

"ANDROMEDA'S WAY"

TV Pilot

FADE IN:

TWO COLLIDING GALAXIES

The spiny, spinning Milky Way.

The warm, rolling Andromeda.

Toward their united cores, the light becomes BLINDING.

MONTAGE - STARFARING CIVILIZATIONS

NARRATOR

They say crowns are cast in the
fires of fate.

The GALACTIC CORES shine as a molten backdrop to...

--Planets sparkling with color.

--Caravans arcing across the stars.

--Imperial palaces. Mercantile moons.

--Spaceships like triremes fused with retro-style rockets.

A far future era in a Bronze Age hierarchy.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

That none go lost when the road is
straight.

The caravans converge as roads to Rome on...

SPACE - EMPIRE OF ATENRA (HOMEWORLDS)

FOUR PLANETS: bright with life. Orbital superstructures
ribbon around them, swarmed in space traffic.

NARRATOR

Yet as the sky turns, and as the
sea churns, so does fortune favor a
break.

CUT TO:

SPACE - EMPIRE OF ATENRA (HOMEWORLDS - RUINED)

The light of the worlds -- fractured in a neon burn.

The superstructures -- cast into rivers of debris.

The orbital traffic -- lawless and wild.

NARRATOR

But with every new wreck, there
comes a chance.

A TRIMARAN SHIP races past--

SPACE - OVER A HOMEWORLD

A boxy CARGO BOAT and its ESCORT slog up a transfer orbit.

NARRATOR

When the ashes lie warm and steady.

The trimaran ship swoops in from a debris field. It's hull
gleams: the COPPER COMET.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Even coal-filled hearts, can forge
new starts.

Cannons bristle from the Escort.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

When the fires of fate are ready.

BOOM BOOM BOOM--

The Comet dodges, firing thrusters on its outriggers.

It flies alongside the cargo boat. Deploys HARPOONS.

PIRATES.

They zip to the boat, bristling with weaponry. Their
CAPTAIN, cloaked in an armored spacesuit, watches them fly.

The BOARDING PARTY spreads over the hull, forcing open cargo
bays, detaching CRATES--

A GATLING GUN rises up before them.

The pirates take cover as the GUNNER fires. Bullets tear
through crates, destroying their cover, when--

FWOOSH. The pirate CAPTAIN blasts in.

(CONTINUED)

Propelled by air jets in his suit, he uses his inertia to yank the GATLING GUN upright and swing to the hull.

He draws a CUTLASS and presses a button on the hilt. A small thruster spits from the blade's flat edge and--

SCHWING--

The Gunner - and gun controls - split in two.

The Captain floats down before the final cargo bay. Behind him, the Escort ship burns.

He draws a PISTOL.

INT. CARGO BAY - CONT.

PAFF.

The locks release. The door slides open.

Through the slit in his visor, the Captain's eyes widen.

Inside the bay lies a single, transparent container. Inside that container stands a YOUNG WOMAN (25), bruised but not beaten, arms outstretched in front of SIX CHILDREN.

On her forehead: a PURPLE STAR.

NARRATOR

Behold the passion of a once-proud sight...

She stares him down.

He raises his visor.

NARRATOR

...and a steel-edge soul where might makes right.

The Escort explodes behind him. He doesn't notice. He's shaken. No longer just the Captain, he is ERIMAN (28), a stone-cold professional.

Or so he always thought.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Let us begin our story now.

INT. RASHAAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

TICK...TICK...TICK...

A mahogany clock chimes. Midnight. The only sound in a small, lavish office. There is a regal obstinacy in its design, like that of the ancient Egyptian Empire.

Eriman, well-dressed, is seated in a chair. Two black-suited GUARDS with short swords and pistols bracket him.

His First Mate, LEO (25), thin and furrowed, sits nearby.

Eriman stares at a bowl of POTPOURRI. Puzzling. He pinches some, brings it to his mouth--

GUARD #1

Hey.

They lock eyes.

GUARD #1

You smell it, stupid.

Leo tries not to groan.

Eriman and the Guard hold a poisonous glare until--

A door opens.

In walks RASHAAN (40), a sculpted man, slick in word and walk. Piano notes follow him from the rooms beyond.

RASHAAN

Apologies. Even a little wine makes for long-winded nomarchs.

He shuts the door.

RASHAAN (cont'd)

Well, former nomarchs.

Pulls a decanter from a liquor cabinet. Pours two glasses.

RASHAAN (cont'd)

Titles don't mean much anymore, but I won't tell them if you won't.

He approaches with the drinks. Extends an open hand.

