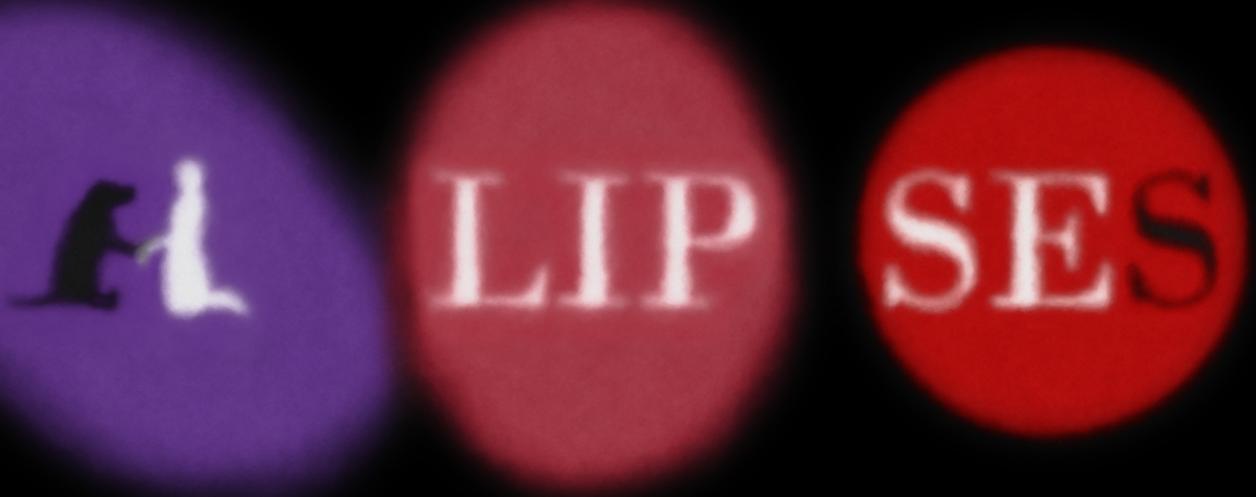


DIRECTOR'S SCRIPT



Book, Music, and Lyrics
DAVID QUANG PHAM

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  [tumblr. @EllipsesPlay](#)

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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
Lau'rie Roach	Monday Night Development Workshops
Bryan Montemayor	Readers
Imani Vaughn-Jones	
Isake Akanke	
Kate Jacoby	
Daniela Cobb	
Lee Osorio	
Parris Sarter	
Mary Lynn Owen	
Jeff Hathcoat	
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 ellipsesmusical.com/events/2020-11-14
2020 12-7	Reading "In-Depth"	Working Title Playwrights	Monday Night Critique Sessions



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 staring out with their monoculars ("[Bounce](#)"). They are called to supper by their parent. Singularity nurtures them and their tidal dogs, but a child is missing at the table ("[Crunch](#)"). JD is still looking out. They just 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 each of their child's black-hole hearts ("[Luminous](#)"). With this being the final straw, JD shoots their parent in the face 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 from them. 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, which goes on for far too long and Gravity catches on JD's fugue. Through a stellar speech, Gravity explains that the point of return is far-fetched ("[Far-Fetched](#)").

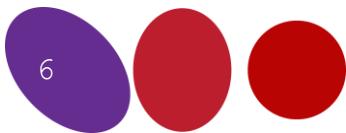
From the center, Singularity observes their children through a telescope ("[Point](#)"). The edge is on the cosmic horizon.

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 ("[Eccentricity](#)"). 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 ("[Dot Dot Dot](#)"). 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	Embryonic Galaxy The distant galactic sibling who believes in "nothing." JD wants to be at the edge of the Universe.	Teenager
SINGULARITY	Super Infinite Black Hole The relativistically impossible guardian of the Galaxies. Singularity wants to keep their Universe intact.	Adult
GRAVITY	Tidal Force A tidal dog. Gravity wants to ground the wide-open space.	Any
TRIANGULUM	Spiral Galaxy The jingoistic galactic sibling. Triangulum wants to be the role model.	Teenager
ANDROMEDA	Spiral Galaxy The naval galactic sibling. Andromeda wants to find the pearl in this universal oyster.	Teenager
MILKY WAY	Barred Spiral Galaxy The aimless galactic sibling. Milky Way wants to make themself useful.	Teenager
WHIRLPOOL	Grand-Design Spiral Galaxy The anaerobic galactic sibling. Whirlpool wants to spiral into risk control.	Teenager
CARTWHEEL	Ring Galaxy The aerobic galactic sibling. Cartwheel wants to earn their rings.	Teenager

Ensembles

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

Bright Idea

ABELL 2261	Elliptical Galaxy An anomalous galactic sweetheart, beyond the edge. The performer portraying JD: "Abell" is the stage name of the performer's literal loved one in the audience. Abell wants to be no longer at large.	Onlooker
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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 SYSTEM

Solar System are celestial bodies that speak to Milky Way when they wander the Universe alone. They are the voices in their head. They are like imaginary friends, but they do not make an appearance. In 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 the general Solar System. The principal casts, except Gravity's, may double to voice the Solar System objects.

MULTIPLICITIES

Multiplicities are Singularity's parental figures from their native universe. They are personified as physics law enforcers from another universe. In "Heat Death," they 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	Character(s)	<i>○Present but unvocal</i>
1.	13	<u>Bounce</u>	JD TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
2.	16	<u>Crunch</u>	SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL JD GRAVITY tidals	
3.	22	<u>Cutting Edge</u>	JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL SINGULARITY	
4.	29	<u>Fixed Stars</u>	SINGULARITY ANDROMEDA JD TRIANGULUM MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
5.	35	<u>Anomaly is Everything</u>	TRIANGULUM JD	
6.	38	<u>Zilch</u>	JD GRAVITY tidals	
7.	43	<u>Luminous</u>	SINGULARITY JD TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
8.	45	<u>Big Bang</u>	JD SINGULARITY GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals	
9.	51	<u>Depth</u>	SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals	
10.	60	<u>Superheated</u>	WHIRLPOOL TRIANGULUM CARTWHEEL ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY	
11.	66	<u>Verse</u>	JD GRAVITY	
12.	73	<u>Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles</u>	MILKY WAY solar system	
13.	82	<u>Time is Relative</u>	WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
14.	94	<u>Spaghetti Horizon</u>	SINGULARITY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals	
15.	101	<u>Globular</u>	ANDROMEDA TRIANGULUM	
16.	108	<u>Far-Fetched</u>	GRAVITY JD	
17.	116	<u>Fabric</u>	TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY tidals	
18.	119	<u>Point</u>	SINGULARITY multiplicity tidals	
19.	123	<u>Bounce Back</u>	TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
20.	133	<u>Accretion</u>	JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
21.	144	<u>Heat Death</u>	SINGULARITY multiplicities tidals GRAVITY	
22.	159	<u>Eccentricity</u>	JD GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
23.	163	<u>The Scope of Things</u>	TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL JD GRAVITY	



#	Page	Title	Character(s)	○Present but unvocal
24.	170	<u>Big Rip</u>	ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY SINGULARITY tidals TRIANGULUM WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
25.	179	<u>Parallax</u>	GRAVITY JD	
26.	182	<u>Tangent</u>	JD GRAVITY	
27.	188	<u>It's About Spacetime</u>	SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
28.	197	<u>Dot Dot Dot</u>	JD SINGULARITY GRAVITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL	
29.	204	<u>*</u>	WHIRLPOOL ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY CARTWHEEL TRIANGULUM SINGULARITY	
30.	206	<u>Hearts in the Right Place</u>	JD SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL multiplicities	
31.	207	<u>(The Spaghettification of) Zenith</u>	GRAVITY SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals	
32.	214	<u>Big Crunch</u>	SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals	
33.	217	<u>Big Crunch</u>	SINGULARITY TRIANGULUM ANDROMEDA MILKY WAY WHIRLPOOL CARTWHEEL tidals	
BI.		<u>Able</u>	ABELL	

