

## Characters

*A note on characters, the Soldiers can be doubled with Mom/Dad. Also the gender of the kids can be changed to accommodate your cast.*

- Admiral Tu’Nak (M)** - An alien that acts very over the top evil.
- Cliff Clayburn (M)** - 62. An angry and bitter washed-up actor full of regrets. Deep down he cares about a lot of things, but hates showing it. A bit of a narcissist.
- Vicky Robinson (F)** - Fifties. A self-assured woman who doesn’t take crap from anyone.
- Lesley Mathews (M)** - Forties. A very big personality without much filter. He peaked as a kid and never got past it.
- Soldiers (M/F)** - They should wear masks so they appear like drones.
- Sally (F)** - 16. An unsure girl that has a big crush on Walter even though he doesn’t notice.
- Tad (F)** - 14. A very sweet girl who can’t even be mean.
- Walter (M)** - 17. A timid boy who wants to be brave but can’t quite get there.
- Bart (M)** - 17. A boy with a screw loose and cares about Star Voyage more than anything else in the world.
- Brian (M)** - 17. An odd boy who sees the world a little bit differently than everyone around him.
- Mom (F)** - Forties. A loud, brash and loving mother. Not very bright.
- Dad (M)** - Forties - Full of dad jokes and a fun demeanor. Not very bright.

## Scene 1 - Ship Stage

**(Lights up. Curtains open on a captain's chair that is center with Cliff Clayburn in it, a computer bank UR and standing next to it is Vicky Robinson and at the helm's station DL is Lesley Mathews, a youngish looking man. They are all wearing futuristic uniforms. There is a voice playing over the intercom and on a display screen, Admiral Tu'Nak. There are two soldiers with lasers pointed at the crew. After a moment there is an explosion sound and everyone rocks back and forth for a moment. Everything is over dramatic)**

**Admiral Tu'Nak:** At last we come to it Captain Steele, the end of our shared story.

**(Cliff stands and talks out to the audience like he is talking to a screen in front of him)**

**Cliff:** Not so fast Admiral Tu'Nak, because I still draw breath and the crew of the Starship Lancer stands ready to defend Earth. Now, I am ordering you to retreat from Alliance territory before I blow you to space hell!

**Admiral Tu'Nak:** Such bravado Captain but empty words since it is I who have the upper hand. I who will crush your precious Alliance of Planets, to punish it for annihilating my way of life. You fumbled further and further out into the dark reaches of space, you pushed where you were not welcome, did you not think that darkness would eventually push back?

**Cliff:** We didn't annihilate anything Admiral, we are explorers and wanted only peace, prosperity and friendship...

**Admiral Tu'Nak:** You wanted destruction, and now you shall have it!

**Vicky:** We showed your people that there is a better way, that they don't have to live under your boot any longer!

**Lesley:** We freed the people of the Frontier from your tyranny!

**(Lesley starts to get up and into the face of the soldiers)**

**Cliff:** Shut up Ensign!

**(Lesley sits)**

**Admiral Tu'Nak:** I am shocked, I would expect you of all people to have a tighter reign on your crew.

**Cliff:** Like how you control your soldiers? We don't do that in the Alliance.

**Admiral Tu'Nak:** And that is why you will fail. I command my men with just a thought, they are an extension of my very mind. Allow me to demonstrate.

**(The two soldiers raise their guns above their head in unison and then lower them. Cliff gives Vicky a knowing look and she quietly types at her station)**

**Admiral Tu’Nak:** It is an amazing technology, a technology that will allow me to reduce your precious Earth to dirt and ash.

**Cliff:** You may think that is your strength, this total control you exert over your forces.

**Admiral Tu’Nak:** But of course.

**Cliff:** It is in fact the reason why you will never be able to defeat us, because our individuality is our strength. We all have unique talents and skills, like how Lieutenant Chambers is an expert at communications disruption, a useful skill to have when breaking your control.

**Admiral Tu’Nak:** What?

**Cliff:** Now!

**(Vicky hits a button and there is a loud tone and the soldiers grab at their helmets. Lesley and Cliff attack one soldier. The fight is very over-the-top and very reminiscent of early Star Trek. Lesley and the other soldier struggle with the laser rifle and it goes off and Lesley falls to the floor. Vicky rushes to Lesley as Cliff punches the standing soldier and knocks it to the ground)**

**Vicky:** Captain, come quick!

**(Cliff rushes over and cradles Lesley who is dying very dramatically)**

**Lesley:** Captain, captain is that you, everything is going dark...

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**Cliff:** I’m here Ensign.

**Vicky:** That was a very brave thing you did.

**Lesley:** I just did what I know you and the Captain would do. Just like I was trained to.

**Cliff:** You did good Ensign, I’m proud of you.

**Lesley:** That’s the only thing I’ve ever wanted. I think this counts as my final Alliance Academy exam. Do you think I passed?

**Cliff:** You passed, with flying colors.

**Lesley:** For the Alliance Captain, for...

**(Lesley dies in Cliff’s arms as Cliff yells to the sky)**

**Cliff:** Tu'Nak!

**Admiral Tu'Nak:** You may think this a victory but you are sorely mistaken. This gambit cost you dearly while it cost me only moments. I leave you now Captain because your ship is hobbled and no longer a threat. In mere moments I will run past Earth's defenses and set fire to the entirety of your planet and it will all be your fault. My final gift to you is utter destruction. Good-bye Captain Steele.

**(Cliff raggedly gets to his feet)**

**Cliff:** Options Lieutenant?

**(Vicky is dazed)**

**Cliff:** Options!

**Vicky:** I have none. The Admiral has the firepower and the soldiers to do what he says.

**Cliff:** His attack though, it's all dependent on him. Can we broadcast your disruption to his entire fleet?

**Vicky:** I'm sorry Captain, but we don't have the power to do that, we're barely holding together.

**Cliff:** Then we will have to do this the old-fashioned way.

**(Cliff goes to Lesley's station and pushes some buttons)**

**Vicky:** Captain?

**Cliff:** If we can't break his control, we will have to break the Admiral himself. We will destroy his ship and end his assault.

