

TRANSVERSIBLE

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. MCCONNEL YARD - DAY

A young boy dons a makeshift space helmet. This is brilliant JOSEPH MCCONNEL (8). Joseph looks forward with intense focus and talks into an aluminum can connected to a string.

JOSEPH

Commander, we are about 2.5 light years from Sagittarius A. By crossing the gravitational field of star S-2, we can slingshot around and pass close enough to the black hole to record the strength of the tidal gravitational forces pulling inward. Do you copy?

We follow the string to see it extends across the yard and connects to another can held by Joseph's father JAMES MCCONNEL (45).

JAMES

Roger that captain. Just give me the go ahead and I will fire the thrusters. Over and out.

We follow the string back to Joseph's face. His eyes show deep concentration.

JOSEPH

3...

We continue to move closer towards Joseph's intense gaze.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

2...

We come right up to Joseph's serious gaze.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

1... Fire!

James quickly hits a button on a device in his hand.

JAMES

The spacecraft Starfire has launched! Approaching Sagittarius A at rapid speed.

Joseph puts down the aluminum can and runs to the center of the yard. A black circle on a piece of paper rests on the grass, imitating a black hole.

James suddenly runs out too and Joseph and James playfully run in a circle around the makeshift black hole as if they are getting sucked in.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Captain we have a major problem! We didn't thrust fast enough to escape the black hole's gravity and we are now getting sucked into the hole!

James and Joseph continue to run in a circle until Joseph playfully tackles James onto the center of the piece of paper.

They both laugh and then lay flat on their backs in exhaustion and look up towards the sky.

JAMES (CONT'D)

So much out there Joseph, yet to be discovered. One day you will explore and make incredible discoveries.

JOSEPH

But Dad we got sucked in, now we are lost forever. Crushed by the hole's gravity.

JAMES

You know what they call it when you get sucked into a black hole?

JOSEPH

No, what?

JAMES

Spaghetification!

James starts to tickle Joseph who laughs and wiggles to get free. Caring LINDA MCCONNEL (46) calls out from the porch.

LINDA

Speaking of spaghetification, who's ready for some spaghetti!?

James and Joseph eagerly sit up.

JOSEPH

I am!

JAMES

Me too!

Joseph runs inside their house. Linda smiles at James.

LINDA
Getting carried away are we?

JAMES
Never.

James smiles and gives Linda a kiss as they both head inside.

INT. MCCONNEL LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

James, Joseph, and Linda sit around the dinner table.

LINDA
What did you learn about in school
today Joseph?

Joseph shovels a big bite of spaghetti into his mouth. He swallows then answers.

JOSEPH
Multiplication tables. But I know
all of them already.

James and Linda smile at each other.

JAMES
You know Joseph, Mommy and Daddy
are working on something very
exciting at work aren't we?

LINDA
Yes we are, and if we are
successful then your science
textbooks might need some updating
soon.

Joseph distractedly listens as he inhales his food. James laughs.

JAMES
Don't worry in a few years this
stuff will hold his attention.

Linda smiles and turns to look at Joseph with affection.

LINDA
I guess we will have to start
teaching you algebra first then
won't we?

Linda laughs while Joseph shrugs.

JOSEPH

OK.

INT. MCCONNEL LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Joseph sits in front of the television playing with model rocket ships and space crafts. He moves the rocket ship through the air as if it is flying through space.

Joseph thinks for a minute then places the rocket ship on the ground facing upwards.

JOSEPH

Mission Stardust we are ready for
take off. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...Blast
off!

He moves the rocket ship upwards mimicking a blast off. He flies the rocket ship through the house and makes airplane sounds as he moves through the house. He stumbles into...

INT. JAMES'S STUDY - NIGHT

The study is filled with papers lined with intricate equations. James isn't in the study. Joseph flies the rocket around and his eye catches a folder titled "research". He curiously opens the folder and looks at the first page filled with numbers.

He focuses on the word "wormhole" and thinks about it for a moment. Then he grows bored and shrugs as he flies the rocket out of the study.

INT. JAMES'S STUDY - NIGHT

James enters and sits at his desk holding a glass of wine. He begins studiously analyzing stacks of papers lined with intricate equations. He shakes his head in frustration.

JAMES

It doesn't fit.

He sighs and takes a sip of wine and leans back as Linda strides into the room holding a glass of wine.

LINDA

Still running into errors?

Linda takes a seat near James and scans a few of the papers.

JAMES

The material allows for the warp to open wide enough, but collapses as soon as the warp actually opens.

James removes his glasses and rubs his eyes in exhaustion.

JAMES (CONT'D)

We're so close Linda, I can feel it. There's just one crucial component still missing.

LINDA

You need some rest.

Linda tenderly kisses James and pulls him to his feet.

LINDA (CONT'D)

We will find it soon. I know it.

She smiles and leads James out of the study.

INT. JOSEPH'S ROOM - NIGHT

James and Linda walk into the room and take a seat next to Joseph, who lies in bed. Joseph mimics the sound effects of a spacecraft as he plays with the small model of the rocket.

LINDA

Alright space cadet it's time for bed.

JOSEPH

Aw come on mom just a little longer. I need to land the rocket ship on the moon first.

LINDA

You will have time tomorrow to land it and besides you can't land a rocket without proper rest.

Joseph reluctantly agrees and puts his rocket ship away.

JAMES

Sleep tight son. And remember, A new day opens up a world of new possibilities.

JOSEPH

OK whatever you say Dad.

LINDA
Good night Joseph.

JOSEPH
Night Mom.

JAMES
Night son.

JOSEPH
Night Dad.

Linda and James gaze at Joseph with affection before they both lean in to kiss him on the forehead. They both stand up and start to leave the room.

James shuts off the light and lingers in the doorway for a few seconds watching Joseph with fatherly affection before he shuts the door.

INT. JAMES'S STUDY - NIGHT

James walks back into his study and slowly takes a seat. He finishes the remaining wine in his glass and slides the folder title "research" in front of him. There is a sketch of a sphere and the words "PPEEE" next to it.

We slowly pull closer into the pages in the folder which are covered in mathematical equations. As we draw closer we can make out an incomplete equation.

Next to the equation is the sketch and label reading "Wormhole".

EXT. NEWTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

A crowd of young kids play on the school's playground. The school bell rings to signal the start of the school day and the crowd of children start to flock into the school.

INT. JAMES'S CAR - DAY

James, Linda and Joseph pull up outside the school.

LINDA
Have a good day at school honey.

JAMES
Learn a lot and don't forget to take it easy on those girls.

JOSEPH
Whatever Dad.

LINDA
We love you.

JAMES
Love you son.

JOSEPH
Love you too. Bye!

Joseph opens the car door and cheerfully sprints toward the school. James and Linda watch Joseph let his backpack drag on the ground. They smile at each other as James drives off.

INT. NEWTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

All we can see is white. A red line is drawn in marker in front of us. As we pull out we can see we are looking at someone drawing on a white board at the front of the classroom.

We continue to pull out to see that friendly MRS. MORROW has drawn a circular design that resembles the sun on the white board. She turns and faces the class.

MRS. MORROW
Can anyone tell me what this is?

Some of the students appear to be bored, others seem more excited to be there. A few hands shoot up in the air.

MRS. MORROW (CONT'D)
Yes Jamie?

Eager JAMIE (8) energetically answers the question.

JAMIE
The sun!

MRS. MORROW
Very good Jamie. Now can anyone tell me what planet is closest to the sun in our solar system?

Once again a few hands shoot up. Mrs. Morrow glances at Joseph who is hurriedly scribbling in his notebook and ignoring the lesson. She picks another student slouching in his chair.

MRS. MORROW (CONT'D)
What do you think it is Collin?

Bored COLLIN (8), sits up quickly.

COLLIN
Uh...Jupiter!

MRS. MORROW
Not quite Collin but that's a good
guess. Anyone else?

Nobody else raises their hand.

MRS. MORROW (CONT'D)
How about you Joseph? Do you know
the answer?

Joseph suddenly lifts his head in confusion.

JOSEPH
What?

MRS. MORROW
I asked what the closest planet to
the sun is in our solar system.
Maybe someone should be paying
attention.

Joseph looks down at his notebook which is covered in
complicated algebraic and mathematical formulas.

JOSEPH
Sorry Mrs. Morrow. The closest
planet is Mercury.

MRS. MORROW
Very good Joseph. Which planet
comes next?

The class sits in silence.

MRS. MORROW (CONT'D)
OK let's name them together.
Starting at Mercury, next is...it
starts with a V.

The class chimes in.

CLASS
Venus.

Mrs. Morrow draws Venus on the board.

MRS. MORROW

Very good! And then you should all know which planet comes next. I'll give you a hint, we live on it.

CLASS

Earth!

Mrs. Morrow draws Earth on the board.

MRS. MORROW

Good job. And next is?

The class goes through all of the planets in the solar system as Mrs. Morrow draws each one as the students say it out loud.

MRS. MORROW (CONT'D)

Great work! And that is all of the planets in our solar system. Now there are many more objects in the solar system but we will go over that tomorrow.

Joseph curiously looks up from his calculations and raises his hand.

MRS. MORROW (CONT'D)

Yes Joseph?

JOSEPH

Mrs. Morrow, what is a wormhole?

Mrs. Morrow looks on at Joseph with a quizzical expression. The bell suddenly rings and all of the students begin to jump up and leave the room for recess.

MRS. MORROW

Everyone needs to be back in the classroom in 15 minutes!

Mrs. Morrow walks up to Joseph's desk.

MRS. MORROW (CONT'D)

Can you stay after for a few minutes?

JOSEPH

Sure. Am I in trouble?

MRS. MORROW

No not at all. I just wanted to answer your question.

JOSEPH

OK.

MRS. MORROW

In theory, a wormhole is a narrow passage with two openings that connects one region of the universe to another.

Mrs. Morrow begins to sketch the wormhole on the board with the funnel shaped openings at each end.

MRS. MORROW (CONT'D)

A wormhole is often depicted as a narrow structure resembling a funnel. In essence it can shortcut through spacetime to allow for time travel. None have ever been discovered by experiment yet though.

Joseph thinks for a moment, allowing the information to process.

JOSEPH

Do the physical laws of the universe allow a wormhole to tangibly exist in the fabric of space?

MRS. MORROW

Theoretically, yes. But we still don't know enough to determine whether they are stable or how they could be kept open. Why do you ask?

Mrs. Morrow furrows her brow at Joseph. Joseph just shrugs.

JOSEPH

Just wondering.

MRS. MORROW

How do you know what a wormhole is?

JOSEPH

I saw the word in my Dad's research folder.

MRS. MORROW

What is your Dad researching?

JOSEPH

I don't know, he hasn't told me too much about it.

Mrs. Morrow nods and thinks for a moment.

MRS. MORROW

Be honest with me Joseph, out of all the material we have covered in this class so far, how much did you already know?

JOSEPH

To be honest Mrs. Morrow, I knew all of it already.

MRS. MORROW

I figured. Could I take a look at that piece of paper you were writing on today?

JOSEPH

Sure. It's just some calculations though.

Joseph grabs the paper from his desk and hands it to Mrs. Morrow. She looks at in amazement and awe.

MRS. MORROW

Wow. Joseph this is incredible. No third grader should be capable of calculating these.

JOSEPH

I just started messing around with the numbers and surprisingly it all worked out.

Mrs. Morrow looks at Joseph with a proud expression.

MRS. MORROW

Looks like you will need to start taking classes at the high school.

Joseph gives Mrs. Morrow a bewildered look.

JOSEPH

Can I go to recess now?

MRS. MORROW

Yes Joseph, go have fun.

