

05 - A - INTERSTITIAL SCENE 1.

SCENE 1

DIGITAL SOUND OF A PHONE RINGING.

FELICIA BRYANT ANSWERS--WE'RE 'TAPPING' INTO THE CALL.

FELICIA BRYANT: This is Felicia Bryant.

FRED CHIU: (COPPING AN ATTITUDE) Felicia!

FELICIA BRYANT: Mr. Chiu.

FRED CHIU: *Fred* is fine.

FELICIA BRYANT: I thought you were going to call me right after the briefing.

FRED CHIU: The world is on fire! I was busy.

FELICIA BRYANT: I know you're angry--

FRED CHIU: Just tell me Aarav is being fired.

FELICIA BRYANT: He was reprimanded.

FRED CHIU: That doesn't sound like 'fired.'

FELICIA BRYANT: We can't *fire* him. His face has been attached to The Aethon mission since--...even before Wren.

FRED CHIU: And?

FELICIA BRYANT: Right now--NASC has an upswell of support in the hopes that we can bring home the Aethon Crew.

FRED CHIU: If anyone actually survived.

FELICIA BRYANT: If--...If anyone survived. Yes. NASC's reputation was teetering before this mission. This crew and their objectives garnered more interest than any mission in the past *decade*. And then the Aethon warned us about the flare. *They are heroes* and the public wants to bring them home. If we fire the flight director right after we discovered the Aethon is *still out there--*

FRED CHIU: How long has it been?

FELICIA BRYANT: Since what?

FRED CHIU: Since you became Director of Public Relations?

FELICIA BRYANT: Four months.

FRED CHIU: So not that long.

FELICIA BRYANT: ...It isn't my job to fire Aarav.

FRED CHIU: No. It's your job to shut him up. Do you understand?

FELICIA BRYANT: He isn't *wrong* though. He's young, he's passionate, it just wasn't the place or the time--

FRED CHIU: There is no 'right time' for an outburst like that! Do you understand?

FELICIA BRYANT: ...Maybe if you told me what you've been discussing with CimmTech I would be able to--

FRED CHIU: That has nothing to do with anything.

FELICIA BRYANT: I beg your pardon but that isn't true. Dennis told me before he died that you were in contact with Allyson Logan and if his implications were--

FRED CHIU: Felicia! Listen to me! And believe *every word* coming from my mouth!...You are *insignificant* to me. The only reason I give a flying fuck who you are is that you can prevent me from ever seeing Aarav Patel on any form of media from here on out. If you can't fire him--then I want you to erase him from the public ledger.

A BEAT.

Do you understand?

FELICIA BRYANT: I understand.

FRED CHIU: ...Good.

A BEAT.

FELICIA BRYANT: While I still have you, can you give me some guidance on how to approach the questions if the press--

FRED HANGS UP.

Mr. Chiu?...Fred?...

FELICIA HANGS UP.

END SCENE.