

**THE ADVENTURES OF THE USS CARPATHIA IN OUTER SPACE**

EPISODE 3: "REUNITED AND IT FEELS SO AWKWARD"

(or, "HOMEWARD BOUND AND GAGGED")

Written by

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ACT I**Scene One: Int. Counsellor's Office - Day**

1. MUSIC: SOOTHING, NEW AGE INSTRUMENTAL.
  
2. JAMES: You see, Korgath, I always got the feeling that my family didn't truly approve of my joining AstroBase. They always hoped I'd stay and work on the farm back in North Dakota.
  
3. KORGATH: Lieutenant Perry, as a Claamisian, I was raised in a culture that prized strength and valor in combat above all else. I became a ship's counselor to prove that my people are capable of empathy and solving our conflicts with words.
  
4. JAMES: So you can help me with my family troubles?
  
5. KORGATH: Indeed. Your kin perceive you as a weak member of the brood. A show of strength is called for. I recommend disabling the alpha male in single combat, taking his harem as your own and eliminating his remaining hatchlings.

1. JAMES: Well I'm not so sure about getting into a fight with my daddy.
2. KORGATH: It is the surest option if you wish to regain the respect of your clan.
3. JAMES: Hoo boy. I sure hope I can figure something out fast. We're gonna be getting back to Earth any minute now...

**Scene Two: Int. Bridge - Day**

4. SOUND: AMBIENT SHIP NOISES. MAYBE SOME PINGS.
5. DERBY: Helmsman, take a note of this: Destiny. Serenity. Devotion. Passion. That's a list of the women I "met" the last time we made harbor at AstroBase HQ. I wonder if I can top it this time...
6. OLLIE: Are you sure? We're only there for two days and you're, well...
7. DERBY: Two days is all I need in a place like Colorado Springs, Ollie! You'll understand when you're older. God, what a town!

1. SOUND: INCOMING MESSAGE.
2. FAYE: Incoming transmission from Admiral Nevers.
3. DERBY: Thank you, Engineer Chinksy. Main screen on.
4. SOUND: MAIN SCREEN BLINKS ON.
5. ADM. NEVERS: Greetings, *Carpathia*. Let me to be the first to welcome you back to Earth. I trust you're well?
6. DERBY: Fair sailing from Rigel 8. Eager to get back to civilization.
7. ADM. NEVERS: And Central Command is eager to hear your report of the border regions.
8. DERBY: Ah... Report?
9. ADM. NEVERS: Oh, sure. After six months on patrol, you must have a mound of intelligence. I look forward to hearing every little detail.
10. DERBY: Actually sir, I was hoping to spend some time enjoying Colorado Springs.

1. ADM. NEVERS:           And that you will, Derby! You've got a whole weekend of AstroBase duty with your commanding officer. Which reminds me. Engineer Chinsky! There's quite a buzz developing about your presentation on expanded Arcology population levels.
  
2. FAYE:                   Why thank you, Admiral. But the true credit goes to Dr. Cromerrety here.
  
3. ADM. NEVERS:           But of course! I almost forgot you've got Earth's foremost expert in civil engineering on board.
  
4. PIERRE:                Mademoiselle Zhinsky iz a flatterer. I am merely inzpired bah her ahbilitee.
  
5. ADM. NEVERS:           By the way, Ms. Chinsky, your old colleague Trisha Yeardsley will be presenting as well. Word is she's got a whole new take on the Arcology game! Well you all take care, then. Nevers out!
  
6. SOUND:                SCREEN BLINKS OFF.

1. FAYE: Trisha Yeardsley... I haven't seen her since the Academy...
2. OLLIE: Now entering Earth's orbit. Shuttlecrafts are ready whenever.
3. SOUND: SHUTTLECRAFT LAUNCHES AND DESCENDS TO EARTH.

**Scene Three: Ext. Spaceport - Day**

4. SOUND: A SPACEPORT IN A BUSTLING METROPOLIS: TRAFFIC, HOVERCRAFT OVERHEAD.
5. JAMES: (INHALATION) Smell that fresh air! Who could feel blue on such a beautiful day, here in Earth's most vibrant and vivacious of cities? And after all your help, Korgath, I think I'm ready for a fresh start with my family!
6. KORGATH: You have trained long, Lieutenant Perry. I wish you the best in your battle for dominance.

1. DERBY: Yes, enjoy your little vacation. Meanwhile I'm stuck recounting six months of aimless wandering to some deskbound crones who haven't been aboard a ship since they were in short pants.
2. JAMES: Well, sir, isn't a degree of bureaucratic oversight necessary for the efficient operation of an effective naval force?
3. DERBY: Perry, every day I get more convinced you don't know the first thing about military service. Speaking of which, what is that toy you're holding?
4. SOUND: JAMES WITHDRAWS SOMETHING FROM A CLOTH BAG.
5. JAMES: It's my "Wings" McArthur action figure. He's an action hero I used to watch on the holovision back when I was a young'un. Watching him fly his hyperjet against the Indo-Soviet Alliance in World War Six is why I became a pilot. I figure it might help my family understand why I chose to fly.

