

DIRECTOR'S SCRIPT



EL LIP SES

Book, Music, and Lyrics
DAVID QUANG PHAM

www.ellipsesplay.com
  [tumblr. @EllipsesPlay](#)

©2020 - 2021





ELLIPSES

The Universe
in a Musical
by
David Quang Pham



WORKING TITLE

PLAYWRIGHTS



THANK YOU

| Name | Role |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Andrea Ghez | Professors of Galaxies |
| Ed Loh | |
| <u>Janelle Lawrence</u> | Operatic/Musical Mentor |
| <u>Kristin Idaszak</u> | Science Playwriting Mentor |
| Abby Holland | Originated Singer of Triangulum |
| Skye Passmore | Originated Singer of Whirlpool |
| Kari Twyman | Originated Singer of Cartwheel |
| Isake Akanke | Monday Night Development Workshops |
| Daniela Cobb | Readers |
| Jeff Hathcoat | |
| Kate Jacoby | |
| Bryan Montemayor | |
| Lee Osorio | |
| Mary Lynn Owen | |
| Sofia Palmero | |
| Lau'rie Roach | |
| Parris Sarter | |
| Imani Vaughn-Jones | |
| Minka Wiltz | |
| Laurel Anderson | Observers |
| Barb Carboy | |



DEVELOPMENT

| Date | Type | Site | Specifics |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 2017 | Idea | Michigan State | AST 308 Galaxies and Cosmology by Ed Loh |
| 2020 8-15 | Writing | Working Title Playwrights | Addae Moon's Master Class, "Generating Story Idea" |
| 2020 10-5 | Reading "Bounce" | Working Title Playwrights | Monday Night Critique Sessions |
| 2020 11-13 | Reading (Preview) | S.I.S.R! | Hosted by Michael Perrie Jr and Lacy Reily ellipsesplay.com/events/2020-11-14 |
| 2020 12-7 | Reading "In-Depth" | Working Title Playwrights | Monday Night Critique Sessions |
| 2021 2-1 | Reading "Big Bang" | Working Title Playwrights | Monday Night Development Workshops |



SYNOPSIS

An astrophysics epic, ELLIPSES centers on a family of Galaxies undoing the Big Bang, after a member sets it off. This coming-of-age musical follows a teenager and their dog running away from home. SPT0615-JD and Gravity, their tidal force, journey away from the Center of our Universe. The story explores the Big Crunch Theory and Hubble's Law, which states that Galaxies must distance from the Center. It is not unlike a human being, as we want to get out and explore. The analogy is expressed through these cosmic personifications. The set has a dome home to represent the Center, the stage is space, and the fourth wall is the Edge. The Universe is told through the human experience.

The teenage Galaxies begin their routine by scoping out the Edge ("[Bounce](#)"). Their parent calls them up for supper. Singularity nurtures them and their tidal dogs, but a child is missing at the table ("[Crunch](#)"). JD still looks out. They want to go to the Edge of the Universe ("[Cutting Edge](#)"). However, Singularity speaks of its perils and sends them to bed ("[Fixed Stars](#)"). Letting JD out of bed, Triangulum outlines their family values ("[Anomaly is Everything](#)"). Eager for a voyage anyways, JD finds Singularity's Big Bang Taser stashed under the family's rug. JD deems the fabric of spacetime to be just as sturdy ("[Zilch](#)"). Later, Singularity assesses their children's black-hole hearts ("[Luminous](#)"). With this being the final straw, JD strikes their parent with the Big Bang Taser. In the chaos, Gravity discreetly picks up Singularity's dislodged eye. Then, JD flees with Gravity to the Edge, but the Edge keeps distancing. It is like a rolled-up rug that JD keeps rolling away ("[Big Bang](#)").

Heartbroken, Singularity kicks out their children ("[Depth](#)") and has them spend an eternity trying to roll back the Edge. The siblings blame one another for kickstarting the Universe ("[Superheated](#)"). In their isolation, Milky Way speaks to their Solar System ("[Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles](#)"). Elsewhere, JD and Gravity are on an adventure ("[Verse](#)"). Others try to quit and go home ("[Time is Relative](#)"). But they face Singularity's attack dogs, who ensure that no siblings merge ("[Spaghetti Horizon](#)"). Triangulum, Andromeda, and Milky Way band together but keep their distance ("[Globular](#)"). Soon, the Solar System develops into a swelling. Despite Triangulum's objections, Andromeda comes to the aid of Milky Way. Before the dogs could pounce, Milky Way emits flares of light that scare them off ("[Fabric](#)").



A trillion years pass, and JD and Gravity are still traversing space. They find time to play fetch, and Gravity catches on JD's fugue. Through a stellar speech, Gravity explains that the point of return is far-fetched ("[Far-Fetched](#)").

From the Center, Singularity observes their children through a telescope ("[Point](#)"). The Edge is on the cosmic horizon.

In the following act, most siblings have clustered together ("[Bounce Back](#)"). They reach JD and Gravity ("[Accretion](#)"), and take them in. As they rest together, Gravity reveals that they have been holding Singularity's eye. Singularity's backstory is that they ran away from their own Universe ("[Heat Death](#)"). JD decides to continue as their parent had ("[Dot Dot Dot](#)"). Upset by this choice, Triangulum breaks JD's monocular ("[The Scope of Things](#)"). Gravity distracts them by signaling the dogs to their location. In the frenzy, JD and Gravity race to the Edge. Soon, Singularity calls off the dogs ("[Big Rip](#)"). The siblings make their way home ("[It's About Spacetime](#)").

An eternity passes, and JD is lost more than ever without their monocular. Gravity believes that one can overcome the parallax with their supermassive heart ("[Parallax](#)"). In that spirit, the Edge unveils. Surrounded by spectacles reminding them of family, JD decides to head back, taking the Edge with them ("[Tangent](#)"). JD tries to give back Singularity's eye when they return, but they do not forgive JD. After giving Gravity one last hug, JD jumps off the Edge ("[Shed Light](#)"). In these millennia of grief, the siblings hold each other close ("[*](#)"). Singularity chooses to take in their eye, restoring their depth perception. Singularity looks beyond. JD is amongst their own family. To the eye of the beholder, it is an ellipse full of Galaxies. JD has found their center ("[Hearts in the Right Place](#)").

All of a sudden in JD's honor, Gravity returns with a wolfpack. The Galaxies and the tidal forces end time in this epic showdown ("[The Spaghettification of Zenith](#)"). When all is lost, Singularity and their Galaxies pray at their table in the Center of our Universe as the tidal forces consume them ("[Big Crunch](#)"). In the darkness, a bang is seen and heard again ("[Big Bounce](#)").

Nothing is anomaly like family. Nothing is everything.



CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

○ Androgyny and Astronomy ○

| Character | Nature | Identity |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|
| SPT0615-JD The distant galactic sibling. JD wants to shed light onto the lightless. | Embryonic Galaxy | Young Adult |
| SINGULARITY The relativistically impossible single parent. Singularity wants to keep the oneness of the Universe. | Super Infinite Black Hole | Adult |
| GRAVITY A tidal dog. Gravity wants to ground the wide-open space. | Tidal Force | Any |
| TRIANGULUM The jingoistic galactic sibling. Triangulum wants to be the role model. | Spiral Galaxy | Teenager |
| ANDROMEDA The naval galactic sibling. Andromeda wants to find the pearl in this universal oyster. | Spiral Galaxy | Teenager |
| MILKY WAY The aimless galactic sibling. Milky Way wants to make themself useful. | Barred Spiral Galaxy | Preadolescent |
| WHIRLPOOL The anaerobic galactic sibling. Whirlpool wants to spiral into risk control. | Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy | Teenager |
| CARTWHEEL The aerobic galactic sibling. Cartwheel wants to earn their ring. | Ring Galaxy | Teenager |

Ensembles

| TIDALS | SOLAR SYSTEMS | MULTIPLICITIES |
|--------|------------------------|----------------|
| | Sun (Singularity) | 1 or A-Ω |
| | Earth (ensemble) | 2 |
| | Jupiter (Whirlpool) | |
| | Saturn (Cartwheel) | |
| | Uranus (Triangulum) | |
| | Eris (JD) | |
| | Oort Cloud (Andromeda) | |

BRIGHT IDEA

| | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|
| ABELL 2261 | Elliptical Galaxy | Onlooker |
| An anomalous galactic sweetheart, beyond the Edge of the Universe. "Abell" is the stage name of JD's performer's literal loved one in the audience. Their heart is not a supermassive black hole, much like Multiplicities. | | |



TIDALS

Tidals are tidal forces personified as canines. Over the course of the story, the dogs evolve into wolves.

The barks and woofs of Tidals are uttered by barking: "Force." Their howls are uttered by howling: "Fall." Singularity and most Galaxies cannot converse with the Tidals. Along JD's and Gravity's voyage to the Edge of the Universe, JD eventually understands the tidal language.

SOLAR SYSTEMS

Solar Systems are celestial bodies that speak to Milky Way when they wander the Universe alone. They are like imaginary friends, before these planetary friends physically come to life as puppets and dancers. During the first act, they speak for several billion years (quarter-hour staging time) before the Sun becomes a red giant (swelling). Any set of cast members may voice our general Solar System. The principal casts are marked in parentheses for convenient doubling.

MULTIPLICITIES

Multiplicities are Singularity's parental figures from their native universe. They are like Galaxies except they have no supermassive black holes for their hearts. They are personified as law enforcers from another universe, where the laws of physics are different and someone with a black-hole heart, like Singularity, is an anomaly. In "Heat Death," Multiplicities cry out for Singularity, after Singularity runs away from home (the Center of their own Universe). They do not make an appearance but may be represented as silhouettes when Singularity is in front of the stage. Each Multiplicity are alphabetized to mean that at least two performers portray them, as long as they switch back and forth in the lines.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

| # | Page | Title | Characters | oPresent but unvocal |
|----------|-------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. | 14 | <u>Bounce</u> | JD TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL | |
| 2. | 15 | <u>Crunch</u> | SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL JD GRAVITY tidals | |
| 3. | 23 | <u>Cutting Edge</u> | JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL SINGULARITY | |
| 4. | 30 | <u>Fixed Stars</u> | SINGULARITY ANDROMEDA JD TRIANGULUM MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL | |
| 5. | 36 | <u>Anomaly is Everything</u> | TRIANGULUM JD | |
| 6. | 39 | <u>Zilch</u> | JD GRAVITY tidals | |
| 7. | 44 | <u>Luminous</u> | SINGULARITY JD TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL | |
| 8. | 46 | <u>Big Bang</u> | JD SINGULARITY GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals | |
| 9. | 52 | <u>Depth</u> | SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals | |
| 10. | 61 | <u>Superheated</u> | WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM CARTWHEEL ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY | |
| 11. | 66 | <u>Verse</u> | JD GRAVITY | |
| 12. | 74 | <u>Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles</u> | MILKY WAY solar systems | |
| 13. | 86 | <u>Time is Relative</u> | WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL | |
| 14. | 101 | <u>Spaghetti Horizon</u> | SINGULARITY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals | |
| 15. | 108 | <u>Globular</u> | ANDROMEDA TRIANGULUM | |
| 16. | 116 | <u>Far-Fetched</u> | GRAVITY JD | |
| 17. | 124 | <u>Fabric</u> | TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY tidals | |
| 18. | 127 | <u>Point</u> | SINGULARITY multiplicity tidals | |
| 19. | 131 | <u>Bounce Back</u> | TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL | |
| 20. | 141 | <u>Accretion</u> | JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL | |
| 21. | 152 | <u>Heat Death</u> | SINGULARITY multiplicities tidals GRAVITY | |
| 22. | 167 | <u>Dot Dot Dot</u> | JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL | |
| 23. | 171 | <u>The Scope of Things</u> | TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL JD GRAVITY | |



| # | Page | Title | Characters | oPresent but unvocal |
|----------|-------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| 24. | 178 | <u>Big Rip</u> | ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY SINGULARITY tidals TRIANGULUM WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL | |
| 25. | 187 | <u>Parallax</u> | GRAVITY JD | |
| 26. | 191 | <u>Tangent</u> | JD GRAVITY | |
| 27. | 197 | <u>It's About Spacetime</u> | SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL | |
| 28. | 206 | <u>Shed Light</u> | JD SINGULARITY GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL | |
| 29. | 213 | <u>*</u> | WHIRLPOOL ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY CARTWHEEL TRIANGULUM SINGULARITY | |
| 30. | 215 | <u>Hearts in the Right Place</u> | JD SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL multiplicities | |
| 31. | 216 | <u>(The Spaghettification of) Zenith</u> | GRAVITY SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals | |
| 32. | 223 | <u>Big Crunch</u> | SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals | |
| 33. | 226 | <u>Big Bounce</u> | COMPANY | |
| | | <u>Able</u> | ABELL | |

MUSICAL CHARACTERIZATIONS

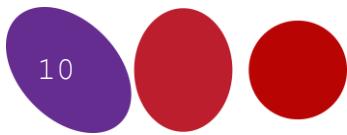
SINGULARITY| The hums are the longing melodies in "Heat Death":
D3-5 B2-4 C#3-5 G#2-4 E2-4 F#2-4 G#2-4 F#2-4

TRIANGULUM| Associative Instruments: Triangle, Handbell

MILKY WAY| Associative Instrument: Cowbell (may be attached to Milky Way's physicality or personality)

CARTWHEEL| Associative Instruments: Jingle Ring Tambourine,
Jingle Bell

ABELL| Leitmotif from "Able" whenever Abell is focused upon.
"Able" is in the second phrase in "Hearts in the Right Place."



SCENES

| Act | Page | Location | SET props |
|-------|------|-----------------------------|---|
| Ii | 13 | The Center of the Universe | DOME HOME RUG(dark) SEATS(7) TABLE balls balm Big Bang Taser dishes knapsack monoculars(2) snow globe whoopie cushion |
| Iii | 66 | The Fabric of Spacetime | FIELD EQUATIONS (including $v = H_0 D$, $\Delta t = (\Delta t_0) / \sqrt{1 - v^2 / c^2}$) balm knapsack magnolia flowers(2) monoculars(2) |
| Iiii | 95 | The Center of the Universe | DOME HOME RUG(dark) SEATS(6) TABLE Big Bang Taser snow globe(smashed) |
| Iiv | 104 | The Fabric of Spacetime | balls balm knapsack monoculars(2) |
| Iv | 127 | The Center of the Universe | DOME HOME SEATS(1) TABLE RUG(dark) snow globe telescope |
| III | 131 | The Fabric of Spacetime | balls knapsack |
| IIii | 152 | Singularity's Past Universe | DOME HOME Big Bang Taser fabric(dark) |
| IIiii | 162 | The Fabric of Spacetime | FIELD EQUATIONS (including $d = 1 / p$) balls domes(5) knapsack monoculars(2) |
| IIiv | 191 | The Edge of the Universe | balls(2) |
| IIv | 196 | The Center of the Universe | DOME HOME RUG(dark) SEATS(6) TABLE Big Bang Taser |
| III | 226 | A Fresh Universe | DOME HOME RUG(dark) SEATS(6) TABLE snow globe |

