

The Cosmonaut (Light Script -no spoilers-)

Nicolás Alcalá

Creative Commons BySaNc

hello@thecosmonaut.org

1 TERRACE. EXT. DAY

Sign: 1961

Krushev, sitting in a terrace among other people, watches the takeoff of a huge rocket. Some people in suit are with him. Some waiters pass by them serving something on the table. One of them gets closer and whispers something in his ear. The roar of the engines makes the glasses vibrate.

MEN 1

What are you going to answer
Kennedy?

Krushev laughs self-satisfied without stop looking the rocket rise.

KHRUSCHEV

If we are going to the moon, we
are going alone.

2 STAR CITY STREETS. EXT. DAY

Andrei and Stan arrive to Star City in a bus with other new soldiers. They are two young, handsome and strong soldiers, about 25 year-old. Stan wears a a pilot suit. They look at each other and laugh excited. Stan has two pieces of cotton with dried blood in his nose.

STAN

Are you sure we are gonna meet
more girls in here?

ANDREI

Are you mad? We are not gonna be
able to stop. It's gonna be wild.

They walk through the city, watching common scenes: cosmonaut women walking with their children, some cars, soldiers patrolling.

ANDREI

Are we far away from Moscow?

Stan shrugs. A couple of fighters pass by and everyone stick their faces to the bus window looking up to them.

3 CORRIDOR 1. INT. DAY

Andrei and Stan, together with the other new soldiers, pick up their new uniforms. It's a wide corridor full of people and noise, and soldiers walking slowly to and fro. Some women give them the clothes from a counter. It's a first day of school atmosphere.

4 CORRIDOR 2. INT. DAY

Stan and Andrei walk through a chaotic corridor looking for their rooms. They see a cosmonaut dressed as a military passing by them and they look each other full of excitement.

5 CANTEEN. INT. DAY

Both eat sitting at a table in a common canteen with long tables and full of light. All the tables are full of young excited soldiers making noise. There is smoke, kitchen sounds and people walking to and fro.

Stan talks about a traditional game of that time and asks another soldier how is it played. The soldier explains it to him.

ANDREI

This is horrible. Are they gonna feed us like this? It doesn't taste like (pretending a deep voice) "the chosen by the country to make a great nation"

Everyone laughs.

6 CORRIDOR 3. INT. NIGHT

It is night already, Stan walks through a lonely corridor alone. He brushes the wall with his fingers, even some objects. Everything is completely silent and there is few light. He finally gets to a partially lit room, where a woman in a white coat has just gone out. He gets in.

7 HYPERBARIC CHAMBER PRE-ROOM. INT. NIGHT

There is a small window that overlooks to a hermetic chamber. He looks through it and he sees a cosmonaut quietly reading with some electrodes connected to his chest. It's the isolation chamber where cosmonauts spend two weeks completely alone. The man calmly stands up, without noticing him, takes the electrodes off and throws away a cotton they hold without any worry. The room suddenly starts to burn, lightening Stan's face, who is not able to respond. The alarm rings and some seconds later there is a chaos of people. Stan cannot stop looking.

8 CANTEEN. INT. DAY

The next day, during breakfast, everyone whispers and gossips. A high ranking military about 50 gets into the room and everyone keeps quiet. His steps resound in his way to Stan's table. He looks around. He leaves a closed envelope by his side. Stan looks at him for a second, and puts it in his uniform. The soldier looks around, examining them. He finally leaves

9 ROCKET BAY. INT. DAY

Andrei goes round a Star City bay where there are engines and rockets. He walks among some other technicians, all of them in white coats. There are soldiers around. Andrei takes a couple of photographs with accuracy. A soldier comes closer.

SOLDIER 1

You will have to sign some papers, and hand over copies of the photographs.

Andrei nods.

ANDREI

I want to study them later. There is no problem.

Meanwhile, the technician guiding them doesn't stop speaking.

TECHNICIAN 1

...thus, we are in an exciting moment of the space race. We can say the cosmos is at our feet. A vast universe to discover with this huge powerful machines. The grandness of the Soviet Union in the service of a mission bigger than ourselves. Besides, we have the most advanced technology, enough to prevent the United States to snatch the space sovereignty. Friends, the cosmos belongs to the Soviet Union.

10 WOODS. EXT. DAY

Stan pays a young soldier some roubles and the soldier gives him a folder.

11 STAN'S ROOM. INT. DUSK

Stan looks at the folder in his room. They are western magazine cuttings talking about missing cosmonauts, mysterious flights emitting acoustic signals, a woman screaming re-entering the atmosphere before dying.

12 LIBRARY. INT. DAY

Chelomei, a 53 year-old man with a sullen look, wearing a quite worn suit too big for him, checks some maps full of numbers in a library.

He stands up to check some books. He sits down again. He draws lines and circles.

ANDREI (OFF)

The first months have passed double-quick time. The hours move away between trainings and study time. Star City is a dream. All the great minds of the country are here, thinking how to go a step further. At present, there are three task forces, leaded by Koroliov, Chelomei and Yangel. They plan to conquer the space, and Chelomei has started to develop an ambitious lunar project: The R-700 rocket and its landing module, the LK-700.

13 BAIKONUR. EXT. DAY

A rocket takes off in the distance and blows up in pieces.

Sign: 1967

Andrei and Stan look at the sky, lied on a meadow, nibbling the blades of what seems wheat.

STAN (OFF)

Krushev downfall and Korolyov death have changed a lot of things in Star City. But it's still the same for us. We train every day. My hands have already commanded a plane for more than a thousand hours. Andrei could take a rocket apart and put it together again blindfolded. We haven't met as many girls as we thought, but there is so much to do that we forget about it sometimes. Star City is like an island.

14 COMMUNICATION ROOM. INT. DAY

Star City communication room is dark and full of communication panels. There is a board with drawn orbits and tens of calculations. Some technicians push buttons in endless console tables, and some militaries walk to and fro with files in their hands. Gagarin, turned back, give some orders to Komarov, a cosmonaut having countless problems in orbit.

Everyone keeps silent. Kamanin, the cosmonaut boss, gets closer to Gagarin and asks him for the communicator.

KAMANIN

Vladimir, Kamanin speaking.
 (silence) Yes, yes. (silence). I
 know, comrade. (a long silence)
 Good luck. Minister Kosygin also
 wants to talk to you.

Kamanin gives Alekséi Kosygin the communicator. The silence is extremely deep.

KOSYGIN

Comrade... You are a pride for
 the USSR. And it is a pride for
 us to have you as a brother. The
 party have asked me to tell you
 that the funeral will be
 official, and in the Kremlin...
 If anything happens.

