

**[Stargate Universe 3x05  
"Lines of Communication"]**

by

Laurence Moroney

[TEASER]

EXT - DESTINY - SPACE

Destiny is sitting in 'normal' space. The engines are off, and she's either stationary or drifting slightly. Put her at a slight angle to make it look like she's listing, even though there's no 'up' or 'down' in space, we want to give that impression.

A piece of SPACE DEBRIS clangs against her hull as we-

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - PARK'S QUARTERS

Doctor Park is lying still and seemingly lifeless in her bed. Hold on her a beat to establish. Her eyes are wide open and staring at the ceiling. PULL DOWN towards her eyes and then-

She coughs. Once, mildly, and then again. She pulls into a fetal position, turning on her side as her body is wrought with wracking coughs.

She stops, and moans a little, pulling herself out of bed.

She stops as she looks towards the mirror. She's a wreck.

A beat as she realizes-

She can see!

PARK

What?

She puts her hands to her face. Looks down at them. Hugs them around herself, and pinches herself.

PARK

I'm not dreaming?

Her walkie talkie is nearby. She picks it up.

PARK

Ronald! Ronald! It's Lisa.

Static. There's no answer.

PARK

TJ? Colonel Young? Can anybody hear me?  
Come in?

Static. Still no answer. She shivers a little, and wraps a blanket over her shoulders as she exits her quarters.

INT - DESTINY - CORRIDOR

As Park runs through it. Wide shots here, make it feel like the place is empty.

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - INFIRMARY

As Park enters. CREWMEMBERS are filling the beds. Some are on the floor. All are unconscious. We see WRAY slumped over one of the cots. Park turns her over, and is in SHOCK when she sees WRAY's face.

PULL IN ON WRAY's face. She's covered in large, dark boils and other deformities.

Park screams and stands back. She runs.

INT - DESTINY - CONTROL INTERFACE ROOM

As Park runs through. We see Doctor Rush slumped over a console, similar boils covering his face and hands.

INT - DESTINY - BRIDGE

As Park enters. Young is slumped in his chair. Eli is on the floor, and Greer, Brody and Volker are slumped over their consoles. All have the same condition as Wray.

She's looking around the bridge. Panicked. She doesn't know what to do. And then-

Through the viewscreen a huge, white, almost crystalline ship jumps in from FTL. (We saw this ship in earlier episodes as part of the diverse 'fleet'). Aboard Destiny, ALARMS start to blaze-

As we:

CUT TO COMMERCIAL.

[FADE IN]

FX - DESTINY - SPACE

A more normal view of Destiny moving through space. Legend at the bottom of the screen reads:

TWELVE HOURS EARLIER

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - CONTROL INTERFACE ROOM

Eli is here, frantically working on a console. He stops, coughs for a moment, and then rubs his forehead. He looks like he's not feeling well, but isn't letting that stop him work.

Chloe enters. Eli Sneezes.

CHLOE

Bless you.

A beat as Eli stops and stares at his console. He pushes back on his seat, with a thousand yard stare. It's like he didn't notice her enter. Then he looks at her.

ELI

I don't believe it Chloe. This is it.

CHLOE

What?

ELI

Everything.

(A beat)

We need to find Colonel Young and Doctor Rush.

He stands, and wobbles a little before leaving in the direction of the bridge.

He pauses, and turns back to her. Smiling.

ELI

Come!

CUT TO:

EXT - WOODS - DAY

As Varro is jogging through the woods. We hear the ROAR of a waterfall nearby. He jogs to a clearing overlooking it. It is SNOQUALMIE FALLS in North Bend, Washington.

Darrus approaches him from behind.

DARRUS

Nice place.

VARRO

Yeah. Hopefully someday they'll enjoy it as free men.

DARRUS

You haven't asked about what we're doing here.

VARRO

You know better than that. If what you are doing here is secret, that's all I need to know, but-

(A beat as Darrus watches him)

VARRO

(Ct'd)

But it would be nice if you had a way of getting off planet. I want to get back to my ship.

DARRUS

Out of the question. It would be too much of a risk. We must integrate fully with the local Tau'ri.

Varro nods.

VARRO

I understand. In that case, I am at your service should you need me.

DARRUS

Yes. And we may be needing you sooner than you think.

A beat as Varro takes this in.

DARRUS

Walk with me.