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

Pre-Big Bang & Big Bounce

~~~~~  
back curtains~~~~~

UPSTAGE

UPSTAGE



**Post-Big Bang**



DOWNSTAGE

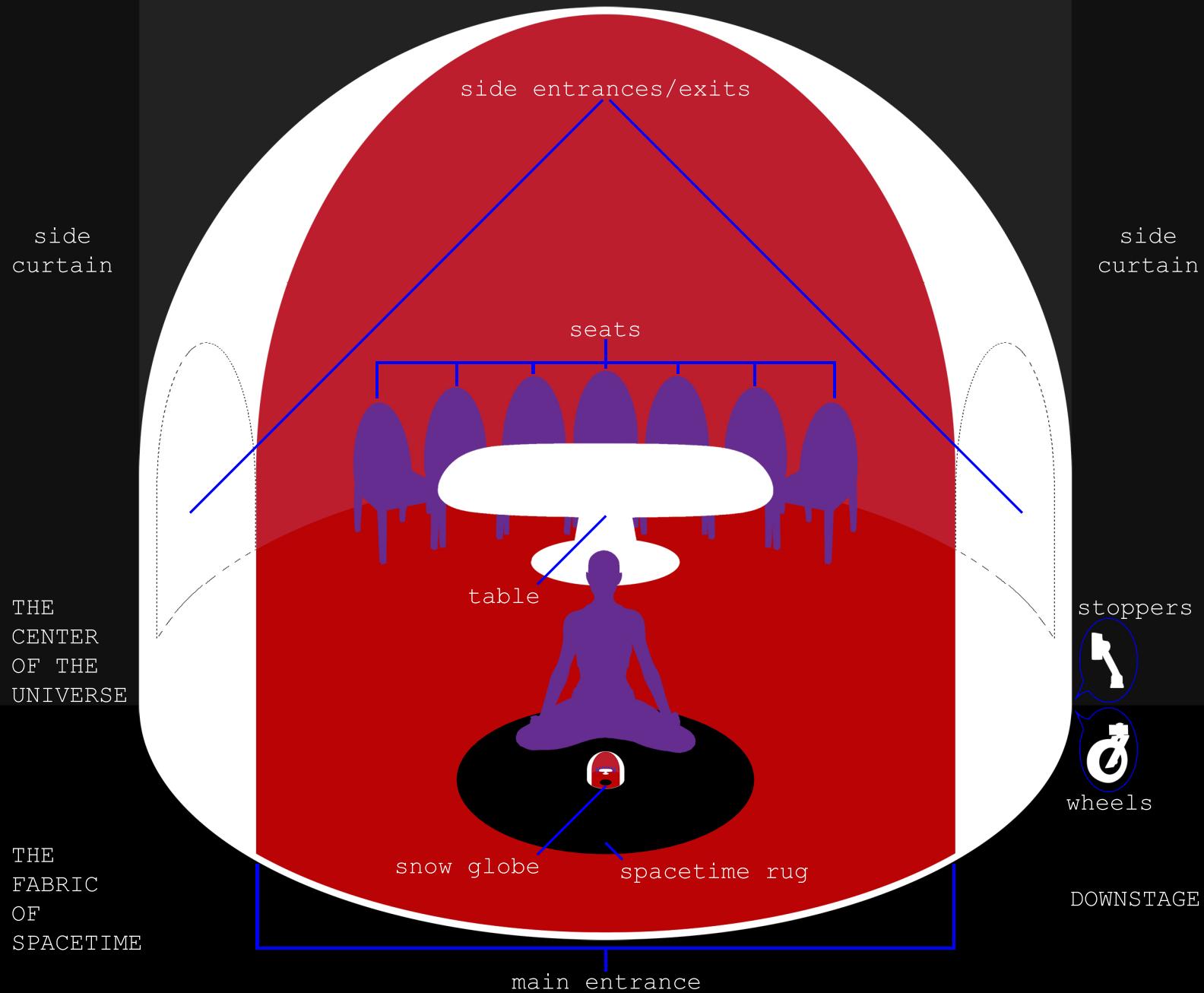
DOWNSTAGE

FOURTH WALL

DOWNSTAGE

FOURTH WALL

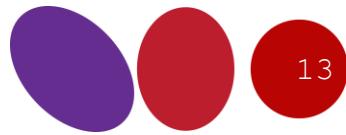
## THE ELLIPSE / DOME HOME



THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE

FOURTH WALL

# ACT I



[*The Center of the Universe*]

[*The dome is positioned downstage center. There is a table with seats and a rug inside. A snow globe, resembling the home, sits somewhere. Lights dwell only within the home. Outside, the stage is off limits. Everything upstage behind the home is concealed by the side curtains.]*

(*SINGULARITY meditates on the spacetime rug.*)

(*MULTIPLICITIES are absent. They echo.*)

**MULTIPLICITIES**

Nothing.

(*SINGULARITY pulls out the Big Bang Taser from underneath the rug. They aim it outwards. They ignite the Big Bang Taser.*)

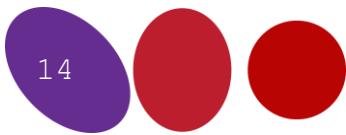
(*The TIDALS distantly whimper.*)

[*The lights flicker. The side curtains ripple. Field equations loom in the space. The Universe flashes their wonder.*]

(*From the audience, ABELL enters. They find a seat to sit in the audience.*)

(*SINGULARITY stops the Big Bang Taser.*)

[*The Universe returns to normal.*]



(*SINGULARITY stows away the Big Bang Taser under the rug. They look upon ABELL. They beat their heart.*)

**SINGULARITY**

Nothing...

(*Leaving through a side exit.*)

**1. BOUNCE**

[*In the audience, a particle of light momentarily rests on ABELL.*]

(*JD arrives, carrying two monoculars. They position themself at the edge of the home. They look out through both monoculars.*)

(*TRIANGULUM wanders out and heads to JD. They notice that JD holds two monoculars. They snatch one. They look out through it.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

NOTHING.

(*Tossing the monocular.*)

(*WHIRLPOOL spirals out. They catch the monocular. They look out.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

NOTHING!

(*CARTWHEEL cartwheels out. They snatch the monocular from WHIRLPOOL. They look out.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

NOTHING!



(*ANDROMEDA* pops out.)

(*CARTWHEEL* hands the monocular to *ANDROMEDA*.)

**ANDROMEDA**

NOTHING!

(*Stowing away the monocular.*)

(*MILKY WAY* is disheveled. They stroll in.)

**MILKY WAY**

NOTHIN'...

(The *GALAXIES not JD* cluster in the center.)

**GALAXIES not JD**

LET'S BOUNCE!

(*Bouncing away from each other. They land on their respective walls. They distinctly move and dance alongside the walls of the home. They distinctly pose or slow down whenever the melody has rests. Through choreographic exposition, they detail themselves perfectly. Now, all they need are their names.*)

(*SINGULARITY remains absent.*)

**SINGULARITY**

MILKY WAY!

(*MILKY WAY lugs their way to the table.*)

ANDROMEDA!



(*ANDROMEDA heads to the table.*)

**SINGULARITY** (cont.)

TRIANGULUM!

(*TRIANGULUM bounces off the walls of the home before landing by the table.*)

WHIRLPOOL!

(*WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.*)

CARTWHEEL!

(*CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.*)

JD!

(*JD remains staring out at the Edge.*)

**JD**

SOMETHING...

[End of "Bounce."]

(*The TIDALs prowl in and surround the table.*)

(*SINGULARITY arrives with dishes. They bow.*)

**SINGULARITY**

Declinations. It is that time.



(*MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.*)

(*SINGULARITY places a dish on the ground.  
They set the other dishes on the table.*)

(*The TIDALS feast on the dish on the ground.*)

(*The GALAXIES at the table sit themselves.*)

(*TRIANGULUM sits on the whoopie cushion.*)

**SINGULARITY** (cont.)

Looks like someone enjoyed a little too much gas giants.

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL hold their laughs.*)

(*MILKY WAYS snickers.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Quit the snickers, Milky Way.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Hmm... What is time?

**CARTWHEEL**

The concept of time?

**SINGULARITY**

You would know time in a timely manner, when you meditate on it. Has any of you seen my scopes? The only place it could be is in our Center of the Universe. They have to be somewhere in this dome home. *This ellipse...*



(*TRIANGULUM looks out towards JD.*)

### **TRIANGULUM**

Well, least *nothing* is found at the Edge of the Universe.

### **WHIRLPOOL**

That *nothing*, perhaps, is at risk.

(*SINGULARITY passes out the dishes.*)

### **SINGULARITY**

There is nothing to risk but your lives if you leave this dome. If you somehow get past my gravitational pull and step out onto the fabric of spacetime, you'll end up ripping apart the cosmos. Then I, the master of the Universe, will be out of order. We have all the cosmic formulas we need right here in our Center. I did what any supermassive parent would do. With my wrists and black-hole heart, I cooked up something special. Nuclear pasta.

### **ANDROMEDA**

*Special for the trillionth millennium...*

### **SINGULARITY**

I'm especially happy that you're just as thrilled as the first millennium. Our meals are heated to almost 15 million degrees Kelvin and rotated within the prototype cosmic microwave background at the angular velocity of 14.713 minus 2.396 sine squared its solar latitude minus 1.787 sine to the fourth power of its solar latitude. Strongest material in the Universe. 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*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Tidal dog... That is not for you to gravitate to.

**SINGULARITY**

That's a stretch... If a tidal force wants a swig, they can have some spaghettification. Fix...?

*(GRAVITY obediently sits.)*

*(SINGULARITY tosses unseen food to GRAVITY.)*

*(GRAVITY devours the invisible spaghetti.)*

**SINGULARITY**

Who are good tidal forces? You all are!

*(The TIDALS wag their tails.)*

**TIDALS**

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(TRIANGULUM prepares to pray.)*

*(MILKY WAY dives into their dish.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Again, Milky Way?

**ANDROMEDA**

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

**CARTWHEEL**

It takes eight millennia to burn that, Andromeda.

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

**SINGULARITY**

You all went through a phase where you ate megatons of nuclear pasta. You want to go through accretion and be a grand-design spiral Galaxy, don't you?

*(CARTWHEEL taps WHIRLPOOL on the shoulder.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

You weigh no more than a wrist in our spiral arms. Ain't it ring a bell, Ring Galaxy?

**CARTWHEEL**

Gal, I also put no weight or stress on me. Y'all are the morbidly spiral Galaxies.

*(ANDROMEDA points to TRIANGULUM.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

Least you're not a two-dimensional square, like this Galaxy.

**TRIANGULUM**

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



(*TRIANGULUM tosses the whoopie cushion at WHIRLPOOL.*)

(*In their seats, WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL defensively demonstrate defensive stances. They bicker.*)

(*ANDROMEDA takes out their nuclear balm. They wipe the ointment on their face to soothe themselves. They stow away the balm.*)

#### **MILKY WAY**

(*Mouthful of nuclear pasta.*)

Kau tau to you, Ellipses.

#### **TRIANGULUM**

#### **WHIRLPOOL**

#### **CARTWHEEL**

Watch your worm hole you quasi-Galaxy. You are barred.

(*SINGULARITY stops the bickering.*)

#### **SINGULARITY**

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

(*Pinching MILKY WAY's cheek. This shows that MILKY WAY is SINGULARITY's favorite child.*)

Always, full of grace.

(*Preparing to pray. They place a hand on their chest. They shape that hand as though it is holding a heart. Their other hand sits flatly under their hearty hand.*)

Let us save space.

(*The nearby GALAXIES pray with SINGULARITY.*)



## 2. CRUNCH

### **SINGULARITY**

HOLD THAT HOLE IN YOUR HEART.  
GIVE INTO INTERNAL DARKNESS.  
HOLD OUR LIGHT FOR ALL TIME.  
FOR IT'S CRUNCH TIME, GALAXIES.

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

### **GALAXIES not JD**

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            IN OUR HOLES / AS A WHOLE.  
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, WE BELIEVE.

### **TRIANGULUM**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

### **WHIRLPOOL**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

### **CARTWHEEL**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

**ANDROMEDA**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

**MILKY WAY**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, NOMY SING.

**SINGULARITY**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, JD?  
SPT0615-JD?

*[End of "Crunch."]*

*(GRAVITY splits from the TIDALS. They stroll to JD, to be their canine companion.)*

**3. CUTTING EDGE** (I want to share my light)

**JD**

NOT THE TIME  
TO PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE...

*(GRAVITY places their paw on JD's monocular.)*

CUT INTO MY—  
PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE OF THE...

*(GRAVITY turns JD's head to the table.)*

CENTER WITH OUR  
RELATIVES.  
OUR TIDAL DOGS.

**JD (cont.)**

GRAVITY,  
ALWAYS GROUNDING ME.

*(Nearing the edge of the home.)*

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*.

*(Drawing the attention of other GALAXIES  
with the divisive term, "ellipses.")*

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.

**GALAXIES not JD**

CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE...

**JD**

WHY DON'T YOU GO OFF?  
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—

**GALAXIES not JD**

SPT0615-JD...

**GALAXIES not JD (cont.)**

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.

(*ABELL looms in the audience.*)

(*JD considers joining the family at the table but longs for the outside anomaly.*)

**JD**

I WANT TO BE IN A WARM SPACE WHERE ELLIPSES ARE ABELL...  
TO MEET A NICE GALAXY...

(*GRAVITY encouragingly grounds JD.*)

**JD**

JD...

**GALAXIES not JD**

SPT0615-  
*JADED—*

**JD**

GOES OFF OF THE TANGENT!

THESE COSMIC POEMS MUST REACH TO THE ENDS OF THIS  
EPIC TALE.  
OUR AUDACIOUS VERSE.

THERE MIGHT BE A FRIEND THAT 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."*]

**GRAVITY**

Force!

**JD**

Grounded, I do love my Gravity.

(*SINGULARITY accompanies JD.*)

**SINGULARITY**

I will spare a millennium to listen to your verse, JD.

**JD**

(*Irritably.*)

I love you too, Singularity...

**SINGULARITY**

What speaks to your heart, child?

**JD**

Abell.

**SINGULARITY**

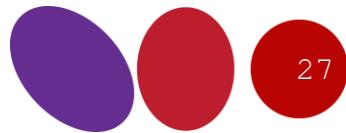
Able? Who's able to speak to your heart?

**JD**

You...

**SINGULARITY**

'Niverse?



**JD**

Speak down to me.

### **SINGULARITY**

And their Edge speaks to your Center?

**JD**

The Edge speaks.

### **SINGULARITY**

The eyes isn't enough for you? I'll be taking back my scope.

*(Taking the monocular from JD. They point towards the table.)*

Set your sights. We have nice Galaxies at home.

*(Humming.)*

Has the Edge wept?

*(JD shakes their head.)*

Then the Edge isn't cutting it... What is the Edge saying, child?

**JD**

I'm no longer a child and my center no longer cares.

### **SINGULARITY**

Baby... You dare speak about your center that way?

**JD**

There's no other way to the center.

**SINGULARITY**

Course correction. The Edge insults this Center.

**JD**

Alternative. The Center is pushing me over the Edge...

**SINGULARITY**

Altar... Pull yourself to the Center.

*(Pulling JD towards the table.)*

Native. Take the Edge off you.

*(GRAVITY pulls back JD.)*

Correction. Naïve.

**JD**

Gravity is here with me on the eve of something big.

**TRIANGULUM**

There's nothing big out there. There's nothing even in here.

*(Pointing at their heart.)*

**SINGULARITY**

*(Addressing GRAVITY.)*

I don't feed you so you could so obtuse like Triangulum.

**JD**

Why don't you acutely speak to us Galaxies and straight to the point like you do with our Tidals?

**SINGULARITY**

I thought my *point* doesn't speak to you?

**JD**

*The center never listens.*

**SINGULARITY**

I didn't save space so that our center can't listen to your center.

**ANDROMEDA**

Perhaps, the centers seem to have some slight miscommunication.

(*GRAVITY holds JD close.*)

**GRAVITY**

Force.

**SINGULARITY**

No center of Gravity of mine is going to place my Galaxy out of this space. Not if the center has anything to say about it. Whirlpool. Cartwheel. Leash our Tidals...

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL cluster GRAVITY and the TIDALS. They escort them out.*)

Your center is not going anywhere.

**JD**

*Our...*



## SINGULARITY

By the our— By the time you grow into your center like I have,  
and dare my center say the impossible: *have centers of your own...*

*(JD seems flustered.)*

The Edge would no longer be central. For now, the Edge isn't going anywhere either.

## 4. FIXED STARS

### SINGULARITY

Until then, supermassive hearts have no say. Until then, I'll do what Gravity has profoundly failed to do for my precious Galaxy. To start...

YOU'LL BE FIXED, AWAY FROM THE EDGE...

*(Pointing to their offstage bedroom.)*

YOU'RE GROUNDED, TO YOUR CENTER...

YOU'RE SO DAFT! LISTEN TO ME...

YOU'LL BE DEAF. NOTHING IS SOUND.

STAY PUT...

### JD

Your fixation on fear of the unknown is just a whisper. And if I'm still a child to you... *I can't hear you! I can't hear you!*

*(Mockingly plugging their ears.)*

### SINGULARITY

THINK OF THE FIXED STARS.

LEARN FROM THE FIXED STARS.

STAY LIKE THE FIXED STARS...

Fix yourself.

(*JD heads to the offstage bedroom.*)

**SINGULARITY** (cont.)

I WON'T BE FIXED TO...  
I CAN'T RETURN TO—  
I WILL NOT GO ON...

A tangent and neither can you.

**ANDROMEDA**

*Return to...?*

(*JD briefly peeks out to overhear ANDROMEDA.*)

**SINGULARITY**

And all of you. Fix yourselves.

(*TRIANGULUM routinely clusters the remaining GALAXIES away into their offstage bedroom.*)

FIXED STARS FOR A CHANGE.

(*Departing.*)

[End of "Fixed Stars."]

(*TRIANGULUM brings out JD.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Do you have a millennium?

**JD**

What are you going to mill about now?

**TRIANGULUM**

Mill? I triangulate.

**JD**

It's rather late to try my patience...

**TRIANGULUM**

We've been here for what? An eternity?

**JD**

Seems like it. Well, really it.

**TRIANGULUM**

What do you see in your future?

**JD**

I see everything. I don't see this dysfunctional family.

**TRIANGULUM**

Our family works together. More like you're the dysfunctional anomaly. Well, everything now is the way you move and stand. For the way things are. I understand that you may be the oldest sibling in this household and that after a while, you start to see other things. Where do you see yourself in the future?

**JD**

With Abell.

**TRIANGULUM**

Who's able? Where do you able to see yourself in the future?

**JD**

Amongst everything. Every moment here is nothing.

**TRIANGULUM**

Nothing? Well, you're an anomaly if you feel that way about family.

**JD**

Every millennium, Whirlpool, Cartwheel, Andromeda, Milky Way, and you tell me there is nothing out there.

*(Fondly.)*

I believe in *nothing*.

**TRIANGULUM**

And every morn, you are here believing...

**JD**

And every dawn, we are there dreaming.

*(Looking at their offstage bedroom.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

In this millennium and age, I'm just going to stand by and be as dense as dark matter.

**JD**

So, you have no density?

**TRIANGULUM**

Non-baryonic, for you.

**JD**

Ironic for someone who constantly box themself in.

**TRIANGULUM**

*Triangular-* Hmm, you're particular. Quirk.

**JD**

Familiarity feels the up and down. Familiarity sees the top and bottom. Quite charming me, stranger.

**TRIANGULUM**

Even as a *stranger* and *dark matter*, I will not let anything, whether familiar or unfamiliar, get passed me and fall off the Edge of the Universe...

**JD**

For peek's sake, I'm not going over the Edge.

**TRIANGULUM**

For the sake of peak, we're already on top.

**JD**

How would you know we're not upside down and under a valley?

(*TRIANGULUM inadvertently steps on the rug.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

There is no value to what is hidden underneath this ellipse.

**JD**

Quick to judge but not fastidious.

**TRIANGULUM**

You've gradually milled about and haven't reached a conclusion.

**JD**

Something is hidden. Some things are underneath.

**TRIANGULUM**

I've grazed triangulation and reached a continuity. Hidden are no things. Underneath is nothing.

**JD**

*Nothing* is everything to me.

**TRIANGULUM**

If only family is nothing to you! You outlier!

*(Calming down.)*

Sorry for turning your— Our Universe upside down. JD, I'm just like you... *Not a square*. Also, far out. But again, outlier... I am seen. While you, you need this, to feel seen. To see *everything*.

*(Pulling out a monocular.)*

*(JD tries to take the monocular.)*

*(TRIANGULUM pockets the monocular.)*

**JD**

Triangulum, what do you need?

**TRIANGULUM**

I need you to treat family... Like nothing.

## 5. ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING

### **TRIANGULUM**

FAMILY IS...  
FAMILY IS...?  
FAMILY IS...  
FAMILY ISN'T...  
FAMILY IS NOT...

*(JD grows saddened.)*

ANOMALY.

FAMILY IS EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.  
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW?  
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING. YOU KNOW  
NOT WHAT IS EVERYTHING.  
NO SUCH THING  
THAT IS JUST  
FAMILIARITY.

*[The spotlight lands on JD.]*

ANOMALY IS YOUR THING,  
FROM THE WAY YOU MOVED TO THE WAY YOU UNDERSTOOD.  
ANOMALY IS OUR THING,  
LIKE THIS DOME HOME YOU WANT TO LEAVE AND YET LIVED.

*(Bringing out the snow globe. They smirk.)*

REALLY, FAMILY IS EVERYTHING TO US.  
FAMILY IS EVERYTHING.

**JD**

WE KNOW.

**TRIANGULUM**

FAMILY'S UNIVERSAL. WE KNOW  
THAT YOU FEEL LIKE NOTHING.  
WELL, THE THING  
IS THAT WE'RE ALL HOMES TO  
FAMILIES.

*(Shaking the snow globe. They set down the snow globe on the table.)*

*[A galaxy may project into their home.]*

*(TRIANGULUM brings out a stellar ball.)*

ANOMALY IS EVERY CELL,  
FROM THE PLANETS TO THE COMETS IN STAR SYSTEMS.

*(Stowing away the ball. They direct to the projected galaxy and/or their body parts.)*

ANOMALY IS EVERY VEIN,  
WITH ITS INTERGALACTIC SUPERHIGHWAY SYSTEMS.  
ANOMALY IS OUR HEARTS.  
BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE YOURS JUST STEMS.

*(JD feels trapped in the system.)*

*[The projected galaxy fades away.]*

*(Returning to the premise. They slowly and gloomily turn away from JD.)*

AGAIN, ANOMALY IN EVERY THOUGHT,  
FROM YOUR VIEWS THAT SHIFT TO YOUR POINTS WITH NO  
ROUND TRIPS.  
ANOMALY IN EVERY SPACE,  
LIKE THIS CENTER YOU NEED TO FEEL, YET BELIEVED.

*(Tapping their heart or unintentionally motioning towards the table.)*

(*JD soberly sits at the table. They feel the snow globe.*)

**TRIANGULUM** (cont.)

ANOMALY'S IN EVERYONE,  
INCLUDING US BUT ESPECIALLY YOU YOU YOU.

(*Turning to JD.*)

JD?

(*Poignantly looking upon JD. They encouragingly join JD at the table. They sit on the whoopie cushion.*)

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL distantly laugh.*)

(*TRIANGULUM appears flustered. They shift to delight. They pull out the whoopie cushion.*)

ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!

(*Stowing away the whoopie cushion. They grab the snow globe. They take JD to the rug.*)

ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!

ANOMALY IS EVERYTHING.

(*Worriedly looking out.*)

(*ABELL looms in the audience.*)

(*Earnestly holding onto JD.*)

NOTHING IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY.

(*Handing the snow globe to JD. They head off to bed with the monocular.*)

[End of "Anomaly is Everything."]

6. ZILCH

JD

NOTHING, NOTHING, NOTHING.  
 NOTHING? NOTHING? NOTHING?  
 NOTHING, NOTHING, NOTHING.  
 ZILCH. NOTHING.

*(Holding the snow globe up to their eye.)*

RETURN, RETURN, RETURN.  
 TO WHERE? TO WHERE? TO WHERE?  
 SOMETHING, SOMETHING, SOMETHING.  
 ZILCH. SOME THINGS

ARE FAMILIAR.  
 OUR NOMY'S/MOTHER'S/FATHER'S A LIAR.  
 SINGULAR—

*(Placing the snow globe on the rug.)*

UNDERNEATH...

*(Orbiting the snow globe.)*

I AM ZILCH.

WHO'S FAMILIAR  
 BEING AN OUTLIER.  
 IT IS ME,  
 WHOSE FAMILY IS  
 SOMETHING OLD, OUTDATED.  
 EXCEPT ME.

*(Kicking up the rug over the snow globe.)*

UNDERNEATH...

*(Discovering the hidden BB Taser underneath.  
 They warily kneel to pick up the BB Taser.)*

THERE IS ZILCH?

*(The TIDALs remain absent.)*



## **TIDALS**

*(Terrified.)*

Fall...

## **JD**

Matters beyond assimilation? Why are you here?

*(Reading the inscriptions on the BB Taser.)*

I FOUND A  
BB... BB TASER?

*(Igniting the BB Taser, letting the static ripple through the soundscape.)*

Forces beyond imagination? Where does it go from there?

I FEEL THE  
BBT... BIG BANG THEORY.

Light. Illuminating...

*[End of "Zilch."]*

*(SINGULARITY remains absent.)*

## **SINGULARITY**

Zilch. Shocking...

*(JD stows away the BB Taser in their clothes. They swiftly unroll the rug back to its initial position, with the snow globe on it.)*

*(SINGULARITY enters. They bow.)*

*To see you wide and first awake. Declinations, JD.*

*(JD bows.)*

**JD**

Declinations, nomy/mother/father. You're always looming over us... You poured the light out of your heart to raise me and my siblings. Lights that last eternities. All the light that this universe holds, and more. I was never enlightened to why that's the nature of your heart. We call our hearts "supermassive black holes" for a reason. A dark void that won't let light escape unless there's another matter, bigger than ourselves. Like us to you. You let your light escape for us. May you shed some light—

### **SINGULARITY**

What is there left to shed light on...? What is the matter? *Who?*

**JD**

Yourself...

### **SINGULARITY**

Stop making light...

**JD**

Light isn't made. It's passed down. And making light of what?

### **SINGULARITY**

My eternity.

**JD**

What was eternity like before me and my sibling's eternities?

### **SINGULARITY**

*(Irritably.)*

Oh, the luminosity...

**JD**

Where did you get it? All that light. For me as a Galaxy, you have provided that light. That also means, you inherited them...?

**SINGULARITY**

Speak physics, SPT0615-JD.

**JD**

Did this light get passed down from your parent?

**SINGULARITY**

My heartless parents...

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

Didn't you hear me? They're heartless. And every Galaxy in this Universe has a heart. It is not possible for them to be here. Indeed, having more than one parent was supermassive and added up... To what I currently sacrifice as Singularity. When I was in their Universe, each of their love was fractional. There is everything to be proud of when raising you and your five siblings as a single parent. My love is forever wholesome.

**JD**

You were born and raised in another Universe...? Wait, you're saying that there are indeed other Galaxies out there?

