

EXT. SHIP

A ship is piloting through space close to an asteroid field. We stay with the ship as it comes close to one of the larger asteroids.

Another ship appears from behind the asteroid, a CUTLASS. It follows the ship.

INT. CUTLASS -- COCKPIT

The PILOT is lining up a shot, intent on taking down his/her prey. The targeting system wavers, finds it's target, and the pilot shoots.

EXT. SHIP

The engine explodes. There's fire and bare electrical current everywhere.

ALARM blares over the soundtrack.

INT. SHIP -- FLIGHT CONTROLS

ALARM continues.

Hal is piloting with Mose at his side. Something has clearly gone wrong.

HAL
We got company.

MOSE
Bounty hunters or pirates?

Hal looks into a monitor.

HAL
Cutlass class. Must be pirates.
(irritated)
This is what happens on this run.
How many times now?

MOSE
You want to get into it *now*?

HAL
How many times?

MOSE
I don't know. Two?

HAL
 (interrupting)
 Four. At least four. Maybe more.

The entire ship shakes and a stray blast passes by them outside the window.

MOSE
 Work the problem.

HAL
 I am working the problem. I-

The ALARM suddenly stops. But it's followed by a CLICKING sound. Hal and Mose listen.

Another ALARM starts up.

HAL (CONT'D)
 Shit.

Hal grabs the controls.

HAL (CONT'D)
 Here's hoping we still have maneuvering...

EXT. ASTEROID FIELD -- THAT MOMENT

Hal and Mose's ship banks hard into the nearby asteroid field. The Cutlass is in hot pursuit.

Both ships narrowly escape collision at every turn. The Cutlass fires at them every chance it gets.

Finally, Hal and Mose's ship pulls a move from *The Empire Strikes Back*: they narrowly escape through two colliding asteroids and double back, landing on one of the larger rocks. Their ship backs into a nook within the rock. You would have to be directly above them to see them.

INT. SHIP FLIGHT CONTROL -- THAT MOMENT

Hal and Mose are pushing buttons and flipping switches.

MOSE
 How many more systems are we going to lose?

HAL

Well, life support is buggy because the genius who designed this bucket put the O2 scrubbers next to our weapon control relays, which are fried. And because life support is buggy, the ship doesn't think there's anyone on it so navigation locks down, making the FTL useless. Comm works for now, but that bypass runs close to the scrubbers, so it might tweak out too before too long.

Hal checks a display.

HAL (CONT'D)

But we're not on fire anymore so we have O2 for a while.

MOSE

How much time do you think?

HAL

Till we run out of air, until this guy kills us, or until they come get us? Eight hours and forty-three minutes till we run out of air. This guy could find us anytime. If they come to get us...

(shrugs)

It depends of whether we're cheaper than the fuel it takes to jump this far out.

MOSE

They'll come. They always do.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHIP -- LATER

The Cutlass passes close to Hal and Mose's ship at such an angle that the pilot can't see them.

INT. SHIP -- CABIN

Hal is sitting on his bunk, Mose is leaning against the bulkhead nearby, flipping a coin. It's clear that some time has passed. Mose keeps flipping the coin and checking it on his palm through the entire scene.

They hear the Cutlass fly by them and pause to listen. Satisfied they weren't discovered, Mose continues flipping his coin.

HAL
I want to know something.

MOSE
Uh huh.

HAL
I want to know your opinion on something.

MOSE
The answer is yes.

HAL
Come on.

MOSE
No. Better?

HAL
Why out here?

MOSE
That's above my pay grade.

HAL
Everything is above our pay grade. They know this happens out here.

MOSE
Relax, we'll get hazard pay.

HAL
Maybe.

MOSE
We're safe here. They won't find us.

HAL
And if they do?

MOSE
Then I guess we'll die. Horrible deaths. After lots of crying. Remember last time?

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE OF FOOTAGE, ADDITIONAL

Hal and Mose are piloting the ship through the asteroid belt again, this time two Cutlass ships are chasing them. Just as they are closing in, Hal and Mose's ship jumps to FTL.

BACK ON HAL AND MOSE

MOSE

We made it through that okay.

HAL

That's exactly my point. I don't like getting shot at. Remember [name of location based on footage used]?

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE OF FOOTAGE #2.

Hal and Mose take the ship down rough on a landing pad only to be held at gunpoint and escorted to a holding center.

BACK ON HAL AND MOSE

MOSE

They tortured us that time, didn't they?

HAL

I don't understand how you can be so flippant about it.

MOSE

That's funny.
(beat)
Heads.

HAL

Wasn't trying to be. You know what we need?

MOSE

A pro's and con's list?

HAL

A pro's and con's list. Pro: a steady paycheck.

MOSE

Except for that time on [name of location based on footage used].

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE OF FOOTAGE #3.

Big expansive exteriors of beautiful location.

It needs to be shiny and civilized...

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK STILL, EXT. LANDING PAD

So this is funny: Hal and Mose are running for their lives towards their ship from someone shooting at them.