15 ANNEXE ROOM. INT. DAY

Another room, next to the other one, this one is full of daylight, and it allows to see the flecks of dust floating sad and sleepy.

Andrei walks slowly with the cosmonaut wife. Her steps are short and ungainly. In the way, he exchanges a look with Yulia, a twentyish girl, fair skin, and deep eyes, who is making some connections in the main room. The cosmonaut wife takes a communicator given by Andrei.

She starts crying before placing it on her ear. Andrei closes the door slowly leaving her alone with him.

16 COMMUNICATION ROOM. INT. DAY

Kamanin gets closer to Andrei and shakes his hand.

KAMANIN

You have done a good work. You
 can leave, if you want.

(CONTINUED)

ANDREI

I would rather prefer to stay
here til the end.

Yulia looks at him out of the corner of her eye. Kamanin nods gratefully.

TECHNICIAN

Lunar orientation manouvre
accomplished. The fuel is almost
gone and systems went down. The
rocket is in ballistic mode for
re-entry. The acceleration is
going to be great.

Yulia starts to transcribe in whispers what Komarov says.

KAMANIN

(in a low voice, to a
soldier)

Change the rescue measures. It is
going to fall down in the Orsk
area.

Everyone look at Yulia. Andrei gets closer and unplugs the headphones jack. The cosmonaut voice fills the silence.

KOMAROV (OFF)

It's really hot in here. No light
turns on, and nothing works in
this damned machine. You can tell
the fucking party to go to hell.
To hell. It's really hot. We
shouldn't fly under these
conditions. Not like this. Shit.
The main parachute doesn't open.
It doesn't open. I'm burning
alive. The spare parachute...
shit. Shit! It's too hot in here.

Finally, some hair-raising screams are heard. None can move. Kamanin goes to the console table and turns the communication off. Yulia moves away a bit shocked. Kosygin gets out of the room muttering angrily.

17

LANDING STRIP. EXT. DAY

Stan walks slowly towards a fighter in the middle of a landing strip. It's getting dark. He touches it smoothly with his fingers when he gets to it. He brushes the polished surfaces in an almost religious attitude.

Already in the cabin, he smoothly turns the controls on. He notices a little vibration. He breaths deeply, and rubs his eyes.

18 STAR CITY. EXT. DAY

Andrei talks to Yulia.

YULIA (OFF)

Andrei was the first one in asking me out. I said no.

19 STAR CITY. EXT. DAY

Stan talks to Yulia.

YULIA (OFF)

Then, Stan came. I didn't accept either.

20 STAR CITY. EXT. DAY

Stan and Andrei talk to Yulia.

YULIA (OFF)

Then, they both tried at the same time. At the end, we played cat and mouse in a strange triangle, and we became friends.

21 CATEEN. INT. DAY

They look for each other in the canteen, the three of them in different tables. They change places, running away from each other, to finally sit together, ignoring each other. They smile amused, looking at their plates.

22 STAR CITY. EXT. DAY

Yulia is outdoors talking to other girls, and Stan and Andrei pass by her running, training, in sweated t-shirts. She looks at them out of the corner of the eye. A second later, they pass again in the other way in a comical manner. They wave at her. She looks down to the earth in embarrassment. The other girls look at them with tender eyes. They pass a third time and wave at her again, containing a laugh. She keeps looking at the ground smiling.

YULIA (OFF)

The country is crazy these days. At school, children are told we are going to blow up into pieces at any time now, and the thirst for conquering the space has become a race to beat the United States. In the meantime, we try

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

YULIA (OFF) (cont'd)
not to grow up, but nothing is
the same as when we were
teenagers. We are more worried
now about The Beatles future, but
that space up there is still
turning my stomach.

23 CINEMA. EXT. NIGHT

Sign: 1969

Stan gets out of a cinema in Moscow with a girl, laughing together.

24 ANDREI'S ROOM. INT. DUSK

Yulia is lying in Andrei's room. He is too. They are listening to a vinyl and Andrei plays with something in his hands.

YULIA
Do you think he has already
kissed her?

ANDREI
(absent-minded)
What does it matter?

He hits the air with his fingers, following the music.

YULIA
I'm sure they are holding hands.

The clock hands move slowly. The crickets sing outside.

YULIA
What if she is a serial killer?

Both stay quiet. The disc has finished and the only sound is the stylus spinning around.

ANDREI
What do you think it will happen
when they land?

She looks at him out of the corner of the eye. Then she looks at the ceiling. She sighs. She curls up into his arms.

25 SEVERAL. INT. DAWN

Several people in several houses listen carefully to the radio. They are pirate or American radios broadcasting Neil Armstrong's Moon landing.

26 PARK. EXT. NIGHT

Stan walks with the girl in a park in Moscow. The streets are deserted.

They have an unimportant conversation.

GIRL

My uncle is in the army. He told me that we tried to get to the moon first. Just before they did, but the rocket blew up. Don't you think they would have told us?

Stan shrugs. He stops. He kisses her. He looks at the moon out of the corner of the eye, bright and white.

STAN (OFF)

The N1... The ego has no limits. I hope it's not true, the space in my dead or missing cosmonauts list is nearly finished.

27 BREHZNEV'S HOUSE. INT. NIGHT

A living-room just lit by the light coming from a room where junk and clothes fly away. Hits and mumbles are heard. Some insults. A woman tries to calm the fury down from the outside.

BREHZNEV'S WIFE

Leonid, darling, it's not the end of the world.

More hits. Inside, Brezhnev complains, drunk.

BREHZNEV

It's not fair. It's very unfair. We are the ones who should be up there. We are the ones, not that stupid Neil Armstrong and his stupid partner. What's his name? Ah, yes, Buldrin. Have we done it that bad? I'm sure I get fired. (he does this drunkard stop after realizing the nonsense of what he's just said). Ah, no. Not that.

28 CORRIDORS. INT. DAY

In a long sequence shot, Andrei walks through the long corridors of the space center. He sees Kamanin talking to someone in the distance and gets closer to him. He touches his arm gently.

ANDREI
Have you seen the images?

Kamanin nods.

KAMANIN
I heard they almost don't make it.

ANDREI
What's going to happen now with the OBK-52? Are they going to allow Chelomei to continue?

Kamanin moves his head with a face between ignorance and denial.

KAMANIN
I have to go. Are you coming to have lunch later? Valentina wants to meet you.

Andrei nods and keeps on his way. He goes out.

29 ANDREI'S ROOM. INT. DUSK

Yulia gets quietly into Andrei's room. She stops for a while to look at the surfaces. She breaths the air coming from the window. She takes something out from under the bed. It's a photographic album. They are images about rockets and technology. Artistic photographs, very meticulous, with weird camera angles and a great aesthetic sense. Very delicate compositions, without meaning. Suddenly, she hears an explosion.