**Vicky:** Our weapons and shields are down Captain, how do you...

**Cliff:** We fly the Lancer right through him, if we jump to lightspeed at the moment he prepares to jump we will bypass his shields and strike at him directly.

**Vicky:** That would destroy us as well.

**Cliff:** I'm afraid it will Lieutenant, but everyone on Earth will live.

**(Vicky and Cliff look at each other and she nods)**

**Vicky:** Do it Captain!

**Cliff:** Forward, always forward!

**(Cliff gives Vicky a sci-fi salute that she gives back. Cliff hits a button and goes and stands by Vicky. After a moment they look at each other and embrace as a Red Alert SFX. plays and dramatic music starts to play. Lights down)**

## Scene 2 - Convention Ship Stage

(Lights up on the same stage as before but there are no drop cloths covering all of the set pieces. There is a tarp over an unidentified object in the back. After a brief moment Bart, Walter, Tad, Sally and Brian enter from L. All of the kids wear homemade versions of the Star Voyage costumes. Bart wears a version of Admiral Tu'Nak and Brian carries a camera)

**Sally:** Oh... my... god!

**Tad:** This is it, the actual bridge of the Lancer!

**Sally:** Truly hallowed ground. Isn't this cool Walter...

(Sally tries to get Walter's attention but he just talks without really noticing her)

**Walter:** I'm dead, I'm dead and in heaven. I've got tickets for the exhibit and panel tomorrow, *Star Voyage - 25 years later*, but they are all the way in the nosebleeds.

**Tad:** *Star Voyage* was filmed on this very set. So cool.

**Bart:** Obviously cool, but beyond that, useful young Tadatha.

**Tad:** Just Tad, Tadatha is not a real name. No one in history has ever been called that.

**Bart:** I have gathered us all together so we can film the episode *Star Voyage* I wrote, the conclusion we as fans deserve! This shall be, epic.

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**Brian:** Heck yeah, let's do it! I love the way you think man.

**Walter:** You're still on this Bart? I made a ruling as president of this club that we were done trying to make this thing happen.

**Bart:** Like many dictators of the past, you fail to see brilliance staring you in the face.

**Sally:** A little dramatic... none of us really know what we're doing and we're not actors.

**Bart:** Maybe you aren't!

**Sally:** I literally just said that, I agree.

**Walter:** So what makes this time any different?

**Brian:** It should help to shoot on the actual Lancer. Give it that authentic feel. Better than working on homemade sets in Sally's basement.

**Sally:** **(To Walter)** Well, we are here. Wouldn't hurt to give it a try. Plus I think our chemistry has improved each attempt, my Lieutenant to your Captain Steele.

**Bart:** That will not be happening Sally.

**Walter:** You can't replace her Bart, only I can because I am President...

**Bart:** A meaningless title because it is you who I am replacing.

**Walter:** Excuse me?

**Brian:** Oh it's coup time. I say you fight to the death to see who's in charge. Tad, I'm putting \$10 on Bart, you want any part of that action?

**Tad:** No thanks, because fighting to the death is bad.. You know that right?

**(Brian doesn't respond)**

**Bart:** Walter will no longer be playing the role of Captain Steele because...

**(Bart really lengthens out the word 'because' as he goes to the back of the set and pulls tarp off of a chair that has Cliff tied to it and has a collar around his neck)**

**Bart:** We have the real thing. Let me introduce you to the one and only Cliff Clayburn.

**(Everyone is shocked. Bart looks and notices Cliff is not conscious)**

**Bart:** Oh, hang on.

**(Bart pulls out a device and clicks it. This causes an electric shock to go through the collar on Cliff's neck and he starts yelling as he wakes up and everyone else screams too)**

**Cliff:** What, what is happening?

**Walter:** Bart, what is Cliff Clayburn doing here?

**Bart:** I hired him.

**Cliff:** You what?

**Bart:** I did, you were paid for your services, you have been hired.

**Tad:** This is so cool, I've always wanted to meet...

**Cliff:** Shut up kid.

**Tad:** OK.

**Cliff:** And you, stop saying that word because you didn't hire anyone, you kidnapped me!

**Walter:** **(Thinking it's a joke)** Haha, right. **(Cliff stares at him for a moment)** Oh no, this is real?

**Cliff:** You'll see how real it is when I get out of this chair!

**(Bart pushes the device and shocks Cliff again)**

**Bart:** Keep yourself calm Mr. Clayburn.

**Cliff:** What is that? What did you do to me?

**Bart:** I needed to make sure you would be... compliant.

**Cliff:** Did you, did you put a shock collar on me?

**(As everyone talks Mom and Dad enter, they are cordial to the point of creepiness)**

**Mom:** Don't mind us.

**Dad:** Mom and dad coming through.

**Bart:** Parents, what are you still doing here?

**Mom:** Oh sweetie we just wanted to make sure everything was alright with the rental...

**Dad:** And we couldn't pass up a chance to meet the famous Mr. Clayburn.

**Cliff:** Listen to me, your kid has gone insane. I told him I didn't want to be in his little fan film and he put a rag over my face that had something on it and knocked me out.

**Sally:** You did what Bart?

**Brian:** Awesome!

**(Mom and Dad look at each other and then laugh)**

**Sally:** That's... unexpected.

**Dad:** He really is good, isn't he honey?

**Mom:** One of the best. Oh I just loved you in that show about ambulances!

**Dad:** She couldn't get enough, taped every episode. Heck, thought she might leave me to run away with you, back in your hunky phase.

**Mom:** Oh hush dear, that's only partially true.

**(Mom and Dad laugh a little)**

**Cliff:** Listen to me you pair of jackals, I'm not acting, this is real! I am in danger!

**Mom:** So committed to the role. You know I read in the TV Guide he was one of those method actors. He has to stay in character at all times. What talent!

