

INT. OFFICE

A corner office. Pristine and well-lit.

A retrofuturistic city is seen through floor-to-ceiling windows: 1940s silhouettes, a large propoganda mural, pulp-cover-style hovercrafts zooming past on visible strings.

A woman with a hairdo as well-structured as her suit sits facing the windows, looking out over the city.

She turns in her chair, and smiles at the camera.

CAROL SPACEBURG/POWER THING

Hello! I'm Carol Spaceburg, author of the bestselling career guide for ambitious spacewomen: *Bend Over: Taking It All, One Day at a Time*. I am so glad you've decided to start your dream job with Syzygex Incorporated. Syzygex: Perfecting Perfection since 2197. Here at Syzygex, we believe in you. Do you believe in you? You will. Starting today. Because today you begin your new career as a [Janitor]. Congratulations! All your dreams are coming true. Way to reach for the stars! Now that you've made that crucial first step, don't stop. If you keep achieving and keep dreaming, soon you could even become [Head Janitor]. Wow! Don't wait for your ship to come in! Start on your dreams today! Perfect your own perfection.

CUT TO

TITLE CARD

Space Happens

Episode 1: Joy Ride

CUT TO

INT. JOY'S QUARTERS

Joy's nightstand is orderly: an alarm clock, a lamp, and a tiny model of a spaceship. No additional adornment.

Digital clock reads 5:00am.

From out of frame, Joy's hand slams down on the clock.

Upbeat music begins, a la "Morning Train."

Time passage montage.

Joy jumps out of bed, stretches and walks out of frame.

CU BLENDER

Joy adds protein powder and blends a smoothie.

CU JOY'S CHEST

Joy is wearing a bright white shirt. She fastens her navy jumpsuit over the top. Her name tag "JOY" is pristine and prominent.

CUT TO

INT. CARGO SHIP BRIDGE

CU FLOOR

Joy slams a mop down with purpose and begins mopping. With purpose.

WS BRIDGE

Bridge crew enters.

Joy stops her mopping and gives a perfect military salute.

The crew takes their seats on the bridge without noticing her.

CUT TO

INT. JOY'S QUARTERS

Joy's nightstand, a little cluttered. Clock reads 7:00am. Joy's hand fumbles for the clock. She climbs out of bed and walks out of frame.

Joy hastily pours coffee into a mug.

Joy runs past the mirror out the door, buttoning her jumpsuit while walking.

Joy slams a mop down and gets to work.

Bridge crew enters.

Joy salutes.

The Uniform Guys take their seats on the bridge without noticing her.

Mop slam. Joy salutes. Crew ignores her.

Mop. Salute. Ignore.

Mope Salute Ignore.

An alarm clock sounds.

END MONTAGE.

Joy's nightstand is a mess.

Digital clock reads 10:00am. Alarm continues to sound.

PAN OUT

Joy is fast asleep. She gradually wakes up: rolling over, making sound, yawning et cetera until she finally looks at the clock.

Joy groans and turns off the alarm clock.

Joy rolls over and gets out of bed. She crosses to her dresser, where she grabs a pipe and a lighter, takes a hit, and walks to the bathroom, where (out-of-focus) she pees with the door open.

CU DONUT BOX

Joy grabs a donut.

MS JOY

Joy shoves the donut in her mouth and wipes the crumbs on her shirt.

CUT TO

INT. CARGO SHIP BRIDGE

CU MOP

Joy's mop leans idly on the wall.

MS JOY

Joy also leans idly on the wall, playing a game on her SyzyPad.

Faint 8-bit music plays, punctuated by video game battle sounds.

CU SYZYPAD

Space battle game!

From out of frame, a dark liquid splashes on the screen. Joy, nonplussed, wipes the gunk away with her sleeve.

PAN OUT TO WS BRIDGE

The bridge crew, already having arrived, is in distress.

Red alert lights blare. Men are screaming. Women are cowering. Cowards are running. Senior officers are pressing lots of random buttons on consoles as well as physically fighting off an invading enemy!

The captain is shouting orders as his crew fights around him.

8-bit music fades out and is gradually replaced with the sounds of the battle that rages around Joy.

People continue to bump into Joy as they're fighting, which makes Joy progressively more annoyed.

Captain Busterbang bumps into frame.

CAPTAIN BUSTERBANG

Brace for impact, men.

The crew pitches themselves about as the enemy returns fire. A bunch of fighters bump into Joy, which is too much for her to handle. She rolls her eyes and starts to push her mop-and-bucket out of the bridge.

CAPTAIN BUSTERBANG

Take aim, Arf. NOW!!

Cannon fire.

Return fire.

Joy exits as crew member flies through the frame.

