

OFF COURSE

written by

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The panel descriptions and the number of panels on each page present a basic structure for the story. If you wish to tweak them a bit, go for it. You are the visual artist, after all. I would, however, like to preserve the flow of the individual pages, the story beats on them, and what happens before and after a page turn.

PAGE 1 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

BIG PANEL, SPACE. ESTABLISHING SHOT of the USS EXODUS, a spaceship cruising through the Universe.

NARRATION My name is **Thomas Walker**.
I am the captain of the **USS Exodus**.

PANEL 2

Much CLOSER LOOK at the ship, this time focusing on a specific WINDOW to the Captain's cabin. In the window, we see CAPTAIN WALKER, looking into space, admiring its vastness.

NARRATION We are 20 years into your 28 year mission to travel to **New Earth**, our new home.
The best the humanity has to offer is on board of this ship. Over **10,000 souls**.

PANEL 3

INTERIOR. We are now inside the Captain's cabin, with CAPTAIN WALKER still looking out of the window. Draw the interior of the cabin as you please, though there should definitely be a WORK DESK with an INTERCOM.

NARRATION Pioneers and pilgrims ready to set up a **new civilization** for humanity.

INTERCOM BZZZ

PANEL 4

CAPTAIN WALKER now pays attention to the INTERCOM.

INTERCOM Captain. **Ensign Morley** is here for your 09:00 appointment.

CAPTAIN WALKER Excellent. Please, send her in.

PANEL 5

Into the cabin enters ENSIGN MORLEY, an attractive young woman, probably about 18 years old. She is also holding a FOLDER with some papers in it.

CAPTAIN WALKER Ensign Morley! Please, do come in.

ENSIGN MORLEY Thank you, Captain.
I appreciate you were willing to make time for me in your busy schedule.

PAGE 2 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

CAPTAIN WALKER is now in the process of SITTING DOWN behind his desk.

CAPTAIN WALKER Well of course!

I heard you are one of our brightest cadets.

It is always exciting to watch the **new generation** shape a **bright future** for us all.

PANEL 2

For the rest of the page, CAPTAIN WALKER is sitting behind his desk, while ENSIGN MORLEY is standing in front of it. So I won't bother you with more panel descriptions.

ENSIGN MORLEY Thank you, sir.

But I have some **serious information** I would like to focus your attention to.

CAPTAIN WALKER Of course, Ensign. What's on your mind?

PANEL 3

ENSIGN MORLEY Well, sir.

Me in my classmates, we've been doing some calculations and we've discovered that the original trajectory for Exodus that was done back on Earth is **wrong**.

It's just by a few degrees, but if we don't correct the course, we could end up at a close proximity of a **massive black hole** in sector 34-D.

CAPTAIN WALKER I see...

PANEL 4

CAPTAIN WALKER So you're saying we are not approaching New Earth, but a black hole that might suck us into itself?

ENSIGN MORLEY That is correct, sir.

PANEL 5

CAPTAIN WALKER And it is something the scientists on Earth didn't spot when they were designing our original trajectory?

ENSIGN MORLEY Sir, back on Earth, they were basing their calculations on simulations, not an actual voyage.

PAGE 3 - PANELS: 5

PANEL 1

CAPTAIN WALKER is GETTING UP from his desk again.

ENSIGN MORLEY The error is just in one number, but it grows the farther we get off course.

CAPTAIN WALKER I see.

And what does your supervisor think of all this?
The Chief navigation officer Barton, I mean.

PANEL 2

ENSIGN MORLEY That's the thing, sir. We showed him the **evidence**. Several of our calculations that we've done independently, all with the same result.

But Chief navigation officer Barton refuses to even look at it. He's saying we don't know what we're talking about, without even observing our conclusions.

PANEL 3

ENSIGN MORLEY is now OPENING her FOLDER.

ENSIGN MORLEY I have all the reports here with me. If you could just look at them, if you could **convince** officer...

CAPTAIN WALKER I understand, Ensign.

ENSIGN MORLEY You... you do, sir?

PANEL 4

CAPTAIN WALKER is now LEANING on his desk, being very close to ENSIGN MORLEY.

CAPTAIN WALKER Of course.

You are very **dedicated** and with a **bright future** ahead of you. But you have been born on this ship. You don't know what it was like back on Earth near the end. And trust me, you don't want to know.

ENSIGN MORLEY But sir, this has nothing to do..

PANEL 5

CAPTAIN WALKER is GETTING UP again, suggesting that this conversation is coming to its end.

CAPTAIN WALKER Besides.

Don't forget that we are doing all of this **for you**. You have your whole life ahead of you, but me? I'm an old man. I probably wont see much of New Earth.

PAGE 4 - PANELS: 6

PANEL 1

FOCUS on ENSIGN MORLEY, trying to be calm and respectful, but at the same time being visibly frustrated.

ENSIGN MORLEY Maybe you wont, sir.
 And maybe **that's the problem.**

PANEL 2

FOCUS on CAPTAIN WALKER. Even though Ensign Morley's company seemed pleasant at first, this conversation has clearly gone for long enough and now he's loosing his patience.

PANEL 3

The CAPTAIN is now showing the ENSIGN the door.

CAPTAIN WALKER Like I said, you are a bright young cadet. So I am going to do you a **favor.**

 I will pretend like this conversation never happened so that you can return to the Chief navigation officer, apologize and then go back to your duties.

PANEL 4

ENSIGN MORLEY is now leaving the cabin.

ENSIGN MORLEY Sir.

NARRATION A plucky young thing.
 I don't really blame her.

PANEL 5

CAPTAIN WALKER is now approaching his window again.

NARRATION I was young once. I know how **thrilling** it is to rebel against authority. She just needs to learn **respect.**

PANEL 6

CAPTAIN WALKER is looking out of his window, like he was at the beginning of the story. Watching the vast blackness of space.

NARRATION Respect for all the things our generation has done for **our children.**

THE END