

INT. HMS JANEWAY BRIDGE

CU JOY

Joy looks towards the horizon. Hope fills her eyes, perhaps tinged with a little bit of fear, but definitely tinged with space-citement.

JOY

...and so I ran toward the bridge, flung the door open, and hit every enemy in sight. Until I came face-to-face with the scariest alien I had yet encountered on my space-journey. I hesitated for a moment--oh, yes, I did--then I hit him just. Like. This.

CUT TO

WS BRIDGE

Joy raises a pillow and hits Barbara. Barbara hits her back. Mildred squeals and eagerly joins the fight. Soon the pillow fight encompasses Pauline, Scarlett, and Janet, until they collapse in a heap of giggles.

All are decked out in PJs. There are bowls of snacks, beauty products, and fun substances strewn about.

Wayne walks in, tray in hand, oven mitts on.

WAYNE

Who wants pizza rolls!?

ALL

(crowding around the tray of snacks)

(Ooo, me!) (Thanks man!)

(Ew.)(Lovely!)(Barabara improvises something.)(I'll make sure to wipe the microwave later.)

Everyone grabs snacks like vultures and settles again. Wayne takes the tray away.

JOY

Okay, my turn to spin... (spins a bottle in the center of the assemblage) Scarlett! Your turn! Why is the Quality Control Department chasing you?

SCARLETT  
There was a man--

JOY & JANET  
(Full House whoo)

SCARLETT  
Yes. Whooo. That kind of man. Next.

Scarlett spins.

MILDRED  
Ooo! Yay! Me!!

Wayne enters with drinks.

WAYNE  
Who wants girly drinks?

MILDRED  
Ooo! Yay! Me!!

Mildred grabs a drink and proceeds. Wayne takes the tray around the group.

MILDRED  
So I used to be part of the QCD.

JOY  
\*spit take\*

Wayne is on the receiving end of said spit take. Chaos.

SCARLETT  
(to Joy)  
I told you she was  
psychotic.

JOY  
(to Scarlett)  
Yeah, well, you told me that  
as she was grinding up on  
the bar top, so my apologies  
if I was a little  
distracted.

SCARLETT  
Oh, go eat a dick, Cap.

PAULINE  
(very)  
No, no, no, not again. I  
have just about had it up to  
here with you people  
marginalizing me! First, it  
was that horrible husband  
who ordered me off the  
internet and didn't let me  
perform any of my sexual

duties. Then you tell me I can't work my shift at the diner if I don't wear any clothes. My parts aren't even *real*, for heaven's sake, but you still want them covered up. It doesn't make any sense, goddammit. It's what I was built for!!  
VOTES FOR ROBOOOOOTS!!!!

JANET

Oh, damn, damn, damn. Joy!  
That was my favorite shirt of Wayne's. Wayne, go change your shirt.

BARBARA

\*just screaming cause everyone is making sounds\*

JOY

QUIT IT. You guys, hey, let's give Mildred the benefit of the doubt! To quote the back cover of J'Onn Graymatter's groundbreaking, bestselling relationship handbook *Men Are From Earth, Women Are From Earth*, "We need to work together."

Beat.

JANET

...Is that it?

JOY

Is what it?

JANET

The quote. Is that the whole quote?

JOY

I dunno. That's where I stopped reading.

JANET

Figures. Wayne, go change your shirt.

BARBARA

I like it how it is. "We need to work together." Very straightforward.

JOY

Exactly! Let's trust Mildred to be straightforward with us. Mildred. Tell

us about your time with the Quality Control Department.

MILDRED

Oh, you know, same ol' story. Girl meets powerful secret service agency. Agency hones Girl's skills to turn her into a living Weapon. Weapon kills her boss...

JOY

That sucks.

MILDRED

It was an accident, duh. Well, anyway, the penalty for that is death, and I am so not down with dying. So I peaced out.

JOY

(teasing Mildred)

Peace. Yes. A word I associate with you...

JANET

Shh. Don't make her mad.

JOY

She's part of my crew, and I can make her mad if I want to.

MILDRED

You could also interrogate me if you want to. Learn all the secrets of the QCD.

JOY

If it's not already clear from my speechifying, we're a team. I'm not gonna go around beating information out of anyone.

MILDRED

O.M.G. You're *right*!

JOY

Yeah.

MILDRED

(totally ignoring Joy)

You'll have to *beat* the information

out of me! Tie me to a chair and punch me over and over and OVER! I'll probably spit blood at some point, maybe even some teeth! Then I'll respond with a quippy one-liner, and you'll decide that you need to get the information out of me "some other way"...

Beat, as everyone stares at Mildred, totally freaked.

MILDRED

In case it's unclear, the other way is torture.

JANET

You, young lady, are highly unstable.

MILDRED

Yeah! Wait. Excuse me? Was that an insult?

JANET

No, it was a diagnosis.

Mildred lunges at Janet. Janet screams as Scarlett and Pauline hold Mildred back. Barbara eats popcorn.

JANET

(trying to keep the conversation private)

Joy, please explain to me why you're filling your government ship with traitors, murderers, and the lingering stench of AlphaBeta Kush.

JOY

(sniffs)

Oh, well done!

JANET

I'm a doctor, Joy; I know my pharmaceuticals. I also know that when you're given command of a ship, you usually are assigned a crew. A qualified, sane crew. And they almost always give you some kind of, ya know, mission. Oh, and *normally*, a government captain isn't being pursued by the law. You told us you won the captain's chair for your acts of

bravery, but you didn't win this ship.  
You stole it.

ALL

GASP

JOY

How...How did you know?

JANET

I'm really smart, Joy. Also, you  
didn't change the name on the door.

PAN TO

Door to the captain's quarters. The office-like name tag  
reads: Captain Thrust Dustbuster.

PAN TO

Joy & Janet.

JOY

...that's my pen name.

JANET

Oh, come on, Joy, there's even a  
picture.

PAN TO

Door to the captain's quarters. Picture of Captain Thrust  
Dustbuster.

PAN TO

Joy & Janet.

JOY

Are you mad?

JANET

Yes, Joy. I'm mad. You think you can  
just steal a ship and a bunch of wacky  
sidekicks like that (snaps) and it  
suddenly makes you a captain?

WAYNE

Hey! I'm not wacky!

JANET

No, dear, you're not. I'm not talking about you. I'm talking about the assassin and the robot and miss tall-dark-and-sardonic over here. (turning to Mildred, Scarlett, and Pauline) For some reason, you've been listening to her, but she's no captain. I've been here for less than a Prilax Prime minute, and I've been almost killed 3 times. She's not leading us anywhere but straight to prison and/or death.

JOY

I..you're right.

JANET

And another thi - Wait, what?

JOY

You're right. I'm a fraud. Sorry, guys. It was fun while it lasted, but Janet said it. I'm no captain. I'm a PUNCHLINE. Scarlett, make sure everyone gets home okay. I'll...I'll be in my bunk.

Joy exits the bridge, defeated.

Everyone stares after her (with various comical, character-based reactions). Awkward silence.

JANET

(breaking the silence)

Wayne, my god! Go change your shirt!