They head off down the slope into the woods.

EXT - TRAIL - DAY

As Varro and Darrus are walking down the slope towards us.

DARRUS

This part of Earth is called the Pacific Northwest, with the 'Pacific' being the name of the largest Ocean on the planet.

(A beat)

It's the biggest, most abundant body of water I've ever seen. Such a treasure.

He smiles and takes a drink from his canteen before continuing.

DARRUS

(Ct'd)

It's so large because it's effectively a depression surrounded by continental edges.

VARRO

Volcanic?

DARRUS

Very. They even call it the 'Ring of Fire'.

(A beat)

Did you know that almost 7 billion humans live on this planet? That's more than every other world, combined.

(A beat)

And they all, in some way, depend on that body of water, even if they don't know it yet. The most populous nations have coastlines on it. The most prosperous ones depend on it for trade.

VARRO

And if something were to happen-

DARRUS

This world would be on it's knees.



VARRO

(Thoughtfully, testing Darrus)

But how do we liberate them by attacking them?

A long beat as Darrus takes this in, particularly in the light of the Lucian Alliance having already nuked several major cities.

DARRUS

I, too struggle with the plan. But the old mistakes are in the past. What we are doing will have minimal loss of life, but-

(A beat)

But it will be worth it when they welcome the Lucian Alliance with open arms as saviors.

CUT TO:

FX - DESTINY - SPACE

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - BRIDGE

Panning shot showing - Colonel Young, Doctor Rush, Greer, Volker, Brody and Scott are present. Volker coughs the way Eli had been. He's also looking a bit ill.

Eli and Chloe enter. Eli is unsure of himself.

ELI

(quietly)

Colonel Young

The Colonel is busy and doesn't hear him. Chloe nudges Eli.

ELI  
(louder)

Colonel Young

Young turns to him and smiles. He nods towards Chloe who smiles and nods back.

YOUNG  
Eli? What is it?

Eli walks to the center of the bridge. Chloe stays at the door.

ELI  
I need to talk to you and Doctor Rush.  
Together. Urgently.

Rush doesn't respond, and instead continues to work on his terminal. He feels all sets of eyes on him, rolls his eyes, slaps his hands on the console, gets up and goes to join them.

RUSH  
Yes, what is so important that it is  
worth interrupting my work?

Young turns to Eli, and raises his eyebrows. It's now time to speak.

YOUNG  
Eli?

ELI  
I don't know how to say this, but-  
  
(A beat)

Red Galaxies. The alien paintings had  
red galaxies in them.

Young returns a confused look, Rush rolls his eyes.

ELI  
(ct'd, a little pissed off)

\*Red\* Galaxies. Don't you get it? So I checked with Destiny's database and sensors.

(A beat)

Every single galaxy that we can see, is going through a red shift.

YOUNG  
A what?

BRODY  
A red shift. Are you sure? All of them?

ELI  
All of them. Check it.

YOUNG  
What does that mean?

ELI  
You know when you hear a police siren, it sounds different if it's moving towards you or if it's moving away from you?

(A beat)

The Doppler effect.

YOUNG

Yes, caused by the source of the sound waves moving towards you or away from you. It compresses the sound waves, changing the pitch. I took high school physics you know.

ELI

Well at high speeds, the same happens with light. When something is moving away from you, it's light shifts more towards red. If it is moving towards you, it's light shifts more towards blue.

BRODY

Oh my God, he's right. They're all red shifting.

YOUNG

So what?

RUSH

So every Galaxy in the Universe is moving away from this one.

ELI

Yes.

(A beat)

We're at the center of the Universe.

Rush is working frantically at a console. He looks up at Eli, annoyance replaced by respect.

RUSH

He's right.

(A beat)

Destiny's mission is coming to an end.

As we CUT TO COMMERCIAL:

[FADE IN:]

FX - DESTINY - SPACE

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - INFIRMARY

TJ is here examining the throat of a marine. She has a stick in his mouth holding his tongue down as she peers in his mouth with a flashlight.

TJ

Hmmm. Pretty bad infection there. But I have to keep a close ration on the antibiotics.

(A beat)

I'm taking you off active duty. Plenty of hot fluids and rest.

The Marine nods and slowly gets off the gurney. He walks out of the infirmary. We see that there are several more crewmembers in the same shape, including Wray, who is next in line.