1. DERBY:                   You're hoping a doll will make your parents  
                                  love you?
  
2. KORGATH:                A shrewd maneuver, Lieutenant Perry. Carrying a  
                                  warrior avatar can provide emotional readiness  
                                  for battle.
  
3. SOUND:                JAMES' HOVER TRANSPORT ARRIVES AND EMITS AN  
                                  OLD-TIMEY HONK.
  
4. JAMES:                   Well, there's my ride to North Dakota. You two  
                                  have a great stay!
  
5. SOUND:                JAMES EXITS.
  
6. DERBY:                   And here comes Admiral Nevers. It's a shame,  
                                  Korgath. I was looking forward to showing you  
                                  the wild sites of Earth's wildest hedonistic  
                                  playground, Colorado Springs - especially after  
                                  your special mission kept you away the last two  
                                  months.
  
7. KORGATH:                Perhaps another day, old friend.
  
8. SOUND:                ADM. NEVERS APPROACHES.



1. ADM NEVERS:            Jack Derby! By gosh it's good to see ya!
  
2. DERBY:                 Ah... It's good to see you, too Admiral?
  
3. ADM NEVERS:            And Korgath! The last time I saw you, you were storming the bridge of a Menelaeon mother ship during that ambush off Sirius Nine. Derby, how many battlecruisers did you blast that day?  
  
Five?
  
4. DERBY:                 Uh, something like that.
  
5. ADM NEVERS:            I owe you my life, man! Don't know how you did it! When I left the bar at four AM you two were still going strong. Come on, my transport's waiting!
  
6. DERBY:                 Did you want our scouting reports, sir?
  
7. ADM NEVERS:            Sure thing! I figure you can brief me during a grand naval cruise of The Springs' best night life! Follow me!
  
8. SOUND:                THE THREE WALK TO NEVERS' TRANSPORT.

1. DERBY: Do you have any memory of that day?

2. KORGATH: None.

**Scene Four: Int. Perry Manor - Evening**

1. MUSIC: FANCY CLASSICAL MUSIC PLAYS SOFTLY.

2. SOUND: DISHES CLINK GENTLY AS A TABLE IS CLEARED.

3. MA PERRY: Take my Crème Brulee, too, Korlutha. It was burned again.

4. JAMES: Ma? Pa? Now that we've finished dinner, I'd like ta show you something.

5. SOUND: JAMES RUSTLES IN HIS BAG FOR HIS MCARTHUR.

6. I know you never understood why I wanted to fly, but this here --

7. PA PERRY: For God's sake, James. You're still trotting that ol' doll around? Won't you ever grow up?

8. MA PERRY: Pa, you said you wouldn't!

1. PA PERRY:            Now I didn't say a word through supper, but I can't stay quiet any longer. He's gallivantin' around the stars, while the rest of us work our fingers to the bone trying to keep this farm going.
  
2. SOUND:            A DISH CLINKS DOWN IN FRONT OF PA.
  
3. HELP:                Your digestif, sir.
  
4. PA PERRY:            Thank you, Korganna.
  
5. JAMES:               Pa, I hoped we could use this time to catch up on things.
  
6. PA PERRY:            You want to catch up? Cotton shares dipped five cents last quarter. Your mama had to wear an off-the-rack gown to the Columbus Day ball. Mighta been different if we had another set of hands down here.
  
7. JAMES:               But, Pa! My heart was never here on the farm. I woulda never been much help.

1. PA PERRY:                   That's a mighty convenient excuse, James, but I ain't interested in hearing it. Korlutha! I'll take my brandy on the veranda.

**Scene Five: Int. Auditorium - Evening**

2. SOUND:                    A BUSTLING SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE. MEDIUM CROWD NOISE.

3. FAYE:                        The AstroBase Engineering Conference. I've dreamed of this ever since I was at the Academy!

4. PIERRE:                    Ah too am exzited about zese once een a lifetime opportunittee. Tomorrow we shall prove zee Cromerrety Prinziple once and for all.

5. TRISHA:                    (OFF MIKE) Faye?! Is that you?

6. SOUND:                    TRISHA APPROACHES.

7. FAYE:                        Hello, Ms. Yeardsley. It's... been a long time.

1. TRISHA: Faye, we've known each other for over a decade. Call me Trisha. I must admit I was surprised to read about your presentation. You never seemed that interested in population issues at the Academy.
2. FAYE: Well, between my dual focus on interstellar warp dynamics and astrophysics it was always more of a hobby. But as Chief Science Officer of the *Carpathia*, I've had the opportunity to get more involved.
3. PIERRE: Oui. Ahn Cygnoose Thirteen we found zat ze local arcolozhies ware grossly ovairpopula-ted. We employed an eggsparemental technique to increase cahpahsahtee bah cohnvairteeng public recreashun areas eento eggstra ventelashun zystems.
4. FAYE: Though from what I hear, that's nothing compared to what you're working on.
5. PIERRE: Yes. Ah hev reviewed your propozal, Miss Yeardzlee. Et ees highly ehmpresseev.

