*[The Center of the Universe]*

*[The Ellipse is positioned* *downstage center. There is a table with*  *seats and a* *rug inside. Lights dwell solely within the Dome.*  *Outside, the stage is mainly off limits.* *Everything upstage* *is*  *concealed by the side curtains.* *Equations are teeming flowers in*  *the space.]*

*(SINGULARITY hums as they pick equations outside the home.*  *They place* *them on a dish. They head* *to the rug to meditate.)*

*(The MULTIPLICITIEs are in the audience.)*

**MULTIPLICITIEs**

Nothing.

*(Startled, SINGULARITY draws out the Big Bang Taser. They*  *ignite it* *outwards.)*

*(The TIDALs distantly whimper.)*

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

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

*(SINGULARITY stows away the Big Bang Taser* *underneath the*  *rug,* *reversing the Universe. They look upon ABELL. They pound*  *their chest.)*

**SINGULARITY**

Nothing…

*(Leaving through a side exit of the home.)*

|  |
| --- |
| [**1. BOUNCE**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/1-bounce) |

*(JD enters, holding a monocular. They position themself at the*  *edge of the home. They look out through the monocular.)*

*(TRIANGULUM wanders out, carrying a snow* *globe that*  *resembles the home. They head to JD. They snatch* *their*  *monocular and look out. They toss it behind.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

NOTHING.

*(WHIRLPOOL spirals out. They catch or pick up 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 looks out. They stow away the* *monocular.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

NOTHING!

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

**MILKY WAY**

NUTHIN'…

*(The TEEN GALAXIEs – CARTWHEEL, WHIRLPOOL,*  *TRIANGULUM, ANDROMEDA, MILKY WAY – cluster towards*  *the center.)*

**TEEN GALAXIEs**

LET’S BOUNCE!

*(The TEEN GALAXIEs bounce away from each other. They land*  *on their respective walls. They distinctly move and dance*  *alongside the walls of the home. In choreographic exposition, they*  *distinctly pose at certain melodic* *phrases.)*

**SINGULARITY** (offstage)

MILKY WAY! ANDROMEDA! TRIANGULUM! WHIRLPOOL! CARTWHEEL!

*(MILKY WAY lugs their way to the table. ANDROMEDA heads to*  *the table. TRIANGULUM triangulates to the table. They* *set the*  *snow globe on the table. WHIRLPOOL spirals to the table.*  *CARTWHEEL cartwheels to the table.)*

**SINGULARITY**

JD!

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

**JD**

ABELL…

*(ABELL reaches out to JD.)*

*[End of “Bounce”.]*

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

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

**SINGULARITY**

Declinations, family. The Galaxy family. It is that time.

*(Placing the dishes around the table.)*

*(GRAVITY narrates.)*

**GRAVITY**

*Nothing* comes close to family… Except “pets.” I’m Gravity. I’ve been in here for infinite dog years. And this is the story of the Galaxy family. We’ve long lived in this Ellipse. Singularity has closed off the outside world for quite some time. Eternities, in fact. This Dome is all they’ve ever known. Most kids aren’t much older than a dozen eternities, but one is nearing two. I like this one. This Ellipse is only perfect, with our oldest Galaxy: JD…

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

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

*(SINGULARITY shushes GRAVITY. They set a dish on the ground,* *for the TIDALs to feast upon.)*

*(MILKY WAY hugs SINGULARITY.)*

*(The TEEN GALAXIEs bow.)*

**TEEN GALAXIEs**

Declinations, Singularity.

*(The TEEN GALAXIEs sit,* *while TRIANGULUM unfortunately*  *sits on the whoopie cushion.)*

**SINGULARITY**

Sounds like someone enjoyed a little too much gas giants.

**TRIANGULUM**

Quit the snickers, Milky Way.

