



DESTINATION: EARTH

by

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The Transcript

English

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Episode 1 - "Arms Dealer"

Narrator:

Aeons from now the human race has spread throughout the galaxy. Mankind is at war with the Gray, the only other sentient race in the known universe. Habitable planets are scarce and the Gray are taking our worlds, feeding their ever-growing need for breeding room. Humans are driven from their homeworlds or slaughtered by the billions. We are outnumbered. We are outgunned. We are doomed.

Sound effects (SFX):
[spaceships flying by]

[laser blasts]

[big explosion]

[trash freighter approaches]

1st Officer:

Decelerating to sub light speed, Gears. We've arrived at the coordinates. Sensors show heavy debris in the area.

Gears:

Scan for Gray. We don't want any surprises.

1st Officer:

Clear. The Gray have long gone. Looks like they made short work of our ships.

Gears:

Three of our Dreadnoughts got pulverised. Send out the drones. Let's salvage what we can and get out of here. Scan for platinum and titanium. The price on Seela is going through the roof.

[drones released]

[scanner beeps]

1st Officer:

Hold on, Gears, I've got something. It's a life form.

Gears:

Gray or human?

1st Officer:

I can't tell. The debris is weakening the signal.

Gears:

All right. I'll take the shuttle and check it out. Maybe it's a survivor.

1st Officer:

What if it's not human?

Gears:

I'll acquaint it with my blaster.

[ominous music begins]

[shuttle launches]

Gears:

Looks like an escape pod. I think I can make out a name. The Quasar. Ever heard of a ship with that callsign?

1st Officer:

It rings no bells.

Gears:

Okay. I'm docking now. I'll check it out.

[airlock opens]

[footsteps]

Gears:

I'm inside. It's deserted. Kinda spooky. I don't see anyone. Are you sure about that scan?

1st Officer:

Positive. It's a life form. The reading is coming from that pod.

[soft noise]

Gears:

What was that?

[loads blaster]

1st Officer:

Did you find something?

Gears:

I heard a noise. It came from a bunk in the corner. Maybe someone crawled under it.

[child draws breath]

Gears:

I don't believe it.

1st Officer:

What is it?

Gears:

A little boy. He's hiding under the bunk. It's okay! It's okay, little guy. I'm not going to hurt you.

[disarming blaster]

Gears:

See?

[blaster being put down]

Gears:

Come here. Have a seat. What's your name, little feller? He doesn't talk much. He seems scared out of his wits. Wait a minute, he's wearing a dog tag. Spin? Spin Braddock? Is that your name? What happened to you?

[upbeat futuristic music begins]

Narrator:

You could get anything in Dymos City - for the right price. War had left its mark on human settlements. Soldiers on shore leave were desperate to take their mind off the war and most forms of pleasure were just a few credits away. The holographic billboards bathed the streets in flickering neon and the drug dealers peddled their services to their disillusioned clientele. A strange pair made its way down the street. A man in his 30s, rough around the edges, with a crooked smile and a tall woman with piercing eyes. The man was carrying a burlap sack over his shoulder. A pair of dog tags were hanging from his neck. This was Spin Braddock, the little boy from the escape pod, all grown up. The woman was Garvey, his pilot.

Army commercial in the distance:

[heroic music]

[Soldier: Eyes right!]

[marching feet]

[battle sounds]

[victorious battle cries]

[Army commercial voice-over: Duty! Honour! sacrifice!]

[voice-over: Do you have what it takes?]

[voice-over: Join the army!]

[voice-over: Make history!]

Spin:

No way you're getting a 40 percent cut, Garvey.

Garvey:

You know I'm worth it, Spin.

Spin:

You think you're special? Throw a rock in the air in this town, you'll hit another pilot.

Garvey:

But not a legendary pilot.

Spin:

Unless I aim for your head. Which I just might.

Garvey:

So, you admit that I am legendary.

Spin:

Not 40-percent-legendary. Maybe 35-percent-legendary.

Garvey:

I'm telling you right now, I want 40 per cent or I'm walking away.

Spin:

Have a nice life.

Garvey:

Fine. See you around.

[Garvey walks away]

Spin:

Where are you going?

Garvey:

I'm joining the army to make history. Duty, honour, sacrifice. That's just my thing.

Spin:

They pay even worse than I do and you'll get blown to bits in your first battle.

Garvey:

I'll take my chances.

Spin:

Have you seen the rust buckets they call fighters? And don't get me started on your problem with taking orders.

Garvey:

I only have a problem taking orders from you, cause you don't know what you're talking about half the time.

Spin:

All right. 40 percent.

Garvey:

50.

Spin:

Good luck in the army.

Garvey:

See ya!

[Garvey walks away]

Spin:

All right. 50.

Garvey:

Shake on it.

[they shake hands]

Garvey:

Now are you going to tell me what's in the bag?

Spin:

No. It's my little secret. Partner.

Narrator:

Spin and Garvey entered a bar at the end of the street. The walls were badly in need of a paint job and the juke box played tunes that had been out of fashion for a few millennia. Trevize, the barman, greeted them with what passed for warmth around these parts.

[funky music]

Trevize:

Spin Braddock! I heard you were dead.

Spin:

Sorry to disappoint you, old pal, still very much alive. I had to lie low for a while. The army hounds on Seela wanted to draft me.

Trevize:

For what it's worth, I'm glad you're alive. And not just cause of the tab you've run up. Gentleman in the last booth has been asking for you.

Garvey:

The armless vet in the tattered uniform.

Trevize:

Yeah. That's the guy.

Spin:

Excuse me, folks. I've got some business to attend to.

[sitting down in booth]

Spin:

Nice to see you again.

Veteran:

Did you get them?

Spin:

Of course, I did. I always deliver.

[pulling items from bag]

Spin:

Cyberlimbs Inc. state-of-the-art arm replacement units. I believe you just stick them into your shoulder stumps and they do the rest. Let me give you a hand - no pun intended.

[cyberarms servos whining]

Veteran:

Oh! It feels weird.

Spin:

Looks great. Good as new.

Spin:

Unfortunately, the second one is a little worse for wear.

Veteran:

That one is missing two fingers. I can't pay you full price for that.

Spin:

Fine.

[packing cyberarm away]

Veteran:

What are you doing?

Spin:

I'm going to find another buyer.

Veteran:

But we had a deal.

Spin:

If you don't want to pay what we agreed on, we don't have a deal. In this city, it'll take me five minutes to sell these for twice the price.

Veteran:

Wait. I'll pay.

Spin:

Fantastic. Allow me. Can you roll up your sleeve?

[cyberarm servos whining]

[veteran grabs Spin]

Spin:

Hey!

Veteran:

Now listen buster...

Spin:

Hey, just get off me!

Veteran:

People like you make me sick. I get that you're too much of a coward to fight the Grays, but what you're doing here is making a profit off the back of brave veterans. You're the lowest form of scum. Here. Take your money.

[Spin drops to the ground]

Trevize:

Another satisfied customer?

Spin:

Just gimme a whizzo. Here. Your share, Garvey. Can't believe I agreed to fifty-fifty.

Garvey:

Much appreciated.

Trevize:

And I'll take the rest.

Spin:

Hey, where's my change?

Trevize:

Thanks for paying off your tab.

Spin:

That was all the money I got for the cyberarms.

Trevize:

The whizzo is on the house.

Spin:

Just great. To the war!

[glasses clink]

Narrator:

As they drank, a young girl walked in the door. Clearly, she had taken a wrong turn somewhere. She didn't belong in this bar or any other bar for that matter. She couldn't have been more than fifteen. She was dressed in a preppy jumpsuit and took a wide-eyed interest in her surroundings. Oblivious to the stares of the sleazy patrons, she made a beeline for Spin and introduced herself.

Jenna:

Excuse me, sir. My name is Jenna. Jenna Anderton. Are you Mister Braddock.

Spin:

Yes. I'm Mister Braddock. Isn't it a school night?

Jenna:

I'm so glad I found you. I gave the name of the bar to the cab driver and he dropped me off here.

Spin:

What can I do for you? Jenna Anderton?

Jenna:

I was told you were the best person to speak to when it comes to procuring certain items.

Spin:

Uh-huh.

Jenna:

My father is the curator of the Dymos City Museum.

Spin:

You learn something new every day. I wasn't aware Dymos City actually had a museum.

Garvey:

He's not the museum-going type.

Spin:

And what kind of item does your father need procured?

Jenna:

Maybe it's best if he explains it to you himself. Why don't you come with me?

Spin:

Hold on just a minute, little lady. I don't know you. It might come as a surprise to you, but I'm not exactly popular with some people around these parts.

Jenna:

I know. I couldn't help noticing the kerfuffle.

[Garvey snorts]

Garvey:

Spin loves a good kerfuffle.

Spin:

Sorry, I don't know you and I don't trust you. You're going to have to find someone else.

Jenna:

We've got money. It looks to me like you can use some, after paying off your debt there.

Garvey:

She's adorable.

Spin:

I don't think you can afford my services.

Jenna:

I don't think you can afford to turn me down. Would you like to follow me?

Garvey:

I don't know about you, Spin, but I've got to find out what's behind this.

Spin:

Fine! After you.

[music starts]

Narrator:

Where would the taxi take our heroes? Was Jenna's father really the curator of Dymos City Museum or were Spin and Garvey walking into a trap? Tune in next time for part 2 of Destination: Earth.

[music]

Credits:

Destination: Earth is written and directed by Patrick McGinley. It stars Jerry Redford, Jett Tattersall, Jemimah Knight and Peter McAllum and is narrated by Francis Edwards. Music by Silke Matzpohl. It was recorded at Sydney Sound Brewery by recording engineer John Hresc. If you enjoy Destination: Earth, please tell your friends about it and like and subscribe in your podcast app of choice. Reviews and comments are very much appreciated. On Twitter, we are @DestiEarthAudio, we are destination_earth_audio on Instagram and you can find us on the web at destinationearthaudio.com. Thanks for listening!

End Episode 1

Episode 2 - "A Children's Tale"

Narrator:

Dymos City Museum had seen better days. Still, the large, glass-fronted structure was imposing, sitting in the midst of lush, if unkempt, parkland. The History of Space Travel Department, a vast hall with a polished marble floor, housed an extensive collection of space ship mock-ups from all time periods. Rows of display cases contained a diverse assortment of strange artefacts, cracked relics, hand carved figurines and detailed maps. But by far the biggest exhibit was a giant metal half-sphere that hung from the main wall. This was a reconstruction of an ancient hyperdrive, one of the first faster-than-light engines ever built.

Garvey:

Wow, this stuff is amazing! What do you think, Spin?

Spin:

I could make a killing selling this crap. Do you think they lock their doors after dark?

Jenna:

Dad, I found Mr. Braddock.

Anderton:

Ah, very good. Very good. Mr. Braddock.

Spin:

Call me Spin. This is Garvey, my partner.

Anderton:

Spin, Garvey, thank you for coming. You were recommended to me by a friend, Fraznor Gale. I believe you were able to help out his son with a small matter.

Spin:

Gale? Yeah, he got mixed up with some shady characters.

Anderton:

Yes, quite. Well, the job I have for you is very different. Very different. What would you say, if you could be part of history?

Spin:

Well, if that pays as well as it sounds I'm your guy.

Anderton:

Excellent. Well, shall we begin? Jenna, would you get the lights and open the viewport, dear.

[viewport opens]

Anderton:

Look up. What do you see?

Spin:

The stars?

Anderton:

Yes. The stars. I never tire of this view. There is something about the stars that makes you feel human, don't you think. Millions of tiny dots, separated by vast expanses of nothingness. You can't help but feel humbled. We have come far, Mr. Braddock. We have explored the farthest corners of our galaxy, but what have we learned? Almost nothing. The great question still eludes us. Why are we here? Is this just a brief firework that will fizzle out and die, or is there some point to it all? Maybe the galaxy is just a large molecule, one of millions that form a grain of sand in the desert of eternity. The truth is, it's unlikely we will ever find out.

Spin:

Why don't you get to the point.

Anderton:

I'm sorry, I'm rambling. What I'm trying to get at is this: If we can't find out where we're going, at least we can try to find out where we came from.

Spin:

Where we came from?

Anderton:

Look up. Around one of those billions of suns, there circles a planet that is different from all the others. I believe that on this planet, humans evolved from single-celled creatures to a species capable of faster-than-light-travel. The planet of our ancestors, Mister Braddock.

[Spin chuckles]

Spin:

Sorry. You're not talking about what I think you're talking about?

Anderton:

I'm talking about Earth. That's what I intend to find.

Spin:

Earth? Professor Anderton, Earth is a myth. It's a children's story. I used to watch corny holo-movies about Earth when I was a kid.

Anderton:

You are right, it is a story for children. Because children still have a sense of awe and wonder. There is a kernel of truth to every myth, Mr. Braddock. I've spent all of my life researching Earth. If you'd like to follow me? In my younger days, I went on an expedition to Eno, a planet that is home to one of the oldest cultures in the galaxy. While excavating a grave site, I stumbled upon this.

Spin:

It's a metal plate with some lines on it.

Anderton:

Do you know what these lines mean?

Spin:

Looks like a map of some sort.

Anderton:

Exactly! A map of the planet Earth. These shapes are the outlines of its landmasses.

Spin:

There are millions of inhabited planets in the galaxy. What makes you think this one is Earth?

Anderton:

Jenna and I compared the outlines to the maps of all the habitable planets in the archive. There was no match. These continental formations are completely unknown.

Spin:

That doesn't prove anything.

Anderton:

Let me finish. Look closer. See here, on the bottom half of the plate?

Spin:

There's a guy and a girl floating in orbit around another planet.

Anderton:

But see here, the light streaks that shine down from them to the surface. There are people falling inside them. The plate depicts the myth of Adam and Eve, the heavenly mother and father. They cast mankind down as punishment for their sins before returning to Eden, where they originated from. And this isn't the only example. I visited many worlds that had pre-spaceflight cultures. I found similar images, with similar myths being told. Look at these murals, engravings, figurines. They all show Adam and Eve floating above a planet, casting people down. All these cultures must have a common origin. And look

closely, the outlines of Earth's continents appear on each and every one of these depictions.

Spin:

If you say so.

Anderton:

It's not a coincidence. There is a connection between all of these artefacts. For years, I've been pondering over it. It was Jenna here, who came up with the answer.

Jenna:

It was staring at us the whole time!

Anderton:

Look carefully at the depictions of Adam and Eve. Do you notice something strange?

Spin:

Yes, those bulges on their heads. Looks like someone hit them with a really big stick.

Anderton:

Those bulges are hyperdrives! Faster-than-light engines! Just like the one hanging on the wall over there. Maybe the first hyperdrives ever constructed. Adam and Eve weren't gods, Mister Braddock. They were space ships! Giant ships built to colonise the galaxy!

Spin:

Hmm. Okay.

