AS A HERONAUT DOES —
“AIRSPACE&FLITTERVUG”

Many years ago, a group of elite scientists fled Earth, taking with them incredibly advanced technology. The scientists found a remote planet many light-years away. Here, they started civilization anew. The humans on Earth quickly forgot about the lost scientists. However, on Planet Greenx, their new race was beginning. A race of technological prowess.

The race of heronauts.

Every year, SYNTHIA, their computer goddess, selects one worthy heronaut to make the mission back to Earth to steal water—the only resource Greenx lacks.

For the seniors at the Heronaut Academy, this is the highest honor imaginable. On the day of the Selection, they each pray to be chosen.

HUNTSLAND
Settle down, settle down. Today, we give over our futures to Synthia. May she guide us in ways we cannot imagine.

(As the students recite, they are rigid and precise, like robots. They have been practicing this behavior since they were born.)

STUDENTS
May she guide us in ways we cannot imagine.

HUNTSLAND
May she guide us in ways that lead us to glory.

STUDENTS
May she guide us in ways that lead us to glory.
HUNTSLAND
May she guide us in ways of strength and righteousness.

STUDENTS
May she guide us in ways of strength and righteousness.

HUNTSLAND
SYNTHIA
SYNTHIA
WE RAISE OUR EYES TO YOU

STUDENTS
SYNTHIA
SYNTHIA
THE PATH YOU CHOOSE IS TRUE

(Everyone freezes. Jigsup pulls himself from Uplig’s grasp and bursts forward, as if from a cage.)

JIGSUP
IMAGINE WALKING DOWN THE ROADWAY
WITH THAT BADGE ON MY CHEST
FATHERS WILL NOD TO THEIR SONS

(He mimes nodding Uplig’s head.)

AND SAY, SOMEDAY, MY SON
YOU CAN BE LIKE JIGSUP
A FOOL WHILE STILL AT SCHOOL
AND SURE, HIS FUTURE SEEMED BLEAK
BUT HE BECAME A LEGEND
ONLY TOOK HIM A WEEK
SO SYNTHIA, SYNTHIA
GIVE ME AN INVITE
AND YOU’LL SEE WHAT I BRING
RIGHT NOW I’M A LOSER, A CLOWN
BUT WITH YOU
I’D BE KING

(One by one, the rest of the students break from their “cages” and rush the stage.)
I’D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO DO
AS A HERONAUT DOES
IF I’M CHOSEN TO LIVE A LIFE OF
GLORY AND FAME
THAT’S ENOUGH OF A BUZZ
TO GET ME GOING
SO LET’S GET GOING

(Dettle breaks free from the students clumped together.)

A MISSION TO SEE WHAT EARTH IS LIKE
I MEAN FOR REAL, NOT IN OUR BOOKS
I’VE HEARD THE SMELL YOU CANNOT BEAR
UNLESS YOU STAY AWAY FROM THE CROWDS
THE TREES THERE
ARE KIND OF LIKE THE ONES HERE
WELL NOT IN AGE, BUT MORE IN LOOKS

(He pulls a hair from Gundrip’s head.)

IF I TOOK A SPECIMEN BACK
WITH THE WATER—

YOUR HEAD’S IN THE CLOUDS

SO SYNTHIA, SYNTHIA
ALL I CAN DO IS HANG TIGHT
ONE MORE DAY
BUT HACKIT, THE LONGER I WAIT
THE MUCH HARDER TO STAY

(Recklette is practicing her moves from combat class.
The moves are simultaneously strange and unfamiliar. She seems stronger than she should be.)
RECKLETTE

I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO DO AS A HERONAUT DOES IF YOU WANT ME TO KICK HUMAN ASS WHERE DO I SIGN?

(She has Westfit in a headlock.)

THAT’S ENOUGH OF A BUZZ TO GET ME GOING

RECKLETTE & WESTFIT (arm by arm)

SO LET’S GET

STUDENTS GOING

(Synthia flickers. The students run forward, scrambling over themselves. Their eyes are to the ceiling, transfixed.)

SYNTHIA
SYNTHIA
WE RAISE OUR EYES TO YOU SYNTHIA SYNTHIA SYNTHIA THE PATH YOU CHOOSE IS TRUE

RECKLETTE

SO COME ON, GIRL, AND CHOOSE IT!

GUNDRIp

CHOOSE IT!