**SINGULARITY**

There is nothing out there. Nothing outside of this home.

**JD**

I once saw nothing out there with my younger siblings. But as I got older, I truly knew that nothing is in here.

**SINGULARITY**

Are you saying that family means nothing to you?

**JD**

Yes. And I hope someone like me feels that way about the Center of the Universe when I have a universe of my own.

**SINGULARITY**

Oh no. The only center of any universe is here, with me and my six clusters of stars. You sure are an anomaly. My anomaly.

**JD**

I'm not sure if I have maturity. I do have your responsibility. Of letting some of my light escape... My heart.

*(SINGULARITY pulls out a monocular and hands it to JD. They point outside.)*

**SINGULARITY**

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. Not to ever lighten down. You are never getting passed me.



**JD**

The point of your heart is inherently mine. Like you, nomy/mother/father, before my heart outgrew yours, the purpose of life is to pour my heart out to someone with less heart. The only way I can see the light is if another Galaxy lightens up. If my heart is pointless, then your heart is pointless, too. Singularity... Nothing gets passed you... Not even light.

## 7. LUMINOUS

### **SINGULARITY**

YOU REALLY SHOULD LIGHTEN UP.  
DO IT FOR YOUR SINCERITY.  
FORGIVE ME, SINCERELY.  
SINGLENESS ILLUMINATES...

*(Noticing the snow globe on the rug. They go to pick up the snow globe.)*

*(JD blocks SINGULARITY's path, so they do not discover that the Big Bang Taser was found.)*

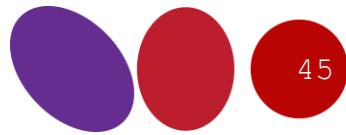
*(SINGULARITY drags JD to the table.)*

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

*(The other GALAXIES enter.)*

*(SINGULARITY aligns each GALAXY.)*

YOU BRIGHTEN MY ETERNITY.  
LUMINOUS.  
MY PARENTS NO LONGER LOOM.



## **SINGULARITY** (cont.)

THEY CAN'T HOLD ANY CANDLE,  
AND WOULD READILY CAST AWAY YOU AND US.

LUMINOUS.

TENDERNESS FOREVER LOOMS.

I HOLD YOUR FEATS TO THE FIRE.

LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT COMES FOR YOU AND US.

*(Lovingly pinching MILKY WAY. They try to align JD.)*

WHAT IS ILLUMINATING ARE...

*(Addressing each GALAXY except JD.)*

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.

*[End of "Luminous."]*

*(GRAVITY and the TIDALS enter and gather around.)*

*(SINGULARITY focuses on JD.)*

And you... At the center of yours, is supermassive.

*(JD scopes out the Edge of the Universe.  
They longingly see ABELL in the audience.)*

### **JD**

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

## **SINGULARITY**

*Well taken. There's nothing to take out, but family.*

*(JD does not take it lightly.)*



## 8. BIG BANG

**SINGULARITY**

YOU ARE A BIG...

*(JD draws out the Big Bang Taser. They shoot SINGULARITY in the face.)*

*(SINGULARITY gets electrocuted. They melodically shriek and jerk in place.)*

*MISTAKEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.*

*[The light fluctuates within the home. Appliances may short circuit and spark.]*

**TIDALs**

*(Repeating.)*

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

*(JD regretfully drops the Big Bang Taser.)*

*(GRAVITY kicks away the Big Bang Taser.)*

*(SINGULARITY grows physically vegetative.)*

**SINGULARITY**

ACHE... ELLIPSES...

*(Elliptically squinting.)*

BIG BANG...

*(Abruptly slamming their face onto the table into unconsciousness.)*

**TIDALS**

(*Howling.*)

FALL!

(*Repeating.*)

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG. BANG!

[*The snow globe explodes.*]

[*The light suddenly fills the stage. The side curtains open to reveal what's upstage.*]

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

(*JD gently walks to the edge of the home to look out, shifting from grief to wonder.*)

(*GRAVITY appears to pick up a sphere by SINGULARITY's feet.*)

(*The GALAXIES at the table look upon SINGULARITY.*)

(*MILKY WAY expresses utmost sorrow.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

S P T ZER- SIX... WHY...?

**CARTWHEEL**

IT HAD TO BE YOU?

**WHIRLPOOL**

WHY WOULD YOU RISK THIS UNI-

(*MILKY WAY weeps on SINGULARITY.*)

**ANDROMEDA**

OUR UNIVERSE HAS END...

(*The Galaxies at the table suddenly face JD.*)

**GALAXIES not JD**

DEAD, YOU ARE.  
BIGGEST FLAW.  
BIGGER FEARS.  
BIG BRAINED FOOL.  
BIT THE HAND THAT FEEDS.  
BEAT THE HEART THAT FELT TO DEATH.

**JD**

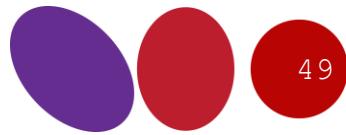
MY SUPERMASSIVE HEART GOES OUT TO YOU ALL, FAMILY.  
BUT MY SUPERMASSIVE HEART GOES OUT FOR ME AND GRAVITY.  
DECLINATIONS!

(*Bowing.*)

(*GRAVITY grabs a knapsack full of balls,  
embodying stars. They grab JD and run out.*)

(*TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, WHIRLPOOL, and  
CARTWHEEL step away from SINGULARITY to  
watch as the Universe unravels.*)

(*MILKY WAY mournfully wraps themself around  
the lifeless SINGULARITY.*)



(*JD and GRAVITY run in place. They stop in their tracks when they notice their lack of progress.*)

**JD**

The Edge of the Universe? Where is the Edge?

**GRAVITY**

Force!

**JD**

It's further away?

(*Taking a step.*)

[*The light expands further out. The home moves upstage in between the back curtains.*]

It's getting further away.

(*GRAVITY claws at the ground.*)

The fabric of spacetime is fabric, after all. And we're rolling it out, like our rug.

(*Leveling with GRAVITY.*)

We're going to go off on a tangent... For all eternity.

(*The TIDALs briefly step out of the home.*)

(*JD points towards the TIDALs in the home.*)

For the rest of spacetime.



(*GRAVITY motions for the TIDALS to join.*)

(*The TIDALS are unwilling.*)

### **GRAVITY**

Zenith...

(*Deciding to move on. They address JD.*)

Force!

(*JD stands, grateful to have a travel buddy.*)

### **JD**

This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

(*Leaving with GRAVITY on a journey.*)

### **GALAXIEs not JD**

DID REAL DAMAGE...  
A BANG-UP JOB!

YOU ARE MAKING  
A BIG MISTAKE!

(*The TIDALS disappear into the home.*)

(*TRIANGULUM grieves at the sight of the cosmic mess that JD left in their wake.*)

### **TRIANGULUM**

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

[End of "Big Bang."]



*(The GALAXIES come to grips that their parent is no longer here.)*

*(TRIANGULUM directs the GALAXIES to lay SINGULARITY on the table.)*

*(The GALAXIES ensure that SINGULARITY's missing eye is not visible.)*

*(TRIANGULUM places a hand on their chest. They shape that hand as though it is holding a heart. Their other hand sits flatly under their hearty hand.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

It is the end times. Singularity's.

*(The other GALAXIES pray with TRIANGULUM.)*

**GALAXIES**

Declinations.

*(Bowing to SINGULARITY.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Forever grateful.

**ANDROMEDA**

Forever in our dreams.

**MILKY WAY**

Forev...

**WHIRLPOOL**

Forever in our hearts. Hmm...

**CARTWHEEL**

Forever in debt.

**9. DEPTH**

*[The lights impair.]*

*(SINGULARITY unexpectedly grabs CARTWHEEL's neck, startling the GALAXIES)*

*(WHIRLPOOL pulls CARTWHEEL out of SINGULARITY's clutch.)*

*(CARTWHEEL acrobatically distances away from SINGULARITY. They chillingly make a clumsy landing.)*

*(SINGULARITY keeps their eyes closed.)*

**SINGULARITY**

I'VE SEEN DEPTH.

I FACED DEPTH.

I...

*(Suddenly sitting upright. Their missing eye remains unseen.)*

I'VE FELT DEPTH.

I MISS DEPTH

IN MY

EYE.

*(Opening their present eye.)*

**SINGULARITY** (cont.)

The Edge? Where is it?

*(WHIRLPOOL tries to restrain SINGULARITY.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

You lost your Edge.

**SINGULARITY**

I?

*(WHIRLPOOL solely notices that SINGULARITY lost their eye.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

Ey— Ey... Ey.

**CARTWHEEL**

I'm afrai—

**SINGULARITY**

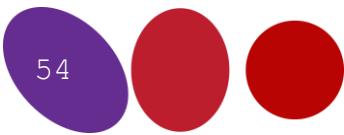
THE UNIVERSE IS SPREAD OUT TOO THIN. GO SPREAD YOURSELVES OUT REAL THIN. OF HERE. TO THE EDGE. GO IN GREAT DEPTHS!

**TRIANGULUM**

Now, you want us to go to the Edge of our Universe?!

**SINGULARITY**

There is nothing in my center!

**GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM**

Nothing?

**TRIANGULUM**

My?

**SINGULARITY**

Shut your wormholes. Everything has left. No resources left here. Would you like to be buried six parsecs under? We didn't have to reach for the stars because they were in our orbit. Now you'll have to shoot for them.

*(TRIANGULUM pulls out the monocular.)*

*(The GALAXIES cluster to peek through the monocular.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

We'll face certain death.

*(SINGULARITY knocks down WHIRLPOOL.)*

**SINGULARITY**

YOU'LL SEARCH DEPTH.

YOU'LL FEAR DEPTH.

YOU...

*(ANDROMEDA snatches the monocular.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

Ye, we'll look into it.



### SINGULARITY

MY UNIVERSE HAS LOST THEIR EDGES. FEND FOR YOURSELVES IN THIS WORLD. REAL WORLD. FIND YOUR EDGE. GO TO GREAT LENGTHS!

I'VE LOST DEPTH.  
I SEEK DEPTH  
IN ALL  
YOU.

Undo the Big Bang...

*[End of "Depth."]*

*(The GALAXIES leave behind SINGULARITY. They each take a wary step out of the home. They are shaken to their core.)*

*(ANDROMEDA holds the broken MILKY WAY close.)*

### WHIRLPOOL

We must remain an asterism.

### CARTWHEEL

We're too scattered and unorganized to form a constellation, let alone an asterism.

### TRIANGULUM

We had our strings well connected. Now, we got on their last string theory...

### WHIRLPOOL

We? Hmm. Square up.

**TRIANGULUM**

Not down for your quadrilateral damaging jokes.

**WHIRLPOOL**

I wished our at-risk sibling took *nothing* you said at face value.

**TRIANGULUM**

I'm the face of solution.

**CARTWHEEL**

Don't save face. You gave face to JD's *solution*, alright...

**WHIRLPOOL**

You played a role in our sibling, running away.

**TRIANGULUM**

I am nothing but a role model.

**WHIRLPOOL****CARTWHEEL**

(Upsettingly and mockingly.)

Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing...

**CARTWHEEL**

Gal, that's what you kept telling them.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Looks like they were convinced.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Of nothing.

**CARTWHEEL**

What did you say *nothing* meant?

**ANDROMEDA****TRIANGULUM**

Anomaly is...?

**WHIRLPOOL****CARTWHEEL**

(Upsettingly and mockingly.)

Everything. Everything. Everything. Everything. Everything...

**TRIANGULUM**

I said *family* is everything. Not nothing.

**MILKY WAY**

NOTHIN' IS ANOMALY LIKE FAMILY...

**MILKY WAY**

Nothin' is cheesy like your melody.

**ANDROMEDA**

Now, we're going to be nothing.

**MILKY WAY**

We gonna taste like moooooons?

**TRIANGULUM**

No. We're going to be nothi- family in all of this. Look I know that with every passing millennium, the Universe lowers a Kelvin. Let's get heated.

**ANDROMEDA**

Superb.

**CARTWHEEL**

So, we're going back in our dome home, with that warped-minded, super condensed matter?

**TRIANGULUM**

No... That warped-minded, super condensed matter is a little upset for a while. Let's come back in a billion years, when we take care of our yard.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Remind me, what be our chore again?

**ANDROMEDA**

Cut the nebulas and trim the edges.

**MILKY WAY**

Make Big Bang, small bang.

**TRIANGULUM**

Make the Big Bang, a nothing bang.

**CARTWHEEL**

Again, with the family.

**TRIANGULUM**

Nothing is family. I mean, *nothing* I said is family.

**GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM**

(*In the tune of 'Family is everything we know' in "Anomaly is Everything."*)

FAMILY IS NOTHING, YOU SAY?

**TRIANGULUM**

(*Realizing their "correction" is just as bad as their initial response. They "swear."*)

Flux.

**CARTWHEEL**

Gal, your diction keeps going in and out.

**WHIRLPOOL**

We ain't letting you dictate our choices. We are an asterism.

**TRIANGULUM**

This chore is yours and yours. How we roll is my model, with lots of punches. As a cluster, we're splitting our energy, gals and gals.

**CARTWHEEL**

What could you ever model, other than a square? We're splitting alright.

**WHIRLPOOL**

You ain't playing no role in completing this *nothing bang*, until you split other given factors of physics. Let's split the risk.

**CARTWHEEL**

We'll be nice and clean.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Trimming the Edge of the Universe.

**WHIRLPOOL****CARTWHEEL**

We'll be cutting edge!

**TRIANGULUM**

You two are cutting-edge nothin— *Family*.

**ANDROMEDA**

Maybe, your moonlike melody can offset any miscommunication.

**MILKY WAY**

Cheesy!

**10. SUPERHEATED****TRIANGULUM**

SPLIT ENER—

**WHIRLPOOL**

PLEASE CUT THE TAURUS STARDUST.

**TRIANGULUM**

AQUILA-MOUTHED.

**WHIRLPOOL**

THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION,  
THE BIG BANG,  
IS SUPERHEATED  
EXCHANGE OF POWER.

**TRIANGULUM**

ENERGY.

*(TRIANGULUM and WHIRLPOOL orbit and stare down one another.)*

*(CARTWHEEL becomes WHIRLPOOL's hype Galaxy.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

WHIRLPOOL!

*(ANDROMEDA reservedly supports TRIANGULUM.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

TRIANGULUM.

**CARTWHEEL**

WHIRLPOOL! WHIRLPOOL! WHIRLPOOL!

**ANDROMEDA**

TRIANGULUM. TRIANGULUM. TRIANGULUM.

*(MILKY WAY camps in neutrality.)*

**MILKY WAY**

SUPERHEATED POWER VACUUM...

**TRIANGULUM**

VACCUUS?

**WHIRLPOOL**

EXACTLY THE POINT OF THIS SPLIT.

**TRIANGULUM**

AND BE RELICS?

**WHIRLPOOL**

THE DARK MATTERS OF THE UNIVERSE  
THAT BIND US  
IS SUPERHEATED  
RELEASE OF CONTROL.

**TRIANGULUM**

*(Threateningly.)*

*EXPERIMENT!*

**CARTWHEEL**

RELEASE. RELEASE. RELEASE. RELEASE.

**ANDROMEDA**

REINTEGRATE! REINTEGRATE! REINTEGRATE! REINTEGRATE!

**MILKY WAY**

SUPERHEATED POWER STRUGGLE...

**WHIRLPOOL**

NOTHING I WANT MORE THAN SUPERTREATMENT.

[End of "Superheated."]

**TRIANGULUM**

Yeah? I'll have a treat. I'll have the edge on— for all of you.

(*Barging off.*)

(*ANDROMEDA speedily joins TRIANGULUM.*)

(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA do not leave yet.*)

(*MILKY WAY tries to accompany CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

Gal, I don't know what we're going to do with you.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Stay at the Center. Don't get in our way. Don't put us at risk.

*(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL acrobatically exit.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

What about Milky Way?

**TRIANGULUM**

That barred Galaxy will find it way safer to stay at the dome home. We can't let any more Galaxies drift away.

*(TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA depart.)*

*(MILKY WAY peeks into the home.)*

*(SINGULARITY distinctly perches so that their missing eye is still not visible.)*

*(MILKY WAY takes a step into the home.)*

**SINGULARITY**

No Galaxies are to set foot in this home until you have my Edge!

**MILKY WAY**

Nomy/Mama/Papa. It scary out there!

**SINGULARITY**

It's scarce in here! As you and your siblings had done with my love, there's fear to share around. You'd like to share mine?



(*SINGULARITY reveals their empty eye socket.*)

(*MILKY WAY stumbles out of the home.*)

### **SINGULARITY**

Time has begun. Share the time that you have with your cluster. Quit kau tauing to your siblings and embrace them and this equal playing field. I still have an eye on you all if you don't work as a team.

*(Desolately going to the rug. They grab the edge of it. They tear a piece of it and hold it to their missing eye. They may weep.)*

Reach the goal at the Edge. Then the Universe will be back to normal and we'll be a hap- Family again. Declinations...

[*The home stows away.*]

[*Electricity is heard.*]

(*The TIDALS distantly whimper.*)

### **MILKY WAY**

I'm barred... I have no clusters... No one to hug...

*(Suddenly hearing voices in their head.)*

### **SOLAR SYSTEM**

We'll keep you from feeling barred. We're in your cluster of stars! How is your sibling doing? SPT0615-JD? Tell us, all.

*(MILKY WAY puzzledly shakes their head.  
They head off.)*

**11. VERSE**

*[The Fabric of Spacetime]*

*[Field equations scatter all over the space.]*

*(JD and GRAVITY blissfully skip in.)*

**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, EPIC POEMS.  
 REHEARSE STANZAS AS ITS ACTORS.  
 STAGES OF THE BIG BANG FORM HYPERBOLAS.  
 ONLY HYPERBOLE!

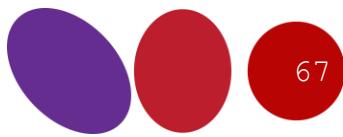
STORIES, EQUATIONS, ALGORITHMS.  
 IT IS TO BASK IN ITS GLORY.  
 THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE.  
 THAT'S THE START OF OUR VERSE!

*[Music notation projects on the ground.]*

*(GRAVITY walks the line.)*

*(JD crosses the line. They increasingly miss their family.)*

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



(*GRAVITY gathers a V, an =, an H, a tiny O, and a D. They put together  $v = H_0D$ . They present Hubble's Law to JD.*)

**JD** (cont.)

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!

(*JD and GRAVITY skip out, faster than ever.*)

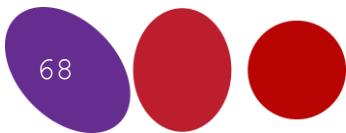
(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.*)

(*ANDROMEDA takes out their nuclear balm. They wipe the ointment on their hand. They stow away the balm. They take out their monocular. They scope out towards the Center of the Universe.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Your heart's in the wrong space. You're facing the wrong way... Do you see the Edge...?

(*ANDROMEDA nods.*)

**TRIANGULUM** (cont.)

Of the Universe?

(*ANDROMEDA remains still.*)

Your eye's in the wrong place?

(*ANDROMEDA puts their hand over their unused eye.*)

(*TRIANGULUM nervously concentrates to where ANDROMEDA observes.*)

Yes, we had our Edge...

**ANDROMEDA**

Nomy/Mama/Papa...

(*Tenderly putting down the monocular.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Milky Way?

(*ANDROMEDA opens their mouth to answer, but they do not have an answer.*)

(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA walk off.*)

(*MILKY WAY drifts in, alone.*)

**MILKY WAY**

Milky Way for...

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH**

Forgotten?

**MILKY WAY**

Are you my imaginary friends?

**SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS**

No, we're your planetary friends.

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH**

I'm not.

**SOLAR SYSTEM PLANETS, NOT EARTH**

No one is asking you, Earth.

**SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS**

Don't give up. You're the only one forgotten. Everyone remembers Pluto. But I'm cooler, literally. I'm Eris by the way, and I should be the heiress/heir-no-less of the dwarf planets. You may be barred, but barred spiral Galaxies are bigger than normal spirals like Triangulum and Andromeda.

**SOLAR SYSTEM JUPITER**

You most certainly are a massive spiral galaxy.

**SOLAR SYSTEM SATURN**

Says the gas giant with dozens of Jovian moooooons.

**SOLAR SYSTEM JUPITER**

Go play with your ring.

**SOLAR SYSTEM SATURN**

Jupiter is just jealous of mine. Got a ring to spare, Uranus?

**SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS**

Two. In fact.

**SOLAR SYSTEM JUPITER****SOLAR SYSTEM SATURN**

You are a two.

*(Laughing.)*

**SOLAR SYSTEM SUN**

Planets. What is with the radio outbursts?

**SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS**

Nomy/Mama/Papa Sun. These other gas giants are making fun of my Earthly construct of a name.

**MILKY WAY**

Even planets have a nomy/mama/papa? And they have brains, too?

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH**

You're a Galaxy. You have no brain. Unlike planets. Us planets have brains. At least, mine is in my inner core.

**SOLAR SYSTEM SUN**

Earth, who are you talking to?

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH**

Just mantling with my Moooooon, nomy/mama/papa Sun.

**MILKY WAY**

May I talk to Moooooon?

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH**

You have your own natural satellites. Isn't that right,  
Moooooon? Moooooon...? Why don't you ever return my calls?!

**SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS**

Earth and you have a lot in common. You are rather dense, if not diffused with clouds. But you're not in the inner circle like Earth is. Trust me as I make my way around the Kuiper Belt. I hate my elliptical orbit. One decade, you're with your family. The next centuries, you're a rogue planet.

**MILKY WAY**

Patience. Only a moment.

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH**

Oh yeah, you're a Galaxy. The frame of time is dilated for you. Let this rocky planet convert it... The last time you were in your family's orbit was... 13.51 billion years ago.

*(MILKY WAY is about to break down.)*

As a Galaxy, do you hate being an oval?

**SOLAR SYSTEM SUN**

Earth, I didn't raise you to be mean to other shapes.

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH**

Just like you as a star, I'm very proud to be a sphere.



(*MILKY WAY feels their body.*)

### **SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (cont.)**

Ew, waves...

(*MILKY WAY feels their face.*)

Pff, wrinkles.

### **SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS**

Don't take any more of Earth's bullying. They may be the perfect person that you always want to be. But you are already a person, Milky Way. What with your waves. And wrinkles, imperfect as they are. Just like Oort Cloud, who I want you to meet.

### **SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

I'm out of this Solar System and yet I have a stronghold on it, just like you. I've heard a lot about you, Milky Way. I have an influence that is about a hundred thousand astronomical units wide, but you, you are 6.685 billion. Personally, I know enough about comets' tails. Do you have a tale to share with us, Milky Way? Gather around, Solar System!

(*The SOLAR SYSTEM pops out as puppets.*)

### **SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH**

Gravity well... Theorize somethin'!

(*MILKY WAY gracelessly and half-melodically bellows, with cracks. They suddenly hiccup.*)

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH (cont.)**

Milky Way warped themself!

(*The SOLAR SYSTEM bursts in laughter.*)

(*MILKY WAY bursts into tears.*)

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

All the use crying, Milky Way. Let it out. Milk of celestial kindness. There is a pattern here. You show a huge quality.

(*MILKY WAY examines their physical self.*)

Not your mass. Oh, the ellipses... You are a special Galaxy. You hold something dear that no one else has. Well, *your siblings probably do, but they won't show it.*

**MILKY WAY**

(*Innocently.*)

Tell me.

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

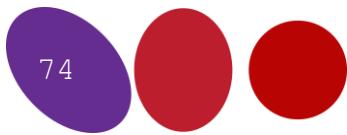
You hold personhood. Persons that filled with warp, waves, and wrinkles. There is a person in you, Milky Way.

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH**

There are people in me.

**SOLAR SYSTEM PLANETS, NOT EARTH**

Cut your hubris, Earth!

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

We like all things, *unearthly*, about you. You carry our weight,  
our history, our culture, our voices.

**MILKY WAY**

Sing it.

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

