

**SPROCKET**

"Pilot"

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INT. HALL OF CHAMPIONS - NIGHT

Someplace in space...

We're in a cathedral-like hall festooned with COLORFUL BANNERS, where alien musicians trumpet LASER-HORNS (they sound like auto-tuned vuvuzelas; almost not annoying).

It's the year 20X6 and a dozen pairs of heroic SPACE CADETS are lined up on marble steps. But one group arrives late:

Scrambling into place is the only human in the bunch, LAIKA (14), fidgeting with geeky excitement. Coming up to her knee is her pilot GULLIVER (42), a grizzled space sausage who's seen it all.

LAIKA

Oh Gulliver, this is so cosmic! Our first medal ceremony!

GULLIVER

And hopefully our last. I despise these formal affairs.

Gulliver tugs at his stiff collar and it snaps back.

LAIKA

Cram it, it's the Assessor!

All the space cadets stand up a little straighter as the mechanical ASSESSOR clunks up the steps like a drunk Roomba.

The Assessor scans and assess the first team, a BURLY FOUR-ARMED WARRIOR and their slender REPTILIAN NAVIGATOR.

ASSESSOR

Assessment complete. For bravery in the Orion Sector, I commend thee with these medallions.

The Assessor 3D prints out TWO GLEAMING MEDALLIONS onto the space cadets, who immediate launch into a complex high-five.

The Assessor moves down the line, pausing briefly to print out more medallions for the conquering heroes.

Laika closes her eyes: she's next in line for greatness.

The Assessor gives her and Gulliver the once-over.

ASSESSOR (CONT'D)

Assessment Complete. Try to show up on time in the future.

The Assessor clunks off downstairs.

LAIKA (O.S.)  
What kind of space garbage was  
that?!

INT. DOCKING BAY - LATER

Laika is throwing a fit on top of her living space ship,  
SPROCKET: a smiling giant pink jellybean with two antennae.

GULLIVER  
Well for the record, we were *late*  
on account of you having to do your  
hair.

LAIKA  
Girls have to do their hair! Like  
you'd know!

She jabs at Gulliver's gleaming sausage head and the little  
tuft on his head wobbles.

GULLIVER  
Gah! My perfect hair!

Gulliver dashes off (presumably to fix his coiffure).

STELLA (14), a magenta-skinned space cadet in a sponsored  
jumpsuit sees the entire spectacle and gives a noblewoman's  
laugh. Her freshly won medallion SPARKLES. What a jerk!

STELLA  
Why even bother showing up Laika?  
You'll never be a real space cadet!

Stella's ROBOT partner ASTRO (14) elbows Laika in the ribs.

ASTRO  
(robotic) *What is a matter? Cannot  
keep up more with real heroes?*

Stella and Astro jump into their sleek spaceship and blast  
off, laughing all the way. Laika massages her bruised pride.

LAIKA  
Those space cases don't know who  
they're messing with.

Laika leans forehead to forehead with the always-smiling  
Sprocket with a crazy glint in her eye.

LAIKA (CONT'D)  
 We're gonna win ALL the medals.  
 'Cause I got a **plan**.

EXT. VASTNESS OF SPACE

Laika and Gulliver are riding atop Sprocket. After a short beat, Laika breaks Gulliver's focus and the silence.

LAIKA  
 We need to go faster.

GULLIVER  
 What?

LAIKA  
 We always take so long to do  
 missions so we never win medals!  
 I'm just saying if we cut a few  
 corners...

GULLIVER  
 Absolutely not. I pride myself on  
 following Space Cadet regulations.  
 (beat) WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Laika is taking off her seatbelt and floating off Sprocket.

LAIKA  
 What? It's faster.

GULLIVER  
 THAT'S INCREDIBLY DANGEROUS.

Pulls Laika back onto Sprocket and re-belts her.

GULLIVER (CONT'D)  
 Going faster is stupid!

LAIKA  
 Look, just try it my way and we'll  
 see who the stupid one **am**.