**Dad:** You get what you pay for that's for sure, and we are paying for the best.  
**(Dad nudges Brian who just looks at him)**

**Bart:** That's right... this is all part of my script.

**Cliff:** What, no! You need to let me out of here...  
**(Bart presses the device again and Cliff yells. Mom and Dad laugh)**

**Mom:** Wow that looked so real! Made me a believer.

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**(Dad grabs the device from Bart)**

**Dad:** Good job kiddo, this prop looks just like our shock collar for Bootsy .

**Bart:** Yes, a prop.  
**(Dad pushes the button and Cliff yells. They laugh)**

**Dad:** He is so good. It really sounds like he is in tremendous amounts of pain every time this button is pushed.

**Mom:** Gives it his all. That's what makes him one of the best to ever do it!  
**(Mom pushes the button and Cliff yells. They push it a few more times and then Bart grabs the device back)**

**Bart:** I'm sorry parents but I must have you depart from the set, we have a lot of work to do.

**Mom:** Of course, of course, looks like you have everything in hand.

**Cliff:** What is wrong with you, let me out of here!

**Dad:** You stay in the zone. Can't wait to see the final product. Well you kids have fun.

**Mom:** Bye sweetie. Don't get into too much trouble.

**Cliff:** Don't leave me here with them!

**(Mom and Dad exit. Cliff turns to the kids)**

**Cliff:** You kids are sadistic, you know that?

**Tad:** No, I'm not, I can't even kill insects. If a bee lands on me I just let it sting me...

**Brian:** You realise they die after that?

**Tad:** They what, no! Oh my god I'm having a panic attack.

**Walter:** Captain Steele... Mr. Clayburn,... sir, we didn't have anything to do with this.

**Cliff:** If that's true, call the cops you little goblins!

**(Bart holds up several other collars)**

**Bart:** They will do no such thing because if they try they shall meet the same fate.

**(The kids look at Bart)**

**Walter:** Are those, for us?

**Bart:** Just think of them as an incentive to work. Do your job and you won't have to wear one.

**Sally:** This is like, super villain territory Bart.

**Walter:** There are more of us, we could just stop you.

**(Bart steps towards Walter who backs away)**

**Bart:** If you could, you would have already. You will do as you are told because I am in charge now. Does anyone dispute this?

**(Bart looks around, Walter wants to say something but doesn't. No one else does either. Brian doesn't seem bothered by all this)**

**Bart:** Good, now that is settled we can begin our work. The sooner we start, the sooner we will be done and you can be on your way Mr. Clayburn.

**Cliff:** Somebody help me! This is nuts!

**Bart:** No, this is show business. Brian, come here so we can discuss the opening shot. The rest of you can go over the script with the Captain.

**Brian:** Sweet, I have some ideas on how to open the episode, we could totally start tight on...

**(Bart takes Brian away as the others go over to Cliff. Walter looks defeated and Sally goes to try and console him. Everyone is very uneasy)**

**Tad:** I'm sorry Mr. Clayburn, but those collars look like they really hurt.

**Cliff:** Yeah, you think?

**Sally:** I thought you were brave Walter.

**Walter:** Brave, I didn't do anything.

**Cliff:** You can say that again you wuss.

**Tad:** So maybe we should go over our lines...

**Cliff:** Shut up. You kids could have been heroes but now you're all accomplices.

**Tad:** Oh no, I don't want to be that.

**Cliff:** Should have thought about that before you endorsed terrorism!

**Sally:** Terrorism?

**Cliff:** I feel pretty terrorized right now. I wish one of you had the guts to stand up to that psycho but what else should I expect from a bunch of nerds?

**Sally:** Hey, Walter has tried to kick Bart out of the group for like a year. He's got guts, lots of guts and they are the best guts.

**(Sally stands next to Walter. Cliff notices this)**

**Cliff:** Stop saying guts. And what are you, his protector? You two a thing?

**Sally:** **(Embarrassed)** What, no... no.

**Cliff:** Great, unrequited love. I can't deal with this right now.

**Walter:** You don't know what you're talking about, Sally and I are just friends.

**Sally:** Right, just friends, really good friends, only friends... forever.

**Walter:** Right and as far as Bart goes, what I've learned from dealing with him, is it's better to just let him do what he wants. Things are a lot easier that way...

**Tad:** And less scary.

**Cliff:** So appeasement, just like the French. Kid, you can't let people push you around, you gotta stand up for yourself, make 'em listen and if they don't... head butt 'em when they aren't expecting it, then give them a swift kick when they're down. Exert dominance.

**Tad:** You are way more intense in real life. Captain Steele is so calm and collected...

**Cliff:** Yeah, well he's a fictional character, what's your point?

**Walter:** If you're so alpha male, how did he kidnap you in the first place?

**Cliff:** Whenever I am in town for these stupid conventions some rich fan always wants to do a personal meet and greet. I've got three ex-wives, I take the gigs to pay the bills so I smile for their pictures, but this Bart, he doesn't want pictures. He wants me to act in this episode he wrote. I tell him I ain't ever playing Captain Steele again doesn't matter if it's

small screen, big screen or in his case, dollar store.

- Sally:** It seems like you don't really love *Star Voyage*. How is that possible?
- Tad:** Especially with how much it means to people.
- Cliff:** I could care less. When the show started my agent said it wouldn't last a season. How was I supposed to know it would run for five and that it would create the most annoying fans ever. Seriously, you people are the worst.
- Tad:** Kind of disheartening to have Captain Steele tell you to your face he doesn't like you.
- Cliff:** Yeah, well I'm not him.
- Sally:** If the only thing you care about is money, why not just shoot the episode in the first place? His parents said they were paying you a lot.
- Cliff:** Because I'm a professional, I don't do this amateur crap.
- Tad:** Didn't you star in a made for tv movie about a talking donkey last year?
- Sally:** Also, you did release two holiday spoken-word albums?

