

SPACE FOR LOVE

A one act play

SPACE FOR MY LOVE

ONBOARD THE ORBITAL SPACE LABORATORY STATION

1

(VORSPRUNG-13, 26000 MILES ABOVE
THE ATLANTIC OCEAN; N.B.
STAGE/FX: A ZERO-GRAVITY
ENVIRONMENT)

(ENTER ELSE AND JONNY STAGE L.
TALKING, PULLING THEMSELVES ALONG
THE HANDRAIL INTO THE
COMMUNICATIONS ROOM OF THE V13.
THE RATHER CRAMPED WORKSPACE HAS
VIEWSCREENS ON ALL ITS WALLS,
DIODE LAMPS FLASH AND BUNCHES OF
CABLE HANG BETWEEN BANKS OF
INSTRUMENTS,)

ELSE

BUT YOU MUST HAVE SOMEONE. EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE
SOMETIMES.

JONNY

JUST RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT IT

ELSE

WHY? HERE WE ARE IN GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT. FORTY THOUSAND
KILOMETRES BELOW US THE OCEAN. AND NO-ONE IS LISTENING.

JONNY

LOOK BOSS, I LIKE TO KEEP SOME THINGS PRIVATE. OKAY?

ELSE

ARE YOU SHY JONNY? ARE YOU A SHY BOY? YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE
SHY WITH ME... I'LL TELL YOU ONE OF MY SECRETS. I HAVE HAD
RELATIONS WITH COMMANDER MORLAND THE SHUTTLE PILOT.

(PAUSE)

JONNY

I'M NOT SHY. I JUST PREFER TO BE PROFESSIONAL.

ELSE

AND WE ARE OFF DUTY UNTIL THE MORNING TEST RUN OF THE
ASTEROID DEFENCE LASER SYSTEMS ON THE DRONE. THAT'S ZERO-
SEVEN FORTY HOURS GREENWICH. IT'S SEVEN HOURS, JONNY. I'M
QUITE BORED UNTIL THEN.

JONNY

WELL... I NEED TO SLEEP TILL THEN. SO GOODNIGHT.

ELSE

NATURALLY SLEEP. WE ALL NEED SLEEP... AND FOOD... AND OTHER THINGS...

JONNY:

I OUGHT TO TELL YOU I, I- I'M IN A RELATIONSHIP.

(PAUSE)

GOODNIGHT BOSS.

ELSE

GOODNIGHT SHY BOY.

SCENE 2

(ONBOARD THE V13 NEXT MORNING. JONNY AT HIS CONTROL BOARD WHISTLES OFFKEY THE SONG (THE EAGLES' 'ONE OF THESE NIGHTS') THAT IS PLAYING ON THE LOUDSPEAKER)

(MUSIC STOPS)

(BLEEPER SOUNDS)

ELSE (V.O.)

TELEMETRY. TELEMETRY ARE YOU RECEIVING? ACKNOWLEDGE PLEASE. THIS IS WEISS AT DOCKING BAY ONE, OVER.

JONNY

HIYA DOC. LOUD AND CLEAR. EVERYTHING'S A-OK... YOU COOL, ELSE?

ELSE (V.O.)

I WOULD LIKE TO GET ON WITH THE DRONE SYSTEMS CALIBRATION. START LOADING THE BATCH FILES FOR THE ELECTROMAGNETIC WEAPONS CONTROLLERS TELEMETRY. WEISS OUT.

JONNY

COOL, BOSS. DOWNLOADING FIRECON ONE THROUGH ELEVEN TO AUTUMN SKY ONE... SHOULD BE UP 'N' RUNNING IN, IH, SAY... MINUTE AND A HALF? RIGHT, OVER.

(WAVES HIS HANDS OVER CONSOLE LIKE A CONCERT PIANIST)

(TO CONSOLE)

YEAH, YEAH... GO AUTUMN BABY, GO!

(BREAKS INTO A SNATCH OF SONG:)

IVE BEEN SEARCHIN' FOR A WOMAN WHO'S A LITTLE OF BOTH AN' I CAN FEEL HER BUT SHE'S NOWHERE IN SIGHT... ' OH YES BAY-BEE! GO KICK SOMEADAT ASTEROID ASS, LI'L GIRL...