Anderton:

On one of my expeditions I found an ancient vessel with hibernation chambers. They were open. There were no flight controls of any kind. It was a colony pod, Mr. Braddock! And the more I looked, the more of these pods I found! On world after world. The people in the light beams aren't falling from the sky. They are being jettisoned. They are being jettisoned inside these pods to colonise planets.

Spin:

I don't get it. Why?

Anderton:

There are many theories. Maybe conditions on Earth became unsustainable due to some environmental catastrophe. Maybe the planet was suffering from overpopulation. Or maybe it was just the spirit of scientific exploration. Whatever the reason, the people of Earth sought out other habitable planets throughout the galaxy and sent these ships to populate them.

Spin:

So, what do you need me for?

Anderton:

Let me show you the map of our galaxy.

[hologram map appears]

Anderton:

These are the star systems where we found the escape pods. We sent out probes to nearby systems to gather topographical data. Jenna and I have reviewed the images we received from our last probe. It sent us a rather interesting picture of the surface of Aydon, an ice planet near the outer rim. Let me zoom in.

[zoom noise]

Anderton:

That is the planet's surface. Do you see it?

Spin:

It looks like a gigantic statue buried under the glacier.

Anderton:

Do you know what it is, we're looking at?

Spin:

A dead guy?

Anderton:

This 'dead guy' is about fifteen miles long. Look closer.

Spin:

There's a bulge on his forehead. Is that a hyperdrive?

Anderton:

Yes!

Spin:

You're saying, this thing is a space ship? Shaped like a guy?

Anderton:

Yes! I believe, this is Adam. One of the two ships that were sent from Earth to colonise the galaxy.

Spin:

And you want us to check it out?

Anderton:

I want you to find out where it came from. If my theory is correct, the ship was sent out from planet Earth to fulfil a mission. Once the mission was over it drifted aimlessly in space until it crashed on Aydon. It must have an on-board computer. Interstellar flight is impossible without advanced calculations. If it has a computer, it must have a memory core and if it has a memory, Earth's coordinates must be stored within it.

Spin:

Why are you coming to me with this? I mean, you got this far. You must have resources you can use for this kind of expedition.

[hologram disappears]

Anderton:

It's the war, Mister Braddock. They've frozen our budget and diverted all our funds to the defence department. No one cares about humanity's past when the future is at stake.

Spin:

Your daughter said you'd pay me.

Anderton:

Here. My life savings. It's all I've got. Half now, half upon successful recovery of the data.

Spin:

That doesn't even cover my expenses.

Anderton:

Mister Braddock, I implore you. Help me. In the name of science!

Spin:

Sorry, Professor. Thanks for the history lesson. But we're done here.

[exterior night ambiance]

Garvey:

We should have taken the job.

Spin:

Are you serious? He's looking for Earth. Earth, Garvey! It's utter nonsense. Look, I'm a serious guy. I don't have time to chase unicorns.

Garvey:

Actually, there are unicorns on Zaldoon.

Spin:

That's beside the point. The pay is a joke. And even if it wasn't, I'd feel bad taking his money. He's delusional. It's undignified.

Garvey:

Undignified? I guess getting beaten up by armless war veterans is more dignified.

Spin:

That guy in the bar obviously had a chip in his shoulder.

Garvey:

Spin, how long do you want to keep doing this?

Spin:

Doing what?

Garvey:

I saw the look on your face when that guy in the bar beat you up. It wasn't a bruised ego. You were ashamed of yourself.

Spin:

What are you talking about? I was annoyed. That's all.

Garvey:

You were annoyed because he had a valid point. You're not that guy, Spin. You're not a war-profiteer. You're not the guy who makes a quick credit from other people's misery. I'm not partners with that guy.

Spin:

Don't you try and take the moral high ground here. You didn't have any trouble taking his money either.

Garvey:

You're paying me to fly. It wasn't my idea to take the job. And I would have said no if you had asked me. We're going back in there and we're telling the professor that we're in. I don't care about the pay. I want to do something that makes a difference. Even if the guy is crazy, at least he has a purpose in life, other than waiting until the Gray kill us all.

[Jenna clears her throat]

Garvey:

Jenna?

Jenna:

I'm sorry to interrupt. It's just... My father can get quite excited when he talks about Earth, and then he goes into all this detail, about colony ships and ancient artefacts and hyperdrives and then he rambles on and on and on... kinda, like I'm doing now. Uhm. Look. Please, just do this.

[Jenna sobs]

Jenna:

Oh no. Not again. Everyone makes fun of him. They call him the Anderton Nebula behind his back. They didn't cut his funding to finance the war. They cut it because they found out that he's looking for Earth. It would just mean so much to him... to me, if you could just take a look.

Spin:

If it means so much to you.

[Jenna whoops]

Jenna:

Thank you! I'll go tell dad!

Garvey:

I try to appeal to your sense of self-esteem and get brushed off, but a couple of tears from a teenage girl and you melt like an ice cube in a supernova.

Spin:

Oh, shut up.

Garvey:

Big ol' softy!

Spin:

Are there really unicorns on Zaldoon?

[music plays]

Narrator:

Did the gigantic spaceship buried under the ice on planet Aydon really hold the forgotten coordinates of planet Earth? Tune in next time for part 3 of Destination: Earth.

Credits:

Destination: Earth is written and directed by Patrick McGinley. It stars Jerry Redford, Jett Tattersall, Jemimah Knight and Peter McAllum and is narrated by Francis Edwards. Music by Silke Matzpohl. It was recorded at Sydney Sound Brewery by recording engineer John Hresc. If you enjoy Destination: Earth, please tell your friends about it and like and subscribe in your podcast app of

choice. Reviews and comments are very much appreciated. On Twitter, we are @DestiEarthAudio. We are destination_earth_audio on Instagram and you can find us on the web at destinationearthaudio.com. Thanks for listening!

End Episode 2

Episode 3 – “Picking Adam’s Brain”

[funky music starts]

Narrator:

Dymos spaceport was a gigantic airfield, as big as a city in its own right. Crafts of all shapes and sizes were parked on the tarmac or in one of the many hangars surrounding the central hub. Ground cars whizzed about, transporting pilots and crew from their ships to the terminal building that rose up like a mountain range in the centre.

Garvey:

This is my ship, the Blizzard!

Jenna:

That thing flies?

Garvey:

You better believe she does. I made a few modifications. She's not much of a looker, but she's got it where it counts.

Spin:

Just like her pilot.

[punch]

Spin:

Oww!

Garvey:

Keep talking like that and you'll be the one in need of a new arm. Step inside.

[ramp opens]

[footsteps up the ramp]

[cockpit door opens]

[dynamic music starts]

Garvey:

Have a seat guys. Don't touch anything. Spin, set a course for Aydon.

[computer bleeps]

Spin:

Course set.

Garvey:

Let's go.

[spaceship takes off, music intensifies]

[spaceship jumps into hyperspace]

[spaceship arrives]

Garvey:

Hang on tight, we're about to enter the atmosphere. Might get a little choppy.

[ship rattles]

Anderton:

Have we arrived?

Spin:

Look out the viewport. What you're seeing below us is the frozen surface of Aydon. Lovely spot for a vacation.

Garvey:

We're passing over the glacier you pinpointed in your scan. There!

Anderton:

Great Galaxy

Jenna:

It's Adam!

Spin:

Whoa!

[majestic music]

Narrator:

Adam, the colony ship shaped like a man, had slept under a blanket of ice for untold aeons. Anderton's scan had not revealed the true size of the ship. It was gigantic. Within its hull, it could have easily housed an entire city.

Garvey:

Sensors are showing fissures in the ice. I can't set the Blizzard down on top of the glacier. Spin, you're going to have to jump out.

Spin:

Bring me down as close as possible. Then circle around and wait to pick me up.

[hatch opens]

Spin:

I'm opening the outer door. I'll keep in touch via the communicator.

Garvey:

That's as close to the ground as I can get. Give me a shout when you want me to come pick you up.

[Spin jumps and lands in the snow. The Blizzard flies off]

Spin:

Am I coming through?

Garvey (on radio):

Loud and clear.

Spin:

Man, this wind is freezing. I'm almost at the ship.

[footsteps in the snow, wind howls]

Spin:

I've reached Adam. There's an access door in the side of his head. I'll try to open it.

[door rattles]

Spin:

I might have to blast the control panel.

[blaster loads and fires]

[door opens]

Spin:

All right, it's open. I'm going in. Woah!

[ominous music]

Anderton (radio):

What do you see?

Spin:

I'm in an enormous hall. It's circular with a raised platform at the centre. There are pillars all around it rising all the way to the domed ceiling. Let me turn on my light.

[light switch]

Spin:

There are some letters carved into the wall.

Anderton (radio):

What do they say?

Spin:

I'll scan them with my translator.

[beeps]

Translation device:

Ready to translate.

[scanner noise]

Translation device:

Adam.

Spin:

You were right, professor. This is your guy.

Anderton (radio):

Great galaxy!

Spin:

I'm taking a closer look at the platform.

[distant noise]

Spin:

What was that?

Anderton (radio):

Are you there?

Spin:

I thought I heard something. Never mind. I'm going to climb onto the platform. All right. I'm on the platform. There are three smaller pillars. They look like they are made of a translucent material. Two of them are glowing. There is a glass orb in the centre. Hang on, there is a panel at the base of each of the pillars. I'll try to turn on the one that's not glowing.

[rusty panel screech]

Spin:

All right, I've opened the panel. There are two tiny dots of light in here. Funny, they almost look like eyes.

[Spin yelps]

Anderton (radio):

What happened?

Spin:

Just a moon rat. It made its nest in here. Looks like it dislodged one of the power conduits. I'll put it back into place.

[scrape, power returns]

Spin:

Okay, the third pillar is glowing now.

[start-up noise]

Spin:

What's that? Something is happening.

[hologram starting]

Spin:

I wish you could see this! The walls! The walls are glowing. It's like vines of green light climbing up to the ceiling, right before my eyes! It's beautiful! It's like a glowing forest.

Anderton (radio):

What else do you see?

Spin:

The orb in the centre of the platform is filled with light. It's projecting a hologram into the air. It's a planet. Professor, I think it's Earth! The outlines of the continents look like the artefacts you showed me.

Anderton (radio):

I wish I could see it.

Spin:

There is a handle next to the orb. I think that's the flight recorder. I'll try to pull it out.

[flight recorder ejects]

[footsteps]

[alien attacks Spin]

[Spin fights alien]

[hollow bang, alien howls]

[alien falls to the ground]

Anderton (radio):

Spin? Spin, are you there? Spin? Come in!

Spin:

A Gray, he attacked me. Came out of nowhere. I knocked him out with the flight recorder.

Anderton (radio):

Be careful, that's a valuable artefact.

Spin:

So am I, professor! There's three more of them. I'll activate my translator so we can hear what they're saying.

[translator beeps]

Gray (translated):

Spread out. Get the flight recorder.

Spin:

I'll try to hide behind one of the pillars.

[rodent screech]

Spin:

Damn, I stepped on that moon rat. Come here little fella!

[alien growls]

[blaster shots]

[debris falls]

Gray (translated):

Where did he go? Spread out.

Spin:

Their blasters fire balls of energy that explode on impact. I've got to be careful. One of them is approaching. I'm going to try to tackle him.

[punch, alien falls]

Spin:

Okay, I've got his weapon and knocked him out. Time to leave.

[Spin runs]

[blaster fire, debris falls]

Garvey (radio):

Spin? Spin, are you okay?

Spin:

Yeah. I fired at the ceiling and buried them under some debris. It won't hold them back long. Garvey, bring in the Blizzard.

Garvey (radio):

I can't land anywhere. The ice won't carry the Blizzard.

Spin:

I'll use my grappling hook to climb onto Adams head. Pick me up when I'm on the top.

Garvey (radio):

On my way.

[Spin runs outside]

Spin:

Damn, there's a Gray shuttlecraft. There must be more of them around.

Garvey (radio):

Those ships are heavily armed.

Spin:

I'll deal with it.

[metallic scrapes]

Spin:

That should do it.

[alien growl]

Spin:

Here they come.

[grappling hook swings and latches on]

Spin:

I'm climbing up Adam's ear.

Garvey (radio):

I'm almost there.

[Blizzard swoops in]

[gangway opens]

Garvey:

Grab hold of the gangway. No time to land!

Spin:

Okay! All right, I'm hanging on. Get us out of here.

[Blizzard flies off]

Garvey (radio):

The Gray shuttlecraft is taking off. Their blasters are charging.

Spin:

Let them. I'm coming in.

[cockpit door opens]

[big explosion]

Garvey:

The Gray ship exploded! What happened?

Spin:

I jammed that Gray weapon into the landing gear. When it retracted, it blasted the whole ship to hell.

Jenna:

That... was So COOL! The way you climbed up the ear, and then Garvey was all... SWOOSH ...and you jumped up and just caught the gangway, and then the other ship blew up and crashed. You're so awesome!

Spin:

All in a day's work, kiddo.

Garvey:

Don't inflate his ego. It's teetering on critical mass as it is.

Anderton:

Did you bring it?

Spin:

The flight recorder? Here it is. Hope it gives you some answers.

Anderton:

Magnificent!

[rodent screeching]

Garvey:

What is that?

Spin:

Oh, the moon rat. I picked him up in the colony ship. He's cute. I thought I'd keep him.

Garvey:

As long as he doesn't get a cut of the profits.

Spin:

Aww, look, he's winking at you. He likes you Garvey!

Garvey:

If he chews on the wiring he goes out the airlock.

Anderton:

Back to Dymos! I can't wait to crack this thing open and delve into its secrets. Who knows, we might be on our way to Earth soon.

[music]

Narrator:

Will Adam's flight recorder reveal the secret coordinates to planet Earth? Tune in next time for part 4 of Destination: Earth.

Credits:

Destination: Earth is written and directed by Patrick McGinley. It stars Jerry Redford, Jett Tattersall, Jemimah Knight and Peter McAllum and is narrated by Francis Edwards. Music by Silke Matzpohl. It was recorded at Syndey Sound Brewery by recording engineer John Hresc. If you enjoy Destination: Earth, please tell your friends about it and like and subscribe in your podcast app of choice. Reviews and comments are very much appreciated. On Twitter, we are @DestiEarthAudio. We are destination_earth_audio on Instagram and you can find us on the web at destinationearthaudio.com. Thanks for listening!

End of Episode 3

Episode 4 – “Who Goes There?”

Narrator:

Having retrieved the flight recorder of the long-lost colony ship from Earth, our heroes returned to the Dymos City Museum to unravel its secrets. Professor Anderton connected the black box to his computer. With trembling fingers, he started the boot sequence.

[computer beeps]

Anderton:

I think I've got it!

[flight recorder boots up]

Spin:

A holographic display!

Anderton:

The recorder is booting up. AstroNav Flight Recorder version 9-point-3-2-2-1, Ship designation.... ADAM. Accessing data...