TJ

He's the fifth Marine today. At this rate you're going to have to pick up a gun, Camille.

Wray smiles weakly as she sits up on the Gurney.

WRAY

Something's going around, huh?

TJ checks her eyes and hears, and feels the glands at the top of her throat.

TJ

Yep, and you've got it, too.

TJ clears her throat a little.

WRAY

Sounds like you're coming down with it too.

TJ

I can't afford to get sick.

WRAY

I hope you're taking some of the antibiotics for yourself.

TJ

(A beat)

Yeah.

Wray looks at TJ, she can read that TJ is lying.

WRAY

Lieutenant Johansen-

TJ leans over to whisper-

TJ

We're out. None left. But keep it quiet, ok?

Wray's eyes widen. She nods and agrees. She gets up to leave and-

The line of sick people has gotten longer.

FOLLOW the line as we see people lined out outside the infirmary and along the corridor.

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - BRIDGE

We're rejoining the conversation from earlier. Rush is animated, Young is thoughtful and pensive.

YOUNG

Center of the Universe...is that even possible?

ELI

Yes. And the ancients programmed Destiny to come here-

YOUNG

But we short circuited that programming when we came here to avoid the drones.

ELI

Yes.

(A beat)

We're early. It will be a few more weeks until we reach the galactic center, by my calculations, but-

YOUNG

But, that's where destiny awaits Destiny?



RUSH

How poetic.

Volker begins to cough, but it's longer than earlier. He obviously has whatever everyone else in infirmary had.

YOUNG

You'd better get that seen to.

VOLKER

Yes. Sorry.

He gets up, but he's a bit shaky on his legs.

VOLKER

Woah, dizzy.

Brody gets up from his console.

BRODY

I'll take him.

At that moment an ALARM sounds.

GREER

We got company.

CUT TO:

FX - DESTINY - SPACE

As another ship jumps in from FTL. It's huge, dwarfing destiny. It's mostly white, looking like it's made from glass or crystal. While beautiful, it also looks deadly. We have seen this ship

before in the great fleet from 3x01 and 3x02, as well as, of course, the teaser from this episode.

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - BRIDGE

VOLKER

Woah.

BRODY

Infirmary can wait.

YOUNG

Are they hostile?

SCOTT

No signs of weapon power ups. But I am not sure what they would look like even if there were.

YOUNG

Eli? Have you seen these when you were, you know, out?

ELI

They're not Eloi if that's what you mean. I don't think the Eloi need ships.

Something blinks on Eli's console. He looks at it and furrows his eyebrows.

ELI

(Ct'd)

I hate to sound all Star Trek, but..I think she's hailing us.

YOUNG

Onscreen

Eli smiles a little with his private 'Star Trek' joke, and calls up the hailing feed. It takes a few moments to adjust, but then they see the bridge of the other ship.

It's all lights, and it is hard to make out detail. The camera adjusts and we see three alien creatures looking back. They are luminescent themselves, with bright white skin that looks like it is lit from within with a blue-white light. Two of them have hairless heads, the other has a long mane of straight black hair that makes it look more female than the others. Their faces are like grey-aliens (Asgard) but much more beautiful and statuesque. They have longer faces, and large, black, elongated eyes. They have tiny mouths, which don't move much as they speak. We see REACTION in the eyes of the crew, particularly Chloe at the stunning beauty of these aliens.

Their speech is unintelligible.

YOUNG

My name is Colonel Young, and I am in command of this ship. We call it Destiny. Identify yourselves.

The aliens mumble a little more, and peer at the camera, trying to make out detail of what they're seeing on Destiny.

ELI

I'd give my right arm for a Universal Translator right now.

The aliens speak again, and then the video distorts.

GREER

We just got hit by some high energy radiation. Shields are holding. No damage.

YOUNG

Are they attacking us?

RUSH

I think it's a scan. A bit like an X-Ray.

The video distorts again, stronger this time.

GREER

They did it again. Much stronger this time.

YOUNG

What are they looking for?

The lead alien leans back towards the camera. He says something unintelligible, and then puts a mask on. He sits back in his chair, and the other two put similar masks on.

YOUNG

That doesn't look good.

ELI

It's not. They're opening bay doors at the bottom of the ship.

YOUNG

Back off, get us out of here.

The alien ship backs off too, after dropping two small devices.

ELI

Uh oh.