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- Walter:** I actually kind of liked...
- Cliff:** Shut up!
- Walter:** OK.
- Cliff:** You don't get to be a part of my torture and then criticise my filmography. It ain't easy to get work when people only think of you as that guy from *Star Voyage*.

**(Bart and Brian walk back up to them)**

- Bart:** But you are and even if you don't understand it, that matters to a lot of us. I didn't want this situation to go the way it did but you left me with no choice. We could have worked something out but you were already in a combative mood even before I brought up my project. I heard you on your phone with your agent, yelling something about wanting to pull out of the convention because Vicky Robinson was going to be a surprise guest.
- Sally:** Lieutenant Chambers is going to be there too, what a great con.

**(Everyone looks at Sally)**

**Sally:** Not the time, I get that.

**Cliff:** You know what, I'm done. I'm done arguing with you super nerds, let me out of this chair right now or I'm going to...

**Bart:** I intend to.

**Cliff:** Oh... good then.

**Bart:** You will be let out of the chair so we can commence filming.

**Cliff:** I said I wasn't going to...

**(Bart hits the device and Cliff yells)**

**Bart:** You were paid for your time until the end of the evening. We can either spend that time making my magnum opus or we can do this...

**(Bart hits the device again, Cliff yells)**

**Cliff:** Fine, fine! I'll do your stupid show!

**Bart:** Fantastic!

**(Bart motions to Brian to untie Cliff. Cliff gets out of the ropes and stands. He looks like he might hit Bart once he gets to his feet but Bart holds the device)**

**Bart:** Think twice.

**(Cliff grumbles and grabs a script from Walter)**

**Brian:** This is seriously the second coolest night of my life.

**Cliff:** Then you live a weird life. Let's get this over with.

**Walter:** Really? We're doing this?

**Cliff:** Yeah really, since you kids are a bunch of cowards who won't help me I would rather read some lines than get my brains scrambled.

**Walter:** I'm sorry.

**Cliff:** You can keep your sorry.

**(Walter looks upset and Sally goes to console him but he just brushes her off)**

**Bart:** Let's jump to page twelve and Brian let's set up over here. Walter you were originally to play Captain Steele, but since we have the real thing you can play Crewman Bostic. Sally you will still play the Lieutenant and Tad you are the Ensign.

**Cliff:** I thought you said this took place after the finale.

**Bart:** It does, it is a proper send-off for the show, not the cliffhanger we were left with.

**Cliff:** OK, but the Ensign died in the finale, trust me, I made sure of that.

**Sally:** In his version the Ensign survived. Bart is a fan.

**Cliff:** That says a lot, Ensign fans are always the worst. Fine, page twelve.

**(Everyone rushes to their spots. Sally is at a console while Tad and Walter are at the helm's station. Brian stands with the camera off to the side with Bart standing next to him directing. Cliff glances over the script)**

**Bart:** And... action!

**Cliff:** **(Not trying)** Lieutenant, make sure to get that console up and working, I'm blind without it, we need to see...

**Bart:** Cut, cut!

**(Bart steps forward)**

**Bart:** What was that, that was awful?

**Cliff:** Hey it's your words, I'm just reading 'em.

**Bart:** Precisely, you were just reading., not performing. That wasn't Captain Steele.

**Cliff:** What do you want, I'm cooperating.

**Bart:** Sure you read the words, but where is the soul?

**Cliff:** Killed off twenty years ago when this show went into syndication.

**Bart:** Well you better find it, because I paid for Captain Steele and I am getting Captain Steele.

**(Bart lifts the device and Cliff grumbles and goes back to his mark)**

**Bart:** Let's reset.

**(Bart goes back behind the camera)**

**Bart:** Action!

**(Cliff slowly slips back into the Captain Steel character and nails it)**

**Cliff:** Lieutenant, make sure to get that console up and working. I'm blind without it. We need to see the Admiral's movements. I fear what that madman is doing while we are stuck adrift in space. The Lancer is the flagship of the Alliance and we need to be there to protect her. Ensign, now that you are on your feet, you and the crewman get our engines back online, the Admiral may have gotten the drop on us but he made the fatal mistake of counting us out. Let's make him pay for it.

**(Everyone is stunned for a moment. Cliff looks at Sally and she jumps to)**

**Sally:** Oh, of course Captain.

**Tad:** Straight away Captain.

**(Cliff sags into his chair and looks tired. He waits for a moment and then looks up)**

**Bart:** Oh, yeah, cut. Wow.

**Brian:** Awesome. I am shooting an episode of Star Voyage, suck it Mr. Andrews...

**Cliff:** Who?

**Brian:** My school guidance counselor, said I wouldn't amount to anything...

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**Cliff:** You're an accomplice to a kidnapping, so, sure proving him wrong.

**Brian:** Hey, it's something.

**Walter:** That was brilliant!

**Cliff:** Shut up.

**Walter:** What? I'm not lying, you were so amazing!

**Sally:** I'm speechless.

**Tad:** I felt things. Good things.

**(Cliff relaxes a little and enjoys the praise)**

**Cliff:** Well, I mean, like I said, I'm a professional. Even kidnapped, I can bring it.

**Brian:** That you can sir, that you can.

**(Cliff is getting a little excited and looks over the script)**

**Cliff:** OK, let's stop just standing around. Here let's jump to page 17.

**(Cliff goes and stands next to Walter and Tad)**

**Bart:** Sure, sure. OK, action!

**Cliff:** Ensign you need to stand down!

**Tad:** **(Too quiet)** I can't do that.

**Cliff:** What?

**Tad:** **(With no heart)** I can't do that.

**Bart:** Cut! Come on Tad.

**Cliff:** Yeah Tad, your character is upset, you got to get angry!

**Tad:** I don't think I've ever been angry.

**Cliff:** It's not hard, pretty much like breathing for me. You just have to let your emotions take over, get rid of that filter and let it out.