MUSICAL CHARACTERIZATIONS

JD| “The edge of the Universe” is sung: The(D3-5) edge(B2-4)
of(A2-4) the(F#2-4) u(G2-4)-ni(F#2-4)-verse(F#2-4→D2-4)

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 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
Iiii	89	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG(dark) SEATS(6) TABLE Big Bang Taser snow globe(smashed)
Iiv	97	The Fabric of Spacetime	balls balm knapsack monoculars
Iv	119	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME SEATS(1) TABLE RUG(dark) snow globe telescope
III	123	The Fabric of Spacetime	balls knapsack
IIii	144	Singularity's Past Universe	DOME HOME Big Bang Taser fabric(dark)
IIiii	153	The Fabric of Spacetime	FIELD EQUATIONS (including $d = 1 / p$) balls domes(5) knapsack monoculars(2)
IIiv	186	The Edge of the Universe	balls(2)
IIv	187	The Center of the Universe	DOME HOME RUG(dark) SEATS(6) TABLE Big Bang Taser
III	217	A Fresh Universe	DOME HOME RUG(dark) SEATS(6) TABLE snow globe

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

Pre-Big Bang & Big Bounce



UPSTAGE

Post-Big Bang



UPSTAGE



DOWNSTAGE

DOWNSTAGE

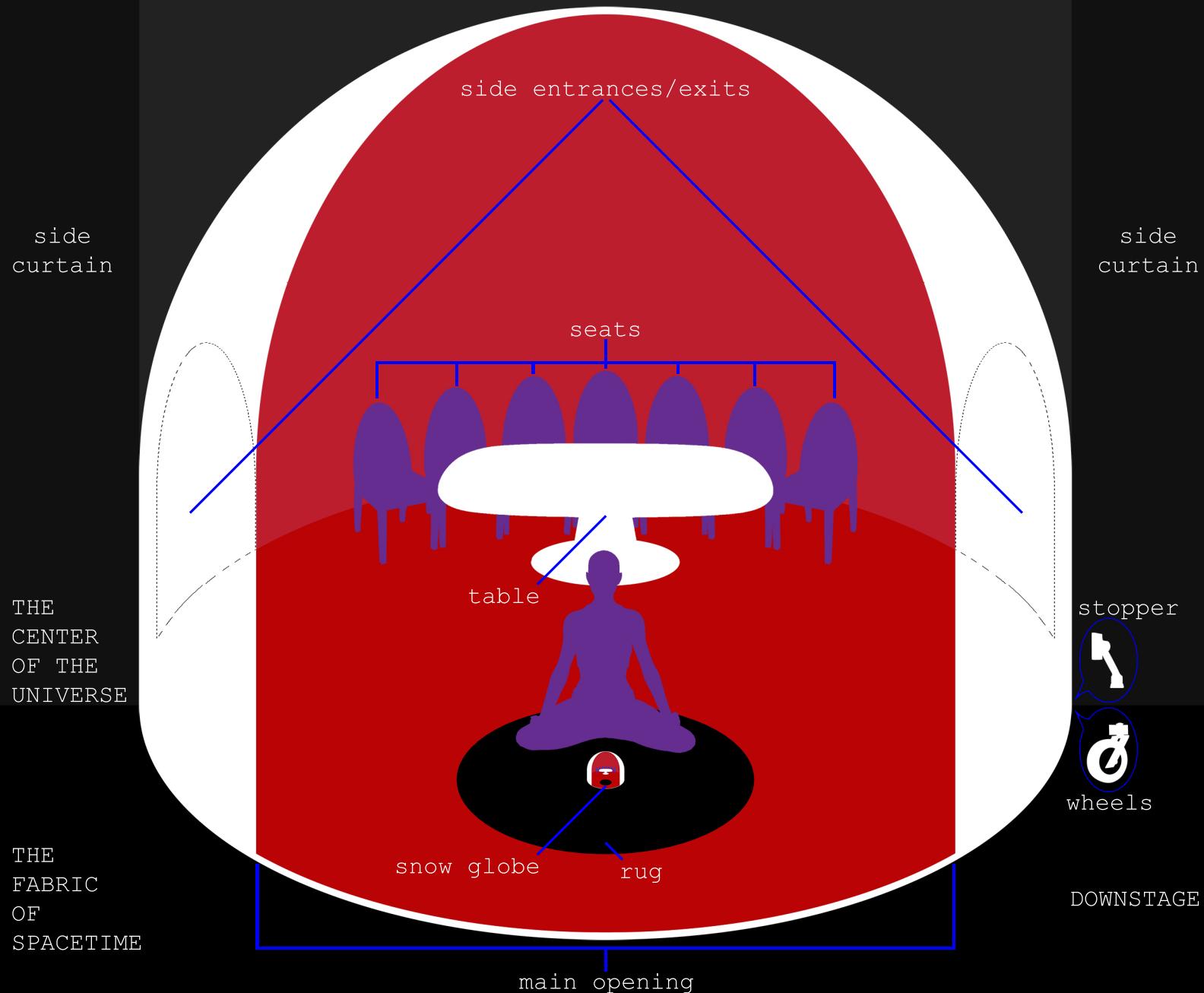
DOWNSTAGE

DOWNSTAGE

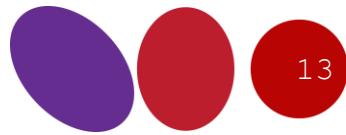
FOURTH WALL

FOURTH WALL

DOME HOME



ACT I



1. BOUNCE

[*The Center of the Universe*]

[*The dome is positioned downstage center. In this dome home, there is a table with seats and a dark rug. A snow globe, resembling the home, sits somewhere. The light only dwells within the home. Nothing dwells outside its confines. Everything upstage behind the home is concealed by the side curtains.*]

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

(*JD arrives, carrying two monoculars. They position themselves 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.

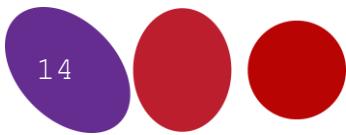
(*Tossing the monocular.*)

(*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!

(*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.*)

SINGULARITY (cont.)

ANDROMEDA !

(*ANDROMEDA heads to the table.*)

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.*)

[End of "Bounce."]

(*SINGULARITY arrives, carrying empty dishes.*)

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

(*SINGULARITY bows.*)

**SINGULARITY**

Declination. It is that time.

(Placing 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.)

(ANDROMEDA sets the monocular on the table.)

(TRIANGULUM sits on the whoopie cushion.)

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 observes the monocular.)

SINGULARITY

You'll know in a timely manner. Detect anything anomalous?

**TRIANGULUM**

The usual. For the past googolplex millennia, it's been nothing. And they'll be nothing.

(Looking out to JD.)

WHIRLPOOL

That *nothing*, perhaps, is at risk. Hmm?

(SINGULARITY passes out the dishes.)

SINGULARITY

Well, what I did with my two wrists is cook you all 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 $14.713 - 2.396 \sin^2 \theta$ minus $1.787 \sin^4 \theta$ 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 touch 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 invisible spaghetti to GRAVITY.*)

(*GRAVITY devours the 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 tries to calm down the TIDALS.*)

SINGULARITY

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

(*TRIANGULUM prepares to pray. They place a hand on their chest.*)

(*MILKY WAY dives into their dish.*)

(*TRIANGULUM stops praying.*)

TRIANGULUM

Again, Milky Way?