RASHAAN

Rashaan. Tribune of the People. We finally meet in-person.

(CONTINUED)

Eriman shakes it.

ERIMAN
Eriman. Captain of--

RASHAAN
--the Copper Comet. Yes, I know.

He offers Eriman a glass.

Eriman raises a hand.

RASHAAN
Well, well.

Rashaan sinks into a velvet chair opposite Eriman.

RASHAAN
For all my ears in the underworld I
thought it was just a rumor. Still,
if this one is true, I'm excited to
see the rest play out.

He switches on a small monitor. It bears a photo: The CARGO
BOAT.

ERIMAN
That's it?

RASHAAN
That's it. Plunder, pillage, and
sink. Turn over what you find, and
we'll negotiate your acquisitions--

LEO
Woah-- Sorry, Captain-- no one said
anything about destroying ships.

RASHAAN
I know it's taboo way out in the
sticks, but here we can build more.

LEO
Won't do any favors for our
reputation.

RASHAAN
Perhaps. On the other hand, I'll
make you very rich.
(to Eriman)
What more could you want?

Eriman points at the image.

ERIMAN

What kind of enemy are we making?

Rashaan ponders. A fair question.

RASHAAN

Dregs of the old guard.

LEO

You mean loyalists. Armies,
armadas, battleships--

RASHAAN

(to Eriman)

Your first-mate is very astute.
What do you feed him?

LEO

We were told this was entry level
privateering.

RASHAAN

It is. The Empire of Atenra is
dead. All the empires are dead.

LEO

Not every dead empire comes with an
army of crusaders.

RASHAAN

Crusaders?

LEO

Killers with a cause.

Rashaan swirls his drink. He smiles.

RASHAAN

Do you see this above my head?

Eriman and Leo look up at an illustrious PORTRAIT: Two
figures in gowns. The EMPRESS (35), and a PRINCESS (5).

RASHAAN (cont'd)

Portraits like these hung in every
palace, every square, every home
for millenia. Empress after
Empress, reminding billions whom
they served.

ON RASHAAN

walking to the liquor cabinet.

(CONTINUED)

RASHAAN

They fled the capitol before the
first barbarians even arrived.

Finishes his drink. Returns the glasses and decanter.

RASHAAN

I was nothing before I had power.
When I gained it, it was through my
own brilliance. The people knew it,
and now the scattered elite are
realizing it as well.

Laughter erupts from the far-off party.

Rashaan returns to his seat, squaring off with them.

RASHAAN

So. You want strength, gentlemen?
You want something to fear? Come to
me. All those "crusaders" possess
is a memory.

Eriman takes a longer look at the portrait.

RASHAAN (cont'd)

A cowardly empress, and the
daughter she damned the world for.

The Girl has a mark on her forehead: a PURPLE STAR.

RASHAAN (cont'd)

The poor princess, Andromeda.

INT. CARGO BAY - BACK TO PRESENT

The Young Woman with the purple star - the princess,
ANDROMEDA - stands defiant between the children and Eriman.

Eriman - pistol raised, stoicism shattered.

LEO (RADIO)

Captain, we're filling the cargo
bay. What's your status?

He's unsure. Taps his talkback switch.

ERIMAN

Leave a slot open.

And lowers his gun.

EXT. SPACE - LATER

Eriman rides the transparent container as a winch pulls it into the Copper Comet's cargo bay.

A thump reverberates in his suit. Andromeda's knocking.

She puts her head to the wall. He does the same.

ANDROMEDA

Who are you?

ERIMAN

Free agents.

ANDROMEDA

Is that what traffickers call themselves?

The comment strikes a nerve.

ERIMAN

You'd be better off thinking of how to cover that star on your head.

She freezes. Feels for the scarf around her neck.

ANDROMEDA

It was covered, but then some asshole started--

Eriman pulls away.

INT. COPPER COMET (CARGO BAY) - LATER

Pirate engineers are locking down crates.

The doors of a RED CRATE open, revealing racks of metal orbs the size of melons. A string of wires connects them all.

Leo, taking inventory, stares inside.

LEO

What the hell?
(calling out)
Yang!

The pirates from the boarding party are removing their REBREATHERS. One pirate bears distinctive markings on her suit: YANG (mid 30s), baggy eyes, corpse-cold nerves.

She joins Leo and peers inside the crate.

(CONTINUED)

YANG
Cluster bombs. Looks about
seventy-two wall to wall.

LEO
Why are they done up like this?

She lights a cigarette and takes a leisurely drag.

YANG
Dunno.

LEO
Pazzu!

Across the room: PAZZU (early 40s), burly by nature, soft by habit. He lowers an arc welder and lumbers over.