Joseph sprints out of the classroom. Mrs. Morrow watches him leave and then turns back to look at his paper.

She shakes her head in amazement then sits at her desk and begins to dial a number on her phone as we pull out of the classroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

James and Linda happily hold hands and approach the front doors of the massive building with determination. James opens and holds the door for Linda.

JAMES

Today is the day.

LINDA

Let's find it honey.

She smiles and leans in for a kiss before she continues walking. James smiles and follows suit.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JAMES'S CUBICLE - DAY

James sits at a desk intensely studying a computer screen. On the screen is a 3-D model of a wormhole. It appears to be a double sided funnel with an opening at each end and a narrow tube connecting the openings.

James looks over at his research folder and types a few keys on the keyboard and hits enter.

One of the openings of the wormhole on the screen collapses, closing the wormhole.

JAMES

Damn it!

James sighs and hits the delete key. He looks at the equations in his "research" folder again. He types a few more keys and hits enter.

Once again one of the mouths of the wormhole closes. James shakes his head in frustration. He hits delete, glances at his folder and enters a new set of numbers. This time both mouths of the wormhole close.

James grabs the monitor and shakes it as if it's a person.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Come on!

LINDA (O.S.)
Having a little trouble are we?

Linda enters James's cubicle and begins to laugh upon seeing James throttle the computer screen. James releases the monitor and looks at his equations in an attempt to cover his embarrassment.

JAMES
Just getting some exercise you know. It's really good for the brain. Helps stimulate thought.

LINDA
Oh yeah I remember reading that article in the Journal of Theoretical *Bullshit*.

James laughs for a moment and then his face grows serious.

JAMES
I'm just flustered, and I'm not making any progress. I'm so close but I'm missing the last component to the equation of negative mass. Without it the wormhole won't stay open and therefore will cease to exist. What kind of matter or object could keep it open? What the hell could be that last value?

Linda calmly listens and then takes James's research folder and analyzes the calculations.

LINDA
Well, we know that this elusive matter has to keep the mouths of the hole open in order to sustain itself. A wormhole is pretty exotic by nature. Am I right?

JAMES
Well sure it is. What are you getting at?

Linda casually tosses the folder back on the desk.

LINDA
Maybe the matter that must sustain the wormhole's openings is exotic as well.

James thinks about this for a moment before he comes to an awakening realization. He jumps to his feet in excitement.

JAMES

Therefore we should expect that the final component in the equation is exotic. Not an ordinary number value but a complicated abstract figure.

Linda simply smiles and strolls out of the cubicle.

EXT. NEWTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

The school bell rings and a flock of children emerge from the doors of the school. Kids chat eagerly and some head to the playground while others get in their parents cars and drive off.

Joseph walks out and sees Linda and James pull up and park the car. James and Linda step out to meet Joseph.

JAMES

Hey buddy how was school?

JOSEPH

Good. We didn't do anything new.

LINDA

You probably already knew it all.

JOSEPH

What are you doing?

LINDA

Mrs. Morrow asked us to come speak with her.

Joseph's face falls.

JAMES

Don't worry son, she assured us you were not in trouble.

Joseph relaxes. James, Linda and Joseph walk into the school.

INT. NEWTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Mrs. Morrow sits at her desk while Linda and James sit across from her. Joseph waits in the hall.

MRS. MORROW

Thank you again for seeing me on such short notice.

LINDA

Not a problem at all. We just hope everything is OK?

MRS. MORROW

Of course, in fact it's better than OK. Do you have any idea the extraordinary capabilities that your son possesses?

JAMES

I'm not sure what you mean.

MRS. MORROW

I want to show you something.

Mrs. Morrow pulls out the piece of paper with Joseph's calculations and slides it across her desk to James. James looks over the piece of paper in amazement and passes it to Linda who does the same.

JAMES

These are all correct. Joseph did this?

Mrs. Morrow nods her head.

MRS. MORROW

His intelligence and mathematical and logistical reasoning skills are off the charts for his age. Didn't you know this?

LINDA

I guess we suspected, but we never really gave him the opportunity to demonstrate it.

MRS. MORROW

He admitted he already knew all of the material we have covered and are yet to cover for the rest of the year. I suggest we enroll him in the local high school.

JAMES

He's only 8. Don't you think it's a little early?

MRS. MORROW

Possibly. But the fact is that he isn't being challenged here and needs to be in an environment where he can intellectually challenge himself to the highest degree. Just imagine what he could accomplish.

James and Linda look at each other and think for a moment.

LINDA

If he can have some form of guidance and someone to look after him and make sure he is safe at the high school, then we would consider it.

MRS. MORROW

Absolutely Mrs. McConnel. We would guarantee his safety and care.

James and Linda share another look at each other.

INT. MCCONNEL LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

James, Linda and Joseph sit at the dinner table eating.

JAMES

Joseph, why didn't you tell us you already knew all of the material in your class and that you could calculate equations like that?

JOSEPH

I don't know. I guess I figured it wasn't a big deal.

JAMES

It's a big deal Joseph. You are transferring to the high school next week.

Joseph appears oblivious to the situation as he crams a bite of chicken into his mouth.

INT. JAMES'S STUDY - NIGHT

James and Linda sit facing each other. A glass of wine and scotch rest on the desk.

JAMES

Linda, imagine what Joseph could do if we taught him on the side.

LINDA

James, I don't know. I want him to have a normal childhood. Not become a child prodigy that is thrust into the spotlight way too early.

JAMES

That won't happen. Listen we can take him under our wing and add him to our research team. What if he could help us calculate the missing component we've been looking for?

Linda looks away and takes a sip of wine.

LINDA

I just don't know James. It's too early. He's already enrolled in high school as an 8 year old. What's next?

James takes a swig of his scotch.

JAMES

Just consider it. Think of what we could accomplish in the future. As a family.

James smiles at Linda and reaches over to her and grabs her close. They hold each other in a tight embrace.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY LINDA'S CUBICLE - DAY

Linda enters her cubicle where a 3-D model of a wormhole sits on her computer screen. She takes a seat at the desk and begins to write out calculations. James enters holding his "research" folder.

JAMES

How much progress have you made on this "exotic matter"?

LINDA

Whatever this matter is has to be squared, it's all the equation will allow for. It also has to possess negative mass. Any deviation closes the wormhole.

(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

What I'm trying to test now is how dense this matter must be to keep open the wormhole. I'm still not positive what material makes up the wormhole or how much energy or mass is required to maintain it's stability and keep it open.

JAMES

I see. What is the longest possible span of time that it can be kept open?

Linda takes a look at her calculations and then points at one of the openings of the wormhole on the computer screen.

LINDA

Theoretically, forever. But that's not likely. The openings appear to be bigger and hence possess more energy and mass. Therefore if this material could match or double the mass of the mouth then it could keep it open forever without collapse. More than likely it would stay open for a few hours give or take. With our current knowledge, in most cases the mouth would collapse right away. What we need is a device to expand and sustain the wormhole openings.

James squints his eyes and appears deep in thought. He looks up excitedly as if a light bulb just lit up in his head. He exits Linda's cubicle in a rush.

JAMES

I just got an idea! You're a genius! Thanks hon!

Linda watches him go with a bewildered look on her face. She turns back to her computer screen and resumes her calculations.

INT. MCCONNELL LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

We pull out to see a model rocket ship flying through the house. As we pull further out we see Joseph holding the rocket and guiding the ship through the house as he mimics rocket ship sound effects.

Joseph flies the rocket ship down the hall towards James's study. We hear James and Linda's voices coming from the study.

INT. JAMES'S STUDY - NIGHT

James and Linda sit facing each other. Linda looks concerned.

JAMES

I just have a few last minute tweaks to make. Please consider it. The cost is incredibly cheap, the benefits outweigh the risks and most of all, the device is entirely possible to engineer. I say we pitch it next week.

LINDA

James you are letting your passion get the best of you again. There's no way they are going to go for it.

JAMES

What's wrong with trying? The worst they say is no. Then at least we can say we gave it a shot. If they say no then maybe they will reconsider a few years down the road.

Linda nods and looks at James in hesitant agreement.

LINDA

OK. I'll schedule the meeting.

Linda picks up the phone and dials a number. Joseph enters with the rocket ship and jumps on top of James's lap who lets out a groan.

JAMES

Hey buddy. I can't breathe.

LINDA

(On the phone)

Rich, it's Linda. We would like to schedule a pitch for next week.

(beat)

OK.

(beat)

Yes that will be great. We are just as excited to show you.

(beat)

OK. See you then. Thanks! Bye.

Linda hangs up and smiles at James who smiles back. James shifts Joseph onto his knee and starts to give him a playful noogie on his head. Joseph laughs.

JOSEPH
Stop it meanie!

James stops and laughs with Joseph.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
What are you two doing?

LINDA
Just working sweetie. We have a big project we are working on.

JOSEPH
So that's what you two have been doing in your bedroom every night.

James and Linda look at each other in shocked surprise.

JAMES
Bed time!

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY/JAMES'S STUDY/NEWTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY/NIGHT

BEGIN MONTAGE:

James and Linda sit in front of a computer screen with the 3-D artist model of the wormhole on the screen. The mouths of the wormhole on the screen open briefly then close immediately.

James and Linda calculate equations and discuss with each other.

James and Linda appear visibly frustrated with the progress of their research.

Joseph sits in class listening to Mrs. Morrow. Mrs. Morrow smiles at Joseph.

James and Linda enthusiastically write numbers and excitedly talk with each other. Linda shows James a calculation and he cheerfully praises Linda.

Joseph furiously scribbles equations on a paper.

James and Linda seem visibly aggravated and exhausted.

James and Linda work out the last key details. The 3-D wormhole model on their computer screen electronically expands and stays open, providing a visual representation of their device.

Upon seeing the completion on the screen they both jump up in celebration and hug each other tightly.

END MONTAGE

INT. JAMES AND LINDA'S BATHROOM - MORNING

James stands in front of the mirror tying his tie. He pulls the knot tight and slides on a classy suit jacket. Linda approaches him from behind wearing an elegant dress. She kisses James on the cheek and smiles at him.

LINDA

Today is the day. Ready?

JAMES

As I'll ever be.

INT. MCCONNEL LIVING ROOM - MORNING

James, Linda and Joseph sit at the table eating breakfast. They finish eating and stand up to get ready to leave. James crouches down and puts his hands on Joseph's shoulders.

JAMES

Ready for your first day of high school?

JOSEPH

I guess so.

LINDA

You will do fine honey.

EXT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The school bell rings and a crowd of high school kids unenthusiastically shuffle into the school to start morning classes.

INT. JAMES'S CAR - DAY

James, Linda and Joseph pull up to the school. Linda and James turn to face Joseph in the back seat.

JAMES

Remember buddy, a new day opens up
a world of new possibilities.

JOSEPH

Yeah yeah Dad I got it.

EXT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Joseph gets out of James's car and closes the door. He nervously looks up towards the massive high school building, which appears to tower over him. He takes a deep breath and starts to walk towards the front doors of the school.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY MEETING ROOM - DAY

James and Linda nervously stand in front of a projector with a PowerPoint presentation on the projection screen behind them. The slide reads: "Time Travel PPEEE", and has a picture of the 3-D artist model of the wormhole on it next to a small spherical device.

They face a large table of stone faced executives. RICH HALGOOD (50), a large and friendly man, sits at the head of the table.

RICH

The latest research suggests that
wormholes are not stable. But you
are proposing they can be
sustained?

James starts with uncertainty in his voice.

JAMES

Yes that's correct.

James looks over to Linda who smiles reassuringly.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Imagine a device that could
initiate a quick spurt of energy
and pressure.

RICH

Explain.