EXT. CLEARING OUTSIDE TOWN - DAY

Sprocket lands on a crystalline landscape of clear domed glass homes, people made of glass, glass birds and trees etc. Very fragile.

GULLIVER  
 Ok Laika: here's our mission on the  
 planet of Easily Shattered Glass.

Sprocket's tongue unfurls to reveal a GIANT BOWLING BALL, then swallows it right back up.

GULLIVER (CONT'D)

We have 10 hours to safely deliver this precious cargo. Now normally I'd start by plotting...

LAIKA

Gotta go fast!

Laika JUMPS on Sprocket's head. Sprocket involuntarily SPITS the bowling ball and they fly through the air!

Gulliver holds his head in horror! Laika gives a little flourish with her finger while her HOLO-WATCH starts a timer.

LAIKA (CONT'D)

And off they go!

WOOSH goes the bowling ball! Falling through the air...

EXT. PHILIP GLASS HIGH SCHOOL

SMASH goes the ball through the schoolyard and through the wall. All the GLASS KIDS cheer as they pour through the hole!

INT. VERY FRAGILE MODERN ART MUSEUM

SMASH goes the ball through the Modern Art museum, smashing the ART to bits. PATRONS "ooh" and "aah" over the new works of TWISTED DEBRIS.

EXT. FIRST BANK OF EASILY SHATTERED GLASS

SMASH goes the ball through a BANK WALL through which SINISTER GLASS CROOKS enter. As they remerge with GLASS SACKS OF CASH the ball goes up an incline, only to roll backwards smashing the crooks! Glass cash goes flying everywhere!

EXT. CITY ZOO

Finally the ball slows to a stop inside a CAGE. We pull back to see the unveiling of the OUR NATURAL PREDATOR exhibit. TOURISTS excitedly snap photos.

BACK TO:

EXT. CLEARING OUTSIDE TOWN

Laika stops her holowatch while Gulliver looks on in slack-jawed awe. Did that just really happen?

LAIKA

Cosmic! Now we have 9 hours 59 minutes and 30 seconds to do all the missions and get all the medals we want!

Gulliver scratches his head.

GULLIVER

Laika, I don't know how you've done it, but there might be a method to your madness. For the time being, I'm putting you in command.

Laika and Gulliver hop on Sprocket.

LAIKA

Thanks Gully! Next stop: Lava Planet 246!

EXT. LAVA PLANET TROPOSPHERE - SUNSET

As Sprocket descends upon the black and rocky terrain of the new planet Gulliver points at a four-limbed LAVA MAN waiting at a BUS STOP.

GULLIVER

There's our target. This is a diplomatic mission Laika, so take it slow and handle him with kid gloves.

Laika gives a wink and a thumbs up.

EXT. BUS STOP - CONTINUOUS

A LAVA CREATURE is waiting at the bus stop, alone.

LAIKA

Yo dude.

The creature replies in an wet and alien tongue.

LAVA CREATURE (SUBTITLE)

Hey, you're not Stella!

LAIKA

(to Gulliver) Ha, this was supposed to be Stella's mission? She is going to be *so mad*. (to Lava Creature) So where ya going?

LAVA CREATURE

(unintelligible gurgling)

A map of the planet emerges above Laika's HOLO-WATCH. We see a dashed line being drawn from their position clockwise around to the other side of the planet.

GULLIVER

It's hopeless, we'll never make it to the other side of the planet in time. Laika, thoughts?

Laika gives a quick look around: she clocks a nearby volcano, looks at Sprocket, then at Gulliver.

LAIKA

Gotta go *fast*.

CUT TO:

INT. VOLCANO

Sprocket PLUNGES into the volcano, with the LAVA creature white-knuckle riding just behind a very freaked-out Gulliver and an adrenaline-fueled Laika.

GULLIVER

(screaming)

LAVA CREATURE

(screaming)

LAIKA

(hooting and hollering)

Sprocket opens its mouth wide and a BUBBLE emerges, surrounding the group as they descend into the MAGMA.