**Tad:** **(Still quiet)** I can't do that.

**Cliff:** **(Starting to yell)** Come on, you can do it. Believe it!

**Tad:** **(A little louder)** I can't do that.

**Cliff:** Get into it. You gotta feel it!

**Tad:** I can't do that.

**Cliff:** Get angry!

**Tad:** I can't...

**Cliff:** Angry, come on!

**Tad:** **(Giving it her all)** I can't do that Captain! I can't stand down, not after what the Admiral did to me!

**Cliff:** **(In character)** I know he hurt you Ensign, but this is bigger than you, it's bigger than all of us.

**Tad:** How can you say that? I was dead, killed by his soldiers, I felt all the life leave my body.

**(Cliff grabs Tad)**

**Cliff:** Dammit Ensign, I know that. I held you in my arms and was powerless to help you. But what the Admiral threatens, it matters more. I know it is cold to say but if we have any chance at stopping him we have to be that cold. There will be time for healing after but now, I need you to stand down.

**(Tad is almost in tears)**

**Tad:** Aye, aye Captain.

**(Cliff embraces Tad)**

**Cliff:** That's good Ensign. Lieutenant!

**(Cliff turns to Sally who is almost stunned but Cliff motions for her to keep going)**

**Sally:** Uh, yes Captain?

**Cliff:** We need to get word to the Alliance on Earth, we have to warn them about the Admiral's secret weapon.

**Sally:** There is too much interference.  
**(Cliff rushes over to her)**

**Cliff:** That must be coming from his ship. What if we redirect the transmission here...  
**(Cliff points on the monitor)**

**Sally:** We could bounce it off the satellite array and get it beyond this communications blackout.

**Cliff:** Do it.

**Walter:** Captain, we have an incoming message... it's from Admiral Tu'Nak.

**Cliff:** Put it on screen crewman.  
**(Bart steps into the viewscreen to deliver his lines)**

**Bart:** So good to see your suicide maneuver was unsuccessful. I should have known someone as stubborn as you wouldn't die that easily. No matter, I prefer it this way, I want you to be alive to see your precious Alliance burn.  
**(Cliff is really into the scene and notices Brian staying away. Cliff keeps the scene going but brings Brian closer to him and sets up a shot as Bart talks)**

**Cliff:** Get in here, get me from the shoulders up. Yeah, that's right... got it? Let's roll.  
**(Brian gives a thumbs up)**

**Cliff:** You might want to rethink that. We're still in this fight and I am about to bring it right to your doorstep.

**Bart:** Then... let the best man win.

**Cliff:** Ensign... light speed jump on my mark. Mark.  
**(Everyone shakes in place a little as they jump into light speed. After a beat Bart talks)**

**Bart:** And cut! Wow!  
**(Everyone looks at each other a moment and then start to applaud. Cliff even looks happy for a moment. They all applaud towards him and he bows a little. He even highfives some of them)**

**Bart:** Bravo!

**Cliff:** Alright, alright, calm down. Let's keep moving.

**(Everyone on stage stops clapping but there is still clapping heard. After a moment Lesley walks on from L)**

**Cliff:** Lesley ? You freaking creep, what are you doing here?

**Lesley:** I haven't seen you in over seven months, not since the last Star Con and you can't even just say 'hello.'

**Cliff:** No, because seven months is too soon to see you again and you didn't answer me?

**Lesley:** I checked in with your agent, said you took a side gig and I wanted in.

**Cliff:** Trust me, you don't want any part of this.

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**(Bart pulls out another shock collar)**

**Bart:** Yes Mr. Mathews, I don't think you want...

**Lesley:** It's alright Bart, I come in peace. I've been watching you from the wings over there for some time now.

**Cliff:** Then you should have gotten the cops because I've been kidnapped!

**Lesley:** Don't be so dramatic Cliff.

**Cliff:** It's not dramatic when it's true, I am literally held against my will and being tortured with a shock collar.

**Lesley:** It's doing you some good because it apparently makes you act better than I've seen you do in years, 'Adventures with a Talking Donkey.' Come on Cliff, you're better than that. Everyone is better than that.

**Cliff:** You're the worst. You were a spoiled brat on the show and twenty-five years later, the same. I really, really hate you.

**Lesley:** I am very aware. You do know that the reason my character died in the finale was because of Cliff here. He hated me so much he got me fired and killed.

**Cliff:** **(Laughing)** I know, it was hilarious.

**Lesley:** But I've never hated you, even after that, couldn't bring myself to hate my Captain. And unlike you, I never hated this show. I loved it, I still love it.

**Cliff:** OK, if you aren't going to help me what are you doing here?

**Lesley:** I am here... to act!  
**(Lesley rips off his track suit to reveal his old uniform on underneath)**

**Brian:** Oh, plot twist!

**Sally:** Are you always wearing a uniform underneath your clothes because if so that is... odd.

**Lesley:** You never know when you might need it.

**Bart:** What exactly are you wanting here Mr. Mathews?

**Lesley:** Unlike some actors in this room, I always do my research before a gig. When I got the names of the people who hired him from Cliff's agent I looked you up and found your script circulating online and I think it is brilliant. Magnificent.

**Bart:** I mean, of course you do. That is the only logical conclusion.

**Lesley:** I agree with what you posted online, the show went out on a whimper when it should have been a roar. Your script, it is a roar, it is our roar! Allow me play the role I was born to play and together we can do something special.

**Bart:** I have no extra money to pay you, it all went to Mr. Clayburn...

**Lesley:** The money doesn't matter to me, *Star Voyage* is the only thing that does. Let me help you birth this beautiful bouncing baby of beautifulness.