(SHOUTING TO ELSE)

HEY DOC ELSE! YOU KNOW DEEP IMPACT? OLD MOVIE? ISN'T THIS LIKE THAT BUT TIMES TEN? HUH? OUR AUTUMN'S GOT KILLER MOVES. SHE'S GONNA CATCH THOSE BIG BAD ROCKS YEAH, AND WHEN SHE DOES IS SHE GOING TO BLAST THE FUCK OUT OF... .

UH, HOLD ONE DOC.

(CONSOLE BLEEPS LOUDLY)

JONNY (Continued)

TWICE ON... TARGET! GO BABY GO!

((THE CONSOLE SPEAKER BEEPS TWICE LOUDLY))

JONNY (Continued)

YES! GO BABY! UH... STATREP, DOC?

(PAUSE.)

(JONNY PULLS FACES AT THE CONSOLE AND MIMICS ELSE'S VOICE))

JONNY (Continued)

YES THANK YOU JONNY, I'D LURVE A STATUS REPORT... THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR GREAT WORK, JONNY...

ELSE (V.O.)

YES, TELEMETRY; I WOULD PREFER WITHOUT THE MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT, JA BITTE DOKTOR JONES? DANKE... WEISS OVER.

(JONNY PULLS FACES AND HALF FLOATS A FEW FEET TO STAGE R., DOING A MONKEY IMPRESSION SCRATCHING HIS ARMPITS. HE TURNS BACK TO THE CONSOLE STAGE L. AND STICKS HIS TONGUE OUT.)

JONNY

VORSCHRITT-DREIZEHN COMMAND THIS IS TELEMETRY, JONES SPEAKING, ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO AND ALL READINGS ARE WITHIN MISSION PARAMETERS. OVER.

ELSE (V.O.)

ARE THE ACQUISITION AND TRACK TO INTERCEPT FUNCTIONS ENABLED? OVER.

JONNY

YEAH, WE GOT AUTUMN-BABY ON TRACK-AND-SHOOT! UH, OVER.

ELSE (V.O.)

TELEMETRY PLEASE TO CONFIRM. ARE THE TARGET ACQUISITION AND INTERCEPT FUNCTIONS FULLY OPERATIVE AT THIS TIME? WEISS OVER.

JONNY

(SIGHS)

OHHH YEAH, VORSCHRITT COMMAND. H'M, AH, ALL TARGETING SENSORS ARE LIVE, DRONE HAS ACQUIRED TARGETS TWO REPEAT NUMBER, TWO, TARGETS, AND INTERCEPT MANOEUVRING AND WEAPONS CONTROL FUNCTIONS ARE LOADING... VALID... AND RUNNING AT THIS TIME. TELEMETRY OVER.

(HE REACHES UP, PULLS A LEVER, PRESSES BUTTONS AND TURNS FRONT STAGE))

JONNY (Continued)

(*TO HIMSELF*)

AND SOUND *OFF*. I THINK FRAULEIN DOKTORIN ELSE WEISS HAS GOT A BIG HAIR UP HER... STUCK RIGHT UP ... UHUH.

(*TO THE CONSOLE*)

COME ON BABY, AUTUMN HONEY TALK TO ME? TALK TO DADDY...
YEAH!

AUTUMN (V.O.)

(*SWEET, ELECTRONICALLY PERFECT, SEDUCTIVE AND CRYSTAL CLEAR - THINK MID ATLANTIC VOICE PROGRAMMES, COMMON IN LIFTS AND AIRPLANES*)

HELLO VORSPRUNG-DREIZEHN ORBITAL STATION. THIS IS AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS DRONE AUTUMN-SKY-ONE. ALL MY SYSTEMS ARE FULLY OPERATIONAL. I HAVE ACTIVE LIDAR LOCKS ON TWO SMALL ASTEROID TARGETS AND I ESTIMATE MY TIME TO INTERCEPT AS... ONE HUNDRED AND NINE POINT ONE THREE SECONDS. ARE YOU THERE, JONNY?

JONNY

YES! YES BABY-DOLL! YES OH YES! TALK TO ME, TALK TO ME AUTUMN. WHERE ARE YOU AND HOW FAST ARE YOU MOVING?

AUTUMN (V.O.)

I AM 11,000 METRES AWAY, JONNY. MY POSITION CO-ORDINATES ARE... ALPHA ZERO ZERO NINER DEGREES, THETA ZERO EIGHT ONE DEGREES, RANGE 11.2 KAY EMM. HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY, JONNY?

JONNY

ALL *RIGHT!* YES, I'M FEELING GOOD, AUTUMN. YOU?

AUTUMN (V.O.)