**SINGULARITY**

Has anyone seen my scope? Where could they be? It’s got to be in here…

*(Touching the snow globe.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

*Everything in here is a cluster flux*. Wouldn’t hurt to look out—

**SINGULARITY**

If you escape my gravitational pull and step out onto the space, you’ll end up ripping apart the Fabric of Spacetime. Then I, the grandmaster of the Universe, will be out of order. Forget the scope. We got all the cosmic formulas right here in our Ellipse. With my wrists and black-hole heart, I cooked you nebulae something special: nuclear pasta and meteors.

**CARTWHEEL**

*Special* for the trillionth millennium, you Bạch Hổ[[1]](#footnote-1)…

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(GRAVITY tries to grab TRIANGULUM’s dish.)*

*(TRIANGULUM slaps away GRAVITY.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

That is not for you to gravitate to. Stupid tidal force… Nothing between those ears but a vacuum.

*(Unnervingly scratching GRAVITY’s ear.)*

**ANDROMEDA**

Throw the dog a meteor. If a tidal force wants a swig, they can have the spaghettification. Fix…?

*(Tossing invisible* *spaghetti at GRAVITY.)*

Who’s a good tidal force? You all are!

**TIDALs**

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

*(The TIDALs bark while SINGULARITY tries to get them to sit.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TIDALs**  Force! Force! Force! Force! Force! Force! | **SINGULARITY**  Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix. Fix. |

*(MILKY WAY dives into their dish.)*

**TRIANGULUM**

Again, Milky Way?

**ANDROMEDA**

Ye mostly photons, Triangulum.

**CARTWHEEL**

It takes eight millennia to burn that, Andromeda.

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(CARTWHEEL mocks WHIRLPOOL’s physique.)*

**WHIRLPOOL**

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

**CARTWHEEL**

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

**ANDROMEDA**

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

**TRIANGULUM**

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

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

*(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL go on the defense.)*

**MILKY WAY**

*(Mouthful of nuclear pasta.)*

Kau tau to you, ellipsoids[[2]](#footnote-2).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL** | **WHIRLPOOL** | **TRIANGULUM** |

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(Lovingly pinching MILKY WAY’s cheek.)*

Always, full of grace. Let us save space.

|  |
| --- |
| [**2. CRUNCH**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/2-crunch) |

*(SINGULARITY prays.)*

**SINGULARITY**

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

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

*(The TEEN GALAXIEs pray with SINGULARITY.)*

**TEEN GALAXIEs**

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

**WHIRLPOOL**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

**TRIANGULUM**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

**CARTWHEEL**

IT IS CRUNCH *TIME*, SINGULARITY.

**ANDROMEDA**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, SINGULARITY.

**MILKY WAY**

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

**SINGULARITY**

IT IS CRUNCH TIME, JD? SPT0615-JD?

*[End of “Crunch”.]*

|  |
| --- |
| [**3. CUTTING EDGE**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/3-cutting_edge) |

*(GRAVITY splits from the TIDALs. They stroll to* *JD, who is looking upon their Galaxy family, to be their canine companion.)*

**JD**

NOT THE TIME TO PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE… CUT INTO MY— PUSH ME OVER THE EDGE OF THE…

*(GRAVITY turns JD’s head to what’s outside.)*

CENTER WITH OUR RELATIVES. OUR TIDAL DOGS. GRAVITY, ALWAYS GROUNDING ME.

*(Nearing the edge of the home.)*

YOU SEE. I GO OFF ON A TANGENT.

WHERE THE CUTTING EDGE WILL BE…

**JD** (cont.)

WHERE THE CURVATURE CONCEALS ALL WORLDS LEADING INTO KINSHIP. SAIL OUT OF THIS ELLIPSE.

WHERE THE ASTRAL BEACH WILL MEET AN OCEAN FULL OF CHORAL REEFS. SEA WITH OTHER *ELLIPSES*[[3]](#footnote-3).

WHY IS THIS CIRCLE LACKING THE CURIOSITY IN ALL? STUCK IN THIS HERE, GALA.

