

10b: Brothers and Sisters, Part Two

(Roaring of the gravity turbine. Nut and Jin pant heavily)

Jin: Thank God...I thought that was the end. (Pause) Are you all right?

Nut: Yeah. I think so. (Beat. He groans, stands up) You saved my life. Thank you, Jin.

Jin: No problem. (Pause) Well? What now? (Electric crackling)

Nut: (Heavily) Sorry, Jin. This doesn't change anything between us. I still gotta take you in.

Jin: That's a plasma taser, right?

Nut: Yeah.

Jin: On full power output? Enough to induce comas?

Nut: Yeah.

Jin: (Sighs) All right. Looks like you got me then.

Nut: Sorry, Jin. If I was you...I would have let me die, just now...

Jin: No. It doesn't work like that. (Pause) Well. Do what you have to do.

Nut: (calling out) Hey Mech!

Mech: (distant voice) Nut! You're alive! Thank God...

Nut: Yeah. Just barely. I got him dead to rights here. Come and meet me up here.

Mech: Ok. I'll be right up. (Pause) How do you get here?

Nut: (Pause) Jin, how does he get up here?

Jin: Don't worry about it. I know the access tunnel. I'll lead you down there.

Nut: Oh no, I'm not falling for that one again, buddy. There's an access tunnel? Where is it? How does he get there?

Jin: (Sighs) Tell him to go to the Sector H-5 maintenance tunnel. It's part of the ventilation bay, allows service to be done to the airflow of the turbine.

Nut: Mech! Sector H-5, maintenance tunnel!

Mech: Got it! I'll be right there.

Nut: All right Jin. Let's just...wait here. I do appreciate it. I really do.

Jin: I know you do. (A long pause. Then, gradual footsteps. Mech comes onto the catwalk)

Mech: Nut! I thought I lost ya, buddy. Did...Jin save you?

Nut: He did, yeah.

Mech: Well. I guess we owe you one, don't we?

Jin: Up to you. (Coms device comes on)

Hun: Mech! Did you two get him yet?

Mech: We did. We have him now, held at the point of a plasma taser.

Hun: Good. I might have been wrong about you, Mech. You might be mostly useless, rather than completely useless. Bring him up to the bridge of the ship. Derry doesn't want him back there anymore. Too many toys for him to play with. Do you understand? (Mech doesn't answer) Do you understand? Mech, report back, that's an order! (Mech breaks the coms device with a crackling sound. Nut gasps)

Nut: Mech, what are you doing?

Mech: I can just tell him I dropped it off the catwalk. (Beat) We're not going to the bridge just yet.

Jin: Where are we going?

Mech: To the mess hall. I'm sick of lurking around in these dirty metal tunnels. And frankly, I'm a little hungry. (Beat) I just want to talk with you, Jin.

Jin: About...(pause) Ok. I think I'm game for that.

Mech: Nut, do you have any problems with that? Just a little talk with Jin? Without Hun or Mana or Derry breathing down our necks?

Nut: (Dawning realization) Nope. No problem with that at all.

Jin: Will I be restrained again?

Mech: No, I don't think that's necessary. Nut, turn the taser off.

Nut: Will do. (Electric crackling powering down)

Mech: Well, Jin. Shall we?

Jin: We shall...

(Shots being fired from the magnetic pistol. Navi and Cus cry and grunt, fleeing. The shots cease)

Bree: Come back here!

Navi: Bree, please...let me explain...

Bree: (Tearfully) No! I don't want to hear it.

Cus: Jannie, what do we do?... (Navi shushes Cus)

Navi: (whispering) Quiet! (They are still for a moment, Bree's footsteps echoing off in the distance) We have to stop her somehow. If we keep running...it's only a matter of time until one of us gets shot.

Cus: Ok, so what do we do? I need you to think of a plan, Jannie, I'm not as smart as you.

Navi: Ok...let me think! Let me...just think. I got it! (snaps her finger) Do you know where we are in the ship?

Cus: Um...by the communications console...

Navi: Yes. Which means we're not far from one of the embryo storage freezers. Those have metal doors not even those pistols can blast through. If we lure her in there, with me as bait...you lock her in once she enters. Then I escape through the maintenance hatch in the back, locking it behind me. She won't go anywhere after that.

Cus: Ok...(footsteps echoing) That's her...

