

OUT OF ORBIT  
PILOT MINISODE

Written by  
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INT. FLETCHER HOUSEHOLD- DAY

Mom, TINA, walks through her home barefoot. Looming large on the floor, with Tina approaching from afar...what appears to be a 5 node orange lego on the wood floor.

Tina WHISTLES HAPPILY ...until, unsuspecting, she stomps on the hard-edged toy.

TINA  
AAAAAAAARGGGGHHH!

Tina whips around to spot the offending object. As she YELLS directly at it, it hops up on 2 robotic feet. 2 robotic arms unfold and the nanobot performs a quick round of kata before landing in a sparring stance.

Reacting, Tina also crouches into a karate sparring stance. The two stare one another down for a long moment before Tina points, sternly, down the long hall.

TINA (CONT'D)  
Go to Kyle's room!

The nanobot crosses it's arms, sulking, shakes a fist at her and turns straight around... stomping off down the hall and waving it's arms as if ranting to itself. Tina removes a pair of slippers that are velcroed to the wall and puts them on.

She turns a corner and pauses at the kitchen door. The kitchen is neatly designed but full of Rube Goldberg-style appliances. On one end of the counter top, a 3-D printer is printing pink frosted pop tarts non-stop. They have piled on the counter and spilled onto the floor. Tina SIGHS and enters her kitchen.

TITLE SEQUENCE:

DRONE POV: a speedy voyage through the cosmos, outer planets, alien space craft, past NASA Voyager. Our drone is headed toward Earth (a tiny blue orb in the distance). It dodges a black hole and discarded foreign satellites to burst through the milky way. A star explodes! Zooming past the known planets in our galaxy, rings of Saturn, moons of Jupiter, breaking through Earth's atmosphere, our drone speeds across the ocean toward the American southwest.

WIDEN TO REVEAL: Our drone's flight into the Fletcher house where Hal's chalkboard calculations are disturbed and Tina is knocked off her treadmill. Our drone unplugs Jaime/Amy's reconfigured elctromechanic guitar and she chases after the offending craft catching her brother Kyle manipulating the joystick.

Kyle maneuvers the drone away from the clutches of his older sister until CHOMP! Sierra's motile venus fly trap leaps in the air and catches Kyle's drone like a frisbee. Sierra scoops up her pet with a sly smile.

OUT OF ORBIT!

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Tina unplugs the 3-D printer, it continues printing. Dad, HAL enters, wraps his arms around Tina's waist and hugs her close. She turns around and kisses him.

TINA

Any luck?

Hal saunters to the fridge. The front face of both top and bottom doors are magnetic white board. On the lower door, the Fletcher family keeps a drawing of the outer universe -in Sharpie. There are dry erase X's crossing out a number of planets. Hal takes a marker out of the butter keeper in the fridge and exes out another planet.

HAL

Not today. Maybe the technology just isn't there yet, but I'm so close. I know I'm close.

TINA

Maybe our friends just aren't chatty.

Their young daughter, SIERRA, enters.

SIERRA

Or maybe they communicate via sonar like bats, Dad?

Hal kisses Sierra on the head and moves a satellite-shaped magnet to another quadrant of the galaxy.

INT. SIERRA'S BUNK ROOM - SAME

Nanobot treks through Sierra's space, walls covered with DiVinci-style drawings of flora and fauna, lots of plants and a big leaf-shaped canopy over her twin bed. Nanobot approaches a ladder extending up through the low ceiling. Launching a grappling hook to the upper floor, Nanobot connects and WHIIRRRRRR zips up to the upper floor and disappears through the opening.

## INT. KYLE'S BUNK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nanobot emerges into Kyle's space, cluttered with robotics, twin bed on a mechanical lift. The exterior window is open.

TINA (V.O.)  
(via intercom  
transmission)  
Kyle, I'm making breakfast.

KYLE (O.S.)  
(quietly)  
I'll be right down, Mom.

## EXT. KYLE'S BUNK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sierra's twin brother, KYLE, is seated on the tractor seat of a telescoping arm extending away from his window. He rests his feet on the sidewall of the house...putting the finishing touches on a parabolic amplifier outside his teenage sister, JAIME/AMY'S, room. Jaime/Amy can be seen through her window, dismantling a boombox.

TINA (V.O.)  
(via intercom  
transmission)  
Are you coming down soon Love?

KYLE  
(quietly)  
Yes Mom. Five minutes. I'm just--

TINA (V.O.)  
(via intercom  
transmission)  
Why are you whispering?

KYLE  
(quietly)  
I'm just in the middle of  
something. Be right there.

