

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SINGULARITY, adult, a single parent of six Galaxies

GRAVITY, a dog

SPT0615-**JD**, young adult, Singularity's oldest child

CARTWHEEL, teen, Singularity's child

WHIRLPOOL, teen, Singularity's child

TRIANGULUM, teen, Singularity's child

ANDROMEDA, teen, Singularity's child

MILKY WAY, preteen, Singularity's youngest child

Supporting Characters

ABELL, young child, JD's eventual Galaxy, never utters a word

INVARIANT, adult, Singularity's parent, appears in Act II

FIX, adult, Singularity's parent, appears in Act II

Ensemble

TIDALS, tidal forces personified as dogs

Bark: "Force" Howl: "Fall"

SOLAR SYSTEM, Milky Way's imaginary friends; principal
characters are in brackets [] for potential doubling

MULTIPLICITIES, coupled Galaxies in the audience

○ Androgyny Astronomy: Each character resembles the
androgynous nature, with open-ended vocal requirements

○ People of the Global Majority most represent the
experiences of this universal family; cast accordingly

ACT ISCENE 1

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

The Elliptic is stationed downstage center. Light dwells solely within the Dome. Inside is a table with seats and a rug. Outside is the stage that is mainly off limits. The side curtains conceal the upstage space. Equations are teeming flowers in the space.
(<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/set>)

Outside of the home, SINGULARITY hums as they pick equations and place them on a dish. They then head to the rug to meditate.

The MULTIPLICITIES are in the audience.

MULTIPLICITIES

Nothing.

Alert, SINGULARITY draws out the Big Bang Taser and ignites it outwards.

The TIDALS distantly whimper.

The lights flicker. The curtains ripple. The field equations loom like a field of flowers. The Universe flashes their wonders.

From the audience, ABELL enters. They sit in a front row seat.

SINGULARITY stows away the Big Bang Taser underneath the rug, returning the Universe back to its void stasis. They look upon ABELL.

SINGULARITY

Nothing...

SINGULARITY leaves through a side exit of the home.

JD enters, carrying a monocular. They position themselves at the edge of the home. They scope out.

1. "BOUNCE" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/1-bounce>)

TRIANGULUM wanders out, holding a snow globe that resembles the home. They head to JD and snatch their monocular to scope out. They toss it behind.

TRIANGULUM

NOTHING.

WHIRLPOOL spirals out. They catch or pick up the monocular. They scope out.

WHIRLPOOL

NOTHING!

CARTWHEEL cartwheels out. They snatch the monocular from WHIRLPOOL. They scope out.

CARTWHEEL

NOTHING!

ANDROMEDA pops out.

CARTWHEEL hands the monocular to ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA scopes out. They stow away the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

MILKY WAY, looking disheveled, strolls in.

MILKY WAY

NUTHIN'...

The TEEN GALAXIES - CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, MILKY WAY - cluster in the center of the home.

TEEN GALAXIES

LET'S BOUNCE!

The TEEN GALAXIES bounce away from one another and land by their respective walls. They distinctly move and dance alongside it. In choreographic exposition, they pose at certain melodic phrases.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

MILKY WAY! ANDROMEDA! TRIANGULUM! WHIRLPOOL! CARTWHEEL!

MILKY WAY lugs their way to the table.

ANDROMEDA sails to the table.

TRIANGULUM triangulates to the table. They place the snow globe on the table.

WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.

CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.

SINGULARITY (O.S) (CONT'D)

JD!

JD remains staring out at the Edge. They extend their arm out.

JD

ABELL...

ABELL reaches out to JD.

End of "BOUNCE"

All TIDALS prowl in and surround the table.

SINGULARITY arrives with dishes.

TEEN GALAXIES

Singularity. Declinations.

The TEEN GALAXIES bow.

SINGULARITY places the dishes around the table.

GRAVITY

(Narrating)

Nothing comes close to family... Except "pets."
I'm Gravity. I've been here for infinite dog years. And this is the story of the Galaxy family.

We've long lived in the Elliptic. This Dome is all we've ever known. Singularity has closed off the outside world for quite some time. Eternities, in fact. The kids here aren't much older than a dozen eternities, but one is nearing two. I like this one. The Elliptic is only perfect, with our oldest Galaxy: JD...
JD is on the edge.

(MORE)

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

While their siblings see "nothing" out there,
JD sees a future elliptic in the nothingness.
Beyond the Edge of the Universe. I sense that
their dream is to have an elliptic of their
own. JD deserves a life of their own. What
adult doesn't want to leave the safety of their
home to go explore the Universe?

Singularity does not own us: Galaxies or me, a
tidal force. Singularity can't hold us forever.
Singularity shall face the Big Bang, even if
it's the last thing Gravity does. In Zenith...
Force!

SINGULARITY shushes GRAVITY. They
set a dish on the ground, for the
TIDALS to feast upon.

MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.

SINGULARITY bows.

SINGULARITY

Declinations, family.

The TEEN GALAXIES sit, while
TRIANGULUM unfortunately sits on
the whoopee cushion.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Sounds like someone's been eating my gas giants.