They slip out of view and a few LAVA BUBBLES pop.

INT. LAVA TUNNEL

In the skinny tunnel of magma Gulliver WAPS his head on a few STALACTITES. He glances over at Laika who is in the middle of a celebratory howl.

A beat later, Gulliver smashes into a BIG STALACTITE. The Lava Man barely catches him with two of his arms.

EXT. ANOTHER VOLCANO ON OTHER SIDE OF THE PLANET - DAY

We're looking at ANOTHER VOLCANO upside down (naturally on the other side of the planet).

We flip right-side-up just in time to see Sprocket and company fly out of the volcano!

EXT. ANOTHER BUS STOP

Sprocket comes skidding to a halt just in front of their destination: another bus stop.

The lava creature hops off and gives a double thumbs up!

GULLIVER  
Well that was terrible.

LAVA CREATURE (SUBTITLE)  
Are you kidding that was awesome!  
Thanks dudes!

GULLIVER  
Awesome?! Weren't you screaming?

The Lava Creature gives a double thumbs-up.

LAVA CREATURE  
Yeah, because it was *awesome*.  
Later!

He runs off, prompting Laika to do a VICTORY DANCE.

LAIKA  
Sorry not sorry. That was amazing;  
our fastest mission ever!

Gulliver is emotionally picking at his eye.

LAIKA (CONT'D)  
Gulliver, are you crying?

GULLIVER  
Negative, I just got some magma in  
my eye.

LAIKA  
Hey, since we have alllll this time  
now, let's get more medals!

GULLIVER  
Yeah!



LAIKA  
Gotta go FAST!

GULLIVER (CONT'D)  
Gotta go FAST!

They jump into the air and high-five! It's time for a QUICKLY ACCOMPLISHED MISSION MONTAGE!

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A) EXT. LUSH MOUNTAINOUS PLANET - DAY

With vines tied around their waists, Laika pushes Gulliver off a cliff and she jumps after him.

At the bottom of the cliff two BABIES IN BASSINETS are crying. Laika and Gulliver bungie down for a KISS. They bounce back up and the babies GIGGLE.

B) INT. HALL OF CHAMPIONS - NIGHT

Laika and Gulliver are awarded medals by the Assessor. Sweet!

C) EXT. OCEAN PLANET - DAY

Stella and Astro are on a futuristic HOVERING SKIFF floating over an endless sea. They are carefully fishing out a LIFEBOAT OF CUTE ALIENS just as a PINK BLUR knocks them into the water.

It's Sprocket! And they've rescued all the cute aliens. Gulliver and Laika HIGH-FIVE as Stella and Astro shake their soggy fists in anger!

D) INT. HALL OF CHAMPIONS - NIGHT

Laika and Gulliver get ARMLOADS of medals. SWEET!

E) EXT. JUNGLE PLANET - DAY

A rickety STONE TEMPLE is about to collapse, forcing TOGA'D ACOLYTES to run for cover! But the rocks float UPWARD? Huh?

They're being sucked into Sprocket's mouth! It chews them up and spits out a magnificent STATUE of Laika and Gulliver. Everybody cheers!

F) INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Laika signs a copy of her new BOOK for an excited FANGIRL,  
"GOTTA GO FAST: ABRIDGED EDITION."

G) INT. HALL OF CHAMPIONS - NIGHT

There's simply a small MOUNTAIN OF MEDALS that Laika and  
Gulliver pop out of (shades of Scrooge McDuck's money bin).

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. VASTNESS OF SPACE

GULLIVER

Incredible! Laika, in just one day  
you've taken this unit from slow to  
success!

LAIKA

And it's all thanks to me!

SPROCKET

(huffs)

Laika noogies Sprocket

LAIKA

And this little guy here.

SPROCKET

(coos)

Laika's Holo-Watch beeps and a projection of a Medallion  
appears, blinking red.

GULLIVER

Oh no! We're gonna be late for the  
medal ceremony! Again!