James points at the projector and begins to grow more confident. He holds a clicker and hits a button to transition to the next slide. The slide has a 3-D model of what looks like a small sphere.

JAMES

How about an object that could release a tremendous amount of energy while employing negative mass but enormous amounts of positive pressure and electromagnetism?

RICH

I'm not sure I follow.

James continues to grow more confident as does Linda. Linda steps forward and references the presentation as she address the executives with confidence.

LINDA

A carefully designed bomb in a sense. We track the opening of a newly sprung wormhole and quickly release the tiny bomb inside the mouth.

James and Linda continue to motion to the PowerPoint which includes visuals and calculations of their research that are displayed as they explain.

LINDA (CONT'D)

A minute explosion with the necessary ingredients crafted inside the bomb will expand and sustain the openings of the wormhole.

RICH

How long would it sustain the opening? Wouldn't the explosion destroy the wormhole or only maintain an opening for a few seconds?

JAMES

That's where our bomb differs.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Joseph weaves through the cluttered halls of the high school looking for the classroom for his first class. He hears a voice calling his name.

VOICE (O.S.)

Joseph!

Joseph spins around to find a handsome and jubilant young man smiling radiantly as he approaches. The man is dressed in a suit and holds out his hand. This is CLARK DECKER (35).

CLARK
Joseph McConnel?

Joseph hesitantly shakes Clark's hand and nods.

JOSEPH
Yes.

Clark beams at Joseph and continues to speak with the enthusiasm and energy of a child.

CLARK
I thought so! I'm Clark Decker. I
teach physics and I'll be your
advisor here at Thorne High.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY MEETING ROOM - DAY

The faces of the executives start to appear more interested and curious. James clicks the button and next slide displays the small sphere in steps. The first step displays a small explosion.

JAMES
Once it has initiated explosion,
the negative mass held at the core
of the bomb enters the wormhole and
expands the tunnel of travel. Two
powerful magnets will acquire an
electromagnetic force upon the
explosion and one will be thrust
to the further opening of the
wormhole while the other will latch
onto the closer opening. The
positive pressure will radiate from
these magnets and will apply enough
force against the surface to push
against the wormhole and keep the
openings expanded and open.

The last step illustrates arrows pushing against the openings of the 3-D wormhole model with the openings expanded. This illustration displays that the wormhole is sustainable.

LINDA

By using the gravitational radar we can detect quantum fluctuations within spacetime which will reveal minute wormhole openings popping in and out of existence. By calculating the correct location of the openings we can detonate the bomb in the opening and the rest is history. The detonation will not destroy the hole but expand and sustain the openings of the wormhole, allowing it to become transversible.

RICH

Interesting. How long would it provide sustainability?

JAMES

Such a bomb could sustain the worm hole for up to three hours. At which point the pressure would give out and the openings would close.

The 3-D model of the open wormhole on the slide closes.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Clark and Joseph walk through the halls of the high school. Clark points things out as they walk.

CLARK

I'll be showing you around the school and providing assistance wherever you need it. This is the library on the left. Up ahead we have the gym, and downstairs are the labs.

Joseph struggles to keep up with everything Clark is saying.

CLARK (CONT'D)

And just remember, you can consult me with any questions you have about science or physics. But you probably won't need me. I hear you are quite the scientific genius.

Joseph shrugs and looks around with wide eyes.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY MEETING ROOM - DAY

The executives all look among each other with interest and whisper for a few moments.

RICH

What is the device called?

James proudly steps forward and clicks the button to transition to the last slide of the presentation.

JAMES

This device would be called the PPEEE, pronounced "Pea". It stands for Pressure Pod of Expanding Exotic Electromagnetism. It resembles the shape of a pea, hence the name.

LINDA

The only ingredient still left to engineer is the negative mass. We would have to create a machine to theoretically compress a specific pattern of matter into negative mass. Then the negative mass material would be inserted into the PPEEE, at which point it could be initiated within a wormhole to open and sustain it.

RICH

And how much would it cost to design?

JAMES

To design and engineer the PPEE, we suspect it would cost roughly twenty thousand dollars.

The executives all look shocked.

RICH

Twenty thousand? That's nothing.

James and Linda smile and nod in satisfaction. The executives all quietly discuss the presentation together for a few moments and then Rich addresses James and Linda.

RICH (CONT'D)

James. Linda. Fascinating presentation. We thank you for sharing with us.

(MORE)

RICH (CONT'D)

There is one element of your proposal we would like to investigate further. We will need a few hours to discuss so expect to hear back from us later tonight.

JAMES

Thank you gentleman.

LINDA

Thank you Rich.

James and Linda both nod and shake the hands of all of the executives. Then they both smile and exit the meeting room.

The executives appear to be impressed as they watch James and Linda leave.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Joseph and Clark stop walking outside a classroom. Joseph looks towards the classroom with uncertainty.

CLARK

Room 203. This is our stop. How do you feel?

JOSEPH

Scared.

Clark emits a hearty laugh.

CLARK

Nonsense! You will do fine. You know where to reach me. Let me know if you need anything at all.

Clark holds out his hands and cheerfully surveys the walls of the school in admiration.

CLARK (CONT'D)

Beautiful school isn't it? I bet you can't wait to get started!

Joseph's eyes grow wide. Clark leans down to Joseph.

CLARK (CONT'D)

Oh, and welcome to high school Joseph.

Clark smiles and motions to the classroom before he winks at Joseph and energetically walks off.

Joseph looks overwhelmed as he watches Clark walk away. He then looks up at the room number and slowly enters the classroom.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY LINDA'S CUBICLE - DAY

James and Linda anxiously sit in front of a computer screen.

JAMES

We did great honey. I'm proud of you.

Linda smiles at James.

LINDA

And I'm proud of you. You looked like the charismatic and suave gentleman I fell in love with ten years ago.

JAMES

I think you forgot to mention one characteristic.

LINDA

What's that?

JAMES

Dashingly handsome of course.

James winks at Linda who rolls her eyes. James leans in and kisses Linda.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Joseph sits at his desk looking at the front of the class. Students around him give him funny looks because he is so much younger.

An elder man stands at the front of the classroom writing an equation. This is MR. ROCHESTER (65). Mr. Rochester turns and faces the class.

MR. ROCHESTER

Welcome to Physics 221, I'm Mr. Rochester. We will begin with a simple equation. Who can tell me what this equation is?

Nobody raises their hands. Joseph slowly inches his hand in the air.

MR. ROCHESTER (CONT'D)
Yes, Mr...McConnel? Are you in the
right school son?

The class erupts into laughter. Joseph's cheeks grow bright
red in embarrassment.

JOSEPH
Yes sir. And the equation
represents the Universal Law of
Gravitation.

Mr. Rochester appears impressed.

MR. ROCHESTER
That is correct. Well done Mr.
McConnel, it appears you are in the
right place.

INT. MCCONNEL LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

James, Joseph and Linda sit in front of the television.
Joseph sits on the floor and plays with his model rocket
ship. James and Linda appear to be anxious and hold hands on
the couch.

LINDA
How was your first day of high
school honey?

JOSEPH
Good.

JAMES
How was your advisor?

JOSEPH
Very energetic.

James and Linda smile at each other.

LINDA
Today we pitched our idea to the
company that we have been working
on for months now. This could be a
breakthrough discovery if Skye
funds us. We should find out their
decision sometime tonight.

JOSEPH
That's cool Mom.

James looks to Linda and then continues.

JAMES

Joseph, you have real potential. Mom and I were hoping that in the near future you would be able to join us in our research. Make it a family affair. What do you think?

Joseph turns to face them. His expression displays that he isn't quite aware of the situation. He thinks for a minute then carelessly shrugs.

JOSEPH

Sure Dad.

James and Linda look at Joseph with affection.

INT. JOSEPH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Joseph lays in bed staring at the glow-in-the-dark stars and planet shapes that adorn the ceiling. James and Linda enter the room and sit on his bed.

LINDA

Joseph, we are really proud of you we hope you know that.

JOSEPH

I know Mom.

JAMES

And remember, a new day...

JOSEPH

Opens up a world of new possibilities.

JAMES

You got it buddy. Sleep tight son.

Joseph hugs Linda and James.

JOSEPH

Night Mom. Night Dad.

James and Linda stand up and switch off the light as they leave the room.

INT. JAMES'S STUDY - NIGHT

James and Linda anxiously sit staring at the phone as they wait for the crucial call from Skye Corporation.

JAMES

I'm just curious what part of the proposal they wanted to examine further.

LINDA

Don't worry about it. We gave a hell of a proposal.

After a few moments of tense silence pass the phone suddenly rings. James slowly picks it up.

JAMES

This is James McConnel.

(beat)

Yes. OK.

(beat)

Of course. I understand sir. Thank you, bye.

James's face falls as he hangs up.

LINDA

What is it?

James remains silent.

LINDA (CONT'D)

What did they say James!?

JAMES

They aren't funding it.

Linda closes her eyes in an attempt to dispel the deep disappointment.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Joseph walks through the front door of the school and walks down the hall. He sees Clark waiting by a set of stairs. Clark smiles and waves enthusiastically as he approaches Joseph.

CLARK

Hey there Einstein! Ready for your second day of class?

Joseph appears to be barely as excited as Clark.

JOSEPH

Yeah I guess.

CLARK
Atta boy, that's what I like to
hear!

Joseph takes a deep breath and fakes a smile.

INT. JAMES'S CAR - DAY

James and Linda sullenly look out the windows of the car as they drive to work.

LINDA
What was their reason for opting
not to fund?

JAMES
They said after reviewing our
paper, that we were missing one
component to our device.

LINDA
Which component?

JAMES
We didn't take into account the
fact that the machine to engineer
negative mass will cost much more
than twenty thousand. How could we
overlook that simple fact?

LINDA
Well we can engineer it and then
add the cost into the total budget.
It can't be that much more.

JAMES
No equipment nor method has been
created to engineer such a machine
yet. The technology just isn't
there yet.

LINDA
Oh.

JAMES
How could we have been so stupid?

Linda puts her hand on top of James's. They both sit in somber silence.

James pulls to a stop at a four way stop sign and then begins to accelerate into an intersection. In the background a car flies through the stop sign without stopping.

Suddenly the other car slams into James's car. James and Linda are both violently jerked against the car like rag dolls.

EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY

James's car is hit so violently it flips and lands upside down with a sickening crash on the street. We see a folder lying in the street next to the car. It reads "research".

We slowly pull away from the flipped car as we see nearby drivers exit their cars and take in the horrific wreckage from the crash that just happened moments ago.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

We are looking at Joseph's downcast eyes as he looks down at a paper while working out calculations. He quickly looks up and glances around as if has sensed something wrong.

Mr. Rochester stands in front of the class lecturing. The classroom door opens and Clark enters, interrupting Mr. Rochester's lesson. Clark's face is unusually serious.

CLARK

I need to speak with Joseph
McConnel.

MR. ROCHESTER

That's fine.

Clark looks at Joseph. Joseph slowly stands up and follows Clark out of the room.

INT. CLARK'S OFFICE - DAY

Clark leads Joseph into his office and closes the door. Clark faces Joseph with a grim expression on his face.

JOSEPH

Is everything OK?

Clark's eyes begin to turn red as he struggles to gather his thoughts.

CLARK

Joseph. I'm so sorry. Your parents-

Joseph tenses his face as he starts to realize something is wrong.

CLARK (CONT'D)

Your parents were...Killed in a car crash this morning. This was all that was left of the crash.

Clark places James's "research" folder on the desk. Joseph picks up the folder and looks at it with a horrified expression before he throws it down.

CLARK (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry Joseph...

Joseph stares at Clark in shock. His feelings have gone numb as the information starts to sink in. Tears well up in Joseph's eyes.