[computer beeps]

Anderton:

Data retrieval complete. Here it comes! Flight Recorder Memory... empty. No flights recorded... How is that possible.

Spin:

It's been sitting under a few thousand tons of ice for centuries. I guess it's long past its warranty.

Anderton:

Corrosion isn't a factor. This device works with quantum state storage. Even if it's a primitive specimen, the data would survive a big bang.

Spin:

I'm sorry professor.

Anderton:

My whole life's work. For nothing.

Jenna:

We can keep looking, dad.

Spin:

There is just one small matter. We discussed compensation?

Anderton:

Take the money. What use is it to me now?

Garvey:

Spin, I think we should... you know...

Spin:

Thanks for the history lesson, Professor Anderton. Jenna. We'll see ourselves out.

Jenna:

You can't give up now, dad! We've come so far. We found one of the colony ships!

Anderton:

Without the data from the flight recorder, the ship is worthless. We've come no closer to finding Earth. And I'm just too old to start from scratch.

Jenna:

We don't have to start from scratch. I'll check the archives again. Maybe I can dig up something about the history of Aydon. And you can take another whack at the black box. There might be some corrupted data buried on that drive.

Anderton:

You're right, Jenna. What kind of scientist would give up so close to a breakthrough.

Jenna:

I'll meet you back here.

[Jenna leaves]

Anderton:

All right, you little devil. I'm going to get you to spill your secrets. What if I run a recovery algorithm on the drive.

[computer beeps]

[footstep, suspenseful music]

Anderton:

Jenna? Jenna, is that you?

[alien growl, Anderton screams]

[suspenseful music]

Jenna:

Dad? You'll never guess what I've found. I looked at Aydon's solar activity and...
Dad? Are you there? What's this? Dad's ID card.

[muffled scream]

Jenna:

Dad?

[Jenna runs]

[door opens]

[alien growl, elevator noise]

Jenna:

Grays!

[music]

[rodent squeaks]

Spin:

Are you hungry, Wink? Here, have some of my energy bar. There's a good boy. Hurry up, Garvey. I want to get off this dump of a planet.

Garvey:

It wouldn't kill you to lend me a hand.

Spin:

I'm feeding Wink. Hey, we've got a visitor. Look. Jenna is outside, waving her arms up and down. Open the ramp, Garvey.

[ramp opens]

[Jenna runs up the ramp]

Jenna:

They took my father! Spin, you've got to help me.

Spin:

Who did?

Jenna:

The Grays. They kidnapped him in a shuttlecraft.

Garvey:

When?

Jenna:

Just now.

Spin:

Garvey! Fire up the engines!

Garvey:

I'm way ahead of you.

[Blizzard takes off]

[computer beeps]

Garvey:

I'm tracking the Gray ship with the long-range scanner. It's getting ready to jump to hyperspace.

Spin:

Ease off, will you? The Blizzard can't handle it.

Garvey:

The Gray craft has almost reached the jump point.

Jenna:

Please, do something!

Garvey:

We've left the atmosphere. Spin, get a tracker probe ready.

Spin:

I have to do this manually. If I lock onto the ship, they'll know.

Garvey:

Gray ship is going to jump in nine... Eight...

Spin:

Tracker away. Adjusting flight path.

Garvey:

...five...four...

Spin:

Just a bit to the left...

Garvey:

...two... one... Ship at jump point.

[tracker connects]

Spin:

Contact!

[Gray craft jumps]

Spin:

Did it stick?

Garvey:

Yes! It worked! The tracker probe attached itself to the ship. It's live.

[Spin sighs]

Jenna:

What happens now, Spin?

Spin:

Now we wait. Depending on how far the ship jumped it can take hours for the tracker signal to reach us.

Jenna:

I don't understand. What do the Gray want with my father?

Spin:

Maybe it's his research they are interested in.

Jenna:

No one is interested in his research. Can I ask you something?

Spin:

Sure.

Jenna:

Why aren't you fighting in the war against the Gray?

Spin:

What's there to fight for? The Grays have us outnumbered. They are conquering world after world. We aren't going to last long. It's suicide.

Jenna:

Oh.

Spin:

What?

Jenna:

It's just I thought you were this brave hero guy. But I guess you're just as scared as everybody else.

Spin:

I'm not scared, I'm just being realistic.

Jenna:

It's okay. I'm scared too.

[Jenna walks away]

[cockpit door opens]

Garvey:

Spin, can you ease off a bit?

Spin:

What do you mean?

Garvey:

You just told a fifteen-year old girl that there's no point in living and that we're all going to die.

Spin:

Oh. Right. Should I...?

Garvey:

I'll talk to her.

[Garvey follows Jenna]

Garvey:

Jenna?

Jenna:

I'm not going to see my father again, am I?

Garvey:

We'll get het him back.

Jenna:

Don't promise something you can't keep.

Garvey:

The Gray must have kidnapped your dad for a reason. They want him alive.

Jenna:

What chance do we have against their entire army? We have one ship.

Garvey:

That can be an advantage. They won't see us coming. We'll think of something.

Jenna:

What do you think?

Garvey:

About what?

Jenna:

About the war. Are we all going to die?

Garvey:

This war has been going on longer than anyone can remember. No one knows how or when it's going to end. But I think humanity will survive. I firmly believe that.

Jenna:

Why aren't you in the army then.

Garvey:

I lost both my parents to the war. They died in battle. I grew up in an institution. Orphans are exempt from the draft.

Jenna:

I'm sorry.

Garvey:

We'll get your father back. Now, try to get some sleep.

Narrator:

There was nothing to do but wait. Jenna fell asleep on a bunk in the central hub, while Garvey and Spin nodded off in the Blizzard's cockpit. Hours later, a signal from the console woke Garvey from her slumber.

[computer beeps, Spin snores]

Garvey:

Spin! Spin, wake up! Spin!

[rodent screeches]

Spin:

Ow, cut it out Wink.

Garvey:

I've got a signal from the probe. I'm calculating the hyperspace trajectory.

Spin:

I'll go wake Jenna.

[Spin walks to Jenna]

Spin:

Jenna! Jenna, wake up!

Jenna:

Hmm?

Spin:

Buckle up, we're about to make a jump. We've got a signal from the tracker. We found your dad.

Jenna:

Where is he?

Spin:

We'll find out when we get there. Buckle up.

[suspenseful music]

[Blizzard jumps into hyperspace]

[Blizzard arrives]

[alarm signal]

Spin:

Gray ships in the area!

Garvey:

How many?

Spin:

Too many. The screen is bright red. There is an asteroid right ahead. Can you land on it?

Garvey:

I'll try!

[Blizzard lands on asteroid]

Garvey:

We've landed.

[alarm sounds]

Garvey:

Wow, that doesn't look good.

Jenna:

Look at that enormous ship! What is that thing?

Garvey:

That is the Teh Krann Noth, the Gray mother ship. It's where they're be keeping your father.

Jenna:

It's huge! How do we get in?

Spin:

We don't. Not a chance. Sorry, Jenna.

Jenna:

We have to try!

Spin:

Come over here, I'll show you on the tactical display.

[tactical display activates]

Spin:

See those buzzing things. Those are scout ships. Dozens of squadrons. Those little guys orbiting the mothership are defence drones. They shoot anything non-Gray on sight.

Jenna:

What's this one at the edge of the screen?

Garvey:

Interesting. Looks like a cargo transport. Maybe a supply ship?

Spin:

Can we hijack it?

Garvey:

It's got enough firepower to stop an army. The Blizzard wouldn't hold up ten seconds.

Spin:

Okay, I've got an idea. Cut the drives and all the non-vital power sources. We'll be invisible to its scanners as long as we're parked on this asteroid. I'll jetpack over to the cargo transport and use a contact mine to breach the hull. They'll think they got hit by an asteroid. Then I'll hitch a ride to the mothership.

Garvey:

That's not a plan, that's suicide.

Spin:

If you have another idea, now's the time. I'll get suited up.

[Spin leaves]

Narrator:

Spin put on a space suit and climbed out of the Blizzard's airlock. He waited until the Gray cargo transport had closed in, then he launched himself at it, firing his jetpack. Jenna and Garvey were watching from the Blizzard's cockpit.

Garvey:

He's really doing it.

Jenna:

Oh no.

Garvey:

What?

Jenna:

His angle is all wrong. He'll miss the ship by a mile.

Garvey:

Jenna, where are you going?

[Jenna leaves cockpit]

[Spin breathes]

Spin:

I'm almost at the scout ship. This is going to be close. Damn it! Looks like I missed it. Got to readjust.

[something grabs him]

Spin:

What the...

Jenna:

I've got you.

[magnet boots make contact]

Jenna:

Touchdown! Our boots are stuck to the ship's hull.

Spin:

Are you crazy? What are you doing out here?

Jenna:

Your angle was all wrong. You would have been hurled into deep space. I thought I'd help. Dad was right. Maths does save lives.

Spin:

We'll talk about this later. I'm attaching the mine. Take cover.

[mine explodes]

Spin:

Get in there.

[rush of air]

[bulkhead closes]

Spin:

The bulkhead is closing. Quick, get under it!

Jenna:

It's too far away! We're not going to make it.

Spin:

Fire your jetpack!

[button beeps]

[jetpack blast]

[bang on wall]

Jenna:

Ouch!

[squelch]

Spin:

Did you break anything?

Jenna:

No. I landed on this bag of white goo. Ewwww! What is that stuff?

Spin:

It's Rinkini. It's what they eat. Take off your helmet.

Jenna:

It stinks.

Spin:

That's probably why they're in such a bad mood all the time. Now, I've got a bone to pick with you, missy. Are you insane?

Jenna:

I was trying to help you.

Spin:

Help me? Now you're stuck here with me. Our next stop is that huge mothership out there! How am I supposed to rescue your dad when I have to babysit you?

Jenna:

I'm sorry. I saw that your angle was off when you fired your jetpack. I just didn't want you to hurl off into space and...

[Jenna sobs]

Spin:

Calm down, okay. You did save my skin. But from now on, you do exactly what I tell you.

Jenna:

Spin?

Spin:

Yes?

Jenna:

Thank you.

Spin:

For what?

Jenna:

For trying to rescue my father.

Spin:

You're not going to get all gooey on me, are you?

Jenna:

Looks like someone already has.

[Spin. laughs]

Spin:

All right. Sorry I yelled at you.

Jenna:

It's okay.

Narrator:

The cargo ship approached the Teh Krann Noth, taking Jenna and Spin into the very heart of the enemy force. Would they succeed in rescuing Professor Anderton? Tune in next time for part 5 of Destination: Earth.

[music]

Credits:

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End Episode 4

Episode 5 – “The Bowling Ball of Death”

Narrator:

The Grays had kidnapped Professor Anderton and taken him to the Teh Krann Noth, a gigantic mothership. Armed to the teeth, it was the heart of the Gray forces. In a reckless attempt to rescue the Professor, Spin and Jenna had stowed away on a cargo ship, heading straight for the steel behemoth.

[cargo ship approaches]
[ship touches down]

Spin:

Sounds like we've arrived.

Jenna:

The loading ramp is opening.

Spin:

Quick, hide behind those crates!

[ramp opens]
[Grays enter, talking]

Jenna:

They are starting to unload the cargo. We're sitting ducks!

Spin:

We have to crawl into the sacks of Rinkini that burst open. It's our only chance.

Jenna:

Ewwww, that's so disgusting.

Spin:

Better than getting caught.

[squidgy noise, hiding in goo]
[suspenseful music]

Narrator:

Hidden away in the sacks of white goo, Spin and Jenna were loaded onto a trolley by the Gray soldiers. They hardly dared to breathe as the Gray pushed them into an adjacent room. The trolley stopped moving and the Gray soldiers left.

Spin:

Jenna, you can come out now. They're gone.

[climbing out of goo]

Jenna:

Where are we?

Spin:

Looks like a central storage facility. It's all automated.

[elevator whirrs]

Spin:

Look there, that freight elevator is taking cargo to the upper levels.

Jenna:

If we find out what deck my father is on, can we hitch a ride? Turn on your translator.

Spin:

There's a tag on each of the containers. I'm going to scan one of them with my translator.

Translator:

Contents: Technium Containers. Destination: Deck 4, science and research.

Jenna:

Science and research. Do you think that's where they are keeping him?

Spin:

It's as good a place to start as any. Hop on.

[jumping onto elevator]

[elevator moves]

Narrator:

Spin and Jenna jumped onto the narrow platform. The elevator disappeared up a long shaft, taking them deep into the bowels of the ship. After a swift ride it emerged in a small storage room on the science and research deck.

Spin:

Time to jump off. I'll peek through the door to see if the coast is clear.

[door opens]

Spin:

We're in luck, there's no one around. Come on. Quietly! Let's see what's down this corridor.

[Spin and Jenna walk down corridor]

[distant screams]

Jenna:

Dad?

Spin:

Jenna, wait! Don't do anything stupid!

Jenna:

That was my dad! In here!

[door opens]

Spin:

Jenna!

[more screams]

Jenna:

That's him, that's my dad!

Spin:

Stay down, I'll take a peek. They've strapped him into some sort of machine in the adjacent room. His head is inside a tube. Like a medical brain scanner. There's a dead body in a similar machine right beside him.

[high pitched whine, screams]

Jenna:

We've got to do something! They're torturing him!

Spin:

There's only two of them. Looks like Gray scientists. I've got an idea. I'll tackle the one on the right and you're going to push that trolley into the other one.

Jenna:

Okay.

Spin:

Wait for my signal.

[machine whines, screams]

Spin:

Now!

[trolley being pushed]

[trolley rams one Gray, Spin punches the other]

Spin:

They're out cold.

[machine whines, Anderton screams]

Jenna:

Dad is in pain! How do you turn this machine off? Which button do I press?

[pulling cables, machine winds down]

Spin:

There we go. When in doubt, just yank out a bunch of cables.

Jenna:

Dad? Dad, are you okay?

Anderton:

Where... Where am I?

Jenna:

The Grays kidnapped you. You're on their mother ship. Spin and I are here to rescue you.

Anderton:

So much pain... They wanted to know the location of Earth.

Spin:

We have to get out of here fast. Before...

[blaster being pulled]

Spin:

What the...?

Jenna:

The guy in the other machine, he's got your blaster.

Old man:

I had no choice!

Spin:

Put the blaster down, old man!

Old man:

I want you to know this. They made me do it. They made me tell them. I had no choice. And I have no choice now.

Spin:

Put it down!

[blaster shot]

Spin:

He blew his own brains out.

Jenna:

There's a name on his lab coat: Professor Lambert Noÿs.

[Anderton gets up]

Jenna:

Come on, we have to get dad out of here.

Anderton:

I didn't tell them! I didn't tell them anything!

Jenna:

It's okay, dad.