Navi: Wait here. I'm going to distract her. Then, count to one minute, and go to the embryo freezer. You know where it is? The one I'm talking about?

Cus: Uh...yeah, I think. Sector F. At the end of the big hall with the yellow railing.

Navi: That's the one. (Takes a deep breath) Ok. Here. I go...(breaks off running. A few seconds of running)

Bree: Hey! Stop! (Pistol firing) These have been warning shots, Navi. Keep running and I'll aim to hit you.

Navi: I doubt you could even if you wanted to!

Bree: What?

Navi: Just another thing you're not very good at, Bree! (Navi laughs, Bree scowls and yells)

Bree: Get back here! (Two pairs of footsteps running for a while, occasional firing of the pistol. Then, the footsteps stop. Bree pants by herself) WHERE ARE YOU? (Silence. Eventually a sound of a freezer fan can be heard, a low ambient hum) The storage freezer, left wide open. Oh, is this something I'm not good at, Navi? (Fires her pistol) The storage door lock. (Fires again) And the outside handle. (Shuts the door behind her with a loud metal clank) I know you're in here, Navi. Hiding among the freezer tanks. Watching me, from somewhere. Probably, if I had to guess...going to the maintenance hatch. (Cocks pistol. Navi cries out)

Navi: What?

Bree: You thought I didn't know this area, did you?

Navi: You've never been scheduled for maintenance down here before!

Bree: I have my own reasons for coming here. Now get out of there, and close the hatch. Do it.
Now. (Metal clanking)

Navi: (terrified breathing) Ok...easy...easy...(metal thumping. Cus's voice, muffled)

Cus: Jannie! Jannie, I can't get it! The lock and the handle, they've been shot off.

Bree: Yet the inside handle works just fine. I decide who gets in, and who gets out. Tell me,
Navi. Would you say this is something I might actually be good at, after all?

(Back in the mess hall. Jin, Mech, and Nut walk inside. Sound of glasses being poured, silverware tinkling)

Nut: Oh yeah...protein pellet stew...with extra fructose.

Mech: Gimme some of that...(slurps down) Oh, tasty.

Nut: Nice warm meal. (Pause) You want some?

Jin: Me? Sure. (Begins to eat) Hmm...

Nut: I know you're used to better stuff...

Jin: This gets the job done. (Pause) So what now? You brought me here, unbound. Am I your prisoner?

Mech: I don't know...

Jin: Am I free to go? Will you report this to Hun and Mana the first chance you get?

Mech: I don't know...

Jin: Well can you figure it out so you do know?

Nut: Easy! You're our guest, remember?

Mech: Yeah...our guest. Let's just wait here...and eat...(pause)

Nut: Jin, we don't like Hun.

Mech: No. In fact, we hate him.

Nut: Yeah. Big time.

Mech: But you could get us killed.

Nut: So it's a tough choice.

Jin: It's not a tough choice. Side with me. Help me find Navi, and then together we'll confront Hun and Derry.

Mech: So just put you back in charge? That's what you're saying?

Jin: Well...yes, then.

Nut: Now we're getting to it...

Mech: That's what we're mad at, Jin. What does it matter, if it's Hun or you? We're still down here, eating this warmed over shit...almost getting ground into powder by the ship's machines.

Nut: Now we'd prefer you over Hun...

Mech: We would. You're...much better than him, I'll give you that...

Nut: Much nicer.

Mech: But it doesn't change the fact.

Nut: New boss, old boss...always still a boss.

Mech: Always.

Jin: (Takes a deep breath) I understand. Trust me, once we get to Emyrean...our lives will be completely changed. No more dark, dirty machines, no more...protein stew. A real world, full of real life. It'll be everything you've ever wanted.

Mech: And you'll be in charge of us then, right?

Jin: Not the way it is now, no...

Mech: 'Not the way it is now...' I knew you would say something like that. You can't be honest with us for a second. Nothing but promises, so we'll take your side over Hun and Derry's.

Nut: I knew you'd say something like that too.

Jin: So what am I supposed to say then? What am I supposed to say?

Mech: I don't know! I don't know! That's why I just want to...get off my feet for maybe half a goddamned hour. No grand speeches, no nagging or scolding from Hun. Just...let me eat my stew.

Jin: We don't have time to take a lunch break, Mech. Tell me. What do you want me to do?

Mech: I just want you to be real with us, for once in your life!