WHY ARE THESE OVALS[[4]](#footnote-4) BENT ON SEEING NOTHING IN MYSTERY? LOOK BEYOND THESE GALAXIES.

**TEEN GALAXIEs**

CUT AWAY FROM THE EDGE!

**JD**

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

*(In JD’s head, the TEEN GALAXIEs seem to be droning on.)*

**TEEN GALAXIEs**

SPT0615-JD.

AS WE ARE JUST SAYING BEFORE YOU CUT US OFF. NOTHING’S CUTTING OUTTA THE EDGE. NO ONE’S GOING OVER THE EDGE. JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

**JD**

APPARENTLY, I HAVEN’T MADE MYSELF CLEAR. CUTTING MY EDGES MAKES MYSELF APPARENT AS YOU[[5]](#footnote-5)…

**JD** (cont.)

AND SHEDS MY LIGHT UPON A LIGHTLESS GALAXY. MY HEART TELLS ME THERE’S A PROMISING FAMILY, OFF— END OF THIS TANGENT.

**TEEN GALAXIEs**

SPT0615. CHILD.

NO NEED TO BE APPARENT— *(Droning on in JD’s head.)* JOIN US FOR CRUNCH.

**JD**

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

*(JD lets GRAVITY ground them.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **JD**  JD… | **TEEN GALAXIEs**  SPT0615-*JADED—* |

**JD**

GOES OFF OF THE TANGENT!

ALL MY COSMIC POEMS MUST REACH TO THE ENDS OF THIS EPIC TALE. *OUR* AUDACIOUS VERSE.

THERE MIGHT BE A FRIEND WHO WILL FOLLOW IN MY LYRICAL TRAILS TO THE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE…

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

*[End of “Cutting Edge”.]*

*(GRAVITY and JD embrace.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **GRAVITY**  Force! | **JD**  Grounded. You’re my tidal force, Gravity. |

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

I love you too, Singularity…

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

You Singularity, raised me physically. Gravity raised my spirit.

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

Abell… There is something ringing in mine.

**SINGULARITY**

*A bell*? Your astronomical clock must be malfunctioning.

**JD**

My biological clock remains malnourished.

**SINGULARITY**

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

**TEEN GALAXIEs**

Join us for Crunch—

**JD**

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

**MILKY WAY**

JD, *who* is Abell?

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

I’m ready to pass on your light. Our light. Singularity… *May I go to the Edge of the Universe*?

**SINGULARITY**

We have *everything* in the Center of the Universe. No.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SINGULARITY**  *No* means *no*. | **JD**  Can I play with *nothing*? Please? |

**JD**

Pretty please with a supergiant on top?

**SINGULARITY**

The sight of darkness is not enough for you?

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

What was said is unapparent. Drop this legacy nonsense. The future is *nothing*. Be present for your family. Join us for Cr—

*(SINGULARITY reaches for JD.)*

*(GRAVITY bites SINGULARITY. They brawl with SINGULARITY.)*

**TIDALs**

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

*(GRAVITY grounds SINGULARITY on the rug. They try to corral*  *the TIDALs.)*

**GRAVITY**

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

*(GRAVITY runs to the opening of the Ellipse.* *They hit an invisible*  *wall and dizzily* *fall back.)*

*Free… Free… Free… Free… Free… Free…*

*(SINGULARITY gets up. They hauntingly and slightly lift the rug.)*

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(The TIDALs tremble and bow out. They leave.)*

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

What must be done to pull at your heartstrings?

**SINGULARITY**

Oh now you want to consider my center…

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(SINGULARITY exits, dragging GRAVITY out.)*

**MILKY WAY**

I’m no baby.

**TRIANGULUM**

You know… *Nothing*’s more childish than being fixated on anything but Gravity of the situation.

**CARTWHEEL**

What just happened?

