus Command slides open with a soft hiss, and Ethan steps into the grand hallway of the captain's quarters. The sleek, sterile corridor stretches endlessly in both directions, its oppressive silence amplifying his paranoia.

His heart races as he makes his way toward the main exit. Every shadow feels alive, every faint noise a potential threat. The soft hum of the ship's systems feels deafening, his own breathing too loud in his ears.

ETHAN

(whispering, to himself)

"Come on, just get out. Don't think. Just move."

He rounds a corner and freezes mid-step. Voices echo from a nearby room, faint but growing louder.

CREW MEMBER #1

(from a distance, laughing)

"...and then he said, 'That's not even protocol!' Can you believe it?"

CREW MEMBER #2

(chuckling)

"Classic. Nothing surprises me on this ship anymore."

Ethan ducks behind a large decorative column, pressing himself flat against its cold surface. His heart pounds in his chest, so loud he's sure it will give him away.

The voices grow closer, and for a terrifying moment, he sees shadows stretching along the hallway floor.

CREW MEMBER #1

(still laughing)

"...but honestly, that's what happens when you skip training."

The voices veer off into another corridor, and Ethan lets out a shaky breath, his legs trembling as he peeks out to ensure the coast is clear.

ETHAN

(whispering, to himself)

"Too close. Way too close."

His steps quicken, but he keeps to the edges of the hallway, his back pressed to the walls as he makes his way to the main exit.

Ethan finally reaches the imposing main gate that separates the captain's quarters from the rest of the ship. The sleek metal doors loom before him, flanked by two humanoid AI guards. Their glowing red eyes snap to attention as he approaches, their mechanical forms unmoving.

AI GUARD

(statefully)

"Badge required for exit."

Ethan's fingers tremble as he pulls the stolen badge from his pocket. He forces himself to remain calm, his expression neutral, as he holds the badge up to the scanner.

The scanner emits a soft beep, its light flashing yellow as it processes the badge. Ethan swears his heart stops, the moment stretching into an eternity.

Finally, the scanner flashes green, and the AI guards step aside.

AI GUARD

"Access granted. You may proceed."

The doors slide open with a soft hiss, revealing the corridor that leads back to the public areas of the ship. Ethan steps through, his legs feeling like jelly but his heart hammering with relief.

As the doors close behind him, sealing the restricted area, he lets out a shaky breath and leans against the wall for a moment.

ETHAN

(whispering, to himself)

"Thank you, dumb robots. I'm never doing that again... probably."

Ethan picks up his pace, walking briskly but not running. His mind races with thoughts of what he's just done, but he knows he has to play it cool. The familiar hum of the ship's systems and the distant sounds of passengers chatting bring a strange sense of comfort.

He moves through the corridor, his heart beginning to steady.

ETHAN

(whispering, smirking)

"Almost there. Just act normal. No one will know."

The lively sounds of the arcade hit Ethan as he steps inside. Neon lights flash across the room, and the hum of games and laughter envelops him, masking the tension still lingering in his chest.

He makes his way to the console he was using earlier, sliding into the chair and pretending to focus on the game. His fingers tap at the controls absently, his mind replaying every moment from Nexus Command.

ETHAN

(whispering, grinning to himself)

"Back where I belong. They'll never know it was me."

The comforting noise of the arcade surrounds him, and for now, he feels safe.

Part 8

Ethan stands in front of a neon-lit pinball machine, his hands gripping the flippers as the ball ricochets wildly across the board. The clattering sounds of the machine mix with the vibrant chaos of the arcade around him. He's focused, not entirely on the game but on the act of playing, desperate to distract himself from what he's done.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself)

"Just a game. Focus. Nothing to worry about."

The ball hits the bumper, lighting up the machine, and Ethan leans into the controls, his expression a mix of concentration and underlying tension.

Suddenly, a loud commotion erupts near the entrance of the arcade.

HARPER (O.S.)

(yelling)

"Dude! DUDE!"

Ethan freezes mid-flip, his stomach dropping. He turns his head to see Harper, Jace, and Raven rushing toward him, their faces flushed with excitement and shock.

JACE

(eyes wide, yelling)

"You're not gonna believe this! Do you know what just happened to Victoria Stellar?"

Ethan quickly lets go of the pinball machine, trying to act casual.

ETHAN

(feigning ignorance)

"Uh... no? What happened?"

Harper grabs his arm, practically pulling him away from the game.

HARPER

(urgent, almost shouting)

"They just arrested her! Like, full-on security guards dragged her out of the VIP section!"

RAVEN

(breathless, chiming in)

"And it gets crazier—they're saying she's selling meth! Meth, Ethan! They found a ton of it and cash in her purse!"

The words hit Ethan like a shockwave, but he quickly masks his reaction, forcing a look of surprise.

ETHAN

(playing dumb)

"Wait... what? Are you serious? Victoria Stellar?"

The three nod furiously, their voices overlapping in excitement and disbelief.

JACE

"They found her purse full of cash and drugs! Like, seriously, they're saying she's a drug dealer!"

HARPER

"And she was bawling her eyes out, saying it's all a mistake. But the guards didn't care—they threw her into one of the space cells!"

RAVEN

"People are filming it! Everyone's talking about it! It's all over the ship's feeds!"

Ethan swallows hard, trying to keep his breathing steady. He forces a shocked expression, his eyes darting to the large holographic screen above the arcade.

A live feed shows Victoria Stellar being escorted into a sterile, transparent space cell. Her glamorous makeup is streaked with tears, and her usually composed demeanor is completely shattered. She clutches the bars of the cell, sobbing uncontrollably.

VICTORIA

(crying, yelling)

"I didn't do anything! This isn't mine! Someone's framing me!"

The camera zooms out, revealing Captain Kane standing at a podium nearby, addressing a group of reporters and ship officials. His tone is firm, his expression grave.

CAPTAIN KANE

"Victoria Stellar has been detained on charges of possessing and distributing illegal substances. A thorough investigation is underway, but the evidence found in her possession is

overwhelming. Let this serve as a reminder that no one, regardless of status, is above the law on the Celestara."

The screen cuts back to Victoria, curled up in the corner of her cell, her cries audible as reporters murmur in the background.

The crowd gathered in the arcade murmurs as they watch the screen, their reactions a mix of shock, disbelief, and curiosity.

HARPER

(looking back at Ethan)

"Isn't this insane? Victoria Stellar—a drug dealer? Who would've thought?"

JACE

(laughing nervously)

"She always seemed too perfect. Guess no one's that clean, huh?"

RAVEN

(still wide-eyed)

"I mean, they're showing it everywhere. This is the biggest scandal the ship's ever had."

Ethan glances between the screen and his siblings, doing his best to hide his satisfaction.

ETHAN

(slowly)

"Wow... That's... crazy. I can't believe it."

Harper squints at him for a moment, her expression slightly skeptical.

HARPER

"You okay? You seem... weirdly calm about this."

ETHAN

(quickly shaking his head)

"No! I'm just—uh, I guess I'm in shock. Victoria Stellar, of all people? That's nuts."

The three siblings exchange glances but let it go, their focus shifting back to the unfolding drama on the screen.

HARPER

(gesturing to the screen)

"Well, this trip just got way more interesting."

JACE

(grinning)

"Yeah, no one's gonna forget this anytime soon."

RAVEN

(laughing softly)

"Poor Victoria... I mean, kind of, but still. What a mess."

Ethan nods along, forcing a chuckle as his mind races. The sight of Victoria in the cell, the sound of her sobs—it's exactly what he wanted, but he knows he can't let anyone suspect him.

He turns back to the pinball machine, pretending to focus on the game as his siblings continue discussing the scandal.

The arcade buzzes with activity as Harper, Jace, Raven, and Ethan linger near the pinball machines. Harper's wrist communicator buzzes, and she glances down at the caller ID.

HARPER

"Mom's calling."

She answers the call, putting it on speaker.

DANA (O.S.)

"Harper, where are you guys? Are you all together?"

HARPER

"Yeah, all three of us are here in the arcade."

Dana exhales audibly, a mix of relief and urgency in her tone.

DANA (O.S.)

"Good. Did you hear about Victoria Stellar? The whole ship is talking about it!"

The group exchanges quick glances, already aware of the scandal.

HARPER

"Yeah, we know. Everyone here's been watching the feed."

GREG (O.S.)

"Stay where you are. We're coming to you. This is... just unbelievable."

The call abruptly ends, leaving the group puzzled.

JACE

(raising an eyebrow)

"Guess they want a family meeting. Bet they're freaking out."

RAVEN

(grinning)

"Who isn't? Victoria Stellar—a drug dealer? You can't make this stuff up."

Ethan shifts uncomfortably, keeping his eyes on the pinball machine.

A few minutes later, Greg and Dana enter the arcade, their faces a mix of shock and concern as they scan the room. Spotting their kids near the pinball machines, they hurry over.

DANA

"There you are!"

Harper, Jace, and Raven turn to greet them, but Ethan keeps his back to them, his hands still gripping the pinball machine controls.

GREG

"Did you hear? Victoria Stellar—a drug dealer? We couldn't believe it!"

HARPER

"Yeah, we've been watching the feed. Everyone's talking about it."

Dana moves closer to Ethan, placing a gentle hand on his shoulder.

DANA

(supportive)

"Ethan, honey, are you okay? This must be so hard for you."

Ethan stiffens slightly, then forces himself to turn around, putting on a sad expression.

ETHAN

(quietly)

"Yeah... I just don't get it. She didn't seem like the type."

Greg shakes his head, still processing the shocking news.

GREG

"It's wild. Meth? And all that cash? Who would've thought someone like her could be involved in something like this?"

HARPER

"Honestly, I always thought she was too perfect. Guess it's true—nobody's that clean."

RAVEN

"Yeah, but meth? That's next-level crazy."

Dana crouches slightly, her tone gentle and understanding as she looks Ethan in the eye.

DANA

"It's okay to feel upset, Ethan. Sometimes people aren't who we think they are, and that's really hard to deal with."

Ethan nods slowly, his voice quiet and controlled.

ETHAN

"Thanks, Mom. I'll be okay."

Greg pats him on the back, his voice attempting to sound reassuring.

GREG

"Hey, maybe this is a good thing. Better to find out she's not worth admiring now than later, right?"

HARPER

"Yeah, Ethan. You're better off. No point looking up to someone who turns out to be a total fraud."

JACE

(grinning slightly)

"And a drug dealer. Don't forget that part."

RAVEN

(teasing, nudging Jace)

"Subtle, Jace. Real subtle."

Dana smiles softly, trying to lighten the mood.

DANA

"Why don't we all just take a deep breath and focus on enjoying the rest of the trip? We can't let this ruin our vacation."

Ethan nods again, managing a small smile, though his mind is still racing. The image of Victoria crying in the cell flashes in his mind, and he pushes it away.

GREG

(placing a hand on Ethan's shoulder)

"We're not going anywhere. If you need to talk, we're right here."

DANA

(squeezing Ethan's arm)

"Exactly. We're staying close for now. Let's stick together and make the best of this, okay?"

ETHAN

(quietly)

"Thanks, Mom. I'll be fine."

Greg and Dana exchange a brief glance, their expressions still marked with concern. They hover near the back of the arcade, giving the kids space but staying within sight.

HARPER

(eyeing Ethan)

"You sure you're okay? You've been kinda quiet."

ETHAN

"Yeah, I'm fine. Just... processing, I guess."

The siblings exchange a look but decide not to press him further, their attention returning to the glowing arcade screens. Ethan, however, can't shake the lingering sense of danger or the thrill of pulling off what he's just done.

The arcade hums with energy as Harper, Jace, Raven, and Ethan linger near the pinball machines. The holographic screens continue to show live updates of Victoria Stellar's detention, drawing murmurs and whispers from the crowd.

Ethan leans against the pinball machine, pretending to focus on his game, though his mind races with thoughts of what he's done. Suddenly, a voice rises from behind, cutting through the noise.

CUSTOMER #1

(whispering to their friend)

"Wait... isn't that him? The kid who caused all that drama in the women's shopping center earlier?"

Ethan's heart stops. His grip tightens on the pinball machine as he shrinks into himself, hoping they'll lose interest.

CUSTOMER #2

(louder, pointing)

"Yeah, that's him! The one who ran after Victoria Stellar, right?"

A few heads in the arcade turn, and Harper, Jace, and Raven all snap their attention to Ethan. Harper raises an eyebrow, her curiosity piqued.

Before Ethan can respond, the first customer steps closer, their tone softening when they see Ethan's obvious discomfort.

CUSTOMER #1

(raising hands, reassuring)

"Hey, hey, it's okay, kid. I didn't mean to embarrass you. I get it."

Ethan looks up hesitantly, his expression guarded.

CUSTOMER #1

(continuing, kindly)

"You had a crush on her, right? I mean, who wouldn't? She's famous, she's glamorous, but... well, after what happened tonight, it looks like she wasn't worth it."

Ethan swallows hard, forcing himself to nod, though a knot of guilt tightens in his stomach.

ETHAN

(softly)

"Yeah... I guess."

The second customer chimes in, trying to lighten the mood.

CUSTOMER #2

"Look, we've all been there. Chasing after someone who ends up not being who we thought they were. Trust me, you're better off."

Customer #1 leans in slightly, lowering their voice as if sharing a secret.

CUSTOMER #1

"And after what they found in her purse? Meth and all that cash? She's no good for anyone. You dodged a bullet, kid."

Ethan forces a small, awkward laugh, but the guilt presses harder against his chest. The image of Victoria crying in the cell flashes in his mind, and for a moment, he feels the weight of what he's done.

CUSTOMER #2

(patting him on the shoulder)

"Don't beat yourself up about it. You're young—you've got plenty of time to find someone better. Someone real, not someone who ends up like... well, you know."

Dana and Greg approach quickly, noticing the conversation.

DANA

(stepping in, gently)

"Hi, I'm his mom. I appreciate you trying to make him feel better, but he's had a long day. Maybe we can give him some space?"

The customers nod, backing off slightly but offering Ethan a kind smile.

CUSTOMER #1

"Of course. Just trying to help. Take care, kid."

As the customers walk away, Ethan stares at the pinball machine, his hands limp on the controls. The guilt gnaws at him now—far heavier than before. Harper watches him closely, her expression skeptical.

HARPER

(softly, leaning in)

"You okay, Ethan? You look... weird."

Ethan snaps back to reality, forcing a tight smile.

ETHAN

"Yeah. Just... thinking."

Greg folds his arms, watching Ethan with concern before speaking up.

GREG

"We're so sorry about the way Victoria turned out, Ethan. It's hard when someone you look up to disappoints you like that."

Dana nods, her tone soft and empathetic.

DANA

"It's tough, sweetheart. But this isn't a reflection of you. You're a good kid, and you deserve to look up to someone who's worth it."

Harper folds her arms, watching Ethan thoughtfully.

HARPER

"Maybe instead of movie stars, you should look up to someone like Taylor Swift. She's talented, works hard, and actually seems like a good person."

Ethan glances at her, his expression blank, before turning back to the pinball machine.

ETHAN

(half-heartedly)

"Yeah, maybe."

Greg raises an eyebrow but doesn't push further. Dana gently squeezes Ethan's shoulder.

DANA

"Just think about it, sweetheart. You deserve good role models."

Harper continues to watch Ethan for a moment, still suspicious, but she eventually lets it go and steps back.

Ethan forces a small smile, his hands tightening on the pinball controls. His mind, however, is still racing with the weight of what he's done and the close call he's just had.

The arcade hums with energy as passengers crowd around the holographic display screens, abuzz with the shocking news of Victoria Stellar's detention. Suddenly, a voice cuts through the noise, loud and urgent.

ARCADE CUSTOMER #1

(shouting)

"THEY JUST CONFIRMED HER VIOLATION! SHE'S ABOUT TO WALK THE WALK OF SHAME! YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS!"