LEO (cont'd)
What's with the wires?

Pazzu raises his face shield. Starts to tinker.

PAZZU
Looks rigged for remote detonation.

Leo goes stock-still.

LEO
Tell me you're joking.

PAZZU
You know, to scuttle the ship if
they get boarded.

LEO
Please tell me you're joking.

PAZZU
There she is!

He YANKS out a palm-sized device.

PAZZU (cont'd)
Still has the detonator.

Leo takes it - carefully.

Pazzu pats Yang on the shoulder as she massages her scalp.

PAZZU (cont'd)
Catch a bullet?

YANG
That or a migraine.

They leave. Leo stares at the detonator in his hand.

LEO
(to himself)
Please tell me you're joking.

ACROSS THE BAY:

Eriman and the container he's riding touch down.

He checks on Andromeda. Sees her tending to the children,
scarf around her head.

LEO (O.S.)
Ohhh no. No, no, no.

Leo rushes over.

LEO
(voice low)
What is this?

ERIMAN
We need to talk.

LEO
We can't have hostages. No one can
know who our client--

Eriman grabs Leo, striding across the floor.

People eye them as they pass.

INT. COPPER COMET (ERIMAN'S ROOM) - LATER

The room is dark, sparse - like the deep sea.

Eriman sits, hunched. Leo is pacing.

ERIMAN
Well?

LEO
Well what?

ERIMAN
I need some ideas.

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Oh. So you didn't have any when you brought the lost princess onboard?

ERIMAN

Could have left them to die.

LEO

You should have!

(beat)

Look, I don't even know if I buy this.

ERIMAN

She's right there.

LEO

Yeah. A girl with a purple tattoo. Those ships belonged to loyalists, right? For all we know she's a figurehead for their armies.

ERIMAN

She reacted when I called her out.

LEO

I'm sure it was convincing.

ERIMAN

You don't know what people look like when they're at your mercy.

LEO

Everyone looks the same at the end of a gun.

ERIMAN

I'm not talking about her life. I'm talking about something she values.

Leo rolls his eyes.

A radio on the desk crackles to life.

PIRATE #1 (RADIO)

Captain, we have a situation in the bay.

LEO

(into radio)

Captain's busy.

INT. COPPER COMET (CARGO BAY) - CONT.

PIRATE #1 crouches near the radio.

PIRATE #1
Sorry. *Hostage* situation. It's a--

BANG!

A bullet pings off the walls. Pirates yelp.

They're all facing Andromeda's transparent container. Its doors are open, but facing away from the pirates.

Inside, Andromeda stands, pistol to the head of a neck-locked Pazzu. The children are clustered in a corner.

ANDROMEDA
Do I need to say it again?

YANG squares off, clutching her head.

YANG
Only if you say it quieter.

ANDROMEDA
Get me the captain.

YANG
Give me the gun.

Andromeda aims at an angle out the door.

YANG
Don't be a bitch--

BANG! Pirates flinch. Yang winces.

YANG (cont'd)
This is all your fault, Paz!

PAZZU
I'm sorry!

YANG
(to herself)
Definitely a migraine.

PAZZU
Their air supply was dying.

(CONTINUED)

YANG
I'm dying. Just kill her or something.

PAZZU
What if her gun goes off?

YANG
What?

Pazzu makes a limp gesture.

PAZZU
There are kids in here, Yang.

YANG
You are never getting a sidearm again.

ANDROMEDA
Hey!

Andromeda presses the gun into his head.

PAZZU
Sorry, ma'am.

ANDROMEDA
Get me your captain or I'm going to do something I really shouldn't do in front of children.

Dark laughter ripples from the pirate ranks.

PAZZU
Oh, thanks a lot, guys!

YANG
She kills you, she loses her leverage.

Andromeda - eyes darting, thinking on her feet.

She drops the gun to Pazzu's crotch.

PAZZU
Woah! Woah!

The pirates scowl - foul play.

ANDROMEDA
Kids, don't watch.

They squeal and cover their eyes.

YANG
You fire that thing again, I will
personally--

ERIMAN (O.S.)
Hey!

All eyes turn to Eriman, standing on the catwalk.

ERIMAN
What are you doing?

All eyes back to Andromeda.

ANDROMEDA
I want to speak to the captain.

Back to Eriman.

ERIMAN
Good. We need to talk. Pazzu, bring
them up to the bridge.

He moves to leave.

ANDROMEDA
Wait. Wait!

ERIMAN
What?

ANDROMEDA
You're the captain?

He sighs, exits.

Andromeda stands in shock.