RUSH

Oh my god. Greer, get us out of here.  
FTL, now!

Greer looks back at Young.

GREER

We don't have a course laid in, we  
could end up anywhere.

YOUNG

Do it!

CUT TO:

FX - SPACE as we see the two objects closing in on destiny. She turns quickly to avoid them, but they have a tight circle back towards her. She JUMPS into FTL

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - BRIDGE

As she drops out of FTL - right into the middle of a cloud of space debris. One chunk of rock HITS the tower, near the bridge.

Our crew get rocked.

YOUNG

Shields!

GREER

At full power. Getting us out of here.

CUT TO:

FX - SPACE - DESTINY

As she ploughs her way out of the field of rocks.

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - BRIDGE

SCOTT

We're clear.

ELI

That could have been much worse.

YOUNG

You don't say.

(A beat)

Can they follow us through FTL?

RUSH

They found us already. They'll find us again.

YOUNG

How can you be so sure?

RUSH

Isn't it obvious - they've been looking for us.

(A beat)

Didn't you see the weapon they used against us?

ELI

Oh no.

RUSH

Oh yes. Miniature black holes. Like the ones that destroyed the star.

(A beat)

And we interrupted their work.

(A beat)

They're here to finish us off.

CUT TO:

FX - SPACE - DESTINY

Hanging in space, looking vulnerable.

FADE TO COMMERCIAL.

[FADE IN:]

INT - DESTINY - PARK'S QUARTERS

Doctor Park is in her quarters. Establishing shot showing how independent she is, despite her blindness. She has figured out how to get a voice interface working on the computer, and it's reading out some data.

PARK  
Computer, stop.

(A beat)

Replay last 15 seconds.

The computer reads out some data.

PARK  
A-ha. Got you now.

Computer, take the full data set and apply a fourier analysis. Find unusual peaks and cross-correlate to other research.

(A beat)

Go.

The computer starts working. She yawns and stretches and then starts feeling her way towards her closet. She reaches in, to find a basic gown, and starts to change into it. She's readying for a shower.

CUT TO:

POV of 'Baby Alien' in the vents watching her changing. She takes off her jacket and starts to unbutton her shirt-

When the back of her neck is exposed we-

CUT TO:

INT - PARK'S QUARTERS



We see a NEEDLE zip out through the vent and hit Doctor Park on the back of the neck. She grunts and her eyes roll. She falls to her knees and slowly slips down onto the ground.

We see the vent cover get kicked off, and the baby alien drops to the ground. It's BIGGER now than it had been in previous episodes. It has obviously been growing.

It creeps over towards her, extending it's proboscis. We saw similar babies take down an animal and drink its blood with a similar one.

TENSION as it gets closer to her. And we-

CUT TO:

FX - SPACE

As Destiny hangs in space.

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - BRIDGE

ELI

10 minutes. If they were able to follow us through FTL we'd see them by now.

YOUNG

Get some FTL co-ordinates programmed in, in case we need to make another emergency jump.

RUSH

Already done. Multiple jumps actually, so if they can follow us, it's a little more difficult.

(A beat)

(Sarcastic)

Thanks for asking for my advice.

YOUNG

Not now, Rush.

Volker begins coughing again, this time long racking coughs that double him over.

He spits blood,

YOUNG

Brody, get him to the infirmary now.

A beat as he grabs his walkie-talkie.

YOUNG

TJ. Doctor Volker's headed your way,  
he's not looking good.

TJ (V.O.)

He's going to have to get in line. I  
think we have some kind of outbreak.

(A beat)

I'd recommend quarantine, but I think  
it's too late.

YOUNG

We're under attack and I need everyone  
I can get.

INT - DESTINY - INFIRMARY

As Volker stumbles in, half carried by Brody. The scene is a mess, with people on gurneys, on mats on the floor, propped up by the door and more.

TJ

What's going on up there?

BRODY

What's going on down here?

TJ

At first it seemed like a common cold  
but, the symptoms are accelerating!

BRODY

What can I do to help?

TJ

I started some blood analysis, looking  
for a virus, to see if I can isolate  
it, and-

(A beat)

I'm not sure what I found.

BRODY

Let me see.

FX - Computer animation of microscopic view

TJ (V.O.)

I thought at first that it might be vi-  
ral, but as you can see, it's not lodg-  
ing itself within the cells as a virus  
does.