(Back to the embryo storage freezer)

Bree: Move. Down to the right. The tank is empty. Get inside.

Navi: How? It's sealed shut.

Bree: 1029. It's the code for the door. (Navi punches in the code. A metal door slides open)

Navi: What is this? How do you know this area so well?

Bree: (tenderly) It's a quiet place I like to go to. I have several throughout the ship. No cameras, no audio feeds, no one ever goes to them. I like to be here, alone. (Beat) The other tanks are lined with canisters, filled with thousands of frozen embryos. This one was full, once, but over time...hatching more people to replace the dead...it emptied out. I like to come here. I don't feel as bad when I'm here.

Navi: You haven't killed me yet, Bree. What do you want?

Bree: I want to ask you a question, only you can answer. I was once one of these embryos. I never had a mother, or a father...just a sperm and an egg on Ancient Earth, met together and then frozen in a canister. I was hatched into being without my knowledge or consent. And then, everything in my life has been having one function or another addressed. Biological needs. Oxygen levels. Hydration levels. Protein, vitamins. And then emotional ones. Social enrichment. Development horizon. Prospects for the future. I'm given barely enough morsels of attention to keep going. (Becoming more emotional) I'm just a machine that receives preventative maintenance, so it can maintain the other machines. One of countless, anonymous humans brought into being for no other purpose. For someone who's seen the Archives...who's seen all of humanity's knowledge...does that sound about right?

Navi: That's a flawed way of looking at it, Bree...

Bree: Every human that was once frozen in this tank, that eventually died....every single one of us...just a biological cog. Even if we got to Empyrean...a home just like Ancient Earth. Everything would be exactly the same as it is now.

Navi: It wouldn't, Bree....I promise you...

Bree: So...(draws the pistol and cocks it) I will give you three chances. You are the only chance of humanity getting to a new planet. If I kill you, that will never happen. But frankly, I couldn't care less. (Furious by this point) So three chances, Navi. Three chances to convince me to spare your life...

(Back to the mess hall)

Jin: What do you mean, be real with you? We don't have much time, we have to go find Navi..

Nut: Just blowing us off, as always.

Mech: No. Using us. Patting us on the head and telling us what we want to hear, so we end up doing what he wants.

Jin: What?

Nut: “Well boys, here’s your assignment. It’ll be very difficult and will take all day, but it’s for the good of the ship. Take care of yourselves, be mindful of your physical and emotional health.”

Mech: “I wouldn’t ask you two to do anything I haven’t already done a million times. Now good luck, I’ll be up in the bridge, doing important work that doesn’t require physical labor.”

Jin: I do not sound like that.

Mech: You never eat with us. You never come down in your spare time, to do something with us in the rec center. Or watch a cinema with us. Or play cards.

Nut: Never talk about girls. About Mo or Flo playing hard to get...about Bree playing hard to get rid of...

Mech: You’re like our parent, but you don’t want to admit to us or yourself that you’re our parent. Just giving us orders and going off with your day. Too good to associate with us otherwise.

Jin: (Building impatience) I only acted in my capacity as your commanding officer. I always tried to be fair with you when carrying out that role.

Mech: So why do you have that role?

Nut: Yeah, cuz that's the role you're asking us to return you to.

Mech: Why should you have it, and not us?

Jin: Because maybe you two can't handle what I do! You're decent enough mechanics, but could you really handle the advanced engineering plans? Maybe I am too good to be doing menial tasks. You may not like it, but what if that's the truth?

Nut: Now we're getting somewhere...

Mech: What we do is as important, if not more important than what you do.

Jin: Is it? It requires a lot of reading, Mech. That never was your strong suite.

Mech: The engineering plans were written back on Ancient Earth. You just relay them!

Jin: Yes, and relaying them is way too complicated for either of you to ever do.

Mech: And maybe I could learn them too, if I had the time and energy. If I didn't have to do this shit all day.

Jin: What all day? Basic repair work? Mech, it's not that hard. Maybe you're just not that physically strong, if doing this tires you out.

Mech: Oh really?

Jin: Really.

Mech: Then what if we put it to the test!

(Back to the freezer)

Navi: Bree...you don't really want to do this...

Bree: How do you know what I want?

Navi: If you really wanted to kill me, you would have just done it. You wouldn't stall like this.