**Sally:** That's gross imagery.

**Tad:** Yeah, I don't like that at all.

**Brian:** I get it.

**Lesley:** Your script needs real actors and true commitment, I mean no offense to my young friend over there...  
**(Lesley points to Tad)**

**Tad:** None taken, I think this is all cuckoo crazy.

**Lesley:** Come on, put me in coach.

**Bart:** **(Bart thinks for a moment)** Let's set up for page 20.  
**(Bart hands Lesley a script. Lesley just throws it behind him)**

**Lesley:** Don't need a script, I've already read it cover to cover. I am prepared.

**Bart:** Tad, you are on camera duty with Brian.

**Cliff:** Oh come on!  
**(Bart hits the device again and Cliff goes down. Walter steps forward)**

**Walter:** I didn't think this could get worse or weirder, but I think it just did.

**Sally:** As cool as it is to be acting with the actual Captain Steele, I think we should call it a night before we all get, you know, arrested.

**Tad:** Yeah, I don't think I would last long in prison, what gang would I join? I'm not good with commitment.

**Bart:** Silence, all of you! We have work to do, we...

**(Lesley steps in front of Bart)**

**Lesley:** Allow me to handle this.

**(Bart allows this. As Lesley yells at them Sally grabs Walter's hand as they are both freaked out)**

**Lesley:** You listen here you little turds. You, your life. None of it matters. This script, *Star Voyage*, that is all that matters. This is the most important thing you can and will ever do. So I don't want to hear another word out of your mouth unless it's your lines.

**(Lesley turns back to Bart. Sally realises she is holding Walter's hand and quickly releases it)**

**Lesley:** That work chief?

**Bart:** Page 20 it is.

**(As they get into place Sally talks to Cliff)**

**Sally:** Oh my god, Lesley Mathews is the worst.

**Cliff:** Now you know why I killed him.

**Walter:** Good call.

**(Lesley takes his place at the console. He takes a moment to get into character)**

**Cliff:** Before we get started I just want to say again that I hate you Lesley and I am going to get this collar off and when I do, I am going to punch you, so hard.

**Lesley:** I accept that. Ready?

**Cliff:** **(Sighing)** Ready.

**Bart:** Camera?

**Brian:** Locked and loaded. Let's do this!

**Bart:** Action!

**(Lesley dramatically turns to Cliff. He mimics the voice of a child)**

**Lesley:** Captain, the Admiral's flagship has begun an orbital bombardment of Earth.

**Cliff:** Lieutenant, I need you to get those sensors working, I have to know what they are shooting at down there!

**(Sally looks at her console and turns dramatically)**

**Sally:** It's the Alliance Academy sir.

**(Cliff turns to Lesley who starts to lose it)**

**Lesley:** Not my fellow cadets.

**Cliff:** Easy now Ensign.

**Lesley:** I can't Captain. Those are my classmates, my friends. How many teens, like myself, are down there being attacked. How could he do this to children, just like me.

**Cliff:** **(Under his breath)** You're in your 40s Lesley, come on man.

**Lesley:** Stay in it Cliff.

**Cliff:** Don't worry, we will stop him Ensign.

**(Lesley gets up to Cliff and is very dramatic. He grabs a hold of Cliff)**

**Lesley:** Swear to me Captain, swear to me that you will avenge them, all those brave boys and girls, so young, just starting out in life, like me.

**Cliff:** You are going to qualify for AARP in a couple of years, fine OK. I swear it Ensign but don't count the Academy out just yet. Jump us to light speed and let's give the Admiral something else to worry about.

**(Sally steps forward)**

**Sally:** Captain, we need to talk.

**Cliff:** What is it Lieutenant?

**Sally:** We are about to fly into certain destruction and before we do I have to tell you how I feel about you...

**(Sally gets close to Cliff and he backs up)**

**Cliff:** Wait, what?

**(Cliff looks at the script)**

**Cliff:** Oh no, I'm not doing this.

**Bart:** What?

**Cliff:** Script says I am supposed to grab her and then we kiss passionately?

**Bart:** Of course.

**Brian:** Yeah, the show was way too much of a tease, we need to see the Captain and Lieutenant actually get together. There is a whole internet fandom devoted to it.

**Cliff:** How old are you kid?

**Sally:** Sixteen.

**Cliff:** Yeah, I'm not doing that.

**Sally:** I'm also not OK with this. It was fine when it was going to be Walter and me...

**Walter:** Really?

**Sally:** I mean...

**Lesley:** She's right, this isn't working.

**Cliff:** Thank you, first sensible thing you've said.

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**Lesley:** They don't have any chemistry.

**Tad:** I mean Mr. Clayburn is like 70.

**Cliff:** 62... jerk.

**Lesley:** We need to stop.

**Cliff:** Thank god.

**Lesley:** So I can call Vicky and get her here.

**Cliff:** What? No!

**Bart:** You can get Vicky Robinson to do our show?

**Brian:** OK, now this is the coolest night I've ever had.

**Lesley:** Vicky owes me a favor, she will come if I ask.

**Cliff:** You aren't calling her.

**Lesley:** Oh please, you still have a problem with her, haven't you gotten over that yet?

**Tad:** What kind of problem?

**Walter:** Wait, are the rumors true?

**Cliff:** No.

**Lesley:** Yes, they are.

**Cliff:** You need to shut up now.

**Lesley:** Cliff wouldn't work with Vicky anymore because they were an item and she broke it off. He wouldn't come to set and the studio didn't want to recast, so they just cancelled the show instead. True art, ruined, because of his ego.