JOSEPH

No.

Joseph shakes his head as he tries to erase the information.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

No! That's a lie!

Tears begin to roll down Joseph's face in succession as he loses control.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

They're not dead! They can't be dead! They were here just this morning.

The overwhelming grief consumes Joseph. He slinks to the floor as his body convulses with each sob. Clark crouches down and hugs Joseph tightly.

CLARK

I'm so sorry Joseph. I'm so sorry...

We slowly pull away.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL - 4 YEARS LATER - DAY

The school bell rings signaling the end of the school day. A crowd of students eagerly emerge from the school and meet their friends outside.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

We can make out the words "research". We pull out to see we are looking at the familiar worn folder resting on a desk.

Joseph sits staring at the folder before he opens it and meticulously writes, calculating the intricate equations in the folder. He appears much older and taller.

CLARK (O.S.)

Ready to go?

Joseph looks up to find Clark enter the classroom with a smile on his face.

JOSEPH

Yeah, I just want to work out one more equation. I'm getting close. I can feel it.

CLARK

There's something at home I want to show you. Come on, I think you will like it.

Joseph shrugs.

JOSEPH

OK.

Joseph closes the research folder and follows Clark out of the classroom.

INT. CLARK'S HOUSE - DAY

Joseph and Clark walk into the house.

JOSEPH

What was it that you wanted to show me?

Clark flashes a smile.

CLARK

I'll show you in a minute.

JOSEPH

OK, I'll be in my room.

Joseph heads toward his room.

INT. JOSEPH'S NEW ROOM - DAY

Joseph walks into the room as if he has lived here his whole life. The walls are lined with scientific books and posters of astronomy and physics. Joseph sits at his desk and opens up his computer. His background is a picture of James and Linda.

INT. CLARK'S ROOM - DAY

Clark walks into his room and puts his bag on his bed. He smiles as he looks at a picture of himself as a teenager standing outside Thorne High School holding a trophy.

Next to the picture is an adoption certificate that reads: "I, Clark Decker, by affixing my signature below do hereby take responsibility of the child known as Joseph James McConnel."

INT. JOSEPH'S NEW ROOM - DAY

Joseph takes the "research" folder out of his backpack and places it on his desk. He begins typing on his computer. Clark enters and drops a letter on the desk.

CLARK

This is for you. Came in the mail today.

The outside of the letter reads "Skye Corporation".

JOSEPH

What is this?

CLARK

Read it.

Joseph opens the letter and takes out a typed letter. Joseph begins to read the letter. It starts out: "Dear Joseph, we at Skye Corporation have read your paper about repulsive gravity and we are very impressed..."

Joseph looks at Clark. Clark motions for him to keep reading. Joseph continues to read.

When he gets to the bottom of the letter we can read: "In closing, we would like to extend the offer to come work with us at Skye Corporation and to continue your parents legacy in the search for engineering negative mass, for further developments in wormhole research. Sincerely, Rich Halgood."

JOSEPH
How did they get hold of my paper?

Clark smirks.

CLARK
No idea. You going to take the offer?

JOSEPH
I don't know. This is all so overwhelming. I don't know if I can do it Mr. Decker.

CLARK
Why not? You are the most brilliant twelve-year-old I have ever seen. And just think, you could finish your parents research. Don't you think they would have wanted you to finish what they started?

Joseph's face falls. Clark realizes he has struck an emotional chord with Joseph.

CLARK (CONT'D)
Just think it over. Give it a few days and then reply back to them.

Joseph nods. Clark takes this opportunity to give Joseph time to himself.

CLARK (CONT'D)
I'll go start dinner. Spaghetti sound good?

Joseph nods. Clark briskly slips out of the room. Joseph looks at the background on his screen and then to the "research" folder while deep in thought. He looks at the letter again.

EXT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The school bell rings signaling the end of the day. Students eagerly rush out of the building.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The halls have cleared out and are empty and lonely. Joseph walks through the halls in an emotionless trance. He leans against the wall and slides down into a crouch as tears begin to roll down his face.

The pain of the tragedy is too much to contain. The letter has caused all of the memories of his parents to flood back. Joseph sobs into his hands.

We see Clark approaching from down the hall. He sees Joseph sobbing and sits down next to him. Clark puts an arm around Joseph and holds him tightly.

INT. JOSEPH'S NEW ROOM - NIGHT

Joseph sits at his desk rapidly typing. He stops for a minute and thinks. He opens the "research" folder. We pull in to a quote that is scrawled near the top of a page.

It reads, "A new day opens up a world of new possibilities." We slowly pull closer to Joseph's eyes as he gathers his thoughts.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

A full class of students listens to Clark teach at the front of the room. He draws a sphere on the whiteboard with a marker.

CLARK

Assume this is a massive star,
about twenty times the mass of our
own sun. When such a massive star
dies it starts to implode on
itself.

Clark draws arrows pointing towards the sphere.

CLARK (CONT'D)

With such a massive star, the
outward pressure caused by the core
shedding it's outer layers causes a
massive explosion called a
supernova. But the innermost
section of the star, the core,
continues to implode. Gravity
consumes the outward pressure and
continues to press inward until the
core collapses and forms what we
call a black hole.

Clark draws another sphere and completely colors it in with a black marker. He draws big arrows that point downward towards the sphere.

CLARK (CONT'D)

The gravity in a black hole is so strong that once any object gets sucked in, it can't ever escape. Not even light can escape a black hole. Once inside, everything is crushed by the pull of gravity into a tiny dot called a singularity. Anything sucked into a black hole is essentially lost to the universe.

The school bell rings and all of the students begin to pack up and leave the classroom.

CLARK (CONT'D)

Chapter 4 is due tomorrow, don't forget!

Once all of the students have left Joseph walks into the classroom.

CLARK (CONT'D)

Hey Joe, what's going on?

JOSEPH

I was wondering if we could go to the Skye Research Lab after school?

CLARK

Sure. Any particular reason?

JOSEPH

I'm going to do it. I'm accepting the job offer.

Clark flashes Joseph a bright smile.

EXT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Joseph and Clark drive up in Clark's car. Joseph steps out of the car.

CLARK

I'll wait in the parking lot.

Joseph nods and turns to look at the building.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Joseph enters the building and nervously begins to wander through the lab. Employees shoot him odd looks.

RICH (O.S.)
Joseph McConnel!

Rich Halgood approaches Joseph with a smile on his face and his hand held out. Joseph is startled

JOSEPH
Hello.

Joseph offers out his hand. Rich's massive hand engulfs Joseph's as he gives it a forceful shake.

RICH
Rich Halgood, I'm the president of
Skye Corporation.

JOSEPH
Nice to meet you sir.

RICH
Thanks for coming in Joseph. Please
follow me.

Joseph hesitantly follows Rich down the hallway.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY MEETING ROOM - DAY

Rich and Joseph enter the meeting room. Rich grabs a seat and motions for Joseph to sit down.

RICH
Please have a seat.

Joseph sits down.

RICH (CONT'D)
I'm assuming you came in today due
to the letter you received?

JOSEPH
Yes sir.

RICH
Well, what's the verdict?

JOSEPH
I'll take it.

Rich gives Joseph a wide smile.

RICH
Good man. I knew you were a bright
one.

JOSEPH

Sir, I'm just wondering. Why pick me? Surely you have thousands of applicants with more years and experience than me.

Rich leans back in his chair and frowns.

RICH

Well Joseph, it's quite simple really. After reading your paper, along with the fact that your parents did a tremendous amount for this company, you were the most natural choice. Your parents were brilliant and were on the verge of a breakthrough. For years no employee here has come close to finishing what they started. That's where you come in.

JOSEPH

But what can I do? If no one here has been able to make much progress then why do you think I could?

RICH

At the time the technology wasn't quite ready so we refrained from funding your parents when they proposed their ingenious device called the PPEEE. Their keen insight on this device has been the leading point of wormhole research to date. Your paper was brilliant for your age, and I truly believe they passed that insight on to you.

Joseph takes a deep breath.

JOSEPH

Has any progress been made on their device?

RICH

Actually it has. The biggest development we have made concerning their device is our newest machine called the compressor.

(MORE)

RICH (CONT'D)

Your intricate understanding of the equations of repulsive gravity will be the perfect skill set for creating the type of equations we still seek, in order to be able to read the compressor's results accurately. It is the key piece of technology we have been waiting for since your parents proposed their idea. I figure, what better candidate to finish their research than their own son?

Joseph sits back in his chair attempting to digest all the new information.

JOSEPH

How often will I have to work?

RICH

Every week day after school for a few hours at most. We will include part time salary. Do we have a deal?

Rich offers his hand. Joseph sits in silence for a moment before he hesitantly takes it.

JOSEPH

Yes sir.

GRANT DARBY (38), an inquisitive research colleague at Skye enters the room.

RICH

Joseph this is Grant Darby. You will be working with Grant and others as a member of the SearchWorm research team. Grant will be show you around the lab and teach you about the compressor. Grant, make sure Joseph has his own cubicle. Great to have you on board Joseph.

Rich gets a phone call and pulls out his cell phone to answer it.

RICH (CONT'D)

This is Rich Halgood.

Grant turns to Joseph and offers his hand. Joseph shakes it.

GRANT

Grant Darby, pleasure to meet you Joseph. Come on let me show you around.

Joseph stands up and slowly follows Grant out of the meeting room.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Grant and Joseph walk through the lab.

GRANT

How old are you Joseph? Mind if I call you Joe?

JOSEPH

Twelve and no I don't mind.

GRANT

Holy cannoli! Well we can certainly use a young strapping lad on the team.

JOSEPH

Why is it called the SearchWorm team?

GRANT

We are one of the leading research teams searching for wormholes and how to sustain them. Hence the term SearchWorm. Get it?

JOSEPH

Oh, yeah.

Grant and Joseph stop outside a door.

GRANT

Here we are. This is the compression room. Let me show it to you.

Grant slides a key card and then opens the door. Joseph and Grant enter...

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY COMPRESSION ROOM - DAY

Joseph and Grant enter a small room where a metallic machine rests on a table.

GRANT

Welcome to the compression room.
This is the compressor. She's a
beauty. Couldn't have been possible
without the push from your
brilliant parents.

Joseph surveys the machine carefully.

JOSEPH

Wow. This is incredible.

Grant flashes a smile.

GRANT

I'll show you how it works soon.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Joseph and Grant leave the compression room and walk down the
hall.

GRANT

One last stop on our tour today.

INT. JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

Joseph and Grant walk into an empty cubicle.

JOSEPH

What is this?

GRANT

It's a cubicle, everyone in the
office has one.

JOSEPH

Who's is this?

GRANT

Yours.

JOSEPH

Oh.

GRANT

Get cozy you will be spending a lot
of time in here. I'll introduce you
to the rest of the crew tomorrow. I
have to get back to work but I'll
be seeing you tomorrow Joe.

Grant walks out of the cubicle. Joseph calls after him.

JOSEPH

Thanks!

Grant calls from down the hall.

GRANT (O.S.)

Welcome to Skye, kid!

INT. CLARK'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Clark and Joseph sit at the dinner table eating.

CLARK

So how did it go?

JOSEPH

Good, pretty overwhelming.

CLARK

I bet. I knew I was looking at the next Einstein.

Clark smiles.

JOSEPH

Let's see if I can survive my first day first.

CLARK

You will be fine. They are lucky to have you.

JOSEPH

Mr. Decker have you ever thought about working for Skye?

CLARK

Well sure, but that time has passed now.

JOSEPH

OK if you are sure. I Could always ask to see if you could join our team.

CLARK

I appreciate the offer Joseph but no thank you. I could be of more use at the high school.