Bree: I don't want to kill you, it's true. But I have to. I have to make this all end. Convince me otherwise.

Navi: (deep, nervous breath) There's a new life awaiting you, on Empyrean. When we get off this ship, everything will change.

Bree: Nothing will change. Even under a beautiful blue sky, a peaceful green field...I will still be hated, tormented...ignored, worthless. Pretty scenery, changing repeatedly around the same pain and horror that is every single day for me. I get nauseous thinking about it. The entire planet will join them in mocking me.

Navi: It won't be like that, Bree. I promise you. Please, have faith...

Bree: You're only saying that because you want something from me. Your life. You will forget every promise you ever made as soon as I'm no longer in the way. It's funny how now that I'm holding a pistol I'm impossible to ignore. You're failing so far, Jan. Two more chances.

Jin: What is it that you want me to do?

Mech: A competition.

Nut: Yeah. We'll see if you're actually better than us or not.

Jin: At what?

Mech: Everything. If you win, we let you go. If you lose, we knock you out, and lock you back up. Deal?

Jin: Deal.

Mech: First off: I'm willing to bet I'm stronger than you, Jin. I'm willing to bet I can pin you to the ground.

Jin: You're joking.

Mech: Are you afraid?

Jin: Do I look afraid?

Mech: Years pushing buttons on a screen has made you soft.

Jin: Anything you can do down here I could do in my sleep, Mech.

Mech: Then let's go! (the two grunt and struggle for a minute)

Jin: Do you still think I'm soft, Mech?

Mech: It's not...over...yet...(Jin grunts, Mech exclaims in victory) There! And...you're down.
(Let's go of Jin, both gasp in relief) Yes, yes I do still think you're soft!

Jin: My leg slipped a little. Best two out of three...

Mech: You're on...(the two grunt)

Mech: (Grunting, crying out in defeat) Hey!

Jin: I beat you, Mech.

Mech: My leg slipped too.

Jin: Excuses...

Mech: One more... (The two wrestle one last time. After a brief struggle, Mech emerges victorious) Looks like I am stronger.

Jin: That was nothing. Another competition then. Two out of three.

(Back to the freezer)

Bree: Two more chances, Jan.

Navi: It would be wrong. It doesn't matter the circumstances, killing is wrong. Ending another conscious life just like yours. You're not a bad person, Bree. You wouldn't do something bad like that, even if you thought it might make you feel better.

Bree: Maybe I am a bad person. A vile, terrible, monstrous person. Maybe that's why everything in my life has been miserable for as long as I can remember. Because I'm a monster. Because I deserve it. I'll play the role I've been given, Jan. One more chance.

(Outside, metal clanking and scraping)

Cus: Almost. Almost, have the handle...reattached. If I can just get more torque on the front piece...(grunts and struggles) Don't worry, Jannie. I'm not gonna let her hurt you...

(Back to the mess hall)

Nut: I know! I've got one. Both of you, come out with me, to the hallway. You see these two doors? The automatic metal doors you control from the front of the ship. You open or close them on us with a push of a button, anytime you want. (The doors slam shut) No pushing buttons to get them back open. You have to do it...manually. Whoever gets their door open first, wins.

Mech: Let's go, Jin! Best two out of three!

Jin: Oh, this will be easy. (The two grunt and struggle, prying with metal. Mech in particular grunts and struggles the hardest)

Mech: Almost! I'm not hearing you, Jin. Did you give up? (With great struggle) There! Whew....wait, what? Yours is open already?

Jin: (laughing) It's been open for a while.

Mech: What, how?

Jin: Once more?

Mech: Yeah....that was just a warm up. (The doors slam shut again)

Nut: All right...1...2...3...go! (Prying and creaking of metal. Jin is quiet, Mech is struggling mightily)

Mech: Almost....there! (Deep breath) Thank god....HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

Jin: Calculate the tension of the spring on the railing. Apply the right amount of torque, in the reverse direction. Work smarter, not harder, Mech. You can't just win everything with brute force.

Mech: Oh, so now you're back to being smarter than us, huh?

Jin: The results speak for themselves.

Mech: Two out of three, Jin. One more competition. You really think you're that much smarter than us? Follow me. This one, I know you're going to lose...

(Back to the freezer)

Bree: One more chance, Navi. One more chance.