[footsteps]

[door opens]

Spin:

The coast is clear. No wait, someone is coming. Quick, back into the room.

[door closes]

[many footsteps outside]

[Gray speech in the corridor]

[large group passes by]

Spin:

It's a group of them, at least twenty. Those guys in the middle look important. Damn. They left two Grays behind to guard the storage room door. We have no choice but to follow the group. Quiet now.

[soft footsteps]

Spin:

In here!

[door opens]

Jenna:

Where are we?

Spin:

Some kind of observation deck. Careful, the Grays are on the main floor below us.

Jenna:

The view is amazing. Look at that blue-green planet.

Spin:

That guy is about to speak. I'll turn on the translator.

Gray scientist (translated):

At this moment, two of my associates, skilled in the art of extracting information, are interrogating the human scientist we have captured. Soon, the location of the human homeworld will be known to us. In the mean time I will demonstrate the device we have constructed. Commence test run!

[view screens turn on]

Anderton:

They've turned on giant view screens showing images from the planet's surface. Interesting biosphere. Look at those lush jungles and blue oceans. And those gigantic lizard creatures!

[big hatch opens]

Spin:

There! A hatch in the hull is opening.

[ominous music]

Jenna:

What is that glowing thing?

Spin:

It looks like a bowling ball.

Anderton:

Those swirls of green light inside it are mesmerising.

Spin:

I don't like this. I don't like this one bit.

[energy surges]

[ball launches]

Spin:

They shot the bowling ball at the planet!

Anderton:

Now it's entering the atmosphere. Look at that corona of fire. Fascinating.

Spin:

There! It's appearing on that view screen. It's heading right for that stretch of jungle.

[ball impact]

Jenna:

It hit the ground. But nothing happened. It's just lying there.

[pulse starts]

Spin:

Looks like a dud.

Anderton:

Wait, it's changing. See? The pulsating light is increasing in frequency.

Spin:

It's changing shape.

Anderton:

Look at those green tendrils seeping into the ground. Now it's changing colour. It's turning brown.

Jenna:

The glow is dying.

Spin:

It looks like it's melting. It's turning into oily sludge.

[BOOM!]

Anderton:

Great Galaxy!

Spin:

What just happened?

Anderton:

It's an expanding wave of death. Look, those green jungles are wilting before our very eyes.

[Lizard roars]

Anderton:

The lizard creatures, they're dying off. They just collapse when they come in contact with the spreading black goo. It eats the skin right off their bones.

Jenna:

Look how fast it's spreading! The shockwave is turning the entire planet brown.

[death wave expands]

Anderton:

It has reached the oceans. Now it's spreading even quicker. Like ink in a fish tank.

[death wave dies down]

[eerie wind]

Spin:

It's done. That sludge bomb killed off a whole planet in under five minutes.

Anderton:

There's nothing left alive.

Spin:

Come on, we've seen enough. Let's get out of here.

[footsteps]

Gray (translated):

Up there!

Spin:

They spotted us. Quick! Move! Now!

[music]

Narrator:

As our heroes scrambled to leave the observation deck, an angry horde of Grays took up pursuit. Was there any hope of escaping the alien mothership now? Tune in next time for part 6 of Destination: Earth.

Credits:

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End Episode 5

Episode 6 – “A Simple Plan”

[music]

[suspenseful music]

Narrator:

As the alarm sounded, Spin, Jenna and Professor Anderton barrelled down the corridor towards the storage room. The two guards were no match for Spin's blaster, but the real threat was the enemy horde that was closing in from behind.

[alarm sound, running footsteps]

[blaster fire, alien growls]

Spin:

Back into the storage room. Quick.

[door opens]

Spin:

Hop onto that elevator platform. I'll scan a tag to get it moving.

[scan, platform moves]

[alien growl]

Jenna:

They're coming.

Anderton:

Spin, jump on.

[blaster fire]

Spin:

Doesn't this thing go any faster?

[growl, fire]

Narrator:

Spin had jumped onto the platform, just as it was gathering speed. It disappeared into the service hatch as Gray projectiles exploded all around it. The platform reached the main elevator shaft and was about to descend, when an alien guard fired at them with perfect aim.

[heavy blaster fire]

Spin:

It's going to hit us! Jump! Grab on to that pipe!

[jumping off]
[projectile impact]

Anderton:

I can't hold on for long.

Spin:

I'm attaching my grappling hook to the pipe.

[grappling hook deploys]

Spin:

Take the rope. Climb down the elevator shaft.

[alien growls, climbing]

Jenna:

They're coming.

Spin:

Hurry, I'll give you cover fire.

[blaster shots]

Jenna:

There is an access hatch down here!

Spin:

Open it and get in. I can't hold them off for long.

[hatch opens]

[Jenna climbing in]

Jenna:

I'm inside. Come on, Dad, climb in.

[Anderton groans]

[heavy blaster shot]

[projectiles hit]

Anderton:

They hit the pipe! Spin is falling.

[Spin screams]

Jenna:

He's still tied to the rope! We've got to hold his weight. Brace yourself against the hatch.

[rope tension]

Jenna:

We got you, Spin!

Spin:

More Grays coming from down here! A whole platform of them! Pull me up! Now!

[Jenna and Anderton pulling]

[Spin falls to the floor]

Anderton:

Are you all right?

Jenna:

You're hurt!

Spin:

I got hit by a bit of shrapnel. It's nothing.

Anderton:

Stay on the floor. We're safe for the moment.

Jenna:

I'm closing the hatch.

[hatch closes]

[music ends]

Anderton:

This must be some sort of maintenance room. These bundles of cable are high-capacity wiring. And this is some sort of computer node. Interesting. A screen and a keyboard. Mister Braddock. Mind if I borrow your translator?

Spin:

Be my guest. Catch.

Anderton:

I wonder...

Translator:

Teh Krann Noth, defence mainframe.

Jenna:

How are you feeling?

Spin:

I'll live. We need to get out of here, fast. The place will be crawling in a minute.

[typing]

Anderton:

For all their superior weapons, their computer systems are surprisingly easy to invade. The firewall is very primitive. I'm going to mess a little bit with their friend-foe recognition.

[typing, bleeps]

Anderton:

That's it. I've disabled their defence drones.

Spin:

Good work. We need to find a way out of this station.

Anderton:

Hold on. According to the computer, there is a bank of escape pods on the deck above us.

Spin:

How do we get there?

Anderton:

We can climb up that ladder. There's an access hatch in the ceiling.

Jenna:

Let's go!

[climbing ladder]

[access hatch opens]

Jenna:

According to the map, this is a crawlspace under the pod bay.

Spin:

Quiet, there are two guards just above us. I'll try to take them out.

[guards pacing]

[grate opens, Wink squeaks]

[alien growls, blaster fire]

[aliens fall]

Jenna:

Did you get them?

Spin:

They're dead. Wink almost gave me away. Quick, climb out, we don't have much time.

[alarm sound]

[running]

Spin:

Get into that escape pod!

[alien growls]

[escape pod opens]

Spin:

Garvey, can you hear me?

Garvey (radio):

Barely.

Spin:

Get the Blizzard over here, fast! Anderton switched off the defence drones.

Garvey (radio):

Be there in a flash.

Spin:

Hold onto something, people, I'm pulling the activation lever.

[music intensifies, escape pod launches]

Jenna:

Garvey won't stand a chance. Look at all of those patrolling fighters.

Spin:

I hope your little trick worked, Anderton. Otherwise, her ship might get scratched. She doesn't like scratches.

Anderton:

Don't worry. It worked. I'm almost sure.

Garvey (radio):

I'm closing in on the station. So far, the defence drones are leaving me alone.

Spin:

We are in an escape pod. Can you track us?

Garvey (radio):

Yeah, I got you on the screen! I'll pick you up!

[Blizzard flies by]

[Gray fighters in pursuit]

[Gray fighters open fire]

Garvey (radio):

Damn, the patrols spotted me. Uh-oh! That doesn't look good! They are attacking! If I dock onto the escape pod I'll be a sitting duck.

Spin:

Jenna, get those space suits. We need to put them on.

[putting on space suits]

Garvey (radio):

I can't shake them much longer!

Spin:

We're wearing space suits. Open the loading ramp and fly past the pod. Give me a countdown of when you'll be here.

[grappling hook deploys]

Spin:

I'm going to tie my rope around us and shoot the grappling hook at the loading ramp. You can pull us out.

Garvey (radio):

That's completely insane, Spin!

Spin:

I don't have much to work with!

[Blizzard's ramp opens]

Garvey (radio):

Ramp open.

Spin:

Jenna, Professor, seal your helmets and hold on tight, we've only got one shot at this.

Garvey (radio):

Be there in ten... nine...

Spin:

Getting ready to open the airlock. The vacuum will suck us out.

Garvey (radio):

Five... four... three...

Spin:

Now!

[escape pod hatch opens, air escapes]
[Blizzard flies by, grappling hook attaches]
[Gray fighters fire at Blizzard]

Spin:

It worked! We're hanging onto the Blizzard. I'm reeling us in! Don't fly into anything heavy.

[Grays fire]

Garvey (radio):

I've got two of them on my tail.

Spin:

We're safe inside! Close the ramp.

[ramp closes]

Garvey (radio):

Everybody okay?

[Gray blast hits]

Garvey (radio):

We're being hit! Not good!

[Blizzard accelerates]
[cockpit door opens]

Garvey:

We're dead meat, friends.

[more Gray blasts hit]

Anderton:

Could I...

Spin:

Can we outrun them?

Garvey:

Impossible, they're everywhere.

[Blizzard being chased by Grays]
[more Gray blasts, big explosion]

Anderton:

Guys, could I just...

Spin:

Then we fight!

Garvey:

They outgun us a thousand to one.

Anderton:

If I may...

Spin:

Then what do we...

Jenna:

Listen! My dad is trying to say something!

Anderton:

If I could use your ship's computer for a second.

[big explosion]

Spin:

Whatever you're doing, it better work. And it better work fast!

[typing]

Anderton:

Now I just have to activate the subroutine...

[big explosion, cockpit alarms sound]

Garvey:

One more shot and were gone! The hull is disintegrating!

[affirmative bleep]

Anderton:

That's it!

[defence drones swivel and fire]
[Gray ships explode]

Garvey:

Ha! Did you see that? The defence drones are shooting their own guys!

Anderton:

It's a neat little trick. What I did was...

Spin:

Garvey! Get us out of here, quick!

[Garvey engages hyperdrive]
[Blizzard jumps into hyperspace]
[ominous music]

Narrator:

Having somehow escaped with their lives, Spin, Garvey, Jenna and the Professor returned to Dymos. In Anderton's office, they tried to make sense of what they had witnessed on board the Teh Krann Noth.

Spin:

Professor, what was that green ball of death the Grays fired at that planet?

Anderton:

I believe it's a weapon that works by somehow infecting - for lack of a better word - the planet's bio matter.

Spin:

Infecting?

Anderton:

Yes, like a virus. Although, a virus that has evolved naturally would not work that fast. It must be artificial.

Garvey:

The Grays designed it?

Anderton:

Precisely. But that alone doesn't account for its speed. You see a virus works by replacing the DNA of individual cells with its own, thereby instructing them to produce more of the virus which infects the neighbouring cells and so on. That takes time. Even with the fastest virus a global infection would take weeks. The infection we saw took minutes at best.

Spin:

All right, so, if it wasn't a virus, what was it?

Anderton:

It looked almost like an antimatter reaction. Remember when the green bomb merged with the biosphere?

Spin:

That's when it turned into that brown sludge.

Anderton:

Yes. The sludge spread with the velocity of an antimatter reaction, killing all life on the planet. My guess is, that this green ball is filled with - how should I put it - the antimatter equivalent of DNA. A sort of Anti-DNA. Once it comes in contact with a sufficient amount of a planet's biological matter, it causes a chain reaction analogous to an antimatter explosion. The planet is dead within minutes.

Spin:

The ultimate doomsday weapon.

Garvey:

And so handy in size as well.

Spin:

We must warn the defence council. If the Grays start using this thing on inhabited worlds, there is no way to stop them.

Jenna:

But wait a minute, dad. Why would they use it on inhabited planets?

Anderton:

So they can colonise them?

Jenna:

But the bomb renders the planets completely uninhabitable. Colonising it would mean decades of terraforming.

Anderton:

That's an excellent point, Jenna. I confess, I don't have the answer.

[computer beeps]

Jenna:

The search engine found something on Lambert Noÿs, the old man who committed suicide. He was working on something called four-dimensional space-time differential. According to this article he said he had had a major breakthrough just before he disappeared.

Anderton:

Great Galaxy!

Spin:

Professor, are you alright.

Jenna:

Dad? What's wrong?

Anderton:

He succeeded! He found a way to circumvent the fourth-dimensional mass-energy barrier.

Spin:

What does that mean, Professor?

Anderton:

You are familiar with the basics of hyperspatial navigation? Three-dimensional space is bent and you pass through a hole in hyperspace right to your target destination.

Spin:

Done it a million times.

Anderton:

According to this, Noÿs was working on bending four-dimensional space. Meaning that you would be able to reach a different point in time as well as a different point in space.

Spin:

Time travel? That's impossible!

Anderton:

Theoretically, it isn't. It's just very very impractical. Noÿs showed that a mathematical possibility exists. The problem is that the energy required is greater than the energy contained in the entire universe. If Noÿs solved the mass-energy barrier, it means that time travel is possible. And the Grays have the key!

Spin:

All the more reason, to go to the defence council.

Anderton:

Don't you see? The Grays have the secret to time travel, they possess a bomb that can kill an entire planet in minutes and they are looking for Earth.

Spin:

I don't get it.

Anderton:

Let me explain it to you. Jenna, help me wipe this chalkboard clean.

[cleaning chalkboard]

Anderton:

If we plot time on the x-axis... and the number of inhabited worlds in the galaxy on the y-axis, we can mark a certain point on the timeline as the present. Now. Today. At this point about ten million worlds in the galaxy are inhabited by humans. I'll mark that number on the y-axis.

[writing on chalkboard]

Anderton:

But according to my theory at one time in the past, there was only a single world inhabited by humans. The planet Earth. Here, I'll mark it on the y-axis. Now, what would you do if you wanted to destroy humanity? At this point in time, now you would need to bomb ten million worlds to get rid of us. But if you sent a single bomb back in time to this point, before the human race ever left Earth, then you could wipe out all human life in the galaxy with a single attack. One bomb on pre-spaceflight Earth and humanity is erased from the universe forever, as if it never existed.

Spin:

Great Galaxy!

Anderton:

That's why Noj's killed himself. He feared that he had given the Grays the key for the destruction of the human race!

Jenna:

What do we do to stop this?

Anderton:

It seems that my lack of success in finding Earth plays into our hands now.

Spin:

What do you mean?