TRIANGULUM

Quit the snickers, Milky Way.

SINGULARITY

Has anyone seen my scope? Where could they be?
It's got to be in our Elliptic...

SINGULARITY touches the snow globe
and stares at ANDROMEDA.

ANDROMEDA hands over the monocular.

ANDROMEDA

*Everything here is a cluster flux. Wouldn't
hurt to look out-*

SINGULARITY

If you escape my gravitational pull and step out
into space, you'll rip the Fabric of Spacetime.
Then I, the grandmaster of the Universe, will
be out of order. We got all the cosmic formulas
right here in our Elliptic. With my wrists and
black-hole heart, I cooked you nebulae
something special: nuclear pasta and meteors.

CARTWHEEL

Special for the trillionth millennium, you Bach Ho. ("Bach Ho" is Vietnamese for "white tiger," sounds like "black hole," and implies tiger parenting.)

SINGULARITY

JD usually helps with the meal prep... Well I, *tiger nomy/mom/dad*, am so delighted that our meal is as special as our very first. Thess are heated to over ten million degrees Kelvin and rotated in the cosmic microwave background at the angular velocity of a dozen sine squared its solar latitude minus one sine to its fourth power. Strongest material in the cosmos. A variety of nutrition from the crusts of neutron stars. Dismantle the mantle. But leave the core. I'd love to planet these.

GRAVITY tries to grab TRIANGULUM's dish.

TRIANGULUM slaps away GRAVITY. They unnervingly scratch GRAVITY's ear.

TRIANGULUM

That's not for you to gravitate to. *Stupid tidal force*. Nothing between those ears but a vacuum.

ANDROMEDA

Throw the tidal dog a meteor. A swig.
(to GRAVITY)
Fix...? Ye want spaghettification?

ANDROMEDA tosses invisible spaghetti to a sitting GRAVITY.

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

Ope, there goes Gravity. Who's a good tidal force? Ye all are!

The TIDALS bark while SINGULARITY tries getting them to sit.

TIDALS

Force! Force! Force! Force!
Force! Force!

SINGULARITY

Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix.

MILKY WAY dives into their dish.

TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

ANDROMEDA

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

It takes endless millennia to burn that,
Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

A simple nap ain't last any longer, Cartwheel.

SINGULARITY

Most of you went through a phase where you ate
megatons. You want to accrete and be a Grand-
Design Spiral Galaxy, don't you? Like Whirlpool?

CARTWHEEL mocks WHIRLPOOL's
physique.

WHIRLPOOL

You may be well rounded, but you ain't got
spiral arms in this fight. You're full of heavy
blue stars. Ring a bell, Ring Galaxy?

CARTWHEEL

Gal, I put no weight or stress on myself. All
you are are stretched-out circles. Y'all are
the morbidly spiral Galaxies.

ANDROMEDA

Least ye not a two-dimensional square, like
this Galaxy.

TRIANGULUM

I'll run faster than light circles around you,
Galaxies.

TRIANGULUM tosses the whoopee
cushion at CARTWHEEL, causing them
and WHIRLPOOL to go on the defense.

MILKY WAY

(Mouthful of nuclear pasta)

Kau tau to you, ellipsoids.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, TRIANGULUM

Shut your worm hole, you quasi-Galaxy. At least
we're not babies!

SINGULARITY

Oneness, clusters of stars! Gals. Your hearts
are all vigorous.

SINGULARITY sits with the TEEN
GALAXIES. They lovingly pinch
MILKY WAY's cheek.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Always full of grace. Let us save space.

2. "CRUNCH" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/2-crunch>)

SINGULARITY and the GALAXIES pray.

SINGULARITY
FEED THAT HOLE IN YOUR HEART.
GIVE INTO INTERNAL DARKNESS.
SHED OUR LIGHT FOR NO ONE.
AS IT'S CRUNCH TIME, GALAXIES.

IN BLACK HOLES, DWELL WISDOM.
FED BY THE SPRINKLES OF STARDUST.
CRUSH THEIR DREAMS IN YOUR PALM.
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, MY BABIES.

TEEN GALAXIES
CONSUME STAR SYSTEMS.
CONSUME WORLDS THAT TEEM.
CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF FAMILY. FAMILY...

SINGULARITY
STRING BY STRING IN THEORY.
AND FABRIC BY SPACETIME FABRIC.
HOLD OUR LOVE AS A WHOLE.
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, WE BELIEVE.

WHIRLPOOL
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

TRIANGULUM
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

CARTWHEEL
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

MILKY WAY
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, NOMY/MOMMY/DADDY SING.

SINGULARITY
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, JD?
SPT0615-JD?

End of "CRUNCH"

3. "CUTTING EDGE (MAKE MYSELF CLEAR)" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/3-cutting_edge)

GRAVITY approaches JD.

JD
NOT THE TIME
TO PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE...
IT IS CLEAR CUT...
I CAN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR IN THE...

GRAVITY makes JD face outside.