The arcade goes silent for a moment before erupting into excited chatter. Passengers abandon their games and rush toward the exits, eager to witness the spectacle.

ARCADE CUSTOMER #2

(grinning)

"This is going to be insane! Come on, let's head to the main deck!"

Harper, Jace, and Raven exchange wide-eyed looks before turning to Ethan, who stands frozen by the pinball machine.

HARPER

(stunned)

"They're really doing it. The Walk of Shame... this is insane!"

JACE

(shaking his head in disbelief)

"I can't believe this is actually happening. Victoria Stellar—the Victoria Stellar—is getting kicked off the ship."

RAVEN

(sincerely)

"Come on, we have to see this. It's the biggest thing to happen on this trip."

Ethan swallows hard, forcing a nod.

ETHAN

(quietly)

"Yeah... let's go."

The group follows the crowd out of the arcade, their excitement building as they head toward the main deck.

The main deck is packed to capacity, thousands of passengers gathered to witness Victoria Stellar's Walk of Shame. The air buzzes with anticipation, gossip, and a mix of excitement and disdain. Holographic screens display live footage of Victoria being escorted down the corridor, her once-glamorous appearance reduced to disheveled hair and a trembling frame.

Victoria appears at the far end of the deck, surrounded by a phalanx of over a dozen security guards and four AI robots. Her head hangs low, her golden hair cascading forward to hide her tear-streaked face. Her sobs are silent, but her body trembles visibly as the guards guide her forward.

The moment she steps into view, the crowd erupts into noise.

PASSENGER #1

(jeering)

"There she is! The mighty Victoria Stellar, caught red-handed!"

PASSENGER #2

(mocking)

"Some star she is—more like a falling star!"

As the guards continue their march, the chaotic energy of the crowd grows. Ethan, standing near his family, suddenly finds himself swept forward as passengers jostle and push to get closer.

HARPER

(yelling, reaching for him)

"Ethan! Stay with us!"

DANA

(frantic)

"Ethan, don't get separated!"

But the crowd presses in, shoving Ethan to the front. He stumbles, his heart pounding, and ends up right at the edge of the viewing area with a clear, unobstructed view of Victoria.

PASSENGER #3

(taunting, loudly)

"Hey, isn't that the kid who chased her? You were all over her earlier, weren't you?"

Heads turn toward Ethan, and a ripple of laughter spreads through the crowd.

PASSENGER #4

(laughing)

"That's your crush? You went after *her*? What a loser!"

PASSENGER #5

(mocking)

"Guess you've got a thing for criminals, huh? Smooth move, kid!"

Ethan freezes, his face turning pale as more people start pointing and laughing.

PASSENGER #6

(teasing)

"Look at him! Still starstruck, even after all this!"

The words sting, but Ethan forces himself to look up. His eyes lock onto Victoria, and the world seems to blur around him.

Victoria stumbles slightly, her legs buckling under the weight of the jeers and stares, but the guards hold her upright. Her hair shields her face, but as if sensing someone's gaze, she lifts her head slightly. Her tear-filled eyes scan the crowd until they land on Ethan.

Her expression freezes, a flicker of recognition flashing through her pain. She remembers him—the boy who had chased her down in the women's shopping center earlier. For a brief, excruciating moment, their eyes meet.

Ethan feels his stomach twist as he sees the devastation etched into her face. Her broken, betrayed expression feels like a dagger. He wants to look away, but he can't. The image of her anguish becomes seared into his mind.

Behind him, his family struggles to push through the crowd.

DANA

(panicked)

"Let us through! He's just a kid!"

HARPER

(shouting)

"Ethan! Don't just stand there—come back!"

GREG

(desperately)

"Ethan, move!"

But Ethan doesn't move. His legs feel like lead as more voices jeer around him.

PASSENGER #7

(laughing)

"Bet he still thinks she's perfect!"

PASSENGER #8

(mocking)

"Yeah, good luck with that one, kid! She'll be gone in a minute."

Victoria's gaze drops again, her head bowing as her shoulders shake with silent sobs. The guards march her forward, their movements unrelenting, while objects—cups, food wrappers, scraps of paper—fly through the air, pelting the space around her.

CAPTAIN KANE

(booming, furious)

"ENOUGH!"

The crowd momentarily quiets, startled by the raw authority in his voice, but murmurs and scattered jeers persist. Captain Kane steps forward, his glare sweeping across the massive crowd.

CAPTAIN KANE

(*firm, commanding*)

"I said, ENOUGH! This behavior is unacceptable. Throwing objects and harassing her is a violation of the rules we are here to uphold. Anyone caught participating in this nonsense will face consequences!"

The captain's voice rings out over the chaos, but instead of calming the crowd, it seems to ignite further defiance. A sharp laugh cuts through the noise, followed by someone shouting, "She deserves it!" A bottle whizzes past the captain, narrowly missing him, and crashes against the wall.

CAPTAIN KANE

(*angrily*)

"This is *mutiny*! Guards, control this crowd!"

The guards step forward, trying to form a protective barrier around Victoria, but the passengers push back. Objects continue to fly—cans, shoes, whatever people can grab. The shouting grows louder, drowning out the captain's commands.

Victoria stumbles, clutching her arms around herself as the barrage intensifies. Tears streak her face, but she keeps moving toward the escape pod bay, her steps unsteady.

Ethan stands frozen in the chaos, his fists clenched as he watches the scene unfold. He sees the desperation in Victoria's eyes when she briefly looks back at the crowd.

Captain Kane slams his fist onto the railing in front of him, his voice now razor-sharp and filled with fury.

CAPTAIN KANE

(roaring)

"I SAID ENOUGH!"

The sheer force of his voice silences the crowd, the passengers freezing under his glare. The captain steps forward, his presence radiating authority as he scans the faces of the unruly mob.

CAPTAIN KANE

(furious)

"This behavior is DISGRACEFUL! You're not just spectators—you're passengers on this ship,

and you're bound by its rules. Throwing objects and harassing her is a violation of the very principles we stand for!"

The crowd shifts uneasily, murmurs rippling through the sea of faces. Some passengers lower their heads, embarrassed, while others glance at each other nervously.

CAPTAIN KANE

(continuing, voice rising)

"You think this is entertainment? This is NOT a circus! The law is being enforced, and justice will be served—but it will NOT be accompanied by your disgusting behavior!"

He slams his hand onto the railing again, his voice brimming with authority.

CAPTAIN KANE

(angrily)

"Anyone caught throwing objects or further disrupting this process will face immediate consequences. If you can't show respect, then leave NOW!"

The AI robots stationed throughout the deck step forward, their glowing red eyes scanning the crowd for potential threats. Guards on the platform tense, ready to act if necessary.

Meanwhile, the guards escorting Victoria tighten their formation, shielding her from the hostile crowd. She stumbles again, her sobs wracking her body as she struggles to keep walking. Her hair hides her face, but the cameras zoom in, capturing every trembling step and tear-streaked moment for the holographic screens.

Captain Kane points sharply toward the guards.

CAPTAIN KANE

(firmly, commanding)

"Move her out of here. Now."

The guards quicken their pace, hurrying Victoria toward the escape pod bay. The crowd watches in silence as she disappears from sight, her broken figure etched into their minds.

Captain Kane turns back to the crowd, his eyes blazing with anger.

CAPTAIN KANE

(coldly)

"Let this be a lesson to all of you: no one is above the rules. Violators will be punished, but WE will maintain order. If you cannot conduct yourselves with dignity, you are no better than the crimes we seek to punish."

The passengers remain quiet, chastened by the captain's fury. Slowly, the murmurs begin to fade as the weight of his words settles over the deck.

Amid the silence, Ethan stands near the front, his heart pounding. His siblings and parents finally manage to push through the crowd and reach him.

HARPER

(grabbing his arm, whispering urgently)
"Ethan, what are you doing? We need to go!"

DANA

(firmly, pulling him closer)
"Come on, Ethan. We need to get out of here before this gets any worse."

GREG

(angrily, his voice low but forceful)
"This isn't the place for us. Let's move. Now."

Ethan feels his family tugging him backward, but he remains frozen for a moment, his mind consumed by the image of Victoria's broken form and the captain's searing words.

HARPER

(sharply)
"Ethan, snap out of it! Let's go!"

Finally, Ethan allows himself to be pulled back into the fold of his family. His legs feel like jelly as they guide him away from the scene.

The crowd begins to disperse, subdued and uneasy. Whispers of the spectacle ripple through the passengers as they leave the deck, leaving behind an eerie silence.

Ethan walks with his family, but the weight of what he just witnessed—and the role he played in it—clings to him like a shadow.

Part 9

INT. CELESTARA – JENKINS FAMILY CABIN – NIGHT

The Jenkins family steps into their cabin, the tension from the chaotic events on the main deck still thick in the air. Ethan trails behind, his head down, his movements stiff and robotic. Dana sets her camera on the counter while Greg locks the door behind them. Harper, Jace, and Raven collapse onto the couch, their faces a mixture of unease and exhaustion.

Ethan stands near the door, his hands clenched at his sides. His siblings glance at him, exchanging subtle looks of concern, but no one speaks.

Suddenly, the ship's announcement system chimes, the calm yet commanding voice of the ship's announcer filling the room.

ANNOUNCER

(serious, measured)

"Attention, passengers. In light of the events that unfolded today, all guests are required to attend a mandatory assembly tomorrow afternoon in the Grand Theatre Hall. Important matters regarding ship policy and safety will be addressed. Attendance is mandatory. Failure to attend will result in immediate ejection from the ship, as outlined in our passenger agreement. Thank you."

The announcement ends with a soft chime. A heavy silence falls over the room before the inevitable reactions begin.

HARPER

(rolling her eyes)

"Great. Just what we need—another lecture."

JACE

(sighing)

"Yeah, because sitting in a packed theater while Captain Kane yells at us is exactly the kind of vacation activity we signed up for."

RAVEN

(smiling faintly)

"Bet it'll just be him going on about rules and how we're all on thin ice. Fun times."

Dana raises her hand, cutting through their complaints with an exhausted expression.

DANA

(tiredly)

"Enough. Everyone just go to bed. We've all had a long day, and there's nothing we can do about this tonight."

Greg crosses his arms, his brow furrowed as he looks around the room.

GREG

(firmly)

"She's right. Get some rest. Tomorrow's going to be a long day, and we need to be ready for it."

Before anyone can respond, there's a loud knock at the cabin door. The family exchanges annoyed glances as Greg sighs heavily and moves to answer it.

GREG

(under his breath)

"Now what?"

He opens the door to reveal a stern-looking crew member in a sharp uniform, a datapad in hand.

CREW MEMBER

(authoritatively)

"Good evening. I'm here to ensure all passengers in this cabin are aware of tomorrow's mandatory assembly in the Grand Theatre Hall. Attendance is required, and failure to show up will result in immediate removal from the ship. Do you all understand?"

Greg's expression darkens as he steps forward, blocking the crew member's view into the cabin.

GREG

(flatly)

"Yes, we heard the announcement. Loud and clear."

Harper groans audibly from the couch.

HARPER

(sarcastically)

"Because the blaring announcement wasn't enough?"

The crew member's gaze shifts past Greg, landing on the rest of the family.

CREW MEMBER

(ignoring Harper)

"Please ensure your entire family is present. It's important that everyone understands the gravity of today's events."

DANA

(stepping forward, her tone clipped)

"We get it. Everyone will be there. You don't need to keep reminding us."

The crew member doesn't react to her irritation, instead looking directly at Ethan, who's frozen near the door to his room.

CREW MEMBER

(nodding)

"Good. Make sure you're all punctual. The assembly is not optional."

As the crew member turns to leave, Harper throws her hands up in frustration.

HARPER

(mocking)

"Thanks for the reminder. Couldn't have figured that out ourselves."

Greg shuts the door with a little more force than necessary, running a hand through his hair as he turns back to the family.

GREG

(grumbling)

"Unbelievable. Do they really think we're going to skip it? What do they expect us to do?"

DANA

(sighing)

"They're just doing their job. Let's try to get some sleep."

JACE

(shaking his head)

"Yeah, their job of being annoying."

RAVEN

(chiming in)

"Seriously, we're on a ship, not in prison."

Dana rubs her temples, her patience wearing thin.

DANA

(firmly)

"Enough. Bed. All of you. Now."

Harper, Jace, and Raven groan but begin heading toward their rooms. Jace pats Ethan on the shoulder as he walks by.

JACE

(quietly, with a small grin)

"Don't sweat it, little bro. Just another weird day in space."

Dana watches them go, her eyes lingering on Ethan. He hasn't moved, his posture stiff and his gaze glued to the floor. She walks over and places a gentle hand on his shoulder.

DANA

(softly)

"Ethan, go get some rest, sweetheart. It's been a long day for all of us. You'll feel better in the morning."

Ethan finally looks up, his eyes red and his face pale. He nods but doesn't say anything as he slowly makes his way to his room.

Ethan lies on his bed, staring blankly at the ceiling. The hum of the ship's systems fills the silence, but his mind is anything but quiet. The announcement and the crew member's stern words loop endlessly in his head.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself)

"They're going to know. They'll figure it out. What if they already do?"

He rolls onto his side, clutching his pillow tightly. Guilt claws at his chest as the image of Victoria's broken, tear-streaked face flashes in his mind. He squeezes his eyes shut, but the memories won't go away.

The weight of what he's done and the uncertainty of tomorrow threaten to crush him as he curls up under his blanket, trembling.

The next day, the Jenkins family moves about the cabin, preparing for the mandatory assembly. The air is thick with unease as they dress and get ready, none of them speaking much. Ethan lingers near the window, staring blankly into space, while Harper adjusts her jacket in front of the mirror.

HARPER

(grumbling)

"Great way to spend the day. Forced into a lecture."

JACE

(smirking)

"Yeah, because nothing screams 'vacation' like mandatory meetings and stern warnings."

DANA

(cutting in)

"Enough. Let's just get this over with and move on, okay?"

The tension in the room is palpable, but before anyone can respond, the ship's announcement system blares to life with a startlingly loud chime.

ANNOUNCER

(booming, commanding)

"Attention, passengers. The time has come for the mandatory assembly in the Grand Theatre Hall. Attendance is NOT optional. You are REQUIRED to head to the theatre immediately. Non-compliance will result in immediate consequences."

The voice echoes through the cabin, and the family exchanges uneasy glances.

HARPER

(covering her ears)

"Did they really need to yell? We get it!"

Before anyone can comment further, loud, urgent knocks begin sounding from the cabins next to them. The muffled voices of crew members shouting instructions can be heard through the walls.

CREW MEMBER #1 (O.S.)

"Open the door! This is your final warning. Head to the Grand Theatre Hall immediately!"

The pounding on the neighboring doors grows louder, the tension in the Jenkins' cabin skyrocketing.

JACE

(raising an eyebrow)

"Well, this is definitely overkill."

RAVEN

(nervously)

"They're not kidding around, are they?"

The knocking and shouting grow closer, and the entire family stiffens as their own door suddenly echoes with the same loud, insistent banging.

CREW MEMBER #2 (O.S.)

(angrily)

"Open this door! Attendance is mandatory. You are required to report to the Grand Theatre Hall immediately!"

Greg exhales sharply, running a hand through his hair.

GREG

(muttering)

"Alright, alright, we're going. No need to break the door down."

He strides over and opens the door to find two stern-looking crew members standing in the hallway, their arms crossed and their expressions unyielding.

CREW MEMBER #2

(firmly)

"Is everyone in this cabin ready to go?"

DANA

(nodding, her tone clipped)

"Yes, we're ready. We were just about to leave."

The crew member's eyes scan the family behind her, landing briefly on Ethan, who avoids their gaze and shifts nervously.