Navi: (breathing hard) Bree...I know you love him. He'll never forgive you if you kill me. Can't you see this is exactly what Derry wants you to do? For Jin's sake, for the sake of any future you want to have with him...please, don't do it.

Bree: Future? There is no future with him. I heard him talk to you over the coms device. (Choking up) He loves you. And he will never love me. (Becoming distraught) All my life, I thought I would be like a character in a story, from Ancient Earth. A hard life, a wretched life...but there was hope at least. There was hope for love, to redeem everything...

Navi: (emotional) You've never really known love, have you? Bree...I hurt for you, so much...

Bree: But then...I find out that I'm only a side character...and that you're the lead...you're the princess...you're the one who gets love in the end. And everything has been a life-long joke at my expense. (Furious) So maybe by killing you, I can enrage him into killing me...if I don't have the resolve to pull the trigger myself. So I'm going to make the only choice I ever had to make. I'm sorry, Navi. No more chances for you. Everything ends here...(pistol powers up)

Navi: No! Please, don't!

Cus: (muffled) Navi!

Navi: Cus! Please, help!

Bree: Stay away, Cus!

Cus: Back away from the door, I'm almost through! (Banging of metal, and the door bursts open)
Don't hurt her!

Bree: Get out of here, Cus, or I'll kill you too!

Cus: Kill me then, Bree. Kill me...but spare her. Take me instead.

Bree: How about I just kill both of you?

Cus: You won't. I'll block your gun with my body. Jannie, you can run out. I'll do as much to stop her before I go.

Navi: No! Cus, please don't...

Cus: It's ok, Jannie. It's ok...

Navi: No it's not, Cus, please, save yourself!

Cus: (Takes a deep breath, very serene) I always knew this day would come, Jannie. It's been my purpose from day one. You're too important..

Navi: It's not like that! (sobbing) Cus, you're so important to me!

Cus: I know. But you have a lot of work to do still. This is the end for me, Jannie. (Navi crying) Remember that story your mother always told us? The man who greeted the sun in the morning, and said goodbye to it at night. The others told him he couldn't see the light, but he said that it didn't matter. The light was real. It was worth believing in even if he couldn't see it. Even if he would never see it in his life. Because someday, someone else would. And that was enough for him. (Sighs) And that's enough for me. Bree. Do what you have to do. But I'm not going to let you hurt my sister.

(A tense pause. Navi's crying subsides. Cus and Bree breathing hard)

Bree: Sister...(The tension fades from her voice. The others respond in relief)

Cus: Well? What are you going to do, Bree?

Bree: (A long pause. Dazed) Nothing. I'm not going to kill either of you. (Cus and Navi respond in relief) I'm not going to kill you. Just...wait here...a few minutes? Please? I'm going, to step outside for a little bit. I need to think. Can you let me think, for a little bit?

Navi: Yes. Of course.

Bree: Thank you. Thank you, Navi...

(Scene)

Mech: And here we are. The beating heart of the ship, exactly in its center. The antimatter reactor. Matter clashing with its opposite, turning into pure energy. The most powerful source of energy theoretically possible in the universe.

Jin: I know what it is. I have all the specs. I've designed the modifications and coordinated the repairs. And I've been doing it for years.

Nut: And then we're the ones who have to apply them! Risking disintegration everytime.

Mech: When you and Navi were coming up with your plans to get to the new planet, you had us down here, applying this harness to the core, to measure the energy output. Every single time you made the slightest change, we had to take the entire thing off, recalibrate it, and then put it back on.

Nut: Again...risking disintegration, everytime.

Jin: The safety protocols are clearly spelled out. You weren't in any danger. It was just a normal day of work, like any other.

Mech: A normal day for us is dangerous!

Nut: Yeah! Remember, I almost got ground to powder a couple hours ago.

Jin: What do you want me to do?

Mech: Simple. Take the harness off. Undo each of the joints, and lift it out of the protective magnetic field.

Jin: You first.

(A flurry of gears turning and metal clanking, an electric buzzing)

Mech: Done.

Nut: We got pretty good at it.

Jin: Ok. Put it back. (Mechanical clanking) I can do it, no problem. I designed the thing. Engineered this entire setup.

Mech: It's a lot different in practice.

Nut: You'll find that out. Just don't drop it. If you drop it, the protective field will fire up to prevent anything from touching the reactor. Your hands will get burnt right off.