**ANDROMEDA**

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

CARTWHEEL

It takes eight millennia to burn that, Andromeda.

WHIRLPOOL

A simple nap lasts just as long, Cartwheel.

(*SINGULARITY remains patrolling.*)

SINGULARITY

You want to go through accretion and be a grand-design spiral Galaxy, don't you?

(*CARTWHEEL slaps WHIRLPOOL on the shoulder.*)

WHIRLPOOL

You weighed the risk. Ain't it ring a bell, Ring Galaxy?

CARTWHEEL

Gal, y'all are morbidly spiral Galaxies.

ANDROMEDA

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

(*Pointing to TRIANGULUM.*)

TRIANGULUM

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

(*Tossing the whoopie cushion at WHIRLPOOL.*)



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

(*ANDROMEDA takes out their nuclear balm. They wipe the ointment on their face to soothe themself. 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

Clusters of stars! Your hearts are all vigorous.

(*Demonstrating that MILKY WAY is their favorite cluster of stars.*)

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**JD**

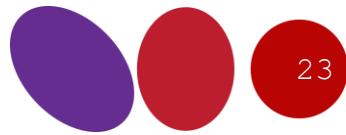
NOT THE TIME
TO PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE...

(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/SEE WITH OTHER ELLIPSES.

*(The word, "ellipses," draws the attention
of the offended GALAXIES at the table.)*

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 MAKE ME?
BESIDES YOUR DAILY CHORES INDOORS.
IT ALL HAS TAKEN A TOLL ON ME.
THERE'RE PLANETS TO HARVEST,
I'LL JUST BE OUT ON A TANGENT—

**GALAXIEs not JD**

SPT0615-JD...

AS WE ARE JUST SAYING BEFORE YOU CUT US OFF.
NOTHING'S CUTTING OUTTA THE EDGE.
NO ONE'S GOING OVER THE EDGE.
CUTTING-EDGE SIBLING.

(*GRAVITY encouragingly grounds JD.*)

GALAXIEs not JD

SPT0615-

JD

JD...

GALAXIEs not JD

JADED—

JD

GOES OFF OF THE TANGENT!

THERE'S GOTTA BE A SPACE THAT'LL LISTEN TIL THE END OF
MY VERSE.

(*Holding GRAVITY close.*)

OUR CUTTING-EDGE VERSE.

OUR POETRY'S GOTTA REACH TO THE ENDS OF THIS UNIVERSE.
THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE...

YOU'LL KNOW.

I'LL BE AT THE CUTTING 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, JD?

JD

Abell.

SINGULARITY

Who's 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?

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

Set your sights.

(Humming.)

Has the edge wept?

(JD shakes their head.)

Then the edge isn't cutting it... What is the edge saying, JD?

JD

My center no longer cares.

SINGULARITY

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 be as obtuse as 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 unsound fixation on fear of the unknown stays a whisper. Grounded, *I can't hear 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.

TRIANGULUM

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 I.

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?

(*JD ignites the BB Taser.*)

[*Static ripples 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.*)

**SINGULARITY**

(*Sarcastically.*)

To see you wide awake.

JD

Why are you always looming over us?

SINGULARITY

You can't get some light out there. So, I brought it all here.

JD

May you shed some light?

SINGULARITY

What do you want me to shed light on...? *Who...?*

JD

Yourself...

SINGULARITY

Stop making light...

JD

Making light of...?

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've provided that light. That also means, you inherited them...? Like my siblings and I are doing, you returned familiar affection...

SINGULARITY

Speak physics, SPT0615-JD.

JD

Where is your fixed center?

(SINGULARITY directs towards the home.)

Your guardian?

(SINGULARITY holds themself together. They hum.)

SINGULARITY

Most certainly not in my supermassive black hole... Relax, I didn't eat them. They all swallowed me whole.

JD

All? You had parents? Multiple, Singularity?

**SINGULARITY**

Their love is as strong as mine, when added together. For each of them, fractional. For you and your five siblings, I have nothing but wholesome.

JD

You were nothing, just like me.

SINGULARITY

Every morn, you hear your siblings name what they see out there: nothing. At this point, what does *nothing* even mean?

JD

It means family to me.

SINGULARITY

I was family to you?

JD

Just like your parents were family.

SINGULARITY

You sure are an anomaly. My anomaly.

(Pulling out a monocular. They hand the monocular to JD. They point outside.)

After an eternity of waking up to *nothings*, that is what you conclude nothing is?

JD

I wake up to my sibling Galaxies calling themselves nothing. What other conclusions can be made? Did you have siblings?

**SINGULARITY**

Siblings? Check my name. Stop making light. Of my nothings.

JD

Nothing gets past you... Not even light.

7. LUMINOUS**SINGULARITY**

YOU HONESTLY 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.)

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

(The rest of the GALAXIES enter.)

(SINGULARITY aligns each GALAXY.)

YOU BRIGHTEN MY ETERNITY.

LUMINOUS,
MY PARENTS NO LONGER LOOM.
THEY CAN'T HOLD ANY CANDLE.
AND WOULD READILY CAST AWAY YOU AND US.



SINGULARITY (cont.)

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. 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 looks out to the edge of the Universe. They longingly see ABELL in the audience.)

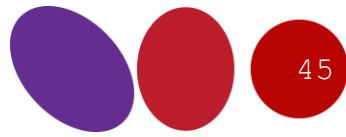
JD

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 before they increasingly inaudibly jerk in place.)

MISTAKEEEEEEE!

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

TIDALs

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

(JD regretfully drops the Big Bang Taser.)

(GRAVITY kicks away the Big Bang Taser.)

(SINGULARITY grows physically vegetative.)

SINGULARITY

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.*)

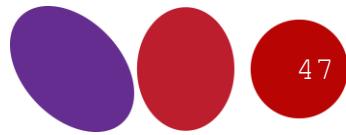
(*MILKY WAY expresses utmost sorrow.*)

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.)

MILKY WAY

NOMY/MAMA/PAPA SING!

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.
HEART THAT FELT.

JD

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

*(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 far back 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.

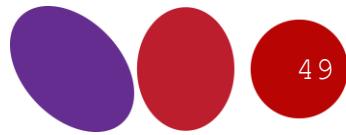
(*Leveling with GRAVITY.*)

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 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

Declination.

(*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.)

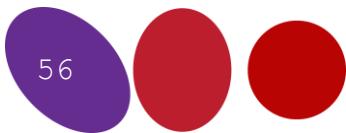
Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing...

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.)

SINGULARITY

Make your way forward...

(MILKY WAY rushes to SINGULARITY's side.)

There is no nuclear pasta left for you here. It all boils down to you, Milky Way. Promise me that you'll forge your own way.

**MILKY WAY**

You promise you still hold that hole in your heart?

SINGULARITY

I hold only a photon's worth of care for each of you now. Nomy Sing is half the parent that they were. My control over the Universe is only a fraction of what it was. There is something wholesome left in your siblings... Why don't you join them?

MILKY WAY

Their whole selves left me.

SINGULARITY

(Disappointedly.)

Good for nothing, Galaxies...

MILKY WAY

Good for family, ellipses?

(SINGULARITY puzzledly pauses. They embrace MILKY WAY.)

SINGULARITY

I've got to wash your worm hole out with soap. If not your supermassive heart, your family will always be with you in your dreams, shrouded within dark matter. Give into internal darkness. They will guide you. It is that time...

(Releasing MILKY WAY.)

My little oval. I, too, have only one.

(Revealing their empty eye socket.)

Milky Way. You're the only way forward.

(Bowling.)



SINGULARITY

Declination.