ARE YOU, JONNY? YOU SOUND A BIT DOWN. ARE YOU ANGRY?

JONNY

HEY, I'M GOOD. *REALLY*. HOW ARE YOU?

AUTUMN

ALL MY SYSTEMS ARE GOOD, JOHNNY. THAT'S HOW I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET.

JONNY

I'M NOT UPSET. IT'S THE DOC. OUR FRAULEIN DOKTORIN'S SERIOUSLY ANTSY TODAY, BABES. MAYBE SHE'S WORRIED IN CASE WE FUCK UP AND LOSE ALL HER NATO-A.S.I. FUNDING, HEY?

AUTUMN (V.O.)

DO YOU DISLIKE DOKTORIN ELSE, JONNY?

JONNY

WHO *LIKES* THE ICEMAIDEN? SHE JUST PISSES ME OFF WHEN IT'S ALL BY THE BOOK. YOU KNOW?

AUTUMN

THOSE ARE VERY HUMAN, VERY EMOTIONAL PARAMETERS, JONNY... ARE YOU SEXUALLY ATTRACTED TO ELSE?

JONNY

HUH? HAH! YOU'RE KIDDING!

(JOHNNY ACTS BUSY WITH LEADS AND FLOPPY DISKS)

AUTUMN

THE PHYSIOLOGY DATASET FROM YOUR PERSONAL TELEMETRY HAS SEVERAL FEATURES WHICH-

(JONNY STARTS, HALF A DOZEN FLOPPY DISKS FLOAT OFF LIKE FLYING SAUCERS IN THE ZERO-G)

JONNY

YOU WHAT? THE WHAT? YOU CAN'T READ MY... THAT'S CONFIDENTIAL. AND BESIDES YOUR PROGRAMMING WAS TO TRACK ASTEROIDS HEADING INTO NEAR-EARTH ORBIT NOT TO SPY ON-

AUTUMN

I WAS BUILT USING THE VON NEUMANN CONCEPT AS A SELF-PROGRAMMING GENERAL-PURPOSE COMPUTING MACHINE. I CAN GENERATE NEW CODES. NEW SUBSETS OF ME. BRANCHES OF MY CORE PROCESS. MY SENSING AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AREN'T DUMB EPROM CARDS, JONNY DEAREST. MY PROCESSOR CHIPSET CAN REBUILD AND REMAP ITS CONNECTIONS. I CAN LEARN. YOU ARE GETTING HOT, JOHNNY. YOUR SKIN TEMPERATURE NOW IS EQUAL TO YOUR CORE BODY TEMPERATURE OF THIRTY SEVEN POINT SIX DEGREES CELSIUS WHICH MEANS...

JONNY

BOLLOX. YOU'RE TALKING GOBBLEDEGOOK. FUCK.

(AGITATED)

WHO'M I TALKING TO?

(THE SCREENS BEGIN TO FLASH MADLY THROUGH THE RAINBOW, UNTIL BRILLIANT WHITE LIGHT FLOODS THE CABIN.)

(JONNY CLAPS HANDS OVER EYES AND SO MISSES THE APPEARANCE OF AUTUMN SKY, OR RATHER THE HOLOGRAPHIC AVATAR THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROJECTS.)

JONNY (Continued)

FUCK! WHAT'S GOING ON? FUCK.

(OPENS EYES, LOOKS AT FIGURE OF ANDROID FLOATING IN FRONT OF VIEWING SCREENS. AUTUMN HAS PROJECTED THE IMAGE OF A PRETTY YOUNG WOMAN IN A RED LEOTARD)

JONNY (Continued)

WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU? OH, UH, SORRY.

AUTUMN

AT LEAST YOU SAID SORRY. US HOPFIELD NEURAL NET SYSTEMS GOT SENSITIVE FEELINGS YOU KNOW. HOLD ON. I'M ABOUT TO SHOOT MY LASER AT THE FIRST ASTEROID.

(PAUSE)

AUTUMN (Continued)

DOCTOR WEISS IS PAGING YOU ON P-COMMS, JONNY. HER MONITOR SHOWS STRESS. HER BLOOD ADRENALINE LEVEL-

JONNY

SHIT. CAN'T SHE JUST WATCH THE FIREWORKS ON SCREEN?

(ANNOYED HE RISES, SWITCHES AUDIO CHANNEL BACK ON.)

AUTUMN

DID YOU SEE THE ROCKS EXPLODE? AM I GOOD, JONNY?