**WHIRLPOOL**

Gravity went berserk. Brought down Singularity.

**JD**

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

**ANDROMEDA**

We’re all on the same plane. The same Ellipse.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL**  What is so special about the Edge? | **WHIRLPOOL**  *Nothing* ain’t relative to us there. |

**JD**

You’ll understand in no time…

**MILKY WAY**

We have all the Crunch Time in our Universe.

**JD**

Exactly… Why you’re a baby, Milky Way. Crunch Time is all that you look forward to. And this Universe is the only one you see.

**MILKY WAY**

Me no baby!

**ANDROMEDA**

Eh, *nothing* beats sleeping like one… Declinations.

*(ANROMEDA heads off to bed.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL** | **WHIRLPOOL** |

With nomy/mama/papa not around, let’s deck the Ellipse—

**TRIANGULUM**

Oh no, you’re not.

*(Trying to drag away CARTWHEEL or WHIRLPOOL.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL** | **WHIRLPOOL** |

You’re such a square, Triangulum.

**MILKY WAY**

Square? Reminds me… Board game? Tardigrades and Elevators?!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CARTWHEEL** | **WHIRLPOOL** |

Look at the *time*… Declinations!

*(CARTWHEEL and WHIRLPOOL rush off to bed.)*

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

**TRIANGULUM**

Last one to bed is an anomaly!

*(JD sets the snow globe on the rug.)*

**JD**

*I can’t even* with this family…

**MILKY WAY**

Odd… You cannot be with me?

**JD**

I’m with you, every step of the way. I was you, Milky Way.

**MILKY WAY**

In what way?

*(JD sits at the table.)*

**JD**

Well, I’m waiting on you to grab Water Bears and Elevators.

*(MILKY WAY joyfully brings out a board game.)*

**MILKY WAY**

Wait… You like games? You an adult?

*(JD holds up a miniature figure.)*

**JD**

No… I’m a wat— Land bear.

**MILKY WAY**

Oh… That means… I the water—

**JD**

You’re the air bear.

**MILKY WAY**

Can we call us tardigrades? This so confusing.

**JD**

I’m the adult around here…

**MILKY WAY**

Fine. Gas it is… May I ask…? What different? Being adult?

**JD**

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

**MILKY WAY**

To you… What is between Ellipse?

**JD**

A liminal space…?

*(MILKY WAY tries to repeat the word.)*

**JD**

*Liminal*. It’s where who we were ends and who we are begins. You’re in the liminal space, too.

*(MILKY WAY uneasily places their figure on* *the board.)*

*(JD holds figures with various heights.)*

**JD**

You’ll soon not fit in your Ellipse… I stopped fitting in yours ten eternities ago. I don’t fit in mine anymore. You’re going to fill my Ellipse. Your body will be a *teen*y bit different. Anyone who’s not a toddler needs to *figure that out* on their own.

**MILKY WAY**

As air bear, I only go up from here… I will own you, land bear!

|  |
| --- |
| [**4. FIGURE**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/4-figure) |

*(The actions taken upon the board as JD and MILKY WAY sing*  *this duet is open ended.)*

**MILKY WAY**

LIFE HAS UPS AND UPS.

**JD**

LIFE HAS ITS *UPS AND DOWNS*.

**MILKY WAY**

GO FIG— UH.

**JD**

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

**MILKY WAY**

TWENTY TO THIRTEEN?

**JD**

YOU’LL FIGURE IT OUT. YOU’LL FIGURE IT OUT. YOU’LL FIGURE IT OUT OUT OUT…

**MILKY WAY**

WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT?

**JD**

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

**MILKY WAY**

I WILL BE AN ELLIPSOID?

**JD**

LIKE YOUR SIBLINGS.

**MILKY WAY**

I’LL GET TOO BIG FOR THE ELLIPSE?