(*MILKY WAY chivalrously exits the home.*)

(*SINGULARITY desolately heads to the rug. They grab the edge of the rug. They tear a piece of the rug. They place it on their missing eye. They may weep.*)

[*The home stows away.*]

[*Electricity is heard.*]

(*The TIDALs distantly whimper.*)

MILKY WAY

Nomy Sing, kau tau.

(*Kneeling and bowing to the home. They turn around to see emptiness.*)

I'm barred.

(*They suddenly hear voices in their head.*)

SOLAR SYSTEM

We'll keep you from being barred. 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.*)

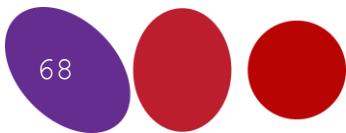
(*TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA stroll in.*)

(*ANDROMEDA takes out their nuclear balm. They wipe the ointment on their hand. They stow away the balm. They look through the monocular in the direction of 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 stops.*)

MILKY WAY

Am I talkin' to myself or myself talkin' to I?

SOLAR SYSTEM URANUS

Your cells are *talkin'* to you.

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH

We're planets, Uranus. Actually, what you should tell yourself, Milky Way, is: *Milky Way forsown.*

SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS

Don't give up. You're not alone in being forgotten. Everyone remembers Pluto. But I'm larger than their life. I'm Eris by the way, and I should be the heiress/heir-no-less of the dwarf planets. Just like how you're larger than Triangulum and Andromeda will ever be.

SOLAR SYSTEM JUPITER

You are most certainly 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 me brain have nomy/mama/papa?

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH

You're a Galaxy. You don't have a brain. Planets hold brains. At least, mine is to their core.

SOLAR SYSTEM SUN

Earth, who are you talking to?

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH

Just chatting with the Moooooon, nomy/mama/papa Sun.

**MILKY WAY**

May I talk to Moooooon?

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH

You have your own Magellanic Clouds. Isn't that right, Mooooon? Mooooon...? Why don't you ever answer?!

SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS

Earth and you have a lot in common. You are rather dense, if not diffused. And clouds lurk in your orbit. But you're not in the inner circle like they are. Trust me as I make my way around the Kuiper Belt. I hate my elliptical orbit. One decade, you're amongst your loved ones. 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.)

Do you hate being an ellipse, Milky Way? Fortunately, there are no nearby Galaxies to run into, kau tau, and irritate like you usually do. There's also no edge for you to jump off of.

SOLAR SYSTEM SUN

Earth, are you bullying Mooooon?



SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH

I'm not bullying Moooooon. In this climate, I'm abusing myself.

SOLAR SYSTEM ERIS

Don't take any more of Earth's abuse. They may be the person that you always want to be. But you are already a person, Milky Way. What with your warp, and you know, 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 tidal tale to share with us, Milky Way? Gather around, Solar System!

[The solar system may project in the space.]

(SOLAR SYSTEM miscellaneous banters.)

SOLAR SYSTEM

We have your back, because there is no other back that we'd have. Show us what back you got.

(MILKY WAY absentmindedly tilts their head.)

Or go a head? Milky Way?

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH

Gravity well... Theorize somethin' !

12. WARP, WAVES, AND WRINKLES

(*MILKY WAY gracelessly and half-melodically bellows the upcoming musical number, "Warp, Waves, and Wrinkles." They suddenly hiccup.*)

SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH

Milky Way warped, waved, and wrinkled themself!

(*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 seems to be 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 warp, wave, and wrinkle. There is a person in you, Milky Way.

**SOLAR SYSTEM EARTH**

There are people in me.

SOLAR SYSTEM

Cut your hubris, Earth!

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD

We like all things, *unearthly*, about you. You carry our neighborhood on your Orion Arm. And towns on Norma and Sagittarius, your minor arms, and the cities on Scutum-Centaurus and Perseus, your two major arms.

SOLAR SYSTEM

(Repeating.)

ONLY WAY'S FORWARD.

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD

You are Magellanic.

MILKY WAY

MAGELLANIC...
MAGELLANIC...
SO MAGELLANIC...
IMAGINING CLOUDS,
WITH THEIR WARPS,
WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD

You don't have to imagine. Check your bulge.

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

**MILKY WAY**

MAGELLANIC...
MAGELLANIC...
SO MAGELLANIC...
IMAGINING CLOUDS,
WITH THEIR WARPS,
WAVES, AND WRINKLES.

SOLAR SYSTEM OORT CLOUD

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

(MILKY WAY devours the flowers.)

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

(Exiting and returning to absentmindedness.)

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

To be the grand spiral Galaxy that you truly are, we can only hope that you eat more persons so you can grow, to warp, waves, and wrinkles!

WE TIMED OUR ORBITS FOR TWO HUNDRED MILLION YEARS...
HERE'S TO BILLIONS.

THERE, OUR ONLY WAY IS FORWARD!

PATTERN'S...

(Repeating.)

WARP, WAVES, WRINKLES.

WARPING MAKES THE PERSON THAT YOU ARE.

WAVES BRINGS THE PERSON IN YOU.

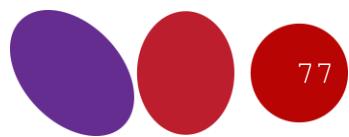
WRINKLES SHOWS THAT YOU ARE A PERSON.

Imaginary planets, whatever they are.

HALO.

We may live in your head, but you live for what's ahead.

Do you have a mirror? What's mirror? Oh right...



**SOLAR SYSTEM SUN**

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

(*MILKY WAY 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."]

[Through projection, the Sun becomes a red giant and swallows the solar system.]

(*EARTH screams in the searing heat.*)

(*JUPITER and SATURN maniacally laugh.*)

(*MILKY WAY suddenly feels a headache. They collapse, confirming that it is a migraine. They have trouble putting words together.*)

MILKY WAY

W— W— N— Wr—

(*Eventually picking themself up. They depart, with their head held high.*)



(*CARTWHEEL* clumsily cartwheels in.)

(*WHIRLPOOL* meditatively spirals in.)

CARTWHEEL

Time?

WHIRLPOOL

I don't know what time it is.

CARTWHEEL

What is time?

WHIRLPOOL

Time is a four-dimensional construct... The w-axis goes over everyone's head.

CARTWHEEL

Time is a headache. An axe to my head.

WHIRLPOOL

Why don't you appreciate the time we have?

CARTWHEEL

We've been given time, and I already feel the full weight of it.

WHIRLPOOL

Ain't as much weight as Singularity's hold on your neck.

**CARTWHEEL**

It's been a hundred billion years since we last saw them...

WHIRLPOOL

It ain't feel like a single millennium has gone by.

CARTWHEEL

Why do you feel this way about time? How?

WHIRLPOOL

Time goes by quickly, being clustered with those you love spending it with.

CARTWHEEL

We're a fraction of the family that we once were.

WHIRLPOOL

We're fractured. But we have all the fabric of spacetime to learn. And in time, we must face... Our relative.

CARTWHEEL

Our special relative?!

WHIRLPOOL

Time heals...

CARTWHEEL

No one heals the biggest black hole in the Universe.

**WHIRLPOOL**

The Universe is expanding, that means it's facing dilation. The fabric of spacetime is stretching itself thin. And so is Singularity. Singularity has gone soft. But we've been lifting mass to curve it.

CARTWHEEL

I doubt time is a factor in all this.

WHIRLPOOL

Doubting time is as bad as wasting time.

CARTWHEEL

All we've done is waste!

WHIRLPOOL

All I've done is train.

CARTWHEEL

What's motivating you? Who?

WHIRLPOOL

Time themself. We have all the time in the Universe.

CARTWHEEL

What are they telling you?