JOSEPH

Alright Mr. Decker. And don't forget you still have to teach me about what string theory is.

CLARK

Wait, you mean the great Joseph McConnel needs me to teach him something?

Joseph throws his napkin across the table. Clark dodges it and laughs.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Joseph sits at a desk thumbing through the "research" folder. Clark strolls into the room.

CLARK

Don't want to be late for work on your first day.

JOSEPH

Good point Mr. Decker.

Joseph smiles at Clark and then closes the folder and follows Clark out of the classroom.

EXT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Joseph and Clark pull up in Clark's car. Joseph steps out and then leans down to the car window.

JOSEPH

Mr. Decker, are you sure you don't want to apply to work here? You could join me on the research team.

CLARK

No, no Joseph. My place is at the high school. It's where I belong.

JOSEPH

OK, Mr. Decker. If you change your mind the offer is still on the table.

CLARK

Thank you Joseph. I'll pick you up at 8. Good luck!

Clark drives off and Joseph walks toward the entrance of the Skye Laboratory.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Joseph walks into the building and is greeted by Grant.

GRANT
Joe! How are ya kid?

JOSEPH
Good thanks.

GRANT
You ready to meet the rest of the crew?

JOSEPH
Yes.

GRANT
Alright let's do it.

Grant leads the way and Joseph follows. They stop in at...

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY PHIL'S CUBICLE - DAY

Grant and Joseph enter a cubicle where a short man wearing glasses is constructing a 3-D model of a sphere out of plastic. This is PHIL RATCHET (36).

GRANT
This is Phil Ratchet, our architect on the team. He builds models of all the matter patterns we will be testing in the compressor. That way we can see what the physical embodiment will look like before it is compressed into negative mass through the compressor.

Phil tosses the sphere at Joseph who barely catches it.

PHIL
Pretty cool isn't it?

Joseph observes the plastic model.

JOSEPH
Yeah it is.

PHIL

This is just the starting model,
the future models will be much
trickier.

JOSEPH

So once I create an equation to
determine if the mass is negative
upon compression, you can take that
equation and translate it into a
physical model of what it looked
like before compression?

PHIL

You got it. This is a bright one
Grant.

GRANT

I told you so. Come on let's meet
the rest of the crew.

PHIL

Pleasure Joseph, good luck my boy.

Joseph tosses the model back to Phil.

JOSEPH

Thanks.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Grant and Joseph walk down the hall and arrive at another
cubicle.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY REBECCA'S CUBICLE - DAY

Inside is a beautiful woman who sits before a computer screen
with various glob-like images moving on the screen. This is
REBECCA HULL (34).

GRANT

Joe meet the talented and beautiful
Rebecca Hull.

Rebecca turns to Joseph and gives him a firm handshake. Her
eyes suggest that she is serious.

REBECCA

Joseph. How old are you?

Joseph is clearly intimidated.

JOSEPH
Uh, twelve mam.

REBECCA
Twelve?

Rebecca looks unconvinced.

GRANT
Take it easy on the boy. He is
filling out the most difficult
position on the team.

Grant slyly raises his eyebrows.

JOSEPH
I am?

GRANT
Sure.

JOSEPH
Oh. So what do you do on the team?

REBECCA
I compose and create various
patterns of matter that will be
tested in the compressor. I'm
hoping I can stumble upon the right
pattern to achieve negative mass
sooner rather than later. Your
equations will bring us closer to
the right pattern the more patterns
we experiment with. So your numbers
must be completely accurate. Don't
screw it up please.

JOSEPH
I'll try not too mam.

REBECCA
Call me Rebecca.

JOSEPH
OK.

GRANT
Let's keep moving Joe. Rebecca, its
always a pleasure seeing your
lovely face.

REBECCA
Get lost.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Grant laughs and exits the cubicle with Joseph closely trailing him.

GRANT

Sweetheart isn't she? Don't worry
it just takes time, she opens up
eventually.

JOSEPH

I hope so.

Joseph and Grant walk further down the hall and enter another cubicle.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY ROGER'S CUBICLE - DAY

Easygoing ROGER DORN (40) sips a glass of scotch and sits before a computer screen that displays a map of the universe with labels of galaxies and stars.

ROGER

Cheers mates! You must be the young
Joseph I've been hearing all about.
I'm Roger.

JOSEPH

Nice to meet you sir.

ROGER

Ah to hell with that sir rubbish.
You'll call me Roger. We are team
mates eh?

Roger takes a long swig of his drink. Joseph smiles.

JOSEPH

Yeah.

GRANT

Roger, aside from drinking, maps
out the supposed locations of where
wormhole openings will appear at
any given location in the universe
at a specific time frame.

ROGER

It's a numbers game. It's all about
predicting the probability of where
the wormhole opening will be at a
given time and location.

GRANT

Upon completion of the negative mass pattern through the compressor we will then pass on the tasks to Roger. At which point we can use the finished PPEEE your parents developed.

JOSEPH

Roger will pin the location of the wormhole opening and then we catch the opening and detonate the PPEEE in the opening to expand and sustain the located wormhole.

ROGER

Now you are talking lads. Your differential equations Joseph will also aid me in locating the given locations of the wormhole openings.

JOSEPH

Alright. What is your position Grant?

GRANT

I'm the leading engineer who designed and built the compressor. I also aid Rebecca in creating test matter patterns to be injected into the compressor since it is quite the extensive process and she is quite the extensive woman.

Joseph, Grant and Roger laugh.

GRANT (CONT'D)

And that is team SearchWorm. Glad to have you on board Joe.

ROGER

I'll drink to that!

Roger downs the remaining scotch in his drink. Grant and Joseph chuckle and leave Roger's cubicle.

INT. JOSEPH'S NEW ROOM - NIGHT

Joseph sits at his computer typing out equations on a document. He tries a few different variations on the equation before shaking his head and sitting back to look at the ceiling.

He pulls out the "research" and thumbs through the pages in search of any answers.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Joseph walks through the lab and is greeted by various colleagues on the SearchWorm team on the way to his cubicle.

INT. JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

Joseph takes a seat in his cubicle. He places a picture of James and Linda smiling on the desk next to the computer. Joseph looks at it for a moment before turning to his computer screen.

Grant enters his cubicle.

GRANT

Hey Joe, we need your assistance with the compressor.

JOSEPH

Sure.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Joseph and Grant exit Joseph's cubicle and walk through the lab and enter...

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY COMPRESSION ROOM - DAY

Joseph and Grant enter the small room.

JOSEPH

What's the issue with the compressor?

GRANT

We need you to formulate a new differential equation in order to determine whether the outcome of the mass of the matter we have injected into the machine can be compressed into negative mass.

JOSEPH

Once the equation is created, then we can continue testing different patterns of matter to see which one transforms into negative mass upon compression?

GRANT

Exactly. The equation will also allow the pattern to be replicated for sustenance of other wormholes pinpointed for future use.

Grant and Joseph grow excited.

JOSEPH

I'll get started on that equation. You and Rebecca continue assembling test patterns of matter to inject into the compressor.

GRANT

Aye aye captain!

Joseph laughs and walks out of the compression room.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

Joseph eagerly enters his cubicle and takes a seat at the desk. He opens the "research" folder and excitedly begins working out calculations.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Clark stands at the front of the empty classroom packing up to leave. Joseph walks in the door.

JOSEPH

Mr. Decker.

CLARK

Hey there Joe, what's up?

Joseph puts his backpack on the ground and sits in a desk.

JOSEPH

Seeing as we are working on allowing a wormhole to be transversible at Skye, I was wondering if you could explain exactly how wormholes work?

CLARK
Of course Joseph.

Clark takes out a marker and begins to draw a circle on the whiteboard. He marks it point A and then he draws another circle on the far side of the board and labels it point B.

CLARK (CONT'D)
Imagine that point A is one mouth of the wormhole. Assuming that the wormhole's openings could be sustained, a person would enter point A and emerge from point B, arriving in another region of the universe millions of light years away in seconds.

JOSEPH
Like a shortcut.

CLARK
Exactly. Think of it as a shortcut through the fabric of spacetime.

Clark draws a large backward letter C. At the top of the C he draws a dot and then at the bottom of the C he draws another dot. He then draws a tunnel shape connecting the top dot to the second dot.

CLARK (CONT'D)
Picture the C as the fabric of our universe. Instead of traveling spatially around the tremendous length of the C, the wormhole cuts through the texture of spacetime. Inside the wormhole, a person is not residing in any real region of the universe.

Joseph thinks about it for a moment as if an idea has struck him.

JOSEPH
So if the wormhole shortcuts through the fabric of spacetime, then would it be possible for backward time travel using two wormholes?

Clark considers this for a moment.

CLARK
I hadn't considered that, but in theory yes it would be possible.

Joseph's face lights up as if he has had a revelation. Clark draws two different wormholes on the white board. He illustrates a person traveling through the wormholes as he explains.

CLARK (CONT'D)

In an external inertial reference frame that moves at high speed through the first mouth into the second, the exit event will precede the entry event. If a second wormhole had its mouths within the same reference frame, a person could exit from the first wormhole and accelerate up to the speed of the second wormhole's mouths. Thereby someone could travel through the second wormhole and return to their starting point before they ever entered the first wormhole.

Joseph appears confused. Clark draws a person halfway through entering the first wormhole, then he draws an arrow to demonstrate the person traveling through both wormholes.

He then draws the same person standing behind the first person to illustrate that the person has traveled through both wormholes and arrived back at the entry of the first wormhole before the person finished entering the first wormhole the first time.

CLARK (CONT'D)

In other words, someone will exit the second wormhole before they ever entered the first wormhole, allowing for time travel to the past.

Joseph nods as he sits in deep thought. He then stands up excitedly.

JOSEPH

Thanks Mr. Decker. Is there any chance we can head to the Skye lab now?

CLARK

Sure.

Clark shrugs and finishes packing his stuff. Clark and Joseph leave the classroom.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Joseph eagerly walks into the lab and waves at a few colleagues.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

Joseph enters his cubicle and grabs the picture of his parents as he takes a seat. After smiling and sharing a moment with the picture Joseph sets it down and diligently starts working out calculations.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY REBECCA'S CUBICLE - DAY

Rebecca references a sheet of paper and then makes a series of clicks on her computer mouse. A few different geometric shapes form on the screen. She picks up her office phone.

REBECCA

Phil, the newest shapes are coming
your way.

She hangs up the phone and smiles.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY PHIL'S CUBICLE - DAY

The geometric shapes from Rebecca's computer screen appear on Phil's screen. He grabs two glass containers, some liquid vials and a box of plastic materials and begins forming a 3-D model of one of the shapes on the screen.

Phil then puts a small amount of the different colored liquids at the bottom of the glass containers.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

We pull in to Joseph's computer screen as it quickly fills with a series of letters, symbols and numbers. After a second a few more symbols are entered.

Joseph sits back and double checks his paper and his screen and then smiles widely. He picks up the office phone.

JOSEPH

The equations for both patterns of
matter are complete.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY ROGER'S CUBICLE - DAY

Roger hangs up his office phone, pours himself a glass of scotch and then takes a seat at his desk. He clicks the mouse a few times and rapidly types on his keyboard.

The map of the solar system on his screen shows various scattered red moving dots blinking then disappearing to indicate the locations of wormhole openings. He clicks on one of the red dots and takes down notes of a series of numbers that pop up.

He leans back and takes a swig of the scotch in satisfaction.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY COMPRESSION ROOM - DAY

Grant stands looking at the compressor. Phil enters the room holding two small glass containers. Each has a different shape with colored liquid at the bottom. He hands the containers to Grant.