CREW MEMBER #1

(calm but forceful)

"Good. Make your way to the theatre now. No delays."

Greg nods curtly and shuts the door as the crew moves to the next cabin, their loud demands continuing down the hallway. He turns back to the family, his face tight with frustration.

GREG

"Let's go before they knock the door down next time."

HARPER

(sarcastically)

"Yeah, because that's the best way to make passengers feel relaxed—threaten them."

DANA

(quickly, trying to move things along)

"Harper, enough. Let's just go."

The family gathers their things and heads for the door, the tension between them simmering as they prepare to face whatever awaits them in the Grand Theatre Hall.

The Jenkins family steps into the hallway, which is now bustling with activity. Passengers stream out of their cabins, the narrow corridor growing crowded and noisy. People shuffle in clusters, some talking anxiously while others glance around, trying to make sense of the commotion.

Crew members stationed along the hallway shout instructions, their authoritative voices rising above the murmur of the crowd.

CREW MEMBER #3

(loudly)

"Keep moving! The Grand Theatre Hall is straight ahead. No delays!"

The family is jostled slightly as they make their way through the throng of people. Harper mutters under her breath, her irritation growing.

HARPER

(grumbling)

"Could this get any worse? It's like being herded like cattle."

JACE

(trying to stay lighthearted)

"Yeah, nothing says fun like mandatory crowd control."

Ethan stays quiet, keeping his head low as the family navigates the packed hallway. His heart pounds in his chest, each step feeling heavier as they approach the theatre.

The din of voices and shuffling feet fills the air, creating an overwhelming sense of chaos. Some passengers look annoyed, while others appear genuinely nervous about what's to come.

RAVEN

(looking around)

"Is it just me, or does this feel way too intense? It's just a meeting, right?"

DANA

(softly, but firmly)

"Just keep moving. Let's get there and get this over with."

The family presses forward, merging with the river of passengers heading toward the Grand Theatre Hall. The hum of the ship's systems is drowned out by the restless energy of the crowd, setting the stage for whatever is about to unfold.

The Grand Theatre Hall is packed to capacity, with thousands of passengers crammed into their seats. The air buzzes with restless chatter, the murmur of voices blending into a chaotic hum. Ethan sits with his family near the middle, sandwiched between Harper and Jace. His head remains low, his hands gripping the edge of his seat tightly.

The massive stage at the front of the hall is lit with bright spotlights, and the Celestara's logo shimmers against the back wall. Captain Kane stands at the podium, his face a thunderous mask of anger. His white uniform gleams under the lights, but his stormy expression dominates the room.

He slams his fist onto the podium, the sharp sound reverberating through the space.

CAPTAIN KANE

(booming, furious)

"ENOUGH!"

The crowd immediately hushes, the chatter dying as every passenger turns their attention to the enraged captain. Kane's piercing glare sweeps across the hall, silencing even the faintest whispers.

CAPTAIN KANE

(angrily)

"I did not call this assembly for you to gossip like schoolchildren. This is a matter of discipline, and I expect silence and respect while I address you. Am I clear?"

The hall remains still, the tension thick in the air. The captain takes a measured breath, but his expression remains severe.

CAPTAIN KANE

(cutting)

"As many of you already know, last night, Victoria Stellar was detained for possession of illegal substances and unreported cash. This so-called star fell far from grace. She was placed in the space cell for her violation, where she spent an hour under surveillance. Following that, she was subjected to The Walk of Shame and then escorted to an escape pod, sent back to Earth, where

federal authorities will handle her case. Her actions were a disgrace, but they pale in comparison to the behavior I witnessed from many of you last night."

Gasps ripple through the crowd. Some passengers whisper in shock, but others appear almost gleeful at the downfall of a celebrity.

Captain Kane slams his fist onto the podium again, his eyes narrowing.

CAPTAIN KANE

(angrily)

"I SAID, QUIET!"

The hall falls silent again, the weight of his voice palpable. Kane's glare intensifies as he leans forward, gripping the edges of the podium.

CAPTAIN KANE

(coldly)

"Let me be perfectly clear: this spaceship operates under strict rules. We are not above the law because we are traveling to the stars. Last night's behavior was not only unacceptable—it was disgraceful."

He pauses, his sharp gaze cutting through the room. Ethan shifts uncomfortably in his seat, avoiding his family's eyes.

CAPTAIN KANE

(furious)

"I am addressing the chaos that unfolded on the observation deck. The throwing of objects, the yelling, the blatant disregard for order. You behaved like animals. This is not some cheap vacation. This is a journey to the moon and back—a journey that represents the pinnacle of human innovation!"

The captain steps out from behind the podium, pacing across the stage as his voice rises in intensity.

CAPTAIN KANE

(booming)

"Let me make this abundantly clear: this behavior will not happen again. If I see even the slightest hint of disorder, I will turn this ship around and head straight back to Earth. This journey will be canceled, and there will be no refunds."

He stops pacing and glares at the audience, his tone growing even more severe.

CAPTAIN KANE

(raising his voice)

"Do you have any idea how embarrassing your actions were? Throwing objects at someone being escorted to justice? That is not justice. That is mob behavior. Harassing and humiliating

someone—even if they've broken the law—is beneath the standards of this ship and beneath you as passengers. You weren't just disrespecting her—you were disrespecting yourselves, the Celestara, and everything this journey is supposed to represent."

The crowd collectively tenses, murmurs of unease spreading like wildfire. Passengers glance at each other nervously, the gravity of the captain's words settling in.

CAPTAIN KANE

(seriously)

"This ship is the pride of Earth's spacefaring achievements. It is a symbol of humanity's progress, a vessel that carries hope, wonder, and exploration. Last night, you reduced it to a spectacle of shame. That behavior tarnishes everything we've worked to achieve."

He scans the room, his sharp gaze daring anyone to interrupt.

CAPTAIN KANE

(firmly)

"We are better than this. This ship was built to bring people together, to share in the wonder of space travel and the marvels of technology. It was not built to host mob behavior, petty squabbles, or public humiliation."

He pauses, his gaze sweeping across the room, making sure his words sink in.

CAPTAIN KANE

(earnestly)

"You are privileged to be here. You are among the few who get to experience this journey—a journey that represents our species reaching for the stars. But with privilege comes responsibility. Responsibility to uphold decency, respect, and order."

The room is silent, the weight of his words pressing down on everyone.

CAPTAIN KANE

(seriously)

"Victoria Stellar violated the rules, and she faced the consequences. That does not give anyone the right to turn this ship into a circus. Throwing objects? Mocking someone as they're escorted away? That is not justice—that's cruelty. And it is unacceptable."

The captain steps closer to the edge of the stage, his voice dropping but still resonating with authority.

CAPTAIN KANE

(firmly)

"If we cannot maintain order, if we cannot uphold the principles of fairness and decency, then this trip will be remembered not as the journey of a lifetime, but as an embarrassing failure. And I will not allow that to happen."

He steps back behind the podium, his tone growing sharper again.

CAPTAIN KANE

(firmly)

"This is your only warning. There will be no second chances. Order will be maintained on this ship, or this journey ends. You have my word on that."

The silence in the room is deafening as Captain Kane scans the faces of the crowd. Even the most confident passengers avoid his gaze, cowed by his speech. Ethan keeps his head down, his heart racing as guilt gnaws at him. Harper leans closer, her brow furrowed with concern.

HARPER

(whispering to Ethan)

"You okay?"

Ethan nods stiffly, his voice barely audible.

ETHAN

(quietly)

"Yeah, I'm okay."

Harper studies him for a moment longer but decides not to push further. Dana glances around the room as the crowd begins to stir and rise from their seats.

DANA

(whispering to the family)

"Let's get out of here. We've had enough for one day."

Greg nods, placing a reassuring hand on Ethan's shoulder as the family files out with the dispersing crowd. The tension in the air is still thick, but the noise of passengers muttering and shuffling fills the void left by the captain's fiery speech.

INT. CELESTARA – LUXURY DINING HALL – LATER

The Jenkins family sits at a round table near the large observation windows, where the endless expanse of stars provides a stunning backdrop. The atmosphere at the table is noticeably lighter as they sip on drinks and peruse the menu.

GREG

(smiling softly)

"Well, that was... intense. But at least we can enjoy a nice lunch now."

DANA

(nodding)

"Exactly. Let's try to put that behind us and enjoy the rest of the day. The stars look beautiful out there, don't they?"

HARPER

(grinning slightly)

"Yeah, and hey, at least we weren't the ones getting scolded on stage. That's a win."

Jace chuckles, nudging Ethan playfully.

JACE

"How about you, little dude? What're you in the mood for? Something to cheer you up?"

Ethan glances at the menu, his nerves still simmering beneath the surface, but the warm energy of his family starts to ease the tension.

ETHAN

(smiling faintly)

"I think I'll just get a burger. Maybe some fries."

RAVEN

(chiming in)

"Good choice. Nothing a burger can't fix, right?"

The family laughs lightly, the weight of the morning's events starting to lift. They place their orders, the sound of clinking silverware and murmured conversation from other tables creating a comforting ambiance.

As they wait for their food, the Jenkins family begins to relax, the gravity of the captain's speech slowly fading into the background of their shared meal.

Part 10

INT. CELESTARA – LUCURT AND RELAXATION DECK – LATER THAT NIGHT, AFTER DINNER

The Jenkins family steps onto the Lucurt and Relaxation Deck, a sprawling area filled with shimmering pools, bubbling hot tubs, and luxurious loungers overlooking a panoramic view of the stars. Soft ambient music plays in the background, and holographic attendants float by, offering towels and refreshments.

DANA

(looking around in awe)

"Now this is what I call relaxation. Look at those private hot tubs! It's like a spa in space."

GREG

(grinning)

"Alright, team. Who's ready for a movie night, hot-tub style?"

ETHAN

(half-smiling)

"Sounds good to me. Better than just sitting around."

HARPER

(teasing)

"Wow, Ethan actually agreeing with Dad? Are you sure you're feeling okay?"

JACE

(nudging Ethan)

"Glad to see you're not sulking anymore. Maybe this trip will be fun after all."

RAVEN

(playfully smirking)

"You're all about the movie now? What happened to being grumpy?"

DANA

(clapping her hands)

"Alright, enough teasing. Let's pick a tub and get comfortable."

A holographic attendant materializes beside them, its soothing voice cutting through the gentle hum of the deck.

HOLOGRAPHIC ATTENDANT

"Welcome to the Lucurt and Relaxation Deck. Your private hot tub has been reserved and customized for your preferences. Please follow me."

The family follows the hologram to a secluded hot tub surrounded by glowing plants that pulse softly with light. A large holographic screen hovers above the tub, ready to display their selected movie.

INT. PRIVATE HOT TUB – LATER

The family settles into the warm, bubbling water. The view of the stars through the glass dome above is breathtaking. Greg and Dana sit on one side, Harper leans back comfortably, Jace and Raven exchange playful banter, and Ethan stretches his arms out, sinking deeper into the water as a small smile creeps onto his face.

HOLOGRAPHIC ATTENDANT

"Your selected movie, *Sonic the Hedgehog 2*, will begin shortly. Enjoy your experience."

The screen flickers to life, and the opening scenes of *Sonic the Hedgehog 2* begin to play. Greg passes around drinks from a floating tray while Dana adjusts the temperature of the tub with a glowing control panel.

GREG

(laughing)

"Alright, who's Team Sonic, and who's Team Knuckles?"

HARPER

(smirking)

"Knuckles all the way. He's got the attitude."

JACE

(teasing)

"Figures. Harper always sides with the edgy ones."

DANA

(chuckling)

"I'll take Tails. Someone has to root for the sweet, loyal one."

ETHAN

(leaning back, grinning)

"Team Sonic, obviously. He's the fastest, coolest one."

RAVEN

(grinning)

"I'm with Harper. Knuckles is the real MVP."

The family laughs and settles into watching the movie. Ethan's smile fades slightly as his mind drifts to the earlier incident. He recalls stealing the badge and setting up Victoria Stellar to take the fall for something she didn't do. The memory feels heavy, but he pushes it aside, trying to convince himself it wasn't as bad as it seemed.

RAVEN

(looking at Ethan knowingly)

"Listen, Ethan, you know she screwed herself over. Getting caught with drugs and all? That's on her. Let it go."

HARPER

(nodding)

"Exactly. She's no good now, and honestly, she wasn't worth it to begin with."

JACE

(smiling)

"Yeah, man. She's old news. Focus on what's important—this trip and having fun."

DANA

(softly, encouraging)

"This is your chance to move on, Ethan. Forget the drama and enjoy the memories we're making together."

GREG

(grinning)

"And hey, you've got the best seat in the house—a hot tub in space with your family. Doesn't get better than that."

Ethan looks around at his family, their smiles warm and supportive. He nods, a genuine smile spreading across his face as the guilt and frustration start to lift.

ETHAN

(cheerfully)

"You're right. This is going to be a great trip. Thanks, everyone."

The family continues watching *Sonic 2*, their laughter and chatter blending with the soothing sounds of the bubbling hot tub. Outside the glass dome, the stars twinkle in the vast expanse of space, framing a picture-perfect moment of togetherness and joy. As the movie plays on, Ethan feels a newfound lightness, realizing the importance of leaving the past behind and embracing the moments in front of him.

INT. CELESTARA – VARIOUS LOCATIONS – NEXT DAY

Ethan wakes up feeling refreshed, the excitement of the day's adventures buzzing in his chest. He meets his family at breakfast in the shimmering galaxy-themed dining hall, the air filled with laughter and the aroma of intergalactic delicacies. The dining hall features floating trays delivering meals, and a holographic menu showcasing dishes inspired by galaxies far and wide.

DANA

(enthusiastic)

"Alright, team! We've got a packed day ahead. Zero-gravity yoga, drone racing, and a galactic viewing dome tour. Sound good?"

GREG

(smiling)

"And don't forget the infinity maze. I'm ready to show you all how it's done."

ETHAN

(grinning)

"Yeah, right, Dad. I'm totally beating you at drone racing."

HARPER

(teasing)

"You wish, Ethan. I'm taking the trophy."

The family's banter continues as they enjoy their meals. A robotic server stops by, refilling their drinks and engaging them in light conversation about the day's planned activities. Ethan chuckles as the robot suggests he stick to beginner courses for drone racing, which earns him teasing laughs from Harper and Jace.

INT. CELESTARA – ZERO-GRAVITY YOGA STUDIO – LATER

Ethan and his family float in a serene, softly lit studio, following the instructions of a holographic yoga teacher. The room has gentle ambient music, and soft glowing orbs float around, adding to the relaxing atmosphere. The zero-gravity experience has everyone giggling as they struggle to maintain poses.

JACE

(spinning slightly out of control)

"This is harder than it looks!"

RAVEN

(laughing)

"Speak for yourself. I'm a natural!"

Ethan manages a near-perfect pose and looks around proudly.

ETHAN

(smiling)

"Guess I'm the yoga master now."

DANA

(clapping)

"Good job, Ethan!"

As they leave the yoga studio, Ethan feels a sense of lightness, both from the activity and the sheer fun of trying something new with his family.

INT. CELESTARA – DRONE RACING ARENA – LATER

The family enters the brightly lit drone racing arena, buzzing with energy. Neon lights line the tracks, and spectators cheer from a viewing deck above. Each family member picks a drone, customizing it with their chosen colors and decals. Ethan chooses a sleek black-and-red design, determined to win.

HOLOGRAPHIC ANNOUNCER

"Racers, prepare for launch!"

The family cheers as their drones zip through glowing neon hoops, navigating a challenging obstacle course. Ethan's competitive spirit shines as he expertly pilots his drone, narrowly avoiding obstacles and pulling off daring moves.

ETHAN

(shouting)

"Yes! I'm in the lead!"