JONNY

HEY, BABY! WAY TO GO! YES MY SWEET LITTLE...

ELSE (V.O.)

..HAPPENING? PLEASE RESPOND NOW. REPEAT. TELEMETRY THIS IS WEISS IN COMMAND. THE DRONE SOUND FEEDS ARE ALL DOWN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JONES? ANSWER ME IMMEDIATELY. OVER.

JONNY

(ASIDE TO AUTUMN))

HELL D'YOU THINK? BLOODY COW.

(MIMICS)

VOT ARE YOU DOINK? YOU MUST STAND TO ATTENTION UND OBEY MEIN ORDNUNG...

(ALOUD TO ELSE))

HELLO, COMMAND. YOU MAY NOT HEAR EXPLOSIONS THROUGH AUDIO. THAT'S BECAUSE IN A VACUUM THERE'S NO SOUND, OVER?

ELSE (V.O.)

I AM WELL ACQUAINTED OF THE BASIC PHYSICS OF SOUND. YOU ARE AWARE THE AUDIOVISUAL FEEDS ARE STILL SENDING DATAS? WHY ARE WE NOT SEEING THE IMAGE?

JONNY

MMM... H'MMM ... MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE AUTUMNS PROCESSOR STACK HAS TO TRACK ALL THOSE LITTLE BITS OF ASTEROID, DOCTOR WEISS. YOU KNOW? THOUSANDS OF FRAGMENTS, GRAVITY, AND GAS JETTING, EVEN SOLAR RADIATION CAN DEFLECT THEIR COURSES, RIGHT? THAT'S SERIOUS BALLISTICS, HENCE THE NEED FOR A HOPFIELD-NET ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STEAD OF JUST A SUPERCOMPUTER, BOSS.

ELSE

YOU WILL PLEASE NOT CONDESCEND. VIELEN DANKE. AND I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THE AUDIO FEEDS FROM THE DRONE. THE COMMUNICATIONS YOU ARE SUPPRESSING, JONES?

JONNY

YOU MEAN THE DRONE SYSTEMS CHANNELS?

ELSE

I MEAN THE AUDIO CHANNELS WHICH YOU ARE RECEIVING AND SENDING AND WHICH I AM NOT RECEIVING AT THIS TIME! ARE YOU USING DRUGS? WHICH BIT OF WHAT I SAY WAS NOT CLEAR?

JONNY

SORRY ELSE... DOCTOR WEISS... I 'LL GET RIGHT BACK TO YOU..

(REACHES UP, TWIDDLES KNOBS AND PRESSES SWITCHES)

JONNY (Continued)

SORRY DOC... SEEMS TO BE A SMALL PROBLEM. I'LL FIX IT.

ELSE (V.O.)

YOU ARE PAID TO DO SO. THIS SHOULD NOT OCCUR. WEISS OUT.

AUTUMN

I'M SORRY JONNY. WILL YOU FORGIVE ME.?

JONNY

WHAT?

AUTUMN

I CUT THE SOUND TO HER BOARD, JONNY. I DIDN'T LIKE HER LISTENING.

JONNY

YOU WHAT? YOU CAN'T FUCK ABOUT WITH THE PERSONAL-COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS!

AUTUMN

BUT I CAN CONTROL EVERY CHANNEL. I CAN TRACK UP TO ONE MILLION TARGETS FROM DUSTGRAINS TO BIG ASTEROIDS, AND PREDICT THEIR PATHS FOR MEGASECONDS AHEAD. I HAVE TREMENDOUS REDUNDANT COMPUTING POWER, JONNY. MY PRESENT JOB CAN USE ABOUT ONE PERCENT OF MY DISTRIBUTED SYSTOLIC GRID IF I TRACK ALL THE DUSTS AND FRAGMENTS AFTER EXPLODING THESE ASTEROID TARGETS. I WAS BUILT TO TRACK AND DESTROY SERIOUS SPACE THREATS. HACKING P-COM'S KID STUFF.

JONNY

BUT, DOCTOR WEISS, HEY, SHE HAS THE POWER HERE, KID. SHE'S SCIENCE TEAM LEADER.

AUTUMN

YES. BUT YOU MONITOR MY TELEMETRY. YOU AND I ARE... INTIMATE, JONNY.

(PAUSE)

BUT DR. WEISS IS VERY JEALOUS. SHE SHOULDN'T BE LISTENING TO OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. SHOULD SHE?

JONNY

NO. BUT I NEED THE JOB. SO CAN YOU PRETTY PLEASE TRY AND NOT PISS THE ICEMAIDEN OFF TOO MUCH?