**(Everyone almost has their jaws hit the ground and turn to Cliff)**

**Tad:** How have I never heard this?

**Sally:** I can't believe you kept this under wraps for years!

**Cliff:** It wasn't anybody else's business so you can all stop talking about it and Lesley you aren't calling her.

**Lesley:** I am, we need her to make this the best it can be, that matters more than your feelings.

**Cliff:** It's not about my feelings, it's about me not letting you bring her into this craziness.

**(Lesley starts dialing on his phone)**

**Lesley:** I'm calling...

**Cliff:** No you aren't!

**(Cliff grabs Lesley and tries to get the phone)**

**Bart:** Stop that!

**(Bart hits the device and Cliff yells but doesn't let go of Lesley)**

**Bart:** Stop!

**(Bart hits it again. Sally, Walter and Tad all look at each other and they all launch at Bart. Tad lunges at Bart and gets the device)**

**Tad:** I am angry!

**Bart:** What are you doing?

**Walter:** This has got to stop.

**Sally:** This is out of hand. We are letting him go.

**Cliff:** OK, so maybe not complete wimps. And Tad, good job kid.

**Tad:** **(Yelling)** I am expressing my anger!

**Cliff:** OK, dial it back a little.

**Walter:** I knew deep down I wasn't a wuss?

**Sally:** I always knew that.

**(Sally smiles at Walter)**

**Cliff:** Dear lord, stop it with the googly eyes and get this off me.

**(Lesley backs off towards Bart)**

**Walter:** Here, hold this Brian, I'll help you Mr. Clayburn.

**(Walter tosses Brian the device while Sally and Tad stand near Bart and Lesley to block them. Walter tries to get the collar off of Cliff but Brian hits the device and Cliff and Walter both yell. Bart and Lesley grab Tad and Sally)**

**Sally:** What are you doing?

**Brian:** Sorry but I serve the Lancer, like they said, this is bigger than us. We need to finish.

**(Brian keeps pressing the device as Cliff and Walter struggle and eventually fall down and pass out)**

**Brian:** *Star Voyage* forever!

**(Lights down)**

### Scene 3 - Ship Stage

**(Lights up. Cliff wakes up in the captain's chair. Lesley and Vicky finish fighting off the Soldiers from the beginning. There is a shot and everyone shakes and falls about the set. Admiral Tu'Nak is on the viewscreen)**

**Admiral Tu'Nak:** At last you will fail Captain, welcome to oblivion!

**Cliff:** What? What's going on?

**Lesley:** Good you're awake!

**Cliff:** I hate you so much Lesley!

**Lesley:** Lesley sir?

**(Vicky comes and stands next to Cliff)**

**Vicky:** Are you alright Captain?

**(Cliff turns to Vicky and reaches for the collar but it is no longer on him)**

**Cliff:** Vicky, you're here already? Wait, the collar is off? Where did the kids go, and who are these extras, and what is Admiral Tu'Nak doing here and oh I'm unconscious aren't I?

**(Lesley and Vicky just look at him. Admiral Tu'Nak shrugs his shoulders)**

**Cliff:** Yup, I'm unconscious. We are in my brain. Probably means I'm dying. Great. Well, I guess if you are all just part of my imagination I can have some fun. Ensign, get over here.

**(Lesley walks over to Cliff who grabs him and slaps him multiple times. Lesley just stands there)**

**Lesley:** I... deserve... this.

**(Cliff stops slapping Lesley who just goes and sits back down)**

**Cliff:** What other fun can I have? Probably not much since I am stuck in this stupid show!

**Vicky:** Why do you always have to say that? We both know it's not really how you feel.

**Cliff:** Yeah, and how would you know?

**Vicky:** Because I am a figment of your imagination which means I am basically you. Gives me a unique viewpoint on the matter.

**Admiral Tu'Nak:** She has a good point.

**Cliff:** You shut up. If you are me then you know how this show ruined my life.

**Vicky:** You repeating that line doesn't make it true. Generations of people will know who you are because of *Star Voyage*, you'll be remembered forever. That's awesome so stop being such an old miser about it. You missed playing the part, being someone better than who you really are. Over time you didn't want to think about it anymore and lashed out at anything that dared mention the name Captain Steele. But admit it, the minute you started reading those lines you had fun, more fun than you've had in years.

**Cliff:** Fine, I admit it, I loved it. I've been telling anyone who would listen for so long that I hated it, I started believing it myself... but being in that chair brought it all back. *Star Voyage* was the best time of my life and I ruined it. Not the only thing I ruined.

**Vicky:** I'm assuming you're talking about your relationship with Vicky. Yeah, you really screwed the pooch on that one. When you were around her you were a better person but the show got popular and the fame got to you and then you cheated on her, a lot. Then when she ended things you reverted right back to the temperamental moody man you are.

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**Cliff:** Harsh.

**Admiral Tu'Nak:** But true, since it is you saying it.

**(Cliff falls back into his chair)**

**Cliff:** Yay for self-reflection. I'm the worst. Maybe I should just stay here and never wake up, probably be doing the world a favor if I did.

**(Vicky looks at him for a moment and then slaps him across the face)**

**Cliff:** Ow!

**Vicky:** You have a long list of character defects but quitter isn't on there. You've made mistakes in your life, like a lot...

**Admiral Tu'Nak:** So many...

**Cliff:** Shut up!

**Vicky:** But life just gave you a chance to do better. Those kids out there look up to you even though you don't deserve it and they need you right now because they might be in some real danger because Lesley is the worst...

**Cliff:** **(At the same time as Vicky)** The worst.

**Vicky:** And now you get to be Captain Steele again, but not just for the cameras this

time. Don't screw it up.

**Admiral Tu'Nak:** Like you always do.

**Cliff:** Shut up Tim, I know you were the one that always stole my parking spot on the lot. I keyed your car after we shot the finale. And Vicky, you're right, I mean I'm right.

**Vicky:** Of course you are, now wake up!

**(Vicky slaps Cliff again and when the slap connects lights go out)**

#### Scene 4 - Convention Ship Stage

**(Lights up. Bart, Brian and Lesley have Sally, Walter and Tad cornered. No one is paying any attention to Cliff who slowly gets to his feet. He reaches around his head and gets the collar off)**

**Bart:** You need to get on board with this plan. It is happening. We are shooting this once Mr. Clayburn wakes up and it will go so much smoother if you would just cooperate.

