

## [Scene 4C]

### Taylor Orkney

Light this *reth*ing candle while you still can. If the military takes control, Blue Phoenix will not boost another civilian astronaut into space for years.

The thing is, this is a full dress rehearsal of every mission system prior to launch. Phoenix One could fly, if systems aren't shut down at the end of the countdown. Everyone in the control room and the support stations around the world are practicing today. Everyone has simulated the post-launch procedures repeatedly for months, from the moment of ignition until the moment the Phoenix One Commander steps onto the surface of Bery. The primary crew - Heath, Cranmoor, and Enfield, have been working together for a year for this flight. The backup crew - you, Edwards, and Hewitt, have been working just as hard and just as long, prepared to step in as needed. Everyone is ready to fly.

C.J. could make this happen. You're an adult, you can make your own decisions. C.J. could finally remove the shackles around your ankles and let you fly.

You also know that C. J. has mortgaged Blue Phoenix to the hilt, along with everything else C. J. owns. Very few people probably realize how close C. J. has pushed Blue Phoenix to the brink of disaster. If you don't fly, Blue Phoenix goes under, to be gobbled up by greedy enemies with no vision. They'll sell the technology and the spacecraft to the military, and you'll never get to walk on Bery. Emera will return to being a second-rate country, bullied by the bigger and stronger countries of the world.