Animation shows blood cells in the body, with alien cells moving  
around them. The computer is highlighting the alien cells in  
yellow.

BRODY (V.O.)

Bacteria?

TJ (V.O.)

I thought so too, so I tried some anti-biotic, and-

(A beat)

I can't explain it.

Animation shows anti-biotic entering the system and attacking the alien cells. Some of the alien cells die, but not all. We see them physically change to counteract the incoming antibiotic.

BRODY (V.O)

They're adapting.

TJ (V.O.)

Yes, but...that's too fast. They adapted almost instantly.

BRODY (V.O.)

But how?

TJ (V.O.)

Watch this.

She replays the animation, but this time we are ZOOMED IN on one of the alien cells/viruses. It seems impossibly complex in size and nature.

BRODY (V.O.)

I'm not a virologist, but I've never heard of a virus that complex before.

TJ (V.O.)  
Nor I, but watch closely.

We see the cell break off parts of itself and 'send' them to another alien cell. The second then absorbs that and 'reconfigures' itself.

BRODY (V.O.)  
What the hell was that?

TJ (V.O.)  
The second one effectively rebuilt its entire makeup from the parts that the first one sent it.

(A beat)

The first one was under attack from the antibiotic.

We see the antibiotic breaking up the first cell. We then see it wash over the second, with no effect.

CUT TO:

Away from the animation, back in the infirmary.

Brody, eyes wide realizes-

BRODY  
Rush was right.

TJ  
What?

BRODY  
That's why they destroyed the star.  
That system must have been contami-

nated. If this virus, or whatever it is, got out amongst a population, there'd be no stopping it.

TJ

There must be a way to stop it.

BRODY

Didn't you just see what I saw? It's the ultimate adapter. There's no way to fight it.

PULL OUT as we show the infirmary being overrun.

CUT TO:

Conference room. The senior staff are here.

RUSH

This is what happens when you rushing in to a situation without understanding it.

ELI

There he goes again with the 'I told you so'

RUSH

Eli, if you all did what I suggested at the time I wouldn't have to say 'I told you so' and we wouldn't be in this mess, would we?

YOUNG

Enough. What are our options here?

RUSH

We're out of options. Haven't you seen how that thing adapts. It's only a matter of time before-

He coughs.

RUSH (CT'D)

Oh great.

CHLOE

Wait a minute.

(A beat)

We're missing something.

ELI

What?

CHLOE

If the virus came from that system.

RUSH

It's not a virus it's a-

He's lost for a word to define it, so she waves him off.

CHLOE

Whatever. If it came from that system, and it's so virulent-

(A beat)

Why was there a civilization on that planet? Surely it would have destroyed them too.

BRODY

She's right. It's not like you can get a natural immunity to something so adaptive.

CHLOE

Scott and TJ were somehow made unconscious by the aliens. We never figured out why.

SCOTT

And I feel fine.

TJ

I feel fine too. In fact-

(A beat)

Over the last few days my symptoms have been improving.

BRODY

Let's check your blood

CUT TO:

Park's quarters. The alien has attached itself to the back of her neck. It retracts the needle and extends its proboscis into the hole left behind.

We see BLOOD flowing through the proboscis as we

CUT TO:

FX - Animation - Blood



We see a similar view to before, but this time the alien viruses just seem to be floating there, not attaching themselves to any cells.

ELI (V.O.)

Those are the alien viruses, right?

(A beat)

So TJ is infected.

BRODY

But look -- they're not doing anything. They're not attaching to her cells.

(A Beat)

It's like they are happy just living there.

CUT TO:

Back to conference room, away from the animation.

T.J. (V.O.)

Why aren't they attacking me?

RUSH

And Scott's blood is the same. They're not attacking him either.

YOUNG

So it's something about what those aliens did to you makes you immune?

(A beat)

They knew they were carrying the infection and-

WRAY  
(Glaring at Young a little)

And they were trying to help us.

Eli is pacing the room. He stops and looks out the window. We see his face register shock.

ELI  
Oh no!

As the walkie-talkie chimes. It's Greer, on the bridge.

GREER (V.O.)  
Colonel Young, we've got company.

CUT TO:

FX - SPACE

As we see the alien ship drop out of FTL and bear down on Destiny...