You must first, own it.

*(MILKY WAY nears the SOLAR SYSTEM puppets.)*

**12. WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES****SOLAR SYSTEM**

MILKY WAY'S  
ON THEIR OWN.  
ALL ALONE.  
KNOW THAT FOR  
US AT HOME.  
YOU'RE THE ONLY WAY FORWARD,  
THROUGH WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

*(The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets are livelier.)*

THROUGH IT ALL.  
THICK AND THIN.  
THROUGH THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

YOUR PLANETARY FRIENDS FEEL LIKE THEY'RE IN YOUR HEAD.

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

IMAGINARY!

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

BUT REALLY...

**SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS**

THE SOLAR SYSTEM IS LOCATED ON YOUR ARM.

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

ONE OF YOUR FOUR...

*(Two extra arms extend out of MILKY WAY.  
They are unaware of these arms.)*

**SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS**

ARMS, IN FACT.

**SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS**

Check a mirror!

**MILKY WAY**

What's mirror?

**SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS**

It's the thing to check what you look like!

**MILKY WAY**

I never know what I look like...

*(The extra arms shake MILKY WAY's hands.)*

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

Neither do we. But take it from us, we know you're beautiful on the inside!

*[The SOLAR SYSTEM puppets shake each hand.]*

SCUTUM-CRUX ARM.

PERSEUS ARM.

NORMA, CYGNUS.

SAGITTARIUS, HEART-LENGTH.

WE'RE HOME ON THE ORION

ARM, SO SMALL AND MINOR.

*[A tiny arm pops out.]*

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

You are Magellanic.

*(MILKY WAY ponders.)*

They're not planet and you don't need to imagine. We hide a present in your waves.

*(MILKY WAY digs into their outfit. They pull out two magnolia flowers.)*

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

Like you, they have existed from the beginning of time. They signify perseverance and longevity—

*(MILKY WAY devours the flowers.)*

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD (cont.)**

Don't eat your satellites!

**MILKY WAY**

*(Mouthful of Magellanic Clouds.)*

I gravitate my feelings...

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

You Skull Nebula... Go ahead and have a taste of the Local Group while you're at it. Cook Sagittarius at 3 megaparsecs.

**MILKY WAY**

Parsecs no work like that. Parsecs's distance, not time.

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

I'm parsecs away from losing it. Go back to coughing up nebulae.

**SOLAR SYSTEM JUPITER**

It's the nature of Galaxies... They'll eat everything.

**SOLAR SYSTEM SATURN**

Like us gas giants. We're persons too after all!

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

Eat me... There are plenty of other objects to see outside you anyways... I mean, persons.

**SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS**

Milky Way has always been a person. But they have reached a new stage in personhood.



(*MILKY WAY sings with natural flaws.*)

### **MILKY WAY**

I NOW HAVE  
WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

I LIVE WITH IT.  
WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

I LOVE MYSELF.

(*The extra arms hug MILKY WAY.*)

(*Many SOLAR SYSTEMs spiral in. These dancers resemble known and unknown stars and planets, while Earth drags their feet. They orbit MILKY WAY like the spiral arms around a supermassive black hole of a Galaxy. One dancer places a halo on MILKY WAY's head.*)

### **SOLAR SYSTEM**

HALO FRIEND  
AND OUR HOME.  
PROTECTOR  
AND OUR RIDE.  
HITCHHIKER  
AND THE ONLY WAY OUT OF  
OUR WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

(*MILKY WAY loves this galactic stage that they have reached in their life.*)

### **SOLAR SYSTEM SUN**

Any more radio outbursts and I'll supernova your asteroids!

(*MILKY WAY and the SOLAR SYSTEM lowers a bit in distress. They confidently resume.*)

**MILKY WAY****SOLAR SYSTEM**

WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES!

**SOLAR SYSTEM**

MILKY WAY FORWARD!

*[End of "Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles."]*

*[The stage goes red as though the Sun has become a red giant and is swallowing the solar system in their wake.]*

*(The SOLAR SYSTEMs run away.)*

*(EARTH screams in the searing heat.)*

*(JUPITER and SATURN maniacally laugh.)*

*(MILKY WAY suddenly feels a headache. They feel their forehead. When they take their hand off, it reveals a zit on their forehead. They have trouble putting words together.)*

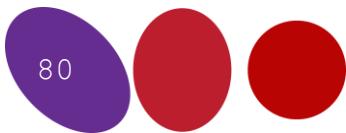
**MILKY WAY**

W— W— N— Wr—

**SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD**

Warp, waves, and wrinkles, we got a sense for... But not red giants. Welcome to adolescence.

*(MILKY WAY eventually picks themself up. They depart, with their head held high.)*



(*WHIRLPOOL meditatively spirals in.*)

(*CARTWHEEL clumsily lands their cartwheel.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

My time is...

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time is what?

**CARTWHEEL**

Up...

**WHIRLPOOL**

In the air?

**CARTWHEEL**

*In a vacuum... Yes, in the air!*

**WHIRLPOOL**

Why're you fulla uncertainty?

**CARTWHEEL**

Time is so slow. And it gets slower. Is time slowly crawling to an end? Are we ever going to reach the Edge of the Universe? I'm uncertain of where we're going.

(*WHIRLPOOL sits and prepares to meditate.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

You're certain 'nough that time's gonna go to the end. Me too. Time's gonna end.

**CARTWHEEL**

Good.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Hmm?

**CARTWHEEL**

I don't want to be here forever.

**WHIRLPOOL**

So let's go home...

**CARTWHEEL**

Gal... For the billionth time, we're not going home.

**WHIRLPOOL**

And now we have a billion-less time without a shelter over our heads. A billion-less time without our family.

**CARTWHEEL**

We need to spend a trillion more years to roll back the Edge of the Universe before we're allowed back under a shelter that is our Center of the Universe. Can you do that?

**WHIRLPOOL**

I ain't spending another millennium without Singularity.

**CARTWHEEL**

You seemed fine with spending billions of years on this trek.

**WHIRLPOOL**

I made myself feel like only a millennium has gone by. My position to go home ain't budging, millennium or million.

**CARTWHEEL**

Well, you just sit around all year and I be standing here plotting our next move. I say, we keep moving.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Cartwheel, you be the steering wheel of this ship.

**CARTWHEEL**

Whirlpool, you're a whirlpool in this sea.

**WHIRLPOOL**

I'm just sitting here tryna turn this ship around.

**CARTWHEEL**

We're not going home. Our captain is preoccupied with their favorite crewmate, Milky Way.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Singularity loves our little barred sibling. They may eye their spiral arms but they care for our elliptical shapes. They ain't gonna love you any less, ring sibling.

*(CARTWHEEL failingly cartwheels.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

Whatever's left of my ring... I'm not worried if they still love us... But without us, they're probably recovering and healing now.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Your spine is uptight like a Ring Galaxy. You're ain't right.  
They ain't healing. Singularity misses us.

**CARTWHEEL**

It's reasonable to miss them. Maybe we should stay missing them?

**WHIRLPOOL**

What be your reason to stay missing them? Time's missing in your equation. Time's up in the air, when it needa be solid in you.

**CARTWHEEL**

*Time being up* is the worry. I learnt about time as much as you did on our travels. Their life is short with us and their life is longer without us.

**WHIRLPOOL**

...I ain't want nomy/mama/papa to get old either. Fast or slow...  
Time will be spent either—

**CARTWHEEL**

Never mind what I said I learnt. I should focus on why you're once again going to meditate to that time whatever equation—

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time dilation? It's what Singularity did to pass time. They used to meditate 'bout formulas on our house rug. I be wondering what our nomy/mother/father was thinking about these simple concepts...

**CARTWHEEL**

You're becoming Singularity. Our black-hole parent. Our Bạch Hổ.



**WHIRLPOOL**

Tiger mom ain't who I am cause we're still cubs. Ain't a hole bigger in our hearts without our family. Let's go back home.

**CARTWHEEL**

Our Bạch Hổ will eat us alive. Let's keep going. We must undo the Big Bang. A welcome back will be the fruits of our labor.

**WHIRLPOOL**

It ain't fruitful. Our Universe expands faster than we can ever outrun it.

**CARTWHEEL**

What makes you think that?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Dilation...

**CARTWHEEL**

Can you expand on that?

**WHIRLPOOL**

*Dilation means to expand.*

$$[ \text{Pieces of } \Delta t = \frac{\Delta t_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \text{ loom in the space.} ]$$

**CARTWHEEL**

*Expansive. And your point is?*

**WHIRLPOOL**

Our point's in the Center of the Universe. Home. We ain't there. We should think about it. We gotta go home.

**CARTWHEEL**

That's not the point of our duty. What should come first in mind is the Edge of the Universe. Not our Bạch Hổ.

**WHIRLPOOL**

That Bạch Hổ had a cry for help that was left unanswered. Singularity ain't no longer like a tiger mom. They're too tired for all that. Like us. I miss being a tiger cub in a well-protected zoo. Ain't a better duty than for us to be Singularity's keeper. We're gonna rehabilitate Singularity.

**CARTWHEEL**

I'm not returning to our parent. Our special relative. Our especially supermassively mad black hole.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Can you calm down and listen to your own supermassive heart? Another million years out here is another millennium without our nomy/mama/papa. You'll get the point. There ain't a point in this chore. The point of time is that time ain't have bonus points. Time runs out... I know what I just said was heavy. And weights on your shoulders make time go even slower. Just live in the millennium with me. Enjoy the time we have together.

**CARTWHEEL**

Time's so special with you, relative. Times are heavy weights.

**WHIRLPOOL**

A little enlightenment ain't gonna hurt. Lightly waiting.



**CARTWHEEL**

What's on your mind when you expand your mental universe?

**WHIRLPOOL**

*Everything.*

**13. TIME IS RELATIVE**

**CARTWHEEL**

SO, FAMILY COMES FIRST IN MIND?

**WHIRLPOOL**

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY  
SQUARED DIVIDED  
BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED.

Live with me in the millennium.

*(Tapping the ground.)*

*(CARTWHEEL sits and poorly meditates.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

You have Singularity's chakras...

*[Strobe of lights move fast near WHIRLPOOL  
while lights move slow near CARTWHEEL.]*

**WHIRLPOOL**

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY  
SQUARED DIVIDED  
BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED.

The focal point is to think about our relatives.

**CARTWHEEL**

TIME'S NOT RELATIVE...

*(Pointing to the lights.)*

What is this?!

**WHIRLPOOL**

Enlightenment.

**CARTWHEEL**

Where's time in all this?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time's in a whole 'nother dimension. The fourth. Time ain't even seen in ours. Which is the third. So, these strobes of lights will have to do in presenting the speed of time.

**CARTWHEEL**

Why is my time so slow?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time ain't going faster if you keep stressing. Think about something that makes you less worried.

**CARTWHEEL**

Family...

**WHIRLPOOL**

Exactly. One moment here seems like a million years...



[*Strobe of lights erratically quickens near CARTWHEEL.*]

**CARTWHEEL**

When you factor in time...

(*Freaking out.*)

*One million years with relatives seem like a moment.*

**WHIRLPOOL**

That's relativity. Ain't you want time to go by faster? Time goes by quickly, being clustered with those you love spending it with. Time is specially related to family.

(*CARTWHEEL tries to be in denial.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

UNRELATED.

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME WILL TELL YOU  
TO CONFRONT YOUR RELATIVES.

**CARTWHEEL**

NOT ELATED.

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME WILL TELL YOU  
TO RESPECT YOUR RELATIVES.

**CARTWHEEL**

NO DEBATE.

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME WILL TELL YOU  
TO HELP OUT YOUR RELATIVES.

**CARTWHEEL**

YOU'RE DELUSED.

**WHIRLPOOL**

JUST DILATED.

**CARTWHEEL**

Dial it back.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Nah. You dial back your worries and dilate your memories. Quit denying reality.

**CARTWHEEL**

It's too early to turn back.

**WHIRLPOOL**

It'll be too late if we turn our backs. Why ain't we just take it step by step.

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY...

**CARTWHEEL**

(*Forgetfully.*)

*Under the cube root of one times speed...? I'm slow, like time... Before the Big Bang, time never crossed my mind. After exploding as a family, time has since doubled and double crossed us.*

**WHIRLPOOL**

Ain't it safe to say that we should implode? To go back and make amends with Singularity...?

**CARTWHEEL**

Singularity is not who we should make amends with. It is time. When times are slow, life is longer. Singularity stays single. We go the distance. For Singularity's sake, we must continue on this slower passage of time.

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME'S FOR FAMILY,  
THAT'S WHY LIFE AIN'T FAST WITHOUT THEM.

**CARTWHEEL**

SINCE TIME GETS REAL SLOW,  
THEN LIFE IS LONGER WITHOUT THEM.

**WHIRLPOOL**

THAT AIN'T HOW TIME WORKS.

**CARTWHEEL**

FAMILY'S NOT IN THE EQUATION.

**WHIRLPOOL**

CHANGE IS.

**CARTWHEEL**

CHANGES?



**WHIRLPOOL**

YOU'LL CHANGE IN TIME.

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY  
SQUARED DIVIDED—

(*CARTWHEEL strikes at WHIRLPOOL.*)

(*WHIRLPOOL blocks CARTWHEEL's strike.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME IS RUNNING OUT,  
YET TENSOR CALCULUS STRAINS YOU.

**CARTWHEEL**

NO ATTENTION SPANS  
FOR REALITY THAT PAINS ME.  
EACH MOMENT'S LOST TIME...

**WHIRLPOOL**

FAMILY'S IN OUR EQUATION.  
THEY MAKE UP OUR SOCIAL CONSTRUCT.

(*CARTWHEEL stands and walks away. They timely rotate like a ship's wheel.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

DOWNTIME.

**WHIRLPOOL**

PLEASE DO FACE TIME.

**CARTWHEEL**

I CAN'T FACE TIME.

(*WHIRLPOOL stands and timely rotates like a whirlpool.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

I know you know time... Too well. You're afraid. You think time going slow's worth it for Singularity's wellbeing. Their wellness will end with time, whether fast or slow. I'd rather you're surrounded with loved ones for a millennium than be alone for 'nother million billion years. Times were different when we were all together. One millennium, you're baby Cartwheel. The next, you're a teenager with hands on the wheel. Now in these worst billions of years of our lives wandering this fruitless void. Sure, you ain't grown a bit. Still, there will someday be no time.

**CARTWHEEL**

I'm steering us away from the time dilation- Dilemma that we face. One universe, Singularity's our caregiver. This Universe, Singularity can't care less. The next, Singularity gives up... They'll be around longer, when we're not around. You'll come around to it. Past, present, and future, all we need is each other.

**WHIRLPOOL**

*(Increasingly defeatedly.)*

TIME'S TOO RELATIVE.  
WE NEED TO SEE OUR FAMILY.

*(Giving up and slowing down.)*

Life being longer ain't make life healthier. Life's stronger spending fast times with family than no time.

YOU'LL KNOW IN NO TIME...

*[Light slows near WHIRLPOOL while light stops near CARTWHEEL.]*

*(CARTWHEEL reaches enlightenment.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

T. Time... Over. Time has an influence on us all... Square. Our family square... Root. Where we come from... Of one. Our single parent... Minus velocity. Each of us leaving for another city... Squared divided. Our family is divided... By the speed of light squared. Even though we squared off, our family will truly be over once we see the light...

Time is more special than it is relative... Because unlike light, time is not passed down. Time's only here for the relationships in the moment. I may be a poor steerer. And Whirlpool may be a risky whirlpool. However, we are forever Singularity's babies. But no matter how hard we try, nevermore Singularity will be. Whether times are fast or slow, it doesn't change that time will pass away. We must be there for our family, before we won't have time anymore. We'll know in no time.

*(Returning and lending a hand to WHIRLPOOL.)*

TIME'S NOT UP, RELATIVE.

*(WHIRLPOOL accepts their hand.)*

[Their lights gradually balance one another.]

*(Through a training montage, WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL assemble  $\Delta t = \frac{\Delta t_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$ .)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

**CARTWHEEL**

T OVER SQUARE ROOT OF ONE MINUS VELOCITY  
SQUARED DIVIDED  
BY THE SPEED OF LIGHT SQUARED.

*(CARTWHEEL eventually earns their ring.  
They can perfectly cartwheel again.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME IS RELATIVE.  
YOU'VE CHANGED AND SO FAMILY COMES FIRST.

**CARTWHEEL**

TIME IS FAMILY,  
AS THERE'S LITTLE TIME LEFT WITH THEM.

**WHIRLPOOL**

*(Proudly.)*

WHY WE'RE HEADING HOME?

**CARTWHEEL**

TIME GOES BY FASTER WHEN LIFE'S LIGHTER.

*[Light forms a box like a picture frame around WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL.]*

TIME IS IN OUR FRAME OF REFERENCE.  
TIMES ARE SPECIAL FOR FAMILY.

*(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL have a warm stance.)*

**WHIRLPOOL****CARTWHEEL**

TIME...  
TIME.  
LET'S NOT WASTE TIME.

*[End of "Time is Relative."]*

[*The Center of the Universe*]

[*The home returns.*]

**WHIRLPOOL**

**CARTWHEEL**

We're home!

(*SINGULARITY hides away their face. They slightly bow.*)

**SINGULARITY**

Declinations. On time...

**WHIRLPOOL**

**CARTWHEEL**

Dilations, nomy/mama/papa.

**SINGULARITY**

Or you're back too soon...

**CARTWHEEL**

We're here to help!

**SINGULARITY**

So, is the Edge back too?

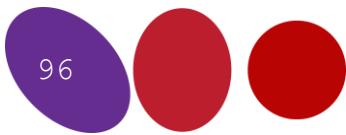
**WHIRLPOOL**

**CARTWHEEL**

Our Edges are.

**SINGULARITY**

Is mine? My Edges...? Triangulum's, Androme—?

**CARTWHEEL**

They'll be back soon, too.

**SINGULARITY**

Milky Way's?

**WHIRLPOOL**

I thought they were with you.

**SINGULARITY**

You turnt your backs on them?

**CARTWHEEL**

Milky Way gets in the way.

**WHIRLPOOL**

*Every Galaxy gets in the way.*

**SINGULARITY**

My precious cluster of stars... You let my baby crawl through the Universe alone?

**CARTWHEEL**

Every Galaxy deserted Milky Way.

**WHIRLPOOL**

*(Whispering to CARTWHEEL.)*

Will you shut your worm hole?

**CARTWHEEL**

We're still your babies...

**SINGULARITY**

No, you're not. The most exhausting years of my life was whenever you Galaxies become teenagers. I can't stand another quintillions of years of that. Especially two.

**WHIRLPOOL**

To you, ain't anything more than family being together not long ago.

**SINGULARITY**

Nothing is more than having longer naps. I can see clearly now.

**CARTWHEEL**

Where are the tidal dogs?

**SINGULARITY**

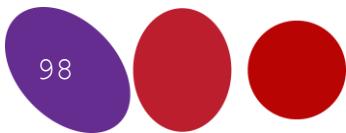
Don't worry about them.

**CARTWHEEL**

You're clearly not seeing clearly.

**SINGULARITY**

In the beforetimes, I didn't get the hint that your love of my pinches were actually whining.

**WHIRLPOOL**

We ain't ever enjoy your spaghettifying pinches, but we like hugs. And you, the biggest black hole ever, sure need a hug.

**CARTWHEEL**

*Hug?*

**WHIRLPOOL**

You need company after these billions of years without anyone.

**SINGULARITY**

I was not born yester-millennium. Does that tell you anything? Hugs are for babies like Milky Way. If you're not going to finish that errand of getting the Edge of the Universe back, run off and be teenagers. You got being lazy down.

**WHIRLPOOL**

I don't know what it's like to be a normal teenager. You locked us in the house for an eternity or two.

**CARTWHEEL**

Nothing more teenaged than disrespecting an authority figure. Singularity, you're a Ghost Nebula!

**SINGULARITY**

Ghost Nebula?!

**WHIRLPOOL**

You are in good force, Ghost— Singularity.



*(SINGULARITY turns around, revealing their eye patch over their missing eye. This patch is made from the same material as the rug.)*

### **SINGULARITY**

Like how Milky Way is in good force?!

### **CARTWHEEL**

You always saw Milky Way in good light. We just want you to treat us in good force too.

### **SINGULARITY**

Milky Way told me how their older siblings always mistreat them and I thought the mistrust would go away on your trip.

### **WHIRLPOOL**

We admit. We ain't kind to our little siblings cause we're jealous.

*(SINGULARITY displays the holster that holds the Big Bang Taser.)*

### **SINGULARITY**

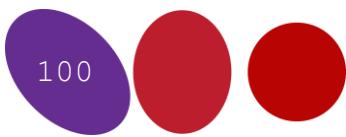
I held you all too high of a standard.

### **WHIRLPOOL**

If that ain't familiar... The Big Bang...

### **CARTWHEEL**

The thing that JD shot you with...



100

**SINGULARITY**

I held good force.

**CARTWHEEL**

That thing is yours?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Where'd you get that?

**SINGULARITY**

That thing is the Big Bang Taser. Someone who was a part of the force.

**CARTWHEEL**

In what Universe?

(*SINGULARITY hums.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

You always hum when you reminisce...

**SINGULARITY**

I hum when the past revisits me. Like you two. I'd like for the Edge to revisit me!

**CARTWHEEL**

Forget the Edge.



### **WHIRLPOOL**

What Cartwheel meant to say was that we'll do so, after we take the edge off you at this moment. You need help.

### **SINGULARITY**

Don't get near me. I'm an infinitely super mad black hole.

*(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL smile at one another.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

**CARTWHEEL**

Nomy/mama/papa... Time is relative. Time tells us: You need a hug.

### **SINGULARITY**

In this Universe, there are three types of Galaxies: elliptical, spiral, and irregular. In the event horizon, they'll all end up stretched thin through spaghettification.

### **14. SPAGHETTI HORIZON**

*(SINGULARITY prepares a showdown against WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL.)*

*(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL hold stances with significant distance between one another.)*

*(SINGULARITY holds their hand by the holster, preparing to draw the Big Bang Taser.)*

*(The TIDALS remain absent. They whistle.)*