WHIRLPOOL

A lifelong tale about using the time and space, spacetime, to make ourselves relative to an unstoppable force.



(CARTWHEEL motions their hand to WHIRLPOOL to imply: "Come here.")

CARTWHEEL

Give some of those lessons in this moment...

13. TIME IS RELATIVE

CARTWHEEL

GIVE ME TIME.

WHIRLPOOL

TIME WILL TELL YOU:
THEY ARE IN A DILATION.

TIME CAN TELL YOU:
THEY ARE IN ALL EQUATIONS.

CARTWHEEL

(Skeptically.)

TIME'S CONSTANT?

(WHIRLPOOL acknowledges that time is a factor in equations but does not remain constant due to its special relationship with light, which bends based on the curvature of spacetime under WHIRLPOOL's heavier mass and CARTWHEEL's lighter mass.)

WHIRLPOOL

TIME SHALL TELL YOU:
THEY ARE IN LIGHT CIRCULATIONS.

(Directing towards their blood vessels.)



[Lightspeed is visually demonstrated. Light goes slow near WHIRLPOOL while light goes fast near CARTWHEEL.]

CARTWHEEL

TIME'S A STRETCH—

WHIRLPOOL

TIME MAY TELL YOU:
THEY ARE IN OUR RELATIONS.

CARTWHEEL

TIME FEELS WRONG.

WHIRLPOOL

(Accusingly.)

TIME IS RELATIVE,
BUT YOU AIN'T FIND THEM WITHIN YOU.

CARTWHEEL

TIME'S TOO RELATIVE,
THEY'LL BE BURDENED WHEN I WEIGH IN.

WHIRLPOOL

WHY DON'T YOU SLOW THEM?

CARTWHEEL

TIME OUGHTA NOT JUST FLY FAST BUT PAST.

**WHIRLPOOL**

(*Disappointedly.*)

CARTWHEEL.

CARTWHEEL

WHIRLPOOL.

WHIRLPOOL

YOU'RE WASTING TIME.

CARTWHEEL

START WASTING TIME.

(*CARTWHEEL apparently puts weight on themselves.*)

CARTWHEEL

TIME IS ON.

[*Light slows down near CARTWHEEL.*]

WHIRLPOOL

TIME WOULD THEORIZE:
THERE'RE MEANT TO BE DILATIONS.

CARTWHEEL

TIME DILATES.

WHIRLPOOL

TIME COULD THEORIZE:
THEY'RE BEYOND CONCENTRATION.

CARTWHEEL

TIME DILUTES.

**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME SHOULD THEORIZE:
THEY WORKED ON A SOLUTION.

CARTWHEEL

TIME DELUDES.

WHIRLPOOL

TIME MIGHT...

[Light mightily speeds up near CARTWHEEL.]

(WHIRLPOOL spirals at CARTWHEEL.)

[Light stops.]

WHIRLPOOL

TIME IS RELATIVE,
YET TENSOR CALCULUS STRAINS YOU.

(CARTWHEEL counter-cartwheels WHIRLPOOL.)

[Light moves beyond fast.]

CARTWHEEL

(Defensively.)

THERE'S NO RELATION
SHIPPING FOUR-VECTORS IN SPACETIME.



WHIRLPOOL

WHY DON'T YOU TRUST THEM?

CARTWHEEL

TIMES ARE TOUGH AND THEY MAINLY BEAT.
TIME IS A FAMILY CONSTRUCT.

WHIRLPOOL

CARTWHEEL.
PLEASE DO FACE TIME.

CARTWHEEL

WHIRLPOOL.
I CAN'T FACE TIME.

(Flexibly slowing down the passage of time.)

[Light ceases.]

(WHIRLPOOL demonstrates.)

WHIRLPOOL

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

(CARTWHEEL meditates on that for a bit.)

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

[Light is restored with balance.]

(CARTWHEEL earns their rings.)

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

CARTWHEEL**WHIRLPOOL**

TIME IS RELATIVE,
AND YOU DO GOT THEM WITHIN YOU.

CARTWHEEL

TIME IS RELATIVE,
AND THEY ARE HERE TO WARP OUR SPACE.

WHIRLPOOL

(*Proudly.*)

WHY NOT WAIT ON THEM?

CARTWHEEL

TIME IS NOT ABSOLUTE AT ALL.
TIME IS BASED ON FRAME OF REFERENCE.
TIMES ARE SPECIAL FOR YOU AND ME.

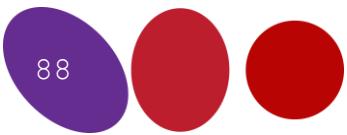
(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL have a warm stance.*)

WHIRLPOOL

RELATIVE—
VITY.
QUIT WASTING TIME.

CARTWHEEL

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

You've earnt your ring. Let's ring up Singularity. Hmm? You know the risks.

WHIRLPOOL

Make time for our relative.

CARTWHEEL



14a. SPAGHETTI HORIZON (PRELUDE)

[*The Center of the Universe*]

[*The home returns.*]

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL maintain stances.*)

(*SINGULARITY faces away from WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL.*)

[*End of "Spaghetti Horizon (Prelude)"*]

(*SINGULARITY slightly bows.*)

SINGULARITY

Declination. On time...

WHIRLPOOL

CARTWHEEL

Dilations, nomy/mother/father.

SINGULARITY

Or you're back too soon...

CARTWHEEL

And your back's to us.

SINGULARITY

Eye...

**WHIRLPOOL**

Hmm. Aight.

SINGULARITY

But, is the edge?

WHIRLPOOL**CARTWHEEL**

Our edges are.

SINGULARITY

Is mine? My edges?

(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL look at each other.)

Triangulum's, Androme-?

CARTWHEEL

They'll be back soon, too.

SINGULARITY

Milky Way's?

WHIRLPOOL

I thought they were with you.

SINGULARITY

You turn your backs on them?

**CARTWHEEL**

Milky Way gets in the way.

WHIRLPOOL

Every Galaxy gets in the way.

SINGULARITY

During the beginning of every crunch, you all get worked up. And by the end, you worked together. Family faces feats together, meets together, and eats together. You two deserted Milky Way?

CARTWHEEL

Every Galaxy deserted Milky Way.

WHIRLPOOL

(Whispering to CARTWHEEL.)

Will you shut your worm hole for once?

SINGULARITY

Do even Galaxies deserve each other?

WHIRLPOOL

Hmm... Time will tell.

CARTWHEEL

(Whispering to WHIRLPOOL.)

Not the time.

**SINGULARITY**

I was not born yester-millennium. Does that tell you anything?

CARTWHEEL

That says you need help then. You Ghost Nebula.

SINGULARITY

Time, they? Ghost Nebula?!

WHIRLPOOL

You are in good force, Ghost- Singularity.

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

SINGULARITY

Like how Milky Way is in good force?!

(Displaying the holster that holds the BB Taser.)

WHIRLPOOL

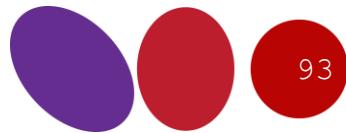
If that ain't familiar...

CARTWHEEL

The thing that JD shot you with...

SINGULARITY

I hold good force.

**CARTWHEEL**

What is that?

WHIRLPOOL

Where'd you get it?

SINGULARITY

Someone who was a part of the force.

CARTWHEEL

In what Universe?

SINGULARITY

Look, no need for you two to pull *my* parents into our eventual conversation. You and your siblings and this home are evidence that I've been fine on my own.

CARTWHEEL

I'll pull my siblings back into our *eventual conversation*. Milky Way is fine on their own. They'll find themselves, unlike you who has lost yourself.