The rest of the SearchWorm team enters the compression room and circles the compressor. Joseph hands Grant a few documents filled with equations. Roger hands a few photographs of the sky to Grant.

GRANT

Great work everyone. Here's to our first set of matter pattern tests. Here goes nothing.

Grant places each container in a slot in the compressor and presses a blue button. The rest of the team looks on in anticipation. The containers slide into the compressor which makes a buzzing sound.

The compressor then shines a blue light on the room as the buzzing sound continues. After a few moments the blue light shuts off and the containers slide out of slots on the back of the compressor.

The containers now encase solid geometric shapes and above it two equations are displayed on a monitor above the slot. Joseph eagerly jots down each equation on a note pad.

JOSEPH

Let's go test these.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

The team files into the cubicle while Joseph takes a seat and pulls up a document on his computer screen.

He checks his note pad and runs a few calculations on his computer. Grant talks into a recorder.

GRANT

January 5th, 2013. Test number one,
matter patterns A and B.

The team anxiously waits a few moments as the computer processes the equations. After a few seconds pass the computer makes a sound and flashes red to indicate the patterns are not a match. The team appears disappointed.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Test number one with matter
patterns A and B, are both
negative. No match for negative
mass after compression.

ROGER

Damn. Well it was a good try mates.

GRANT

That it was. It was also our first
test. Many more where that came
from. Excellent work crew. Back to
the drawing board.

The team leaves the cubicle. Joseph remains in his seat and dejectedly glances at the photo of his parents.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY MEETING ROOM - DAY - 1 WEEK
LATER

Joseph walks into the meeting room where the SearchWorm teams sits around the table.

GRANT

Today we begin our next tests for
matter patterns B and C. Let's do
it.

MONTAGE

Each team member executes their functions in each of their cubicles identically to the first test.

END MONTAGE

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY COMPRESSION ROOM - DAY

Grant waits in the compression room. The rest of the team enters. Phil hands two glass containers to Grant. Joseph and Roger hand Grant their documents as well.

Grant places the containers in the slots of the compressor and the blue light flashes. After a moment the containers slide out of the back of the compressor in solid shapes. Joseph jots down the two equations displayed on the monitor.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

The crew huddles around the computer screen while Joseph types the equations on his note pad into the computer and clicks the mouse.

GRANT

January 12th, 2013. Test number
two, matter patterns B and C.

After a minute the computer makes the familiar sound and flashes red. The faces of the team members fall in disappointment.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Test number two. Matter patterns B
and C, both negative. No match for
negative mass after compression.

EXT. CLARK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Clark drives up and parks his car in the driveway. Joseph and Clark get out of the car and walk toward the house. Joseph looks dejected.

INT. CLARK'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Clark and Joseph clean off dishes in the sink.

CLARK

Hey buddy you alright? You've been
quiet the whole day.

JOSEPH

I'm OK, just tired. It's been a
long day at school and work. I
think I'm going to go to sleep.

CLARK

OK. Good night Joe.

Clark watches Joseph shuffle out of the kitchen.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Joseph tiredly enters the lab and greets a few colleagues on his way to his cubicle.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

He enters his cubicle and takes a seat at the desk. Joseph diligently starts working out calculations. A clock near the computer reads 4:00 p.m.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - NIGHT

Joseph stares at a document filled with numbers on his computer screen. He rubs his eyes and looks over at the clock which reads 9:00 p.m. The phone on Joseph's desk rings. He picks it up.

JOSEPH

Hello?

(beat)

Hey Mr. Decker, I'm sorry I must have lost track of time. You can head over. Thanks, Bye.

Grant enters the cubicle while Joseph hangs up the phone.

GRANT

Still here kid?

JOSEPH

Yeah, got lost in the equations.

GRANT

How are they coming?

JOSEPH

They're coming.

GRANT

You'll get there. I'm heading out. Get some rest Joe, I'll see you tomorrow.

JOSEPH

See you tomorrow.

Grant salutes Joseph and leaves the cubicle. Joseph looks at the computer screen and then at the clock.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - NIGHT - 1
WEEK LATER

Joseph stares at a complicated equation full of numbers and letters on his computer screen. He types a few numbers and letters and then shakes his head. He tries out a few different numbers but they come up wrong again.

Joseph sighs in agitation. He looks over at the clock which reads 6:00 p.m.

INT. CLARK'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Joseph and Clark sit at the dinner table eating. Dark circles line Joseph's eyes.

CLARK

Joe are you getting enough sleep?
You look exhausted.

JOSEPH

I'm fine.

CLARK

They must be working you hard at
Skye. How is the job?

JOSEPH

Good.

CLARK

OK.

Clark takes a sip of his water and looks at Joseph with affection.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Rochester stands in front of a full classroom lecturing.

MR. ROCHESTER

After the red giant expansion phase
once the star begins to die, the
star shrinks down again to a
degenerate state of low luminosity.
At which point it has become a
white dwarf. This will happen-

Mr. Rochester stops as he notices Joseph fast asleep at his desk.

MR. ROCHESTER (CONT'D)
Mr. McConnel!

Joseph wakes up with a start. He looks around groggily.

MR. ROCHESTER (CONT'D)
Is this material too dry to capture
your interest?

JOSEPH
No sir.

MR. ROCHESTER
Then I suggest you try and stay
awake.

JOSEPH
Yes sir.

Joseph rubs his eyes and looks at the clock hanging on the wall.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

We are looking at a blank white document on a computer screen. A series of intricate numbers and letters start to appear on the screen. Joseph slowly types on the keyboard, barely staying awake.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY PHIL'S CUBICLE - DAY

We slowly pull in to Phil's cubicle as he constructs a complicated geometric model resembling a pentagram out of plastic. He looks at an equation on his desk then glues another piece on to the model. Phil then quickly rips off the piece and throws it in frustration.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY REBECCA'S CUBICLE - DAY

Rebecca quickly types on her keyboard and stares at her computer screen with intense focus. On the screen is a 3-D geometric figure that morphs into different shapes as Rebecca types in equations from a paper on her desk.

Rebecca appears stressed and stares at the screen in exhaustion.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY ROGER'S CUBICLE - DAY

Roger opens up his map of the sky. He clicks a few times and no red dots shows up. He shakes his head and takes a long swig of his drink.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY COMPRESSION ROOM - DAY

Grant stands behind the compressor analyzing the monitor and studying different parts of the machine. The monitor reads "maintenance needed". He talks into his recorder.

GRANT

Test six has been delayed due to maintenance issues with the compressor. Upon repairs we will test matter patterns K and L.

Grant sighs in frustration.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

Joseph types an equation into his computer to see it indicate incompatibility. As he looks over at the picture of his parents the pain comes back. Joseph tries another equation to see it fail again. He hears his father's voice in his head.

JAMES (V.O.)

Remember, a new day opens up a world of new possibilities.

He bangs his hands down on the desk in frustration. Tears begin to form in his eyes as he thinks his only chance at seeing his parents again is slipping away.

Joseph breaks down and sobs uncontrollably. We slowly pull out of his cubicle while he crumples to the floor and the grief consumes him.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Joseph drifts through the hallways of the school as if in a trance. The blank stare on his face displays he has become numb to the outside world.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Rochester stands at the front of the class teaching.

MR. ROCHESTER

Who can tell me the highest mass
that a star can be to remain a
white dwarf upon it's death?

A few hands shoot up but Mr. Rochester look at Joseph who disinterestedly stares out the window.

MR. ROCHESTER (CONT'D)

Joseph?

Joseph looks surprised.

JOSEPH

Uh, 5 suns?

MR. ROCHESTER

That is incorrect. The answer is
1.4 suns.

The bell rings and the students all file out of the classroom. Joseph is the last to go and Mr. Rochester stops him on the way out.

MR. ROCHESTER (CONT'D)

Joseph is everything OK? You're
attendance and your grades have
steadily declined the last month.

JOSEPH

I'm just really tired. I haven't
been sleeping well is all.

Mr. Rochester looks on with concern.

MR. ROCHESTER

Well if there is anything I can do
to help let me know. I can stay
after and tutor you if you are
struggling or-

JOSEPH

I'm fine!

Joseph storms out of the classroom. Mr. Rochester appears shocked at Joseph's sudden outburst.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

Joseph sits at his computer staring at the screen. Grant enters the cubicle.

GRANT

Hey Joe. Phil needs that equation when you get a chance.

Joseph responds with half hearted interest.

JOSEPH

Oh, right. Sorry about that I got preoccupied. I'll get right on it.

GRANT

You OK kid? You've been a little off lately. Your performance has been a little slow-

JOSEPH

Why does everyone keep asking me if I'm OK? I'm fine! Just tired, so please leave me alone.

Grant shakes his head in disbelief and hastily leaves the cubicle. Joseph turns back to his computer and stares at the screen numbly. His office phone rings. He picks it up.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

What!?

(beat)

Oh, I'm sorry Mr. Halgood didn't know it was you sir. Yes, I'll be there right away sir.

Joseph hangs up the phone and winces at the rude way he just addressed Rich.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY MEETING ROOM - DAY

Rich Halgood sits at the large table looking through documents. The rest of the SearchWorm team sits at the table. Joseph enters the meeting room.

JOSEPH

Mr. Halgood, you asked to see me sir?

RICH

Yes Joseph, take a seat.

Joseph takes a seat near Rich. The rest of the team looks around at each other anxiously.

RICH (CONT'D)

It has been three months now. I called this meeting to track our progress on the latest developments on our wormhole research program. Now, how is the progress coming along with the compressor experiments?

The team looks around at each other before Grant speaks up.

GRANT

Alright sir. We are just about ready to begin testing matter patterns K and L for experiment number six. We hope to close in on the correct matter pattern in hopes of receiving a negative mass outcome through compression.

RICH

Very good.

GRANT

With each and every set of tests we run we are drawing closer to the perfect match for a negative mass outcome for the matter pattern upon compression.

ROGER

We have started tracking possible locations of wormhole openings within our own solar system. Some might even be as close as a planet away. Though we haven't seen any nearby in the last month.

Phil feigns enthusiasm.

PHIL

I am constructing various models of our tests so far and constructing the test containers, and they are looking sound for the most part.

JOSEPH

I have constructed a few differential equations that describe the functions of the compressor and its interactions with the matter patterns.

(MORE)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I have also been working on equations to explain the possible composition of a negative mass outcome.

Rich nods and then leans back in his chair and scans the room.

RICH

How much longer do you think it will take to find the perfect match?

REBECCA

We can't say for sure. It's a trial and error process and could take anywhere from a week to a year or more.

RICH

Here's the thing. With our limited funds for this year and demands for more urgent areas of research, the deadline for the team has changed.

GRANT

How much time do we now have?

Rich hesitates for a moment and takes a deep breath.

RICH

To find the negative mass outcome and locate a wormhole, you have exactly three months. If the team doesn't complete the objective by then, SearchWorm will be terminated.

The team members look outraged by the announcement.

GRANT

Three months!?! You're kidding!

ROGER

That's not nearly enough time.

RICH

I'm sorry, there's nothing else I can do. I wish the team the best of luck, you are a formidable group and I have complete faith in all of your abilities.

Rich looks around the room and looks at Joseph last before he exits the room. The rest of the team members protest and then sit in dejected silence as their spirit has been defeated.

EXT. CLARK'S DECK - NIGHT

Joseph unhappily walks outside and looks up at the night sky.

CLARK (O.S.)
Beautiful isn't it?

Clark walks out and stands next to Joseph.

JOSEPH
Yeah I guess.

CLARK
I remember when I was a kid, I would try to count all the stars in the sky. I eventually found I couldn't ever count them all.

JOSEPH
Of course you can't, there's around 200 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy alone.