30 ANDREI[PLEASEINSERT\PRERENDERUNICODE{ĂĂŽ}INTOPREAMBLE]S ROOM, INT. DAY

Andrei looks through the room's window. His eyes are bandaged and his face os badly bruised. Stan comes in, leaving his bag on the bed. He's breathing fast.

STAN
We've started the free fall training. You should come with me! It's like flying!

Andrei breathes a drug/substance from an inhaler. He even does not turn around to look at Stan.

(CONTINUED)

ANDREI

They have told me I could see again.

STAN

Great! I told you.

He gently hits Andrei on the shoulder and then he throws in the bed. Andrei is looking outside again.

ANDREI

I will never flight again. They told me I couldn't train any more.

Stan rises.

STAN

Hey, come on, come on. It doesn't matter.

Andrei leaves his chair, touched. He rubs his face and gives some paces, nervous. He trips over the chair.

ANDREI

I will never go to space, you know? Never.

STAN

Ok, but you could do a bunch of other stuff. You're alive, Andrei. You got your photos, your work, your studies, your rockets. You got Yulia and me. Think about that: sometimes you've got to lose your wings to fly higher.

31 LANDING STRIP. EXT. DAY

Stan y Yulia are in the landing strip. The wind blows and the flags are fluttering. Its coludí. Yulia stares into the void.

YULIA

I wonder how it's not to be able to see.

She takes a handkerchief and covers her eyes with it. The strands shake. Stan gets closer.

STAN

Blind people have more acute senses. They can hear things we can't even imagine. The can feel much more deep. When you're up there... Sometimes all that it's more important than to see.

(CONTINUED)

They both notice they are too much closer and all the sparks and chemistry around them, so they become away uncomfortably. She put down the handkerchief.

STAN

Andrei is not going to be blind,
but he will not fly anymore.

YULIA

What?

STAN

He has been told today. The
medical results have been sent to
the Politburó and to Kamanin.

She makes a face, puts her hand in her lips, and goes running to the buildings. Stan keeps watching her and now he ties the handkerchief in his eyes.

32 ANDREI'S ROOM. INT. DAY

Andrei is combing his hair at the mirror, his eyes still bandaged. He becomes frustrated. He start to unruffle his hair with his hands until he thinks it's perfect. He buttons up his shirt. He sets his necktie right.

33 YULIA'S ROOM. INT. DAY

Yulia is modelling spheres with clay, sitting by the window at a wooden table. She wets her fingers to round smoothly the sphere. By its side there are a few others, the finished ones, in the likeness of planets, each with its rings and oddities.

34 FOREST. EXT. DAY

Stan is training in the forest. He makes some exercises and seems exhausted. He exterts himself even more.

35 STAR CITY. EXT. DAY

Andrei talks with some high-ranking officers over there. They look pleased with him.

36 BATHROOM. INT. DAY

Andrei takes off the bandage in front of the mirror of a restroom. He looks at his dilated pupils in the mirror. He blinks.

37 COMMUNICATION'S ROOM INT. DAY

Yulia is working with switches and lines on her workplace. Far away she sees Andrei talking with another officer.

38 STAN'S ROOM. INT. DUSK

Stan studies until dawn. He tosses and turns in bed.

39 LIVING ROOM INT. NIGHT

A few officers are playing cards in a room at night. Andrei shows his face and they make him go in, while laughing.

40 STAR CITY. EXT. DAY

Yulia and Stan, lying on the grass, looking at the sky. They're breathing fresh air. They don't say a word. Andrei joins them, without speaking either.

41 DINNING ROOM. INT. DAY

Stan and Andrei are telling a story to some colleagues in the dinning room, they're very focused. From another table Yulia looks at them, fascinated. She smiles.

42 OFFICE. INT. DAY

In an office Andrei sings his membership card of the communist party. It's stamped.

43 ANDREI'S ROOM. INT. DAY

Andrei gets all the cosmonaut stuff from his room and puts it on a box. Yulia looks at him from the door.

44 WOODS. EXT. DIA

Andrei and Yulia are standing next to a tree. She touches his arm.

YULIA

Are you sure?

He smiles with difficulty and buries them next to the tree

Sign: 1971

45 FILE IMAGES

In slow motion we see file images of the death of the tribulation of the Soyuz 11. Several people try to reanimate the cosmonauts, with no success.

STAN (OFF)

When they told Vasily Mishin, the new chief of the Russian space program, the doubts of the cosmonauts about flying without an emergency system, his answer was " I don't want cowards on my spacecrafts". On June 29th three more cosmonauts died due to a decompression problem during the reentering. They lost their lives because of a small hole of a few millimeters that could've been blocked with a finger. [Images of the attempts of reanimation of the three cosmonauts, in slow motion, and after of the funeral in the Kremlin]

Now we see images of the funeral for the three pilots in the Kremlin.

STAN (OFF)

I once heard an old pilot say that nature doesn't give its secrets easily. It always claims victims in exchange.

46 ROOM. INT. DAY

We see Stan in a room with other pilots. They're reading names from a list.

STAN (OFF)

Although lately, not all has been bad news. They've finally named me a cosmonaut. Cos-mo-naut...

When they say Stan's name, he stands up, nods gratefully and sits back. Andrei shows a half smile, between pride and jealousy.

47 TAVERN. INT. NIGHT

Andrei, Yulia and Stan are having a drink in a tavern. Between bottles of vodka a multicolor view shines on a shelf. They're a bit drunk. They laugh. They play keeping balance and hand games with the officer hats. The three of them dance together. They have vodka shots and pickles. Yulia, very drunk, reproaches Stan.

(CONTINUED)

YULIA

How can you criticize a
government that gives you
everything?

STAN

Is true, I forgot about the
glory, the homeland and all that.

Andrei puts on a face of circumstances. All has become a
bit serious.

48 CAR. INT. NIGHT

Stan is very focused driving through a deserted and dark
road. Yulia is sitting next to him listening to music with
her eyes closed. Andrei is on the back, he leans a bit
forward and puts his hand on her naked shoulder. She sees
the hand, and sees him through the rear view mirror
without him noticing it, she touches his hand and closes
her eyes again. After a few minutes Stan smiles. The car
has stopped.

STAN

You ran out of gas

They all burst in laughter

49 ROAD. EXT. DAWN

The sun is coming out and the car remains abandoned on a
ditch of a secondary deserted road.

50 ENTRANCE TO STAR CITY. EXT. DAWN.

Andrei, Yulia and Stan; arrive at the door hand in hand,
llegan caminando de la mano, looking rough and tired.

GUARD

Halt. Identify yourselves,
please.

The three of them laugh, still slightly drunk, tired but
happy.