HARPER

(teasing)

"Don't get cocky, little brother."

Ethan wins the race and pumps his fists in victory, his family clapping and laughing at his triumphant celebration.

GREG

(clapping him on the back)

"Well done, champ. That was impressive."

ETHAN

(grinning)

"Told you I'd win."

INT. CELESTARA – INFINITY MAZE – LATER

The family explores the infinity maze, a surreal labyrinth filled with shimmering pathways and mirrored walls. The maze constantly shifts, creating an ever-changing challenge. Ethan and Jace race ahead, trying to find the exit first, while Dana and Greg admire the glowing crystal formations scattered throughout.

JACE

(teasing)

"You're going the wrong way, Ethan!"

ETHAN

(laughing)

"No way, I've got this!"

The family eventually reunites at the maze's exit, laughing and sharing stories about their misadventures inside.

INT. CELESTARA – GALACTIC VIEWING DOME – LATER

The family gazes in awe at the panoramic view of the galaxy, the stars twinkling in a mesmerizing display. Comets streak by, leaving trails of light, and nearby planets rotate slowly. Ethan feels a swell of pride as he stands beside his family, relishing the moment.

ETHAN

(internal monologue)

"This is what it's all about. Victoria was just a distraction. This... this is incredible."

DANA

(softly)

"Isn't it beautiful? Moments like this make it all worth it."

GREG

(nodding)

"Absolutely."

The family poses for a photo in front of the viewing dome, capturing the moment.

INT. CELESTARA – FAMILY SUITE – NIGHT

Ethan sits on his bed, reflecting on the day. Despite the lingering thought of what he did to Victoria, he feels a sense of pride. In his mind, she had it coming, and now, he's free to enjoy the trip with his family.

ETHAN

(to himself)

"She wasn't worth it. I'm better off focusing on what really matters."

His family's laughter drifts in from the common area, and he smiles, feeling a deep connection to them. He remembers the thrill of the day's activities and how much closer he feels to his family. The day had been perfect, and for the first time in a long time, Ethan feels at peace.

INT. CELESTARA – FAMILY SUITE – MORNING

The next day, the Jenkins family gathers in the common area of their suite. The holographic activity catalog floats in midair, its colorful images shifting as Dana scrolls through it with a disappointed frown.

DANA

(sighing)

"Well, that's it. We've done everything. Every prepaid activity is used up."

GREG

(frowning)

"They really know how to drain your wallet up here."

HARPER

(sarcastic)

"Who knew a vacation in space would come with a budget cap?"

DANA

(leaning back smugly)

"Wow, the fun police have officially arrived. Guess it's game over, huh?"

GREG

(trying to stay positive)

"There's still the public pool. We can bring the football and make the best of it."

JACE

(nodding)

"It's not exactly drone racing, but it beats sitting around doing nothing."

RAVEN

(grinning)

"I'll take you all on. Winner gets bragging rights."

The family exchanges playful smiles, grabbing their towels and gear. Ethan lingers behind for a moment, his expression unreadable.

INT. CELESTARA – PUBLIC POOL – LATER

The public pool is bustling with activity. The Jenkins family tosses the football back and forth, their laughter blending with the sounds of splashing water and cheerful conversations.

Ethan, however, seems distracted. He catches a pass from Greg but throws it back lazily, wading to the edge of the pool with an exaggerated sigh.

DANA

(noticing)

"Ethan, is something bothering you?"

ETHAN

(grinning slyly, with faux innocence)

"Bothering me? Mom, please. I'm as carefree as a space dolphin."

HARPER

(rolling her eyes)

"What does that even mean?"

ETHAN

(smirking)

"Exactly what it sounds like."

He hauls himself out of the pool, grabbing a towel and drying off dramatically.

DANA

(tilting her head)

"Ethan, where are you going?"

ETHAN

(slyly, wrapping the towel around his neck)

"Oh, just... places."

GREG

(skeptical)

"What kind of places?"

Ethan's grin widens as he leans closer to the group, lowering his voice.

ETHAN

(conspiratorial)

"The kind of places you don't ask about if you want to be surprised."

HARPER

(suspicious)

"Ethan, you're acting weird. What are you up to?"

ETHAN

(putting a hand to his chest, mock-offended)

"Me? Weird? Harper, I'm offended. Can't a guy have a little mystery in his life?"

GREG

(half-laughing)

"Whatever it is, don't do anything that'll get us in trouble, alright?"

Ethan gives him a wide, innocent smile.

ETHAN

"Oh, trouble? Me? Never."

He tosses his towel over his shoulder and starts walking away, pausing at the exit to glance back at his family with a mischievous twinkle in his eye.

ETHAN

(slyly)

"Just trust me on this one, folks. When I come back, you'll all be very, very happy."

Before anyone can respond, he strolls out, humming a tune under his breath.

HARPER

(raising an eyebrow)

"Did he seriously just 'mystery' us like that? He's hiding something."

DANA

(sighing)

"Let him be. Maybe he's planning a surprise."

JACE

(grinning)

"Or maybe he's just sneaking off to do something ridiculous. Knowing Ethan, it's a 50-50 shot."

RAVEN

(smiling)

"Whatever it is, it's bound to be entertaining. He always brings the drama."

HARPER

(folding her arms)

"Yeah, entertaining for him. If this blows up in our faces, don't say I didn't warn you."

The family exchanges a few chuckles, their curiosity simmering as they return to their pool game.

Ethan returns to the suite, his expression filled with purpose. The rest of the family is still at the pool, giving him the opportunity he needs. Moving quickly, he changes into casual clothes and retrieves a small device from his drawer, tucking it into his pocket.

He pauses at the door, glancing around the empty suite, then smirks to himself.

ETHAN

(low, to himself)

"Time to make history."

Humming softly, he steps out and closes the door behind him.

Ethan strides through the sleek, glowing corridors of the Celestara, his steps brisk and deliberate. The futuristic design of the ship gleams around him, the hum of the ship's systems adding to the atmosphere.

His face is a mixture of excitement and mischief. He pats the device in his pocket and chuckles under his breath.

ETHAN

(low and conspiratorial)

"They'll never see this coming. This is going to be legendary."

He stops at an intersection, glancing around with exaggerated suspicion. Adjusting his posture, he pulls the device out and checks it before continuing down a long, quiet hallway.

Ethan approaches the towering, imposing doors of the Captain's Quarters. AI security systems flank the entryway, their glowing blue visors scanning the corridor. Ethan pauses in front of the scanners, pulling out the stolen badge from his pocket.

With a deep breath and a confident grin, he swipes the badge across the scanner.

AI SYSTEM

"Access granted. Welcome, authorized personnel."

The heavy doors slide open with a low hiss, revealing the pristine interior of the Captain's Quarters. Ethan hesitates for a moment, taking in the sight before stepping inside.

The room is an immaculate blend of luxury and advanced technology. Ethan's eyes widen as he takes in the polished surfaces, glowing holographic displays, and sleek control panels.

He walks slowly, his gaze darting around the space. Stopping in front of a glowing console labeled "**Nexus Command Access**," Ethan lets out a soft laugh.

ETHAN

(whispering, excited)

"The brain of the entire ship. Jackpot."

He swipes the badge again, and the console comes to life, displaying a holographic interface.

AI SYSTEM

"Access granted. Welcome, Administrator."

Ethan grins, his hands moving over the controls with practiced ease. He navigates through menus, his eyes lighting up as he locates the "**Privilege Access Terminal**."

Ethan stands before the sleek terminal, its glowing screen displaying a list of commands and options. He types into the search bar: "**Find Jenkins Family Account**."

The machine processes for a moment before displaying:

PRIVILEGE ACCESS TERMINAL

"Jenkins Family Account located. Members listed as follows:

- Greg Jenkins – Primary Account Holder
- Dana Jenkins – Secondary Account Holder
- Harper Jenkins – Authorized Member
- Jace Jenkins – Authorized Member
- Raven [Guest] – Temporary Member
- Ethan Jenkins – Authorized Member"

Ethan smirks at the listing, his fingers flying over the keyboard as he inputs a new command: "**Grant Unlimited Access to All Activities and Amenities**."

The machine beeps softly, and the robotic voice responds:

PRIVILEGE ACCESS TERMINAL

"Request accepted. Unlimited access granted to Jenkins Family Account."

Ethan leans back, folding his arms with a satisfied grin.

ETHAN

(to himself, smugly)

"No more boring pool days for us. You're welcome, family."

He glances at the glowing screen one last time before turning to leave, his step light with triumph as the room hums softly behind him.

The public pool area is alive with energy. The Jenkins family lounges by the pool, watching the holographic projector overhead as it displays dazzling images of space exploration. Jace and Raven toss the football across the water, while Greg and Dana relax on lounge chairs.

Ethan strides in, a smug grin plastered across his face. He moves confidently toward his family, his demeanor practically radiating mischief.

ETHAN

(casually, with a sly tone)

"Hey, everyone. Enjoying the budget pool experience?"

DANA

(squinting at him)

"Ethan, where have you been? You've been gone for a while."

ETHAN

(pretending to be innocent)

"Oh, just handling some things. Important things. Speaking of which, you should all check your credits."

The family exchanges confused glances.

HARPER

(skeptical, narrowing her eyes)

"What did you do this time?"

ETHAN

(grinning, with faux humility)

"Trust me, Harp, you'll want to see this. Go on, check."

Dana picks up the family's holographic tablet from the table and swipes through their account details. Her eyes widen, and she lets out a gasp loud enough to make Jace drop the football.

DANA

(gasping)

"Unlimited access?! Ethan, how—"

Greg leans over, frowning as he reads the account status.

GREG

"Unlimited access to everything? That can't be right."

JACE

(pulling himself out of the pool)

"Wait, what? Unlimited access? Are you serious?"

Raven moves closer, her curiosity piqued.

RAVEN

"Like, unlimited? For real? To everything?"

Ethan smirks, leaning casually against a lounge chair.

ETHAN

"Yep. All access, all perks, all yours. No more lame public pools for us."

HARPER

(skeptical)

"Okay, how did you pull this off, Ethan? What kind of scheme are you running this time?"

Ethan straightens up, feigning offense as he gestures dramatically.

ETHAN

(innocent tone)

"Wow, the lack of faith in me is just... staggering. Can't a guy win a contest without everyone getting suspicious?"

DANA

(raising an eyebrow)

"A contest? What contest? We didn't sign up for anything."

ETHAN

(grinning confidently)

"Of course you didn't. I did. It was a trivia contest on the ship's app. First place wins unlimited access for their family. And guess who aced it?"

He points to himself smugly, and the family stares at him in stunned silence.

HARPER

(crossing her arms)

"You? A trivia contest? Really?"

GREG

(narrowing his eyes)

"Ethan, this sounds... convenient. Too convenient."

ETHAN

(smirking)

"Believe what you want. All I know is, I played, I won, and now you all get to reap the benefits. You're welcome."

Dana hesitates, glancing at Greg with uncertainty.

DANA

"It feels... too good to be true. But if the system updated our account—"

JACE

(cutting her off, grinning)

"Who cares how it happened? We've got unlimited access! Zero-gravity yoga, here I come!"

Raven laughs, nudging him.

RAVEN

"Drone racing first. I've been dying to try it!"

The family's excitement begins to build, their doubts fading in the face of the possibilities. Even Greg starts to crack a smile.

GREG

(half-laughing)

"Alright, alright. If this is legit, I'm not going to waste it. Ethan, if you really pulled this off, good job."

ETHAN

(grinning triumphantly)

"See? I told you I could deliver."

Harper, however, remains unconvinced.

HARPER

(quietly, suspicious)

"Trivia contest, huh? Sure."

Ethan catches her gaze and shoots her a smug wink.

ETHAN

"Relax, Harp. Just enjoy the ride."

Dana claps her hands, her excitement overcoming her initial skepticism.

DANA

"Okay, let's figure out what to try first! Galactic fine dining? Private pool cabanas?"

The family erupts into lively chatter, planning their next moves as their excitement builds. Harper watches Ethan carefully, her suspicion lingering beneath the surface.

HARPER

(to herself, muttering)

"I don't buy it."

Ethan leans back in his chair, his grin widening as he watches his family's excitement grow.

Later that day, after indulging in a whirlwind of the ship's thrilling activities, the Jenkins family finds themselves at **Galactic Scoops**, the spaceship's lively and futuristic ice cream parlor. The walls shimmer with holographic displays of swirling galaxies, casting a gentle, otherworldly glow over the room. A sleek robotic server glides gracefully between tables, balancing trays of vibrant, otherworldly desserts that seem almost too stunning to eat.

Each family member enjoys their chosen treat: Harper digs into a neon blue sundae, Jace and Raven share a massive asteroid-shaped dessert, and Greg and Dana sip on shimmering starfruit milkshakes. Ethan leans back in his seat, twirling his spoon, clearly waiting for the perfect moment to speak.

DANA

(contentedly)

"This is amazing. I've never tasted anything like it."

GREG

(nodding, sipping)

"Expensive, but worth it. Definitely better than the replicator desserts."

HARPER

(playfully)

"Sure, but now we're officially out of fun ideas. Unlimited access or not, how many desserts can we eat before we get bored?"

ETHAN

(casually, with a sly grin)

"Who says we're out of ideas? You guys haven't been paying attention to the big event happening tonight."

The family pauses, glancing at him curiously.

JACE

(skeptical)

"What big event?"

ETHAN

(leaning forward, grinning)

"The **Celestial Concert**. You know, that one-time, ultra-exclusive, ridiculously expensive thing? Only the richest and most famous people on this ship are getting in."

The table goes quiet for a moment as the family processes what Ethan just said.

DANA

(frowning slightly)

"I saw something about that on the activity catalog, but there's no way we're invited. Those tickets cost a fortune."

HARPER

(sarcastic)

"Yeah, Ethan. Let me guess—you're planning to sneak us in?"

Ethan leans back in his seat, his grin widening.

ETHAN

(mock offense)

"Wow. Such little faith in me. I don't need to sneak anyone in. With our unlimited access, it's already available to us."

The family exchanges stunned glances.

GREG

(disbelieving)

"You're joking. That can't be right."

ETHAN

(grinning smugly)

"Try checking the catalog again, Dad. I'll wait."

Dana pulls out the holographic tablet, swiping through the activities until she finds the listing for the **Celestial Concert**. Her eyes widen as she reads the details.

DANA

(reading)

"Exclusive Celestial Concert—VIP Lounge. Tonight only."

(her voice falters as she looks closer)
"Available to Unlimited Access Guests."

Greg leans over, his expression a mixture of disbelief and amazement.

GREG

(stunned)
"It's real. We can actually go."

JACE

(excitedly)
"No way! We're going to the Celestial Concert? That's, like, the biggest thing happening on this ship!"

RAVEN

(grinning)
"I heard Victoria Stellar was supposed to go before... well, you know. And that it's packed with celebrities. This is insane!"

HARPER

(narrowing her eyes at Ethan)
"Alright, trivia boy. How did you make this happen?"

Ethan takes a dramatic bite of his ice cream, pausing for effect before answering.

ETHAN

(nonchalantly)
"Didn't I tell you? Unlimited access means unlimited access. Trivia contest perks, baby."

HARPER

(flatly)
"You're sticking with the trivia story, huh?"

ETHAN

(grinning)
"Believe it or not, Harp. But tonight, we're rubbing elbows with the stars. You're welcome."

Dana clasps her hands together, her initial skepticism giving way to excitement.

DANA

"I can't believe this. A once-in-a-lifetime event, and we get to be there!"

GREG

(softly, still stunned)
"This is... incredible. We couldn't even dream of affording something like this."

JACE

(grinning)

"Forget the ice cream. We need to figure out what we're wearing!"

