



Scene 2: A Broken Wing (Control Room)

Year 4395 IMC (in the Modern Calendar)

Location:

Blue Phoenix Mission Control

The mission was to go to station IMS-10 (abandoned by Tursa sixty years ago, and therefore available for salvage), a small station still in geosynchronous orbit. The crew of the Falcon IV capsule, which includes Blue Phoenix's first spacefaring astronaut as well as Mission Specialists Kevin Isley and Barbara Williams, were sent there with an eye towards assessing repairs, and the hope of turning the IMS-10 into a base for further missions.

It was going well. And then it was not - really not: Kevin Isley is dead. Barbara Williams is unconscious. Both Barbara and the last remaining astronaut are in the Falcon IV capsule, and have declared quarantine.

The surviving astronaut is still in communication and has reported the accidental release of a bioweapons agent; the IMS-10 was apparently a secret Tursan bioweapons research facility. This led to the death of Mr. Isley and the illness of Ms. Williams. If true, this means the capsule may be compromised. Quarantine procedures in place would dictate the destructive sterilization of the Falcon IV capsule, overriding autopilot safety controls so that the capsule burns up on re-entry.

At and as Mission Control, Taylor Orkney used the remote auxiliary control systems to detach the Falcon IV capsule from the station and called an all hands meeting for input on the decision. And as per pre-established protocol, this is **Mission Control's call**.

[CHARACTER SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOLLOWS]

C. J. Orkney

Kevin Isley was a good person, and you feel the pang of the loss. And Barbara sick? And the third astronaut pushing essentially for a heroic suicide?

The Falcon IV capsule would be a very expensive loss. You know the procedures - of course you know them. And it's ultimately Junior's call, even to call to override those procedures.

You don't know if you can write them off like this. An ostrich in the dirt still breathes air.