The guards aggressively hold them as they calm down,
showing them their cards. They allow them to pass.

51 KAMANIN'S HOME. INT. DAY

Andrei arrives at Kamanin's house. His wife opens the door.

KAMANIN'S WIFE

Hi Andrei. Come in, come in.

Andrei holds Kamanin's hand who is preparing food.

KAMANIN

How are your eyes?

ANDREI

Fine, fine. Now I can almost read at night and see clearly from a distance.

KAMANIN

I'm very glad. And I'm happy that you came today, Andrei.

The atmosphere is relaxed and inviting. Andrei moves closer to the boy and girl who are playing.

ANDREI

Vladimir, Valentina. I have brought a small gift which I prepared myself. Come here.

He gives each one a little light with a small battery and puts it next to his finger. He explains how to play: when they press the button with their index finger and thumb, the light goes on and illuminates their fingers as if they had light in their hands. Then one throws it (releasing the button) and the other one receives it pressing the button. The children are thrilled and play as they leave, throwing the light at each other and bouncing it everywhere. Kamamin smiles. Andrei moves towards him.

KAMANIN

I asked you to come to give you some news and introduce you to someone.

ANDREI

Something important? Are you ok?

KAMANIN

I'm going to retire. I don't want to bore you with the reasons why. I don't want to talk about it. But at last I would like to introduce you to Chelomei. I have dealt with him quite a lot during the last years. His work group, OBK-52, is absolutely impressive.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KAMANIN (cont'd)

His designs and prototypes are way ahead from the ones that Korolyov developed now Mishin. The N1 is a dead project, and somehow, its all about politics my friend. Maybe someday you'll be able to change things. You'll do well. But I want you to meet him. I told him you would be his right hand at the complex. He can count on you... Have I been right?

ANDREI

I... Of course. Of course.

Kamanin finishes the dish he was preparing and moves towards the table.

KAMANIN

Valentina, Vladimir, Valentinova, come to the table. Come on, Andrei. After the meal I'll tell you more about it. Vladimir will be here in a while.

52 YULIA'S HOME. INT. DAY

Stan, sitting in Yulia's apartment, observes her plants in delicate clay pots. She prepares something in the kitchen. Stan observes fascinated by each of her movements. Silence amplifies every sound. He looks towards the front with a cup in his hand. She appears with a tray with coffee. When she lets it down, a little spoon falls. They both move to get it at the same time. They look at each other in silence. He lets it go, she shyly offers it to him. He looks at his cup with another spoon inside. He then gets it as he continues looking at her. She leaves looking down at the ground. Both their faces are almost inexpressive.

STAN (OFF)

I've always been afraid to compromise with anything. I've never discovered why. I guess it's not about the compromise with the certain object or person, just that doors close. Forbidden paths shouldn't necessarily be better, its just that frustration about something prohibited which makes it irresistible.

I'm afraid about compromise, not just because you stop

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STAN (OFF) (cont'd)
experiencing something but its
scary to stop experiencing
something.

A shot inside Stan's pocket shows the spectator he kept
the spoon.

53 ROCKETS SPACECRAFT. INT. DAY

Sign: 1973

Andrei works at the constructing building. He gives
instructions to various scientists and workers, he
supervises innumerable data from calculations about
rockets. He takes photographs. He looks at his watch and
leaves.

54 CHANGING ROOM. INT. DAY

Andrei changes clothes and puts his uniform on.

55 STAR CITY. EXT. DAY

He walks around Star City until he arrives at the training
swimming pools door. He looks back at his watch.

Stan is coming out, he just got dressed, his hair is still
wet. They smile and hug.

STAN
Grateful eyes. How long has it
been since I saw you, one week?

Andrei smiles, excusing himself.

ANDREI
Soon will be the next release,
you know that. The preparations
are driving me crazy. I wish I
could spend fewer hours with this
and enjoy more time swimming in
the pool.

He laughs and tangles Stan's hair.

STAN
Ey!

He also laughs. They start walking.

ANDREI
How is your cousin?

(CONTINUED)

STAN

Not so well.

ANDREI

Are you going to visit her? I can get you a permit.

STAN

No, no. Its too many kilometers from here. Does't matter. I'm calm and so is she. It will be nothing.

ANDREI

Hope so. She owes me a date.

He laughs. A group of young girls pass by and laugh and murmur.

STAN

(kidding)

Why do you have to irritate all the women I know. Since you got gallons and all the girls are mad about you, you're so tiring...

He laughs again and takes his hat off towards the girls who are leaving.

ANDREI

I told you I would be savage...

STAN

How is it going moving house?

ANDREI

I'll be installed next week. It's nearly ready. What about you? Are you planning to stay in that fresher's room all your life?

STAN

You kidding? With my pay I can only allow myself to sleep at a chair in the training building. It would still be impossible there. You know Alexei sleeps there and how uncomfortable the toilet is.

They both start laughing. A car passes by.

56

YULIA'S HOME. INT. DAY

Yulia delicately prepares three dishes, she's happy. A lot of light goes comes in to her apartment through the window. She prepares the cutlery, the glasses, all very delicately. Someone knocks at the door. Its Stan and Andrei. They greet and she hangs their jackets. She looks at a new insignia on the uniform.

YULIA

Have you been promoted again? I can't believe it! How long has it been? A couple of days?

Andrei laughs.

ANDREI

You used to wish me before.

STAN

Are you sure you're not planning to substitute Brehnev?

Andrei denies amused.

STAN

Conquer the world?

The three of them laugh.

YULIA

Come on, come on, come to the table, it's getting cold.

Stan plays music while Andrei finishes setting the table. Everything looks delicious.

STAN

Ouch. It even hurts when I breathe.

YULIA

Is the training hard?

STAN

More and more. Last week was a real test.

ANDREI

Come on, come on, mister cosmonaut. Stop complaining. You must be the most fortunate person in the world.

57 YULIAS HOME. INT. DAY

They're finishing coffee. Stan gets up and looks out the window.

STAN
I must leave and finish some documents. (he looks at Andrei).
Coming?

ANDREI
No. I have to speak to Yulia.

Uncomfortable situations.

STAN
Ooook. I don't want to disturb.

He grabs his coat. Yulia looks at Andrei, between naughty and annoyed. She moves her lips without talking.

YULIA (SIN SONIDO)
You're an idiot.

YULIA
Hey, jealous fellow, don't get irritated. You look like a girl.

STAN
Yeah, whatever. See you tomorrow

Stan leaves closing the door behind him.

ANDREI
I wanted to give you something to celebrate my promotion.

She looks at him defiant.

