scene 1

Leaving Earth in a Hurry

Most of you knew that things were getting bad on Earth. The last text you got from home could tell you that. Some of you were aware of the unusual activity on the space station that *Alexandria* was attached to. A few of you were very aware that soldiers were moving through the station, taking some into custody, taking more away screaming, and shooting the rest. None of you that were working aboard the *Alexandria* expected any trouble to reach you, though. *Alexandria* was the pinnacle of engineering achievement in space travel. You were charged with maintaining her and improving her.

But, then, acceleration klaxons rang throughout the ship. A few of you didn't realize right away what those alarms were for and fell to the floor, or against a bulkhead when *Alexandria* suddenly moved, leaving the station. (Fortunately, no one was hurt in the sudden departure.) Some of you demanded answers from *Alexandria* about what was going on. *Alexandria's* answers were annoyingly curt and not to the point. *Alexandria* kept warning you to get to an acceleration couch and buckle in. You all did and the movement became both more urgent and more erratic for the next several minutes.

During these minutes of chaotic movement, there were strange announcements from *Alexandria*, as if the ship was talking to someone aboard. There was even a mention of sudden, evasive action necessary to avoid nuclear missiles. (Nuclear missiles!) It was a good thing you were all strapped down by that point. But, other than the quick maneuvers, nothing bad happened to *Alexandria.* The ship stopped making sudden movements. Then, there was another announcement from *Alexandria*: you were all to go to the bridge at your earliest convenience.

That seemed to all of you to be a good idea: you only had a vague idea of who was actually on board.