Anderton:

Two ships were sent out from Earth to colonize the galaxy. Adam and Eve. The artefact you recovered was Adam's black box. It's in the hands of the Grays now, but fortunately it is worthless. The data on it was erased. Now, if we want to make sure that the location of Earth remains hidden forever, we have to destroy the black box on the other ship. Eve. That way, no one will be able to trace the ship's path back to its planet of origin. The location of Earth will be hidden forever.

Garvey:

Where is the other ship?

Anderton:

Although my research on Eve is extensive, I haven't been able to find the exact location. But, if memory serves, thirty years ago another group of explorers set out to find Eve.

Garvey:

Did they succeed?

Anderton:

I don't know. Their ship disappeared mysteriously. No one ever found the wreck or any survivors. I believe it was called the Quasar.

Spin:

Sorry, wait a minute. Did you say the Quasar?

Anderton:

That was its name.

Spin:

It looks like we have found a survivor. See, thirty years ago, I was found drifting in space inside an escape pod. And the ship the pod came from was the Quasar.

Anderton:

What happened to the ship?

Spin:

I don't know. But the flight protocol would still be inside the escape pod's memory banks. And I think I know where to find the pod.

[music swells]

Narrator:

Would our heroes stop the Gray's diabolical plan to wipe out humanity? Tune in next time for part 7 of Destination: Earth.

[music]

Credits:

Destination: Earth is written and directed by Patrick McGinley. It stars Jerry Redford, Jett Tattersall, Jemimah Knight and Peter McAllum and is narrated by Francis Edwards. Music by Silke Matzpohl. It was recorded at Syndey Sound Brewery by recording engineer John Hresc. If you enjoy Destination: Earth, please tell your friends about it and like and subscribe in your podcast app of choice. Reviews and comments are very much appreciated. On Twitter, we

are @DestiEarthAudio. We are destination_earth_audio on Instagram and you can find us on the web at destinationearthaudio.com. Thanks for listening!

End of Episode 5

Episode 7 – “Digging Through Scrap”

Narrator:

The Blizzard approached an enormous trash freighter, a ship as big as a city. It was the same freighter that had picked up young Spin, floating through the void in an escape pod, thirty years ago. Mounds and mounds of scrap metal were piled up high on the freighter's many cargo decks. Stacks of old spaceships, speeders and fighters created a landscape in which magnetic cranes and carrier drones worked with ceaseless vigour. Robotic arms lifted old parts onto conveyor belts that delivered them into the gaping jaws of trash presses, which turned them into neat, rectangular bricks. The crew of the Blizzard was welcomed by Gears, the man who had found Spin all those years ago.

Gears:

Spin Braddock! Come here my lad!

Spin:

Good to see you, Gears. These are my friends, Garvey, Jenna and Professor Anderton.

Gears:

Lovely to meet ya! Make yourself at home.

Spin:

This isn't exactly a social call. We are looking for something.

Gears:

You've come to the right place! I've got ships of all sizes, spare parts for everything that ever flew between the Great Black Hole and the Outer Rim. I've got warp motivators, fusion reactors, hyperdrive accelerators. I've got NAV-computers, quantum CPU's, in short, you need it, I got it. Fine lookin' ship you dropped in on, by the way. I'd be able to give you a good price for that.

Garvey:

Sorry, the Blizzard isn't for sale.

Spin:

We came here looking for something very specific. It's the escape pod you found me in. Tell me you haven't sold it.

Gears:

Absolutely not.

Spin:

So, it's still here?

Gears:

Yep... Somewhere.

Spin:

Do you keep records.

Gears:

Records? This operation isn't exactly one hundred per cent government approved, if you know what I'm saying.

Spin:

Do you have any idea where we should start looking?

Gears:

Hmm... It was thirty years ago, Spin.

Spin:

I guess we have no choice but to split up and start digging.

[music]

Garvey:

We've been looking for hours.

Jenna:

My hands are covered in blisters.

Spin:

Let's take a break.

Jenna:

What did the pod look like, again?

Spin:

Small, boxy and the name Quasar was stencilled on its side.

Jenna:

Kinda like that one?

Spin:

Where?

Jenna:

Up there. That magnetic crane just picked it up.

[distant bang]

Garvey:

It's dropping it onto the conveyor belt. The pod is going to land right in that trash press.

Spin:

Gears! How do you stop the press? Gears?

Garvey:

He left.

Spin:

Dammit!

[Spin runs off]

Garvey:

Where are you going?

Spin:

I have to access the computer before the damn thing gets crushed.

[crane moves]

Jenna:

He's grabbing onto the crane's arm! It's lifting him over the belt.

Garvey:

If he falls now he'll break every bone in his body.

Jenna:

He's jumped onto the belt... Now he's reached the escape pod.

Garvey:

He's not going to make it. The pod is about to fall into the trash press.

Jenna:

He's disappeared inside the pod.

Garvey:

Spin! Get out of there!

[pod falls into trash press]

Jenna:

The pod fell into the press. We have to pull him out.

[Jenna and Garvey run to press]

Jenna:

There! A ladder!

[climbing up ladder]

Garvey:

Spin! The press is closing! Get out now!

Spin:

I've found it.

Jenna:

Too late! The press is crushing the pod.

Spin:

Help me out!

[Jenna and Garvey pull Jenna out of the pod]

[press crushes the pod]

Garvey:

That was close!

Spin:

If you hadn't pulled me out, I'd have made a lovely rug.

Garvey:

Let's climb down.

[climbing down ladder]

Anderton:

Did you find the coordinates?

Spin (out of breath):

Yes! The pod was launched near the third moon of the second planet of the Sanaton system.

Anderton:

Let's go then!

Gears:

You're leaving already?

Spin:

Where have you been?

Gears:

I checked my archives. I backed up the pod's systems when I picked it up. It was launched in the Sanaton system.

Spin (out of breath):

You know... a few minutes earlier... and... you would have saved me from a near death experience.

Gears:

Do you really have to go? I haven't seen you in ages!

Spin:

Sorry, friend. If we manage to save the universe, we'll be back.

[music]

Narrator:

They hurried back to the Blizzard and strapped themselves in. Garvey took off and Spin set a course for the Sanaton system.

[computer beeps]

Garvey:

That's it! The second planet of the Sanaton system.

Jenna:

A class 4 gas giant.

Anderton:

Very good, Jenna!

Garvey:

There. The smaller of the two moons is the one we're looking for.

Spin:

Get in closer. Jenna, can you scan the surface for the Quasar?

[computer beeps]

Jenna:

It's a barren wasteland. Strata of ice just below the surface. There is a faint power source. That must be the Quasar. It's located on the moon's dark side. The atmosphere is practically non-existent. Point one times the gravitational pull of Dymos.

Spin:

I'll need weights to move around. Garvey, can you land near the power source?

Garvey:

It's tricky. The Quasar has crashed in a deep valley

[Blizzard approaches valley]

Jenna:

The power source is up ahead.

Anderton:

Look at those cone-shaped rock formations. Like termite's nests. And there is the ship. It left a large furrow in its wake when it crashed.

Garvey:

No way I can land down there. I'll have to set the Blizzard down on the edge of the valley.

Spin:

I'll have to walk to the Quasar.

Jenna:

There isn't much time. Once the sun rises over the valley it's going to get really hot really quickly. If you're not back here before sunrise, you'll be fried alive.

Spin:

How long do I have?

Jenna:

An hour, maybe less.

Spin:

Great!

Garvey:

You could take Snowball for a ride?

Anderton:

What is Snowball?

Narrator:

Garvey led Spin, Jenna and the professor into the cargo hold. A strange, bulky shape stood in the corner, covered by a black plastic tarp.

Garvey:

[removing tarp] That's Snowball.

Anderton:

Fascinating, some sort of all-terrain buggy.

Jenna:

Did you... build it yourself?

Garvey:

Beautiful, isn't it? The passenger cell is airtight. If you attach these compressed air cylinders, you can breathe for up to twenty hours.

Spin:

Okay, let's do this.

Garvey:

Put on a space suit. She's ready to go.

Narrator:

Spin slipped into the space suit and climbed into the passenger cell of the makeshift buggy. The Blizzard's ramp opened, kicking up a dust cloud that settled with eerie slowness in the low gravity of the moon. Spin drove down the ramp and headed for the valley that stretched out before him.

Spin:

Do you read me?

Garvey (radio):

Loud and clear.

Spin:

Okay, I'm driving down the slope towards the ship. I have to zig-zag around these rock formations. The wreck is coming closer.

Jenna (radio):

You're making good time.

[buggy comes to a stop]

Spin:

Okay, I've reached the Quasar. I'm putting on my helmet and sealing it.

[helmet being sealed]

Spin:

Switching to my helmet transmitter.

[static crackles]

Spin:

I'm going to leave Snowball now.

[buggy door opens]
[eerie music, footsteps on alien soil]

Spin:

It feels weird walking in this low gravity. I think I need more ballast.

Garvey (radio):

There's a compartment with ankle weights on the side of Snowball.

Spin:

Found it.

[compartment opens]
[ankle weights being attached]
[footsteps]

Spin:

That's better.

Jenna:

Don't waste any more time. The sun rises in 40 Minutes.

Spin:

Aye, aye, captain. I'm going in. The crash ripped open the hull. I can just squeeze through.

[Spin enters crashed ship]

Spin:

I'm inside. There is a narrow corridor. Hang on, I'll switch on my helmet lights. I'm walking down the corridor.

[footsteps]

Spin:

There's a doorway here. Let me see what's behind it.

[Spin grunts, rusty door opens]

Spin:

There's a ladder. I'll climb up.

[climbing up ladder]

Spin:

I've reached a hatch. I'll try to open it.

[Spin grunts, rusty wheel squeaks and turns]

[hatch opens]

Spin:

Okay, I made it through.

[footsteps]

Spin:

I'm in a big room on the third level.

[eerie noise]

Spin:

What was that?

Garvey (radio):

Everything okay?

Spin:

I thought I heard something.

Jenna (radio):

There's hardly any air in that ship. No air, no sound.

Spin:

The corridor in front of me is as black as a Dymos City sewer.

[more eerie sounds]

Spin:

Garvey, are you sure this ship is dead?

Garvey (radio):

Only the faintest blip on the electromagnetic spectrum. What's going on?

Spin:

There were lights. Sounds. Wait. There are some lockers here. Each one has a name plaque. They are covered in grime. I'll wipe them clean.

[wiping plaques]

Spin:

Captain Ellen Francisco.

Garvey (radio):

You must have reached the crew quarters. I'm at the next locker.

[wiping]

Spin:

Graham Braddock. My father. I think I... I think I need a moment.

Garvey (radio):

Spin, this is not the time to get sentimental. You have...

Jenna (radio):

...thirty-five minutes.

Spin:

I know. It's just... Never mind. Juliet Braddock. Mum. There is one more.

[wiping]

Spin:

Spencer Ian Braddock. That's me.

[ominous noise rises]

[flashback to the past]

[blaster fire]

Young Spin (memory):

Mum, I'm really scared!

Spin's Mum (memory):

Come here, Spencer.

[sad music begins]

Garvey (radio):

Spin, what's going on?

Spin:

I remember. Garvey, I remember what happened. I was a little boy. There's a doorway here.

[door opens]

Spin:

I'm on the bridge. This is where it happened! I can see my dad!

[blaster fire, explosions]

Spin's Dad (memory):

Quick, get into the escape pod.

Young Spin:

What's going on?

Spin's Mum:

It's going to be all right.

[pounding on door]

[aliens growl]

Spin's Dad:

Open the pod door, quick!

[escape pod opens]

[bridge door breached]

[aliens growl]

[blaster fire]

Spin's Dad:

No!

Young Spin:

Dad!

Spin's Mum:

Climb into the pod, Spencer!

[blaster shot hits mum]

Young Spin:

Mum!

[mum screams]

[escape pod closes]

Spin's Mum:

Good bye, my love! Goodbye!

[mum presses launch button]

Young Spin:

Mum! Mum!

[Young Spin sobbing]

[launch countdown]

[pod launches, Young Spin screams]

[sad music]

Jenna (radio):

Spin? Are you okay? Can you hear me?

Spin:

I saw them die. I saw my parents die. The Grays boarded our ship. My mother put me in the escape pod just before she was... I saw the whole thing. Why did I forget?

Jenna (radio):

You're running out of time. The sun rises in ten minutes. You're right. Professor, where would I find the memory core?

Anderton (radio):

It should be under one of the floor panels, near the centre console.

Spin:

I think I've got it.

[memory core ejects]

Jenna (radio):

Hurry! You haven't got much time.

Spin:

Okay, I'm going back to Snowball.

Narrator:

Spin ran through the corridors of the deserted ship, climbed down the ladder and emerged from the crack in the hull, just as the first rays of sunlight crept over the horizon.

[buggy's hatch opens]

Spin:

I'm back inside Snowball.

Jenna (radio):

Five minutes! Hurry!

[buggy accelerates]

[steam blast]

Spin:

What was that?

Anderton (radio):

Uh-Oh!

Spin:

Uh-oh... what?

Anderton (radio):

I've scanned the geological strata in the valley floor. There are deposits of ice just below the surface. The temperature is rising so rapidly that they are sublimating into super-heated gas. The gas shoots upwards creating those geysers you just witnessed.

[steam blast]

Spin:

There's another one. If I hit one of those, I'll be fried alive.

Anderton (radio):

Well, 'steamed' alive, but let's not argue semantics.

Jenna (radio):

You have to get out of there. It's only going to get worse!

[steam blast close by]

Spin:

I'm almost through the valley. I've reached the slope. Something is wrong. She's getting slower.

Garvey (Radio):

I don't understand! The fuel cells were fully charged!

Spin:

It looks like the slope is too steep for her.

Jenna (radio):

Spin, two minutes until the sun floods the valley. You have to get inside the Blizzard.

[very close steam blast]

Spin:

I've got an idea. I'm getting out. Open the Blizzard's loading ramp.

[buggy's hatch opens]

Garvey (radio):

Already open.

Jenna (radio):

There's a pyroclastic flow heading right for you!

Spin:

I'll get rid of these ankle weights.

[ankle weights open]

Spin:

Now, if I unhook the compressed air cylinder...

[air cylinder disconnects]

Jenna (radio):

Whatever you're doing, hurry!

Spin:

[laughs] I'm going to sit on the air cylinder and ride it like a torpedo. If I shatter the valve with the fire axe, it should carry me up the hill. Hope this works. Now!

[valve being shattered]

[cylinder flies, Spin laughs]

[pyroclastic flow rumbles]

[Spin whoops]

[impact on the cargo deck]

Spin:

Ow! Aaaaah!

Jenna:

He's in!

Garvey:

I'm taking off!

[Blizzard takes off]

[buggy explodes]

Garvey:

The pyroclastic flow blew up Snowball!

Jena:

That was close!

Garvey:

Let's see how Spin is doing.

Narrator:

They found Spin in the cargo hold. His wild ride on the compressed air cylinder had ended abruptly at the far wall, where he lay in a crumpled heap.