The music reaches a crescendo as we-

[FADE TO COMMERCIAL]

[FADE IN:]

FX - SPACE - DESTINY

As the alien ship bears down on her. We see it drop a couple of 'black hole' weapons again. They instantly zip in Destiny's direction.

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - BRIDGE

As Greer is frantically working at the controls.

YOUNG (V.O.)

Greer, execute Rush's FTL program.

GREER

One step ahead of you sir-

As we-

CUT TO:

FX - SPACE - DESTINY

As we see the black hole weapons inbound on Destiny, but she jumps away in time.

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - BRIDGE

As she jumps back into 'normal' space, waits there a second and jumps again. Through the windows we see space change. She's close to a large, red, star. We don't get much of a look at it before we jump again.

This time into complete blackness.

And again. This time near a huge planet with Saturn-like rings.

And again. And Again.

We lose track of the jumps.

[Note that in previous episodes it was established that there are different FTL 'speeds'...assume in this case the jump is

short because we are at maximum FTL speed. FTL stands for 'Faster than Light', so 'Faster' could have many degrees.]

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - CONFERENCE ROOM

The group are shaken by the multiple jumps.

YOUNG

Well that was fun.

SCOTT

Hopefully it threw them off the scent.

RUSH

It's only a matter of time. We have to assume they'll find us again.

YOUNG

We'll need to come up with a way to stop their weapons.

RUSH

Oh yeah. That easy. And find a way to stop this virus while we're at it.

YOUNG

So get to it.

(A beat)

Good thing it's the middle of the night in Washington. Or Varro's cover would have been blown-

CUT TO:

EXT - FOREST - NIGHT

As we pull in over the moonlit scene towards the black lodge where the Lucian Alliance operatives are staying.

INT - LODGE - NIGHT

Varro's quarters. He's awake, obviously disturbed by all the FTL jumps breaking the stones connection.

He gets up, and leaves the lodge for a dawn jog.

EXT - FOREST - DAWN

As Varro is jogging. He hits a trail, and there's another jogger there. He pulls up alongside her.

We see that it's VALA.

VARRO

Not yet.

VALA

Roger that.

They split up and go their separate ways.

CUT TO:

EXT - SPACE - DESTINY

As she's hanging in interstellar space.

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - PARK'S QUARTERS

Park is lying on the ground, catatonic, staring blankly at the ceiling.

The door CHIMES. No response. It CHIMES again. No response. We hear the sound of someone forcing the lock, and the door opens.

GREER comes in, with Chloe.

GREER

Oh my god!

He picks her up, and something falls from the back of her neck. It's the shriveled, completely desiccated corpse of the alien child. It hits the ground and breaks into small pieces.

CHLOE

That looks like-

GREER

Yeah-

Without another word he picks her up and takes her out - headed toward the infirmary. She's like a rag doll in his arms.

CUT TO:

INT - CONTROL INTERFACE ROOM

Eli and Rush continue to work on the virus. They're huddled over their consoles.

RUSH

There's nothing we can do. Whatever we throw at it, it just figures out, and re-adjusts itself to suit. There's no cure, and there never will be.

He slaps the console.

ELI

But the-

Rush looks at him irritably.

RUSH

Yes, I know, those aliens weren't affected. Maybe it's something in their physiology that the virus just isn't interested in. And somehow when they put Scott and TJ to sleep that they were able to-

He looks off into the distance for a moment.

RUSH

What if we're thinking about this the wrong way.

(A beat)

What if it's not a virus or other contaminant agent in the known sense of the word.

He looks distant and thoughtful for a moment.

RUSH

(Ct'd)

It was something Wray and Chloe were talking about. When if you can't communicate with another species, that it will end up in conflict.

Realization dawns on Eli.

ELI

What if it's a lifeform.

(A beat)

An intelligent lifeform.

RUSH

And those messages being sent between the cells are language.

ELI

We sent the antibiotic to break down its structure, but it figures out the structure, and how it can change itself

to resist. And then communicates those changes back to the others.

(A beat)

But by changing itself, surely it would be destroying itself, and its sentience?

RUSH

Not necessarily. Think of it like a state machine. You are a state machine with a finite set of knowledge.

He pauses for a moment, looking for the words.

RUSH

(Ct'd)

So, when I talk to you and tell you something that is outside that set of knowledge-

ELI

I absorb that knowledge, and am in a different state as a result. The old me, without the knowledge goes away, and is replaced by the new me, with the knowledge.