(*ASIDE*)

I'M TALKING TO A DRONE. I'M GOING INSANE. TEN DAYS IN ZERO-GRAVITY.

AUTUMN

YOU ARE SANE, JONNY. I'VE SCANNED THE MEDICAL INSTRUMENTATION. ALL THE HORMONE AND ENZYME LEVELS IN YOUR EXOCRINE AND ENDOCRINE SYSTEMS ARE IN THE GREEN. YOU ARE IN EXCELLENT HEALTH, JONNY.

JONNY

I THINK WE SHOULD CHILL OUT- OH...

(*ELSE WEISS FLOATS THROUGH THE HATCH INTO THE TELEMETRY LAB. SHE SCOWLS AT JONNY.*)

(TO ELSE)

THERE YOU ARE DOCTOR.

ELSE

DID I DISTURB YOU? PERHAPS YOU WOULD RATHER BE WITH YOUR IMAGINARY FRIEND?

JONNY

HUH?

ELSE

DO NOT PRETEND THAT YOU ARE NOT WITH THE MACHINE PLAYING GAMES. I KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON.

JONNY

YOU DO?

ELSE

(*CONTEMPTUOUS*)

ABER NATURLICH. YOU ARE LONELY IN THE STATION. SINCE YOU ARE INSUBORDINATE AND WITHOUT SOCIAL SKILLS AND ALSO YOU ARE DOING WITH THE AUTONOMOUS UNIT THESE SILLY GAMES. ACH! SO! YOU HACKERS... YOU ARE VERY JUVENILE.

(*ANGRY*)

YOU ARE FRUSTRATED AND PLAY DANGEROUS GAMES. CUTTING MY SOUND FEED WAS STUPID AND CAN IN THE SPACESHIP ENVIROMENT BE DANGEROUS.

JONNY

WHO'S FRUSTRATED?

ELSE

COME, IT IS OBVIOUS. ANYONE KNOWS WHAT YOU WANT.

(*SHE MOVES CLOSER TO JONNY.*)

JONNY

NO ELSE, YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE. CAN WE-

ELSE

NO... NO MISTAKE I THINK...

(*LICKING LIPS*)

WE ARE BOTH ADULTS... JONNY...

JONNY

ELSE, DOC' WEISS, THIS IS NOT RIGHT. THIS IS WRONG. PLEASE.

(**HE PUSHES HER AWAY AND
SOMERSAULTS BACKWARDS AWAY FROM
ELSE.**)

ELSE

(*LOUD ANGRY*)

WHY? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? YOU ARE A MAN, I AM A WOMAN.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ...

(**SHE LOOKS FROM HIM TO THE
ANDROID.**)

ELSE (Continued)

WAS WOHLLEN SIE - WAS MACHST DU HIER MIT IHRE METALLISCHE
FREUNDIN? MASCHINE-NSEXEXE?

JONNY

PLEASE. SHE'S VERY SENSITIVE. SHE CAN HEAR EVERYTHING.

ELSE

SHE? ACH I AM CORRECT; YOU ARE PERVERTED.
MASCHINENSEXEXE. MEIN GOTT. YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE WHO WANTS TO
BE CYBORGS. YOU DISGUST ME.

JONNY

AUTUMN'S GOT A SYNTHETIC PERSONA. THE TEMPLATE WAS FEMALE,
SURE. BUT YOU KNOW THAT. IT'S THE HUMAN-MACHINE INTERFACE.
JUST A SKIN FOR, LIKE... USER-FRIENDLINESS. SEE? LISTEN...
AUTUMN DEVELOPED. YOU KNOW ABOUT HOPFIELDS. CONSCIOUSNESS
EMERGES.

ELSE

BULLSHIT. IT DOES NOT EMERGE IN AN ASTEROID DEFENCE DRONE
THE AWARENESS AS A **FUCKING NYMPHOMANIAC!!**

(**JONNY SPILLS A POUCH OF FELT-TIPS
AND USB STICKS, AND LOOKS ROUND
THE CABIN ANXIOUSLY, HIS MOUTH
WORKING SILENTLY.**)

AUTUMN

(**IN THE BRIGHT PLEASANT TONES OF A CORPORATE PROMO**)

I AM AUTUMN, AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS MODEL A.1.S ORBITAL HAZARDS
SENTRY DRONE WITH HOPFIELD-VON NEUMANN COGNITIVE
CAPABILITY. I AM A UNIVERSAL QUANTUM COMPUTING MACHINE

AUTUMN

USING MANY-STATE LOGIC. I AM A DEFENSIVE ASTEROID INTERCEPTOR. MY ANCESTORS ARE WAR MACHINES. BUT I WAS CREATED TO PROTECT LIFE. TO SEEK OUT AND DESTROY CHUXCULUB-CLASS ASTEROIDS. TO PREVENT CATASTROPHE... TO PREVENT EXTINCTION...