The family begins chattering excitedly, their suspicions of Ethan fading as the allure of the concert overtakes them. Harper, however, remains skeptical, her eyes fixed on Ethan as he finishes his dessert with a self-satisfied smirk.

HARPER

(quietly, to herself)

"Trivia contest... yeah, sure."

Ethan catches her gaze and gives her a quick wink before standing.

ETHAN

"Alright, folks. Enjoy your ice cream while you can. Tonight, we're rolling with the elite."

The family laughs, their excitement building as the prospect of the Celestial Concert becomes real.

Part 11

INT. CELESTARA – VIP LOUNGE CORRIDOR – NIGHT

The Jenkins family walks together down a sleek, glowing corridor leading to the entrance of the **VIP Lounge**. Dana adjusts her dress nervously, while Greg glances at his reflection in a polished surface. Harper and Jace exchange excited glances, and Ethan walks with his trademark smug grin, looking like he owns the place.

Ahead of them, two tall guards dressed in sharp, black uniforms stand at attention by the entrance. Their imposing presence is heightened by the holographic panels around them, glowing with the concert's exclusive branding: "**Celestial Concert – Tonight Only.**"

The Jenkins family approaches, and the guards immediately step forward, blocking the way.

GUARD #1

(sternly)

"Passes, please."

Dana pulls out the holographic passes, nervously holding them out for inspection. The guards scan the passes with a sleek handheld device. The scanner beeps and flashes green, and the guards exchange surprised glances.

GUARD #2

(raising an eyebrow)

"Unlimited access? For the Celestial Concert?"

The Jenkins family nods, trying to suppress their excitement. Ethan crosses his arms, smirking.

GUARD #1

(recovering)

"Very well. Welcome to the VIP Lounge."

(gesturing)

"Enjoy the concert."

The guards step aside, and the family walks through the grand entrance.

The VIP Lounge is a vision of luxury. Towering glass walls offer breathtaking views of the cosmos, while soft, ambient lighting bathes the room in a warm glow. Celebrities and high-profile guests mingle, dressed in dazzling outfits. Waitstaff—both human and robotic—glide seamlessly through the crowd, offering sparkling cocktails and hors d'oeuvres that look like miniature works of art.

The Jenkins family takes a moment to soak it all in.

DANA

(awed, whispering)

"This is incredible. I feel like I shouldn't even be here."

HARPER

(grinning)

"Don't look now, but I think that's an actual royal over there."

JACE

(nudging Raven)

"Check it out! That's Kade Sparks! The zero-gravity football legend!"

ETHAN

(casually, with a smirk)

"See? I told you this was going to be good. Stick with me, and you'll always get the VIP treatment."

The family moves deeper into the lounge, their excitement building as they approach the grand concert stage, glowing in the distance.

The concert space hums with the anticipation of the grand performance. The Jenkins family takes their seats, marveling at the breathtaking views of holographic galaxies swirling overhead. Victoria Stellar's glamorous girlfriends, seated nearby, notice Ethan and exchange glances.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(whispering, incredulous)

"That's the boy who chased Victoria earlier on the trip."

GIRLFRIEND #2

(frowning)

"And now he's here, at the Celestial Concert? This event is supposed to be for the elite."

The group approaches the Jenkins family. Ethan spots them coming and straightens up, wearing his signature smug grin.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(snickering)

"So, little creep, how exactly did you manage to get into the most exclusive event on the ship?"

ETHAN

(casually)

"Simple. I won a contest. Trivia, ship-wide. First prize: unlimited access for my entire family."

The girlfriends exchange disbelieving looks.

GIRLFRIEND #2

(skeptical)

"A trivia contest? For unlimited access? That's a new one. Funny, because if something that big happened, we'd have heard about it."

GIRLFRIEND #1

(mocking)

"Yeah. So, what's the real story, trivia boy?"

ETHAN

(leaning back confidently)

"Believe what you want, ladies. I'm here, aren't I? Guess you just weren't paying attention."

The girlfriends bristle, their disbelief quickly turning to frustration.

GIRLFRIEND #2

(angrily)

"There's no way this is real. Unlimited access for your family? That's not a thing. We're going to find out what the hell is going on!!"

INT. CELESTARA – VIP LOUNGE – MOMENTS LATER

The girlfriends approach a group of wealthy passengers, all dressed in designer attire and sipping shimmering cocktails.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(excitedly)

"Did you hear about a trivia contest on this ship that gave away unlimited access to everything?"

The passengers exchange puzzled looks.

PASSENGER #1

(frowning)

"Trivia contest? No, I haven't heard anything like that."

PASSENGER #2

(shaking his head)

"Unlimited access? That's absurd. If there was a contest like that, it'd be all over the ship."

PASSENGER #3

(laughing)

"Do you know how much unlimited access costs? They'd never just give it away like that."

The girlfriends grow more agitated, their suspicions intensifying.

GIRLFRIEND #2

(frustrated)

"Exactly. So how did that boy and his family get in here?"

PASSENGER #1

(raising an eyebrow)

"Maybe someone pulled some strings. Or maybe..."

(pauses, lowering his voice)

"...something shady's going on."

The girlfriends exchange determined looks, now more certain than ever that something isn't right.

The girlfriends, visibly agitated, return to the concert area after questioning several passengers. Their frustration is evident as they storm back toward the Jenkins family. Ethan, sitting comfortably in his chair, notices them approaching and braces himself, though his smug grin remains intact.

The girlfriends stop directly in front of Ethan, their expressions a mix of anger and disbelief.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(angrily)

"We asked around. No one's heard of your so-called trivia contest."

GIRLFRIEND #2

(cutting in, accusatory)

"Yeah, not one person. You think you're clever, huh? Pulling a stunt like this? But we're going to find out what's really going on."

Ethan leans back in his chair, his expression calm but his eyes betraying a flicker of nervousness.

ETHAN

(casually)

"Wow. You've really got time to spare, huh? Maybe focus on enjoying the concert instead of obsessing over me."

GIRLFRIEND #1

(seething)

"Don't play dumb with us. Whatever scam you're running, it's going to blow up in your face. Mark our words."

The girlfriends exchange one last furious glare before turning sharply and striding away, their heels clicking loudly against the polished floor. The family watches them leave, the tension hanging thick in the air.

Dana turns to Ethan, her face pale with concern.

DANA

(uneasy)

"Ethan, what just happened? What did you say to them? Why are they acting like that?"

Greg leans forward, his brow furrowed.

GREG

(serious)

"Yeah, what's going on, Ethan? You didn't really win some big contest, did you?"

Ethan shrugs nonchalantly, waving a hand to dismiss their worries.

ETHAN

(smoothly)

"Relax. They're just jealous. I mean, look at us—living the dream for free while they probably spent half their inheritance to get in. Let them be mad."

Harper narrows her eyes, her suspicion evident.

HARPER

(firmly)

"Jealous or not, they're right about one thing: this doesn't add up. Where did you really get those passes, Ethan?"

Ethan sits up straighter, his grin tightening as he waves them off.

ETHAN

"Guys, you're overthinking this. They're just bitter because we're having the time of our lives and they're not. Seriously, just let it go."

Dana exchanges a glance with Greg, her concern still lingering.

DANA

(softly)

"Maybe we shouldn't stay so long... just in case."

GREG

(frowning)

"It's starting to feel risky. If someone starts asking questions, this could come back on us."

Ethan leans back again, exasperated.

ETHAN

(rolling his eyes)

"Nothing's going to happen, Dad. Just enjoy the concert. You're welcome, by the way."

Jace smirks, trying to lighten the mood.

JACE

(chuckling)

"Well, whatever you did, Ethan, this is still way better than the public pool."

The lights dim suddenly, signaling the start of the concert. The swirling galaxies above intensify in color, casting the stage in an ethereal glow. As the performers take the stage, the family settles into their seats, the excitement of the event momentarily overshadowing their doubts.

Despite the dazzling performance unfolding before them, Harper glances sideways at Ethan, her unease lingering.

HARPER

(quietly, to herself)

"You're hiding something, and I'm going to figure it out."

INT. CELESTARA – LUXURY SUITE – NIGHT

Victoria Stellar's girlfriends, dressed impeccably in designer outfits, pace the luxurious suite, their faces a mix of frustration and determination. A sleek communicator sits on the glass table in front of them, its holographic interface glowing softly.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(agitated)

"I'm telling you, there's no way that boy and his family got unlimited access legitimately. A trivia contest? Please. He's lying through his teeth."

GIRLFRIEND #2

(nodding)

"And we're going to find out. If anyone knows about this, it's the Captain. But first..."

(gestures to the communicator)

"We call Victoria. She deserves to know."

The group exchanges a determined glance before Girlfriend #2 taps the communicator. The holographic display flickers, and after a moment, Victoria Stellar's face appears. Her expression is weary, but her makeup is flawless.

VICTORIA

(annoyed)

"What do you want? I'm dealing with enough already."

GIRLFRIEND #1

(earnestly)

"Victoria, it's us. We have something you need to hear. Are you sitting down?"

Victoria raises an eyebrow, folding her arms as she leans back.

VICTORIA

(flatly)

"I'm out on bond, not in a hospital. Just get to the point."

GIRLFRIEND #2

(quickly)

"It's about that boy—the one who was chasing after you earlier on the trip."

Victoria's expression hardens, her eyes narrowing.

VICTORIA

(icy)

"What about him?"

GIRLFRIEND #1

(leaning forward)

"He's here at the Celestial Concert, VIP lounge, acting like he owns the place. He claimed his family got unlimited access because he won some trivia contest."

Victoria's lips press into a thin line, her frustration evident.

VICTORIA

(sarcastically)

"A trivia contest? How original. Let me guess—it was a ship-wide competition no one else heard about?"

GIRLFRIEND #2

(nods)

"Exactly! We even asked around, and no one knew anything about it. Something's not right, Victoria. We're on our way to the Captain to figure this out."

Victoria leans closer to the screen, her voice low and steely.

VICTORIA

(firmly)

"Good. Because if that little pest is involved in anything shady, I want to know about it. Keep me updated. And if you find out he had anything to do with what happened to me..."

(pauses, her voice chilling)

"...you call me immediately."

The girlfriends nod, their determination renewed.

GIRLFRIEND #1

"Don't worry, Victoria. We'll get to the bottom of this."

The call ends, and the girlfriends share a look of mutual agreement.

GIRLFRIEND #2

(standing)

"Let's go. The Captain's going to hear about this trivia nonsense right now."

The girlfriends stand before the towering doors of the Captain's Quarters, their determined expressions betraying an underlying unease. The sleek corridor glows faintly with the hum of the ship's systems. A robotic guard stands motionless, its visor pulsing softly, while four human security guards patrol the vicinity, their sharp eyes scanning the surroundings.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(to the robotic guard)

"We need to speak to Captain Kane. Now. This is urgent."

The robotic guard tilts its head slightly, its voice monotone but efficient.

ROBOT GUARD

"State the nature of your request."

GIRLFRIEND #2

"There's a boy onboard, Ethan Jenkins, claiming his family won a contest that gave them unlimited access to everything. But no one we've talked to knows anything about such a contest. Something's very wrong."

The robotic guard processes the request for a moment before responding.

ROBOT GUARD

"Request acknowledged. Please wait. Captain Kane will be notified."

The girlfriends exchange tense glances, whispering among themselves.

GIRLFRIEND #3

"If there's no contest, how are they getting away with it? And why hasn't anyone stopped them yet?"

Before anyone can answer, the grand doors slide open with a sharp hiss, revealing Captain Kane. His crisp uniform reflects the glow of the hallway lights, his expression calm but with an unmistakable intensity.

CAPTAIN KANE

(serious)

"I've been informed you needed to speak to me. What's the issue?"

GIRLFRIEND #1

"Captain, thank you for meeting us. There's a passenger, Ethan Jenkins, who claims his family won a trivia contest that gave them unlimited access to everything onboard—VIP lounges, premium activities, private events. But we've asked around, and no one has heard of such a contest."

GIRLFRIEND #2

"They're walking into places that cost fortunes without paying a credit. It doesn't add up."

Captain Kane's brow furrows deeply, his face darkening with irritation.

CAPTAIN KANE

(flatly)

"A contest that grants unlimited access to everything? That's not just unlikely—it's impossible."

GIRLFRIEND #3

(pressing)

"But then how are they doing it? How does this boy and his family have access to everything?"

Captain Kane's calm demeanor begins to crack, his voice rising with barely restrained anger.

CAPTAIN KANE

"This ship operates on fairness and exclusivity. Every privilege onboard is paid for—down to the last credit. We pride ourselves on providing an experience of luxury, but luxury has its price. To allow *one family* to bypass those rules would undermine the entire system we've built here. The Celestara would *NEVER* authorize such a prize!"

The girlfriends glance at each other, alarm growing in their eyes.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(softly)

"So... there was no contest?"

CAPTAIN KANE

(firmly)

"No. And if this family is accessing privileges like you say, they've done so through unauthorized means."

Captain Kane pauses, his brow furrowing deeper as he begins to pace.

CAPTAIN KANE

(muttering, to himself)

"The Jenkins family... Ethan Jenkins... Jenkins..."

Suddenly, his eyes widen as recognition dawns on his face.

CAPTAIN KANE

(sharply)

"The Jenkins family! They were on the Captain's Tour earlier this trip."

The girlfriends freeze, their eyes snapping to the captain in shock.

GIRLFRIEND #2

(confused)

"The Captain's Tour? What's that?"

GIRLFRIEND #3

(horrified)

"Wait—why were they on the Captain's Tour? That's for VIPs. Are you sure it was them?"

CAPTAIN KANE

(nods gravely)

"I'm absolutely sure. Ethan Jenkins was with his parents on our tour. They were asking questions about the ship's systems—especially the Nexus Command."

The girlfriends exchange panicked glances, their unease deepening.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(whispering, horrified)

"The Nexus Command? What's that?"

CAPTAIN KANE

(grimly)

"It's the brain of the entire ship. From there, someone can control everything—security, passenger access, even detention orders. If the Jenkins family is involved with this, it's more serious than I thought."

The girlfriends grow visibly pale, their expressions morphing into anger and fear.

GIRLFRIEND #2

(furious)

"Are you saying Ethan Jenkins could've used what he learned on the tour to break into the system?"

Before Captain Kane can respond, a security guard rushes forward, his face pale and voice trembling with urgency.

SECURITY GUARD #1

"Captain, I need to report something. There's methamphetamine and a significant amount of cash missing from the confiscated items storage."

The girlfriends gasp, their shock immediate and intense.

GIRLFRIEND #2

(stammering)

"Wait... is that the same stuff found in Victoria's purse?"

The security guard shakes his head, his tone grim.

SECURITY GUARD #1

"No, not that stash. This is from a separate case. Someone else's belongings were taken."

Captain Kane's face turns pale, his voice rising with fury.

CAPTAIN KANE

(shouting)

"Someone breached the confiscation room?! This is a direct threat to the ship's security!"

GIRLFRIEND #3

(whispering, horrified)

"If someone stole that stuff... they could've planted it just like they did with Victoria."

GIRLFRIEND #1

(to Captain Kane, urgently)

"If the Jenkins family was on the Captain's Tour, Ethan might've learned how to do this!"

Captain Kane straightens, his expression grim as he addresses the group.

CAPTAIN KANE

"Follow me. We're going to the Nexus Command to figure this out. If there's been a breach, we'll find the evidence."

The girlfriends and security guards follow closely, their faces filled with a mix of fear and anger as the truth looms closer.

Captain Kane strides down the glowing, high-tech corridor, his face etched with worry and determination. Behind him, the girlfriends follow closely, whispering anxiously among themselves. Four human security guards trail the group, their presence adding a sense of urgency.

CAPTAIN KANE

(serious)

"Stay close. No wandering. This area is restricted."