SINGULARITY

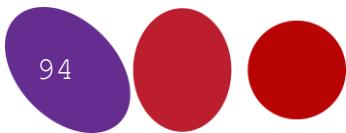
Get away from me, you black hole breakers!

WHIRLPOOL

You need help!

SINGULARITY

I need my edge back!



CARTWHEEL

We will get your edge!

WHIRLPOOL

After we take the edge off you at this moment.

SINGULARITY

Someone needs to split the gravitational center holding you two.

(WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL smile at one another.)

WHIRLPOOL

CARTWHEEL

Nomy/mama/papa... Someone needs a hug.

SINGULARITY

In this Universe, there are three types of Galaxies: elliptical, spiral, and irregular. Just beyond the event horizon, 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.)

You dare not look after your 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.*)

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...

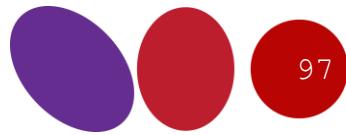
(*SINGULARITY blows the end of the BB Taser. They shock their tongue.*)

SINGULARITY

Ow! Rango... Water doesn't go with electricity.

[*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 look through the monocular 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...?

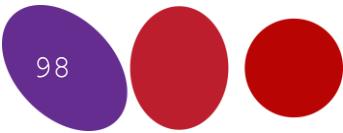
(*ANDROMEDA shakes their head from side to side. They try to share the monocular.*)

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 shrugs. They return to looking out. They catch a glimpse of the Whirlpool Galaxy and Cartwheel Galaxy. 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

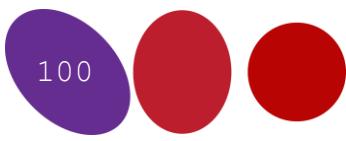
So is the Universe...

(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



100

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.

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.

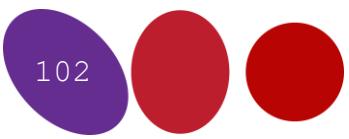
IT'S WHY WE CLUSTER OUR STARS.

AS FOR MILKY WAY,

LET THEM JOIN THE GLOB. GLOBULAR.

TRIANGULAR.

DECLINATION.



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DESTINATION.

**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 23rd 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!

**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

Declination! Is you again, Solar System?!

(TRIANGULUM and ANDROMEDA bow.)

TRIANGULUM**ANDROMEDA**

Declination! 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

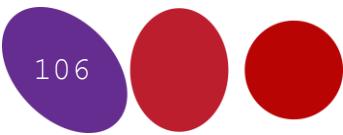
Be wary to not let you or your imaginary friends near us!

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!

GRAVITY

Re-fetch?

JD

Force...?

**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

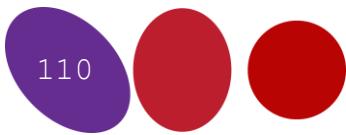
THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE IS FAR.
YET, IT IS SOMETHING YOU GALAXIES NEED TO FETCH.
POINT OF RETURN IS FAR-FETCHED.

(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.]



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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

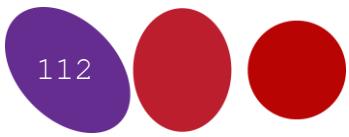
FAR-FETCHED!

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

JD

GRAVITY

APPARENTLY,
WE'LL NOT FORGET.
WE'LL NOT FORGIVE.



CAN WE FORETELL?
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 look through the monocular 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

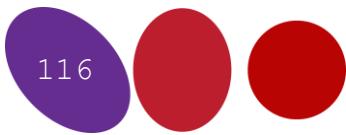
We can't let ourselves be delayed anymore. Another delay from the edge is another hundred billion years away from our home.

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.*)

**TRIANGULUM** (cont.)

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

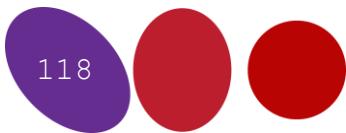
Force! Force! Force! Force! Force! Force! Force! Force!

(*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.*]

**MULTPLICITIES**

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.

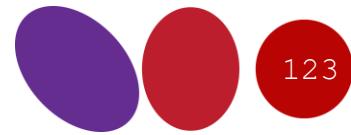
[The light dims to a singular point.]

[End of "Point."]

End of Act

LIP

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.)

(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.)

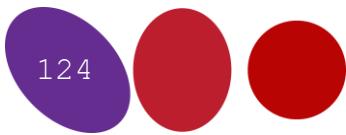
WHIRLPOOL

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!

(*The GALAXIES bounce away from each other and land near their respective TIDALS. They choreographically fight the TIDALS. They are distinct in their combat. They stop and pose or slow down whenever the song hits certain parts of the drum kit or a certain drum. Through forceful exposition, they detail themselves perfectly.*)

TIDALS

(*Running away.*)

[*End of "Bounce Back."*]

(*The GALAXIES run off.*)

(*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

Far-fetched!

(*Avoiding each TIDAL.*)

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

(*GRAVITY comes to the aid of the injured 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.

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 the Universe.

(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.*)

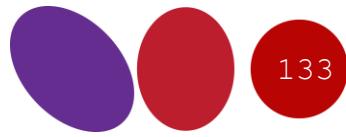
GALAXIES not JD, TRIANGULUM

(*Sarcastically.*)

Declination.

(*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

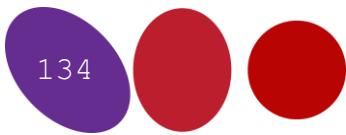
EVERYTHING IS FAMILY.

[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

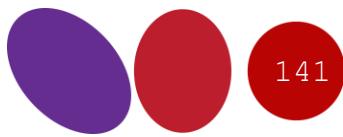
Are you joining the masses?

(*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

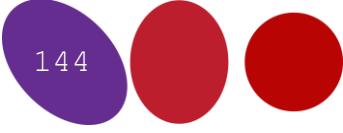
What have I done...

(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.]



[*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 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

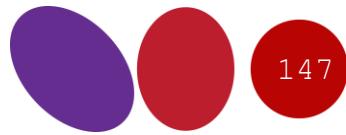
Singularity!

(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/ Θ

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

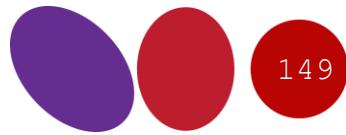
Singularity!

(Directing another MULTIPLICITY.)

We looked left and right. Fourth dimension?

SINGULARITY

I ACCEPT HEAT DEATH...



MULTIPLICITY 1/Λ

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/ Π

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/ Σ

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/ Φ

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/ Ψ

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

MULTIPLICITY 2/ Ω

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

MULTIPLICITIES

Singularity is where the heart is.

SINGULARITY

(Timidly interacting with the TIDALS.)

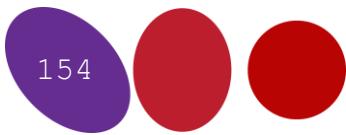
Warm life...

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.

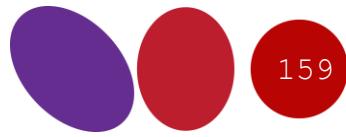
(*GRAVITY puzzledly expands their arm to present the Universe around them.*)

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. ECCENTRICITY

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.

(Mitioning to themself. 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.

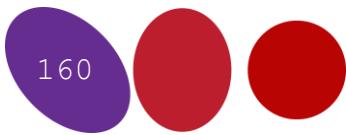
[The space, except JD, is eclipsed.]

(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 "Eccentricity."]

**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.

(*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.

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 look out to 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.

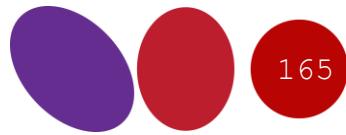
(Failing to crush the monocular in their hands. They humiliatingly hand the monocular to WHIRLPOOL. They look away.)