Kyle removes a blue tooth device from his ear and puts it in his pocket. Nanobot, balances, walking down the telescoping arm to Kyle. Kyle snatches Nanobot up and installs it -as a microphone- into his device.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
We're a go.

Kyle raises his eyebrows, SNIGGERING, eyes on Jaime/Amy, as he uses a joystick to retract his telescoping seat back toward his own window.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Hal opens a cupboard. A brown tabby in the cupboard paws a glass toward Hal. He takes the glass and closes the cupboard.

HAL

Honey? Did we get a cat?

Tina is loading eggs into Chitty Chitty Bang Bang- looking breakfast prep device that extends around the upper corners of the room.

TINA

No. Why?

Hal opens the cupboard again. No cat.

HAL

Huh.

SIERRA

(excited)

Can we get a cat?

TINA

Not today Love.

Hal closes the cupboard. Kyle enters picks up a pop tart off the counter and munches.

TINA (CONT'D)

Kyle. I unplugged it and it's still printing.

KYLE

It's stored energy Mom.

TINA

Can you stop it?

KYLE

It'll run out of ingredients eventually.

TINA

When?

KYLE

Eventually.

Tina activates the egg device. Water bubbles, steam enters a balloon, the balloon rises, popping on a pin on the ceiling, releasing a ping pong ball down a chute. Noise and activity continues around the room.

ALL

Hi Winston. Morning Winston.

Friend, neighbor, and honorary family member, WINSTON, enters as a piece of toast flies at his head. He catches it, removes a knife from a drawer, slices a pat of butter from the butter dish on the counter and munches on his toast while everyone else waits for breakfast to manifest.

WINSTON

On to the next, huh Mister F?

Winston clocks the new exed out planet on the fridge. Hal nods his head somberly- dodges a flying piece of toast. Winston clocks the new location of the satellite magnet: alongside planet IB4E.

WISNSTON

The most inconsistent rule in the English language, everybody knows that. Amy upstairs?

Without waiting for an answer, Winston exits.

WINSTON (O.S.)

Hey. Did you guys get a cat?  
(beat)  
Nevermind.

INT. JAIME/AMY'S ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

Winston enters, circumnavigating a chemically burned hole in the floor that offers a view of the living room below. He walks through the carefully hewn path across the floor, amidst carelessly tossed clothing, to plop down on a beanbag chair next to Jaime/Amy.

JAIME/AMY

'Sup?

WINSTON

I'm having a rough time with this chemistry worksheet.

Winston takes the worksheet out of his backpack. Jaime/Amy doesn't look up from the boombox she's tinkering with.

JAIME/AMY

Oh? I haven't even looked at it yet.

WINSTON

You haven't?! It's due tomorrow.  
 (nodding to the boombox)  
 What's your plan for that anyhow?

Jaime/Amy pops in a cassette tape and the boombox, acting like a looping pedal, plays a GARBLED MASHUP of music, sounds and prose.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

(trying to be positive)  
 Cool.

Jaime/Amy turns off the boombox, takes Winston's chemistry worksheet from him, shoves her arm shoulder-deep in her own backpack and fishes out her highly-crumpled copy.

JAIME/AMY

Do you ever feel like it's just all for naught? Like the universe is spinning out of control without us and we're just barely hanging on to this tilt-a-whirl planet?

WINSTON

Ummmm...yes?

Jaime/Amy pulls a sheet of blue carbon paper from a shoe box under her bed, slips it between the two chemistry worksheets.

JAIME/AMY

I just...I want off this ride- you know? What is it all for?

Jaime/Amy uses a black pen to fly through the homework, answering questions without even looking. Winston watches the homework progress.

WINSTON

For college?

JAIME/AMY

Yeah. Okay dude. College. We're spinning through the ether so we can go to college and learn about how we're spinning through the ether. It's that all there is? Elliptical orbit in all its many macro and microcosms?

Jaime/Amy hands Winston the pen, lifts her own worksheet corner away from the carbon paper.

JAIME/AMY (CONT'D)

Sign.

Winston signs on the carbon paper in the top corner: Winston Wallace, Period 3.

WINSTON

But, we can have fun, communicate,  
maybe accomplish something in that  
time right? In that orbit?

JAIME/AMY

(sarcastically)

Oh yeah. You're so right! Thanks  
Winston. I feel so much better now.

Jaime/Amy hands Winston his carbon copied homework. She nods toward the carbon paper.

JAIME/AMY (CONT'D)

They all think it's past its  
prime...but still so useful.

WINSTON

(clocking his finished  
assignment)

Hey! Thanks!

