*Open on an exterior shot of the Sulaco. Jump to a shot of the darkened interior of the ship, lights flicker on and the ship starts to wake up. The sleep pods come to life and Newt, Ripley and Hicks wake up.*

### Scene 1

Ripley: (leaning over Newt as she awakes) Wake up sleepy-head. We’re home.

Newt: We’re on the ship…at home?

Ripley: Look (they walk to a window or monitor). We’re at Gateway Station. Orbiting Earth.

Newt: (looks from screen/window to Ripley)

Ripley: Do you remember being home? How old were you when you left?

Newt: I don’t remember.

Ripley: Home was the colony with your family. I’m so sorry. (hugs Newt).

Hicks: (wincing as he awakes, touching his wound dressing). Feels like I could use another month in [hypersleep].

Ripley: Let me see. (Lifts the dressing). I’m no doctor, but I think you’ll live.

*Ripley and Hicks look at each other*

Hicks: We better see if there’s a welcoming committee

*The three move to the communications center*

Hicks: [Sulaco] to Gateway control, this is Corporal Hicks requesting permission to dock.

*Several beats*

Gateway Control: Negative Sulaco. Permission to dock denied. Please await further instructions.

Ripley: (over radio) What the hell? We have an injured Marine, a child survivor from Hadley’s Hope and a damaged…artificial person on board. We need to dock right now.

Gateway Control: Who is this? Shipboard computer is registering massive amounts of xenomorphic genetic material. You can’t dock until we clear the ship for threats. The ship, and all passengers.

Ripley: This is Warrant Officer Ellen Ripley and we need medical attention right now. Get us off this damn ship.

*Several beats*

Gateway Control: Medical personnel will be arriving within the hour with supplies. Sulaco, until further notice…you are quarantined.

### Scene 2

*Newt is looking at a screen describing flora and fauna on Earth in images and text*

*Ripley and Hicks stand by the door of an airlock as it opens to reveal Caleb, dressed in medical garb.*

Caleb: I’m Caleb. I’m medical-rated.

*Scooter scoots by*

Caleb: That’s Scooter

Hicks: Of course…

Ripley: (reaching out her hand…hesitantly) Nice to meet you, Caleb.

Hicks: …they wouldn’t send a human

Ripley: (shaking Caleb’s hand) oh, you’re an artificial person

Caleb: A synthetic, yes.

Ripley: A synthetic…who can’t get infected with anything alien…makes sense. Welcome aboard. Who’s your friend?

Caleb: That’s Scooter. Scanning robot. He’ll clear the ship of anything genetically foreign and give us a rundown of what he finds.

Hicks: How long will that take?

Caleb: For a ship this size? Maybe a week. Based on what we got off ship’s computer…we can’t take any chances.

Scooter: (beeps comic-reliefly, scans then fries a blob of material left by the Alien Queen and scoots away)

Hicks: (to Ripley) Say, about how long would it take to make sure we didn’t have any of those things inside us?

Ripley: About five days

Hicks: Huh, probably a coincidence.

*Caleb examines Newt, Ripley and Hicks in the medical bay*

Caleb: (examining Newt’s eyes) You are fine.

Newt: (to Ripley) I’m fine.

Ripley: That’s good.

Caleb: (examining Hicks’ shoulder) What caused this injury?

Hicks: One of those bugs…

Caleb: Bugs? Do you mean a xenomorphic lifeform?

Hicks: Yeah...its blood anyway. Acid.

Caleb: The wound is healing. I find no sign of infection. There will be…significant scarring.

Hicks: So much for my modelling career.

Caleb: Oh…I’m...sorry

Ripley: It’s ok, he’s kidding.

Caleb: You’re all checked out. I will return to Gateway station.

Ripley: Doc, can you do one more thing?

Caleb: Oh? What’s that?

*Ripley is inside a scanning machine. A screen displays her internal anatomy. Newt and Hicks stand nearby*

Caleb: (reading the screen) You’re all clear. All of you. No signs of any unusual masses in any of your internal scans.

Ripley: (getting out of machine, pulling on a shirt over her undershirt) Good. Maybe that will help me sleep. Thanks, Caleb.

Caleb: If that’s all for now, I need to return to Gateway. I have duties to attend to.

Hicks: What about your scanner pal?

Caleb: He works independently. You can follow his progress via your connection to the station.

Newt: (to Ripley) Can you show me how?

Ripley: Sure, as long as you don’t forget your homework.

Newt: Ok (runs off)

Ripley: Hey, I almost forgot. Can you do one more examination?