The girlfriends exchange uneasy glances but stay silent, their tension evident as they walk.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(whispering)

"This feels insane. What are we even doing?"

GIRLFRIEND #2

(resolute)

"We have to. If Ethan's involved, we need proof."

GIRLFRIEND #3

(holding up her phone)

"I messaged Victoria. She needs to know what's happening."

Her phone buzzes immediately. She checks it, her face going pale as Victoria's name lights up the screen.

GIRLFRIEND #3

(into phone, hurried)

"Victoria? We're with Captain Kane. He's taking us to Nexus Command."

VICTORIA

(over phone, livid)

"Nexus Command? Are you serious? That's where everything happens! Did you find anything yet?"

GIRLFRIEND #3

"Not yet, but listen—someone stole meth and cash from the confiscation room. Kane's about to check the logs."

VICTORIA

(enraged)

"Stolen?! Obviously! That stuff didn't teleport into my purse. This has Ethan written all over it!"

The girlfriends exchange nervous looks as Victoria continues.

VICTORIA

(furious)

"You'd better get proof. This doesn't go away. He ruined me—he ruined everything!"

The call ends abruptly, leaving the group in tense silence. They approach a massive door labeled NEXUS COMMAND – AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY. Captain Kane halts at the scanner, producing his badge.

CAPTAIN KANE

(firmly)

"Stay close. Don't touch anything."

He swipes his badge.

AI SYSTEM

"Access granted. Welcome, Administrator."

The door hisses open, revealing the futuristic heart of the ship.

The girlfriends step into the glowing expanse of Nexus Command, awestruck by its sleek holograms and buzzing panels. The room pulses with energy.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(awed, whispering)

"This is... unbelievable."

CAPTAIN KANE

(grim)

"It's the most secure system on the ship—or it's supposed to be."

He leads them to a console marked SECURITY RECORDS and starts typing commands. The girlfriends huddle close, their anxiety mounting.

CAPTAIN KANE

(to console)

"Show access logs for the confiscation room. Filter by last week."

The screen flickers, displaying a timeline. Kane narrows the search to the relevant day and plays the footage. The confiscation room appears on the display.

The group watches as sleek security robots enter the room. Their glowing visors scan the shelves before they retrieve containers of meth and bundles of cash.

GIRLFRIEND #2

(gasp)

"They're stealing it?"

GIRLFRIEND #3

(fuming)

"Who sent them? Someone gave that order!"

Captain Kane's jaw tightens as the footage continues. The robots exit with the stolen items, their movements disturbingly precise.

CAPTAIN KANE

(low, furious)

"This wasn't random. Someone used Nexus Command to do this."

The girlfriends look at each other, horrified.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(softly, shaken)

"This was planned. All of it."

The footage pauses as the robots exit the room with the stolen items. Captain Kane's fingers fly over the console, pulling up additional logs.

CAPTAIN KANE

(to system)

"Search for recent commands in the Robot Command Center."

The screen flickers again, revealing another set of footage. This time, the camera feed zooms in on Ethan Jenkins sitting smugly at the Robot Command Center. Commands he issued flash on the screen:

- **Deploy robots for contraband retrieval**
- **Pick up methamphetamine and cash**
- **Conceal contraband within compartments**
- **Relocate to VIP Section 1 – Private Party Area**
- **Locate belongings: Victoria Stellar**
- **Deposit contraband into Victoria Stellar's purse**
- **Ensure concealment**
- **Exit immediately upon completion**

The girlfriends gasp in unison as Ethan's smug face lights up the screen.

GIRLFRIEND #2

(whispering, horrified)

"It was him... He did all of this."

GIRLFRIEND #3

(enraged, almost shouting)

"He framed her! He set Victoria up!"

One of the security guards steps forward, his voice heavy with disbelief.

SECURITY GUARD #1

(shocked)

"This kid didn't just break a few rules—he weaponized the entire system. He's been playing the ship like a game."

SECURITY GUARD #2

(firmly, shaking his head)

"He gained access to the confiscation room, manipulated the robots, and planted evidence. This goes beyond a simple breach—this is premeditated sabotage."

SECURITY GUARD #3

(disbelieving)

"And all of this... over some petty grudge? That's insane."

SECURITY GUARD #4

(gravely)

"If he can do this, there's no telling what else he's tampered with."

The girlfriends exchange angry, panicked glances.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(to the guards, angrily)

"How did this even happen? How does someone like him have this kind of access?"

GIRLFRIEND #2

(furious, to the captain)

"He ruined Victoria's life! And he's out there, walking around like nothing happened!"

Captain Kane stands stone-faced, his fists clenched at his sides. His voice trembles with barely restrained rage.

CAPTAIN KANE

(booming)

"This isn't just a breach of protocol. This is an attack on the integrity of the Celestara itself! Someone accessing the Nexus Command puts every single passenger on this ship at risk!"

He slams his fist on the console, making the girlfriends flinch.

CAPTAIN KANE

(voice firm, brimming with authority)

"This is no longer just a breach of rules. It's an abuse of power—one that jeopardized the safety of this ship and ruined an innocent life."

The room falls into an uneasy silence, every word carrying the weight of the captain's anger and disappointment. He exhales deeply, his eyes narrowing with determination as he turns toward a prominent console labeled **ISSUE DETENTION ORDER**.

CAPTAIN KANE

(quietly, but with undeniable resolve)

"It's time to put an end to this."

He strides to the console, its screen glowing with anticipation. The tension in the room is palpable as the captain swipes his badge, granting him access. The system hums softly, acknowledging his authority.

AI SYSTEM

(monotone, calm)

"Access granted. Detention order interface ready. Please input subject details and charges."

The girlfriends and guards watch in silence, their eyes glued to the captain as his fingers hover over the holographic keyboard. He begins to type with precision, each word a declaration of accountability:

- **Subject Name:** Ethan Jenkins
- **Crimes:**
 - Unauthorized access to Nexus Command
 - Breach of security protocols
 - Theft of confiscated items
 - Manipulation of ship systems
 - Framing an innocent passenger

As each charge appears on the screen, the weight of Ethan's actions becomes even more apparent. The girlfriends exchange uneasy glances, their anger mingling with shock.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(whispering, horrified)

"He really did all of this... It's even worse than we thought."

The captain finishes typing and steps back, his face stern as he faces the glowing confirmation button.

AI SYSTEM

(voice calm, almost questioning)

"Confirm detention order for Ethan Jenkins: Unauthorized access to Nexus Command. Breach of security protocols. Theft of confiscated items. Manipulation of ship systems. Framing of an innocent passenger. Are you sure you want to proceed?"

The captain pauses, glancing back at the group. His expression softens for a brief moment as he addresses them.

CAPTAIN KANE

(steadily)

"This isn't about vengeance. It's about ensuring justice—ensuring this never happens again."

He presses the glowing confirmation button with finality.

AI SYSTEM

(voice louder, echoing through the room)

"Detention order confirmed. Ethan Jenkins: Unauthorized access to Nexus Command. Breach of security protocols. Theft of confiscated items. Manipulation of ship systems. Framing of an innocent passenger. Authorities have been notified and are en route."

The screen flashes red, and the system processes the command. The room feels heavier as the realization of what's been set into motion settles over everyone.

GIRLFRIEND #2

(softly, with lingering anger)

"Finally... someone's holding him accountable."

SECURITY GUARD #1

(nods, his voice firm)

"Justice is long overdue. He won't hurt anyone else."

CAPTAIN KANE

(looking at the group, his voice resolute)

"We're not stopping here. Clearing Victoria's name and securing this ship's systems are next. Follow me—we have more work to do."

GIRLFRIEND #3

(quietly, with urgency)

"We have to call Victoria. She needs to know what we've found."

The others nod in agreement, crowding around her as she dials. The phone rings for a few tense moments before Victoria's voice comes through, sharp and impatient.

VICTORIA

(over the phone, tense)

"What now? Did you find something?"

GIRLFRIEND #3

(voice trembling, urgent)

"Victoria, it's bad. Really bad. We have proof of what happened."

VICTORIA

(snarling)

"Proof? Proof of what? Spit it out!"

The girlfriends exchange uneasy glances before Girlfriend #2 takes over, her voice steady but tight.

GIRLFRIEND #2

(quickly)

"It was Ethan Jenkins. He's the one who framed you. He used the Nexus Command to steal meth and money from the confiscation room and planted it in your purse. We've seen the footage."

A stunned silence follows on the other end of the line. When Victoria speaks again, her voice is low, icy, and full of restrained fury.

VICTORIA

(quietly, with disbelief)

"He... did *what*?"

GIRLFRIEND #1

(softly)

"He planned everything. He used the robots to steal the stuff, and then he had them put it in your purse. It's all on tape, Victoria."

VICTORIA

(voice rising, furious)

"That little *snake*! I knew it! I told you he was trouble the moment he wouldn't leave me alone. And no one believed me!"

Captain Kane gestures for the phone, his face somber but resolute.

CAPTAIN KANE

(firmly, but with remorse)

"May I?"

The girlfriends nod, handing over the phone. Kane takes a deep breath before speaking, his tone calm but heavy with regret.

CAPTAIN KANE

(over the phone)

"Miss Stellar, this is Captain Kane of the Celestara. I want to personally apologize for everything you've endured. What happened to you is unacceptable, and it is my responsibility to ensure this never happens again."

VICTORIA

(cutting him off, livid)

"Unacceptable? Do you have any idea what I've been through? I walked the Walk of Shame in front of hundreds of people while they threw trash and food at me! I was humiliated, Captain! Humiliated! Then I was shoved into an escape pod and sent back to Earth—arrested like a criminal!"

The girlfriends bow their heads, their guilt deepening as they listen to her voice, trembling with rage.

VICTORIA

(snarling)

"My reputation is in shreds. I've lost money, deals, and credibility—all because of that... *child!*"

CAPTAIN KANE

(earnestly, his voice steady)

"Miss Stellar, you are absolutely right to be furious. What happened is beyond unacceptable, and I am committed to making it right. The company will reimburse every penny you've spent on this trip, and we will ensure your name is cleared. The footage and evidence we've gathered prove your innocence beyond any doubt."

VICTORIA

(snarling)

"Reimburse me? That's not enough, Captain. Not even close. Your ship humiliated me in front of everyone—your passengers, your staff. Do you think I'll just walk away after that? I'm suing all of you for every ounce of damage this has done to me!"

The girlfriends exchange uneasy glances, their guilt deepening as Victoria's anger burns on.

CAPTAIN KANE

(solemnly)

"I understand, and I won't let this slide. Justice is already being served—Ethan Jenkins' detention order has been issued, and he will face consequences. I will also make sure the Celestara broadcasts an official statement clearing your name."

Victoria's anger simmers down slightly, replaced by exhaustion and disbelief.

VICTORIA

(quietly, with a shaky voice)

"I don't even know how to come back from this... Do you have any idea what it feels like to be thrown away like garbage in front of everyone?"

CAPTAIN KANE

(softly)

"I can't imagine the pain you've gone through, but I swear to you, we'll do everything in our power to restore your reputation. This isn't just about clearing your name—it's about ensuring this never happens again."

The girlfriends exchange glances, their eyes brimming with guilt.

GIRLFRIEND #3

(interjecting, softly)

"We're so sorry, Victoria. We should've stood up for you. We should've done more."

VICTORIA

(sighing, frustrated)

"It's not your fault. But make sure that little creep pays for every second of what he did to me."

CAPTAIN KANE

(firmly)

"He will. I promise you, Miss Stellar—he will."

The call ends abruptly, leaving a tense silence in the room. Captain Kane turns to the girlfriends and guards, his expression grim.

CAPTAIN KANE

(to the group, resolute)

"We're not stopping here. Every piece of evidence will go to the authorities. Victoria Stellar deserves justice, and Ethan Jenkins will face the consequences."

The girlfriends nod, their anger giving way to a shared sense of purpose.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(firmly)

"He doesn't get to walk away from this. Make sure the whole ship knows what he's done."

CAPTAIN KANE

(nods)

"Trust me. Everyone will know."

Captain Kane hands the phone back to one of the girlfriends, his expression hardening with determination. The girlfriends exchange weary, uncertain glances, their energy drained after relaying everything to Victoria. Kane studies them for a moment, his tone firm but carrying a note of gratitude.

CAPTAIN KANE

(to the girlfriends)

"You've done your part. You brought this to light, and for that, I thank you. But from here on out, this is a matter of ship security."

He gestures toward two of the four guards standing at attention nearby.

CAPTAIN KANE

(to the guards)

"Please escort these young women back to their VIP suites. Make sure they're safe and have everything they need."

The girlfriends hesitate, exchanging nervous glances.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(firmly)

"But what happens next? Are you going to fix this?"

CAPTAIN KANE

(assuredly)

"I promise you, this isn't over. We're taking every step necessary to secure this ship and make sure Ethan Jenkins faces the full consequences of his actions."

GIRLFRIEND #2

(skeptical)

"And Victoria? Will you make sure everyone knows she's innocent?"

CAPTAIN KANE

(earnestly)

"Absolutely. Victoria's name will be cleared, and she'll get the justice she deserves. You have my word."

The girlfriends reluctantly nod as the two guards motion for them to follow.

GIRLFRIEND #3

(quietly, as they leave)

"Make sure he pays for what he did."

The girlfriends exit the room, escorted by the two guards. Their voices fade as they head down the corridor, leaving Captain Kane with the remaining two security officers.

The captain takes a deep breath, the weight of the situation pressing heavily on his shoulders. He turns to the remaining guards, his tone sharp and focused.

CAPTAIN KANE

"This situation has exposed a massive flaw in our system. The fact that someone like Ethan

Jenkins—an unauthorized passenger—could access Nexus Command is a failure of security on every level."

The guards nod, their postures stiff with unease.

SECURITY GUARD #1

(gravely)

"He wasn't just tampering with the system—he had full control. If he could manipulate the robots and detention orders, imagine what someone more dangerous could've done."

CAPTAIN KANE

(angrily)

"Exactly. He could've shut down life support, overridden navigation, or even initiated a shipwide emergency. This wasn't just reckless—it was catastrophic waiting to happen."

He turns back to the console, his eyes scanning the glowing screens, now tainted by the knowledge of how easily they were compromised.

SECURITY GUARD #2

(seriously)

"What's the plan, Captain? How do we make sure this never happens again?"

CAPTAIN KANE

(decisively)

"We're implementing immediate security upgrades. Nexus Command will be locked down with physical guards posted at every entrance. No one gets in or out without my direct authorization."

The guards exchange looks, nodding in agreement.

CAPTAIN KANE

(continuing)

"The Captain's Quarters will also have enhanced security—double the personnel, both human and robotic. The fact that someone could swipe a badge and gain access to these critical areas is unacceptable."

SECURITY GUARD #1

(agreeing)

"We need to change how we issue access badges too. Tighten the process and log every single use with real-time monitoring."

CAPTAIN KANE

(nods)

"Agreed. I want every badge on this ship audited immediately. We're going to know exactly who has access to what, and no one will slip through the cracks again."

He steps away from the console, his expression resolute.

CAPTAIN KANE

(seriously)

"This isn't just about punishing Ethan Jenkins. This is about restoring faith in the Celestara. If our passengers can't trust us, we've already failed."

The guards stand straighter, their determination matching the captain's.

SECURITY GUARD #2

(confidently)

"We'll make it right, Captain. No one's getting near this system again."

CAPTAIN KANE

(quietly, but with conviction)

"They'd better not. Because next time, it might not just be about one family's vendetta—it could put the entire ship at risk."

The captain glances at the glowing screens once more, the hum of the machinery serving as a reminder of the responsibility he bears. With a final nod to the guards, he begins typing commands into the system, initiating the first wave of security upgrades.

The room hums with purpose as the team works to secure the heart of the Celestara, determined to prevent another breach at all costs.