INT. KYLE'S BUNK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Nanobot jumps in through Kyle's window. Kyle smiles mischievously.

KYLE

(to Nanobot)

To the amplifier!

INT. HAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Nanobot slinks along the wall, creeping under the desk and leaps into a plastic wastebasket.

WIDEN TO REVEAL: Hal is working through a spreadsheet, recording new data, monitoring his communication device...

SOUND EMERGES! It's fuzzy, garbled, maybe prose? Maybe some melody? Clicking. The sound of scribbling?

DEVICE

(not entirely clear)

Do you ever feel like it's just all  
for naught?

(MORE)



DEVICE (CONT'D)

Like the universe is spinning out of control without us and we're just barely hanging on to this tilt-a-whirl planet?

HAL

Yes, Yes I do. Hello? Can you hear me? I'm here on earth. I'm Hal! I'm-  
- What planet are you on?

Hal fiddles with knobs and dials, working on a clearer signal. Breathless, he pulls a dusty pair of TV rabbit ears out of a file cabinet drawer.

EXT. GARDEN - SAME

Tina walks along the rainbow painted fence slats, each topped by painted elements of the periodic table. She greets her plants.

TINA

Hello Brian, Lila, Kylie, Zach...

Sierra straddles a high up tree branch, affixing a WELCOME sign on a bat box.

Hal runs outside.

HAL

I have contact! Come quick. We've reached someone.

Hal runs back inside YELLING.

HAL (CONT'D)

Contaaaaact!

INT. HAL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Hal stares at his device, listening, rapt.

DEVICE

We're spinning through the ether. It's that all there is? Elliptical orbit in all its many macro and microcosms?

HAL

(yelling at his device)  
I mean... yes. But, no! We have communication. We have learning... we have each other.

The family trickles in: Tina, Sierra. Kyle stops at the doorway QUIETLY SNIGGERING.

DEVICE

But, we can have fun, communicate, maybe accomplish something in that time right? In that orbit?

HAL

Of course we can! Of course we can!  
(to himself)

A new voice.

(to the Device)

To whom am I speaking? I am Hal Fletcher... Of Earth.

DEVICE

Oh yeah. You're so right! Thanks Winston. I feel so much better now.

Hal taps on his device, confused.

HAL

Winston?

(yelling upstairs)

Jaime?

JAIME/AMY

(yelling back)

It's Amy!!! I asked you to call me Amy, Dad.

HAL

Okay, sorry.

Hal clocks that his device is marking the communication at 12.7 meters away. Sierra and Tina look confused. Kyle BUSTS UP LAUGHING. Hal looks heartbroken.

The wastebasket tips over and Nanobot runs out. Like lightning, Hal drops the upsidedown wastebasket on top of nanobot and steps atop it to hold the container in place.

KYLE

But, Daaaaaad...I was only playing.

HAL

Grounded. Go turn off the breaker to your room.

KYLE

Come oooooon.

Kyle flails and sulks away. Tina kisses Hal's forehead.

TINA  
Sorry Honey.

Tina and Sierra turn to go.

DEVICE  
(a new voice, exhausted)  
Ahoy, is anyone out there?

Kyle sprints back in.

KYLE  
(amazed)  
Dad!

HAL  
That's enough.

DEVICE  
This is the 6.02 family wishing to  
reach Earth? Ahoy!

KYLE  
Dad dad dad dad dad... it's not me.  
It's --

Kyle points to the device. Sierra and Tina perk up and come closer.

SIERRA  
It's not Kyle, Dad.

CUT TO:

CU: another device for a similar purpose, an unusual combination of parts, dusty, rusty, clearly antiquated but looks more like the inside of a sous vide cooker than a communication device. A pair of furry orange hands pour liquid into the device's vat and a voice bubbles up from the liquid.

JAIME/AMY (V.O.)  
I don't think that's Kyle this  
time.

INT. HAL'S OFFICE - SAME

The whole family: Hal, Tina, Kyle, Sierra, Jaime/Amy, and honorary family Winston, now stare at the device as it prints out ticker tape style prose. The device registers transmission distance of 587 light years.

DEVICE

Ahoy! Earth friends?

FLETCHERS

Ahoy! We're here! Hello!

Winston shakes his head in disbelief.

INT. 6.02 FAMILY OFFICE - PLANET IB4E - SAME

Six members of an extraterrestrial family gather round the liquid communication device.

FLECHERS (V.O.)

Ahoy! Here we are. We're calling  
from Earth. Desert Springs, Earth!

The extraterrestrial family bursts into EXCITED GIBBERISH CHATTER, wave their multiple arms, pat one another's furry heads. Contact!

END...FOR NOW.