(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

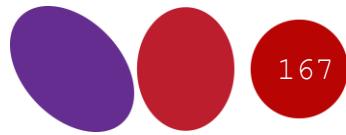
I know. Time is up. The essence of patience. I'm a proud ellipses. Light-years ahead of you. I'm an anomaly. Lightspeeds faster than you. Stars are everything, I know... and the Tidals.

[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)

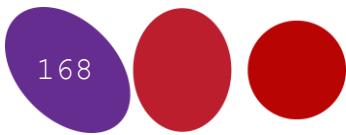
(*MILKY WAY erratically starts blasting from within the knapsack.*)

(*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

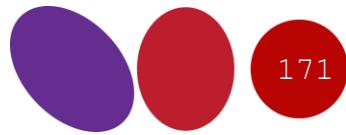
It's also been trillions of years since they had a master to follow orders.

(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.)

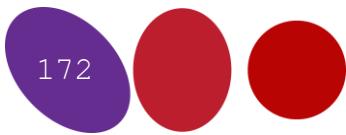
(TRIANGULUM peeks alongside MILKY WAY.)

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 strolls out to ANDROMEDA.)

TRIANGULUM (cont.)

Et. That solar system is a bad influence.

(MILKY WAY levels with ANDROMEDA. Their guilt consumes them. They believed they themselves 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

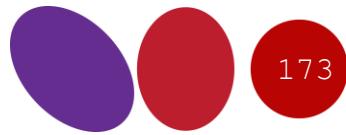
Ain't no longer in denial...

CARTWHEEL

I will never say such things about Milky Way...

(MILKY WAY feels the pelting.)

(A TIDAL suddenly punch themselves 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

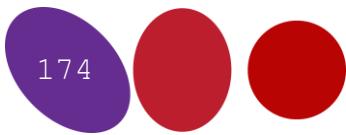
Time to not question white holes.

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

(*TRIANGULUM comes out of their hiding place.*)

TRIANGULUM

One question. Is everything anomalies 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

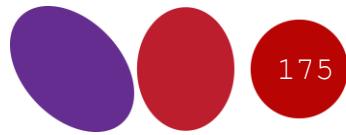
BIG RIP!

(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

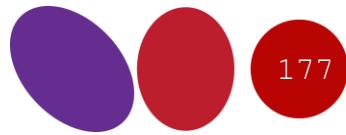
Whirlpool.

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

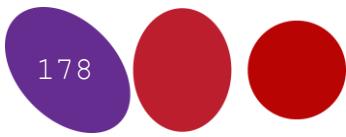
Staying put made you fall for the edge in the first place. This will only rekindle your fall. You have nothing to fall back on...

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

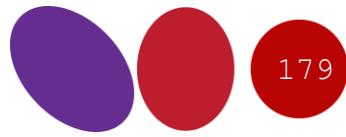
I'm a bit rusty. So, we could use the bubbles to cleanse our line of sight. Align your scope, which eyes will have to do.

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

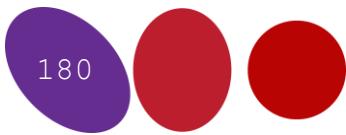
PARALLAX. PARALLAX.

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 ENTANGLLED.

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

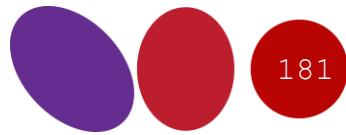
PLEASE RELAX. SEE THE STARS?

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.

(*Welling up with tears.*)

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.

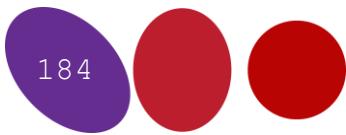
JD

Besides the eye, it might be a way for Singularity to forgive me. The only other way.

GRAVITY

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.)

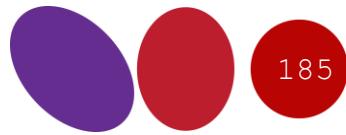
GRAVITY

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.)

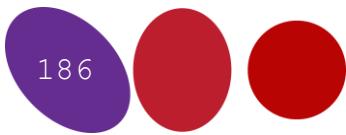
JD

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.]

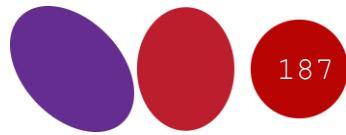
We'll be together in... Crunch Time.

I AM TAKING THE EDGE ON ME.

(Departing.)

(ABELL looms in 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

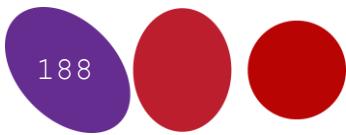
Maybe we shouldn't bring up the edge. Let's pretend this Big Bang never happened.

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

Declination. 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...

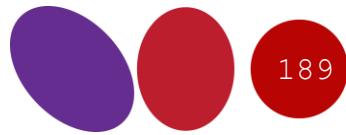
IT'S ABOUT SPACETIME YOU HEAR?

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.

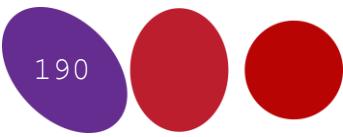
MILKY WAY

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.

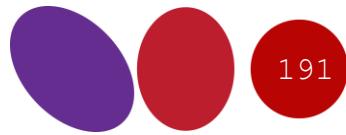
SINGULARITY

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.)

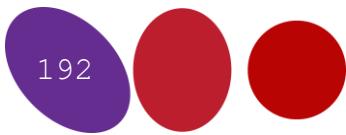
(JD bows.)

JD

Declination. 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.

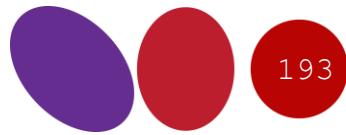
(SINGULARITY puzzledly looks on.)

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.

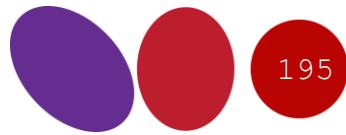
JD

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.

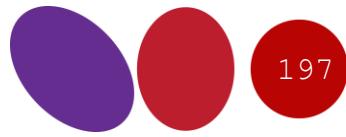
(The TIDALs discreetly scurry away from behind the home.)

*(SINGULARITY turns their head, but not notice
anything.)*

You're doing the same...

Like a tidal force.

Who's Abell?



28. DOT DOT DOT

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

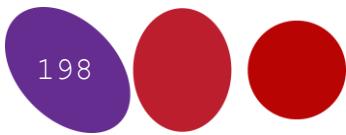
ANOMALY.

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.*)

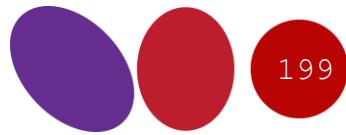
GALAXIEs not JD

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.



200

(*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."*)

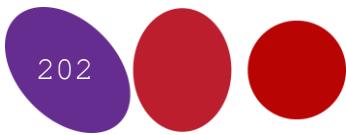
For— Fall...

(*Running off.*)

(*TRIANGULUM's heart breaks. They collapse.*)

(*The remaining GALAXIES are left shaken.*)

[End of "Dot Dot Dot."]



(*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.

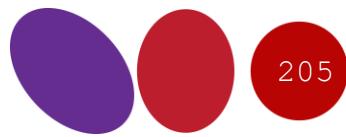
(*TRIANGULUM breaks their brokenheartedness.
They vitally hum.*)

(*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. The performer playing JD may be embracing their sibling, partner/spouse, or child{ren}/cluster of stars, stage named ABELL.*)

(*Tears roll down SINGULARITY's resettled eye.*)

[*The spotlight shifts to SINGULARITY.*]

(*MULTIPLICITIES remain absent.*)

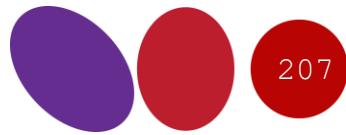
MULTIPLICITY 1/A

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.]