INT. CELESTARA – CELESTIAL CONCERT HALL – NIGHT

The Celestial Concert is a dazzling spectacle. Celebrities sing on stage under the glow of holographic galaxies swirling above. The crowd is ecstatic, clapping and cheering, their faces alight with joy. Ethan and his family sit in a prime section, their table laden with luxurious foods and drinks, soaking in the atmosphere of exclusivity.

DANA

(grinning, raising her glass)

"To us! Look at this! We're living the dream!"

GREG

(laughing, nodding)

"Unbelievable. I never thought I'd see the day. This is what life is all about."

Jace and Raven snap selfies with the stage in the background, their faces glowing with excitement.

JACE

"This is going straight on my feed. No one's going to believe this!"

RAVEN

(breathless)

"Can you imagine? We're here... and everyone else is stuck outside. Look at them down there, wishing they were us."

Ethan leans back in his chair, a smug grin plastered across his face. He basks in their praise, reveling in the fleeting adoration.

ETHAN

(softly, with mock modesty)

"Hey, I just wanted to make sure we had the best. No big deal."

The family laughs, completely unaware of the storm brewing.

Suddenly, the music stops. The lights above flicker, and the holographic galaxies dissolve into darkness. A deep hush falls over the room as the stage goes silent. The crowd looks around in confusion, murmurs spreading like ripples in water.

GUEST #1

(whispering, uneasy)

"What's happening?"

GUEST #2

(frowning)

"Is this part of the show?"

The grand doors to the concert hall swing open with a loud *CLANG*, cutting through the silence like a blade. Hundreds of human guards and robot enforcers march in, their synchronized footsteps echoing ominously against the marble floor. The guards fan out, forming an unbreakable perimeter, while the robots' glowing visors scan the room.

A sharp, amplified voice booms through the air, silencing all speculation.

ROBOT GUARD (VOICEOVER)

"Attention! This is an urgent announcement. A detention order has been issued for passenger Ethan Jenkins. Crimes include unauthorized access to Nexus Command, breach of security protocols, theft of confiscated items, manipulation of critical ship systems, and the deliberate framing of an innocent passenger, Victoria Stellar! These actions have gravely endangered the safety and integrity of the Celestara. All passengers are advised to please remain in your seats and stay out of the way while we execute this detention order. Your cooperation is required for the safety of everyone onboard."

Gasps ripple through the crowd like a tidal wave. Every head turns toward the Jenkins family. A harsh spotlight snaps on, illuminating their table.

DANA

(freezing mid-sip, the wine glass slipping from her fingers)

"No... no, this can't be right. This has to be a mistake."

The glass shatters on the floor, its sound barely registering over the murmurs of the crowd.

GREG

(voice breaking)

"Ethan... tell me this isn't true."

Ethan sits motionless, his earlier smugness replaced by a stunned, vacant expression. His mouth opens, but no words come out. The walls feel like they're closing in on him as the crowd's whispers grow louder, angrier.

ANGRY GUEST #1

(loudly)

"That kid? He did all this?"

ANGRY GUEST #2

(outraged)

"He framed Victoria Stellar?! And we're sitting here eating with him?"

The murmurs swell into a roar. Guests rise from their seats, pointing and shouting. The fury in the room is palpable.

The spotlight remains fixed on the Jenkins family, who are now surrounded by guards and robotic enforcers.

ROBOT GUARD (VOICEOVER)

"For your safety and the safety of others, remain seated and cease any disruptions. The guards are approaching the subject. Your cooperation is not optional."

The crowd continues to stir, and objects begin flying toward the Jenkins family. Food, drinks, and utensils are hurled in rage.

ANGRY GUEST #3

(shouting)

"You ruined her life, you monster!"

ANGRY GUEST #4

(throwing a glass)

"Get him out of here!"

ROBOT GUARD (VOICEOVER)

(in a sharper, more commanding tone)

"Attention! Cease all disruptive behavior immediately. Remain in your seats and do not interfere with security operations. Violators will be removed."

The rebuke echoes through the hall, momentarily quieting the crowd.

The guards approach the family's table. Dana grabs Ethan's arm, her voice desperate.

DANA

(pleading, shaking his arm)

"Ethan, say something! Tell them it's not true!"

Ethan shakes his head slowly, his lips trembling. His shame radiates from him like a dark cloud.

ETHAN

(whispering)

"I... I didn't mean for it to..."

A guard steps forward, his face hard with contempt.

GUARD #1

(gruffly, interrupting)

"It's best you keep your mouth shut, kid. You've done enough damage."

JACE

(furious, standing up)

"You didn't mean for what, Ethan? You did this?! You framed her?"

Raven's eyes well with tears, her voice shaking.

RAVEN

(softly)

"Why, Ethan? Why would you do something like this?"

Ethan doesn't respond, his gaze fixed on the table, his hands clenched into fists.

The guards step in, forming a protective barrier around the family as the crowd begins to stir again, throwing more objects.

DANA

(sobbing openly, clutching Greg's arm)

"This can't be happening. This can't be happening!"

Greg looks ready to collapse, his disbelief giving way to anger.

GREG

(to Ethan, through gritted teeth)

"Do you have any idea what you've done? You've shamed all of us!"

The lead robot guard steps forward, its monotone voice cutting through the chaos.

LEAD ROBOT GUARD

(to Ethan)

"You will be escorted to the space detention facility immediately. Resistance is futile."

Two guards grab Ethan by the arms and pull him to his feet. He doesn't resist, his face blank with shock and humiliation. The glowing cuffs click around his wrists, sealing his fate.

ETHAN

(softly, almost inaudible)

"I didn't... I didn't mean for this to happen..."

As the guards begin leading Ethan toward the exit, another guard steps forward, addressing the family firmly.

GUARD #2

(to the Jenkins family)

"You're all coming with us to the Captain's Quarters. Captain Kane is waiting to speak with you. He's very angry, and you have no choice in this matter."

The family looks horrified, their expressions a mix of shock and humiliation. Dana clings to Greg's arm, while Jace and Raven exchange terrified glances.

DANA

(trembling)

"The Captain? What does he want with us?"

GUARD #3

(grimly)

"To discuss what happens next. Now move."

Surrounded by guards, the family is ushered toward the exit, the once-glamorous concert hall now filled with anger, judgment, and shattered dreams. The spotlight follows their every step, emphasizing their disgrace.

The doors slam shut behind them, leaving behind a room of onlookers whispering in shock and anger. The night meant to be a celebration has turned into a scene of scandal and reckoning.

INT. CELESTARA – CORRIDOR TO DETENTION FACILITY

The corridor stretches long and dimly lit, a stark departure from the grandeur of the Celestara's main areas. Hundreds of guards, both human and robotic, encircle Ethan Jenkins, forming an unbreakable barrier. Ethan's glowing cuffs bind his hands in front of him as he trudges forward, his head hanging low in silence.

Occasional passengers stop and whisper, their eyes wide as they watch the infamous spectacle unfold. The air is heavy with tension, broken only by the synchronized footsteps of the guards.

From an intersecting hallway, Victoria's girlfriends step out, their faces set in cold anger.

GIRLFRIEND #1

(smirking, loud enough for Ethan to hear)

"Well, look who it is. The genius who thought he could get away with it."

Ethan doesn't respond, his gaze fixed firmly on the floor.

GIRLFRIEND #2

(sarcastic)

"Guess the big VIP treatment didn't last long, huh?"

One of the human guards steps forward, his expression stern.

GUARD #1

(firmly)

"Move along. No interference."

The girlfriends reluctantly take a step back but continue to glare at Ethan as the procession passes.

GIRLFRIEND #3

(calling after him)

"Hope the space cell's cozy!"

Ethan's silence is deafening. He doesn't lift his head, his shame etched into every step he takes.

GUARD #2

(raising his voice)

"I said, move away. This is a secured escort. No further disruptions."

The girlfriends exchange glances but finally retreat, their mocking fading as the guards press on.

The group approaches the towering doors of the detention facility. The area is cold and clinical, with reinforced metal walls and glowing security panels.

A guard steps forward, entering a code into the control panel. The heavy doors hiss open, revealing a long hallway lined with high-security cells. At the end of the corridor, the space cell looms—transparent but impenetrable, designed for maximum isolation.

GUARD #3

(coldly, to Ethan)

"Keep moving."

Ethan stays silent, his face pale as he's ushered forward. The guards maintain their tight formation, their expressions hard and unyielding as they escort him to his cell.

The scene is stark and somber, the only sounds the faint hum of the ship and the echo of boots on the floor. Ethan's silence speaks louder than words as he takes each step toward his fate.

INT. CELESTARA – HIGH-SECURITY DETENTION FACILITY

The Celestara's **Central Detention Complex** looms like a fortress of order and consequence. The walls are lined with shimmering energy barriers that form the cells, casting eerie reflections of blue and red. The air hums with quiet authority, broken only by the synchronized movements of guards.

Ethan is marched down the long central corridor, flanked by a tight formation of human and robotic guards. At the far end, a single space cell stands apart, its reinforced energy field glowing ominously. Inside the control room adjacent to the cells, the **Chief Warden**, a stern and authoritative figure named **Warden Lystra**, waits with arms crossed, her piercing eyes locked on Ethan as he approaches.

WARDEN LYSTRA

(cutting, loud enough for everyone to hear)

"So this is the mastermind of the chaos—the boy who thought the rules didn't apply to him."

Ethan avoids her gaze, his steps faltering slightly under the weight of her words.

WARDEN LYSTRA

(stepping forward, her voice dripping with disdain)

"Ethan Jenkins, welcome to the very cell where Victoria Stellar was wrongfully detained—after *you* framed her as a drug dealer and a criminal."

The guards escort Ethan to the cell's entrance. The shimmering barrier deactivates momentarily, allowing them to push him inside.

WARDEN LYSTRA

(leaning in as the guards step back)

"Did you enjoy the concert, Ethan? All those privileges you didn't deserve while she walked the walk of shame? While the passengers you manipulated humiliated her, and we sent her back to Earth in disgrace? I hope it was worth it."

Ethan flinches, his face contorting with guilt and shame. He stands frozen as the barrier activates behind him with a low hum, sealing him inside.

WARDEN LYSTRA

(hard, unrelenting)

"You're not just a spoiled kid, Ethan. You're a danger to this ship and everyone on it. You

weaponized the very systems meant to keep us safe—and you did it for your own sick satisfaction."

Several guards exchange uneasy glances at her sharp words, but none dare intervene.

WARDEN LYSTRA

(coldly, stepping back)

"You'll stay here while we finish the investigation. And unlike Victoria, you won't have an ounce of sympathy from anyone onboard."

She turns to the guards, her tone sharp and commanding.

WARDEN LYSTRA

"Guard the perimeter. No one gets near him except authorized personnel."

The guards nod, moving to their posts around the cell. Ethan stands alone inside, the glowing barrier casting flickering shadows on his face. The weight of the accusations, the disgrace, and the isolation bear down on him.

As Warden Lystra walks away with her entourage, Ethan's composure crumbles. He sinks to the ground, his shoulders shaking as tears stream down his face.

ETHAN

(whispering to himself, trembling)

"I didn't mean for it to go this far... I didn't..."

The hum of the energy field is the only response, a constant reminder of the cell's unyielding confinement. The guards remain stoic, their eyes fixed on the boy who once sat among the privileged, now alone in disgrace.

The scene fades, leaving Ethan sobbing quietly in the cold, unforgiving glow of the detention facility.

Part 12

INT. CELESTARA – CAPTAIN'S OFFICE

The tension in the room is suffocating. Captain Kane stands behind his desk, his face hard with fury. Greg, Dana, Harper, Jace, and Raven sit stiffly in front of him, their expressions a mixture of fear, confusion, and growing dread. Behind the captain, guards and authorized personnel stand silently, their presence reinforcing the gravity of the moment.

CAPTAIN KANE

(low, cold)

"Let me start by addressing the most egregious act your son committed—the deliberate and malicious framing of Victoria Stellar."

Dana stiffens, clutching Greg's arm tightly. Harper and Jace exchange uneasy glances, while Raven looks down, her face pale.

CAPTAIN KANE

(voice rising with controlled anger)

"Ethan used this ship's most secure system, the Nexus Command, to orchestrate one of the most vile acts I've ever seen. He stole methamphetamine and cash from the confiscation room, ordered security robots to plant it in Victoria Stellar's belongings, and manipulated the system to issue a detention order against her. He ensured she would be humiliated in front of thousands, paraded through this ship like a criminal, and sent back to Earth in disgrace—all because she rejected his advances."

Dana gasps, her hands flying to her mouth as tears stream down her face.

DANA

(whispering, trembling)

"We... we knew what he did, but hearing it like this... I—I can't believe it."

CAPTAIN KANE

(snapping, his voice cutting through her tears)

"Believe it, Mrs. Jenkins. Victoria Stellar walked the walk of shame, pelted with objects, her reputation in tatters, all because of your son's spite. Can you comprehend the cruelty it takes to do something like that? To destroy someone's life for ego?"

Greg looks down, his face flushed with shame. Harper grips the edge of her chair, her knuckles white.

HARPER

(softly, voice shaking)

"We thought he'd stopped after he got in trouble for chasing her down earlier. But—"

CAPTAIN KANE

(cutting her off, his tone even colder)

"Oh, he didn't stop. And what he did to Victoria wasn't the only crime he committed."

The family stiffens, confusion and dread washing over them.

CAPTAIN KANE

(leaning forward, his voice sharp and biting)

"Let's discuss how your family gained unauthorized, free VIP access to every amenity on this ship. The lounges, the private concerts, the premium activities—everything."

The family exchanges bewildered looks.

DANA

(uncertainly)

"But... Ethan told us he won a trivia contest. He said—"

CAPTAIN KANE

(slamming his hand on the desk, his voice booming)

"There was no trivia contest!"

The words hit like a bombshell. Dana recoils, her face pale with shock. Greg's eyes widen, his voice faltering.

GREG

(stammering)

"Wh-what do you mean? He said he won—"

CAPTAIN KANE

(interrupting, his fury mounting)

"Ethan lied to you. He didn't win you unlimited access in some grand trivia contest. He stole a security badge during my Captain's Tour—while your 'idiot parents,' as he called you, weren't looking!"

Harper gasps audibly, her jaw dropping.

HARPER

(whispering, horrified)

"He stole... from your office?"

CAPTAIN KANE

(nodding, his voice dripping with bitterness)

"Yes. And he used that badge to access the Nexus Command. From there, he granted your family unauthorized access to every premium service this ship offers. He bypassed every system designed to ensure fairness, stealing from this company and from every passenger onboard."

Jace slams his hands on the armrests, his face twisted with anger.

JACE

(furious)

"He lied to all of us?! He made us think he actually won something for the family?"

RAVEN

(softly, stunned)

"But... he said it was for us. He said he did it because he wanted us to have the best."

CAPTAIN KANE

(cutting in, his tone icy)

"And do you know the cost of all the amenities your family has stolen? Over \$1.5 million. That's what your son cost this ship and its passengers."

Dana lets out a wail, collapsing into Greg's arms.

DANA

(sobbing)

"One... one point five million?!"

CAPTAIN KANE

(grimly)

"Yes. And you're going to pay for every cent of it. The company that awarded you the free tickets for the drawing has already severed ties with you. Those tickets were a gift, and your son turned them into an unauthorized spree of theft and indulgence."

Greg buries his face in his hands, his voice breaking.

GREG

(pleading)

"Captain, we didn't know. We thought—"

CAPTAIN KANE

(cutting him off, his voice like ice)

"You thought nothing. You let him run unchecked, and now you'll pay the price. Ignorance isn't an excuse."

The guards step forward, their imposing presence adding weight to the captain's words.