YULIA
You know/

Andrei gets up and gets a piece of jewellery from a little box. She doesn't say anything. Something changes in her expression. When she's about to say something Andrei interrupts.-

ANDREI
Don't say anything. Please. I don't want you to tell me that I'm going to spoil it all. Nor that it wasn't necessary. Nor any of those things you've said a thousand times. Just... kept it, ok?

He kisses her on the cheek, gets his coat and leaves. She looks at the beautiful piece and closes her eyes.

58 STAN'S ROOM. INT. DAY

Stan reads in his room. He moves. He writes. He cleans his boots. He speaks on the phone. He holds the spoon.

STAN (OFF)

Since the day we met Yulia, Andrei and I made a treat. Not to speak about her if she wasn't with us. We don't ask each other if we are attracted to her. We don't talk about how important she is to the two of us even though we both know that. I'll never tell Andrei that she seems the most perfect human being in the world. He won't tell me he dreams about her hair and eyes every night. Its ok as it is. Someday she'll choose although now that I think about it, it's not a question of choice. Some things one doesn't choose and others simply cannot happen.

59 ANDREI'S HOME. INT. DAY

Andrei puts order to his photographs in a house with no furniture, just boxes. He cuts them and puts them into his album.

ANDREI (OFF)

Brezhnev sent Chelomei a letter. "I can't make Mishin cancel the N1 even if we both know that monster is no more than a swollen cormorant. It will never fly. We put the first asterisk in the firmament. The first human being. We were the first to land on the white ground. We were the first to photograph the other side. The Moon was ours... I know we've had some differences in the past but I don't want to die without knowing what we step on. Without knowing we could have done it. What can we do dear Vladimir? How can we carry out what we yearn to do? Yours, Brezhnev". Chelomei answered. "Leonid, what happened should stay on Earth. I owe myself to Space. Its possible but letters are not safe. Lets meet." We has no idea then, but our lives were about to change.

60 YULIA'S HOUSE BATHROOM. INT. DAY

Andrei smokes nervously in Yulia's house bathroom. He is drumming his fingers on the sink. He reads the back label of a couple of generic beauty products. Yulia gets in and smiles seeing that he is as nervous as a boy the first day of school. She takes the cigarette out of his mouth.

YULIA

Come on, throw that away, you
silly boy. Calm down, it's gonna
be fine.

She sews the badge in his shoulder with a couple of stitches and arranges his shirt collar. He smiles feeling looked after. They leave.

61 YULIA'S HOUSE. INT. DAY

She kisses him in the cheek. She puts the coat on him.

YULIA

Call me when you get there.

62 STAN'S ROOM. INT. DAY

Stan, leaned over Yulia's legs, plays with a couple of space rocket miniatures. He makes noises with his mouth, he makes them crash and land. Yulia looks at the ceiling, caressing Stan's hair in silence. After a while, she talks to him without looking at him.

YULIA

I can't stand it any longer.
Let's go for a walk.

STAN

What if he calls?

YULIA

You're right. Do you have
anything to eat? I can't bear it
any longer.

STAN

There are some berries in that
bag.

Stan sits up and both eat while the clock ticks. Stan looks at Yulia eating cranberries as the most erotic thing in the world. After a while, the telephone rings and they both rush towards it.

63 HOTEL HALL. INT. DAY

Andrei calls from a phone in a hotel or office hall.

ANDREI

You're not gonna believe it.
Seriously, you're not gonna
believe it.

64 STAN'S ROOM. INT. DAY

Stan and Yulia, after hanging up, gaze into the distance without believing it.

YULIA

Apolo-Soyuz...

STAN

The Americans training here...

YULIA

I think the played a joke on him.

65 CANTEEN. INT. NIGHT

Andrei and Yulia dance salsa in the canteen, where all the tables have been removed and a party is carried on. There are some other couples dancing as well in the dance floor. Stan dances with a young lady. They both laugh and have fun.

ANDREI

It's too much responsibility.

YULIA

That has never stopped you. Don't fake that sad face, you've been looking for this more than two years.

ANDREI

Yes, but I've never imagined that it would be something like this. Working with the NASA is... It's like suddenly working with the enemy. What hapenned with all those stories? All the speeches about being the leaders conquering the space?

YULIA

Andrei, look around, that was ten years ago.

(CONTINUED)

ANDREI

You are probably right.

YULIA

I am...

Yulia leans on Andrei's shoulder and keeps on dancing. She looks at Stan. Stan also looks at her. She closes her eyes when there is a slower tune playing. He does the same when he sees her. They both dance together in the distance.

66 LAKE. EXT. DUSK

Yulia dives in a lake at dusk.

YULIA (OFF)

My relationship with Andrei and Stan is like the one of three siblings at the age of hormonal changes, when you prefer to experience than to do the proper thing. It's like we are always about to commit incest. Our games become more and more real. I wonder what's going to happen when we cross any border. But, to be honest with myself, I prefer not to know. I wish everything could stay like this forever. In the meantime, there is less people in the city. The programs have been cut. It seems to be disintegrating. It's like we all have lost our interest in the space up there. There are some days left to end the year. They called Stan yesterday to go to Baikonur. What for? I cannot even imagine.

67 TRAIN. INT. NIGHT

Stan travels in a train to Baikonur in New Year's Eve. He sees the lights passing by on the way.

68 ANDREI'S HOUSE. INT. NIGHT

Fireworks explode in Star City. A couple of pilots fly in low level and the shadows are projected in the floor and the buildings. Yulia and Andrei have dinner at his place. He has prepared a special dinner, with candles and wine. They have dinner in silence. She listens to the fireworks outside and stands up, picking up her plate.

(CONTINUED)

YULIA

We should leave now, it's gonna
be 12.

He also stands up and gently holds her arm. He sees the brooch he gave her, she is wearing it. He talks to her almost in a whisper from really close.

ANDREI

Let's stay here. Toast with me
and let's dance all night.
Please.

She feels uncomfortable and looks at her with glassy eyes. She releases her arm and takes her coat.

YULIA

I wait for you downstairs.

69 ANDREI'S HOUSE. EXT. NIGHT

The clouds pass in fast-forward over a cosmonaut statue. Fireworks. Yulia walks some metres from the front door, doing up his coat.

70 SEVERAL RESOURCES. NIGHT

Music in the city. People in the streets. Planes passing over Star City.

71 TRAIN. INT. NIGHT

Stan's train rattles in the tracks.

72 CASA DE ANDREI. EXT. NOCHE

Yulia stops after some metres and goes back.

YULIA (OFF)

I made him clear that we are not
going to bed. I was uncomfortable
being alone with him, but it was
enough to have Stan kilometres
away tonight not to be with
Andrei either.

73 ANDREI'S ROOM. INT. DAY

Yulia and Andrei sleep in his bed, back-to-back, dressed.