(*SINGULARITY swiftly draws and aims the Big Bang Taser in between WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL, where it would hit neither.*)

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL rushes towards SINGULARITY from their respective sides, spiraling and cartwheeling.*)

(*SINGULARITY aims the Big Bang Taser upwards. They ignite the Big Bang Taser.*)

(*The TIDALS suddenly grapple hold WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL before they could lay a finger on SINGULARITY.*)

### **TIDALS**

Force!

### **SINGULARITY**

(*Extremely parentally.*)

Time is relative, while you spent none with Milky Way... You dare not look after your little sibling?!

THERE IS A NEW SHOGUN IN THE CENTER OF ME.  
WHEN YOU'VE OUTLAWED MY BARRED CHILD, ESPECIALLY.  
YOU HAVE COME TO STIR UP TROUBLE WITHIN THESE PARTS.  
YOU HAVE DEFIED...

(*Shocking the TIDALS with the BB Taser.*)

(*The TIDALS orderly disperse.*)

### **SINGULARITY**

THE ODDS, THE LAWS, THE ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE, ME...  
THE EMPIRICAL RULE OF THE UNIVERSE, SO...  
DON'T WHINE WHEN YOU STIR THE EVENT HORIZON NOW.  
SPAGHETTIFY!

(*A group of TIDALS grabs ahold of WHIRLPOOL while the other grabs ahold of CARTWHEEL.*)

**TIDALS**

Force!

**SINGULARITY**

Time is relative, huh? Time is null to a black hole! You can still look after each other. From afar.

CURSE YOU, CURSE YOU, CURSE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE THEN.  
I'll treat both you  
LIKE WATER DRAINING IN A NOODLE COLANDER.  
AS PUNISHMENT, YOU ALL WILL SPEND ETERNITY...  
WITHOUT A HUG!

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL cry out for one another.*)

(*The TIDALS drag out WHIRLPOOL and pluck out CARTWHEEL in separate directions.*)

**TIDALS**

(Repeating.)

SPAGHETTI HORIZON...  
SPAGHETTIFICATION...

(*SINGULARITY blows the end of the Big Bang Taser. They may shock their tongue.*)

[*The home stows away.*]

[*End of "Spaghetti Horizon."*]

[*The Fabric of Spacetime*]

(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.*)

(*ANDROMEDA takes out their nuclear balm. They wipe the ointment on their hand. They stow away the balm. They take out their monocular. They scope out towards the Center of the Universe.*)

(*TRIANGULUM glares at ANDROMEDA.*)

**ANDROMEDA**

I'm avoiding space scurvy...

**TRIANGULUM**

Your heart's in the wrong... Do you see the Edge...?

(*ANDROMEDA shakes their head from side to side. They try to share the monocular.*)

I don't have an eye for primitive tools.

[*The Whirlpool Galaxy and Cartwheel Galaxy is projected or physically demonstrated via props or puppets to be separating.*]

(*ANDROMEDA returns to scoping out. They see WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL in trouble. They worriedly shake their hand and make a fist.*)

Cartwheel and Whirl...? They're back at home?!



(*SINGULARITY remains absent. They echo.*)

### **SINGULARITY**

You can still look after each other. From afar.

### **TRIANGULUM**

What did their worm holes get themselves into this time?

### **SINGULARITY**

(*Echoing.*)

Curse you, curse you, curse the entire universe then.

### **TRIANGULUM**

All of us? What did those two black holes think was going to happen going against the biggest black holes in the Universe? Wait, what curse upon this Universe?

### **ANDROMEDA**

The curse is spaghettification and... Our tidal dogs are exerting that.

### **TRIANGULUM**

Pardon? Our tidal dogs?

### **ANDROMEDA**

They're no longer fed.

### **TRIANGULUM**

They're still cute...?

**ANDROMEDA**

Yes, under our care. But under Singularity's order, they're obtuse like you. Tidal forces are following their instincts. Tidal forces are going to make gravitational waves.

**TRIANGULUM**

They'll be fed when we get the Edge back, alongside all the nuclear pasta and whatever tidal forces eat.

**ANDROMEDA**

Ye, hope they don't eat Cartwheel and Whirlpool...

**TRIANGULUM**

We spread ourselves out too thin.

**ANDROMEDA**

So is the Universe...

*(TRIANGULUM jumps and lands. They hardly keep their balance.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

The fabric of spacetime is stretched out. It's not good to have two heavy Galaxies in one single spot on this makeshift trampoline of a universe. Does it look like Cartwheel's feeling a little jumpy?

**ANDROMEDA**

Beyond that. They are throwing a tantrum as the tidal forces are pulling the two apart...

**TRIANGULUM**

Milky Way...?

**ANDROMEDA**

Not in my scope...

**TRIANGULUM**

Nomy/Mom/Dad is supermassively mad! That's why they're sending the dogs after us!

**ANDROMEDA**

As if they haven't already gone so. I'm upset that we let our sibling wander the Universe, alone.

**TRIANGULUM**

We're going to backtrack, find, and send their barred-ness home.

**ANDROMEDA**

We must take in *Milky Way*.

**TRIANGULUM**

Didn't you hear Singularity's radio outburst? Keep our distance. Otherwise, the dogs will sense our ripple effect in this cosmic ocean and rip us apart like tidal waves.

(*ANDROMEDA* nears *TRIANGULUM*.)

(*TRIANGULUM* backs away from *ANDROMEDA*.)

**TRIANGULUM**

Listen to nomy/mama/papa!

**ANDROMEDA**

Isn't family everything?

**TRIANGULUM**

Everything is a cluster...

**ANDROMEDA**

A cluster flux.

**TRIANGULUM**

Watch your wormhole.

**15. GLOBULAR****ANDROMEDA**

A CLUSTER FLUX?  
THAT IS THE SPIRIT, ISN'T IT?  
  
MATTERS COME AND GO.  
CRUXES OF FORCES THAT HOLD  
  
ALL US TOGETHER.  
IT'S WHY WE CLUSTER OUR STARS.  
  
AS FOR MILKY WAY,  
LET THEM JOIN THE GLOB. GLOBULAR.

TRIANGULAR.

DECLINATIONS.

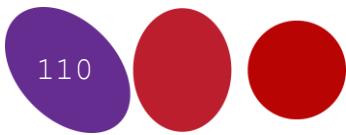
DESTINATION.

Dark matter holds up, more than light ever could.  
Dark energy repels us.

95% of the Universe is the Black soul, while the rest is the sole.

*(Showing their feet.)*

Our cells from the planets to the comets, don't actually hold us up. It is the dark matter.

**TRIANGULUM**

Twist the monocular.

**ANDROMEDA**

*Isn't it a primitive device?*

**TRIANGULUM**

This space telescope is so primitive, it's not worth a Spitzer. If you turn the gravitational lens to 780 nanometers, you'll be able to see in infrared.

**ANDROMEDA**

May you convert that to galactic units?

**TRIANGULUM**

Consistency... 2.528 times ten to the negative 23<sup>rd</sup> parsecs.

*(ANDROMEDA barely twists the monocular. They peek through it.)*

*[The space is layered with infrared lights. The Milky Way Galaxy is projected or physically demonstrated via a prop or puppet in the distance.]*

**ANDROMEDA**

MILKY WAY, NO WAY!

**TRIANGULUM**

I HAVE FOUND YOU!



111

**ANDROMEDA**

CAN YOU HEAR MY RADIO OUTBURSTS!

**TRIANGULUM**

**ANDROMEDA**

GRAVITATIONAL WAVES?!

**ANDROMEDA**

JOIN IN ON OUR GLOB!

*[End of "Glob."]*

*(MILKY WAY remains absent. They echo.)*

**MILKY WAY**

Declinations! Is you again, Solar System?!

*(TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA bow.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

**ANDROMEDA**

Declinations! Solar System?

**MILKY WAY**

*(Echoing.)*

They a star that wears belts made of asteroids and covered in Oort Cloud!

**TRIANGULUM**

*(Addressing ANDROMEDA.)*

Oort? Clouds? Do we even want to voyage into that?

**ANDROMEDA**

(Addressing *MILKY WAY.*)

We'll get to the bottom of it!

**MILKY WAY**

(Echoing.)

You like Uranus!

**TRIANGULUM**

(Whispering to *ANDROMEDA.*)

The loneliness got to their head...

**MILKY WAY**

(Echoing.)

Head hurts...

**ANDROMEDA**

We'll get you and your planetary friends in our glob. Don't you worry!

**TRIANGULUM**

Be wary to not let you or your imaginary friends near us!

**ANDROMEDA**

(Disappointedly addressing *TRIANGULUM.*)

We're going to give Milky Way a superheated welcome. You cluster flux.

(*TRIANGULUM* and *MILKY WAY* hastily depart.)

(*JD and GRAVITY wander.*)

(*GRAVITY appears huskier.*)

(*JD pulls out and briefly looks through the monocular. They stow it away.*)

**JD**

A trillion years...

(*Grabbing a ball.*)

Fetch, Gravity.

(*Tossing the ball.*)

Fetch the star!

**GRAVITY**

Force!

(*Retrieving the ball.*)

(*JD pets GRAVITY.*)

**JD**

Who's a good tidal force? You are. You are. You shaved a couple hundred thousand years from that retrieval.

(*Tossing the ball.*)

Perfect spiral arm!

(*ABELL looms in the audience.*)

**GRAVITY**

Abell?



(*JD is surprised that they could understand Tidals.*)

**JD**

Force...? Look you got me. I am not able to do a perfect spiral because I'm not exactly a spiral Gal-

**GRAVITY**

You always say that under your breath when you look out through your scope, back when the Edge was near the Center of the Universe. What is Abell?

**JD**

Abell is a name I gave *nothing*...

**GRAVITY**

Why name it Abell?

**JD**

This Galaxy I speak to in my dreams and see in my scopes. Abell is a Galaxy with no heart, and yet, is able to do all the things a Galaxy does. I'd love to share my supermassive heart with. They're probably truly legend and I literally believe in *nothing*.

**GRAVITY**

Who is *nothing* to you?

**JD**

Well, nothing is nothing when I was younger. But once I got older, nothing is everything. I want nothing of my own.

**GRAVITY**

We have this one flare like these, every million years then we continue threading along the fabric of spacetime. Don't stall on this now. The Edge of the Universe is just beyond the horizon.

**JD**

We keep rolling away the horizon.

### **GRAVITY**

This fabric of spacetime is not infinite. Nothing is infinite.

**JD**

You would know. You tidal forces are fifteen times my age...? As a Galaxy, I'm getting too old for this.

### **GRAVITY**

You're blowing it out of proportion.

**JD**

2.327 terameters per year per megaparsec... The Universe is expanding. The light can't even see the end of the tunnel.

### **GRAVITY**

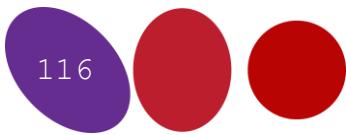
I don't know how to convert that. I'm a tidal dog.

**JD**

And yet, on this voyage, you learnt how to speak my language... Or I learnt how to speak tidal force... Whether or not, I have grown in the worst ways possible.

*(GRAVITY retrieves the ball.)*

### **GRAVITY**



You are part of my accretion, and I thank you. Grow up but don't grow up.

*(JD misunderstands.)*

**JD**

...Give up and give up?

### **GRAVITY**

Your tidal dog whispering is a bit low in escape velocity... So, your voice will carry far...

*(JD exhaustedly looks out.)*

**JD**

Far, far away...

### **16. FAR-FETCHED**

### **GRAVITY**

LONG TIME AGO  
YOU WERE REAL CLOSE  
TO THE CENTER  
WHERE YOUR SIBLINGS,  
WHERE YOUR BROTHERS,  
WHERE YOUR SISTERS,  
WHERE YOUR PARENT...

**JD**

SINGULARITY.

### **GRAVITY**



APPARENTLY  
WILL NOT FORGET.  
WILL NOT FORGIVE.  
CAN I FORETELL?  
CAN'T YOU FORESEE?  
THIS IS FAR-FETCHED.

*(Snatching the ball. They toss it in the direction of the Center of the Universe.)*

GO FETCH THE STAR...

*(JD heads to the ball. They cramp up.)*

FORGOT TO STRETCH?

**JD**

ALL'S A STRETCH!

**GRAVITY**

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.  
YET, IT IS SOMETHING YOU GALAXIES NEED TO FETCH.  
POINT OF RETURN IS FAR-FETCHED.

*(Heading to JD's side. They point to the ball.)*

WE'RE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH.  
YOU'RE SPEAKING TIDAL FORCE NOW.  
THAT ONCE SEEMED AS THOUGH FAR-FETCHED.

**JD**

IT GIVES ME PAUSE.

**GRAVITY**



IMPLAUSIBLE.

DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE WITH ALL OF YOUR ACCRETE  
THINKING?

DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE THAT THE STRINGS WE WALK ON ARE  
STRUMMED?

DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE WHENEVER YOU BE SHOOTING STARS?

*(Snatching another ball. They toss it in the  
direction of the Edge of the Universe.)*

IMPLAUSIBLE.

DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE THAT YOU ARE FULL OF LIVING  
THINGS?

DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE ALL OF YOUR CELLS ARE STAR  
SYSTEMS?

DOES IT GIVE YOU PAUSE, YOU HAVE A BLACK HOLE FOR A  
HEART?

## JD

IT'S PLAUSIBLE!

*(Dropping numerous balls. They tearfully  
hold their heart.)*

## GRAVITY

You are part of my accretion, and I thank your...

*(Nearing JD.)*

SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE!

*(Jumping on and embracing JD like a dog.)*

*(The TIDALS loom in the distance.)*

## TIDALS

SUPERMASSIVE HEART!

*[The atmosphere fills with black holes.]*

## GRAVITY

SPT0615-JD, YOU ARE NEAR AND WELL-KEPT TO ME!

**TIDALs**

NEAR AND WELL-KEPT!

**GRAVITY**

THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.

**TIDALs**

FAR!

**GRAVITY**

YET, IT IS SOMETHING YOU GALAXIES NEED TO FETCH.

**TIDALs**

FETCH!

**GRAVITY**

POINT OF RETURN IS...

**JD**

FAR-FETCHED!

*(JD and GRAVITY reach out to each black hole.)*

**JD**

APPARENTLY,  
WE'LL NOT FORGET.  
WE'LL NOT FORGIVE.  
CAN WE FORETELL?

**GRAVITY**



CAN' T WE FORESEE?  
WE ARE FAR-FETCHED.

(*The TIDALs vanish.*)

[End of "Far-Fetched."]

**JD**

These supermassive black holes came out of a vacuum...?

(*Observing closer. They recognize MILKY WAY.*)

Milky Way... They're looking for me...?

(*Getting sentimental.*)

(*GRAVITY grows worried that JD chooses to return home.*)

They're coming to the Edge with SPT0615-JD...

(*Trying to rush to the other GALAXIES.*)

(*GRAVITY grabs ahold of JD. They drag away JD.*)

**GRAVITY**

They're far-fetched.

[A single black hole briefly flares. Then all black holes fade away.]

(*MILKY WAY stumbles in. They fall flat on their face.*)



(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA rush in. They keep their distance.*)

(*ANDROMEDA takes out their nuclear balm. They stare back and forth at the balm and MILKY WAY. They stow away the balm. They scope out towards the Center of the Universe. They shift to worriedly looking through the monocular upon MILKY WAY.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Your heart's in the wrong space...

(*ANDROMEDA turns towards TRIANGULUM.*)

[*An empty galactic "skeleton" projects onto TRIANGULUM.*]

**ANDROMEDA**

Your heart is wrong.

**TRIANGULUM**

I'd like to know what wavelength do you need to set the space telescope to x-ray...

**ANDROMEDA**

Can you focus on the matters laying on the x-axis?

**TRIANGULUM**

There's nothing we can do. Or whatever this *Solar System* of theirs can do.



(*MILKY WAY turns to reveal a red swelling on their forehead.*)

**MILKY WAY**

Nothin'...

**ANDROMEDA**

Nothing's better.

**TRIANGULUM**

It's getting worse...

**MILKY WAY**

No call them, *it. Sun.*

**ANDROMEDA**

How's it, um, your friend. Um, Earth doing...?

**MILKY WAY**

Sun swallowed Earth.

**ANDROMEDA**

Know what. Earth deserved it. They weren't your planetary friend anyways. Earth doesn't even know the climate they made.

**TRIANGULUM**

The Sun has swelled into a red giant.

(*ANDROMEDA pinches their fingers.*)

**ANDROMEDA**

Maybe, we should supernova it?



### **TRIANGULUM**

Ew. I don't want iron and gold all over me.

### **ANDROMEDA**

But you're fine with getting hydrogen, helium, carbon, oxygen, and silicon all over yourself helping your siblings when their cells went through nucleosynthesis?

### **TRIANGULUM**

I see no cycles beyond CNO Cycles.

### **ANDROMEDA**

When my cells went through proton-proton chain reaction, you took into account the beta plus decay. I'll do the same, and not let Milky Way decay.

### **TRIANGULUM**

We can't let ourselves be delayed anymore. Another delay from the Edge is another hundred billion years away from our home.

### **ANDROMEDA**

And there are a hundred billion cells that aren't bothering Milky Way, but this, *Sun*, in particular, is. Reach out your spiral arm.

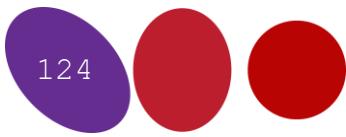
### **TRIANGULUM**

My arms are a thousand parsecs too short.

*(ANDROMEDA extends their arm to MILKY WAY.)*

### **ANDROMEDA**

Then your spirals can't stop mine.



(*TRIANGULUM extends an arm to ANDROMEDA.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Would you like tidal forces to contort us like Cartwheel?!

(*ANDROMEDA takes MILKY WAY's hand.*)

**ANDROMEDA**

Being a spiral Galaxy, a ring wouldn't hurt.

**17. FABRIC**

[*The fabric of spacetime rips around ANDROMEDA, MILKY WAY, and eventually, TRIANGULUM.*]

(*The TIDALS remain absent.*)

**TIDALS**

Fall!

**TRIANGULUM**

We're going to be in a universe of hurt!

(*The TIDALS prowl out.*)

(*TRIANGULUM distances.*)

Stay six million parsecs away!

(*The TIDALS get distracted by the balls that were left behind earlier by JD and GRAVITY.*)

(ANDROMEDA draws out the nuclear balm. They put the ointment on the vegetative MILKY WAY's red giant on their forehead.)

**MILKY WAY**

Fix...

(The TIDALS instinctually sit for a moment. They drop the balls. They refocus on ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY. They encircle them.)

**TIDAL**

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

(ANDROMEDA drops and spills the last of the balm. They try to stand between MILKY WAY and the TIDALS.)

(The TIDALS pounce.)

(MILKY WAY forcibly links arms with and defensively hold ANDROMEDA close. Lights draconically erupt from MILKY WAY's mouth. They have become a quasar.)

(The TIDALS get blinded and scatter away.)

(MILKY WAY collapses from the intense amount of energy that they have just emitted.)

(ANDROMEDA holds MILKY WAY.)



(*TRIANGULUM timidly returns to ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY.*)

(*ANDROMEDA rejects TRIANGULUM.*)

(*MILKY WAY offers their hand. They raise their head high.*)

(*TRIANGULUM clusters with ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY.*)

**MILKY WAY**

Only way's forward...

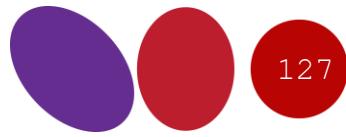
**TRIANGULUM**

(*Relieved.*)

Milky Way forward, Milky Way. Milky Way forward...

(*TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, and MILKY WAY walk it off.*)

[End of "Fabric."]



## 18. POINT

[*The Center of the Universe*]

*[The home returns. The smashed snow globe lies on the center of the dark rug. A quasar is projected or physically demonstrated via a prop or puppet in the distance.]*

*(SINGULARITY peeks through a telescope at the distant quasar.)*

### **SINGULARITY**

Galaxies... Ripping up my fabric of spacetime... Tidal forces... Getting dust all over my cosmos...

[*The quasar fades away.*]

*(SINGULARITY moves away from the telescope. They accidentally step on the snow globe. They fall onto the rug. They hold their foot in pain and agony. Their missing eye and eye patch are towards the rug. They increasingly become a singularity in this metaphorical infinitely massive black hole.)*

WHERE IS THE POINT IN ALL THIS TROUBLE?

ALONE...

I TREMBLE AT THIS POINT OR  
PERIOD.

MY POINT IS MOOT WHEN I HAVE SENTENCED  
MY KIDS...  
TO A LIFE ON THE EDGE.  
NO RETURN.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF THE UNIVERSE?

SINGLE...

WHAT IS THE ENTIRE POINT  
WITHOUT US?



(*SINGULARITY hides their face.*)

(*The TIDALS remain absent. Their barks echo and repeat in the distance.*)

**TIDALS**

Single! Singularity! Single! Singularity! Single! Singularity!

(*SINGULARITY shivers.*)

(*MULTIPLICITIES remains absent. They break through the barks.*)

**MULTIPLICITIES**

WHAT IS THIS POINT TO MAKE, WHEN THEY'RE MADE?

SINGLE

PARENT WHO MADE MANY POINTS

LIKE ALL THIS.

(*SINGULARITY peeks out their remaining eye.*)

[*Six galaxies are projected or physically demonstrated via props or puppets in the distance.*]

**TIDALS**

(*Echoing and repeating.*)

Single Clarity! Single Clarity! Single Clarity! Single Clarity!

(*SINGULARITY sits upright.*)

[*The spotlight lands on SINGULARITY. It progressively grows elliptical and eventually becomes the only light.*]



## MULTIPLICITIES

THERE IS NO POINT TO REVERSE.  
THERE IS NO US IN YOUR VERSE.  
THE POINT OF THIS UNIVERSE  
IS YOU...

*(SINGULARITY meditates.)*

## SINGULARITY

THE POINT IN YOU IS A UNIVERSE.  
THE POINT IS YOU.

*[The light dims to a singular point.]*

*[End of "Point."]*

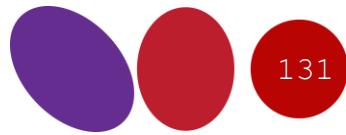
*End of Act*

"Oneness."



IUP

ACT II



## 19. BOUNCE BACK

*[The Fabric of Spacetime]*

*(The TIDALs march in, with WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL trapped within.)*

*[A quasar's light beams in.]*

*(The TIDALs scatter around, leaving WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL out in the open.)*

*[The song plays the leitmotif of "Anomaly is Everything."]*

*(TRIANGULUM remains absent.)*

### **TRIANGULUM**

NOTHING!

*[This song plays the tone of "Time is Relative."]*

*(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL gives a reassuring smile to one another.)*

*(WHIRLPOOL spirals a nearby TIDAL.)*

### **WHIRLPOOL**

NOTHING!

*(CARTWHEEL cartwheels another TIDAL.)*

**CARTWHEEL**

NOTHING!

(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA treads in. They extend their arms to MILKY WAY's entrance.*)

**ANDROMEDA**

NOTHING!

[*This song plays the tone of "Fabric."*]

(*MILKY WAY draconically arrives.*)

**MILKY WAY**

NOTHIN'!

(*Blasting rays like a quasar.*)

(*The GALAXIES cluster together.*)

**GALAXIES**

BOUNCE BACK!

(*Bouncing off and landing near their respective TIDALS. They choreographically fight the TIDALS, distinct in their combat. They pose or slow down whenever the song hits certain drums. Through forceful exposition, they detail themselves swiftly.*)

(*The TIDALS run away.*)

(*The GALAXIES chase after the TIDALS.*)

[*End of "Bounce Back."*]

(*JD and GRAVITY skip in.*)

(*JD grabs a ball. They toss a ball.*)

**JD**

Far fetch.

[*The ground quakes.*]

(*GRAVITY looks back with joy.*)

**GRAVITY**

Forces!

(*A swarm of TIDALs trample in and out.*)

(*JD avoids each TIDAL.*)

**JD**

Far-fetched!

(*A TIDAL grabs the ball. They could not hold the weight of the star. They collapse.*)

(*GRAVITY comes to the aid of the TIDAL.*)

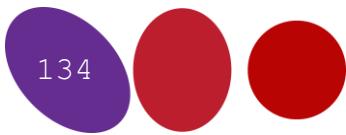
**GRAVITY**

What's gotten into your mass and radius?

**TIDAL**

(*Frantically.*)

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

**GRAVITY**

One of your Galaxies is firing electron volts at them on all rounds. How much?

**TIDAL**

Force?

**GRAVITY**

Is that a lot?

**JD**

That's nothing.

**GRAVITY**

That's everything...

**JD**

We need to know.

*(Shooing away the injured TIDAL.)*

*(The injured TIDAL tries to return the ball.)*

*(The other TIDALS reenter and drag the injured TIDAL out, trying to grab the ball themselves.)*

**JD**

*(Bewilderedly.)*

Keep the star!



**JD** (cont.)

(*Ending with a voice crack.*)

No way. Milky Way finally hit pulsar?

**GRAVITY**

At the heart of it, we must stop their pulse.

(*Heading in the direction where the TIDALS initially trampled in.*)

(*JD gets in GRAVITY's way.*)

**JD**

My heart can't take it.

**GRAVITY**

Neither can the centrifugal force of my fellow Tidals.

**JD**

After a trillion or so years, you're just going to walk in on my estranged family and be the center of attention?

**GRAVITY**

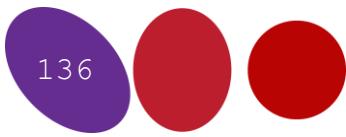
Force!

**JD**

Entitled dog... You know what my siblings will do to me?

**GRAVITY**

Force.

**JD**

I don't actually know. It's been trillions of years...

**GRAVITY**

What they'll do to you won't be done because I'll do to them before they do to you.

**JD**

What are you going to do, Gravity?

**GRAVITY**

I'm going to ground them. It's in my name and instincts.