JD (CONT'D)
 CENTER WITH OUR RELATIVES...
 OUR TIDAL DOGS.
 GRAVITY, ALWAYS GROUNDING ME.

JD nears the edge of the home.

JD (CONT'D)
 YOU SEE.
 I GO OFF ON A TANGENT.
 WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE...

WHERE THE CURVATURE CONCEALS ALL WORLDS LEADING INTO KINSHIP.
 SAIL OUT OF THIS ELLIPSE.
 WHERE THE ASTRAL BEACH WILL MEET AN OCEAN FULL OF CHORAL REEFS.
 SEA WITH OTHER ELLIPSES.

JD takes a jab at their siblings.

JD (CONT'D)
 WHY IS THIS CIRCLE LACKING THE CURIOSITY IN ALL?
 STUCK IN THIS HERE, GALA.
 WHY ARE THESE OVALS BENT ON SEEING NOTHING IN MYSTERY?
 LOOK BEYOND THESE GALAXIES.

TEEN GALAXIES
 CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE!

JD
 WHY DON'T YOU MAKE ME?
 ALL YOUR FIGHTS HAVE DRIVEN A WEDGE.
 PLEASE LET ME BE AT PEACE BY THE EDGE.
 GO BACK AND CIRCUMVENT.
 I'LL JUST BE OUT ON A TANGENT—

In JD's mind, the TEEN GALAXIES
 seem to be droning on.

TEEN GALAXIES
 SPT0615-JD.
 AS WE ARE JUST SAYING BEFORE YOU CUT US OFF.
 NOTHING'S CUTTING OUTTA THE EDGE.
 NO ONE'S GOING OVER THE EDGE.
 JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

JD
 APPARENTLY, *I HAVEN'T MADE MYSELF CLEAR.*
 CUTTING MY EDGES MAKES MYSELF APPARENT AS *YOU. (SINGULARITY)*
 AND SHEDS MY LIGHT UPON A *LIGHTLESS GALAXY. (ABELL)*
 MY HEART TELLS ME THERE'S A PROMISING FAMILY, OFF—
 END OF THIS TANGENT.

TEEN GALAXIES

SPT0615. CHILD.

NO NEED TO BE APPARENT- (Droning on in JD's mind)
JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

JD

MY FUTURE IS AN ELLIPSE WHERE MY LEGACY IS ABELL...
TO BE THE ADULT IN THE ROOM.

JD lets GRAVITY ground them.

TEEN GALAXIES

SPT0615-JADED-

JD

JD GOES OFF OF THE TANGENT!

ALL MY COSMIC POEMS MUST REACH TO THE ENDS OF THIS EPIC TALE.
OUR AUDACIOUS VERSE.
THERE MIGHT BE A FRIEND WHO WILL FOLLOW IN MY LYRICAL TRAILS
TO THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE...

YOU'LL KNOW.
I'LL BE CUTTING TO THE EDGE.

End of "CUTTING EDGE (MAKE MYSELF CLEAR)"

GRAVITY

Force!

JD (CONT'D)

Grounded. You're my tidal
force, Gravity.

SINGULARITY

I will spare a millennium to listen to your
verse, JD. You are apparent to me. Clear and
crisp like how I raised you to be.

JD

I love you too, Singularity...

SINGULARITY

You love Gravity, too much. That dog is a bad
influence.

JD

You Singularity, raise me physically. Gravity
raises my spirit.

SINGULARITY

Your soul will be dragged down to their level
if you keep it up. What are you looking forward
to? What's pulling at your heart?

JD

Abell... There is something ringing in mine.

SINGULARITY

A bell? Your astronomical clock must be malfunctioning.

JD

My biological clock remains malnourished.

SINGULARITY

Our biology has no logic. If you hope for any of your fictitious clock to be functioning and *nourished*, you may... *Galaxies?*

TEEN GALAXIES

Join us for Crunch—

JD

I'm done with Crunch. I'm sick of the same old dish of photons that we eat and I'm tired of dishing it out with these teen Galaxies.

MILKY WAY

JD, who is Abell?

JD

Abell... May just be a tiny curiosity. Haha. *Like you, Milky Way.*

SINGULARITY

Even a grownup Galaxy needs to accrete. My babies need to grow. There's *nothing* out there for you.

JD

There is someone for that *nothing*. That someone is me.

SINGULARITY

You're nothing but a spoiled nebula if you've forgotten all the constants and variables I've picked for you. All the light I shed.

JD

I'm ready to pass on your light. Our light. Nomy/Mom/Dad... *May I go to the Edge of the Universe?*

SINGULARITY

We have *everything* in the Center. No.

JD

Can I play with *nothing*? Please?

SINGULARITY

No means *no*.

JD

Pretty please with a supergiant on top?

SINGULARITY

The sight of darkness is not enough for you?

JD

As your heart has told you... There is a prophecy that once we gather enough light, we must share with the lightless. Abell... I've set my sights on a fulfilling legacy.

SINGULARITY

I may have been a sentimental parent when saying these things. In reality... What was said is unapparent. Drop this legacy nonsense. The future is *nothing*. Be present for your family. Join us for Cr-

SINGULARITY reaches for JD.

GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY. They brawl with SINGULARITY.

ANDROMEDA

Ope?! *There goes Gravity!*

TIDALS

Force! Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

GRAVITY grounds SINGULARITY on the rug. They try to corral the TIDALS.

GRAVITY

Force. Force. Force. Force. Force. Force.

GRAVITY runs to the opening of the Elliptic. They hit an invisible wall and dizzily fall back.

GRAVITY (CONT'D)

Free... Free... Free... Free... Free... Free...

SINGULARITY gets up. They slightly and hauntingly lift the rug.

SINGULARITY

You all get on my nerves. Entitled forces. Back in the doghouse.

The TIDALS tremble and bow out. They leave.

JD

You are not the center of the Universe... Why must you treat the dogs like us? Puppets.

SINGULARITY

Um, I literally am the center. I, Singularity, have my hands in and on the entire Universe... Better a puppet than a pet.

JD

If you're going to keep the Galaxies in, at least let Gravity and the dogs out... It will come back to bite you in the end if you don't give them space.

SINGULARITY

And let them treat the Fabric of Spacetime like the springs of a trampoline? No dog bites or rips on my spacetime fabric.

JD

What must be done to pull at your heartstrings?

SINGULARITY

Oh now you want to consider my center...

JD

Yours and our centers hold all the light in this Universe. You've shed enough light upon us. I need to shed mine.

SINGULARITY

I expect lights out when you Galaxies go off to bed. See you Gals in Crunch Time.

SINGULARITY exits, dragging
GRAVITY out.

SCENE 2

MILKY WAY

I'm no baby...

TRIANGULUM

You know you're childish when you think you're the Gravity of the situation.

CARTWHEEL

What just happened?

WHIRLPOOL

Gravity went berserk. Brought down Singularity.

JD

Gravity never lets me down. *I'm not stooping to your level and blaming the dog, Galaxies.*

ANDROMEDA

We're all on the same plane. The same ellipse.

CARTWHEEL
What is so special about the
Edge?

WHIRLPOOL
Nothing ain't relative to us
there.

JD
You'll understand in no time...

MILKY WAY
We have all the Crunch Time in our Universe.

JD
Crunch Time is all that you look forward to.
This Universe is all you see. You're too young
to notice what's outside.

MILKY WAY
Me no baby!

ANDROMEDA
Eh, nothing beats sleeping like one...
Declinations.

ANDROMEDA heads off to bed.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
With nomy/mama/papa not around, let's deck the
Elliptic-

TRIANGULUM
Oh no, you're not.

TRIANGULUM tries to drag away
CARTWHEEL or WHIRLPOOL.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
You're such a square, Triangulum.

MILKY WAY
Square? Reminds me... Board game? Tardigrades
and Elevatas?!

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL
Look at the time... Declinations!

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL rush off
to bed.

TRIANGULUM hands the snow globe to
JD. They head off to bed.

TRIANGULUM
Last one to bed is an anomaly!

JD
I can't even with this family...

JD sets the snow globe on the rug.
They sense some perplexity.

JD (CONT'D)
I'm with you, every step of the way. I was you,
Milky Way.

MILKY WAY
In what way?

JD sits at the table.

JD
Well, I have been waiting on a partner to play
Water Bears and Elevators with.

MILKY WAY joyfully brings out an
elliptical board game.

MILKY WAY
Wait... You like games? You an adult?

JD holds up a miniature figure.

JD
No... I'm a wat- Land bear.

MILKY WAY
Oh! That means... I the wata'-

JD
You're the air bear.

MILKY WAY
Can we call us tardigrades? This so confusin'.

JD
I'm the adult around here.

MILKY WAY
Fine. Gas it is... May I ask...? What
different? Bein' adult?

JD
Even at this age, I still like to game. Mess
around even. We play a game called "life." The
goal is to go from one ellipse to another.
Every ellipse are risks.

MILKY WAY
To you... What is between ellipses?

JD
A *liminal* space...?

MILKY WAY tries repeating the word.

JD (CONT'D)

Liminal. It's where who we were ends and who we are begins. You're in a liminal space.

MILKY WAY uneasily places their figure on the board.

JD holds figures of various heights.

JD (CONT'D)

You'll soon not fit in your ellipse. I stopped fitting in yours, ten eternities ago. I don't think I fit in mine anymore... No longer a teen- You're going to fill my ellipse. Your body will be a *teeny* bit different. Anyone who's not a toddler needs to *figure that out* on their own.

MILKY WAY

As outgrown air, um cub. I only go up from here... I will own you, land bear!

4. "FIGURE" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/4-figure>)

The actions taken upon the board during this duet is open ended.

MILKY WAY

LIFE HAS UPS AND UPS.

JD

LIFE HAS ITS *UPS AND DOWNS*.

MILKY WAY

GO FIG— UH.

JD

TAKE TWENTY STEPS FORWARD
LEAVES YOU WANTING TO BE SEVEN STEPS BACK.