Garvey:

Spin! Spin? Spin! Are you okay?

[helmet unseals]

Spin:

I almost burned up in the heat.

Garvey:

You looked like you fell asleep on a barbecue.

Spin:

I got the memory core.

Anderton:

Fantastic! Garvey, help me to hook it up to the Blizzard's computer.

[sad music]

Anderton:

Garvey and I dug through the garbled data from the ship's memory core. I found fragments of a video log. Take a look.

Spin:

That's my mother!

[static noise]

Spin's Mum (video):

...there is a scare story that circulates among the smugglers of the outer rim trading posts. They will often use the asteroids near Barracca to hide from patrols. Some say the asteroid field is haunted by an old woman who floats among the swirling rocks. This is nonsense of course - most of them have smoked too much moon roach tobacco - but things got interesting when one smuggler said, he had seen her with his own eyes. One detail in his description immediately stuck out. He said, she had a big bulge on her forehead...

Anderton:

A bulge on her forehead! Just like Adam! That mysterious floating woman must be Eve, the other colony ship.

Spin:

Barracca isn't very far. The Quasar must have been on its way when it ran into the Gray patrol.

Garvey:

What are we waiting for?

Spin:

Plot a course to Barracca. I need a lie down.

[Spin leaves]

[hopeful music]

[Jenna follows]

Jenna:

Spin? Spin? Are you all right?

Spin:

You know... I never got it. Why you and your dad are looking for Earth. Frankly, I thought it was just some old guy's strange obsession and you were playing along to make him happy. But that's not it, is it? It's about where we come from. That just... never meant anything to me until now. Here, I want you to have my dog tags.

Jenna:

Thank you!

Spin:

No, I'm the one who has to thank you.

Jenna:

For what?

Spin:

For taking me on this crazy ride.

[Spin sniffles]

Spin:

Okay, let me get some sleep.

Jenna:

Are you... crying?

Spin:

Nonsense. It's... The heatwave dried just my eyes out, is all.

[hopeful music]

Narrator:

Garvey programmed the nav computer and the Blizzard jumped into hyperspace. Would they find Eve, the second colony ship? Tune in next time for part 8 of Destination Earth.

Credits:

Destination: Earth is written and directed by Patrick McGinley. It stars Jerry Redford, Jett Tattersall, Jemimah Knight and Peter McAllum and is narrated by Francis Edwards. Music by Silke Matzpohl. It was recorded at Syndey Sound Brewery by recording engineer John Hresc. If you enjoy Destination: Earth, please tell your friends about it and like and subscribe in your podcast app of choice. Reviews and comments are very much appreciated. On Twitter, we are @DestiEarthAudio. We are destination_earth_audio on Instagram and you can find us on the web at destinationearthaudio.com. Thanks for listening!

End Episode 7

Episode 8 – “An Angel Spreads its Wings”

Narrator:

Spin, Garvey, Jenna and Professor Anderton were on their way to the Barracca asteroid field. Following an old smuggler's tale, they were hoping to find Eve, the second colony ship from fabled planet Earth.

[Blizzard arrives]

[bang on the outer hull]

Spin:

What was that?

Jenna:

A common feature of an asteroid field is that there are asteroids.

Spin:

Very funny, Miss Smarty-Pants.

[scanning, bang]

Anderton:

I think I found it. There's an object in the centre of the field that has a similar size and composition as Adam.

Garvey:

Buckle up. Flying through an asteroid field can get bumpy.

[alert signal]

Spin:

Careful, that rock is hurling straight at us!

Garvey:

I see it.

Jenna:

It's huge!

Garvey:

Hold on tight, I'm going to fly around it.

[Blizzard banks around asteroid, majestic music]

Jenna:

Look!

Anderton:

Great Galaxy!

Spin:

She is a beauty.

Garvey:

Whoa!

Narrator:

On the far side of the giant asteroid a stunning vista revealed itself to them. A colony vessel - Adam's counterpart - shaped like a beautiful woman. She was enormous. Her arms reached out in front of her, as if she was about to dive off a cliff. She looked straight ahead with a stern expression on her face. They had found Eve.

Anderton:

This is it. I've been dreaming of this all of my life. The second colony ship! I was right. This is the greatest moment of my career.

Spin:

Garvey, blow her to bits.

Anderton:

What?

Spin:

That was the plan.

Anderton:

You want to destroy this... this marvel?

Jenna:

We can't do that.

Spin:

I don't like doing it either, Professor, but that is what we came here for. Garvey.

[missiles activated]

Garvey:

Professor, let go of my hand!

Anderton:

Wait just a minute. Let's discuss this.

Spin:

There is nothing to discuss. We have to destroy it. This spaceship is the only way to locate Earth - if Earth even exists. You saw what the Grays can do to a planet.

Anderton:

Of course. But I think we should take a moment to reflect on what we are doing. This is the most important artefact in the history of... of history. This the key to all of history.

Spin:

So, you want to gamble the fate of the human race on your scientific curiosity?

Anderton:

No, but...

Spin:

I'm sorry, Professor. It must be destroyed. You said so yourself. If the Grays find Earth, they are going to wipe out the human race.

Anderton:

Okay. I understand. I'm not a fool. All I'm asking is, that we take a closer look. I want to go inside, take a few pictures. Then we can... proceed...

Spin:

I don't know.

Anderton:

I beg you. Just one look. How are the Grays supposed to find us? They couldn't have followed us through hyperspace, could they? Garvey?

Garvey:

No chance.

Jenna:

Let us go on board, Spin. Please?

Spin:

All right. You have an hour.

Anderton:

Thank you, Spin.

Spin:

One hour! Then we blow her up. Let's hope we don't regret it.

[scanning]

Garvey:

There is an airlock between her shoulder blades. If I set down there, we can connect it directly to the Blizzard.

Spin:

Good idea, do it!

[Blizzard lands on colony ship]

[airlock hiss]

Garvey:

Okay, we have docked.

Spin:

Professor, Jenna, follow me down to the airlock. Remember, you have one hour.

[footsteps]

[Blizzard door opens]

Garvey (radio):

There is a stable atmosphere inside the ship. Oxygen, hydrogen, the works.

Spin:

Okay. I'm opening our side of the airlock.

[airlock opens]

Spin:

I'm looking at the outer door of the colony ship. It's intact, but the hull is pockmarked with little craters. Probably meteoroid impacts. She's a well-built ship if she survived aeons containing an atmosphere.

Garvey (radio):

They don't make 'em like they used to.

Spin:

There is a compartment beside the door. I'll open it.

[compartment opens]

Spin:

There's a big wheel. Probably the manual override.

[Spin grunts, wheel is stuck]

Spin:

Jenna, Professor, I need some help here.

[All three push the wheel and grunt]

[Hatch opens]

[air escapes]

Jenna:

What's that smell?

Spin:

Stale air.

Anderton:

Look, there is a primitive connector here at the entrance.

Garvey (radio):

See if we can hook the Blizzard up to Eve's computer. Use the wireless transceiver I gave you.

Spin:

I'm plugging it in. I have to tweak the wiring a little bit.

[wires spark]

Spin:

Okay, you're hooked up.

Garvey (radio):

I'll see what I can do. This computer is ancient. I'll need a while.

Spin:

In the meantime, we'll have a look around.

Jenna:

Spin, shine your light over here. There is something in the floor.

Spin:

Okay.

Anderton:

It's a hatch.

Spin:

Jenna, take the light. I'll try to open it.

[Spin pulls on hatch]

[hatch squeaks and opens]

Spin:

A gaping, black hole.

Anderton:

Fascinating.

Spin:

I suppose you want me to go in first, Professor?

Anderton:

Well, you are more used to this sort of thing.

Spin:

Almost getting myself killed, you mean?

Jenna:

Spin, there is a little compartment in the side of the hatch.

[compartment opens, rope ladder unfurls]

Spin:

A rope ladder, that's handy.

Anderton:

Probably for evacuations. In an emergency, they would be triggered automatically.

Spin:

I'll go down first. Carefully...

[Spin climbs down ladder]

Anderton:

Can you see anything?

Spin:

It's dark. I feel like I'm climbing around in a black hole. I'll shine my light around.

[surprised yelp]

Jenna:

Spin, are you okay?

Spin:

Yes, I'm fine. There is a giant statue down here. Head as big as me. Dude's got a beard. Doesn't look too healthy. I can't see the rest. It's lost in darkness.

Garvey (radio):

I've hacked into Eve's computer. I'll extend her solar sails.

[machinery starts up]

Garvey (radio):

Something is happening. Her shoulder blades are retracting.

[metallic rumble]

[distant bang]

Garvey (radio):

Wow! It's beautiful!

Spin:

What happened?

Garvey (radio):

Eve sprouted some wings! She's turned into an angel! You've got to see this!

Spin:

Wait!

[power warbles]

Spin:

Something's happening down here too. The lights are going on. Great Galaxy! This room is huge! It's full of statues and altars and symbols. There is a really fat guy with a huge grin on his face. Some lady with a few too many arms. Some of them have animal heads. And the guy I'm hanging next too is nailed to a gigantic cross.

Jenna:

We're coming down.

[Jenna and Anderton climbing down]

Anderton:

Interesting. Most interesting.

Spin:

What is all this stuff?

Anderton:

These seem to be representations of an ancient belief systems. Gods, if you will. This hall must be a place of worship of some sort. Fascinating!

Spin:

I don't know. This ship gives me the creeps. Do what you have to, Professor, and then let's get out of here.

[footsteps]

Anderton:

I need to record this.

[camera starts]

Anderton:

I'm standing inside the colony ship designated 'Eve'...

Garvey (radio):

Spin? I've been digging around in Eve's systems. Looks like the lady is armed. She has a flight deck full of fighters and an entire array of cannons.

Spin:

Thanks, Garvey, that's good to know. Might come in handy.

Jenna:

Let's see what's behind this door.

[door opens]

Jenna:

Dad! Dad! You've got to come see this!

[majestic music starts]

Anderton:

Amazing!

[camera turned on]

Anderton:

We have passed through a door into the adjacent room. We are standing on a platform overlooking a long central hub. The walls are slightly curved and rise up from an area in the middle which is an estimated 10 kilometres long. Thousands of little windows are set into the walls. Elevators go up to these windows. It looks like a skyscraper turned outside in. Let me zoom in on one of the windows.

[camera zooms]

Anderton:

Each of the windows is a pod bay. They housed the pods that were used to colonize the galaxy! Let's take a closer look.

Spin:

There is an elevator next to the platform. Step in.

[footsteps]

[elevator starts]

[elevator door opens]

[recorder starts]

Anderton:

We are standing next to the nearest window at the bottom level. The pod behind it has been jettisoned. The bay is empty. I can see the stars.

Jenna:

Dad, the pod behind this one is still there.

Anderton:

Look at this. This pod is exactly like the one I found on Eno! Whenever the ship reached a habitable planet, a number of these pods were jettisoned to form the first colonies.

Spin:

What does this switch do?

[Spin presses switch, hatch opens]

[dried corpse falls on him]

[Spin yelps]

Anderton:

A dead body.

Jenna:

It's all wrinkly and dried up.

Spin:

Get it off me.

[corpse falls and shatters]

Anderton:

I wish you hadn't shattered it, Spin. Must you destroy everything? I could have learned a lot from studying that corpse!

Spin:

I'll give you a corpse to study in a minute!

Jenna:

Let's take a look inside.

[camera starts]

Anderton:

We are stepping into the colony pod.

Jenna:

Look at this.

Anderton:

A row of hibernation chambers. One of them is open. The others are closed, containing similar corpses to the one Spin destroyed. Look at the logo on the uniforms. This is the final proof. Each colonist has planet Earth stitched onto his breast pocket. Poor devils.

Spin:

Okay. Do your recordings and then we leave. I'm not sure I can take any more surprises.

Jenna:

Wait! We have to find the map room. If we can locate the black box and destroy it, this ship will be useless to the Grays.

Garvey (radio):

Spin, come up to the Blizzard. You need to see this.

Spin:

I'll be right there. You two, don't go wandering off.

[camera starts]

Anderton:

There is a row of lockers behind the hibernation chambers. I'll open one of them.

[locker door opens]

Anderton:

A plastic tube with a cap on it. I'll open it.

[sniffing]

Anderton:

Peppermint! Astounding! Jenna, take look at this! Jenna? Jenna?

Narrator:

Jenna had wandered off in search of Eve's map room. At the far end of the central hub she had stumbled across a set of rails that seemed to lead into a solid wall. Unwittingly, she stepped onto a contact plate on the floor. A hidden door in the wall opened and a ground car appeared on the rails. Jenna sat down inside the car, which sped off down the tracks, whisking her deeper into the ship. Meanwhile, Spin had reached the Blizzard's cockpit.

[Wink screeches]

Spin:

What did you want me to see?

Garvey:

Look at the display.

[weak signal noise]

Garvey:

There it is again.

Spin:

A shape just outside the asteroid field. It flickers in and out of existence.

Garvey:

These damned asteroids. I can't get a clear signal.

Spin:

Can you boost the power?

Garvey:

I've already diverted all auxiliary power to the sensors.

Spin:

What if you tap into Eve? Her solar panels should generate enough power to amp up the signal.

Garvey:

Worth a try.

[diverting power]

Garvey:

Done.

[alert]

Spin:

Damn! A Gray scout ship! They've found us!

Garvey:

How is that possible? There is no way they could have monitored our hyperspace jump.

Spin:

They must have followed us ever since Aydon. That's how they kidnapped the Professor in the first place.

Garvey:

Maybe they have some sort of long-range scanner.

Spin:

That scans through hyperspace? Impossible. They must have hit us with a tracker.

Garvey:

You know I scan the hull before every jump. They couldn't have attached so much as a hair to the outside of the ship.

Spin:

Yeah... To the outside...

Garvey:

What's wrong? Spin. Hey! What are you doing with Wink? Are you crazy?

[Wink getting smashed to bits, robotic death]

Garvey:

Wink is a robot! A Gray tracker!

Spin:

That's how they found us. And that's why they let us escape from the Teh Krann Noth. They wanted us to lead them here. Professor Anderton, get back to the ship! We have to get out of here.

[computer alert]

Garvey:

Too late, Gray fighters closing in!

Spin:

Anderton! Hurry up.

[cockpit door opens]

Anderton:

I'm here!

Spin:

Where is Jenna?

Anderton:

Isn't she with you?

Spin:

No! Where is she?

Anderton:

She must still be in the ship!

Garvey:

We can't stay here! The Grays are attacking. I have to disengage from Eve.

Spin:

I'm going back in to find Jenna. Fight off the Grays. Then come back to get us.

Garvey:

I'll do my best.

Spin:

If I haven't hailed you in ten minutes, blast the ship.

Garvey:

With you still on it? No way!

Spin:

The fate of humanity depends on it. If the Grays get Eve, we won't last long anyway.