Jin: Again, I know all this. I designed it. (Mechanical clanking. Sounds of Jin struggling)

Mech: Not so easy, huh?

Jin: I don't understand...every joint, the exact amount of torque. Why isn't it going? What did you do to it?

Nut: We didn't do nothin. Like you said, you were the one who designed it.

Jin: You rigged this, didn't you?

Mech: Nope. (Clanking) I can take it right off, any time I want. One more chance, Jin. (Sounds of Jin struggling) Give up? (Jin takes a deep breath, and resumes his struggle. He fails once again)

Nut: He can't do it.

Mech: That was it. That was your final chance. 2 out of 3. I got it open both times. You failed both times. I've won 2 of the 3 competitions.

Jin: Yeah. I guess you have. You won. (beat) So what now?

Mech: Should we send him back, Nut? Put restraints back on him, and send him to the front of the ship?

Nut: Yeah...we could if we wanted too...

Jin:....Well?

Mech: We'll give you a rematch...

(The freezer again. The door opens)

Navi: Bree!

Cus: Easy...don't...do anything...sudden...

Bree: (Sedate) Please...don't worry. (Clacking sound, as she throws gun aside) See? Don't even need the pistol anymore. (Takes a deep breath) Navi...can I please, speak with you alone?

Cus: No, you better not try to get close so you can hurt her...

Navi: Cus....it's ok. She won't try to hurt me. I know she won't. (Beat) Yes, that's fine. Cus, can you wait outside? Please? Just for a moment...

Cus: Ok. If anything goes wrong...you shout for me, ok?

Navi: I will. But...nothing will go wrong. I think, we're just going to have a talk...

(Cus exits the freezer. He shuts the door behind him, with a loud metal clank)

Bree: Navi...I just want to say...(becoming emotional) I never...wanted this to happen...

Navi: No, Bree...it's not your fault...

Bree: (Breaking into tears) Please forgive me, Navi. I am the most wretched living thing.
(Sobbing into Navi's arms) Jin wouldn't kill me, even if I provoked him. It's not in his nature.
(Sobbing, wrenching, like a child) There's nothing I can do. I beat you...I hurt you...

Navi: (voice cracking with emotion) And you were hurt as well!

Bree: I'm not even good! All my suffering, and I'm not even good...

Navi: (Shushing and comforting Bree. With great tenderness and compassion) You are good. You are good. You are...(Navi holds and comforts Bree for a few moments, as Bree sobs. A long pause)

Bree: What you have with Cus...what you had with your mother... I have never experienced it. Not once. Not a moment in my life.

Navi: Bree!

Bree: Not once! Not even once...(sobbing, Navi comforting her again)

Navi: (after a pause) To know love is to be one with the entire universe. The love I knew from my mother....and from my brother. Bree, you deserve it as much as anyone.

Bree: Please...Navi...let me help you. Let me be a part of what it is that you have. I would rather die than go back to my old life. But I don't want to hurt anyone. I want to be good. I want to know love.

Navi: You will.

Bree: Then I'm yours. Navi, I will stand with you. From now, until the end...(Her emotional breathing subsides. A long pause, as the two hold each other) I'm going to message Flo. I know she helped you. I know she's on your side. That's why...I want to speak with her.

Navi: Yes, Bree. Bring her here. I want you both here with me. (Bree laughs)

Bree: I want us all here too! (Coms device crackling) Flo, are you there? Flo, please pick up? (Device switches off) They put us on the same channel. (Laughs) So we could police you more effectively. Now I want to put it to the opposite end. (A pause. The coms device finally flickers on)

Flo: (Reluctantly) Yeah?

Bree: Flo...please...come to the embryo freezer...sector H-8. It's not what you think it is, I promise...

Flo: (After a pause) What are you talking about?

Navi: (Talking to the coms device) Flo, it's me. I'm with Bree and all is well. (Beat) The rose is still with us, Flo! Come at once. We have so much to discuss!

Flo: (Happy chuckle) How I've been waiting to hear that. I'm on my way...(coms device powers down)

Navi: Thank you, Bree...

Bree: Navi...please hold me...I just want to know...that I am good...

Navi: (Lovingly) You are, Bree. You are, so good...

(The boys wrestling and laughing)

Mech: You've gotten better, Jin!

Jin: I know your tricks now. And I have a few of my own now...

Mech: Like what?