74 SEVERAL RESOURCES. DAWN

Bottles being picked up by street sweepers at dawn.
Bottles in Andrei's apartment

75 ROOM. INT. DAY

Stan is in a meeting with some militaries and scientifics.
He listens to them, gazing into the distance.

76 BAIKONUR. EXT. DAY

Stan is guided through the city.

STAN (OFF)

I don't know if Andrei and Yulia
slept together last night. My
deal with Andrei prevents me from
asking. I don't want to know
either. I have been brought to
Baikonur to be told that I'll be
the first Russian on the moon.
The first one and the last one.
I've been training for this
mission for ten years, but I feel
sad. I've been told that there
are just half of the
possibilities of success. I
cannot stop thinking in Yulia. I
don't care about percentages

77 CORRIDORS. INT. DAY

Yulia goes through the station corridors with several
things in his arms. She gets to Stan's room and goes in
without knocking.

78 STAN'S ROOM. INT. DAY

Stan is looking wistful through the window and turns
round. Before being able to say anything, she starts
throwing him things, presents, in anger and about to cry.

STAN

What are you doing?

YULIA

You're a complete idiot.

When she finishes, she leaves.

79 CORRIDORS. INT. DAY

Stan runs to catch her up and holds her. She tries to release but he strongly holds her in his arms. He hugs her to calm her. She bursts into tears and tries to hit him. He hugs her stronger until she calms down.

YULIA
I don't want you to go.

STAN
I'm gonna be fine. Everything's
gonna be fine. Don't worry. Don't
worry.

He caress her until she surrenders. They keep hugging for a while. She leans her head in his chest.

YULIA
I hadn't cried since I was
twelve. You are stupid and I hate
you.

Stan laughs.

STAN
I hadn't made a girl cry for me
for a long time too... maybe
because I changed my perfume?

She starts laughing among tears. She looks at him.

YULIA
Promise me that you'll come back.

He dries a tear going down her cheek

80 OFFICE. INT. DAY

Chelomei, seated on a chair in his office, takes a glass of cuban rum from an unlabeled bottle.

Andrei goes round a bit nervous.

ANDREI
Do you know how many tons of
propellant you need to launch the
UR-700?

Chelomei stays quiet, looking at him.

ANDREI
Of course you know. I don't know
why I ask. If that thing blows
up, there is not going to be any
trace of life in that area for
next twenty years.

(CONTINUED)

CHELOMEI

Nonsense. We have been using it in missiles for years. It's totally functional.

ANDREI

Where are we going to get that amount of fuel? How are you going to manage to make our satellites or the Americans' not register the launch or the landing? Come on... You know it's insane.

Chelomei smiles. Looks around, complicit. He writes down "1- Nixon 2- Apolo-Soyuz"

81 ANDREI'S HOUSE. INT. DAY

Andrei makes calculations and calculations in countless sheets. He goes over maps and prototypes from the LK-700, the engines, the landing processes and the taking off from the Moon.

ANDREI (OOF)

I don't know what Brehnev gave them for the fuel and their silence. I don't know if it had to do with that Watergate scandal that is shocking the world these months. It doesn't matter. Sometimes ambition overlooks some things. Here I am, conspiring to achieve the dream of a whole generation of kids about touching the moon. Chelomei speaks with such an excitement about it... it almost seems easy. I wonder if this is not a personal revenge against Mishin. That doesn't matter either, Brehznev fired him at the end. It's been said that he talked about him as "a useless loss of ten years time". Now, Gushko is on charge.

82 TRAINING SWIMMING POOLS. INT. DAY

Stan takes the soaked suit by the training swimming pools. Some scientifics in white coats put some electrodes on his chest.

STAN (OFF)

Of all the cosmonauts and astronauts that have been in space, just twenty-four of them

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STAN (OFF) (cont'd)
have left the earth orbit and
have been "out there". None of
them russian.

83 CENTRIFUGE. INT. DAY

Stan spins around at high speed inside the centrifuge.
Some reflections pass by his helmet fast. Pressure gets
higher, 2G... 3G... 4G...

STAN (OFF)
All this technology. These
thousands of screws and nuts...
The mechanisms, electrodes,
conexions... (5G... <Stan's skin
starts to move>) All this
concentrated power, it is product
of the effort of hundreds of
working hours... (7G... <higher
pressure>) So much effort just
for one aim... To leave the
earth. (8G... <and higher>) To
run away. From God? From
ourselves? Too deep. We are much
simpler than that. (11G... <an
intense pain. He clenches the
teeth>) All those mathematic and
electric combinations. The
physical forces. All this
effort... (14G... <a spin, and
another one, and so on>) What
for? The smallest tendon in my
hands embarrasses all the modern
machinery. (16G... <an unbearable
pressure in front and hands>)

Stan faints for some seconds and that very moment the
training ends up.

84 TRAINING SWIMMING POOLS. INT. DAY

Yulia and Andrei look Stan's training in the swimming pool
from the outside. Andrei talks to Yulia, explaining
himself with his hands, enthusiastically.

ANDREI
When Soyuz and Apolo get
connected, it's going to be like
the dance of two birds courting,
and they slowly get closer until
they join together. In that
moment, they are going to become
a huge bird with two different
wings. Afterwards, when they

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANDREI (cont'd)
split up, Apolo will move a bit
making an artificial eclipse for
the Soyuz, as a peacock showing
its feathers, so our cosmonauts
can take photographs of the sun's
corona.

YULIA
And what about him? (She points
at Stan with her head).

ANDREI
It's going to be a little less
poetic. It's going to be
difficult for him.

They keep silent for a long while.

YULIA
How is Stan's rocket going to be
called?

ANDREI
I don't know yet. They ask me to
decide it. Any preference?

She keeps silent.

YULIA (OFF)
I heard a story once. It was
about a bird without legs. It
could only fly and fly and keep
on flying. When it got tired, it
slept in the wind. It only landed
once. The day it died.

85 ANDREI'S HOUSE. INT. DAY

Andrei draws sketches in a piece of sheet. He rubs them
out. He crosses out and starts again. He has some
photographs of a LK-700 lunar module on the table. He uses
transparencies to see how it will look on the rocket back.
He cares about every detail of the design and the balance.

ANDREI (OFF)
I heard a story once. It was
about a breed of South-American
kolibri. The males courted the
female in twos. The beaten off
bird rose its feathers for a
second and then it set off flying
towards the sun, until it died of
extenuation.

86 YULIA'S ROOM. INT. DAY

We see a shot of an old kolibri shaped pendant that Yulia is placing gently in a box. It has a red ribbon tied.

87 ANDREI'S HOUSE. INT. DAY

Andrei draws the kolibri symbol on the transparencies and writes it under.