DETTLE

CHOOSE IT!
A spotlight finds Airspace alone, in his seat. He stares blankly at a book, then throws it aside.

AIRSPACE

I'M TRAINED IN EVERY FORM OF STEALTH
AND RAID AND COMBAT THERE IS
SINCE I COULD WALK, I COULD RUN
ENGINEERED TO BE ARCHETYPAL HERONAUT
ALL ACROSS THE PLANET
THEY ARE LOOKING TO ME
AND I CAN ONLY GUESS
WHAT THEY EXPECT ME TO BE
SO SYNHIA
SYNHIA
HOW CAN YOU NOT SEE MY CRAVING FOR MORE?
LET'S JUST HOPE ONCE GRANTED
IT WILL HAVE BEEN WORTH
CRAVING FOR

(He jumps to his feet.)

I AM MORE THAN HAPPY TO DO
AS A HERONAUT DOES
IT'S ALL THAT I KNOW
I'M CONDITIONED TO NEEDING THAT
BUZZ
TO GET ME GOING
SO LET'S GET GOING

(Recklette pulls him into the crowd. They greet, arm to arm.)

SYNHIA
SYNHIA
SYNHIA
WE RAISE OUR EYES TO YOU
HUNTSLAND
(overlapping)

LONG AGO, OUR SYNTHIA

STUDENTS

SYNTHIA

HUNTSLAND

SYNTHIA

AIRSPACE

THE PATH YOU CHOOSE IS...

(The spotlight swings to Huntsland. The students retreat, nervous they’ll get caught daydreaming.)

HUNTSLAND

THE HUMANS, THEY MADE YOU

BUT CARED FOR YOU NOT

THE HUMANS BETRAYED YOU

AND LEFT YOU TO ROT

BUT NOW, OUR CREATOR

YOU RULE A BETTER RACE

EVERYONE IN PLACE

FOR OUR SYNTHIA

TALK TO US, SYNTHIA
MALES

I’D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO DO AS A HERONAUT DOES
I’D CLIMB MOUNTAINS SINGLE-HANDED AND HIGHER, BECAUSE
I’D BE FILLED WITH THAT BUZZ THAT GETS US GOING
SO LET’S GET GOING WE’D BE FILLED WITH THAT BUZZ THAT GETS US GOING
SO LET’S GET GOING

SYNTHIA

FEMALES
(simultaneous)

SYNTHIA, SYNTHIA
WE RAISE OUR EYES TO YOU
SYNTHIA, SYNTHIA
THE PATH YOU CHOOSE IS TRUE
SYNTHIA, SYNTHIA
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO
SYNTHIA, SYNTHIA
WE’RE ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU

SYNTHIA

HUNTSLAND & UPLIG
(simultaneous)

THE HUMANS, THEY MADE YOU BUT CARED FOR YOU NOT THE HUMANS BETRAYED YOU AND LEFT YOU TO ROT BUT NOW, OUR CREATOR YOU RULE A BETTER RACE TALK TO US, SYNTHIA WE’LL LISTEN

SYNTHIA

(The glowing light descends from the ceiling.)
SYNTHIA
Welcome, children of the heronauts. Today the cosmos align in ways unprecedented.

JIGSUP

SYNTHIA
The words that form on my lips are like a stamp on the windwaves that cannot be changed.
The mission to Earth is to be made by...

Airspace.

(Airspace stands.)

...and...

(Gasps and commotion from the students.)

YOUNGTON
What does she mean, “and’”?

VELLICK
And what? Proctor, sir, and what?

HUNTSLAND
Quiet. Synthia, and what?

SYNTHIA
And Flittervug.

(The students part to reveal FLITTERVUG, small
and unassuming, clutching books to her chest.)

RECKLETTE
Flittervug? I could eat her!

JIGSUP
Well, slip on a brick.

SYNTHIA
Goodnight, children of the heronauts. I will return to sleep until again the cosmos force me
awake.
HUNTS LAND

All right. So.

SYNTHIA
WE’LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES
TO MAKE SURE
AIRSPACE AND FLITTERVUG

STUDENTS

AIRSPACE AND FLITTERVUG

HUNTS LAND

SUCCEED

STUDENTS

indeed
I WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE THAN HAPPY
TO HAVE DONE
AS A HERONAUT DOES

HUNTS LAND
Airspace. Flittervug. Your briefing session begins immediately.

(Airspace goes to speak.)
I don’t know any more than you.

SO LET’S GET GOING

(He leaves.)