BACK ON HAL AND MOSE

Mose is laughing.

HAL

You had to sleep with the consulate's daughter.

Mose just shrugs.

MOSE

Pro: lots of women in various ports of call.

HAL

Pro: lots of down time for reading.
(pause)
You don't read.

MOSE

(overlapping)
I don't read.

MOSE (CONT'D)

Con: I have to listen to you talk about whatever you're reading morning, noon, and night.

HAL

Pro: you receive an enriched world view.
(beat)
Pro: it's a safe cover from whoever "they" were.

Mose stops flipping the coin.

HAL (CONT'D)

You know. "Them."

Off Mose:

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE OF FOOTAGE #4

Hal and Mose are piloting the ship through a fire-fight of some sort. Beyond the windows in the control room, there are ships dogfighting with one another.

At least three U.E.E. FIGHTERS are chasing down Hal and Mose.

BACK ON HAL AND MOSE

Mose sighs. Continues flipping the coin.

MOSE

Con: always hiding out from your father like the big boys we are.

HAL

Pro: we get to see the universe.

MOSE

Con: and get shot at, beat up, and put in danger ever single day of our miserable little working lives.

Hal's tone changes.

HAL

I'm genuinely pleased to hear you say that. So I'll put in our notices after we get back.

MOSE

Wait. What? Listen we have to-

Another ALARM blares.

CUT TO:

BACK ON HAL AND MOSE

Now they are sitting on bunks across from one another. Both are now wearing HELMETS.

MOSE

What does this remind you of?

HAL

The time before last time.

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE OF FOOTAGE #4.

Hal and Mose wearing helmets in a different ship. Camera pulls back into an exterior shot to reveal they're in an asteroid belt floating in space.

BACK ON HAL AND MOSE

MOSE

Why the sudden urge to up and quit?

HAL

I'm just tired of it. Tired of slumming it. We're the bottom of the totem pole, the guys that the shit rolls downhill towards. We should get out, go on some adventures.

EXT. SHIP

The Cutlass passes by again, much closer than before.

BACK ON HAL AND MOSE -- THAT MOMENT

Hal and Mose turn towards the cockpit and see a shadow cross over the windshield. Another near miss.

They return to their conversation without missing a beat.

MOSE

You have the wanderlust.

HAL

Yes! Wanderlust.

MOSE

So we have a bad day at work and you want to pack up and leave?

HAL

We've had nothing but bad days. We only have bad days. Look we've needed a place to hide out; you from... you know, whatever, and me from my family, but come on! Aren't you tired of the endless parade of nearly getting killed day in and day out?

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE OF FOOTAGE #5.

We see a parade of scenes: them nearly getting killed day in and day out.

BACK ON HAL AND MOSE

MOSE

We get time off. You could travel then.

HAL

You know what your problem is? You don't have any interests. Like a hobby.

MOSE

Oh, I have hobbies.

HAL

Yeah, like what?

MOSE

I do the coin thing.

HAL

I mean like I have with my books.

MOSE

Then I do have a hobby. I listen to you talk.

HAL

We did this job for a while, and it sucked. Now let's do something I want to do.

MOSE

Okay, what's your plan?

HAL

We should stop talking.

MOSE

Why?

HAL

Conserve oxygen.

MOSE

We have the tanks on the other suits. We'll be fine.

HAL
But what if it's like that time on
[name of location based on footage
used]?

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE OF FOOTAGE #6.

Off Hal: this is clearly a memory that he has alone.

He was lying to Mose because he's actually remembering something really beautiful and scenic.

BACK ON HAL AND MOSE

 HAL
It was terrible, we almost died.

 MOSE
I wasn't on [name of location based
on footage used], I was-

He catches himself before telling too much.

 HAL
See what I did there?

 MOSE
Cute.

EXT. ASTEROID FIELD -- THAT MOMENT

Another company ship shows up and engages the pirate Cutlass.

They exchange fire, dogfighting through the asteroids, before the Cutlass takes a blast too many, and escapes.

INT. HAL AND MOSE -- AFTERWARDS

The INTERCOM crackles to life.

 INTERCOM
Heya, boys. Somebody call for a
lift?

Hal gets up and goes to the control panel, switching the comms on.

 HAL
Thought you'd never get here. I
mean seriously.

INTERCOM

Mose is he crying like the last
time.

MOSE

(speaking up)

No, that was the time before last
time.

INTERCOM

It happens so often that I forget.
Prep your docking coupling. See in
a few.

The intercom goes silent and Hal takes his finger off the
button. They're alone again.

MOSE

Let's say, hypothetically, that we
leave. Where do we go? What do you
want to do?

Close on Hal.

FLASH FORWARD SEQUENCE OF FOOTAGE #7.

Montage of universe footage, beautiful scenery, exotic
locations, and wonderful adventures. Much like the previous
montage, but more hopeful in tone.

BACK ON HAL AND MOSE

HAL

Whatever we want.

FADE OUT.