**JD**

YOU’LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT. YOU’LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT. YOU’LL FIGURE YOUR WAY OUT OUT OUT…

**MILKY WAY**

I CAN’T LOSE FIGURE. I NEEDA KEEP FIGURE.

**JD**

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

**MILKY WAY**

*(Intensely cracking their voice.)*

I no want to go far in this game, called— Uh, life. I hate my figure. I hate myself.

*(JD puts their figure in a winning position.)*

**JD**

Has anyone ever told you that your voice warps more beautifully with each passing millennium? Ground yourself, Milky Way…

*(MILKY WAY slaps JD’s figure off the board.)*

**JD**

LOST MY FIGURE…

*(MILKY WAY hands their figure to JD.)*

**MILKY WAY**

KEEP THE FIGURE.

*[End of “Figure”.]*

*(GRAVITY shouts from offstage.)*

**GRAVITY**

Pawn!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **JD**  Gravity? | **MILKY WAY**  That dog keep howlin'. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **GRAVITY**  Free fall! Free me, JD! | **MILKY WAY**  Quiet dog before Nomy/Mommy/Daddy Sing wake up. That dog is nuthin’ but trouble! |

**JD**

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

*(Bowing.)*

*(MILKY WAY bows. They head off to bed.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **GRAVITY**  *Nothing* is free! | **JD**  You always understand me… |

**GRAVITY**

I believe in *nothing*, like you. There’s *nothing* out there for you.

**JD**

Well, there’s nothing out there for me… Zilch.

**GRAVITY**

*Nothing* isout there for you. *Nothing* is out there, waiting for you. A wide-open space for you and me. Save space, for the dogs. Save space for me. A space without Singularity. Zilch is not out of our Ellipse. Zilch is underneath. You’ll know in spacetime.

*(JD unrolls the rug. They discover the Big* *Bang Taser.)*

**JD**

Our rug of spacetime…?

|  |
| --- |
| [**5. ZILCH**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/5-zilch) |

**GRAVITY**

Use them opposable thumbs, Galaxy.

*(JD ignites the Big Bang Taser. They* *accidentally shock themself.*  *They read it.)*

**JD**

Zilch— Big Bang Taser…?

*(The TIDALs remain offstage. They are scared.)*

**TIDALs**

Fall…

**GRAVITY**

Stun your nomy/mommy/daddy! Free me! No longer bound by family. Make *nothing* your legacy! End Singularity!

*(ABELL briefly stands up from their seat.)*

*[End of “Zilch”.]*

*(SINGULARITY yells and slaps offstage.)*

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(JD hides the Big Bang Taser under the rug.)*

*(SINGULARITY enters.)*

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

Nothing… Declinations, nomy/mother/father.

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

Maybe you should let them out?

**SINGULARITY**

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

**JD**

I’m passed that. I’m an adult. I don’t play outside. I want to make something of myself on the other side.

**SINGULARITY**

You can’t make something out of nothing.

**JD**

How did you make us? Out of nothing?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SINGULARITY**  JD… | **JD**  *Why*…? |

**SINGULARITY**

SPT0615-JD. How? When your black-hole hearts were small, I shed my light. To you all, the lightlessL “Nothing.” I fed you the finest photons from the field equations I picked. Now, my oldest cluster of stars… Your heart is too massive for this Ellipse?

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

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

I know your urge to jump to another Ellipse. You’re in a liminal space; which is also my space. You take one step out of this place and you’re dead to me.

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

Fine. I’ll… I’ll answer *why*. So long as I pass over what you sai— JD… It did ring a bell. My… Illogical clock. It became *apparent* that I had to leave my parents.

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

There is *nothing* to them, Bạch Hổ. They never poured a drop of light for me. They’re apparently heartless.

**JD**

Being a single parent sure did wonders to you.

**SINGULARITY**

Quit the antics. Speak physics, SPT0615-JD.

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| **SINGULARITY**  Stop making light— | **JD**  I need to shed my light. |

**JD**

Light isn’t made. It’s passed down. And I’m not. There’s not enough space. That’s why I’m shedding.