CLARK
Exactly but I didn't ever stop trying. Instead I started learning the names of the stars and the constellations that the stars fit in. Then I turned my attention to the laws of physics that govern our universe and the amazing astronomical wonders that are the cosmos.

Joseph sadly gazes at the sky.

CLARK (CONT'D)
I realized that our planet is just one small body harboring life among the millions of miles of deep space we haven't yet explored.

JOSEPH
Therefore it doesn't matter what I do. If I give up it makes no difference in the grand scheme of everything. I'm starting to lose hope on this whole experiment.

CLARK

But it does matter in the grand scheme. Joseph, I began to understand that the human is so small compared to the grand scheme of things. Initially that thought began to captivate me, intimidate me, and humble me. The fact of the matter is that there is only so much we can do in this lifetime, but yet our efforts all add to the growing body of knowledge that is science and each contribution makes a difference. Your parents were on to something big with their experiments and that same intuitive nature rests within you as well. By giving up you would fail to finish the legacy of what they started. Your team can't do it without you.

A hint of a smile begins to appear on Joseph's face. He thinks for a minute.

JOSEPH

I guess you're right. I just wonder if we're ever going to find the right pattern in time. We've all hit a mental block and are stuck in this box that is keeping us from matching the correct pattern.

CLARK

That's why you have to think outside the box. You're dealing with something exotic. Therefore just think exotically.

JOSEPH

Thanks Mr. Decker.

CLARK

You're welcome.

Clark begins to walk away before stopping to face Joseph.

CLARK (CONT'D)

Oh and Joe, the sky is not the limit.

Clark smiles and turns on his heel as he strolls inside. Joseph looks back up towards the sky.

JOSEPH
The sky is not the limit.

Joseph thinks about it before an idea suddenly hits him.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
The sky is not the limit!

Joseph excitedly looks up to the sky one more time before he dashes inside the house.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Rochester lectures at the front of the classroom.

MR. ROCHESTER
The type of light in the
electromagnetic spectrum used to
measure hot young blue giant stars
is?

Joseph eagerly raises his hand.

MR. ROCHESTER (CONT'D)
Yes Joseph?

JOSEPH
Ultraviolet light.

Mr. Rochester smiles.

MR. ROCHESTER
Very good, that is correct.

Joseph smiles.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

Joseph walks into the office and appears to be upbeat.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

Joseph sits at his desk and looks at the "research" folder.
He picks up the office phone and dials a few numbers.

JOSEPH
Grant, call the rest of the team
and tell them to meet in the
compression room in five.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY COMPRESSION ROOM - DAY

Joseph enters the room and meets the rest of the SearchWorm team standing by the compressor.

REBECCA

What is this all about squirt?

Joseph motions to the compressor.

JOSEPH

I think I know what our problem is. We have only been comprising the matter patterns based on natural elements we know of in our solar system. Since we are looking to engineer negative mass which is exotic by nature, then maybe we need to compose an artificial element not found in our solar system naturally. With the proper mass, isotope number, and chemical elements such a created element could easily translate into negative mass upon compression. This could be the missing piece we need to finally use the PPEEE.

The team looks skeptical.

GRANT

If that were possible, what would the element be made of and how long would it take to manufacture it?

Joseph smiles and passes the "research" folder to Grant who looks at it with the rest of the team.

JOSEPH

We can do this. I know we can. I'll double the amount of equations I test each day. It will take approximately two months to create and then we have the last month to locate a wormhole and use the PPEEE inside it. I already calculated the necessary details. We're so close I can feel it. Phil I know you possess the necessary instruments and skill set to design it. We could call the element "Wormatum".

The rest of the team appears to be inspired by Joseph's speech.

REBECCA

Even if he's right we're still
taking a gamble.

JOSEPH

It's the same as if we keep
experimenting with matter patterns.
It could take us years at the rate
we are going.

ROGER

The boy is right mates.

Rebecca looks at Joseph.

REBECCA

Where did you come from?

Joseph smiles proudly.

JOSEPH

James and Linda McConnel.

PHIL

Ah James and Linda.

ROGER

I miss them.

JOSEPH

Me too.

GRANT

I say we give it a shot. Let's
design it for them. To finish what
they started.

ROGER

For James and Linda.

The SearchWorm team looks around at each other with a renewed
spirit of vigor.

GRANT

Now, let's find that wormhole.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM/SKYE RESEARCH
LABORATORY/CLARK'S HOME - DAY/NIGHT

MONTAGE

The reinvigorated team works diligently in each of their cubicles and together crafting the "wormatum" element. They appear to be happier and motivated.

Joseph answers questions in the classroom and works hard at home on homework and on the equations for the element.

Clark notices Joseph's renewed spirit at home.

The team laughs and high fives each other as they finish the "wormatum" element.

The team watches Phil add a solid cube to a glass container with liquid.

END MONTAGE

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY COMPRESSION ROOM - 2 MONTHS LATER - DAY

The SearchWorm team anxiously stands before the compressor. Grant hands the glass container holding the cube shaped wormatum to Joseph.

GRANT

Here it is. The finished wormatum.
You do the honors Joe.

Joseph nervously places the glass container into the slot on the compressor and presses the button. The familiar blue light flashes and makes the buzzing sound.

The container slides out of the back with just the liquid left in the container. Joseph jots down the equation displayed on the monitor in his note pad.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY JOSEPH'S CUBICLE - DAY

The team huddles around Joseph's computer. Joseph types in the equation from his note pad and clicks. The team anxiously waits. Grant talks into his recorder.

GRANT

April 21st, 2013. Test number
twenty, matter pattern W, wormatum.

After a moment the computer makes a sounds and flashes a green light.

JOSEPH

It's a match! The mass is negative
upon compression!

The team celebrates with hugs and shouts of joy. Rebecca hugs Joseph.

REBECCA

Congratulations Joseph. Good work
squirt.

She smiles at him. Grant excitedly talks into his recorder.

GRANT

Test number twenty. Matter pattern
W, wormatum is positive. Absolute
match for negative mass after
compression!

Grant turns to Roger.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Now, we have a month to find that
wormhole.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY ROGER'S CUBICLE - DAY

Roger pours himself a tall glass of rum on ice. He opens up the map of the solar system on his computer and begins rapidly typing.

MONTAGE

Roger furiously scans his computer and typing.

We see the days countdown until the last day for the team's deadline.

Roger sweats and pours himself different types of alcoholic drinks as the days pass.

Roger rubs his temples in exhaustion and finally smile.

END MONTAGE

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY ROGER'S CUBICLE - NIGHT

Roger sits at his computer and clicks a few times on the mouse. On the screen we see a massive red dot on the Earth.

Roger zooms in and finds that the wormhole openings will appear right outside the Skye Laboratory in twenty hours.

He rushes out of his cubicle.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - NIGHT

Roger rushes out into the hall and nearly knocks Grant over.

ROGER

Grant mate, there will be a wormhole opening right outside our lab in twenty hours!

GRANT

Are you sure?

ROGER

Positive mate.

GRANT

Alright, call the team and have them here an hour early tomorrow to prepare the PPEEE. I'll tell Rich. Tomorrow is the day.

Grant and Roger hurriedly head off in different directions. We hear Roger yell from down the hall.

ROGER

I'll drink to that lad!

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY MEETING ROOM - DAY

The SearchWorm team and Rich rush about in the meeting room. Joseph enters holding the PPEEE, a small metallic sphere.

JOSEPH

The PPEEE is ready, I've added the wormatum serum for the negative mass that will be released upon detonation.

GRANT

Good, now the openings will open for about one second outside the lab in exactly twenty minutes. We have to detonate the PPEEE two seconds before the opening to ensure it catches the mouths and expands them. Let's do it.

EXT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

The team, Rich, and Clark stand outside of the lab toward the back of the building.

JOSEPH

The mouths are only big enough for one person and the rest of the crew has to monitor the stability of the hole. So when we open the wormhole, which one of us is going to go through?

The team looks around and then they all look at Joseph.

GRANT

You are.

JOSEPH

But why me?

RICH

The wormhole can take you back in time. You deserve a chance to go back and try to see your parents again.

Joseph is speechless.

JOSEPH

No, I can't.

GRANT

Go Joe. You can.

Joseph slowly nods.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Phil, when I give you the cue you will place the PPEEE on the ground and I will detonate it with the remote. Joseph you will enter the mouth as soon as it expands.

Grant hands Joseph an ear piece.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Put this in. We will be able to communicate through the wormhole with it. We will let you know when the wormhole near it's collapse so you can come back through.

Joseph puts the ear piece in his ear.

JOSEPH

OK.

Grant looks around at the team.

GRANT

Ready?

The team nods in anxious anticipation. Grant checks his watch.

GRANT (CONT'D)

In 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, Go!

Phil runs to the spot and places the PPEEE on the ground. Grant hits the button on the remote. The PPEEE detonates with a small explosion. Suddenly a wide transparent opening appears in the air.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Go Joseph!

Joseph walks toward the hole and disappears as he enters it. The wormhole makes a sucking sound as it swallows Joseph.

SLOW MOTION:

The rest of the team watches in amazement. Their eyes reveal the wonder of the wormhole in front of them.

EXT. WORMHOLE - DAY

We are flying through the wormhole looking from Joseph's perspective. It resembles a long tunnel of colorful kaleidoscope colors with intricate patterns and designs as we fly through spacetime.

A mesh of colors and exotic sounds resonate throughout the colorful appearance of the wormhole's passage.

EXT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

The team watches the wormhole in amazement.

GRANT

We did it.

The team hugs and congratulates each other and then turns back to face the open wormhole.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Now we have to track the energy of the pressure against the wormhole. If it drops significantly and the wormhole is about to close we have to let Joseph know. He has about three hours at most, maybe less. If he gets stuck in the past while it closes, he will be stuck there for good.

The team solemnly nods in understanding as they pick up devices and put on headphones.

EXT. WORMHOLE - DAY

We continue to fly through the wormhole until we see a faint distant light towards the end of the tunnel. We draw closer and closer to it until we enter...

EXT. MCCONNEL YARD - 4 YEARS AGO - DAY

SLOW MOTION:

We are in the McConnel's back yard. James and Linda McConnel sit on the grass laughing and smiling at each other. Joseph lies on the grass. He opens his eyes and sits up with a start.

He looks around trying to find his bearings. He then spots James and Linda and gets to his feet. Joseph rubs his eyes in disbelief at seeing his parents again. He realizes he has traveled four years back in time.

JOSEPH

Mom! Dad!

Joseph runs over to his parents who look startled to see him. He gives them both long hugs.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Mom. Dad.

JAMES

Who hey there son you sure look excited to see us. How come?

James and Linda laugh.

JOSEPH

Mom.

LINDA

What's gotten into you, you act
like you haven't seen us in years.

Tears roll down Joseph's face at the sight of seeing his
parents again.

JOSEPH

I haven't seen you in years.

JAMES

What do you mean?

JOSEPH

You both died in a car crash and-

LINDA

Joseph, that's a morbid prediction.
Are you feeling alright?

Joseph realizes it is useless to explain. He quits trying to
explain and simply smiles.

JOSEPH

Never been better. Hey dad, what
does a new day bring?

James smiles.

JAMES

A world of new possibilities.

JOSEPH

I figured.

JAMES

Very good soon, how did you know
that?

JOSEPH

Just a lucky guess.

James and Linda smile at each other.

LINDA

I told you our son would be a
genius.

The tears continue to roll down Joseph's face.

LINDA (CONT'D)

What's wrong honey?

JOSEPH

It's just good to see you again.

James and Linda exchange a look and then Linda stands up.

LINDA

I think dinner is almost ready, I'm going to go check on it.

Linda walks back into the house. James grabs a makeshift space helmet and hands it to Joseph.