*Hypersleep room. Ripley unzips Bishop’s motionless from its bag.*

Ripley: He deserves to be put back together. I doubted him at first…but he saved us. A real hero.

Caleb: (looking surprised) Wow…yes sure. (touches Bishop’s head, examines his torso) Processing and memory seem intact…I’ll bring spare parts when I return.

Ripley: It would mean a lot to me.

Caleb: (looks a little confused by this)

*Caleb’s ship leaves Sulaco for Gateway.*

### Scene III

### {This scene introduces our villain…the corporate tool who learned of Burke’s plan to send the colonists to find the eggs. We learn that they sent a fast ship with a double detachment of marines to retrieve the eggs and anything else they could find at the original alien shipwreck site. It has to be clear it was outside the blast zone of the explosion. They also plot how to deal with those on the Sulaco when the ship returns, which is scheduled to be prior to Sulaco getting out of quarantine…the real purpose of that decision.}

*INT Gateway Station. Several people in business suits sit around a conference table. Caleb is among them dressed as before. Ripley appears on a screen at one end of the room.*

Slate Welford: So you’re confident there is no sign of any living xenomorphs on the Sulaco? After hearing Ripley’s report, along with the video captured by Gorman’s squad…we cannot afford to let even a single one of those things onto Gateway Station.

Caleb: That is correct. If what Ripley has said about their aggressive behavior is true, we would have seen an adult xenomorph by now. There is some chance, I suppose, that the queen left one or more eggs which were not mature enough to hatch. Our scan will reveal them if so.

Slate Welford: And if they hatch before the scan locates them?

Caleb: The crew will be in serious danger of infection.

Ripley: We did a thorough scan and visual inspection before leaving LV-426. There’s nothing on board.

Slate Welford: We can’t take any chances. The ship’s scanners aren’t as sensitive as the one on the scanning robot.

Ripley: Fine, ok, sure.

Slate Welford: Ripley, on behalf of the company I would just like to thank you for going back there, and for your heroic actions to save Corporal Hicks and the colonist girl. Also…thanks for bringing our ship back this time, Ripley. Or should I say Flight Officer Ripley?

Ripley: My pleasure.

Slate Welford: Thank you Ripley, Caleb. You are dismissed.

Caleb: (exits)

Ripley: Thank you.

*The screen goes dark*

Slate Welford: Anne, is there any way to…adjust the behavior of the scanner bot?

Anne: Definitely. We can accelerate it…ignore smaller readings in order to locate larger threats sooner.

Slate Welford: Good. I’d like to discuss that more offline. (nods)

Anne: (exits)

### {This part of the scene could end here, to keep the audience in the dark about Welford’s plans.}

Slate Welford: Gerald, what is the timeline for the Kurtz’ return?

Gerald: Approximately thirty-six hours, based on their reported time of departure from LV-426.

Slate Welford: And your team is ready to manage their cargo? We can’t afford a single mistake…I’m not going to underestimate them the way Burke did.

Gerald: We have containment chambers for them. Strong enough to hold a herd of elephants. Acid-proof.

Slate Welford: And you won’t hesitate to destroy them if they break containment, correct?

Gerald: We have a Marine battalion on standby. They won’t hesitate to take down any threat.

Slate Welford: Ted, how confident you of our opsec? We can’t have anyone outside this room finding out about this. Not now, and not ever.

Ted: We’ve had no electronic or hard-copy communication with anyone…even within this room.

Slate Welford: What about the LV-426 team? That’s…how many Marines and officers?

Ted: Four squads, so about forty-four total, Mr. Welford.

Slate Welford: And…?

Ted: Well, they’re Marines…very unlikely to leak.

Slate Welford: We need to make sure they don’t. Make sure they are sent back out as soon as the cargo is unloaded and the Kurtz is readied. Somewhere…far…and dangerous.

Ted: Of course.

Slate Welford: Any questions? Thank you, everyone.

*INT Gateway Station. Welford’s office. Welford at his desk, Anne stands.*

Slate Welford: I’m concerned that we might not find a threat to the Sulaco crew in time, you understand?

Anne: Yes, Mr. Welford, but if we disable the cleansing function the scanning unit won’t destroy a threat if it encouters one…it just keeps scanning.

Slate Welford: But it will complete the scan faster that way, no?

Anne: Yes…but

Slate Welford: And it will log the location where it found the xenomorphic form, correct?

Anne: Of course.