RUSH

So on a microscopic level, if the life-form is a collection of cells and proteins, like a virus-

ELI

That's how it could store it's knowledge. It could, communicate by changing its state, it's physical makeup!



RUSH

Right. Not sure how that helps us  
though. How do we tell it to 'please  
stop killing us' ?

ELI

It's a start-

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - INFIRMARY

The scene is getting worse and more chaotic than before. Staff  
are slouched, some unconscious on the floor, against the walls,  
in gurneys.

Greer enters, carrying Park. He's coughing.

GREER

She had one of those alien children at-  
tached to her neck-

He gestures to the back of his head.

GREER

(Ct'd)

Here. It was dead. Completely dried out  
like snakeskin.

(A beat)

How is she?

TJ checks Park's heartbeat and temperature.

TJ

She seems fine, just like she's in a  
deep sleep.

GREER

A bit like you were when we found you-

TJ gets a syringe and starts to draw blood. She pulls out her walkie talkie and calls Rush.

TJ

Doctor Rush?

RUSH (V.O.)

(Irritated)

What is it?

TJ

It seems we had one of the baby aliens aboard. Doctor Park has been -uh- put to sleep by it.

RUSH (V.O.)

How long?

TJ

Not long. The baby's dead body was still attached to her.

RUSH (V.O.)

I'm on my way. I'll need samples of her blood to compare with yours and Scott's.

TJ

Roger that.

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - INTERFACE CONTROL ROOM

Eli and Rush are here. They're both sick and coughing. The following conversation should be punctuated thus.

RUSH

That might be what we need. It gives us a control group.

ELI

One set of us under attack from the virus. Scott and TJ that the virus doesn't seem to be affecting and-

RUSH

Dr Park who is in transition.

(A beat)

Hopefully.

It gives us something to work with. But, we still have to worry about that alien ship. Eli -- you should get to the bridge. Nobody on this ship, and I mean nobody, is faster at calculating FTL jumps than you. If they show up again, all this work will be for nothing.

ELI

And after our last stunt, they'll show up shooting next time.

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - BRIDGE

Greer enters, returning from the infirmary. The rest of the crew have returned to duty. They all look sick and are coughing. Greer is having trouble just walking, but he's doing his best to put a brave face on it.

YOUNG  
How is she?

GREER  
Not sure, sir. In the same comatose  
state we found Scott and TJ.

YOUNG  
Good. Lieutenant Scott?

SCOTT  
Sir?

YOUNG  
We're not going to be in much of a con-  
dition to command the ship for much  
longer-

A long coughing spell interrupts him.

YOUNG  
(Ct'd)  
So I'm relinquishing command to you,  
effective immediately.

(A beat)

I'm confident you can get us out of  
this mess.

SCOTT  
Yes, sir.

Eli enters the bridge and instantly gets to work on a console.

ELI

Colonel Young, I have a few more evasive programs that I've fed in. Some of them are a bit -uh- radical, but I'm expecting we'll need them.

YOUNG

Understood.

Almost on cue, the alien ship drops in, and as Eli expected, doesn't wait before it starts shooting.

ELI

Give me control!

Scott punches his console to pass control to Eli.

FX - SPACE

As Destiny jumps to FTL to avoid the incoming black holes.

FX - SPACE

As Destiny returns to normal space, really close to a star.

Almost immediately the alien ship jumps in and drops two more black holes.

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - BRIDGE

ELI

Here goes nothing...

CUT TO:

FX - SPACE

As Destiny dives towards the star. She pulls towards and goes under the camera as we watch the weapons bearing down on her.

CUT TO:

INT - DESTINY - BRIDGE

GREER

We're not supposed to go this deep...

SCOTT

Shields aren't going to hold much longer!

Eli doesn't answer, his face locked in grim determination.

YOUNG

Whatever you're going to do, do it now!

CUT TO:

FX - INSIDE THE STAR

As Destiny continues her dive into the star. Suddenly she reverses course, and turns away, upwards and outwards from the star.

The black holes turn too, but- they are gravitationally powered, and they are caught in the gravity well of the star.

As Destiny pulls away from the star we see the black holes fall into the star's core and-

BOOM! A supernova is born. We see it spreading out to engulf Destiny as we

FADE OUT with the legend

TO BE CONTINUED