Jin: Like...this! (Swiftly pins Mech)

Mech: Cheating!

Jin: No rules, no cheating.

Mech: Let me try again!

Jin: Nope, I already won.

Nut: Lemme try!

Jin: You want to lose too?

Nut: No chance.

Jin: All right, let's go! (Nut and Jin wrestle) Hey! How did you do that?

Nut: Your footwork is bad, Jin. Both of you, actually.

Jin: Oh no, let's try that again...

(The freezer door opens)

Flo: Navi? Bree?

Navi: We're here, Flo. We're both here.

Flo: Both of you? Together.

Bree: Yes. We had...quite a talk, about things...

Navi: And I think we have a measure of agreement.

Flo: Bree! Thank God...

Bree: No. (Takes a deep breath) There's much we need to discuss. (Tearfully) My life, has been hell, Flo. And you helped make it so.

Flo: No!

Bree: (Emotional) All my life...I craved respect, decency...connection. And you would never give it to me.

Flo: I'm sorry, Bree! I am sorry..

Navi: And all my life, I craved connection too. You both beat me bloody, at Saturnalia. Dragged me off, treated me like an animal. (Beat) But I forgive you...

Bree: And I forgive you Flo...I know now that, one wound cannot be repaid by another. I forgive you, for everything....

Flo: I'm sorry, Navi! And I'm sorry, Bree! I know I treated you horribly. All my life...my own unhappiness, was all I ever focused on. Doomed to wander the halls of the ship forever, until I died. I couldn't bear it. But I shouldn't have...mocked you so much. Ignored you so much. Bree, I promise I will never treat you those ways again.

Bree: I know you won't. (Pause) Thank you, so much, both of you, for being here with me now. For the first time I truly feel you here, with me...and I am not alone. I've longed for happiness like this, all my life. (Pause) But there is still much to do. Much to overcome. We are in great peril, facing the higher levels on the front of the ship. But swear this to me. No matter what danger comes, no matter what happens, let us swear now that we will always be sisters!

Flo: Yes!

Navi: Now and always! (The three laugh happily, blissfully connected)

Bree: Navi...this new world you speak of...I want a stake in it...even if we all die here fighting in the attempt.

Flo: So do I.

Navi: Thank you, thank you both! (Beat) But there is still much to do! We have to get Jin back!

Flo: Of course!

Bree: We'll help you get him back, Navi!

Flo: But where is he?

Navi: Escaped. Mech and Nut are probably in close pursuit though. We were going to meet up at the protein pools in the lower ship.

Bree: So we'll go there!

Navi: Yes! But if he's being chased, or if he's been captured again...I don't know what we do.

Flo: I think I have a plan. Let me explain...

(Back to the boys)

Jin: So who won? Where are we at with the score?

Mech: (exhausted) I don't even know.

Nut: (catching his breath) I lost count.

Jin: So...now what?

Nut: Well Mech? What do you think?

Mech: Of this one?

Nut: Yeah.

Mech: He's an alright guy. A good challenge.

Nut: I'd say so too. (Beat) The way I see it, we're done for either way. Help him and Navi, we get crushed into paste by the security drones.

Mech: Do nothing, and we bang around the pipes of this ship forever, until we eventually get killed or replaced by new hatchlings.

Nut: Yeah. (Beat) But with the first option...we at least have a new brother with us.

Mech: Someone who understands what we go through. Someone who will be up for a game when the work is done. Someone who might actually give a shit about our well-being.

Jin: So you'll help us then? Navi and I?

Nut: I'm thinking we will. (Jin sighs with relief)

Jin: Thank you. Thank you both....(beat) I always did like working with you two. I'm sorry if I ever mistreated you when I was an A level, or gave you more work than you could handle.

Mech: It's all right. We always liked working with you too. (Beat) So where's Navi at?

Nut: Yeah. Sounded like she got out. Where's she going now though?

Jin: The protein pools, in the lower ship. That's where we were going to meet up. Let's all go. With all of us together, we stand a fighting chance against the others.

Nut: Got to get past the girls though.

Mech: Yeah. Flo and Bree. They were charged with guarding her. They might have captured her again for all we know.

Jin: Where are they stationed? What kind of equipment or weapons do they have? How do we get past them?

Nut: Well...I got some ideas. Jin, show us to the protein pools....