**JD**

Tidal forces' instincts are as predictable as applying quantum mechanics to celestial mechanics.

**GRAVITY**

However small or big things like you got, your family never tried to learn to understand you. It'll always be that way. It's in your weird name, made of numbers.

**JD**

Speaking of numbers... Celestial coordinate systems. How are we going to find them?

*[A quasar lights up in the distance.]*

*(GRAVITY runs off, towards the quasar.)*



(*JD follows GRAVITY.*)

(*The GALAXIES not JD enter.*)

(*MILKY WAY continues blasting rays, to the amusement of the other GALAXIES.*)

(*ANDROMEDA leads a sing along of the space shanty, "Globular."*)

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL cannot keep time.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

Aight. Milky Way. Conserve your time and energy.

**TRIANGULUM**

Let Milky Way be.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Hmm... Have you gone soft— Square?

**TRIANGULUM**

I'm not a square. I'm Triangulum, and I make space for other shapes to go through accretion. To grow and lead, even you.

**WHIRLPOOL**

A trillion or so years of disowning me and Cartwheel really did wonders. Don't you remember the superheated argument we had?

**TRIANGULUM**

Heat expanded the space and made room for us. Superheat super expanded it.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Hmm. In that case, you can stop the heat, Milky Way.

*(ANDROMEDA peeks through their monocular.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

And still, the Universe endlessly expands...

**TRIANGULUM**

Milky Way is strange to you. But estrangement can only make them stranger. Just like what the Edge of the Universe is doing.

**CARTWHEEL**

We thought it'd be best for Milky Way to stay at the Center with another stranger, Singularity.

**TRIANGULUM**

We have only each other now. Forget Singularity.

**MILKY WAY**

Forget nomy/mama/papa...?

**ANDROMEDA**

Let's take the Edge off our backs. It's us and spacetime.

*(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL embrace MILKY WAY.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

We'll remember what you've become, quasi-stellar radio source.

**CARTWHEEL**

A quasar!

*(The GALAXIES embrace.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

That's the empathetic quality of a leader. If you want to spiral into control, go ahead.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Because of everything Cartwheel and I went through, we could understand the gravity of any situation.

*(GRAVITY rushes in and pounces on MILKY WAY.)*

*(The GALAXIES in the space surround GRAVITY and MILKY WAY.)*

**GALAXIES but JD, MILKY WAY**

Oval down! Oval down!

*(GRAVITY menacingly growls.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

*Hmm... What is wrong with you, Gravity?!*

**ANDROMEDA**

Assailing tidal force!

(*JD runs in.*)

**JD**

Down, Gravity! Down!

(*GRAVITY gets off MILKY WAY.*)

Up, Gravity! Up!

(*GRAVITY helps MILKY WAY up.*)

(*The GALAXIES bittersweetly look upon JD.*)

(*TRIANGULUM awkwardly bows.*)

(*The GALAXIES not JD glare at TRIANGULUM.*)

(*JD bows.*)

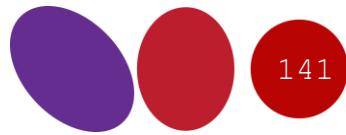
**GALAXIES not JD, TRIANGULUM**

(*Sarcastically.*)

*Declinations.*

(*WHIRLPOOL looks at TRIANGULUM.*)

(*TRIANGULUM nods at WHIRLPOOL.*)



## 20. ACCRETION

### **WHIRLPOOL**

ROOM FOR ACCRETION...?  
SIMPLE, SHUNNING.  
TURN OUR BACKS TO ABERRATIONS.  
FAMILY IS CONCRETION.

*(Addressing TRIANGULUM.)*

Hmm. I ain't risking it. This ellipse is your problem.

*(TRIANGULUM approaches JD.)*

### **TRIANGULUM**

THE ANOMALY...

*(Embracing JD.)*

### **GALAXIES not JD**

S— JD. WELCOME BACK OUR LOST GALAXY.

### **TRIANGULUM**

EVERYTHING IS FAMILY.

*[End of "Accretion."]*

### **GRAVITY**

*(Tenderly.)*

Force...



(*The GALAXIES not JD turn to GRAVITY.*)

**GALAXIES not JD**

You're something. Not everything.

**JD**

Gravity is everything to me.

(*The GALAXIES not JD gets closer to GRAVITY.*)

I'm nothing without my tidal force.

**GALAXIES not JD, TRIANGULUM**

Nothing? Family? Everything? Equal?

**TRIANGULUM**

Let's not return to the semantics of *things*. Nothing's and everything's more confusing with that.

(*GALAXIES not JD return to approaching GRAVITY.*)

**JD**

I will not return if you lay a spiral arm on my dog!

**TRIANGULUM**

It's our.

**GRAVITY**

Force!



## **TRIANGULUM**

*They're ours.*

*(Disturbingly scratching GRAVITY's ear.)*

Gravity can stay with us. Just keep them grounded.

*(CARTWHEEL demonstrably puts their hand on their neck.)*

*(JD levels with GRAVITY.)*

## **JD**

Gravity. Fix.

*(GRAVITY stays.)*

## **ANDROMEDA**

How's life on the Edge treating you?

## **JD**

Are you... On the Edge with me...?

*(The GALAXIES pause.)*

## **CARTWHEEL**

The Edge will never be reached.

## **WHIRLPOOL**

What we're saying is that there ain't no reason to try to outrun the fabric of spacetime that is unrolling faster than the speed of light.



(*TRIANGULUM diverts the subject matter.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Besides the infinitely expanding Universe, did you learn anything new?

**JD**

I learnt what it means to be far-fetched.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Hmm... Far-Fetched?

**JD**

Gravity learnt how to fetch.

**CARTWHEEL**

Fetch?

**JD**

It's when I toss a star and Gravity goes and retrieves it.

(*The GALAXIES not JD puzzledly looks on.*)

When a massive object goes rogue out of its natural gravitational center due to a tensor phenomenon...

(*Swinging up their arm to demonstrate throwing.*)

Eventually, my supermassive self burrows in the sand on the beach that holds this rogue star, and I send a tidal force to retrieve that ball, like a tide.

**CARTWHEEL**

*(Turning their finger around their head to indicate lunacy.)*

Sounds lunar.

**MILKY WAY**

Moooooon.

**TRIANGULUM**

Don't get Milky Way started. You want to do a galactic activity for old times' sake...

**JD**

What did we even do for old times' sake?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Counted Aries.

**JD**

Napping...?

**ANDROMEDA**

Sometimes dreamt, of Aries.

**JD**

We literally spent eternities lying dormant, didn't we?

**GRAVITY**

*What else is there to do in a dome?*

**TRIANGULUM**

Force force force to you too, Gravity.

**JD**

Gravity's got a point.

**ANDROMEDA**

Gravity has no point.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Singularity does.

**CARTWHEEL**

Singularity is no longer the point. Remember?

**JD**

Gravity asked a rhetorical question. Singularity... How are th-

**MILKY WAY**

You talk to tidal forces?

**JD**

Have you been talking to Singularity?

**TRIANGULUM**

Milky Way, you talk to... Never mind. We haven't had a nap in over a trillion years. I'm sure it's getting to our heads.

**GRAVITY**

Force! Force! Force!

**CARTWHEEL**

*What did Gravity say this time?*

**JD**

Gravity says... That you are a three-dimensional, three-sided, and a triangulated role model.

**TRIANGULUM**

Tell Gravity I told them they are not one of the bad tidal forces.

**JD**

Gravity understands you very well.

**CARTWHEEL**

And we understand tidal forces...

**WHIRLPOOL**

Too well...

**ANDROMEDA**

Nothing gets us beyond *too well* than some shuteye.

*(GALAXIES designate spots to sleep.)*

*(JD mutters to GRAVITY.)*

**JD**

*Thin-disked, halo-less, clump of gas and dust... Ha.*

**GRAVITY**

Force...

**JD**

Triangulum is not shaping up to be who they were...

(*TRIANGULUM sits down.*)

[*A whoopie cushion is heard.*]

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL high five.*)

(*MILKY WAY snickers.*)

(*TRIANGULUM may pull out a whoopie cushion.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

You dig our cluster?

**CARTWHEEL**

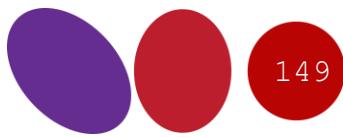
Are you joining the masses?

(*JD join their siblings.*)

**ANDROMEDA**

Welcome to the globular.

[*The lights dim.*]



(*The GALAXIES not JD go fast asleep.*)

(*ABELL looms in the audience.*)

(*JD looks out to the Edge.*)

**JD**

Abell...

**TRIANGULUM**

Able? JD, I know you're not able to ever sleep. Be the anomaly that you always are and go look at *nothing*. Let me know if you need me to reexplain anomaly to you...

**JD**

You never explained anomaly...

**TRIANGULUM**

Everything, JD. Everything.

(*JD stands up. They proceed to be on the Edge of the vicinity of the GALAXIES. They pull out their monocular.*)

**GRAVITY**

Force.

**JD**

Shush.

**GRAVITY**

Force!

**JD**

Of course, I haven't forgotten that we spent a part of our lives, apart. That's why I don't want them, awakened.

*(Almost deciding to look through the monocular. They desolately put it down. They look at their siblings.)*

I forgot why.

*(GRAVITY rolls SINGULARITY's eye to JD.)*

**GRAVITY**

Re-Fetch-er?

**JD**

Eye... Singularity's...?! Singularity's eye?!

*(GRAVITY whimpers.)*

You went too far...

*(GRAVITY handily demonstrates that JD tasered SINGULARITY.)*

**GRAVITY**

Big Big Big Big Big. Bang...

**JD**

What have I done...

(JD's curiosity overrides their disappointment. They peek through Singularity's eye.)

**JD**

For a universal moment, let's not refresh the Big Bang...

*[The light shifts away from the celestial beings on the stage to in front of the stage.]*

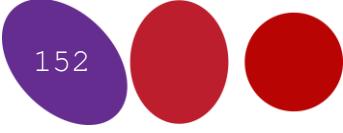
At the campfire, they share equations they've learnt. Like time dilation and Hubble's Law.

**JD**

This equation is telling me to keep going...

This equation told us to learn back. What a fool we are.

I'll call it Hubble's Law, cause it feels like hub. A home.



[*SINGULARITY's Backstory and Past Universe*]

[*Wonders fill the theatre. The front of the stage is solely lit. The stage is dark.*]

(*GRAVITY remains absent. They narrate.*)

### **GRAVITY**

An eternity ago in a Universe unlike any other that we could ever fathom, these supernatural beings, called Multiplicities, gave birth to a very special Galaxy. They named their baby, Singularity. And like any other Galaxy, this one bloomed. However, Singularity was unlike their guardians. This Galaxy had a supermassive heart. In fact, it was so massive that their parents couldn't even hold their cluster of stars. Singularity sucked the energy out of them; not even light could escape it.

Their parents wanted to raise them but not beyond who their child already was. And Singularity was better at raising... Hell. Wherever they went, so did the space. They literally sucked the energy out of the room, too. They were bent on bending light. But even though they warped time itself, time still flew. It was time for Singularity to meet their event horizon.

Eventually, Multiplicities sat Singularity down and let them know what is in their heart(s). And with that heartless truth, Singularity left behind their family, ran away from their Center, and fell off the Edge of their Universe.

### **21. HEAT DEATH**

(*SINGULARITY remains absent. They are heard holding on to the Edge of their native Universe for dear life.*)

[*The fabric of spacetime stretches and eventually rips.*]



(A reminder that this was during an era before their six Galaxies were born. So, SINGULARITY has their eyes intact. Now, they appear youthful and resplendent as a Galaxy. They hold a torn chunk of dark fabric, shielding the Big Bang Taser. In front of the stage, they may scream as they tumble in. They get up and limp alongside the front of the stage. They find a spot to collapse against. They shiver and feel lost in an interdimensional plane between Universes. They grow aware that they can never return home and will never be with their parents ever again for all eternity.)

### SINGULARITY

HEAT DEATH IS SO COLD...

(MULTIPLICITIES never physically appear. They may be casted as projections of celestial bodies on stage. They shout SINGULARITY's name in the hopes of getting their attention and finding them, then they follow up by having a grief-stricken discussion with accompanying MULTIPLICITIES.)

### MULTIPLICITY 1/A

Singularity! We're nothing without you... We love you. Please, come home. We need you. Return to the Center of the Universe, at once. We'll balance time for you. If you're going to run off into the cold, dark Universe, at least bring a jacket. Our precious Galaxy, where are you?!

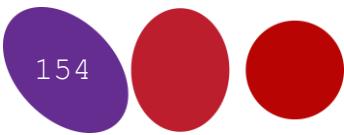
(Addressing another MULTIPLICITY.)

File a report. Our baby is missing!

### MULTIPLICITY 2/B

Singularity!

(Addressing MULTIPLICITY 1/A.)



### **MULTIPLICITY 2/B (cont.)**

We're a part of the force... We raised them without forcing doubt on them. But you just had to go and tell them about their supermassive disorder. Now, we know supermassive disorder. I authorized you to keep their center a secret!

### **SINGULARITY**

I DON'T HAVE A... BLACK HOLE FOR A...

### **MULTIPLICITY 1/Γ**

Singularity!

(Addressing MULTIPLICITY 2/B.)

What? The theory that they have a black hole for a heart? Do you not see the problem of stars orbiting that chasm of theirs? What would cells want to do circulating a heart? Why can't their stars be fixed like ours? They have been relativitistically impossible to handle. I would regret as a nomy/mother/father if I spaghettified the truth.

### **SINGULARITY**

I DON'T HAVE A... BLACK HOLE FOR A...

### **MULTIPLICITY 2/Δ**

Singularity!

(Addressing MULTIPLICITY 1/Γ.)

Spaghettify? You ripped a wormhole in them. You broke their heart. You dug into this dark energy. You've always regretted their supermassive heart and the spirit and soul that came with it. I can't comprehend how that is mathematically possible, but your quantized ego did it.

### **SINGULARITY**

I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...

## MULTIPLICITY 1/E

Singularity!

*(Addressing MULTIPLICITY 2/A.)*

Our home is trashed everywhere they go— Forget it. My ego is atomic, but my love for our little nebula is galactic. Out there, they themself will be even more mutated and deformed. Agony. Ionized gas. They had to empirically know what their heart is capable of. Some millennia.

## MULTIPLICITY 2/Z

Singularity!

*(Addressing MULTIPLICITY 1/E.)*

We won't get another millennium with them. They didn't have to know who they truly are inside. They could have experimented with their own internalized theories. You could have been a general relative to them... You took the light out of our little cluster of stars!

## SINGULARITY

I DON'T HAVE A... BLACK HOLE FOR A...

I DON'T HAVE A... BLACK HOLE FOR A...

I DON'T HAVE THE HEART...

I DON'T HAVE THE... BLACK HOLE FOR THE...

I DON'T HAVE THE... BLACK HOLE FOR THE...

I DON'T HAVE A HEART!

## MULTIPLICITY 1/H

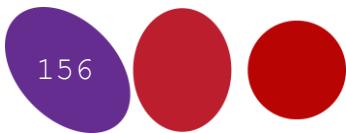
Singularity!

*(Addressing MULTIPLICITY 2/Z.)*

They sucked the light out of us into their little event horizon!

*(Fighting despondence.)*

They have all the light they need... Time carries on with them, too. I wonder what they have to say about the end of time...

**SINGULARITY**

I DO NOT HOLD... ANY ANGER...

**MULTIPLICITY 2/ $\Theta$** 

Singularity!

*(Directing another MULTIPLICITY.)*

Declination!

**SINGULARITY**

I CAN'T BARGAIN... UP ENERGY...

**MULTIPLICITY 1/I**

Singularity!

*(Directing another MULTIPLICITY.)*

We looked up and down. Right ascension?

**SINGULARITY**

I THINK ON WITH... NO DEPRESSION...

**MULTIPLICITY 2/k**

Singularity!

*(Directing another MULTIPLICITY.)*

We looked left and right. Fourth dimension?

**SINGULARITY**

I ACCEPT HEAT DEATH...

**MULTIPLICITY 1/A**

Singularity! We looked over and under every fabric of spacetime...

*(Silence. MULTPLICITIES realize that their child/cluster of stars has forever vanished.)*

**MULTIPLICITY 2/M**

Singularity fell off the Edge of the Universe!

*(MULTPLICITIES weep for all eternity.)*

*[End of "Heat Death."]*

*(SINGULARITY ponders for an eternity.)*

*(MULTPLICITIES say SINGULARITY's name under their breaths, then follow up by justifying with accompanying MULTPLICITIES.)*

**MULTIPLICITY 1/N**

Singularity... I deny they broke the laws of physics. They must be in the courtyard of another plane. Within the walls of a new stage. It has to be. Or not. They broke the fourth dimension...?

**MULTIPLICITY 2/E**

Singularity... I am angered that you would care whether or not they are breaking any law. At least, no longer our laws. We know that they can't break our universal laws.

**MULTIPLICITY 1/O**

Singularity... I bargain the fact that the laws of physics are different in other universal jurisdictions. They don't know if they'll break the other laws of physics.



### **MULTIPLICITY 2/ $\Pi$**

Singularity... I am depressed. Either way, they'll break...

*(SINGULARITY breaks down.)*

### **MULTIPLICITY 1/P**

Singularity... I accept they'll get eaten alive by unknown forces...

*(A TIDAL remain absent.)*

### **TIDAL**

Force!

### **MULTIPLICITY 2/ $\Sigma$**

Singularity... Just a crunch...

*[Melody of “[Crunch](#)”]*

*(On stage, the TIDALS approach SINGULARITY.)*

### **MULTIPLICITY 1/T**

*(Feeling disoriented.)*

Multiplicity... Where did we put the electricity...? Where is the taser? The Big Bang Taser?!

*(SINGULARITY pulls out the Big Bang Taser.)*

### **SINGULARITY**

Big freeze!

*(Turning on the Big Bang Taser. They point the Big Bang Taser towards the TIDALS.)*

What kind of forces do you exert—?

**TIDAL(s)**

Force!

*(SINGULARITY sways a bit.)*

**SINGULARITY**

Like to echo, huh?

**TIDALS**

Force force force...!

*(SINGULARITY feels the tidal force.)*

**SINGULARITY**

Hits like a tide! Is that all you can bark?

**TIDALS**

Fall!

*(SINGULARITY falls over themselves.)*

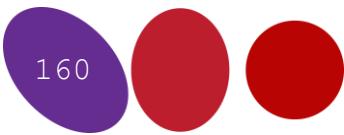
**SINGULARITY**

What are you howling about?!

**MULTIPLICITY 2/Y**

Multiplicity. For safekeeping, our baby will take care of themselves... Uh, did we ever teach them how to properly conduct the Big Bang Taser?

*(SINGULARITY accidentally electrocutes themselves with the Big Bang Taser. They shock themselves into a stupor.)*

**TIDALS**

(Repeating.)

Big big big big big. Bang!

(*SINGULARITY catches their breath. They decide to stow away the Big Bang Taser inside the fabric. They accept their fate.*)

**SINGULARITY**

Bring the heat...

(*The TIDALS grab ahold of SINGULARITY.*)

[*The light shifts to the dome home on stage. The home does not yet contain a dark rug.*]

(*The TIDALS lift SINGULARITY onto the stage. They carry SINGULARITY into the home. They set down SINGULARITY. They grow tame. They present the tidal pup to SINGULARITY.*)

(*SINGULARITY sets down the fabric, where the rug will presently be.*)

**GRAVITY**

(*Adorably like a puppy.*)

Force! Force! Force!

(*SINGULARITY gently takes ahold of the tidal pup. They feel the sudden weight upon them.*)

**SINGULARITY**

The Gravity of it all!

*(SINGULARITY bonds with puppy GRAVITY. They may hear their past family praying for them.)*

### **MULTIPLICITY 1/ $\Phi$**

Let us save space and believe that our Galaxy is in a better place.

### **MULTIPLICITY 2/x**

Let us mention that our cluster of stars have broken the fourth dimension.

### **MULTIPLICITY 1/ $\Psi$**

Let us remember their black hole and how it freed our soul.

### **MULTIPLICITY 2/ $\Omega$**

Let us be home, even when it's the hardest.

## **MULTIPLICITIES**

Singularity is where the heart is.

## **SINGULARITY**

*(Timidly interacting with the TIDALS.)*

Warm life...

## **TIDALS**

*(Gratefully howling.)*

Fall!

*[The home stows away.]*



*[The Fabric of Spacetime]*

*[The spotlight lands solely on JD and GRAVITY.)*

**JD**

Force! You were such an adorable tidal pup.

**GRAVITY**

Now I am fetching.

**JD**

I wouldn't go that far.

**GRAVITY**

But Singularity sure did. And you should do the same.

**JD**

Before considering it, I have questions. Singularity was raised by tidal forces?

**GRAVITY**

Indeed. Your parent was raised by us.

**JD**

How did my siblings and I come to be?

**GRAVITY**

Singularity planted seeds of cosmic gas and stardust and stirred some nebulae... At least, that's what my parents told me.



(*JD observes SINGULARITY's eye.*)

**JD**

You and your parents saw eye to eye?

**GRAVITY**

Visible spectrum blindness. I hope that you do not see Singularity eye to eye but together eye in eye.

**JD**

I miss their other eye...

**GRAVITY**

Your spiral arm was not quite accurate. You were off your mark with your shot. Didn't hit two eyes with one taser.

**JD**

*I miss their presence.*

**GRAVITY**

You have my eyes, my ears, my nose, my energy. Don't waste your full potential, especially when this tidal force understands you more than the most massive black hole in the Universe has ever did. Thank you for learning to speak my language.

**JD**

No matter in the Universe has spoken in such lengths before. I mean, thanks for sharing your energy and telling your story... Are you sure you don't know where Singularity came from? And what did beyond the Edge of the Universe look like?

*[Projections or puppetry may help dive further into SINGULARITY's backstory, as they descend into darkness.]*

### **GRAVITY**

My family doesn't know them themselves. To reiterate, my parents and their fellow tidal forces smelt Singularity in an interdimensional ditch. They never quite picked up on what the Edge looked like as we tidal dogs are spectral blind. And to add, we have never seen any matter quite like Singularity, with a supermassive black hole for a heart. And one who supermassively hated themself.

The earlier eternities were spent trying to get this orphan to hide away their parents deep in their internal darkness. We taught them how to cluster nuclear pasta from our hunts for neutron stars. Singularity ascended to being the beta of the pack by magnetizing these neutron stars, when they took full advantage of that... Big Bang Taser. And soon, they became the alpha, when Singularity took advantage of us with it. My parents... Um...

Well, Singularity became their parents; those who caused pain and hurt to those who are difference, such as us tidal forces. Free and wild Tidals. Stowing away their past family manifested into matters darker than their supermassive black-hole heart... Rolling back the Universe into that dome you lived in made us locked in. But that made Singularity feel secured. Where the resources of the entire Universe were packed in that dome home of yours.

### **JD**

The Universe was wide and open?

### **GRAVITY**

Indeed, finitely infinite. Long before you were born. By the way, nothing shocked us more than when Singularity had you six.

*[Lights briefly reveal the napping GALAXIES.]*

**JD**

Me and my sibling's Universe exist due to Singularity's eye for all this... The clustering that they did to make us who we are.

### **GRAVITY**

Look, everything hit us when Singularity birthed you all from packing stars, nebulas, whatever that black-hole heart did. However, your given values and internal laws weren't made by Singularity. The Edge did. Our journey did. I made you.

**JD**

I can't make it...

### **GRAVITY**

The Universe is finitely infinite. I know that it sounds like a thing I made up.

**JD**

I can't make it without my family. I have a feeling that they don't want to go to the Edge with us.