**Lesley:** This is important, why doesn't anyone ever understand that?

**Walter:** Let us leave, this whole thing is nuts.

**Sally:** You guys have gone off the deep end!

**(While the argument happens Cliff gets behind Bart and puts the collar on his neck)**

**Bart:** What?

**(Cliff grabs the device from Brian and tosses it to Walter)**

**Cliff:** Here you go kid!

**(Walter catches the device, Bart looks scared)**

**Bart:** Now, I know what you are thinking, but let's not be hasty...

**Walter:** Been wanting to say this a long time, Bart, you are hereby out of the *Star Voyage* fan group - local 531.

**(Walter hits the device as Bart yells and falls to the ground. Cliff smiles and turns on Lesley)**

**Cliff:** And you, remember what I told you?

**Lesley:** That you were going to punch me...

**(Cliff punches Lesley in the face who falls down to the ground. Cliff turns on Brian who lifts his hands in the air)**

**Brian:** I'm sorry.

**Cliff:** How old are you?

**Brian:** Seventeen.

**(Cliff cocks back his hand but stops)**

**Cliff:** Get out of here.

**(Brian yelps a little and runs off L. Cliff turns to Bart who is picking himself up off the ground)**

**Bart:** If you expect me to apologise now that I have been defeated you are sorely mistaken. I did all of it for *Star Voyage*, and I would do it again.

**Cliff:** Not surprising but maybe I treated you too harshly when we first met. All you kids, you aren't half bad. Forward, always forward!

**(Cliff gives them all a salute from the show. The kids give it back. Bart does but Walter shocks him)**

**Tad:** This is the coolest thing that has ever happened to me.

**Cliff:** I'm sure it is. Now Bart, the craziest thing about tonight might be that your script isn't half bad. I'm going to take it to a couple of producer friends I have. Never thought I would admit it out loud, but I missed Captain Steele and maybe I want to be him again. Who knows, with all the reboots happening, maybe *Star Voyage* will get it's time in the sun again.

**Bart:** Does that mean we're cool?

**Cliff:** **(Laughing)** Are you crazy? No. I'm going to call the cops, you're going to jail. You kidnapped me.

**(Cliff grabs the device and shocks Bart again who yelps and goes to the ground)**

**Cliff:** But we can talk about the show once you get out.

**(Walter, Tad and Sally rush up to Cliff)**

**Tad:** That was amazing!

**Cliff:** Yeah, I was, you kids were pretty alright too. Took guts for you to stand up for me. You acted like true Lancer Crewmen.

**(They are all really excited but don't want to show it so they look cool)**

**Cliff:** Oh go ahead, you earned it.

**(They all start celebrating by jumping up and down. Sally and Walter end up holding hands looking at each other. She gets nervous and looks away but sees Cliff)**

**Cliff:** Come on kid, after everything we've been through tonight you're still scared?

**(Sally looks back to Walter and dips and kisses him. Tad is astonished. After a moment she lets him up and Walter is stunned and has a goofy look on his face. Sally nods at Cliff)**

**Sally:** Captain.

**Cliff:** Lieutenant.

**(As they talk Mom and Dad enter)**

**Dad:** Knock, knock.

**Mom:** We were just so excited that you kids are making a movie, well we couldn't stay away.

**Dad:** Don't mind us, we'll be quiet as church mice, you just keep doing what you're doing.

**(Walter takes the device to Dad)**

**Walter:** Actually, we are trying something revolutionary.

**Dad:** Oh?

**Sally:** It's an interactive performance. You can join in.

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**Walter:** Try it.

**(Dad pushes the button and Bart yells)**

**Bart:** Parents! What are you doing?

**Cliff:** You've raised a really talented kid there, his performance is really good, he makes you believe you are actually shocking the ever-loving snot out of him, but don't worry. It's not real.

**Bart:** Wait, wait, you are really shocking me, this is not an act!

**(Dad pushes it again and Bart yells)**

**Dad:** Good job kiddo!

**Mom:** We are so proud of you!

**(Dad pushes it again and Bart yells. Everyone laughs as Vicky enters from R wearing normal clothes)**

**Vicky:** Hello... Lesley? Are you there, am I at the right place?

**(Cliff looks shocked at the kids)**

**Walter:** While you were unconscious Mr. Mathews called her.

**Vicky:** Cliff, is that you? You look terrible.

**(Cliff laughs a little but doesn't say anything. Walter nudges Cliff)**

**Walter:** Come on man, go talk to her. Don't be such a wuss.

**Cliff:** Be careful what you say because you did allow me to be shocked almost into a coma and I might have some punching still left in me...

**Walter:** I mean, I uh...

**Cliff:** But, you're right.

**(Cliff walks up to Vicky. As Walter breathes a sigh of relief)**

**Vicky:** So what kind of situation have you gotten yourself into? I'm sure it's not normal because Lesley is involved and well, he's the...

**Cliff:** The worst, yeah, he is.

**Vicky:** He neglected to tell me you would be here, probably because he knew I wouldn't have come. Honestly I was thinking of pulling out of the panel tomorrow. I hate to admit it, but it's still hard to see you, even after all these years.

**Cliff:** I've really missed you. You look great.

**Vicky:** **(Joking with him)** Wish I could say the same for you, but you got old.

**Cliff:** Yeah, I did. I'm really glad you're here. Seeing you again makes me realise what an idiot I was back then, how many years have I wasted by being a jerk?

**Vicky:** A lot. But, maybe I'm glad to see you again too. Just a little though. Just a tince.

**Cliff:** Would you mind sticking around to talk some, I have a lot of things I want to say and a lot of those things are apologies.

**Vicky:** I don't think so.

**Cliff:** Totally understandable...

**Vicky:** But you can take me out for a drink while you grovel.

**Cliff:** Aye, aye ma'am.

**(Vicky turns and strides off, Cliff turns back to the kids and they give him the show salute as he exits. Bart tries to as well but Dad shocks him and laughs)**

**Bart:** Oh come on!

**(Lights down. Curtains close)**

**End.**