MILKY WAY

TWENTY TO THIRTEEN?

JD

YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT OUT OUT...

MILKY WAY

WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT?

JD

NO ONE KEEPS THEIR FIGURE.
YOU WILL LOSE YOUR FIGURE.

MILKY WAY
I WILL BE AN ELLIPSOID?

JD
LIKE YOUR SIBLINGS.

MILKY WAY
I'LL GET TOO BIG FOR THE ELLIPSE?

JD
YOU'LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT.
YOU'LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT.
YOU'LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT OUT OUT...

MILKY WAY
I CAN'T LOSE FIGURE.
I NEEDA KEEP FIGURE.

JD
Even when your mind revisits your past self,
the system will always push your body forward.

MILKY WAY
(Intensely cracking their voice)
I no want to go far in this game, called- Uh,
life. I hate my figure. I hate myself.

JD puts their figure in a winning
position.

JD
Has anyone ever told you that your voice warps
more beautifully with each passing millennium?
Figure out yourself, Milky Way...

MILKY WAY slaps JD's figure off
the board.

JD (CONT'D)
LOST MY FIGURE...

MILKY WAY offers their figure.

MILKY WAY
KEEP THE FIGURE.

End of "FIGURE"

GRAVITY (OFFSTAGE)
Pawn!

JD
Gravity? MILKY WAY
That dog keep howlin'.

GRAVITY (O.S.)
Free fall! Free me, JD!

MILKY WAY

Quiet dog befa' Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing wake up.
That dog is nuthin' but trouble.

JD

Nothing. I'll take care of them. It's bedtime.
Gal, you're still a baby. *Quit the sour face,*
Milky Way. I'm the anomaly in this family.

JD bows.

MILKY WAY bows and goes off to bed.

5. "ZILCH" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/5-zilch>)

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Nothing is free!

JD

You always understand me...

GRAVITY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Nothing is infinite. Nothing is out there for
you.

JD

Well, there's nothing out there for me. Zilch.

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Nothing is waiting for us. A wide-open space...
Save space for us dogs. For me! A space without
Singularity. Zilch is not out of our Elliptic.
It's below you. *Relax.* You'll know in spacetime.

JD sits on the rug, feeling life
underneath. They unroll the rug
and discover the Big Bang Taser.

JD

Our rug of spacetime...?

GRAVITY (O.S.)

Use them opposable thumbs, Galaxy.

JD accidentally shocks themselves.
They read the Big Bang Taser.

JD

Zilch! Big Bang Taser...?

TIDALS (O.S.)

(Whimpering)

Fall...

GRAVITY (O.S.)

End Singularity! Free thee... No longer bound
by this family... Make *nothing* your legacy!

ABELL briefly stands up in the
audience.

End of "ZILCH"

SINGULARITY (O.S.)

My babies are sleeping! Shut your wormhole, you entitled dog.

JD hides the Big Bang Taser underneath the rug.

SCENE 3

SINGULARITY enters.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Something wrong, my Capricorn? Tardigrades and Elevators? I remember making this for you, twenty-something eternities ago. I guess, *nothing* really changes. Declinations, JD.

JD

Nothing... Declinations, nomy/mother/father.

SINGULARITY

Speaking of declining. I know that Gravity and I seemed to have a falling out. Gravity has been... Letting me down lately.

JD

Maybe you should let them out?

SINGULARITY

I let the tidal dogs out and the next thing you know you Gals are out and about. I'm not letting any of you play outside.

JD

I'm passed that. I'm an adult. I don't play outside.

(re: to settle down in a fresh space beyond the fourth wall and to *start a family*)

I'll make something of myself on the other side.

SINGULARITY

You can't make something out of nothing.

JD

How did you make us? Out of nothing?

SINGULARITY

JD (CONT'D)

JD...

Why?

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

How? When your black-hole hearts were small, I shed my light to you all, the lightless. *Nothi-* I fed you the finest photons from the field equations I picked. Now, my oldest cluster of stars... Your heart is too massive for this Elliptic?

JD

My supermassive heart is ready. I have light to shed.

SINGULARITY

I will not let go of your light. All your luminosity stays here.

I know your urge to jump to another elliptic. You're in a liminal space. It's also mine. You step out of this place and you're dead to me.

JD

What other space is there for you to go, you old Galaxy? I wish "Crunch Time" would die... I wish family time... Well...? I'm dying to know what's out there!

SINGULARITY

Fine. I'll... I'll answer why. JD... It did ring a bell. My... Illogical clock. It alerted me to put an end to my old relationships. It became *apparent* that I had to leave my parents.

JD

Parents? You had multiple parents? Can I meet my grandparents...?

SINGULARITY

There is *nothing* to them, Bach Ho. They never poured a drop of light for me. They're apparently heartless.

JD

Being a single parent sure did wonders to you.

SINGULARITY

Quit the antics. Speak physics, SPT0615-JD.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

Stop making light—

JD

I need to shed my light.

JD (CONT'D)

Light isn't made. It's passed down. I need to pass down. There's no longer enough space. That's why I'm shedding.