PAZZU
Ah. The gun, miss?

She lowers it, letting Pazzu take it. He rises to his full,
massive height.

PAZZU (cont'd)
See kids? Everything's going to be
alright.

The children stare at him - petrified.

INT. COPPER COMET (BRIDGE) - LATER

Eriman and Leo enter the bridge.

The floor forms a half ring on the outer edge of the room, separated from the depressed center.

ERIMAN
Kuwari, clear out.

KUWARI, (late 30s), designated driver by personal decree, swivels around in her pilot seat at the room's center.

KUWARI
Excuse me?

LEO
Special circumstances.

KUWARI
I'm riding a debris field out of a war zone, and you're telling me you have something more important?

The CHILDREN pour in, gawking, running down the stairs, up to the viewport. The oldest, LONI, (12), marvels at the imposing figure Kuwari strikes at the helm.

LONI
(awestruck)
Hi.

Kuwari shoots the pirates a glare.

ERIMAN
(reiterating)
Special circumstances.

KUWARI
If I'm leaving so are they.

Andromeda cuts through, Pazzu close behind.

ANDROMEDA
They go where I go.

KUWARI
And who the hell are you?!

LEO
Okay, okay!

Leo takes on Kuwari. Eriman pulls Andromeda aside.

(CONTINUED)

“ANDROMEDA’S WAY”



PILOT SYNOPSIS

It is the far future, and the great interstellar empires have just collapsed.

In the war-torn home system of the Atenran Empire, a band of space pirates led by **Eriman** raid a cargo ship. Inside, they discover a young woman with a strange marking on her forehead – a purple star – as well as six children.

In a flashback, the raid is revealed to be a job pulled for **Rashaan**, a political upstart in the empire’s power vacuum. Through him, Eriman learns of the lost imperial heir, **Andromeda**, who bears the same purple star as the woman he later discovers on the cargo ship.

In the present, Eriman takes the supposed Andromeda and the children with her aboard his ship. He learns that the children are orphans in Andromeda’s care. She explains that a warlord named **Hericor**, stole her children for use as child soldiers. She gave herself over to Hericor as a way to legitimize his war effort in exchange for sparing her children. When questioned why Hericor believes she is the heir, however, Andromeda deflects. She simply asks for the chance to escape the conflict with her children, plaguing Eriman with guilt.

Eriman tries to convince his crew to hide Andromeda and her children. They disagree, convinced that Rashaan sent them with the covert purpose of capturing her. Moreover, they believe Eriman only cares about her because she reminds him of someone from his past.

Eriman goes off to be alone, but encounters Andromeda. As they talk, they delve into each other’s pasts, prompting Eriman to reveal he is hunting a slaver. Andromeda likens Hericor to a slaver in his own right, and, despite his crew, Eriman promises to help her himself.

The pirates return to Rashaan, only to find Andromeda and her children missing. Suspicion mounts over Eriman’s involvement until Rashaan offers Eriman the location of the slaver he is hunting in exchange for Andromeda. Eriman is torn, but before he can respond, Rashaan learns Andromeda is at a spaceport hangar - Eriman hid her in his cargo crates! Rashaan gloats over Hericor’s ineptitude, revealing the man was going to sell Andromeda to a slaver consortium. Terrified for Andromeda, Eriman finds the power to escape and flees to save her. His crew, in turn, is tasked with taking him down in exchange for Rashaan’s mercy.

At the spaceport, Eriman finds the children. He brings them to Andromeda, who has already been found by one of Hericor’s ships. Eriman stops Hericor’s men from taking Andromeda, so they take her children instead, taunting that they can be found, “at the Sapphire Star.”

Eriman and Andromeda flee the scene, but the pirate crew closes in. Andromeda, losing all hope, asks Eriman if he regrets the choices that led them to this moment. In response, Eriman faces his crew in combat – alone. Seeing this, Andromeda reevaluates her worldview. She rescues him from certain death and they escape to Eriman’s ship.

Eriman and Andromeda take off into space, but encounter a battleship sent by Hericor. Andromeda talks to Hericor over the radio, revealing that she knew he was going to sell her, and that she was willing to face her fate so long as her kids would be safe and no one else could be harmed by her. She states that she has now changed her mind, and will fight to reclaim her children no matter the cost. With that, the battleship attempts to destroy them. Andromeda utters a series of words, her marking glows, and the battleship explodes.

From the planet below, Rashaan watches with glee, thrilled with the confirmation of the power he could obtain by capturing Andromeda. Up in space, Eriman and Andromeda share a somber, if hopeful moment, and set course for the Sapphire Star.