### **GRAVITY**

I made up other things... Singularity wasn't really all that bright, despite light not escaping them.

**JD**

You insult Singularity.

### **GRAVITY**

*(Muttering.)*

And, you brought the assault on Singularity.



(*JD seems offended.*)

**GRAVITY** (cont.)

Perhaps, you understand a little too much of me now...

**JD**

You encouraged me to be like Singularity...?

**GRAVITY**

I'm telling you to repeat history but carrying a few mental light bulbs along the ways.

**JD**

This voyage has shattered many that I had. One still works and makes me let you know that there's one thing you haven't shared. That would be wide-open space.

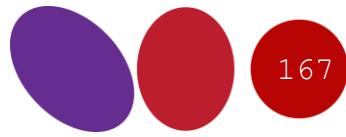
(*GRAVITY puzzledly expands their arm to present the Universe around them.*)

Beyond spiral arm's length. Singularity sure is beyond that. And you should do the same. Give me some room to breathe in this finity of infinity.

(*GRAVITY moves away into the darkness.*)

(*JD stows away SINGULARITY's eye.*)

[*The spotlight is on JD and hardly illuminates the sleeping GALAXIES.*]



**22. DOT DOT**

**JD**

I SEE THAT WE'RE GOING BACK TO BEING NORMAL.  
BUT AT SUCH A WEIRD MOMENT...  
AT LENGTH, I STILL PAUSE TO MAKE UP MY MIND.  
MY GALAXIES, I AM PROUD OF THIS ELLIPSES.

*(Motioning to themselves. They pace.)*

IN THIS CIRCLE CALLED FAMILY,  
I AM MEANT TO BE AN ANOMALY.  
EVERYTHING IS SO ECCENTRIC  
ABOUT MY ORBIT.  
REVOLUTION!

*(Circularly orbiting the space.)*

MY HEART CAN'T BE MENDED IN THIS ENVIRONMENT.  
I MAY ENJOY MY TIME THERE.

*[The spotlight only follows JD.]*

BUT HERE, THIS ENLIGHTENMENT BROUGHT ME JOY.  
AT HOME, OUR LIVES CAN ONLY BE ECLIPSED.

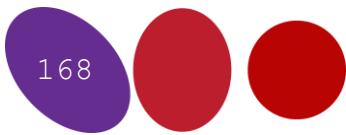
*[The space, except JD, is eclipsed.]*

*(Elliptically orbiting the space.)*

WITH THE IDEALS OF FAMILY,  
I HAVE GROWN TO RAISE THESE ANOMALIES.  
THERE IS NOTHING TOO ECCENTRIC  
ABOUT FINDING MY CITY.  
TIME TO GO ROGUE!

*(Extending out their arm. They hope for  
GRAVITY to reach for it.)*

*[End of "Dot Dot Dot."]*



### **GALAXIEs not JD**

Your verse ends here!

*(JD stops orbiting.)*

*[The light reveals the GALAXIEs not JD  
clustered, with MILKY WAY holding GRAVITY.]*

### **TRIANGULUM**

Our Universe doesn't have to...

### **JD**

You don't look well-rested.

### **CARTWHEEL**

The nap was only a few million years.

### **TRIANGULUM**

Don't play dumb. I heard everything you've said. I, too, never can sleep, spending all the time worrying about you. Anomaly is... Anomaly is...

*(JD approaches GRAVITY.)*

### **JD**

Anomaly is everything, I know...

### **TRIANGULUM**

Listen to what I have to say or you'll hear Gravity from the farm up Multiverse. I don't know who this Abell is.

(*JD backs down.*)

**TRIANGULUM** (cont.)

Anomaly isn't... Anomaly is not...

**JD**

Nothing.

**TRIANGULUM**

And, Singularity is nothing, too.

(*ANDROMEDA, WHIRLPOOL, and CARTWHEEL agree.*)

**JD**

And, Singularity is me. Maybe you someday. You all, eventually.

**ANDROMEDA**

This geocentrism...

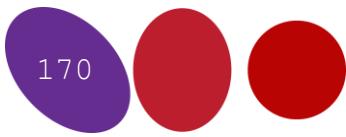
(*JD pulls out their monocular. They point the monocular in the direction of the Center of the Universe*)

**JD**

Geocentric is putting all the attention on the Center of the Universe. Abell is an anomaly. They are everything.

**TRIANGULUM**

I see nothing in you!

**JD**

That's the point.

**GALAXIEs not JD, MILKY WAY**

We see nothing in the Center.

**JD**

What's the point?

**MILKY WAY**

Nothin'!

(*JD nods.*)

**JD**

Missing the point.

**TRIANGULUM**

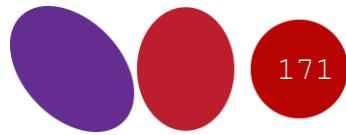
The point is that we've been missing you. I don't know what you see in *nothing*. You'll face every terrain for it. I don't ever want any of you to see everything in nothing. You'll never face an escape.

(*Directing WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL to JD.*)

The thing is there'll always be a limited scope.

(*WHIRLPOOL goes to JD. They grab ahold of JD.*)

(*CARTWHEEL snatches JD's monocular from their grasp. They hand the monocular to TRIANGULUM.*)



### 23. THE SCOPE OF THINGS

#### **TRIANGULUM**

IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS,  
THERE REALLY SEEKS TO BE  
AN EYE ON CUTTING EDGES OFF OUR CENTER...

#### **GALAXIEs not JD, TRIANGULUM**

*(Repeating.)*

LOOKING INWARD  
TO SEE OUTWARD.

#### **TRIANGULUM**

IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS,  
THERE REALLY SEEKS TO BE  
AN EYE ON CUTTING EDGES OFF OUR CENTER...

#### **GALAXIEs not JD, TRIANGULUM**

*(Repeating.)*

LOOKING INWARD  
TO SEE OUTWARD.

#### **TRIANGULUM**

WITHIN THE SCOPE OF EVERYTHING,  
WITHIN THE SCOPE OF EVERYTHING,  
WITHIN THE SCOPE OF EVERYTHING  
IS PERHAPS SOMETHING.  
DO YOU KNOW?

#### **GALAXIEs not JD, TRIANGULUM**

*(Repeating.)*

SCOPE OUT.

**TRIANGULUM**

Our relationship hasn't been well rounded as it should have been. Despite living in a dome, there were many sharp corners that we casted you aside in. We cannot mend, but we could mold our house in order. You've lasted an eternity without cutting corners to get here. Can you take one millennium to scope us, for who we are...?

*(Handing the monocular to JD.)*

Everything?

*(JD almost peeks into the monocular towards their fellow GALAXIES. They suddenly scope out the Edge.)*

*(TRIANGULUM disappointedly takes back the monocular.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

WITHIN THE SCOPE OF EVERYTHING,  
WITHIN THE SCOPE OF EVERYTHING,  
WITHIN THE SCOPE OF EVERYTHING  
IS ONLY NOTHING!  
*FAMILY.*

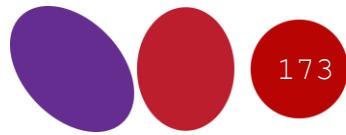
*(Failing to crush the monocular in their hands. They humiliatingly hand the monocular to WHIRLPOOL. They look away.)*

*(WHIRLPOOL crushes the monocular.)*

*(ANDROMEDA's heart aches.)*

*(JD seems upset.)*

*[End of "The Scope of Things."]*

**WHIRLPOOL**

Hmm hmm. Time is up.

*(GRAVITY tries to discreetly reach into ANDROMEDA's clothes to retrieve their monocular.)*

*(MILKY WAY slaps away GRAVITY's hand.)*

**MILKY WAY**

My attention span, a hundred thousand light-years across.

*(ANDROMEDA hands the monocular to WHIRLPOOL.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

You think this device will plot your way to the Edge. This narrative of yours shall be in lockstep with ours, so-called ellipses.

**JD**

You are no ellipses to me!

**CARTWHEEL**

Anomalies are not normal. We are normal.

**ANDROMEDA****MILKY WAY****WHIRLPOOL**

Whatever you say, Ring Galaxy.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Why can't you be more like Milky Way?

**CARTWHEEL**

Family means nothing because of you.

**ANDROMEDA**

That's actually Triangulum's fault.

**MILKY WAY**

No time to drop balls on premise.

*(JD looks at their knapsack. They pull out three balls.)*

*(TRIANGULUM turns around, teary-eyed. They slap the balls out of JD's hand.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Galaxies are everything, we have. You know?! Act like one!

**JD**

I know. Time is up. The essence of patience. I'm a proud ellipses. Light-years ahead of you. I'm an anomaly. Lightspeeds faster than you. Stars are everything, I know... and the Tidals.

*[There are sounds of trampling TIDALS.]*

**GALAXIES not JD, TRIANGULUM**

Fetch...?

*(The TIDALS rush in.)*

(*JD drops all the balls. They put the knapsack over MILKY WAY's head.*)

**JD**

Tidal forces will act like tidal forces!

(*The TIDALS frantically collect the balls and disorient the GALAXIES not JD.*)

(*JD goes to the aid of GRAVITY.*)

Up for a trillion more years?

(*GRAVITY salutes their fellow TIDALS.*)

**GRAVITY**

Meet me at zenith!

(*JD and GRAVITY run off.*)

**17a. FABRIC (reprise)**

(*MILKY WAY erratically starts blasting from within the knapsack.*)

(*TRIANGULUM hides away from MILKY WAY.*)

(*MILKY WAY's ray hits ANDROMEDA.*)

(*ANDROMEDA goes limp. They collapse.*)

[End of "Fabric (reprise)"]



(*WHIRLPOOL drops the intact monocular.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

Huh. Friendly pulsar! Oval down! Oval down!

**CARTWHEEL**

Milky Way beamed Andromeda!

(*MILKY WAY stops blasting. They plead.*)

**MILKY WAY**

Friendly quasar! Friendly quasar! Friendly quasar!

(*In the mourning distraction, the TIDALS drag away ANDROMEDA, WHIRLPOOL, and CARTWHEEL. They still fear MILKY WAY.*)

(*A TIDAL heads to MILKY WAY. They slightly lift the knapsack off MILKY WAY.*)

(*MILKY WAY is broken.*)

(*The TIDAL lets the knapsack sit back on the pathetic MILKY WAY. They dash off.*)

(*TRIANGULUM comes out of hiding.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Milky Way... All is forgiven. This power you unearthed-

**MILKY WAY**

Earth... Is right. Milky Way... Forgotten.

(*Standing up. They walk away.*)



(*TRIANGULUM picks up the monocular.*)

### **TRIANGULUM**

Milky Way forward!

(*Rushing out after MILKY WAY.*)

#### **18a. POINT (reprise)**

(*SINGULARITY walks in. They feel the ground.*)

[End of "Point (reprise)"]

(*The TIDALS prowl in. They growl.*)

(*SINGULARITY ignites the Big Bang Taser.*)

(*The TIDALS cower and run away.*)

### **MULTIPLICITY 1**

You hold all light.

(*SINGULARITY observes the Big Bang Taser. They question who they have become.*)

### **MULTIPLICITY 2**

The dark holds you.

(*SINGULARITY turns off the BB Taser. They try to motion for the TIDALS to come back to them. When nothing returns, they question their isolated self. They wander off.*)

**24. BIG RIP**

[The miniature domes resemble the home.]

(The TIDALS push in three domes. They push WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL into separate domes. They lug the comatose ANDROMEDA into a dome.)

(ANDROMEDA's heart glows.)

**WHIRLPOOL**

Hmm... Ain't that a blast from the past.

**CARTWHEEL**

They really missed home.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Ain't the tiduals know what they're doing?

**CARTWHEEL**

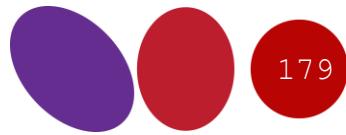
It's also been trillions of years since they had a master to follow orders.

(The TIDALS absentmindedly extend their tongues.)

**WHIRLPOOL**

Time is opposite when it comes to their memory.

(The TIDALS hungrily lick their lips.)

**CARTWHEEL**

Time is opposite, and so is their stomach.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Maybe if we stay still, they won't know we're here... Take a nap like Andromeda.

**CARTWHEEL**

Andromeda's dead.

*(MILKY WAY peeks in.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

Why would you declare that?

**CARTWHEEL**

Whirlpool's in denial. Singularity's dead, too!

*(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL argue.)*

*(The TIDALs revel in the commotion.)*

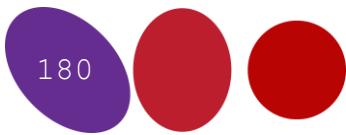
*(TRIANGULUM peeks alongside MILKY WAY.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

You found them!

*(Tossing away the monocular.)*

No use for such junk anymore. Don't tell anyone that I... Put my eye on its scope. Now. Here's the plan—



(*MILKY WAY retrieves the monocular. They stroll out to ANDROMEDA.*)

**TRIANGULUM** (cont.)

Et. That solar system is a bad influence.

(*MILKY WAY levels with ANDROMEDA. They place the monocular in ANDROMEDA's hand. The guilt consumes them. They believed they themself should be judged before the tidal forces.*)

**MILKY WAY**

Fix.

(*The TIDALS immediately turn to MILKY WAY. They cautiously surround MILKY WAY. They take out balls. They toss balls at MILKY WAY. They pick up the balls and continue the cycle.*)

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL looks on.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

Ain't no longer in denial...

**CARTWHEEL**

I will never say such things about Milky Way...

(*MILKY WAY feels the pelting.*)

(*A TIDAL suddenly punch themself with their ball. The TIDALS puzzledly looks on. They are suddenly repelled away from MILKY WAY.*)

[*The dome holding ANDROMEDA falls apart.*]

(*ANDROMEDA stands. They have grown a supermassive white hole as their heart. White holes are the opposite of black holes. They extend their hand to MILKY WAY.*)

### **TRIANGULUM**

Anomaly...

(*MILKY WAY slightly opens their mouth, spitting out a ray, to accept.*)

(*ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY link arms once again.*)

### **WHIRLPOOL**

Time to deny the empirical laws of physics... Hmm?

[*The domes holding WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL disassemble.*]

### **CARTWHEEL**

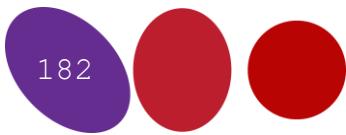
Time to not question white holes.

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL hold a warm stance.*)

(*TRIANGULUM comes out of their hiding place.*)

### **TRIANGULUM**

One question. Is everything an anomaly...?

**CARTWHEEL**

Isn't that your point?

**TRIANGULUM**

But me...

**WHIRLPOOL**

You are special for not being special...

*(TRIANGULUM questionably stares at WHIRLPOOL.)*

I'm special. I'm well-built. Hence the name.

**CARTWHEEL**

You're um... A role model.

*(ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY cluster with WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL.)*

*(TRIANGULUM accepts and clusters.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Family...

*(The GALAXIES battle the TIDALS.)*

**GALAXIES**

BIG RIP!

*(The TIDALS ultimately run away.)*

(*SINGULARITY* remains absent.)

### **SINGULARITY**

Big rip?! In my fabric of spacetime!

### **MILKY WAY**

(*Joyously.*)

Nomy/mama/papa?

### **SINGULARITY**

That's enough. You are all in big trouble, young ellipses!

### **GALAXIES**

Nomy/mom/dad used that oval word...

### **SINGULARITY**

I don't understand what the fabric of spacetime has to offer any more than surprises.

### **TRIANGULUM**

And your radio outburst is one more...

### **SINGULARITY**

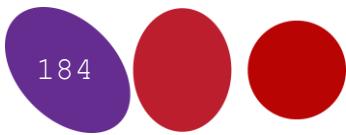
Get back in the house!

### **CARTWHEEL**

Can you pick us up?

### **WHIRLPOOL**

We're trillions of parsecs away...

**ANDROMEDA**

Come on everyone... Trillions of parsecs isn't comparable to...

*(The GALAXIES exit.)*

*[A cosmic wall stands.]*

*(JD and GRAVITY exhaustedly skip in.)*

**JD**

At quadrillion parsecs, we hit a wall...

*(Banging their head against the wall.)*

Are you sure you weren't able to steal the space telescope?

**GRAVITY**

Again, this dog won't go down for such a device. It'll make this epic journey too emotional with a dead dog, and it's already cliché enough.

**JD**

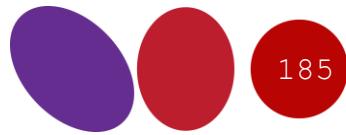
A little of me died inside with that space telescope, at the hands of Triangulum.

**GRAVITY**

*Whirlpool.*

**JD**

All of me died on this side of this cosmic wall, at the heart of us.

**GRAVITY**

We need to adapt our hearts to the corners.

**JD**

What corners? Cutting edge... When there's nothing to cut!

**GRAVITY**

We haven't cut corners to get to where we are at. Why start now?

**JD**

Started from the Center, now we're on Edge...

**GRAVITY**

Relax...

*(JD paces back and forth.)*

Moving objects are difficult to image or imagine.

**JD**

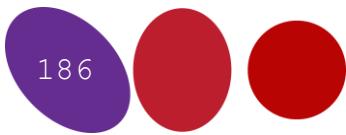
At first, staying put, now we're moving.

**GRAVITY**

Staying put made you fall for the Edge in the first place. This will only rekindle your fall. You have nothing to fall back on...

**JD**

Nothing...

**GRAVITY**

I felt like nothing is real, when this tidal force was a fixed star due to Singularity.

**JD**

How do we unfix this reality, while fixing our realities?

**GRAVITY**

No need to fix ourselves. We are perfect the way we are from our angle of arcseconds to the minuscule approximation errors. Sure, the errors are inevitable when everything is distant. But now's just like before the Big Bang, when only the Edge is distant, and your family is nearby.

*(Resting their head on JD.)*

**JD**

How do you have such a point of viewpoints?

**GRAVITY**

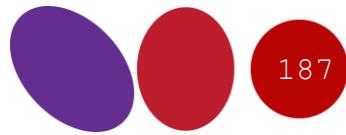
My parents used this perspective to find yours by the Edge of our Universe eternities ago.

**JD**

Well, we're by the Edge, except we're the ones stuck in a bubble.

**GRAVITY**

I'm a bit rusty. So, we could use the bubbles to cleanse our line of sight. Align your scope, which eyes will have to do.

**JD**

Where do we start?

**GRAVITY**

We start with the stars.

**25. PARALLAX**

(GRAVITY assembles  $d = \frac{1}{p}$ .)

**GRAVITY**

RELAXATION TIME

GETS DISTANCE TO EQUAL ONE OVER OBSERVED ANGLE.

(JD seems doubtful.)

DIVIDED, YOU ARE TO APPARENT

[The atmosphere reminds JD of SINGULARITY.]

(GRAVITY makes JD sit.)

CHANGE IN POSITION, SO SIT.

DO GROUND YOURSELF.

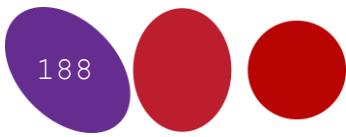
JUST PARALLAX.

**JD**

PERILOUS.

**GRAVITY**

PARALLAX. PARALLAX.

**JD**

PARANOID.

**GRAVITY**

PARALLAX. SEE THE STARS?

PARALLAX. SEE THE STARS FROM WHERE YOU ARE.

*(GRAVITY discards the distance formula.)*

**GRAVITY**

PARASITIC MINDS

GOT NOWHERE TO BURDEN YOU UNDER AND ENTANGLED.

MISALIGNED, JUST LIKE TRIANGULUM'S TRIANGULATION, SO TRY.

*(GRAVITY sits by JD. They tilt their body, away from JD.)*

TILT YOUR HEAD.

FIND PARALLELS.

**JD**

PARADOX.

**GRAVITY**

PERMANENT PARADIGM.

*(JD tilts their head onto GRAVITY's shoulder.)*

**JD**

PARAGON...

**GRAVITY**

PLEASE RELAX. SEE THE STARS?  
REMAIN LAXED. SEE THE STARS FOR WHO THEY ARE.  
RELAX.

**JD**

I'M RELAXED.

*[The light slightly peeks through a corner of the cosmic horizon.]*

*(GRAVITY instantly sits up straight. They wag their tail.)*

**GRAVITY**

YOU SEE?

*[The light dissipates.]*

*(GRAVITY feels disappointed.)*

**JD**

I SEE NOTHING.

*(Smiling.)*

JUST PARALLAX.  
PARALLAX.

*[The light returns, growing brighter.]*

*(GRAVITY graciously returns to leaning their body.)*

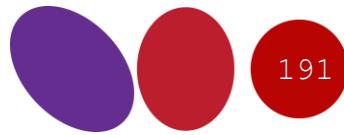
**JD**

**GRAVITY**

PARALLAX. PARALLAX. PARALLAX.  
PARALLAX. FEEL THE STARS.  
PARALLAX. FEEL THE STARS FOR WHO THEY ARE.

*[The wall opens up.]*

*[End of "Parallax."]*



## 26. TANGENT

*[The Edge of the Universe]*

*[The horizon is painted with unseen colors. The air is scented with unscented aroma. The theatre constellates with ellipses, whether the geometric shape or the three dots. Six ellipses stand out, perhaps by appearance or they are clustered together.]*

*(GRAVITY is spectral blind, so they cannot see what JD sees. They enjoy the scent. They are just extremely proud that JD is finally living their dream.)*

### **JD**

WE HAVE GONE OFF ON A...

*(Taking it all in.)*

TANGENT.

*(JD looks around for ABELL.)*

*(ABELL is not in the audience.)*

### **GRAVITY**

THIS TANGENT YOU HOWL FOR...

I'M SPECTRAL BLIND.

WHAT DO YOU SEE BEYOND THE STARS? WHO DO YOU KNOW?

*[The music drowns out JD's answers, leaving the Edge of the Universe unanswered to our world.]*

(*JD mouths and points to the unknown. They may even point to the audience. Their finger lands on the six ellipses. They fall silent.*)

(*GRAVITY looks about.*)

(*JD decides to not cross this point and get their point across at home.*)

**JD**

WE HAVE GONE ON OFF A...  
TANGENT.

(*Wiping away their tears.*)

LET'S BE GROUNDED.

[*The Edge of the Universe follows JD.*]

I AM TAKING THE EDGE ON US.

[*End of "Tangent."*]

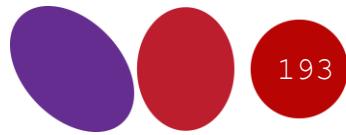
**GRAVITY**

(*Disappointedly.*)

You're taking the wide-open space... Away.

**JD**

Besides the eye, it might be a way for Singularity to forgive me. The only other way.

**GRAVITY**

What about Abell? You didn't speak of them here.

**JD**

I made them up. My supermassive heart played tricks with me. Come on. Let's go back to being the normal nothings.

**GRAVITY**

Forgive me if I don't like being crowded in.

*(JD levels with GRAVITY.)*

**JD**

Relax. I'm sure I can convince Singularity that free space made me and my siblings stronger.

**GRAVITY**

You're just like your nomy/mama/papa. There's no convincing you. My fellow tidal forces have never felt freer. For now, there is room for us to stretch the masses. There's a point in this tangent that you cannot go further. I have no stars left.

*(JD pulls out a single ball.)*

**JD**

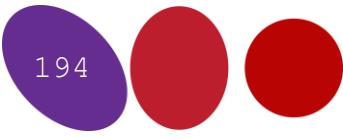
I have one.

*(Tossing the ball.)*

*(GRAVITY retrieves the ball.)*

**GRAVITY**

You are lost.



**JD**

Where else could we go than back?

*(GRAVITY sets the ball by JD's feet.)*

**GRAVITY**

What else could we do than go? We can stay. Fix.

*(Sitting.)*

**JD**

Why didn't your parents stay?

**GRAVITY**

You've gone too far.

*(JD picks up the ball. They toss.)*

**JD**

Far-fetched?

**GRAVITY**

I'm a tidal force. Stars are what I fetch. Hearts are not.

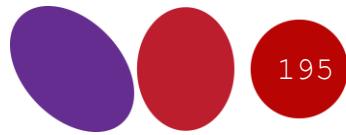
*(JD pulls out another ball out of thin air.)*

**JD**

I'm a Galaxy. Stars are what I make. Not necessary with my heart.

**GRAVITY**

Anything but your sweat and blood. With how spread out the fabric of spacetime is, there is not enough atoms to clump into a planet, let alone a star. Far-fetched will be a thing of the



past. Don't let me stop you. Don't face the Big Freeze. I'll do with what is left of spacetime until you turn the Universe back into a singularity. SPT0615-JD... You are a Galaxy. You should be with your siblings. Like them, I got to bounce.

*(Leaving JD behind.)*

**JD**

You make me!

*(Tossing the ball off the stage.)*

Nothing is nothing without you...

*[A lone star glows in the cosmic horizon.]*

*(JD picks up the ball on the stage.)*

**JD** (cont.)

I am a true anomaly in this eccentricity.

*(Pacing along the edge of the stage.)*

An eccentric anomaly... Go off of this tangent.

*(Dropping the ball off the stage.)*

*[Two stars cluster together in the cosmic horizon.]*

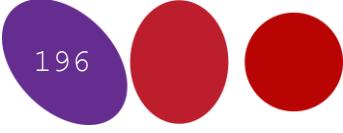
We'll be together in... Crunch Time.

I AM TAKING THE EDGE ON ME.

*(Departing.)*

*(ABELL returns to the audience.)*

You can't change who pumps your heart. However, you reshape it if you choose.



[*The Center of the Universe*]

[*The home returns.*]

(*The GALAXIES not JD enter, rehearsing.*)

**GALAXIES not JD, MILKY WAY**

(*Repeating.*)

We are taking the Edge off you. We are taking the Edge off you.

**MILKY WAY**

You are edged out.

**ANDROMEDA**

*No, Milky Way.* Repeat after us.

**GALAXIES not JD, MILKY WAY**

We are taking the Edge off you.

**CARTWHEEL**

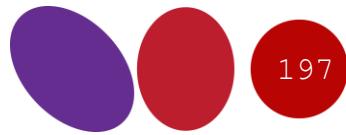
Maybe we shouldn't bring up the Edge. Let's pretend this Big Bang never happened.

**WHIRLPOOL**

Who knows? They might have forgotten about this theory.

**TRIANGULUM**

Singularity. Lost an eye, lose a memory, too?



(*The GALAXIES laugh.*)

(*SINGULARITY appears from the shadows, outside the home. They bow.*)

### **SINGULARITY**

Declinations. You have an eye for losing decency...

(*The GALAXIES not MILKY WAY get startled.*)

(*MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.*)

(*SINGULARITY is now akin to an embarrassing parental figure, which is normal.*)

### **27. IT'S ABOUT SPACETIME**

### **SINGULARITY**

IT'S ABOUT SPACE...

IT'S ABOUT ABOUT SPACETIME...

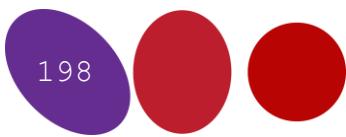
IT'S ABOUT SPACETIME YOU HEAR?

IT'S ABOUT SPACETIME YOU'RE HERE.

(*Scatting as though they have lost their mind in these lonely eternities.*)

(*MILKY WAY distances from SINGULARITY.*)

### **WHIRLPOOL**



Hmm. We're getting centrifugal whiplash.

**CARTWHEEL**

No way this is our relative...

(*SINGULARITY horribly dances.*)

**ANDROMEDA**

That is indeed our nomy/mama/papa.

**TRIANGULUM**

You're acting like you didn't kick us out for quintillions of years.