88 SEVERAL. EXT/INT. DAY/NIGHT

Stan trains hard. He runs in the woods, swims in the swimming pools, does press-ups, medical tests, he wakes up when it's night yet and have a shower in cold water.

89 CENTRIFUGE. INT. DAY

Andrei supervises the training of the two cosmonauts of the Soyuz-Apolo mission in the centrifuge.

90 COMMUNICATION ROOM. INT. DAY

Yulia works by her communication panel.

91 BATHROOM 2. INT. DAY

Stan dips into a bath full of ice with some electrodes.

92 ROOM. INT. DAY

Andrei watches Leonov and Kubasov medical tests in a room. Stan passes by, together with a doctor, with a blanket on him, shivering, almost blue. He looks at him, and Stan, who notices it, stops to look at him as well.

ANDREI
(Smiling)
What happened?

STAN
You, politicians.... You should
look over the training processes.
I almost freeze in that damned
bath.

Andrei burst out laughing.

93 YULIA'S ROOM. INT. DAY

Yulia listens to something on the radio and runs out.

94 CORRIDOR. INT. DAY

She gets running to Andrei, who's talking fast to other people. They walk to the communication room and Stan joins them.

STAN
What's going on?

ANDREI
The soyuz 17 has had a problem in the launch and they have fallen to the earth. We don't know yet if they are still alive, and they might have fallen in chinese territory.

On the way, an assistant comes running and tells Stan there is a call for him. Stan splits up from the group and follows her. Some people runs in the corridors. Stan gets to a communal phone and answers. The conversation slowness contrast with the surroundings hysteria.

CHICA
Hi Stan... It's Maia.

STAN
(amazed)
Maia...

MAIA
Do you remember? We were dating when you were at the academy...

STAN
Yes, of course I do remember.
It's just that it didn't think that.

MAIA
(interrupting him)
I'm sorry I didn't call too much.

STAN
How long? Ten, twelve years?

People keeps running to and fro.

MAIA
I... I was wondering if you would like to have a drink. For the old times...

(CONTINUED)

STAN

Eh... now... it's a bit complicated. It's not a good time.

MAIA

Are you married? I understand.

STAN

(He can't believe it and he's almost laughing at the absurd situation)

No, no. It's not that. I'm not married.

MAIA

Oh, I understand. Well, maybe another time (she is very sad, realizing how absurd the call has been. There is a silence.)
Stan... Sorry for hurting you.

The sound of hanging up. Stan is still with the phone in his hand for a moment, while there is people running around.

95 YULIA'S HOUSE. INT. DAY

Yulia plays with a cosmonaut helmet on her bed.

YULIA (OFF)

The two cosmonauts have survived after bearing more than 20G of pressure, during the 20 minutes of the flight.

Yulia starts to press her body against the helmet, making slow but very erotic movements. She gets every feeling of the materials against her body.

YULIA (OFF)

How is to feel all that pressure against your body? Is it like hundreds of invisible hands touching every centimetre of your skin?

Yulia leads her hand slowly down to her crotch and breaths deeply.

96 YULIA'S HOUSE. INT. DAY

A coffee maker is been hours on the heat, almost melting. The handle drips plastic drops, burning when they fall down.

97 DACHA. EXT. DUSK

We are in a field and we have a grove in front of us. There is a house with a small fence making a kind of garden. It's Andrei's dacha. It's a cold and grey day, even though the dusk sun floods everything. Andrei, Yulia, Stan, a couple and another man are sitting around the remains of a barbecue that is still smoking. They drink some kind of alcohol and talk about trivial things. It's a friend's meeting. White sheets are hung in a string, and they stir with the breeze.

MAN 1

Stan, when is your turn?

Stan forces a smile.

STAN

I have no idea.

WOMAN

Won't you have claustrophobia up there?

STAN

Well, actually, I'll have the whole universe at the other side of the window...

Everyone laughs.

MAN 1

Come on, practice with us. What are you going to say when you come back on earth? What words are you going to choose for such an important moment for you?

STAN

(laughing)

I think I'll ask for a much faster plane to fly.

YULIA

Of course, I almost forget that cosmonauts aren't poets... They are soldiers.

Everyone laughs.

(CONTINUED)

MAN 2

I heard Spiral project is on the go again to answer the American shuttles. Do you know anything?

ANDREI

Spiral is the most beautiful piece of engineering I have ever seen. Even though I don't think they will build anything further than the existing prototypes.

YULIA

Is it the white rocket you show me?

ANDREI

Yes, it is. It's an aerodynamic and technical wonder with soft forms. Too beautiful to be military.

MAN 1

Igor, you have to tell me one day they where do you get that kind of information.

They laugh. Stan looks at the sky. Then he looks at the distance. We see a shoot of Yulia of just one second, almost looking at the camera axis, joining those two lookings. Andrei stands up.

ANDREI

I'm going to get some more drinks. Stan, can you help me?

They walk to the back of the house.

ANDREI

What are you thinking about? You are far away from here...

STAN

I'm not sure. I'm afraid of the silence chamber.

ANDREI

When are you going in?

STAN

Tomorrow

ANDREI

You should be happy. You are going to achieve your dream... (he smiles) And mine.

(CONTINUED)

STAN

I am.

They hug. Stan is going back to the table when Andrei calls him back. He takes a badge out of his pocket and holds it out to him.

ANDREI

Can you make me the favour of leaving it there?

Stan looks at him for a while that seems forever. Then, he takes it.

ANDREI

If anyone asks you, just say that you lost it. I don't want to be the laughing stock of the whole town because I took to the space a keepsake of my best friend instead of my woman's.

Both laugh.

STAN (OFF)

Woman? What a barbaric term. Love is just desire. Sometimes the desire lasts for longer than other times. Sometimes it lasts for too long. I am terrified of that old man I have to become. I would definitely prefer to make love with a cosmonaut woman for hours than to fly my microlight in sunny Sundays. Desire is a huge sign of forbidden.

98 FIELD. EXT. DAY

We see Yulia in slow motion while her voice is heard at a normal speed. She plays with her hair. She messes up her hair. Laughs.

ANDREI (OFF)

I dream with a universe of girls with their hair messed up.

All of the sudden she gets serious and sad.

YULIA

I'm not very ambitious. All I ask is that they don't forget me. Nothing else. To be remembered, ugly or dumb, but to be remembered. That's how we exist. In the memories. If no one remembers you....

99

TERRACE. EXT. DAY

Stan, with the cosmonaut suit on, is sitting in a rock in front of a deserted place. Between his fingers he plays with the messed up parch that use to be in his suit. It's Andrei's hummingbird, the insignia of the mission. On it, the words "Kolibri Moon Programme" are written.