SINGULARITY

Oh the luminosity. You got to be shedding me...

SINGULARITY hands the monocular to JD. They point out.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

You are old enough to respond to a heartless
and lightless world beyond the Edge of the
Universe, by not making light of it.

JD

You've raised my supermassive heart by pouring
light into it. My lighty heart is ready to be
shared with the heartless.

SINGULARITY

The point of my hearty outpouring is for you to
forever lighten up. Do I make myself clear? You
are never getting passed me.

JD scopes out the Edge, longing
for ABELL.

JD

Our purpose is to pour out our hearts to those
with less heart. I can only see light if another
life lightens up. I want to make myself clear. I
need to be apparent as you. Singularity...
Nothing gets passed you... Not even light.

6. "LUMINOUS" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/6-luminous>)

SINGULARITY takes the monocular.

SINGULARITY

WHY DON'T YOU ENLIGHTEN US?
SHED SOME LIGHT TO YOUR FAMILY.
FORGET ME, SINCERELY.
LET OUR CENTERS SET US STRAIGHT...

Other GALAXIES enter in alignment.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

YOU BRIGHTEN MY ETERNITY. LUMINOUS.
TENDERNESS FOREVER LOOMS.
I HOLD YOUR FEATS TO THE FIRE.
LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT COMES FOR YOU AND US.
WHAT IS ILLUMINATING ARE...

Us. And us. And us. And us. And us. At the center
of us all is heavy. What looms in us is light.
Take it in. Our black holes. And you. (JD) At
the center of yours is supermassive.

End of "LUMINOUS"

GRAVITY rushes in, scattering the
GALAXIES. They scratch up the rug.

SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

You, Gravity, are a supermassive pain! You're ripping apart the family rug! Its spacetime fabric is passed down from my parents! Gravity. For the last time, you've let down this family. Entitled dog. I'm putting you down for eternity.

JD grabs the Big Bang Taser before SINGULARITY, who reaches underneath the rug only to feel zilch. They soon see that JD is armed.

JD

My heart cannot choose who to take in. However, my heart can choose who to take out.

7. "BIG BANG" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/7-big_bang)

SINGULARITY

YOU ARE A BIG...

JD shoots SINGULARITY in the face.

SINGULARITY gets electrocuted. They melodically shriek and jerk in their final squillo.

SINGULARITY (CONT'D)

MISTAKEEEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.

The light fluctuates. Appliances may short circuit and spark.

TIDALS (OFFSTAGE)

(Repetitively barking)

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

SINGULARITY

ACHE... ELLIPSES... BIG BANG...

SINGULARITY falls headfirst onto the rug, crushing the snow globe. They are lifeless.

TIDALS (O.S.)

FALL! BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG. BANG! BIG BANG!

The TIDALS freely rush out.

The lights suddenly fill the stage. The side curtains open to reveal what's upstage. The cosmic quake expels tremors into the audience.

It's the beginning of the Universe as we know it.

JD walks to the edge of the home, shifting from dolor to wonder. They carefully step out onto the stage. They stow away the Big Bang Taser in their dress. They look back at their petrified siblings.

JD

MY SUPERMASSIVE HEART GOES OUT TO YOU ALL, FAMILY.
BUT MY SUPERMASSIVE HEART GOES OUT FOR ME AND GRAVITY.
DECLINATIONS!

GRAVITY gets a knapsack filled with stars. They grab JD and run out of the home. They run in place on stage. They soon stop when they notice their lack of progress. GRAVITY claws at the ground.

JD (CONT'D)

The Edge of the Universe? Where is the Edge...?
It's further away?

JD takes a step downstage, causing the lights to expand further out and the home to move upstage in between the back curtains.

JD (CONT'D)

It's *getting* further away. We're rolling out the Fabric of Spacetime like our rug... We're going to go off on a tangent for all eternity. For the rest of spacetime.

The TIDALS unleash and run off.

GRAVITY

Free fall! Pets, no more! The wide-open space is ours. Destination's a gift. Destiny's Zenith. Force!

JD

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

JD reruns in place with GRAVITY.

From the home, most TEEN GALAXIES watch the Universe unravel, while MILKY WAY mournfully wraps itself around the lifeless SINGULARITY.

TEEN GALAXIES

ALL OUR HEARTS HAVE GONE OUT WITH THE BIG BANG...

End of "BIG BANG"

The home moves upstage, out of view.

SCENE 4

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

Field equations bloom.

8. "VERSE" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/8-verse>)

GRAVITY and JD blissfully frolic now. They mix and match the constants of equations, as though they are picking flowers.

JD

LETTERS, NUMERIALS, FACTORIALS.
IT IS ALL THANKS TO A FACTOR:
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE.
THAT'S THE START OF OUR VERSE!

NUMBERS, ALPHABETS, POLYNOMIALS.
PLANTING CONSTANTS AS MATH FARMERS.
STAGES OF THE BIG BANG FORM HYPERBOLAS.
ONLY HYPERBOLE!