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(Handing the monocular to JD. They point out.)*

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

**JD**

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

**SINGULARITY**

The point of my hearty outpouring is for you to forever lighten up. Not to ever lighten down. You are never getting passed me.

*(JD scopes out the Edge, longing for ABELL.)*

**JD**

Our purpose is to pour our heart out to life with less heart. The only way I can see light is if another Galaxy lightens up. Singularity… I wish— Nothing gets passed you… Not even light.

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| [**6. LUMINOUS**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/6-luminous) |

*(SINGULARITY takes back the monocular.)*

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(The TEEN GALAXIEs enter in alignment.)*

**SINGULARITY**

YOU BRIGHTEN MY ETERNITY.

LUMINOUS. TENDERNESS FOREVER LOOMS. I HOLD YOUR FEATS TO THE FIRE. LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT COMES FOR YOU AND US.

WHAT IS ILLUMINATING ARE…

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

*[End of “Luminous”.]*

*(GRAVITY rushes in, scattering the GALAXIEs. They scratch up*  *the rug.)*

*(SINGULARITY grounds GRAVITY.)*

**SINGULARITY**

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

*(JD grabs the Big Bang Taser from the rug.)*

*(SINGULARITY reaches underneath the rug to* *feel zilch. They*  *soon see that JD is armed.)*

**JD**

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

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| [**7. BIG BANG**](https://www.ellipsesplay.com/music/7-big_bang) |

**SINGULARITY**

YOU ARE A BIG…

*(JD shoots* *SINGULARITY in the face.)*

*(SINGULARITY gets electrocuted. They melodically shriek and*  *jerk in place. They perform one last squillo.)*

**SINGULARITY**

*MISTAKEEEEEE! AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE.*

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

*(The TIDALs bark from offstage. They repeat.)*

**TIDALs** (offstage)

BIG BIG BIG BIG BIG!

**SINGULARITY**

ACHE… ELLIPSES… BIG BANG…

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

**TIDALs**

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

*(The TIDALs freely rush out. They make JD turn to what is outside.)*

*[The lights suddenly fill 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. They are surprised to step out onto the stage.*  *They look back at their petrified siblings.)*

**JD**

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

*(GRAVITY gets a knapsack full of balls,* *embodying stars.* *They*  *grab JD and run out. They run in place. They stop* *when they*  *notice their lack of progress. GRAVITY claws at the ground, and*  *in response, the TIDALs unleash and* *scatter away.)*

**GRAVITY**

*Free* fall! Pets, no more! The wide-open space is ours. This wide-open space is our destination. Zenith is our destiny. Force!

**JD**

The Edge of the Universe? Where is the Edge…? It’s further away?

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

It’s *getting* further away. The Fabric of Spacetime is fabric, after all. And we’re rolling it out, like our rug… We’re going to go off on a tangent… For all eternity. For the rest of spacetime. This is the beginning of a beautiful Universe.

*(JD reruns in place with a grateful GRAVITY.)*

*(Most TEEN GALAXIEs step away to watch the Universe unravel,* *while MILKY WAY mournfully wraps themselves around the lifeless* *SINGULARITY.)*

**TEEN GALAXIEs**

ALL OUR HEARTS HAVE GONE OUT WITH THE BIG BANG…

*[End of “Big Bang”.]*

*[The home moves upstage, out of view.]*

1. Bạch Hổ is Vietnamese for “white tiger,” sounds like “black hole,” and implies tiger parenting. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In geometry, an ellipsoid is a three-dimensional ellipse. In ELLIPSES, this is like calling someone a “giant.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. In geometry, ellipses are ovals. In linguistics, ellipses indicate omissions. In ELLIPSES, this is a divisive term. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Being called an “oval” is like being called “slow” while being called an “ellipse” is akin to a curse word. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Singularity. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)