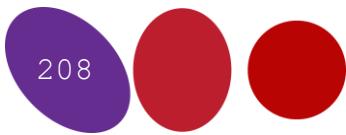
(*GRAVITY now embodies an outlawed Lupus. They suddenly march out of the shadows, with a tidal wolf pack.*)

(*The TIDALS have evolved into wolves. They follow GRAVITY's lead.*)

GRAVITY

Dogfight at zenith...

(*WHIRLPOOL and CARTWHEEL hold defensive stances.*)

**WHIRLPOOL****CARTWHEEL**

Quit wasting 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

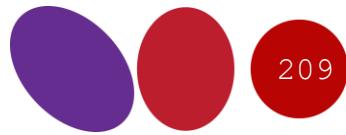
(Howling.)

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

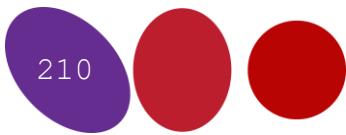
There is a fourth dimension: time.

(*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...?

ANDROMEDA

If only.

MILKY WAY

I need.

(*TRIANGULUM holds back their fear. They rush in to stand between GRAVITY and their siblings.*)

TRIANGULUM

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 were 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.*)

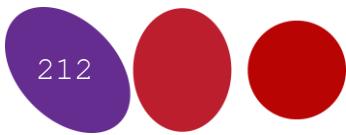
Tidals! Force!

(*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.*)

Grounded.

(*Jumping off the stage.*)

GALAXIES not TRIANGULUM

Gravity!

GRAVITY

(*Ghostly and distant.*)

Far-fetched.

[*Time starts and accelerates.*]

(*The TIDALS are livid.*)

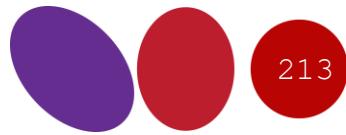
(*SINGULARITY rockets out of the dogpile.*)

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.*)

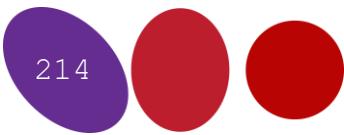
(*SINGULARITY places a hand on their chest.*)

(*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...

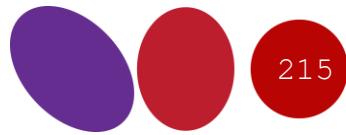
GALAXIES

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.*]

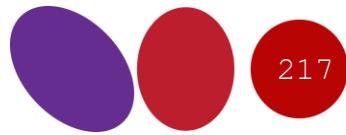
[*End of "Big Crunch"*]

End of Act -No Intermission-



SF35

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

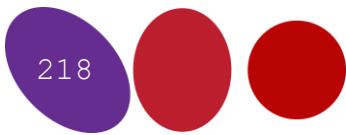
NOTHING!

[Another light briefly flashes.]

ANDROMEDA

NOTHING!

[Another light briefly flashes.]

**MILKY WAY**

NOTHIN'!

[Another light briefly flashes.]

(From the audience, the performer playing JD thoughtfully looks upon their real family.)

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

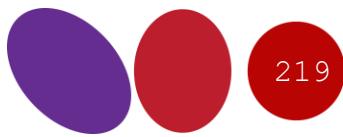
BIG BOUNCE!

(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.)

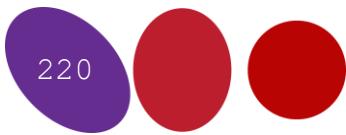
[The light suddenly fills the stage. The side curtains open to reveal what's upstage.]

[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.}*

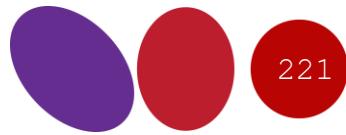
[The music may lighten.]

(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

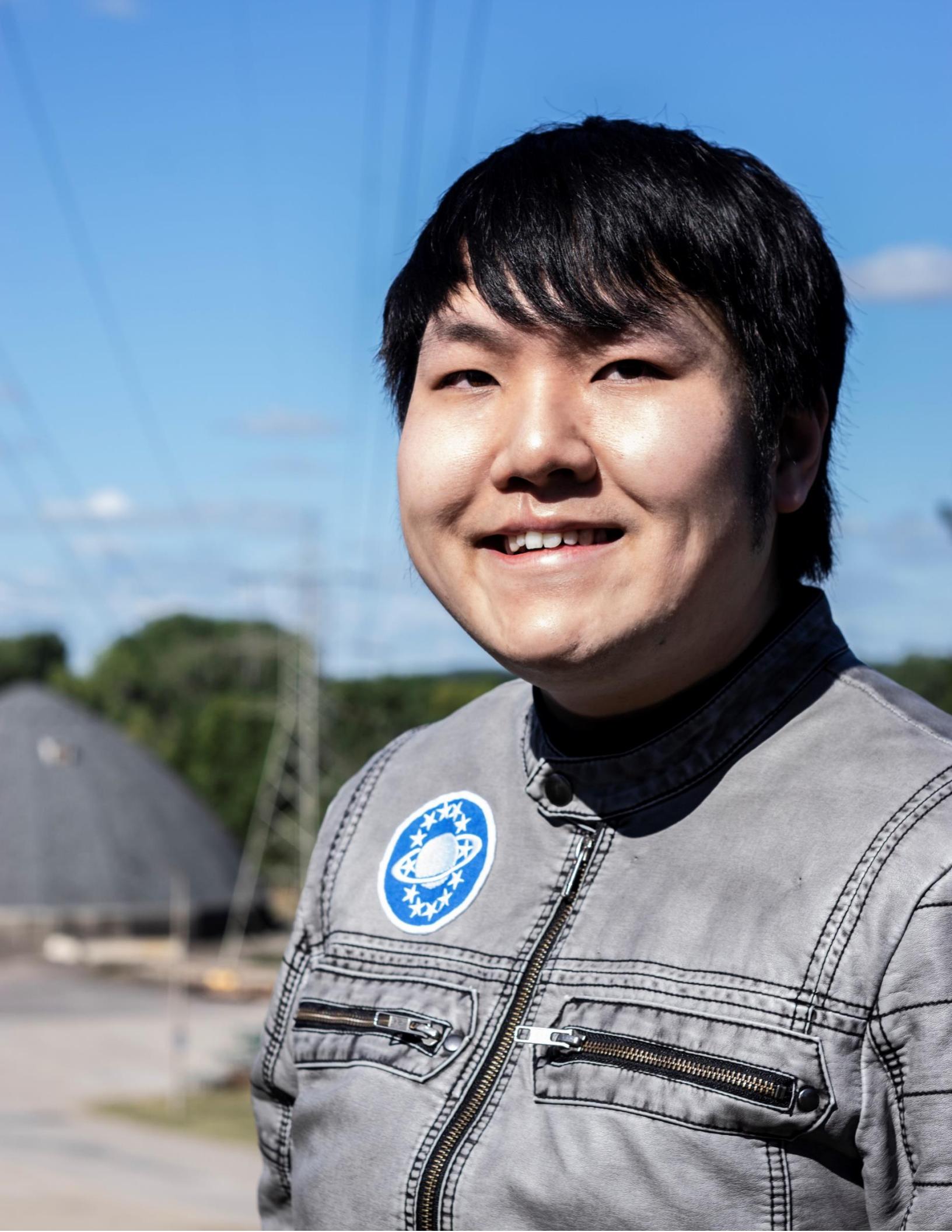
DAVID QUANG PHAM

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.



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