Slate Welford: Have the logs forwarded directly to me in real-time, if you don’t mind, Anne.

Anne: Certainly, Mr. Welford. (exits)

### Scene IV

*INT Sulaco. Newt and Ripley sit in front of a screen.*

Newt: Giraffe?

Ripley: Good!

Newt: Ripley? Can I meet one someday?

Ripley: No, sweetie. They went extinct when I was a little girl.

Newt: Oh.

Ripley: You know I’ve been away so long…I don’t even know what Earth is like now. Why don’t we both learn about what kinds of animals we can meet when we get home? (starts reading screen, changing pages)

Caleb: (appears on screen suddenly) Ripley. You should see this.

*The screen switches again to display the approach of a large ship as it docks with Gateway*

Caleb: (voiceover) This is the Kurtz. It’s returning…from LV-426.

Ripley: What? How?

Caleb: It was sent when you stopped communicating. It’s one of our new clippers, thirty percent faster than Sulaco.

Ripley: Were they coming to rescue us?

Caleb: That was the plan yes, but you returned before they arrived. So they switched to their alternate mission. Recon the alien landing site and retrieve any eggs they could find, and anything else of interest.

Ripley: NO! They promised they weren’t going to bring anything back. Was Burke operating on orders from above?

Caleb: I did some digging around in the comm logs…it looks like he was sending back status updates to someone here. They were probably the ones that sent the Kurtz.

Ripley: Well you need to tell someone! They can’t let that ship dock!

Caleb: Ripley…that’s the problem…we can’t communicate with the ship at all. They’ve been ordered to stand off and wait for a medical team…just like Sulaco. But they aren’t responding. And they are approaching fast.

Ripley: Damn it! You sons of bitches won’t let this go, will you? You have to have your God damn bioweapon, no matter the cost.

Caleb: I…

Ripley: No…Caleb. Thanks for finding those logs. And for warning us.

Caleb: What are you going to do?

Ripley: I don’t know. Caleb, can you tell me as soon as any communication is received from the Kurtz? I’ve got to tell Hicks.

Caleb: Will do. And I will also try to learn who Burke was talking to.

Ripley: Thanks. (turns off screen)

Newt: Ripley, what’s wrong.

Ripley: I’m not sure, Newt. Do me a favor and find out how far Scooter has gotten, ok? I’ll be right back.

Ripley: (exits)

Newt: (switches screen to a display showing the scanner bot’s progress at about 50%)

## Appendix

Plot Summary:

Act I.

We follow the Sulaco as it returns to Earth

Ship is quarantined near the base that orbits Earth. During this quarantine Ripley learns from Gateway computer that Burke lied and that her daughter had a child or children now living on Earth.

While quarantined another ship returns to base, the Kurtz. This ship was sent to the original alien crash site to collect eggs after the colony blew up. Burke had sent coordinates to find the egg cache in case his plan to infect Newt and Ripley failed.

The Kurtz is now full of Xenomorphs including multiple queens and thousands of eggs. (Maybe suggest that it's a faster ship than Sulaco to explain the timelines).

This ship docks and unleashes its horde upon the base.

Act II.

Ripley, Hicks and Newt must now rally forces on Earth to destroy the base before any Xenomorphs (especially a queen or eggs) can reach the surface.

They are unsuccessful at convincing authorities to blow up the base and several ships reach the planet filled with Xenomorphs.

Thousands of Marines and other forces on Earth are sent to the landing areas to contain the outbreak. Xenomorphs behave with surprising strategic cleverness and are poised to break out and overrun the planet. Ripley knows the real threat is on the orbital base where the Imperial Queen is the hive-mind behind it all. She convinces Hicks and a battalion of Marines to return to the orbital base to destroy the Imperial Queen.

Act III.

Newt is left "safe" on Earth with Ripley's grandchildren and family.

The IQ is an intelligent Xenomorph, perhaps a genetic hybrid...psychic? It learns from the data on Gateway Station that Ripley wiped out the queen on Hadley’s Hope and learns where her family is.

While trying to defeat the Imperial Queen Ripley learns her family and Newt are in danger from Xenomorphs sent by the IQ specifically to target them. Ripley must return with surviving Marines to save them. They warn her family of the danger.

Ripley and the Marines arrive just after the Xenomorphs and must locate where the family is hiding and kill the Xenomorphs in their jungle home location.

She dies to save her family.

Now without intelligent leadership, the remaining Xenomorph threat is contained by Earth's forces.

This ends the Ripley trilogy.

Long live the Newt trilogy.