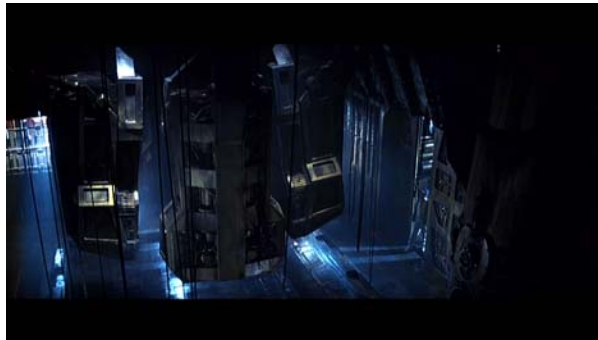




The door opened and Steve McNancie entered the bridge. The other four men and women looked up. “Some news from Paul?”, Helen Fisher asked. “I searched for him in the whole spaceship, but he was nowhere. Perhaps he’s ill. I think he doesn’t want to be disturbed.” “I think it’s yesterday’s alcohol. He has always drunk too much recently.”, Peter Schwarz said.



Helen made her daily round through the cargo space. The cargo space was full of large boxes with food and tools. It was a big dark room and Helen didn’t really like it. In one dark corner she saw some liquid on the floor. She screamed, when she recognized that it was blood. Human blood probably! She ran to the emergency-radio and phoned the other crew members. The whole crew met there, except for Peter. He didn’t come with the others. When the other came to the place, where the blood was, they found Paul’s watch.

“I haven’t seen so much blood in my lifetime!”

“It’s horrible. He must be dead.“

“Yes, something terrible has happened to Paul. Shall we call mission-control? ”

“No, they would stop our mission here! We can’t do it.”

“Where is Peter?”

“I’ve no idea.”

“He stayed on the bridge.”

“First we gonna search for Paul! Let’s go”, Steve McNancie, the captain, said. In the afternoon Steve and Helen sat alone in the recreation room. “Steve, I’m glad to meet you. I must tell you something!”

“What’s wrong?”

“I am glad that we have found Peter, but I think he has something to do with Paul’s disappearance.”

“That is a big reproach! Why do you say this?”

“I’m not sure but Monday I saw him and Paul argue. Both were really angry and Peter said that he would pay him everything back. I didn’t pay attention to it but now....”

“It isn’t a secret that Peter and Paul are enemies. Do you think Peter did this crime?” She nodded silently.

“I think he’s a danger for the crew. I will arrest him until we’ve arrived at our destination”, Steve said. He went out of the room to Peter.

The next morning, it was a peaceful atmosphere. Why not? Peter was arrested so he couldn’t attack one of the others. Helen wanted to bring him a small breakfast to his little cell. When she opened the door, the meal fell out of her hands. She screamed:” Oh my god!”. George, the mechanic of the ship, heard her screaming and ran to her. When he arrived, he saw Helen crying on the floor. “What’s wrong Helen?”. A second later, he saw Peter dead in his bed. Blood flowed over his stomach. When George came nearer to have a look for him, he saw a big hole in the ceiling.

“Helen, call the captain!” He bent over Peter and felt, if his heart was still beating.

“He’s dead.... But what’s about the big hole in the ceiling? I can’t imagine what could have happened to him. Was it suicide? I don’t think so. I think it was something unknown, which killed him. I’ve heard of a new life form, which is very aggressive but also very clever. It’s a kind of an alien. It could have done this!”

Steve, who had already arrived there, said: “Aliens are only stupid spooky stories. Let me see.... Oh, my god! He has two big injuries on his breast. He looks terrible! Perhaps your are right with your suspicion. ”

In the afternoon captain McNancie sat on the bridge surrounded by all crew members. “Ladies and Gentlemen, today we were probably attacked by an alien. Now we have to protect against the new danger. Every crew member has to follow these strict rules. Nobody will leave the bridge alone especially after 10 o’clock pm. Tonight we will fortify on the bridge and bolt the entries. God may protect us.”



In the night Steve, George, Helen and Amy lay on their mats on the bridge and talked until it was 2 o'clock. Although they were filled with fear, they enjoyed the view to the star-spangled universe.

After all had gone to bed, Amy fell in a broken sleep. She dreamt of strange creatures and bloody corpses. But then she suddenly woke up. "It was just a bad dream, calm down", she said to herself. But there was a sound next to her. She moved her head. All beds were empty. In the corridor to the emergency exits and the cargo space she saw a light. She got up and sneaked into the corridor. Now she wished that all this was just a bad dream. When she reached the door to the wash, she was shocked. There was a bloody body in front of her on the floor. She couldn't see who it was. "Shit, the alien attacked one more. I have to get out of here.", Amy thought. Suddenly the ceiling lights were switched off, only the emergency lights were burning. Amy started to run as fast as she could, although she didn't know where to go. Unfortunately, she ran into her certain death.

In the wash Steve McNancie woke up at the same moment. He didn't know where he was. Then he heard Amy's scream. He ran out of the door of the wash and saw a dead person on the floor but he didn't pay attention to it, because he was so in fear. Then Steve ran through the door to the bridge. "The alien is here!" He took a look around and saw only George, who stood in a dark corner of the bridge.

"It seems, that just we both are still alive", George said quietly.

"Yes! We have to close all doors and stop the mission here. When we don't do that, we will also die."

"No, I won't die, but you will die."

"How can you be so sure?"

"Stupid man! Don't you see the truth?"

"What do you wanna say? What is the truth?"

"Think! Who has told you the story of the mysterious alien? And who was able to kill Paul and Peter, because he knows where everybody has worked. Do you know what I wanna say?"

"Does that mean, you killed everyone and told us it was an alien?"

“Right and now, I will kill you also!”

“But why? WHY?”

“That’s a long story.... Well, I work for a company, which is very interested in the cargo of this ship. So I got the mission to fly with the crew as an mechanic and then to unload the cargo at the headquarter. And you are the last one, I have to kill you before my mission is complete. I’m sorry.”

“George! You are crazy! Don’t!!!”....

© Hendrik Borgaes and Lukas Körnich, 9b - 2005/2006