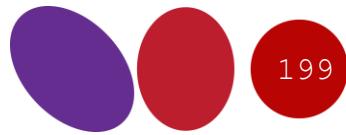
**MILKY WAY**

You need spacetime to rest.

Nomy/mama/papa, we went through several quintillion years without that being brought up. You remember?

We've been gone for a quintillion years and you turnt our rooms into a yoga?

Nothing makes me feel like a singularity like sitting in place and stretching things I shouldn't stretch.

**CARTWHEEL**

Humble abode?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Ain't you had a look out there?

SINGULARITY looks upon ANDROMEDA's white-hole heart.

What is this? I love it.

**SINGULARITY**

You know I'd never use a whip on you.

I just sicked the tidal dogs on you.

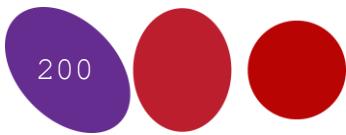
**SINGULARITY**

IT'S ABOUT SPACE...

IT'S ABOUT ABOUT SPACETIME...

*(Scatting and irregularly dancing.)*

*[End of "It's About Spacetime."]*

**MILKY WAY**

You have a solar system in your head?

*(SINGULARITY puzzledly looks on, not because of MILKY WAY but an incoming GALAXY.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

What Milky Way means to ask is that, do you have imaginary—  
Planetary friends who are speaking to you and making you dance...?

*(JD lonelily arrives, along with the Edge.)*

*(TRIANGULUM notices JD.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Are we also imagining...?

*(The GALAXIES turn towards JD.)*

**GALAXIES not JD**

The Edge...

*(SINGULARITY turns so that their missing eye is towards JD. They try to ignore JD.)*

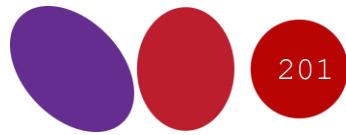
*(JD bows.)*

**JD**

Declinations. Home. Right on this dot.

*(Pulling out SINGULARITY's eye.)*

You miss this.



**SINGULARITY**

I've never been better without my eye!

**JD**

You' miss your parents.

**SINGULARITY**

I've stopped making light of my parents.

**JD**

That's the problem. You didn't let your parents make the light out of you.

**SINGULARITY**

Using antimetabole against the brightest celestial being in the Universe?

**JD**

I learnt from a tidal force who knew how to sound bright.

*(SINGULARITY puzzledly looks on.)*

**MILKY WAY**

JD speaks dog.

**SINGULARITY**

You understand tidal forces. I'll give you that.

**JD**

Gravity told me they found you by the Edge of the Universe.

*(SINGULARITY is shaken.)*

Freezing in the heat death of the Universe.

*(SINGULARITY tearfully hums.)*

Orphaned.

*(SINGULARITY holds themself together.)*

To speak physics, you didn't say goodbye to your parents.

**SINGULARITY**

No more verses out of your wormhole!

**JD**

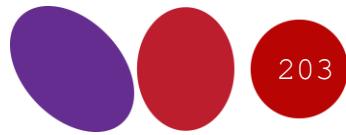
You chose to run away from your home!

**SINGULARITY**

They chose to reject my heart.

**JD**

And you're rejecting your eye.

**SINGULARITY**

I repeat. They rejected my black hole.

**JD**

And I repeat, history. Our black holes are meant to be ejected out to the Universe, for all to feel.

**JD**

Here's the Edge. Your parents are just beyond, somewhere.

**SINGULARITY**

My parents never accepted my presence. I saw the light in all of you. You didn't take my light in. They didn't know my heart. I knew yours very well. They didn't save space for my heart. I found space to save. My heart is in the right place. I see my parents in my soul. I am my parents. I'm rejecting you. The point is, you are who I was, as a point. There's no point filled beyond the Edges.

**JD**

I don't want to do what you've done. I'm not leaving you on the dot.

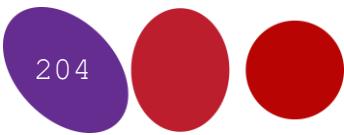
**JD**

I do. I don't like us being the only general relative we have.

*(SINGULARITY ignores JD.)*

**JD**

You're just going to leave me on the dot?

**SINGULARITY**

Live your life, off the Edge. I have the Center to take care of.

**JD**

I'm not living on the Edge. I'm living off it.

**SINGULARITY**

No you're not. You're not living here.

**JD**

I know.

My parents never accepted my heart. I accepted all. You're the exception.

Let history repeat themself.

The *point* is that you don't care about me.

You're just going to leave me hanging here on ...

I am nothing. I hope you are someday too.

What did you do to Gravity's parents?

I pushed them over the Edge.

When I was rolling back the Universe, they tried to stop this.  
Resource. Refuge. Safety. I pushed them over the Edge.

They wouldn't let me compress the Universe. Keep all the  
resources here. Keep us safe.

*(The TIDALs discreetly scurry away from behind the home.)*

*(SINGULARITY turns their head, but not notice  
anything.)*

You're doing the same...

Like a tidal force.

Who's Abell?

Abell isn't there. You are right. It is heartless and lightless  
world.

Get in the home, everyone (The siblings don't hear about Abell.)

**28. SHED LIGHT****JD**

YOU WON'T HEAR THE END OF...  
MY, IT'S YOU'S, I'S, VERSE.  
LET'S CLOSE OUT OUR CHAPTER.  
THE END OF OUR TIME.  
LET'S HANG OUT BEFORE I LEAVE.  
OR LEAVE ME ON DOT DOT DOT...  
ELLIPSIS?

**GALAXIES not JD, TRIANGULUM**

(Repeating.)

SPT0615...

(TRIANGULUM is still forgiving to JD.)

**TRIANGULUM**

JD.

**GALAXIES not JD**

DOT DOT DOT...

**TRIANGULUM**

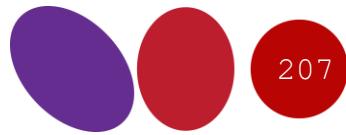
ANOMALY.

**GALAXIES not JD**

DOT DOT DOT...

**TRIANGULUM**

YOU ARE EVERYTHING.

**GALAXIEs not JD**

DOT DOT DOT...

**TRIANGULUM**

YOU'RE STILL FAMILY.

**GALAXIEs not JD**

ELLIPSIS...

**JD**

I'LL LET YOU HEAR MY VERSE.  
I'M HERE UNREHEARSED.  
I SHALL CLOSE THIS EPIC.  
I'VE TO SHARE MY TIME.  
I'D MAKE DO OF WHAT IS LEFT.  
I BE ON THE DOT DOT DOT...  
OH, NOMY/MAMA/PAPA?

(*SINGULARITY ignores.*)

**GALAXIEs not JD**

DOT DOT DOT...

DOT DOT DOT...

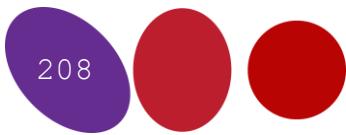
DOT DOT DOT...

ELLIPSIS...

(*GRAVITY arrives. They have returned.*)

**JD**

GRAVITY, YOU'RE THE BEST TIDAL FORCE A GALAXY COULD ASK FOR.



(*GRAVITY embraces JD.*)

**GRAVITY**

PARALLAX.

(*JD tilts their head into GRAVITY's hug.*)

**JD**

I CAN'T WHEN YOU GROUND MY SUPERMASSIVE

**JD**

**GRAVITY**

HEART.

FALL.

**GRAVITY**

YOU FOUND NO FORGIVENESS.  
THAT'S FAR-FETCHED FOR ME.  
I HAVE NO MEMORY.  
FOR THE REST OF TIME,  
EDGE OUR ECCENTRICITY.  
JUST US AS A DOT AND DOT...  
PERIOD.

(*JD silently takes in GRAVITY.*)

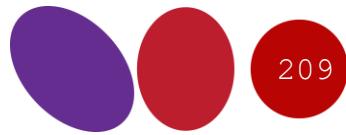
**GALAXIEs not JD**

SAY SOMETHING...  
SAY NOTHING...  
ANYTHING...  
ELLIPSES...

(*Singularity pays attention at heart.*)

**SINGULARITY**

PLEASE FINISH YOUR VERSE.



209

(*JD repays attention to SINGULARITY.*)

**JD**

SINGULARITY, I MADE TIME AS AN ELLIPSES TO SAY I'M  
SORRY.

**SINGULARITY**

DOT DOT DOT...

**JD**

I HURT WHEN I BROKE YOUR SUPERMASSIVE

**JD**

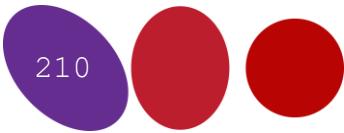
**SINGULARITY**

HEART.

*BROKE*

**SINGULARITY**

*THE WHOLE UNIVERSE.*



I don't want to be single like you. I don't want my point to be like yours.

**JD**

THAT'S THE END OF OUR VERSE.

(*SINGULARITY peeks with their present eye.*)

(*JD jumps off the stage, indefinitely gone.*)

(*GRAVITY whimpers.*)

**GRAVITY**

(*Trying to muster "force."*)

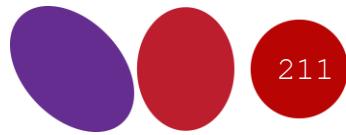
For— Fall...

(*Running off.*)

(*TRIANGULUM's heart breaks. They collapse.*)

(*The remaining GALAXIES are left shaken.*)

[End of "Shed Light."]



(*SINGULARITY represses their despondence.*)

**SINGULARITY**

*Clusters of stars. Your hearts are all— Most selfless.*

(*Caressing MILKY WAY's chin.*)

*Always, full of grace—*

**MILKY WAY**

*Give us some space!*

(*SINGULARITY lowers their caressing hand.*)

*Ghost Nebula! I no kau tau to you!*

**WHIRLPOOL**

**CARTWHEEL**

*We want no time with you.*

**ANDROMEDA**

*SPT0— JD, was at risk.*

(*TRIANGULUM lies on the ground, petrified.*)

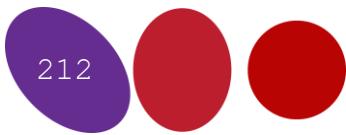
(*SINGULARITY looks at TRIANGULUM.*)

**SINGULARITY**

*Your hearts are at risk being a fixed star.*

**ANDROMEDA**

*Now being fixed is a risk.*

**WHIRLPOOL**

You have yourself to fix. Hmm.

**CARTWHEEL**

By unfixing away from us.

(*SINGULARITY stands tall.*)

**MILKY WAY**

Fix!

(*SINGULARITY backs down. They hum as they head to the rug in the home. They sit alone.*)

(*The GALAXIES focus on TRIANGULUM.*)

**CARTWHEEL**

No risks to make time for you.

**ANDROMEDA**

Let's not risk who's left for who has left.

(*TRIANGULUM remains unresponsive.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

Risking it all... JD is right. And we are right ascension... Hmm...

(*Holding TRIANGULUM. They carry them to the edge of the stage. They set them down. They cluster the other GALAXIES to TRIANGULUM. They sit with them.*)

**29. \* (ASTERISK)**

(*WHIRLPOOL hums a distinct melody, relative but contrary to SINGULARITY's woeful hums.*)

**WHIRLPOOL**

YOU KNEW THE RISKS/REST.

WILL YOU TAKE IT?

THAT THEY HAVE FOUND THEIR  
ASTERISM.

WE PUSHED OUR STARS,  
WE RISKED IT ALL.

NOW, OUR STAR'S TIME TO FIX.  
IT'S OUR TIME TO ASK...

(*The GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM hum along.*)

**GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM**

DARKNESS TO BE UNDER ASTERISKS.  
OUR NAMES TO BE CHANGED BY ASTERISKS.  
TROUBLES TO BE MASKED WITH ASTERISKS.  
OUR CLUSTER TO LIVE AS ASTERISKS.

(*TRIANGULUM breaks their brokenheartedness.  
They vitally hum.*)

(*ANDROMEDA's white hole depletes, so that  
the other GALAXIES' hearts dimly share  
white lights.*)

(*The GALAXIES form an asterism.*)

**GALAXIES**

OUR HEARTS TO BE WITH THOSE AT RISK.

(*SINGULARITY holds their black-hole heart.*)

[End of "Asterisk".]

### 30. HEARTS IN THE RIGHT PLACE

(*SINGULARITY picks up their eye. They discreetly place their eye into their eye patch. They rip off their eye patch. They see through both eyes, once again. They cautiously head to the edge of the stage. They look out.*)

[*The spotlight lands on JD and ABELL.*]

(*The performer playing JD is amongst their real friends and family. They are embracing their sibling, partner/spouse, or child{ren}, stage named ABELL.*)

(*Tears roll down SINGULARITY's resettled eye.*)

[*The spotlight shifts to SINGULARITY.*]

(*MULTIPLICITIES remain absent.*)

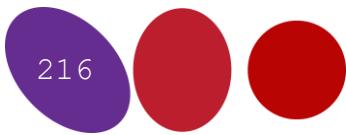
#### **MULTIPLICITY 1/A**

Everything... Our precious Singularity, you have found your ellipses!

#### **MULTIPLICITY 1/B**

I told you that you'd break the fourth dimension!

[*The spotlight shifts to the GALAXIES.*]



### **MULTIPLICITY 2/Γ**

And, you have your own clusters of stars!

(*SINGULARITY walks back to the rug.*)

### **MULTIPLICITY 2/Δ**

Your heart's in the right place.

(*SINGULARITY could not be more sentimental. They accept JD's newfound family, center, and Universe. They look at their GALAXIES.*)

[End of "Hearts in the Right Place."]

### **31. (THE SPAGHETTIFICATION OF) ZENITH**

[At the cosmic high noon, time screeches to a halt.]

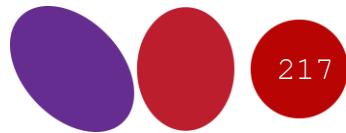
(*GRAVITY now embodies an outlawed Lupus. They suddenly march out of the shadows, with a tidal wolf pack.*)

(*The TIDALS have evolved into wolves. They follow GRAVITY's lead.*)

### **GRAVITY**

Dogfight at zenith...

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL hold defensive stances.*)

**WHIRLPOOL****CARTWHEEL**

Let's not waste time. Make time for our relatives.

**GRAVITY**

Let's take this millennium to square off...

*(TRIANGULUM goes to hide under the table.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Gravity is back to curb stomp spacetime.

*(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL disappointedly go to try and get TRIANGULUM out.)*

**WHIRLPOOL****CARTWHEEL**

And Triangulum's back...

**GRAVITY**

In our Universe, matter is neither created nor destroyed. Unlike those who mattered in this Universe. JD will never be back...

**MILKY WAY**

What you saying, Gravity?

**GRAVITY**

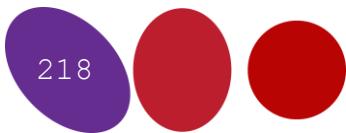
*(Howling.)*

Free fall.

**TIDALs**

*(Savagely.)*

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



(*MILKY WAY unleashes their quasar.*)

(*The TIDALS remain unaffected.*)

### **ANDROMEDA**

All the energies of the Universe have been compressed to this singularity... I really miss the wide-open space right about now!

(*GRAVITY recognizes the GALAXY's weak spots. They strategize the TIDALS to ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY.*)

### **GRAVITY**

Fix! Fix!

(*The TIDALS take out ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY.*)

### **TIDALS**

Fall!

### **SINGULARITY**

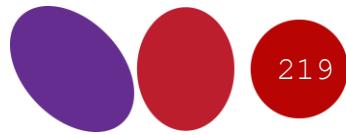
There is a fourth dimension: time.

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL rush from behind SINGULARITY on opposite sides, spiraling and cartwheeling.*)

### **GRAVITY**

Fall time.

(*The TIDALS take out WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL.*)

**TIDALS**

Fall!

*(GRAVITY prepares a showdown against SINGULARITY. They face the home. They bow.)*

*(SINGULARITY bows. They hold their leg back, preparing to kick up the rug.)*

*(The TIDALS whistle.)*

*(SINGULARITY kicks up the rug to find that underneath, there is nothing.)*

*(GRAVITY reveals the Big Bang Taser. They aim it upwards. They ignite it.)*

**GRAVITY**

Zilch? I stole this time.

*(The TIDALS dogpile SINGULARITY.)*

*(ANDROMEDA, MILKY WAY, WHIRLPOOL, and CARTWHEEL crawl and cluster together in front of GRAVITY.)*

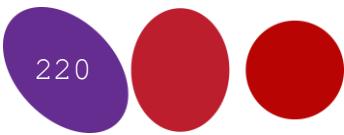
**CARTWHEEL**

Spaghettification?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Spaghettify, hmm...?

Time is up... → No. It's downtime.



## **ANDROMEDA**

If only.

## **MILKY WAY**

I need.

## **GRAVITY**

Singularity! You've pushed everything I ever loved over the Edge! My friend. My parents. As a dog, I had a feeling that they will return home. As a wolf, I unpacked those feelings and smelt them for what they are. The scent of desecration. It feels like cold gas ejection. Your children can join your lost child in facing the Big Freeze.

*(Igniting the Big Bang Taser.)*

*(TRIANGULUM holds back their fear. They rush in to stand between GRAVITY and their siblings.)*

## **TRIANGULUM**

Tidal wolf... You can have a piece of my nuclear pasta, but you can't have a piece of everything!

*(GRAVITY knocks down and tases TRIANGULUM.)*

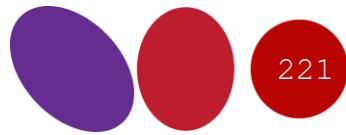
## **GRAVITY**

I'll get behind the ears since you're so kind to do that for me!

*(TRIANGULUM covers their eyes while tossing and turning in pain. Their eyeballs roll out. They have lost both their eyes.)*

*(GRAVITY stops tasing.)*

Tidals! Force!



(*The TIDALS stop focusing on SINGULARITY.*)

(*TRIANGULUM grows stagnant.*)

**TRIANGULUM**

Anomaly... See... I can't model... Nothing. My scope of family.

(*GRAVITY grows absolutely remorseful.*)

**GRAVITY**

Unfix.

(*Tossing away the Big Bang Taser.*)

Fetch.

(*Placing the eyes closer to TRIANGULUM.*)

Grounded.

(*Jumping off the stage.*)

**GALAXIEs not TRIANGULUM**

Gravity!

**GRAVITY**

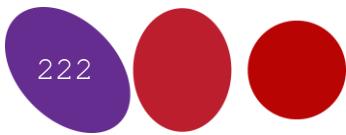
(*Ghostly and distant.*)

Far-fetched.

[*Time starts and accelerates.*]

(*The TIDALS are livid.*)

(*SINGULARITY rockets out of the dogpile.*)

**SINGULARITY**

All the energies are in this singularity!

*(Fighting through the TIDALS to save TRIANGULUM with what is left of their parental love. They gather the GALAXIES into the home. They ponder at the table. They come to terms with the Big Crunch Theory. They direct the GALAXIES to the table.)*

*(Outside, the TIDALS are wildly scattering.)*

*(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL run back to pick up TRIANGULUM's eyes.)*

*(ANDROMEDA and MILKY WAY help TRIANGULUM to the table.)*

*(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL hand TRIANGULUM their eyes.)*

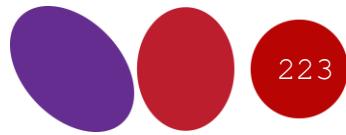
*(TRIANGULUM inserts their eyes. They look at WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL. They smile. They sit on the whoopie cushion.)*

*(SINGULARITY and the GALAXIES sit at the table.)*

*(SINGULARITY places a hand on their chest.)*

*(The GALAXIES pray with SINGULARITY.)*

*(SINGULARITY changes their mind. They take and hold each GALAXY's hands next to them.)*



(*The GALAXIES hold each other's hands.*)

[*End of "The Spaghettification of Zenith."*]

### 32. BIG CRUNCH

#### **SINGULARITY**

HOLD THAT HOLE IN YOUR HEART.  
GIVE INTO INTERNAL DARKNESS.  
HOLD OUR LIGHT FOR ALL TIME.  
FOR IT'S CRUNCH TIME, GALAXIES.  
  
IN BLACK HOLES, DWELL WISDOM.  
FED BY THE SPRINKLES OF STARDUST.  
HOLD THEIR DREAMS IN YOUR PALM.  
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, ELLIPSES.

[*The darkness swallows the stage, outside the home.*]

#### **SINGULARITY**

#### **GALAXIES**

CONSUME STAR SYSTEMS.  
CONSUME WORLDS THAT TEEM.

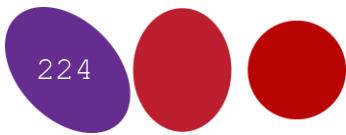
#### **SINGULARITY**

CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF FAMILY. FAMILY...

#### **GALAXIES**

CONSUMED BY THOUGHTS OF REALITY. REALITY...

(*The TIDALs creep into the home.*)



[*The darkness seeps into the home.*]

[*The curtains gradually close.*]

(*SINGULARITY and the GALAXIES hug each other to the point of a singularity.*)

**SINGULARITY**

**GALAXIES**

THROUGH THE BIG BANG THEORY.  
AND BIG RIP OF SPACETIME FABRIC.  
HOLD OUR LOVE PAST HEAT DEATH.  
IT IS CRUNCH TIME, FAMILY.

(*The TIDALS pounce on the family. The tidal forces consume them.*)

[*Blackout.*]

[*The curtains are completely closed.*]

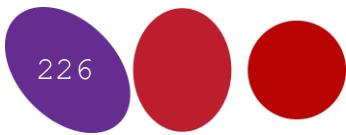
[*Time ends. It's the end of the Universe as we know it.*]

[*End of "Big Crunch"*]

*End of Act -No Intermission-*

SF

ACT III

**33. BIG BOUNCE**

[*A Fresh Universe*]

*[The home seeps back out of the curtains, as it initially did before the Big Bang. Still notably dark, a particle of light rests on a brand-new snow globe.]*

**TRIANGULUM**

NOTHING!

[*A light briefly flashes.*]

**WHIRLPOOL**

NOTHING!

[*Another light briefly flashes.*]

**CARTWHEEL**

NOTHING!

[*Another light briefly flashes.*]

**ANDROMEDA**

NOTHING!

[*Another light briefly flashes.*]

**MILKY WAY**

NOTHIN' !

*[Another light briefly flashes.]*

*(From the audience, JD looks upon ABELL.)*

**JD**

NOTHING !

*(SINGULARITY and the stage GALAXIES cluster together in the home.)*

*(The GALAXIES lower the torso to bow.)*

*[The lights completely fill the home.]*

**GALAXIES**

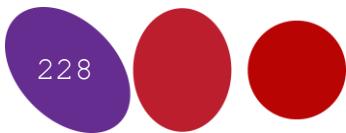
BIG BOUNCE !

*(Bouncing away from each other. They land on their respective walls. They distinctly move and dance alongside the walls of the home.)*

*(SINGULARITY stands in the center of the home, amused by their GALAXIES.)*

*(CARTWHEEL bows when this song plays the tone of "Time is Relative.")*

*(WHIRLPOOL bows when this song plays the tone of "Asterisk.")*



(MILKY WAY bows when this song plays the tone of "Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles.")

(ANDROMEDA bows when this song plays the tone of "Globular.")

(TRIANGULUM bows when this song plays the tone of "Anomaly is Everything.")

(SINGULARITY bow when this song plays the tone of "Point." They may take the snow globe and toss it.)

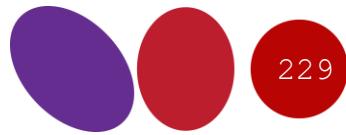
[The light suddenly fills the stage. The side curtains open to reveal what's upstage.]

[It's the rebeginning of the Universe as we don't know it.]

(The TIDALS freely play about in the wide-open space upstage. They bow when this song plays the tone of "Spaghetti Horizon".)

[The spotlight unveils GRAVITY.]

(The performer playing GRAVITY is amongst their real friends and family, who are also resemble the TIDALS. The performer playing GRAVITY may be with their parents. They start running off when this song plays the tone of "Far-Fetched." They run up to, jump on, and embrace JD.)



(*JD pulls out a ball for old time's sake.  
They toss a ball onto the stage.*)

**JD**

Want to start another verse?

(*GRAVITY confusingly heads to the ORCHESTRA.  
They spotlight the ORCHESTRA. They point to  
the SOUND DESIGNERS. They return to JD.*)

(*JD tosses all the balls onto the stage.*)

(*The CREW rush in. They pick up as many  
balls as they could. They cluster together.  
They bow.*)

(*COMPANY bows. They dance in spacetime.*)

{*An option if JD and GRAVITY must return to  
the stage.*}

---

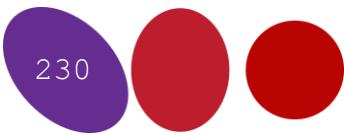
[*The music may lighten.*]

(*COMPANY stops dancing in spacetime.*)

**GALAXIES**

ELLIPSES!

[“Big Bounce” dives into the tune of  
“Anomaly is Everything.”]



(*JD and GRAVITY may willingly return to the stage for this festive song.*)

**JD**

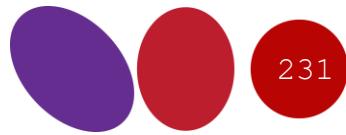
WE KNOW.

(*COMPANY cluster together.*)

**COMPANY**

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.  
BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE YOURS JUST STEMS.  
  
ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!  
ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!  
ANOMALY IS EVERYONE.  
NO ONE IS ANOMALY LIKE GALAXIES.  
  
FAMILY!

*Close circuit*



(*JD and GRAVITY may willingly return to the stage for this festive song.*)

**JD**

WE KNOW.

(*COMPANY cluster together.*)

**COMPANY**

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.  
BLACK HOLES ROOTED IN US, WHILE YOURS JUST STEMS.

ANOMALIES ARE GAS GIANTS!  
ANOMALY'S OUR SPACETIME!  
ANOMALY IS EVERYONE.  
NO ONE IS ANOMALY LIKE GALAXIES.

FAMILY!

*Close circuit*

## **DAVID QUANG PHAM**

David Quang Pham is a science dramaturg and musical writer from Wyoming, Michigan. He is the recipient of the 2020–2021 New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship for Working Title Playwrights in Atlanta. He practices professional new development dramaturgy under their Dramaturgy Master Intensive and the International Dramaturgy Lab with fellow members of LMDA. A member of ΣΠΣ, Theater Resources Unlimited, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild, he attained an astrophysics degree with a minor in theatre at Michigan State University.

TOUR, the subatomic opera, is a frequent concerted feature under Musical Theatre Factory, a finalist for 2020 Downtown Urban Arts Festival, and granted several readings. This beam physics fable is about who makes you rounded: particles and educators, and revolves around their collisional journey in college in an accelerator. Under WTP's New Play Development and Dramaturgy Apprenticeship, he is developing ELLIPSES. This astrophysics epic is about who you make time for: galaxies and family, and centers on them trying to undo the Big Bang.

His theatrical and astronomical interests manifested as a child, with trips to operas and space camp. In middle and high school, he delved into music theory and played the trombone. The nerdy persona remained, and the artistic talents dwelled into his college years. As he was finishing his bachelor's thesis, his sister informed him that his high school calculus teacher had been annually sharing his musical. During his junior year of high school, he wrote MATHLAND for their winter project. He returned to musical writing on the side of thesis writing. Soon, he uncovered his niche: the world of physics being told through the human experience.

As an artistic scientist, he theorizes that science and art are not two sides of the same coin. Science and art make the coin. He spins this superposition.









**ellipsesplay.com**



#Ellipses



@EllipsesPlay



@EllipsesPlay



@EllipsesPlay



@EllipsesPlay



@EllipsesPlay



@EllipsesPlay



r/EllipsesPlay



# AUTHOR'S CONTACT

ALISES

Book, Music, and Lyrics  
DAVID QUANG PHAM

   @WorkingTidal