CUT TO

INT. CARGO SHIP PASSAGEWAY

We track Joy as she moves down a passage and opens the door into the dining area.

INT. CARGO SHIP DINING AREA

She closes the door, turns around, and comes face to face with one of the invading enemies with a scary alien face.

Joy screams a little and almost drops her SyzyPad.

Joy pulls her headphones off and sets about making coffee.

JOY

Oh, man, whew! Close one! I can't afford another one of these things, amirite? I really should be on the bridge, but MAN is it crowded in there. I'm trying to beat this level in Super Epic Space Battle TM, and I just could *not* focus. I'm sure you've had those days. You know, I was reading this book about the seven habits of highly effective janitors, and they say if you're having trouble focusing we should try to reward ourselves with 20 minutes of tashing around for every 10 minutes of work. So we're actually increasing our productivity by chatting in the mess hall.

Alien creeps up ominously behind Joy's back.

JOY

You want some coffee, too? The Feydorian blend is nice, but my personal favorite is the Starbucky Balls dark roast, but, hey, no judgement if you prefer the lighter stuff. Not everyone can be-

The alien taps Joy on the shoulder, and Joy turns around to see the alien drooling...ominously drooling.

JOY

(non-plussed)

Whoa, buddy, you okay? You're lookin'

a little out-of-sorts. You sure you don't want a delicious caffeinated beverage?

Joy grabs her cup of coffee and sips.

JOY

Ohhhhh! It must be your first day. I was nervous, too, on my first day, but look at me now. I'm head of janitorial interns, mandatory 2% raises every year, and no one even notices if I show up 3 hours late. Easy peasy.

ALIEN

Snarl.

JOY

Hey, don't worry so much! I'll show you the ropes. I'm a really inspiring person, actually, so I could totally teach you how to do this stuff. It's like Carol Spaceburg says in *Bend Over*, "The okay teacher talks a lot. The good teacher is really inspiring." No, wait, hold on, I forget the order... "The okay teacher talks a lot. The good teacher...also talks a lot...? The great teacher inspir--"

ALIEN

RAAAAWWWR!

Scary Alien attacks. Joy throws hot coffee in his face.

The alien screams and doubles over.

Joy runs.

INT. CARGO SHIP PASSAGEWAYS

Joy runs through the passageways, mop at the ready.

The ship is being mercilessly attacked. Joy runs past people running and screaming, crazy-looking aliens, invading forces, friendly fire, shootouts, explosions, and some other fun visual jokes before slamming into a door. A sign reads: POD BAY 27; DO NOT ENTER.

Joy looks around.

Cut to another sign that says, NO SERIOUSLY DO NOT ENTER.

Joy looks around.

Cut to another sign that says, THIS MEANS YOU.

Joy uses her janitor's keys to escape the battle.

INT. POD BAY 27

It is quiet here, untouched by battle.

Joy leans against the door.

She's in a large room empty except for a small ship in the center.

Joy looks around. The ship is unguarded. Coppery in color, it is unadorned except for it's name: HMS JANEWAY.

Joy approaches tentatively.

JOY

Cool.

Joy touches the ship and the door opens. Joy is startled and looks around like she thinks she's gonna get caught, but no one is there.

She peers into the ship.

JOY

Hello?

No answer.

JOY

Sweet.

Joy starts to climb in, hesitates, and looks around again.

No one.

Instead, she lays eyes on a poster featuring Carol Spaceburg announcing: "Don't wait for your ship to come in!"

Suddenly, sounds of battle are heard approaching the door to Pod Bay 27. Joy, startled, jumps into the ship.

INT. HMS JANEWAY BRIDGE

Joy rushes to the controls and starts the engine. Shitty car sounds, perhaps followed by AOL sounds.

COMPUTER

Welcome to the HMS Janeway, Syzygex
Vessel class 92. Please state your
name.

JOY

Uhhhhh. Joy Jones.

COMPUTER

Uhh Joy Jones. Welcome.

JOY

Thank you.

COMPUTER

To complete your registration, please
state your title.

JOY

Janitor.

COMPUTER

Invalid title. Please state your
title. Valid titles include:
leftenant, sergeant, captain--

JOY

Oh, uh, captain.

COMPUTER

Oh Uh Captain Uhh Joy Jones. Would you
like to launch ship at this time?

JOY

Yes. Thank you, computer.

COMPUTER

You are welcome.

Ship launches just as the battle from the cargo ship spills
into the pod bay.

As the cargo ship's doors open, Joy looks out with awe and
wonder and terror at the vastness of spaaaaaaace.

Then, an alarm starts to blare.

COMPUTER
Insufficient fuel. Insufficient fuel.

The Janeway begins to free fall.

JOY
Oh shi--

BLACKOUT