Garvey:

I'll be back to get you.

[Spin runs]

[airlock closes]

Spin:

I've closed the airlock. You're good to take off.

[Blizzard takes off]

[ominous music]

Narrator:

Would Spin, Garvey, Jenna and Professor Anderton find a way to escape the Gray trap? Tune in next time for Part 9 of Destination: Earth.

[music]

Credits:

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End of Episode 8

Episode 9 – “Adam and Eve”

Narrator:

The Blizzard took off from the colony ship and was immediately showered by enemy blaster fire. It took all of Garvey's piloting skills to shake off the first wave of Gray fighters. Meanwhile, Spin had gone back to Eve to find Jenna. He climbed down the rope ladder and entered the central hub. When he reached the far end of the hall, he found the ground car waiting for him. Spin got in and it zoomed off down a tunnel.

[ground car slows down]

Spin:

It's slowing down.

[car door opens]

[footsteps]

Spin:

This is Eve's map room. It looks just like the one on Adam. There is the dais. If I press the buttons on the panel here...

[button being pressed]

[hologram appears]

Spin:

A hologram of Earth! I have to remove the flight recorder and blast it.

[flight recorder removed]

Spin:

One blast should do it.

[blaster loaded]

Gray (translated):

Not so fast! I wouldn't do that, if I were you. Give up the flight recorder.

Spin:

If I give it to you, you'll wipe out the human race, so what's the difference.

[Gray growls]

Jenna:

Spin! They were waiting for me!

Gray (translated):

Give us the flight recorder or watch her die.

Jenna:

Whatever you do, don't give it to them!

Narrator:

While Spin was facing off with the Grays holding Jenna hostage, out in the asteroid field the Blizzard engaged the enemy fighters. Garvey flew like a mad woman, narrowly missing the swirling rocks as the ship twisted and turned with breakneck speed. Many of the Gray fighters couldn't keep up with her. They collided with oncoming asteroids, exploding into fiery death.

[blaster fire, explosions]

Garvey:

Ten minutes are up. I'm flying back to Eve.

Anderton:

They need more time. Let's give them another five minutes.

Garvey:

We have to destroy the colony ship.

Anderton:

My daughter's still on it and so is Spin.

Garvey:

We have no choice, Professor. I'm closing in.

[Blizzard accelerates]

Garvey:

Look! The Grays have already boarded. The scout ship has attached itself to Eve's hull.

Anderton:

There is still a chance!

Garvey:

If Spin and Jenna aren't dead already, they're in the Gray's hands now.

Anderton:

I won't let you destroy the ship.

Garvey:

There is no time to argue! I'm aiming my missiles.

Anderton:

You can't!

Garvey:

We could have blasted her to smithereens an hour ago but you wouldn't have it. Now Spin and Jenna pay the price.

Anderton:

You're right. It's all my fault.

Garvey:

I'm sorry.

[missiles armed]

Garvey:

I'm firing... now!

Anderton:

No!

[missiles fire]

Garvey:

What are you doing? You've pushed me! The missiles are off target. One is going wide and the other exploded on Eve's surface.

Anderton:

There is another way! There must be.

Narrator:

The exploding missile shook Eve's map room and threw Spin, Jenna and the Grays holding her hostage to the ground. Spin was the first to recover, grabbing his blaster and taking out the Grays.

[blaster fire, Grays die]

Spin:

Are you all right, Jenna?

Jenna:

Yes! We have to look for the black box.

[door opens, Grays enter]

Spin:

Too late. There are too many of them!

Jenna:

Over there! There's a door in one of the pillars.

Spin:

Get in!

Jenna:

It's an elevator.

[elevator rises]

Spin:

Let's just hope wherever it takes us hasn't been overrun by Grays yet.

[elevator arrives]

Jenna:

Looks like we've reached the bridge.

Spin:

Careful, Jenna. Let me go first.

Narrator:

While Spin and Jenna explored the bridge, one of the Grays who had entered the map room found the flight recorder on the floor. He took it to the dais, pushed it back into its slot and activated it.

[flight recorder activated]

[hologram appears]

Narrator:

The hologram of the human homeworld reappeared, revolving slowly around its axis. Above it, glowing letters hung in the air. The Grays cheered when they translated the ancient human writing. The red letters spelled out a short message: Destination: Earth.

[music rises]

Narrator:

Unaware of what had happened inside the colony ship, the Blizzard swooped in for another shot.

Garvey:

Locking on missiles. This time you stay where you are, professor.

Anderton:

Look! Something is happening. The bulge on Eve's forehead is glowing.

[Eve's hyperdrive charges]

[Eve jumps into hyperspace]

Anderton:

Eve has jumped into hyperspace!

Garvey:

Oh great. Well done Professor. I hope you're proud of yourself.

Anderton:

I couldn't let you kill my daughter.

Garvey:

Well, what now? All we can do is wait until we get swallowed up in a space-time paradox.

Anderton:

We're still here.

Garvey:

Yeah, but for how long.

Anderton:

Physics says everything that is going to happen has already happened, did you know that? As far as the laws of science are concerned, the direction of time's arrow is meaningless. If we can somehow locate Earth...

Garvey:

How, Professor? You said yourself that the only way to find Earth was with Eve's flight recorder. Eve has gone home.

Anderton:

Eve has gone home... Eve has gone home!

Garvey:

That's what I said.

[Anderton hugs Garvey]

Garvey:

Hey! Are you mad?

Anderton:

Eve has gone home. That's it! I've been such a fool! Garvey, answer me this: Why did we find Eve floating in outer space and Adam on the surface of a planet?

Garvey:

I guess Eve must have had a malfunction and broken down.

Anderton:

And what about Adam?

Garvey:

Adam crashed on some planet.

Anderton:

Did you see any evidence that Adam crashed? Was the hull damaged? Surely, the ship would have been ripped to shreds if it had crashed.

Garvey:

What are you getting at?

Anderton:

Adam didn't crash. Adam landed. Adam, went home!

Garvey:

What do you mean?

Anderton:

Adam completed his mission. He jettisoned all of his colony pods and went home. Possibly, to load up on a second batch of colony pods.

Garvey:

You mean Adam went back to Earth?

Anderton:

Precisely! That's why the flight recorder was wiped! He completed his journey! The recorder was automatically reset for the next flight. A flight which never took place.

Garvey:

What are you saying?

Anderton:

Aydon is Earth! Think about it, according to the creation myth, Adam and Eve came from a place called Eden. "Eden." - "Aydon." The names are practically identical. Eve broke down during her mission, but Adam returned home.

Garvey:

How can you be sure?

Anderton:

I'm not, but there is a simple way to find out. Set a course for Aydon.

[Blizzard jumps into hyperspace]

Narrator:

As the Blizzard jumped to hyperspace, Spin and Jenna were examining the bridge of Eve, the second colony ship.

Jenna:

Banks and banks of monitors, displays and control panels.

Spin:

The technology looks ancient. There is a viewport.

Jenna:

Wow, look at that planet! It looks so pretty with its rings.

Spin:

Is that Earth?

Jenna:

I don't know. I'll try to use the computer to find out.

[typing]

[computer activates]

Jenna:

These controls are ancient, but I think I'm getting the hang of them. According to the computer, we're 1.3 billion kilometres away from the sun. That's outside the habitable zone. Earth must be closer. Judging by the size of this sun, about 150 Million kilometres I'd say.

Spin:

That leaves us some time.

Jenna:

For what?

Spin:

We're going to take back the ship.

Narrator:

As Spin and Jenna formulated a plan to wrest control of the ship back from the Grays, the Blizzard arrived at its destination. It fell into orbit around the ice planet Aydon.

Garvey:

That's Aydon. I'll perform a scan of nearby space.

[scanning]

Garvey:

Eve isn't here. Wouldn't they have arrived before us?

Anderton:

Eve's hyperdrive is ancient. She wouldn't be able to jump this close to the gravitational field of the sun. I guess she is somewhere in the outer solar system - if we are correct and this is Earth.

Garvey:

I'll keep an eye out.

Anderton:

Okay. Let me see if I can find out if my theory is correct. I'm doing a topographical scan of the continental formation below the ice crust. Now, assuming the planet had a considerably higher temperature, I have to factor in the water level of the melted ice.

[computer beeps]

Anderton:

Garvey, look! The continental formations match! This is it. We are in orbit around the planet Earth.

[Anderton kisses Garvey on the cheek]

Garvey:

[laughs] Easy there!

Anderton:

We did it!

[computer alert]

Garvey:

Long-range scanners are picking up several ships closing in.

Anderton:

We have to defend this planet by whatever means necessary.

Garvey:

The Blizzard alone won't last long against them.

Anderton:

You said Eve had weapon systems?

Garvey:

Yes.

Anderton:

Then it's a safe bet that Adam does too.

Garvey:

What good is that to us?

Anderton:

We're going to wake him up!

Narrator:

The Blizzard entered Aydon's atmosphere, crossed the ice desert and reached the edge of the glacier that had buried Adam beneath it. Garvey set her ship down on Adam's head. On Eve's bridge, Spin and Jenna were staring at a bank of monitors. Each one showed a different room of the colony ship. Dozens of Grays were patrolling her deserted hallways.

Spin:

The Grays are all over the ship. We have to get rid of them. Any ideas?

Jenna:

Wait. That could work. I'll set the airlocks to manual override. We can open the outer doors and suck the Grays into space. I'll activate the PA system.

[feedback]

Jenna (PA system):

This is the voice of the creator of the universe! You have been chosen as the supreme race of the Galaxy! Join me!

[alarms sound]

[airlocks open]

[air escapes]

[Grays get sucked into space]

Spin:

Ha ha! It works, the Grays are tumbling out of the airlocks!

Jenna:

That was so much fun!

Spin:

Remind me never to get on your bad side.

[Eve slows down]

Jenna:

We're slowing down.

Spin:

That planet, is that it? Is that... Earth?

Jenna:

It must be.

Spin:

Not what I imagined. Looks like its covered in ice.

[Jenna types, computer beeps]

Jenna:

You won't believe this, but it's Aydon!

Spin:

What?

Jenna:

It's definitely Aydon. The planet where we found Adam.

[computer alert]

Jenna:

A ship has arrived.

Spin:

I can see it. Hello, mommy! It's the Teh Krann Noth, the Gray mothership.

[mothership ramp opens]

Spin:

A loading ramp is opening. It's releasing some sort of big vessel.

Jenna:

That's weird, there is a microwave swarm around the sun.

Spin:

What is a microwave swarm?

Jenna:

An energy collection grid. Satellites are positioned around the sun to collect its energy right at the source. See, they are forming a network of beams around the star.

Spin:

They are sending an energy beam to that big vessel that emerged from the mothership.

Jenna:

Probably some sort of relay station. It collects the energy beam from the microwave swarm.

Spin:

Look! Now the mothership is releasing six more satellites.

Jenna:

The relay station is sending the energy beam from the sun to the six satellites. Interesting. They are forming a hexagon of energy.

Spin:

It looks like a window.

Jenna:

That's it! It's a window! A window into the past. Aydon's surface is white because of its ice cover, but if you look through the hexagon, the planet is blue. And look, those are the continental formations we saw in the hologram.

Spin:

A time gate.

Jenna:

If they shoot their bomb through the gate, it will land in the planet's past and obliterate the entire human race.

Spin:

We've got to stop them.

Narrator:

While the time gate opened a window into the past, high in orbit around ancient planet Earth, Anderton had reached the bridge of Adam, the other colony ship. He hooked it up to the Blizzard's central computer.

Anderton:

The computer is powered up. The weapons systems are intact. I can control them from down here.

Garvey (radio):

Can you take off?

[typing]

Anderton:

No. Adam's fuel cells are almost depleted and I can't extend the solar sails because of the ice cover.

Garvey (radio):

What if we hook it up to the fusion drive of the Blizzard?

Anderton:

It's worth a try.

Garvey (radio):

I'll patch us in. I've redirected the Blizzard's power to Adam. Is anything happening?

Anderton:

Yeah! I think we have enough juice to risk a try. Here goes.

[Adam's engines start]

[ice breaks]

[Adam lifts off]

Anderton:

It's working! We're lifting off!

[Adam leaves the planet]

Garvey (radio):

We've left the atmosphere.

Anderton:

I'll extend the solar sails.

[solar sails extend]

Garvey (radio):

Another angel!

Narrator:

Having unfolded his wings, Adam soared around the planet, looking for the Gray menace that loomed on its far side. Would our heroes successfully defend the human homeworld? Tune in next time for the final episode of Destination: Earth.

[music]

Credits:

Destination: Earth is written and directed by Patrick McGinley. It stars Jerry Redford, Jett Tattersall, Jemimah Knight and Peter McAllum and is narrated by Francis Edwards. Music by Silke Matzpohl. It was recorded at Syndey Sound Brewery by recording engineer John Hresc. If you enjoy Destination: Earth, please tell your friends about it and like and subscribe in your podcast app of choice. Reviews and comments are very much appreciated. On Twitter, we

are @DestiEarthAudio. We are destination_earth_audio on Instagram and you can find us on the web at destinationearthaudio.com. Thanks for listening!

End Episode 9

Episode 10 – “Lights in the Sky”

Narrator:

The Gray mothership, in orbit around planet Earth, was getting ready to fire its deadly weapon through the time gate. Spin and Jenna stood on Eve's bridge, staring at the viewport.

Spin:

Look! The Teh Krann Noth is getting ready to fire.

Jenna:

The glowing green bomb is emerging from the hatch!

Spin:

We have to do something.

Jenna:

But what?

Spin:

Does Eve have weapons?

Jenna:

I'll take a look.

Spin:

We need to find a way to interrupt the energy beam from the sun! That will shut off the time gate.

Jenna:

The ship has defence cannons but most of them were damaged in the asteroid field. There is a bay of fighters in sub level one.

Spin:

They'll have launched the bomb before I get there. If we had something that we could fire... I've got it! We'll use one of the colony pods. If we shoot it directly at the beam, it will interrupt the energy flow to the time gate.

[footsteps]

Jenna:

Where are you going?

Spin:

Let me know what they're doing with the communicator.

[suspenseful music]

Spin:

I'm taking the ground car to the central hub.

Jenna (radio):

The bomb is charging. They're about to fire.

Spin:

I'm at the central hub.

Jenna (radio):

Hurry!

Spin:

I'll have to pick a pod that is pointing directly at the energy beam. This one!

Jenna (radio):

Too late! The bomb is on its way.

Spin:

I'm launching the pod.

[colony pod launches]

Spin:

The pod is away! It's flying towards the energy beam.

Jenna (radio):

The bomb is almost at the gate.

[Time gate pulses]

[colony pod interrupts beam]

[pod explodes]

Spin:

The pod has interrupted the beam!

Jenna (radio):

Just in time! It cut off the power supply. The time gate collapsed, just as the bomb passed through. It impacted harmlessly on the ice planet. Guess it doesn't work in the cold.