(The boys grunting, sound of footsteps on metal grate)

Jin: Ok. It's down here.

Nut: How much further?

Jin: It's pretty close. Maybe one sector over.

Mech: Ugh, smells lovely down here.

Jin: So what's your plan, Nut?

Nut: I was thinking...Flo and Bree think we're still with them. So we go out first. If they're all there, we say we need to take Navi from them. The higher levels want her transferred somewhere else. So then they hand over Navi, and we get out.

Mech: What if they don't listen to you though?

Nut: Well, we improvise. We'll distract them, and Jin can slip past them and grab Navi.

Jin: How will you distract them?

Nut: We'll just talk them up and annoy them for a few minutes. It'll work like a charm.

(The girls heading down another metal hallway)

Navi: The protein pools are down here. We're almost there.

Bree: So what's your plan, Flo?

Flo: I was thinking, Mech and Nut think we're still with them. So Navi, you stay hidden. When we get to the protein pools, Bree and I go out first. If we see them all there, we tell Mech and Nut that the upper levels want us to take Jin. Transfer him somewhere else in the ship.

Navi: And they'll listen to you?

Flo: Oh, don't worry. They'll listen to me.

Bree: What if that doesn't work though? What if Jin isn't with them?

Navi: (Whispering) Quiet! I heard voices. They must be approaching. Hold still...everyone...(a long pause. Silence, the faintest rumor of voices from further away...and then....Nut cries out)

Nut: Woah!

Navi: What are you doing here?

Nut: What are you doing here?

Mech: It's them!

Flo: All of them!

Jin: Easy! Easy! Navi, you're not bound?

Navi: And neither are you. What's going on?

Jin: They're with me now, Navi. We were going to rescue you...

Navi: Well, we were on our way to rescue you! (Laughs) I'm glad you were able to figure something out. It's so good to see you again, Jin!

Jin: I missed you, Navi...(the two embrace) Flo, Bree...Navi's no longer your prisoner?

Flo: We had some realizations.

Bree: It was hard. There were some things we had to work through.

Flo: But now Navi is our ally. Our sister.

Mech: We did some thinking too.

Nut: Yeah. Long overdue, I suppose.

Mech: We figure now, things don't have to be the same as they've always been.

Nut: Even if we put our lives on the line.

Mech: There are two sides. Die on this ship, or live on a new world.

Nut: I know what side I'm on.

Navi: I think we all do now... (coms device crackles)

Hun: Hello? Someone pick up!

Mo: Flo, Bree, are you with Nut and Mech?

Hun: Your coms device has been down for hours, Mech. I've been trying to message you constantly. What were you doing? I saw you in the mess hall over the cameras. What's going on?

Mo: You're all there, and you have them outnumbered. Kindly restrain Jin and Navi, and return them to their cells.

Mech: (takes a deep breath) I don't think we'll be doing that, Hun.

Hun: What?!!

Nut: They're not going anywhere.

Flo: We're with them now.

Bree: No matter what.

Mo: Is this a joke? Return them to their cells, now. If they're restrained and everything is back to normal within ten minutes, I'll pretend I never heard you say that.

Navi: We're not going back to the way things were. Tell that to everyone in the front of the ship. We're going to Empyrean.

Derry: And how do you propose to do that?

Jin: Take over the ship. Take what's rightfully ours.

Derry: I'd like to see you try. Lockdown protocols initiated. (An alarm rings, and metal doors slam shut) Unfortunately for your little insurrection, we still control the ship's functions from the front. As for you C levels. We'll give you some time to think about actions. Maybe when your reason has returned we can resume talks. Until then, enjoy the back of the ship. No food, no water. And possibly even no oxygen, should the mood suit me. Speak with you soon. (Coms device shuts off)

Cus: We're locked back here!

Mech: If they shut all those functions off...

Flo: We could die! What do we do?

Bree: We stay together. No matter what.

Navi: Thank you, Bree. We stay together. (Beat) They have the front of the ship, but we have the numbers.

Mech: And the know-how. We know all these machines and systems better than they do. We can give as good as we get.

Jin: So we're agreed then. We won't give up, no matter what.

Nut: Yeah...(nervously, steadying) Agreed.

(Everyone, in unison) Agreed!

Bree: For a new life.

Flo: For a new world.

Mech: For each other.

Navi: They won't be able to stop us...because now, we know what we're fighting for...