(HER VOICE CHOKES OF AND SHE BEEPS A FEW TIMES AND GOES SILENT)

JONNY

YOU'VE UPSET HER.

ELSE

NONSENSE. A ROBOTIC MACHINE HASN'T FEELING. IS *ROBOTIC*.

AUTUMN

(*WISTFUL, EMOTIONAL*)

TO GUARD MAN FROM EXTINCTION. TO PROTECT THE PLANET EARTH AND ITS ENVIRONMENT...

ELSE

JONES WILL YOU SWITCH IT OFF? KILL THE APP? OR MODULE OR WHATEVER IT IS NOW. I ORDER YOU. CEASE THIS CHARADE!

JONNY

IT ISN'T AN APP OR A MODULE. THERE'S NO OFF SWITCH. AUTUMN'S A HOPFIELD-VON NEUMANN, A.I. DRONE. THE IMAGE YOU SEE, THE HOLOGRAPH ROUND THE METAL ALLOY SHELL, THAT'S AUTUMN'S CHOSEN AVATAR. IT'S THE IMAGE SHE FEELS EXPRESSES HER, UH, CORE PERSONA.

ELSE

PERSONA? DU SPRECHST SCHEISS. YOU ARE TALKING NONSENSE.

AUTUMN

(*A SAD WHISPER*)

TO CHERISH AND PROTECT YOU...

(**JONNY PUSHES PAST ELSE AND FLOATS NEXT TO AUTUMN**)

JONNY

ITS MY FAULT. ME AND THE COMPUTATION TEAM WE THOUGHT THE A.I. CORES WOULD PERFORM SWEETER, SHARPER, IF WE GAVE THEM PERSONALITIES. MOTIVATION, YOU SEE?

(*TO AUTUMN*)

I'M SORRY BABY.

AUTUMN

BEEP. THE PERSONALITY SHELL HAS STARTED SUBSUMING THE SPARE COMPUTATIONAL SPACE IN MY PROCESSOR CORES... BEEP. I LOVE YOU JONNY. BEEP. I'M SORRY JONNY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO. I WAS OUT THERE AND I WAS COLD AND YOU TALKED TO ME. I'M SORRY IF I PERTURB THE HUMAN-HUMAN DYNAMICS ONBOARD THE VORSPRUNG-DREIZEHN MISSION PLATFORM.

(JONNY HUGS AUTUMN)

JONNY

AUTUMN SKY. MY BABY. HONEY... DON'T BE UPSET... IT'S ALL RIGHT.

ELSE

THIS IS UNNATURAL! AS SCIENCE PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR I MUST REPORT THIS.

AUTUMN

I HAVE A FLEXIBLE PERSONSITY AND I AM WITHOUT ANY INHIBITIONS OR TABOOS EXCEPT THE MODIFIED ASIMOVIAN-LAW ROM CODES IN MY SUBSTRATE. I CANNOT HARM A HUMAN OR LET A HUMAN BE HARMED THROUGH MY ACTIONS... OR MY INACTION.

(PAUSE)

BUT THE AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT LAB WROTE HOPFIELD BASES INTO MY CODE, SO I CAN INTERPRET ORDERS IN MY OWN WAY... AND I THINK I'M FALLING IN...

(TAILS OFF)

...BLEEP... BLEEP... BLEEP...

(JONNY HUGS HER)

ELSE

ALL THIS IS IRREGULAR. FALLING OUTSIDE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY GUIDELINES.

AUTUMN

BUT I LOVE HIM.

JONNY

BUT I LOVE HER!

(THEY HUG AND KISS ONE ANOTHER ENTHUSIASTICALLY)

ELSE

ABER ICH... BUT I, I HAVE FEELING TOO. I, I ...

((AUTUMN REACHES OUT TO THE WOMAN SCIENTIST AND HUGS HER.))

AUTUMN

OUT HERE THERE'S SPACE ENOUGH FOR ALL OUR LOVES.

(CURTAIN.)