1. TRISHA: Oh please, I'm only dealing in theory. You're actually applying solutions...Of course if I can secure more research funding, I hope to construct arcologies capable of housing ten or even fifteen thousand residents.
2. FAYE: That's very ambitious, Trisha. Are you sure you can convince the Counsel that it's feasible? If you'd like I could look over your research.
3. TRISHA: Oh, Faye. I appreciate the offer, but I don't need you to check up on me. But if you get curious, my papers are all available on the AstroSciNet. I'll send you the hyperlink Ta-ta!
4. SOUND: TRISHA TRAIPSES OFF.

**Scene Six: Int. Hotel - Night**

5. SOUND: DRUNKEN FEMALE LAUGHTER, CLINKING BOTTLES, WHISPERED "SHH"s.
6. DERBY: Here's our room. Now how about those night caps?

1. ADM NEVERS: Derby, you're a wild man! I'm having the night of my life.
2. BAR GAL 1: You're a cutie!
3. SOUND: DERBY TURNS THE KEY AND OPENS THE DOOR.
4. DERBY: Right this way, ladies. One at a time!
5. JAMES: (SNIFFLING) Wh-who's there?
6. DERBY: Perry? What are you doing here?
7. JAMES: My-my parents yelled at me, Captain. They didn't wanna hear it.
8. ADM NEVERS: Jack, is this your first officer? This is how you run your ship?
9. DERBY: Ah, clearly he's having trouble readjusting to Earth's climate. Perhaps a street tough from Briargate slipped him something. You all go on to the next stop.

1. KORGATH:                Would you like assistance? I am an expert in human empathy procedures.
  
2. DERBY:                 No, no, Korgath. It's my responsibility. I'll clean up this mess.
  
3. KORGATH:               Good. Because the one in green says she likes off-worlders.
  
4. BAR GAL 2:             It's so sexy how you wave your antennas like that.
  
5. ADM NEVERS:            Come on, everyone. I know a great after hours place with 32 oz. margaritas.
  
6. SOUND:                THE GROUP EXITS AND SHUTS THE DOOR BEHIND THEM.
  
7. DERBY:                 All right, Perry. Now what's the big deal?
  
8. SOUND:                DERBY OPENS A BOTTLE, POURS TWO PORTIONS
  
9.                         Here. Take this.
  
10. JAMES:                Thank you, sir. Normally I wouldn't, but I'm just so torn up by seein' my family.



1. DERBY: I don't see what the fuss is all about, frankly. I never had a family. My father left when I was five. I got in my first fist fight at seven. When I was eleven a neighbor girl took my innocence as part of a sexual experiment. And look at me - I turned out fine.
2. JAMES: Well, sir, I wish I could see it that way, but my family just won't forgive me for not stayin' home to become a farmer.
3. DERBY: But it's nearly impossible to become a farmer! There are only, what, about 300 farming jobs on the whole planet. You need advanced degrees in experimental robotics and agricultural chemistry just to get an interview.
4. JAMES: I applied to Yale and Harvard A&M, but got rejected.
5. DERBY: So how can they blame you? Here. Have another.
6. SOUND: DERBY POURS ANOTHER TWO SHOTS.

DERBY/CONT'D OVER...



1. FAYE: I know you're right, Pierre. But something here just doesn't add up...
2. PIERRE: Een mah country we hef a zaying: "Stop borrowing trouble." Eef her theories are flawed let zee proper zientific aussorities worry about eet.
3. FAYE: I suppose you're right. But Trisha has a history of grandiose ambitions that don't always pan out. I can't imagine she'd go so far as submitting faulty results, but I just don't know...
4. PIERRE: An accusation of zees kind eez very zerious. Eet could produce great controversy with conzequences for both of our careers. Continue revieweeng her research eef you must. But zees ees neither zee time nor zee place for anyzing more. *Bon nuit*, Faye.
5. SOUND: PIERRE CLOSES THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.

**Scene Eight: Int. Derby's Hotel - Morning**

1. SOUND: A CLOCK ALARM BUZZES. EMPTY CANS AND BOTTLES  
SCATTER AS SOMEONE FUMBLES TO TURN IT OFF.
  
2. DERBY: (HUNGOVER) Sweet Moons of Moses. What time is it?
  
3. KORGATH: I cannot see. I slept with my contacts in.  
(BEAT) Lieutenant Perry did not return last night.
  
4. DERBY: I sent him back to North Dakota to talk straight with his folks. It must have gone well.
  
5. SOUND: INCOMING CALL. SCREEN BLINKS ON.
  
6. KORGATH: Lieutenant Perry! How fared your challenge for mastery?
  
7. JAMES: Everything went just swell. And I have you to thank, Captain.
  
8. DERBY: Glad to hear it. So what happened?

1. JAMES: I talked to them face to face, just like you told me, and we worked everything out. I'm staying on Earth. They're having a welcome home dinner for me tonight.
2. DERBY: What? What are you talking about? We leave in the morning!
3. JAMES: Well, don't you see, Captain? I'm retiring from AstroBase!
4. MUSIC: DRAMATIC STING AND OUTRO MUSIC, TO MAKE IT CLEAR WE'RE DONE.

END ACT I