LAIKA

Ha! As if! We'll just take a  
shortcut. Let's see...

Laika scans the infinite horizon of space.

LAIKA (CONT'D)

Oh ho ho! (points) *There's* our  
shortcut!

Laika is pointing at a BLACK HOLE.

GULLIVER

Oh no. Ohhhhh no. I'm not going  
inside a black hole!

But Laika has already pushed Sprocket's antenna forward.

LAIKA

But we gotta go fast!

The skin around their face starts to flap as they pick up  
speed. Sprocket's too.

The black hole is uncomfortably close now, like a swirling  
tunnel of fear.

GULLIVER

I changed my mind; fast is bad! I'm  
in command again!

Gulliver slap-fights Laika for control of Sprocket's antenna.

LAIKA

Too late! We're going in!

INT. BLACK HOLE

All time seems to extend out into infinity, like a hallway of  
reflecting mirrors. Sprocket and the crew STREEEEETCH out  
under the incredible crushing gravity. WILL THEY MAKE IT?!

Then suddenly, nothing. They are frozen in a VOID.

LAIKA

(slo-mo voice) What gives? Why  
aren't we going fast?

GULLIVER

(slo-mo voice) Didn't you know?  
Nothing escapes from a black hole?

LAIKA

(slo-mo voice) You just don't want  
to admit I'm right!

Gulliver and Laika start a SLO-MO SLAP FIGHT.

GULLIVER

(slo-mo voice) Never in a million  
years!

TITLE CARD: WHAT FEELS LIKE A MILLION YEARS LATER

Laika and Gulliver are still fighting. They've moved VERY LITTLE from when we've last seen them. They're also sporting BEARDS and are covered in LIVER SPOTS.

Laika puts her hands down in shame.

LAIKA  
 (from slo-mo to regular voice)  
 Gulliver, I was wrong. Going fast  
 isn't always best.

In that moment, Laika and Gulliver de-age!

GULLIVER  
 Laika, your voice changed to  
 normal! We're almost out of here!

Newly invigorated, Laika hops off Sprocket and starts pushing like it was a stalled car. Gulliver joins in:

LAIKA	GULLIVER (CONT'D)
(effort noises)	(effort noises)

SPROCKET  
 (sputtering engine noises)

Laika and Gulliver hop on Sprocket, zooming towards a WHITE SPECK in the darkness: the light at the end of the tunnel.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BLACK HOLE

For a beat, nothing. And then -- SPROCKET EMERGES! Freedom!

INT. HALL OF CHAMPIONS - NIGHT

A beat-for-beat replay of the opening sequence: to the sound of laser trumpets the space cadets await the medal ceremony.

Behind a SHADOWY PILLAR Laika and Gulliver are peering over at the other cadets.

LAIKA  
 We're not late! Well, less late  
 than before.

GULLIVER  
 Uh-oh. Actually Laika--

But Laika DRAGS Gulliver by the hand before he can speak.

They reach their spot in the group and stand up straight.

Laika spots Stella and Astro and STICKS OUT HER TONGUE -- they SHRUG with confusion.

The Assessor scans and assess the first team, a BURLY FOUR-ARMED WARRIOR and their slender REPTILIAN NAVIGATOR.

Wait, haven't we seen this before?

ASSESSOR

Assessment complete. For bravery in the Orion Sector, I commend thee with these medallions.

LAIKA

Gulliver, this is weird. Are you getting deja-vu?

GULLIVER

That's what I was trying to tell you. We're not late: that black hole sent us BACK IN TIME!

SMASH CUT to Laika's shocked face, then Gulliver's, then Sprocket's (even though they're not in the room).

LAIKA

You mean everything we did... is erased?

Laika holds a copy of her book that is to illustrate her point fades from existence.

LAIKA (CONT'D)

Nooooooo! My book deal!

The Assessor waddles up.

ASSESSOR

You're late. What do you have to say for yourselves?

LAIKA

We're gonna have to do everything faster!

Oy! Gulliver slaps his hot-dog head.

THE END