STAN (OFF)

I was on a landing training and some technician has miscalculated. I've fallen at 400 kilometers away from the estimated landing spot. There is less time left for the take off and from time to time things seem to be unreal. I wonder what would Andrei and Yulia do if something would happen to me. I wish that boy never miscalculated ;What if they don't find me and I cant even fly on the hummingbird? Is funny, I always think of Yulia as a hummingbird, but I would've never told Andrei.

Stan stays sitting for hours. The clouds are moving over his head in fast motion. The sun is setting between reddish tones.

Sign: 1975

100

DINNING ROOM. INT. NIGHT

There is a dinner of militaries and their wives. It's to say goodbye to Leonov y Kubasov. And also Stan. But noboy knows it. The guests order food, wine, they're having fun. They make jokes about the Americans. Andrei stans up and hits a wine glass.

ANDREI

I would like to make a toast to the new horizons that are being open thanks to this mission, and to our compatriots that will soon got to outer space.

With the corner of his eye he looks at Stan. Everybody toasts and the music starts to play. When everybody starts to dance, Yulia drags Stan outside and they try that Andrei goes with them, but he is to busy saying hi to important militaries and he excuses himself with a look, wishing he could go with them.

101 ROOF. EXT. NIGHT

Stan and Yulia go out to the roof of some building from where a great part of the city can be seen, now in silence.

YULIA

It's such an incredible night.
You can see all the stars.

For a few seconds they stay quiet. Yulia leans against his shoulder.

YULIA

Do you know why I decided to work here?

STAN

You've never told me.

YULIA

I was seventeen years old. I was going out with an older guy, in his thirties. A communication's technician for the army. He would always tell me the most incredible stories about the radio and the amount of things and information that had floated through the air but we couldn't see it. He was the first guy that kissed me. I guess that live is about trying to go back to those first years where you discover all for the first time. Is like the movies. I would love to go back to being that girl that didn't know what was going to happen next and that at the end would always be surprised even if it always was the same.

STAN

Thirty? So, that was your first kiss? I always thought that you were more precocious.

She looks at him with reproach

YULIA

And yours?

STAN

Mine was in the restrooms of my school. At fourteen. We escaped during class. It was a complete disaster.

(CONTINUED)

YULIA

I'm sure you still haven't learned how to kiss. And Mister important? ¿Do you know how was his first kiss?

STAN

I have no idea. When I met him it looked like he had been dealing with girls his whole life. He taught me all the tricks I know. Maybe he also had an elderly teacher like your communications technician.

He laughs and she hits him in the arm. They stay in silence looking to the sky.

STAN

I'm scared to death

YULIA

(Reaching his hand to him)
Give me your hand

Stan hesitates. She takes his hand tenderly and she bites it hardly

STAN

Can I know what you're doing?

YULIA

(Pleasantly smiling)
That way you won't forget me.
Even if you forget my face, you will remember me.

STAN

The marks will disappear in a while...

She hesitates

YULIA

Then I'll make you hate me, that way you'll never forget me. I'm going to get to be the most annoying girl that ever crossed your path.

He laughs with resignation and with the corner of his eye he looks at her, fascinated. After a while Andrei gets there. He seats. The three of them stay quiet looking at the stars. It starts to rain.

102 VARIOUS. EXT. DAY

During the day, it rains on the forest, over the rivers, over the lake, over Star City. It rains persistently and with no rest. Later the sun comes out but the sky is filled with aurora borealis and strange shapes in the clouds. Stan and Yulia are just simply waiting, to play ping pong, letting the raindrops fall over them in the bed, Yulia teaches Stan to build mud planets, they read, and look at pictures. In some of these activities Andrei joins them. In others he just dedicates to fill papers, makes phone calls, join the other cosmonauts.

 STAN (OFF)

It rained for 8 days straight. The waiting for the take off became unbearable. When it stopped raining, the excessive flammable activity in the sun delayed the departure for two weeks more. During this time, Yulia didn't leave my side. And neither did the auroras borealis.

103 HANGAR. INT. DAY

Several people ultimate the details in a huge hangar with some vehicle and machines. The light passes through the crystals; Stan and Andrei walk over there. Some technicians dressed in white coats are fixing some stuff in Stan's suit. There's movement everywhere, Yulia, from far away, is checking some information with some people. In the mist of all, she looks at Stan (ppp). He doesn't notice it. Someone puts him and Andrei together to take a picture with a Polaroid. Stan takes this time to look at Yulia that is now looking somewhere else. She is right behind them, backwards.

 TECHINICIAN 1

Please, look at the camera.
Smile.

Stan turns around. Right in that moment, Yulia turns around to look at him and the picture is taken. She appears on it backwards. Someone has given the picture to Stan. The picture starts to reflect and Stan looks at it contempt before putting it away. People keep working around Stan.

104 BAIKONUR. EXT. DAY

Stan urinates on the tire of the bus.

105 BAIKONUR'S DESERT. EXT. DAY

In Baikonur's desert we see some figures at different depth in a lateral traveling. Only 8 o 9 people attended the take off. Everyone is tense, contempt. Andrei y Chelomei look at each other and sigh.

106 VARIOUS. INT. SPACECRAFT AND COMUNICATION'S ROOM INT. DAY

A few technicians are touching buttons and lights are turned on.

STAN

Once Leonov told me that during the take off I would start to hear sounds that I've never heard before. When you reach to the 30 seconds the space rocket starts to become alive. It's like an animal. As if a deep shake escapes a throat and covers you like a thunder light.

We hear the control on earth giving instructions. Most of the times they don't talk to Stan but to other technicians. Andrei looks at the time.

107 BAIKONUR DESERT. EXT. DAY

Yulia can't take it and leaves. Andrei sees how she walks away.

108 INSIDE SPACECRAFT. INT. DAY

There is a radial countdown on a black background. When it gets to zero, Stan opens his eyes. It's a subjective shot from the interior of the spacecraft. Through the hatch, while the space rockets explode at 100.000 degrees.

STAN

My eyes blink twice while my body moves at a thousand kilometers per hour.

109 BAIKONUR DESERT. EXT. DAY

Yulia, while behind her the R-700 elevates in a majestic way, stops. She turns around, looking at it. She says something without making any sound. We just see her lips moving.

110 INSIDE SPACECRAFT. INT. DAY

Immediately Stan talks.

 STAN

Control. What did you just say?
I've must misunderstand it. Can
you repeat it?

 TECHNICIAN 2 (OFF)

We haven't said anything to you
Stan. It must have been some
interference. Check the CO2
levels please.

The space rocket elevates in vertical. We see the horizon
line descending until it disappears. Everything is getting
darker. Space. Silence.

If you want to reed more, check the full version of the
scripts at www.thecosmonaut.org