STORIES, EQUATIONS, ALGORITHMS.
IT IS TO BASK IN ITS GLORY.
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE.
THAT'S THE START OF OUR VERSE!

GRAVITY puts together $F = AM$.

SINGULARITY echoes from elsewhere.

SINGULARITY (OFFSTAGE)

You are a big mis—

JD stops in their tracks while picking up the frequency ratio of a semitone in twelve-tone equal temperament: $_{12}\sqrt{2}$.

JD

MUSIC, DISCORDANCE, FAMILIAR.
CROSSING THE LINE FULL OF SCEPTICS.
ZAPPING NOMY/MAMA/PAPA IS A TURN FOR THE WORSE...
THAT'S THE STING OF REVERSE...

GRAVITY fixes and turns their equation into Newton's second law of motion: $F = MA$.

GRAVITY

Force?

JD expresses contentment.

GRAVITY puts together Hubble's
Law: $v = H_0 D$.

JD
DISTANCE VERSIFIES VELOCITY.
BREVITY OF HUBBLE'S CONSTANT.
THIS IS THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE.
JUST THE START OF OUR VERSE!

End of "VERSE"

GRAVITY
Force!

GRAVITY and JD hastily skip out.

The home returns, wheeled downstage.

SCENE 5

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

9. "RIP" (<https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/9-rip>)

Choreographically, the TEEN
GALAXIES drape the rug over
SINGULARITY's body. They bow.

TEEN GALAXIES
Singularity. Declinations, nomy/mommy/daddy.

End of "RIP"

MILKY WAY sniffles.

CARTWHEEL
Will you grow up? It's what Singularity would
have wanted us to do.

ANDROMEDA
But not too much. We may be the oldest ones
left, but we're still children.

WHIRLPOOL
We'll get older... We'll grow pessimistic.

CARTWHEEL
Nothing matters.

WHIRLPOOL (CONT'D)
Ain't anything holding mass.

ANDROMEDA
Sorry, but this mass isn't over... Let's make
time to grieve.

CARTWHEEL

We can't make time to grieve! We're about to lose mass. Famine will tear apart this family.

WHIRLPOOL

We must make of what is left with no Crunch Ti-

MILKY WAY

We gonna go hungry?

CARTWHEEL

Look at Singularity. What do you think?

MILKY WAY

I can't. When I hungry...

WHIRLPOOL

Let's at least think like Singularity. We're gonna round up all the tidal forces.

CARTWHEEL

We're also going to be dog catchers now?

WHIRLPOOL

We can gather the delicacies of field equations as our grandmaster of the Universe once did.

CARTWHEEL

We're clusters of delicate flowers. Look out. The garden's thinning out. Our crops face an eternal drought. This profound cosmos is going to have a field day with us. We'll starve to death once the Fabric of Spacetime dissipates.

TRIANGULUM

Luminous, Gals. Let's lighten up. Don't think too hard. Just be Singularities.

CARTWHEEL & WHIRLPOOL

Is your head a vacuum too, you square? Our nomy/mother/father lightened up, remember?

TRIANGULUM

The Universe will return to its scheduled Crunch Time shortly. My mental bandwidth may be thinning out like the Universe, but it sure is expanding. Making the Universe spotless is what Singularity would've wanted. We have ourselves to blame for the Universe's biggest mistake.

MILKY WAY

I blame Big Bang thingy.

WHIRLPOOL

It ain't just a thingy.

CARTWHEEL

The thingy tases. So, a taser...?

ANDROMEDA

Why would such a weapon be in the hands of our wisest sibling?

WHIRLPOOL sits by the rug.

WHIRLPOOL

Uh, it was passed down by the wisest being...?

CARTWHEEL

Singularity? They had this, *Big Bang Taser*, the whole time?

WHIRLPOOL

Wholesomely, I joined them in meditation. One time, they felt out of place. Suddenly, they pulled it out. Our nomy/mama/papa never fired the thing. I didn't know it would do, *that...*

TRIANGULUM

Singularity limited our gifts to light but *power*?

ANDROMEDA

Where is the power...? Who has the power...?

TRIANGULUM

Power comes with age. It's adulthood. JD is all we have left. Let's bring home our caretaker—

CARTWHEEL

A traitor can't care.

WHIRLPOOL

Perpetrators don't care.

ANDROMEDA

Ye be making a shockingly big mistake.

MILKY WAY

You all mistaken... Gravity ravel JD.

ANDROMEDA

We're blaming the dog now...?

MILKY WAY

Gravity, cute, but plots with JD. JD gone mad.

TRIANGULUM

It is absolutely the dog's fault. Gravity caused the Big Bang. And it's on us Galaxies to start the Big Crunch. JD is the only Galaxy who knows how to pick field equations, put together its formulas, and cook up some photons. Like Singularity had done. We are not forgiving JD. JD will forgo *nothing*. This nothingness. And our anomaly will give back everything.

MILKY WAY

We gonna undo the Big Bang?

TRIANGULUM

Cartwheel. Whirlpool. Babysit Milky Way.

CARTWHEEL

Gal... No one has time for this Barred Galaxy.