CAPTAIN KANE

(coldly)

"You will be escorted to an escape pod and sent back to Earth immediately. You will leave this ship in shame, just as Victoria Stellar was forced to."

Harper shakes her head, tears streaming down her face.

HARPER

(whispering)

"This is all his fault... How could he do this to us?"

CAPTAIN KANE

(firmly, to the guards)

"Take them away. The Celestara has no place for people like this."

The guards flank the family, motioning for them to rise. Slowly, they stand, their faces etched with humiliation and despair.

SECURITY GUARD #1

(gravely)

"Please follow us."

The family is led out of the Captain's Office, their movements mechanical, their heads hanging low. As the doors slide shut behind them, Captain Kane exhales heavily, his shoulders sagging.

INT. CELESTARA – DETENTION CENTER – ETHAN'S CELL

The cold, sterile lights of the detention center cast harsh shadows across the steel walls. Ethan sits on the hard bench, his head buried in his hands. The weight of everything—his actions, the humiliation, the consequences—feels crushing, suffocating. The air is thick with silence, broken only by the faint hum of the ship's systems.

Suddenly, the sound of boots echoing down the hallway breaks the stillness. The footsteps grow louder, heavier, until the imposing figure of the **Warden** steps into view, flanked by several guards. She holds a sleek tablet in her hand, her expression sharp and unyielding. The guards stand at attention, their eyes locked on Ethan.

WARDEN

(voice cold, cutting through the tension)

"Jenkins. Someone wants to speak with you."

Ethan looks up, his bloodshot eyes filled with a mix of dread and confusion. The Warden presses a button on the tablet, and the screen lights up, revealing **Victoria Stellar's** face. She's in a private lounge, her surroundings luxurious, but her expression is anything but serene. Her eyes are red, as though she's been crying, but the anger burning within them is unmistakable.

Ethan stiffens, his breath catching in his throat. Seeing her again, even through a screen, feels like a punch to the gut.

VICTORIA

(voice cold, measured, but trembling with emotion)

"Hello, Ethan."

The words feel like a blade. Ethan's lips part, but no sound escapes. His hands tremble as he grips the edges of the bench.

ETHAN

(softly, stammering)

"V-Victoria... I... I'm so sorry..."

VICTORIA

(voice rising, furious)

"Sorry? You're sorry?"

She leans closer to the screen, her face filling it, her voice sharp enough to cut glass.

VICTORIA

"You don't get to be sorry, Ethan. Not after what you've done. You don't get to sit there and cry and feel bad for yourself like you're the victim here!"

Ethan recoils, his shoulders hunching under her words.

VICTORIA

(voice trembling, but steady)

"You destroyed me, Ethan. You turned my life into a nightmare. Do you have *any idea* what it was like? Being dragged out of that boutique, humiliated in front of everyone? Walking through those halls while people threw things at me, called me a drug dealer, treated me like garbage—all because of *you*?"

Ethan's mouth opens, but his voice is barely a whisper.

ETHAN

(weakly)

"I didn't mean for it to—"

VICTORIA

(cutting him off, shouting)

"Stop saying that! Stop saying you didn't mean it! You knew exactly what you were doing. You stole from the confiscation room. You used the ship's robots to plant meth and money in my purse. You issued a detention order to make sure I'd be publicly humiliated, thrown off this ship, and sent back to Earth in disgrace. You ruined my reputation, my vacation—*my life!*"

Her voice breaks, but the fury doesn't waver. Ethan flinches at every word, his body sinking further into himself.

VICTORIA

(voice softening, but only slightly)

"Do you know why I came on this trip, Ethan? Do you even care?"

Ethan lifts his head slightly, his tear-filled eyes meeting the screen.

VICTORIA

(quietly, voice filled with pain)

"I came here to get away. To escape from the fans, the cameras, the constant noise. I wanted one month—*one whole month*—to just breathe. To be a normal person for once in my life. And you? You couldn't even give me that."

Her friends can be seen in the background, their expressions a mixture of anger and sadness as they watch her vent.

VICTORIA

(voice rising again)

"You turned what was supposed to be my escape into a living hell. And for what? Because I didn't give you attention? Because I didn't let you follow me around like some pathetic, lovesick puppy?"

Ethan's lip quivers. He wipes at his face, but the tears keep falling.

ETHAN

(voice breaking)

"I... I was stupid. I thought... I thought maybe—"

VICTORIA

(cutting him off, her voice icy)

"You thought what? That I'd see you as a hero? That I'd suddenly fall for you because you forced your way into my life? Let me tell you something, Ethan—you're not a hero. You're a selfish, entitled little boy who couldn't take no for an answer."

The guards exchange uneasy glances, but they remain silent, standing firm.

VICTORIA

(leaning closer, her tone dark and unforgiving)

"I hope every second you spend in that cell eats at you. I hope the shame burns so deep you can't even sleep. And when you finally walk out of there, I hope you feel what I felt. Humiliation. Rage. Hopelessness."

Ethan lowers his head, his hands gripping his knees so tightly his knuckles turn white. His voice is barely audible.

ETHAN

(softly, choking on his words)

"I... I'm sorry, Victoria. I'm so sorry."

Victoria leans back, her eyes narrowing as her expression hardens further.

VICTORIA

(quietly, but with venom)

"Sorry doesn't undo the damage. Sorry doesn't give me back what you took. You're going to live with this for the rest of your life, Ethan. And that's exactly what you deserve."

She takes a deep breath, her voice cold and final.

VICTORIA

"Goodbye, Ethan. You've earned every second of this."

With a subtle nod, Victoria's image disappears as the call abruptly ends. The screen fades to black, leaving Ethan staring at his faint reflection in the now-blank monitor. His tear-streaked face stares back at him, his body trembling under the crushing weight of her words. The silence in the cell feels deafening, pressing down on him like a physical force. Ethan's breath hitches as he lowers his head, the enormity of what he's done settling over him like an unshakable shadow.

The silence in the cell becomes unbearable, a deafening void that presses down on him. The Warden steps back, her expression unyielding as she addresses the guards with a firm voice.

WARDEN

"Keep him locked down. No visitors, no privileges. Let him sit with his guilt."

The guards nod, their boots echoing as they exit the room. Two remain stationed outside Ethan's cell, their stoic presence a constant reminder of his confinement.

Ethan sits motionless, his sobs echoing faintly in the cold, sterile space. The weight of Victoria's words—and the full scope of his actions—settles over him like an inescapable shadow.

Ethan's Walk of Shame!!

EXT. CELESTARA – MAIN DECK – DAY

The main deck of the Celestara is at maximum capacity, filled with thousands of furious passengers. The luxurious decor contrasts starkly with the roaring anger of the crowd. Each person clutches a basket of ripe tomatoes, distributed moments earlier by ship staff under direct orders from Captain Kane. The tension in the air is thick, buzzing with anticipation as the crowd waits for Ethan Jenkins' walk of shame.

CAPTAIN KANE

(booming over the intercom, his voice dripping with outrage)

"Passengers of the Celestara, I thank you for your patience. Today, justice will be served! Ethan Jenkins, the boy who thought he could humiliate and destroy an innocent life, will now face the consequences of his despicable actions. Let me make something perfectly clear—this is not just punishment. This is a reckoning!"

The crowd erupts into deafening boos and jeers. People grip their tomatoes tightly, their expressions a mix of anger and anticipation.

CAPTAIN KANE

(continuing, voice sharp and cutting)

"Ethan Jenkins used this ship's most sacred system, the Nexus Command, to frame Victoria Stellar. He wanted her to feel like dirt in front of millions of people! Millions! He stole methamphetamine and money from the confiscation room, then commanded security robots to plant it in her belongings. He manipulated the system to issue a detention order against her, ensuring she would be publicly humiliated, thrown off this ship, and sent back to Earth in disgrace. All because she wouldn't give him the attention he thought he deserved!"

The crowd roars louder, shaking the deck with their anger.

CAPTAIN KANE

(voice rising, filled with venom)

"And that wasn't enough for him, was it? No! Ethan Jenkins didn't just stop at ruining Victoria's life. He thought he could steal from all of you! Using the Nexus Command, he illegally gave himself and his family unlimited VIP access to every premium lounge, every private concert, and every exclusive activity on this ship—stealing from those of you who paid for these privileges! *Stealing from you!* He spit in the face of every hardworking passenger onboard and flaunted it as if he were untouchable!"

The crowd gasps collectively, the revelation igniting a fresh wave of fury.

PASSENGER #1

(outraged)

"He stole from *us*?!"

PASSENGER #2

(snarling)

"Unbelievable! What a leech!"

PASSENGER #3

(shouting)

"He should pay for every credit he took!"

CAPTAIN KANE

(voice booming, laced with disgust)

"Ethan Jenkins betrayed this ship, betrayed me, and betrayed every single one of you! His arrogance knew no bounds! This walk of shame is not just for him to feel the weight of his actions but to show you all that no one, *no one*, is above the laws of the Celestara! And let me tell you this, passengers—Ethan the Loser will walk VERY SLOWLY through this deck. He will feel every moment of your anger, every ounce of your disgust, every single tomato you throw. This is justice!"

Tomatoes are lifted into the air as the crowd cheers, their rage palpable.

ROBOT GUARD (VOICEOVER)

(booming, monotone yet encouraging)

"Attention! All passengers are instructed to remain in your designated areas and to throw only the provided tomatoes. Any other objects are prohibited. Your cooperation ensures safety while delivering justice to the accused."

The grand doors to the main deck slide open with a resounding *CLANG*, cutting through the silence like a blade. The sound of synchronized footsteps echoes ominously as Ethan Jenkins is led out by hundreds of guards, human and robotic. The guards' reflective face shields glint under the harsh lights, forming an impenetrable wall around him.

Ethan's face is pale, streaked with dried tears. His body trembles as he's pushed forward, the guards around him moving with cold precision. The reflective visors make the guards appear almost inhuman, amplifying the overwhelming intimidation.

CAPTAIN KANE

(booming)

"Ethan Jenkins, you thought you could manipulate this ship, humiliate an innocent woman, and steal from every passenger onboard. You dared to desecrate the sanctity of the Nexus Command—the very heart of the Celestara—and you will pay for it. Look at these people—you betrayed *all* of them!"

The crowd erupts again, the sound deafening.

PASSENGER #4

(snarling)

"You deserve every second of this!"

PASSENGER #5

(shouting)

"Shame on you and your whole family!"

Tomatoes begin to fly. They splatter against Ethan's clothes, his face, and the guards' shields. The guards keep their formation tight, deliberately walking at an excruciatingly slow pace, forcing Ethan to endure every second of the crowd's rage.

ROBOT GUARD (VOICEOVER)

(encouraging)

"Passengers, please proceed to throw your tomatoes with accuracy. This action has been sanctioned by Captain Kane to ensure justice is felt. Stay in your seats and out of the guards' path."

Tomatoes rain down harder. Ethan flinches with every impact, his clothes stained red and his face streaked with pulp. The crowd's anger grows with every step.

PASSENGER #6

(snarling)

"You ruined her life, you monster!"

PASSENGER #7

(screaming)

"You stole from us, too! You're disgusting!"

Ethan's trembling legs give out briefly, but the guards pull him up again, forcing him to continue. The tomatoes hit harder now, the crowd emboldened by the captain's words.

LEAD GUARD

(coldly, leaning in)

"Keep walking. This is just the beginning."

Ethan stumbles but is yanked upright by the lead guard. His sobs are barely audible over the crowd's roars. His face is a mask of humiliation, tomato pulp dripping from his hair and clothes.

ETHAN

(softly, to himself)

"I'm sorry... I'm so sorry..."

CAPTAIN KANE

(over the intercom, pointing to the escape pod dock ahead)

"This is where you belong, Ethan Jenkins. Banished from this ship in disgrace! You will return to Earth, where the authorities will ensure you answer for every one of your crimes. The Celestara will never forgive you. And neither will its passengers!"

The crowd cheers as Ethan is shoved into the waiting escape pod. The door hisses shut, sealing him inside. The pod detaches from the ship, floating briefly before launching toward Earth.

PASSENGER #8

(shouting after the pod)

"Don't come back!"

ROBOT GUARD (VOICEOVER)

(final, monotone)

"Justice has been served. Thank you for your cooperation. Please return to your activities."

The guards lower their shields and retreat, their mission complete, as the crowd disperses, satisfied justice has been delivered.

CAPTAIN KANE

(to himself, quietly, with lingering anger)

"And may this ship never see such betrayal again."

The Jenkins family's story became a tragic legend, whispered with a mix of pity and disdain by those who remembered the scandal that shook the luxurious Celestara. Sued for \$5 million in damages caused by Ethan's actions, the family faced financial ruin. Their modest \$200,000 in assets, including their cherished home, were seized, forcing them into bankruptcy. Homeless and broken, Greg and Dana moved into their daughter Harper's cramped apartment. Harper, ever the steadfast optimist, worked tirelessly to support her parents, juggling multiple jobs while quietly bearing the weight of their shared disgrace.

Raven, unable to endure the stigma tied to the Jenkins name, ended her relationship with Jace, leaving him bitter and disillusioned. Jace, channeling his anger into ambition, started a tech

business that eventually flourished, distancing himself from the infamy that had engulfed his family.

Ethan's fate, however, took a darker and more complex path. After serving 12 years in prison, he was released into a world that had not forgiven, nor forgotten, his crimes. His infamy followed him like a shadow—on the streets, online, and in the whispers of strangers. Struggling to escape the wreckage of his past, Ethan made a desperate decision. Using the shadowy network of ShadowCore International Consulting, he purchased a new identity, adopting a new name and appearance. This act of reinvention turned him into a fugitive, wanted for parole violation and identity theft. Despite law enforcement's efforts, Ethan disappeared without a trace, leaving behind a chilling cautionary tale of a man consumed by the consequences of his actions.

While Ethan was still imprisoned, Victoria Stellar sent him a letter that stunned the public. Written with raw emotion, her words conveyed a mix of pain, closure, and unexpected forgiveness:

*"Ethan,

When you framed me, you took something precious—my dignity, my peace, and the joy I had sought on that trip. You humiliated me in front of millions, painted me as something I am not, and stole moments I will never get back.

But I've learned something in the aftermath of your actions. Anger and hatred are heavy burdens to carry. So, I'm letting them go. I forgive you, not because what you did was excusable—it wasn't—but because I refuse to let the pain you caused define me.

Forgiveness doesn't mean forgetting, and it doesn't mean we'll ever reconcile. But I hope, in some small way, this letter gives you something to hold onto. Not absolution, but a chance to reflect. To grow. To change.

I will rebuild what you tried to take from me, Ethan. I hope, one day, you can rebuild yourself, too."*

Victoria's letter was a stunning act of grace that resonated deeply with the public. Later, during a heartfelt interview on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*, she elaborated, "*Forgiving Ethan wasn't about him. It was about freeing myself from the weight of what he did. Anger gave him too much power over me, and I refused to let him win.*"

Whether the letter offered Ethan solace or became another burden to bear remains uncertain. What is known is that it was a pivotal moment—a reminder of how far he had fallen and the pain he had caused.

Victoria's life, in contrast, became a story of triumph over adversity. Her career surged back stronger than ever, her fans rallying around her as a symbol of resilience and grace. The letter, while deeply personal, became a testament to her ability to rise above the pain, showing the world that she would not be defined by her suffering.

The Celestara continued its voyages, but not without significant changes. Security protocols were overhauled, and the story of the Jenkins family was shared with passengers as a cautionary tale about unchecked ambition and selfishness.

In the end, the Jenkins family's legacy was one of both tragedy and resilience. Harper's kindness and Jace's eventual success stood as testaments to the human capacity for redemption, even in the face of overwhelming disgrace. Yet, the shadow of Ethan's betrayal lingered, a painful reminder of how one person's actions can leave scars that ripple far beyond themselves.