

INTERSTELLAR #2

INT. COCKPIT, RANGER - CONTINUOUS

The craft comes to rest. Cooper jumps to the controls, powers up the electrics. The engines won't respond -

EXT. RANGER - CONTINUOUS

The gear LIFTS the Ranger. Water FLOODS out -

INT. COCKPIT, RANGER - CONTINUOUS

Cooper tries the engines again. Nothing.

CASE

Too waterlogged. Let it drain.

COOPER

(hits console)

GODDAMN!

BRAND

I told you to leave me.

COOPER

And I told you to get your ass back here! Difference is, only one of us was thinking about the mission -

BRAND

Cooper, you were thinking about getting home - I was trying to do the right thing!

COOPER

Tell that to Doyle.

Quiet. Cooper looks down at the clock. Bitter.

How long to drain, Case?

CASE

Forty-five to an hour.

Cooper shakes his head. Pulls his helmet off.

COOPER

The stuff of life, huh? What's this gonna cost us, Brand?

BRAND

A lot. Decades.

Cooper rubs his face. Mind reeling. Trying to breathe.

COOPER  
What happened to Miller?

BRAND  
Judging by the wreckage, she was broken up by a wave soon after impact.

COOPER  
How could the wreckage still be together after all these years?

BRAND  
Because of the time slippage. On this planet's time, she landed here just hours ago. She might've only died minutes ago.

Case indicates the beacon.

CASE  
The data Doyle received was just the initial status, echoing endlessly.

Cooper takes this in. Breathes hard. Takes off his gloves.

COOPER  
We're not prepared for this, Brand. You're a bunch of eggheads without the survival skills of a boy-scout troop.

BRAND  
We got this far on our brains - farther than any humans in history -

COOPER  
Not far enough. And we're stuck here till there won't be anyone left on Earth to save -

BRAND  
I'm counting every second, same as you, Cooper.

Cooper takes this in. They're in the same boat.

COOPER  
Don't you have some clever way we jump into a black hole and get back the years?

She shakes her head, dismissive.

COOPER (cont'd)  
Don't just shake your head at me -!

BRAND  
Time is relative - it can stretch and squeeze - but it can't run backwards. The only thing that can move across dimensions like time is gravity.

COOPER  
(thinks)  
The beings who led us here ... they communicate through gravity ...

Brand nods

COOPER (cnt'd)  
Could they be talking to us from the future?

BRAND  
(considers)  
Maybe ...

COOPER  
Well, if they can -

BRAND  
Look, Cooper, they're creatures of at least five dimensions - to them time may be just another physical dimension. To them the past might be a canyon they can climb into and the future a mountain they can climb up ... but to us it's not, okay?

Brand pulls her helmet off. Looks Cooper in the eyes.

BRAND  
I'm sorry, Cooper. I screwed up. But you knew about relativity.

COOPER  
My daughter was ten. I couldn't explain Einstein's theories before I left.

BRAND  
Could you tell her you were going to save the world?

COOPER

No. I wasn't much of a parent, but I understood the most important thing - let your kids feel safe. Which rules out telling a ten-year-old that the world's ending.

CASE  
Cooper?

Case is pointing out at another MOUNTAIN RANGE.

COOPER  
How long for the engines?

CASE  
A minute or two -

COOPER  
We don't have it!

The mountain wave is approaching. Cooper tries the engines -

EXT. RANGER - CONTINUOUS  
The rockets COUGH and steam ...

INT. COCKPIT, RANGER - CONTINUOUS  
Cooper tries the engines again. Close. But no ignition.

COOPER  
Helmets on!

The wave is upon them ...

COOPER  
Blow our cabin oxygen through the main thrusters. We'll spark it -  
Case hits a button - a HISS and SHRIEK of gas escaping... Brand seals her helmet just as the cockpit DEPRESSURIZES -

COOPER  
Come on, now ...

Cooper hits the engines - they BLAST TO LIFE -