Spin:

We won't get lucky a second time.

[Gray fighters approach]

Jenna (radio):

The Teh Krann Noth is releasing a swarm of fighters, they are heading right for us!

Garvey (radio):

Spin, Spin, do you read me?

Spin:

Garvey? Great to hear your voice! Where are you, how did you get here?

Garvey (radio):

I'll explain later. We've recovered Adam and activated his weapons systems.

Spin:

We're in a bit of a fix here, do you think you can help us out?

Garvey (radio):

What's in it for me?

Spin:

Fame and glory as the saviour of the human race.

Garvey (radio):

Sounds good.

Spin:

There's a swarm of Gray fighters heading towards us. Can you keep them busy?

Garvey (radio):

We'll try. Professor, aim for those fighters.

Anderton (radio):

Targets locked.

Jenna (radio):

I can see Adam, Spin. Panels in his hull are sliding back revealing a battery of cannons.

[cannons deploy]

Jenna (radio):

They're firing!

[cannons fire]

[explosions]

Jenna (radio):

Direct hit! The first wave is obliterated!

Spin:

Garvey, keep an eye out for the mothership.

Garvey (radio):

I'll do what I can. It's getting ready to fire another bomb.

Spin:

You have to stop the bomb from passing through the time gate. I'll try to get into one of Eve's fighters.

Garvey (radio):

You think you can *bzzz* with my home world?

Anderton (radio):

The Gray mothership is out of range but I'll try to hit that relay station. Without power the time gate will collapse.

Narrator:

Garvey brought Adam to full throttle, moving him ever closer to the Teh Krann Noth. But they were too late. The mothership fired its second bomb. As it approached the time gate, Professor Anderton, who had stationed himself on Adam's bridge, directed a barrage of laser fire at the relay station.

[Adam's cannons fire]

[cannons hit station]

Anderton:

A direct hit!

Garvey (radio):

Too late, the bomb is passing through the time gate. We failed!

Anderton:

No, we haven't!

Garvey (radio):

How do you know?

Anderton:

We're still here. Had the bomb gone back in time, we would have disappeared in a space-time paradox.

Garvey (radio):

Fair point.

Anderton:

I must have hit the relay station just as the bomb went through. I noticed a momentary flicker in the time gate. If the relay station controls the gate, the laser fire may have disrupted their computer, sending the bomb to a completely different time period.

Narrator:

Anderton's analysis was correct. In fact, the bomb had suddenly dropped from the sky above a lush rainforest, 66 Million years before homo sapiens ever walked the Earth. It landed in the soft grass in an area that would much later be named Mexico, wiping out the dinosaurs and posing a riddle that future palaeontologists would never solve. But back to our heroes. In orbit around future Earth, the battle for human survival was far from over. The Teh Krann Noth fired again. Just in time, Garvey had moved Adam between the green bomb and the time gate. The deadly sphere broke through the viewport of one of the colony pods and collided with the far wall. It fed on the mould and other biomatter that had grown within. As it reached critical mass, the wave of death began to spread through the ship.

[deadly wave]

Garvey (radio):

Professor, come back to the Blizzard now. The bomb hit Adam.

Anderton:

I'm on my way. I'm climbing up the ladder.

Garvey (radio):

Hurry up Professor. Adam's hull is compromised. The ship is depressurising.

Anderton:

Almost there!

[air rushes past]

Anderton:

Aaaargh! I'm being sucked down!

Garvey (radio):

Hold on! I'm coming!

Anderton:

Too late, Gravey.

Garvey:

I'm here! Give me your hand!

[Garvey pulls Anderton up]

Garvey:

I'm closing the airlock.

[airlock closes]

Anderton:

We have to take off, before the bomb wave jumps to the Blizzard.

Garvey:

I'm on it!

Narrator:

Garvey returned to the Blizzard's cockpit and started the engines. They left the infected colony ship behind and engaged the Gray fighters that were homing in on them. Meanwhile, Spin had reached Eve's flight deck. The fighters were ancient. They hadn't seen action in aeons, and yet, they were in surprisingly good condition.

Spin:

Jenna, I've reached the fighter bay. Set Eve on a collision course with the relay station. I'll try to stuff something down that bomb hatch.

Jenna:

And what's that?

Spin:

Myself.

Narrator:

Spin took a space suit from a locker in the wall, got into the nearest fighter and launched it into space.

[ancient fighter takes off]

Spin:

Do you read me Garvey?

Garvey (radio):

Loud and clear.

Spin:

I'm in a rusty, piece-of-crap fighter. Try to keep those Grays away from me.

Garvey (radio):

You're joking! They're buzzing around me like a swarm of angry bees.

[Blizzard blasts Grays]

Spin:

Good! I might get to the Teh Krann Noth unnoticed.

[Spin flies past]

[music rises]

[green bomb charges up]

[bomb launches]

Spin:

Damn it! It's too late! The mothership has fired another bomb at the time gate. Guess I'll have to go after it.

[Spin's fighter follows bomb]

Narrator:

Suddenly, everything went very fast. The bomb passed through the time gate, but so did Spin, who wrested every last bit of speed from the old fighter's engines. Two Grays spotted him and followed him through the gate.

[Gray fighters follow Spin]

[time jump]

Narrator:

Just as they had passed through, Jenna crashed Eve into the relay station, sending the energy beam - which had powered the time gate - sweeping through space. Instantly, the time gate flickered out of existence. The beam cut through everything that crossed its path. The Gray mothership tried to take evasive action, but it was too late. The energy beam cut through the outer hull. The Teh Krann Noth split in two and instantly depressurised, leaving no one left alive on board.

[music intensifies]

[energy surge]

[Teh Krann Noth destroyed]

Garvey (radio):

Jenna, are you there?

Jenna:

Yeah! Did you see that? Woah!

Garvey (radio):

Where is Spin?

Jenna:

He followed the bomb through the time gate.

Garvey (radio):

The Grays are retreating. Guess they've got enough for now.

[peaceful guitar music]

[soft desert wind]

Narrator:

June 13th 1947 was a Friday, but Sheriff Francis F. Baxter wasn't a superstitious man. It had been a quiet afternoon, probably due to the stifling heat that had been scorching the New Mexico desert for weeks. It was simply too hot to get up to any mischief. The orange disc of the sun was just about to set behind the distant mountains, when Sheriff Baxter noticed something strange in the sky.

Sheriff Baxter:

Sheriff Baxter here. I'm gonna drive over to the Captain Mountains. Saw four streaks of light in the sky. Gonna check it out. Over.

Deputy (radio):

Copy that. Bring me back a Martian scalp. Over.

[police car drives off]

[suspenseful music]

Narrator:

High up in the stratosphere, above the New Mexico desert, three ships chased a glowing green ball of death as it fell to Earth. One was piloted by Spin Braddock, the others were manned by Grays, who had a simple objective: take out Spin's fighter and make sure the bomb destroyed all life on the human homeworld.

[bomb flies by]

[Spin flies by]

[Grays in pursuit]

[Grays fire blasters]

Spin:

Damn it! That was too close for comfort. I have to shake them off my tail. Hmm, there's a cloud just below me.

Narrator:

Suddenly, Spin's craft dropped out of sight and disappeared inside the cloud. The Gray pilots checked their scanners but Spin's fighter was nowhere to be seen. As they passed the cloud, Spin dropped down behind them and took one of them out with a well-aimed blast.

[Spin fires]

[Gray fighter spins out of control]

[Gray fighters collide]

Narrator:

The Gray ship spun out of control and collided with his wingman, sending both of them plummeting to Earth. They dragged long trails of smoke behind them as they crash landed in the middle of the New Mexico desert.

[Gray fighters crash]

Narrator:

But Spin had a far bigger problem. During his skirmish with the Gray fighters, he had lost sight of the bomb that was still on its way to kill his homeworld. He had to stop it by any means.

Spin:

Where are you? Where are you, dammit?

[bomb flies by]

Spin:

There! Just below me. Let's see what you say to my blasters.

[blaster shots]

Spin:

No effect! The bomb just absorbed the blasts. What am I supposed to do now? I have to stop it from touching the surface of the planet. Think! Think! Really? That's the best idea you've got? Okay then.

Narrator:

It was a stupid, reckless, boneheaded idea that would never work. It was also the only thing that Spin could think of. He dropped his fighter below the bomb and matched its speed, so that it was hovering directly above him. Both fighter and bomb were still plunging to the ground at breakneck speed, but relative to each other, they weren't moving at all. Then Spin activated his ejector seat.

[ejector seat launches]

Narrator:

As the seat catapulted him into the air, Spin had grabbed the bomb and held onto it for dear life. The outside of his spacesuit was made of sterile material, so, the bomb had no biomatter to react with. His parachute opened and he glided safely to Earth. In the distance, his old fighter collided with the ground in a ball of flames. Spin lay on his back, clutching the glowing ball in his arms. As if it sensed that the ground was near, the alien device pulsed with an angry green light.

Spin:

Whoa, that was close.

[gun cocks hammer]

Sheriff Baxter:

Stop right there, young feller. Turn around slowly. Okay, hands in the air, buster.

[Translator active]

Sheriff Baxter:

Drop that thing on the ground, nice and easy.

[suspenseful music]

Spin:

I can't do that!

Sheriff Baxter:

What was that?

Spin:

You don't understand, it's dangerous.

Sheriff Baxter:

Drop it, boy! I'm gonna count to three. One... Two... Three...

Spin:

All right, all right!

Narrator:

Spin bent his knees and moved the bomb closer to the ground. But when the glowing ball was inches from the desert sand, he snapped up his arms and threw it in the air as high as he could. Sheriff Baxter was so surprised that he looked up at the green ball. Spin used the momentary distraction and punched the Sheriff right in the chin.

[punch!]

Narrator:

The Sheriff went down like a sack of potatoes. Spin looked up at the bomb. It had passed its zenith and was on its way down. It had been a bad throw. Spin would never catch it. Earth was doomed. Spin ran. He ran faster than he had ever run before. When that wasn't fast enough, he slid the last few metres on his belly.

Spin:

No, no, no, no, no!

[impact]

Narrator:

He would never have caught the bomb if he hadn't taken his helmet off, held it in his outstretched hand and used it as an impromptu baseball glove. The bomb landed snugly inside. Spin's face was scarred and caked with dust. He was stranded on an alien world, aeons in the past. He had barely survived a space battle, a crash landing and a run in with local law enforcement. He held instant global destruction in his hands. Spin looked to his left and saw endless desert. He looked to his right and saw the same. Then, Spin Braddock laughed.

[Spin laughs]

[twangy guitar music]

Narrator:

No one quite remembered when the run-down bar in the dodgy part of town had opened its doors. It was right around the time when the strange lights had appeared in the sky. Most people avoided Braddock's Bar. There was something shifty about the proprietor, a faraway look that seemed to stare right through you when he took your order. Someone suggested he was a Russian spy sent here to investigate the recent UFO activity - his accent sounded mighty queer, after all - and soon his place was known as the Commie Bar. The only regulars were Emmet and Begley, two old timers who didn't give a damn if the barman was a communist as long as the beer was both cheap and cold.

[jukebox button pressed]

Spin:

How many times do I have to tell you, Emmet? The damned jukebox is broken.

[Begley laughs]

Begley:

Yeah, Emmet! It was them alien fellas that broke it!

Emmet:

You're gettin' senile, Begley! Ever since that Air Force balloon came down, you see aliens everywhere. Aliens in the basement, aliens under the hood of your car, aliens under your bed. Gimme two more, Spin.

[beer bottles opening]

Begley:

One day you'll see I'm right. They're gonna getcha Emmet, they're gonna take you up in one of them flying saucers and they're gonna cut you into little itty-bitty pieces and feed you to their alien dogs.

Emmet:

Well, I never told you this, but I know exactly where those aliens are, right this minute. I saw them comin' down from the sky with my own two eyes. Ain't that right, Spin?

Spin:

Huh?

Emmet:

Them aliens are... in-your-head!

[Emmet hits jukebox which starts playing]

Emmet:

See! The damned thing is working...

[engine noise, glass shattering, huge crash]

Narrator:

Emmet's rant was cut short by a spaceship crashing through the window. The Blizzard parked right in the middle of Braddock's Bar. The dust settled around Emmet and Begley, who looked slack-jawed at the enormous spacecraft. A hatch opened and Jenna and Garvey appeared in the doorway. Spin continued to clean glasses as if nothing had happened.

[Blizzard's hatch opens]

[footsteps]

Spin:

Of all the bars on all the planets in all the spiral arms of the galaxy, you had to crash into mine?

Jenna:

Spin!

Garvey:

We missed you too.

Anderton:

Sorry it took so long. We had to repair the time gate and then figure out how to re-program it. Looks like we were off by a couple of months.

Narrator:

Spin grabbed the helmet, which still contained the bomb, from behind the bar and threw his dish towel to his only patrons.

Emmet:

Where are you going, Spin?

Spin:

Home.

Begley:

Oh! To Russia, huh?

Spin:

Begley, I think we all know I'm not from... Russia. I'll see you around.

Jenna:

Spin, wait.

Spin:

What is it?

Jenna:

Dad and I... we're not coming.

Spin:

What?

Anderton:

We have decided to stay, Spin. Look around! It's Earth! Alive and breathing! Before humans ventured into space! We'll have the chance to experience history with our own eyes.

Spin:

Are you sure?

Anderton:

I've never been so sure about anything in my life.

Jenna:

It won't be forever. You can come and get us in a couple of months.

Spin:

Well, I guess this is goodbye then. For now.

Jenna:

Thanks, Spin. Thanks for everything.

Spin:

I think I have to thank you.

[distant sirens]

Garvey:

Spin, we've got to leave before law enforcement gets here.

Spin:

Professor, Jenna, help yourself to the cash in the register. Good luck. We'll come back to get you.

[footsteps up the ramp]

[Blizzard's hatch closes]

[Blizzard takes off]

[Blizzard flies away]

Emmet:

That... that was a space ship!

Begley:

Told ya! Ha ha, oh yeah!

[glasses clink]

Narrator:

The Blizzard swooped over the city of Roswell and zoomed off into the night sky. She passed through the time gate and disappeared. Our heroes had succeeded. They had found and saved the ancient human homeworld. But the Gray were still out there. The search for good old planet Earth was only the beginning of their adventures.

[music]

[tape recorder starts]

Scientist (on tape):

Area 51 research station. The date is June 15th 1947. The time is nine fifteen pm. Subject is a large humanoid creature. I'm going to start with an incision into the thorax to take a look at the internal organs.

[cutting flesh]

Scientist (on tape):

That's funny...

[alien growls]

Scientist:

It's alive! Mein Gott! This thing is alive! Aaaargh....

[alien grows]

[glass breaks]

[tape recorder stops]

[music starts]

Credits:

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End of Show