TRIANGULUM

Cart-Whirl! You two are barred from stepping out of the Elliptic for eternities. *Andromeda and I* are going to find JD. Disarm the anomalous. Even anomalies are powerless without their family...

CARTWHEEL

An anomaly stays an anomaly.

WHIRLPOOL

Family needs to move on.

ANDROMEDA

Everything is a... What is family?

MILKY WAY

What is anomaly?

10. "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING" (https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/10-anomaly_is_everything)

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA

FAMILY IS... FAMILY IS...? FAMILY IS...

FAMILY ISN'T... FAMILY IS NOT... ANOMALY.

TRIANGULUM

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW?

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING. YOU KNOW

NOT WHAT IS EVERYTHING.

NO SUCH THING AS FAMILIARITY.

ANOMALY IS THEIR THING,

FROM THE WAY THEY SING TO THE WAY THEY GO MISSING.

ANOMALY IS OUR THING,

LIKE THIS ELLIPSE WE ONCE LIVED AND NEED TO LEAVE.

TRIANGULUM brings out the
shattered snow globe.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

REALLY, FAMILY IS EVERYTHING TO US.

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

TEEN GALAXIES (EXCEPT TRIANGULUM)

WE KNOW.

TRIANGULUM

FAMILY'S UNIVERSAL. *WE KNOW*

THAT WE'RE LEFT WITH NOTHING.

WELL, THE THING IS THAT WE'RE ALL HOMES TO FAMILIES.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

ANOMALY IS EVERY CELL,
FROM THE PLANETS TO THE COMETS IN STAR SYSTEMS.
ANOMALY IS EVERY VEIN,
WITH ITS INTERGALACTIC SUPERHIGHWAY SYSTEMS.
ANOMALY IS OUR HEARTS.

CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL, ANDROMEDA
BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE THEIRS JUST STEMS.

TRIANGULUM

BELIEVE ANOMALY'S ALL WE'VE KNOWN.
IT IS ALL OF US AS THE GALAXY FAMILY.
BUT ME.

TRIANGULUM sits on a whoopee
cushion at the table.

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL endlessly
laugh.

TRIANGULUM appears flustered. They
shift to delight. They pull out
the cushion then toss it away.

TRIANGULUM (CONT'D)

ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!
ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!
ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING.

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

TRIANGULUM exits with ANDROMEDA.

End of "ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING"

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL end their
laughter, realizing that they have
been duped.

MILKY WAY

You wanna play Tardigrades and Elevatas?

CARTWHEEL points elsewhere.

CARTWHEEL

Look! A warm plate of nuclear pasta!

CARTWHEEL grabs WHIRLPOOL and runs
out of the Elliptic with them.

WHIRLPOOL

We ain't seriously leaving our baby sibling 'lone
for your sporty ego? Triangulum tries too hard.
You take it to the next level. In general, this
is specially unrelativistic what we're doing.

CARTWHEEL

What do you know about special relativity? Our special little relative will be especially fine. We may have very few games or distractions around, but *kids have their imaginations*. Now imagine us when we shove it in Triangulum and Andromeda's face that we're the galactic duos! We'll undo the Big Bang before them and save the Universe! We'll be home in Crunch Time.

WHIRLPOOL

Time will tell...

CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL depart.

MILKY WAY hears the SOLAR SYSTEM in their head.

SOLAR SYSTEM (OFFSTAGE)

You are now the adult in the house.

MILKY WAY

I'm no adult...

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

If you're no adult, then you are a baby.

MILKY WAY

Me no baby!

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

Go out there and prove it! Put an end to the Big Bang!

MILKY WAY

Who are you?

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

Like sight, we're another *sense*. We're adole-

MILKY WAY

Sounds like peer pressa'...

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

Peer, as in we're your *friends*.

MILKY WAY

Big ideas, imaginary friends!

SOLAR SYSTEM (O.S.)

Planetary friends, Milky Way. Planetary friends.

MILKY WAY departs away from the safety of the Elliptic.

MILKY WAY

Plant friends. I can't wait, see what this
Galaxy can do. What Universe holds. Wait...
Adole- What now?

MILKY WAY exits.

The home moves upstage, out of view.

SCENE 6

THE FABRIC OF SPACETIME

TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.

ANDROMEDA mumbles the Galaxy
shanty, "Globular." They take out
their monocular. They scope out
towards the Center.

TRIANGULUM

Red shift. You're facing the wrong way...

ANDROMEDA

Ye just want to know how far we've come... We
walked a few mill...

TRIANGULUM

I want to know how far we'll go. The Center of
our Universe should not be in the scope of
things. Family may be everything to us but-

ANDROMEDA

Ope. There's nothing.

TRIANGULUM

'Scuse me?

ANDROMEDA

Melky Way is away. No one is at the Elliptic...

TRIANGULUM

Those galactic idiots! This voyage is in vain.

ANDROMEDA

K, so... We're setting our course back to home
base. Please try not to gamma-ray burst a vein.

TRIANGULUM takes out the broken
snow globe.

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

Triangulum... Triangulate.