JAMES

Look what I found buddy, try it on.

Joseph laughs and puts it on. James hands him an aluminum can connected to a string and runs across the yard. Joseph gets into character and looks forward with intense focus.

EXT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

The team continues to monitor the wormhole.

GRANT

How is everything looking? Is the pressure holding up?

PHIL

Yes, the pressure levels are good.

GRANT

Good.

EXT. MCCONNELL YARD - 4 YEARS AGO - DAY

Joseph continues with the make-believe game and talks into the aluminum can connected to the string.

JOSEPH

Commander, we are about 2.5 light years from Sagittarius A. By crossing the gravitational field of star S-2, we can slingshot around and pass close enough to the black hole to record the strength of the tidal gravitational forces pulling inward. Do you copy?

We follow the string to see it extends across the yard.

JAMES

Roger that captain. Just give me the go ahead and I will fire the thrusters. Over and out.

Joseph signals. James quickly hits a button on a device in his hand.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Fire!

Joseph puts down the aluminum can and runs to the center of the yard. A black circle on a piece of paper rests on the grass, imitating a black hole. James suddenly runs out too and Joseph and James playfully run in a circle around the makeshift black hole as if they are getting sucked in.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Captain we have a major problem! We didn't thrust fast enough to escape the black hole's gravity and we are now getting sucked into the hole!

James and Joseph continue to run in a circle until Joseph playfully tackles James onto the center of the piece of paper.

They both laugh and then lay flat on their backs in exhaustion and look up towards the sky.

JAMES (CONT'D)

So much out there Joseph, yet to be discovered. One day you will explore and make incredible discoveries.

JOSEPH

Dad, I love you.

JAMES

I love you too son. But we got sucked in to the black hole. You know what they call it when you get sucked into a black hole?

JOSEPH

Spaghetification!

Linda calls out from the porch.

LINDA

Speaking of spaghetification, who's ready for some spaghetti!?

EXT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

The team continues to survey the wormhole. Suddenly Phil's face shows concern.

PHIL

Grant, the pressure levels are rapidly decreasing. The pressure won't hold much longer, the wormhole will collapse.

GRANT

How much longer.

PHIL

Not more than five minutes.

GRANT

We have to get him out. Now!

Clark appears extremely worried. Grant puts on a headset.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Joseph! You have to come back through now! The wormhole will collapse in less than five minutes.

INT. MCCONNEL LIVING ROOM - 4 YEARS AGO - DAY

Joseph sits at the dinner table looking at both of his parents in admiration. He hears Grant speaking through the ear piece. He stands up and addresses his parents.

JOSEPH

I forgot something in the yard.
I'll be right back.

EXT. MCCONNEL YARD - 4 YEARS AGO - DAY

Joseph talks into the ear piece. We hear Grant's voice through the ear piece.

JOSEPH

Five minutes? I thought it was sustainable for three hours.

GRANT

The pressure is giving out. The walls will collapse. You have to come back through.

Joseph looks back toward the house at his parents.

JOSEPH

Grant, I'm back with my parents. I don't know if I want to come back.

GRANT

Joseph you have to. If you don't you will be stuck in the past and the future will play out differently. Everything will change as you know it. It's a dangerous paradox for us all. You have to come back through.

JOSEPH

I'm sorry Grant, I can't. I'm not going to lose them again. I'm sorry.

We still hear Grant's voice in the ear piece as Joseph takes off the ear piece and pockets it.

GRANT

Joseph! Come back!

Joseph walks back toward the house.

EXT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

The team watches in horror as the wormhole opening grows gradually smaller.

GRANT

Damn it! We lost him. He's not coming back. He's lost to the past and who knows how the future will change.

The team members watch the hole with growing fear.

INT. MCCONNELL LIVING ROOM - 4 YEARS AGO - DAY

Joseph stands and looks at both of his parents then closes his eyes. He opens them as he makes his final decision.

JOSEPH

Goodbye Mom. Goodbye Dad. I love you both.

James and Linda look confused.

JAMES

Where are you going?

JOSEPH

Home.

SLOW MOTION:

Joseph smiles at his parents. Tears form in his eyes as he walks out of the house into...

EXT. MCCONNEL YARD - 4 YEARS AGO - DAY

SLOW MOTION:

Joseph sees the wormhole opening growing smaller. He runs toward it and jumps into the opening. Right as the wormhole swallows him the opening rapidly closes. The hole disappears right after it closes.

EXT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - DAY

The team looks defeated as the wormhole mouth is about to close. Right as the opening is about to close Joseph emerges and lands on the ground. The hole rapidly disappears.

Grant sees Joseph and is startled.

GRANT

Joseph!

The team rushes over and helps Joseph to his feet. His eyes are red.

CLARK

You came back.

JOSEPH

Yeah I did.

GRANT

How come?

JOSEPH

I had to. I miss my parents, but you can't live in the past. It's passed for a reason and I'm fulfilling their legacy in the present. Besides, I'll carry their memory on into the future. You have to move forward and embrace the present.

Clark gives Joseph a tight hug. The rest of the team sigh in relief and look at each other affectionately.

GRANT
Good work team.

Grant picks up his recorder.

GRANT (CONT'D)
May 21st, 2013. Mission SearchWorm,
success.

INT. CLARK'S GARAGE - DAY

Joseph enters and begins sifting through boxes and piles of old items. In one of the boxes he finds a dusty trophy and an old picture of a group of smiling students.

The picture reads: "Science Olympiad Winner, Spring 1993. Thorne High School Physics Department."

Joseph reads the names of the students in the picture and sees CLARK DECKER among them.

INT. CLARK'S OFFICE - DAY

Clark sits at his desk looking over papers. Joseph enters the office.

CLARK
Joseph my boy! What can I do for
you?

JOSEPH
You won the Science Olympiad trophy
when you went here?

Clark is caught off guard. He sits in silence for a moment as he sifts through the memories in his head.

CLARK
I did. I was 17 years old. Some of
my greatest memories are from that
year.

JOSEPH
You never told me this.

CLARK
It was long ago. Besides, like you
said, why live in the past?

JOSEPH

Because you were happy.

Clark gets up and paces through his office while he looks at old pictures scattered throughout the office.

CLARK

I guess I just felt I couldn't ever leave Thorne. Out of college I turned down an executive position at SKYE Corporation to explore exotic life forms in the universe. I got cold feet. So I became a teacher, and now I'm still here all these years later.

Joseph nods and looks around deep in thought.

JOSEPH

Hey I gotta run Mr. Decker but I'll see you around.

Joseph leaves Clark's office. Clark watches him go and then grabs a stack of test papers and starts to grade them.

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY MEETING ROOM - DAY

We see Joseph and Rich discussing something in the meeting room. Rich takes out a paper and signs it then hands it to Joseph.

INT. CLARK'S OFFICE - DAY

Joseph enters Clark's office.

CLARK

Hey Joseph.

JOSEPH

Mr. Decker, I think you need to reapply for that position at SKYE.

CLARK

I told you it's been too long. There's no way they would accept me now.

Joseph slides a letter across the desk to Clark and smiles.

JOSEPH

They already did.

CLARK
What?

JOSEPH
Read it.

Clark opens the letter and begins to read it. Tears well in his eyes by the time he finishes reading the letter.

CLARK
Joseph. Thank you.

JOSEPH
You're welcome Mr. Decker.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

We move through the school hallway and come to an open glass display case. A trophy is put into the display case and is slid shut. We move closer to the glass to see an old picture next to the trophy.

We move closer to the picture to see a group of smiling students. The picture reads: "Science Olympiad Winner, Spring 1993. Thorne High School Physics Department."

Among the list of student names in the picture we can just make out CLARK DECKER.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. STOCKHOLM CONCERT HALL - 1 YEAR LATER - NIGHT

A large crowd sits gathered in the prestigious hall facing a stage. A banner at the front of the hall reads "Nobel Prize in Physics". A middle-aged man dressed in a sharp suit walks up to the podium and speaks into a microphone. This is the eloquent HOST (45).

HOST
Good evening ladies and gentleman.
Welcome to the Stockholm Concert
Hall and thank you for joining us
for the annual award ceremony for
the Nobel Prize in Physics.
(beat)
(MORE)

HOST (CONT'D)

This year our Nobel laureate is by far the youngest laureate of the Nobel prize in the history of the award. This young man's brilliant work from the preceding year has provided a break through for the future of wormhole research, and revolutionized the general relativistic laws of the universe as we know them. His work has also provided the opportunity and ability to travel through time to the past for the first time, which we thought wasn't even possible.

(beat)

In conjunction with the ingenious Pressure Pod of Expanding Exotic Electromagnetism, we can now locate and sustain wormholes. So without further ado, let me introduce this year's winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics, Mr. Joseph McConnel. Mr. McConnel is the laureate of the Nobel award for his engineering of the artificial element wormatum used to produce negative mass and sustain transversible wormholes through spacetime.

The audience gives a massive round of applause as the host exits the stage. Joseph wears a sharp suit and slowly walks up to the podium. He faces the microphone and scans the massive crowd as they begin to sit down.

JOSEPH

I'd like to start by thanking my incredible SearchWorm team, without them this would not have been possible. I'd also like to thank Clark Decker who has been like a second father to me for the last five years. Finally, I'd like to thank my parents James and Linda McConnel. Without them the push to explore wormhole research would not have occurred and I miss them every single day. This award is for them.

Rich Halgood, Clark Decker, and the members of the SearchWorm team sit in the front row of the hall smiling up at Joseph. Joseph smiles at them.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I remember when I was eight years old and my dad and I would pretend we were on space missions in our backyard. Those were the moments that instilled a sense of wonder within me. Just looking up at the sky full of shining stars was all it took. My parents at the time were working on something big and I wasn't sure what it was at the time. I'd only learn later on. When I first discovered what a wormhole was and what it could do I was captivated. The ability to travel back in time was thought impossible, but the wormhole allowed it to be possible.

(beat)

When I first lost both of my parents, I swore that I would do anything just to see them one more time. I got that opportunity when I entered the wormhole that we located and expanded. It was the most incredible experience I have ever had.

(beat)

But I knew I couldn't stay. I couldn't live in the past. I knew that I had to keep living and embrace the possibilities of what the future held in store for me. With that I emphasize that as people we have to live in the moment and enjoy what the present gives us. Because what it gives us is endless possibilities with each new day and every moment that passes.

(beat)

Thank you.

The crowd erupts into applause as Joseph finishes speaking and looks out among the crowd. The host walks out and hands Joseph a certificate and a gold medal and shakes his hand.

Joseph holds up the gold medal as the crowd continues to applaud. He looks up toward the ceiling and smiles as he thinks of James and Linda.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. SKYE RESEARCH LABORATORY - 34 YEARS LATER - DAY

A handsome middle-aged man dressed sharply walks through the halls of the lab. A young man, GEORGE BRANSON (37) stops the handsome man.

GEORGE

Mr. McConnel, I just wanted to introduce myself. I'm George Branson and today is my first day here at Skye. I have read every single one of your papers and I just wanted to say it's an honor sir to be working under you.

Joseph McConnel, now (47), gives George a polite smile.

JOSEPH

Thank you very much George. I look forward to working together.

Joseph offers his hand. George eagerly shakes it.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Oh and, call me Joseph.

Joseph smiles and walks away. George looks on in admiration.

INT. THORNE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The school bell rings to signal the end of the school day. A crowd of students excitedly flocks out of the hallways to the exit. The hallways clear after a few minutes of chaos.

Joseph walks into the school and surveys his old school as he slowly strolls down the hall. He eventually stops by the glass display case.

In the display case is the old trophy and picture of Clark's winning physics team. Next to it is a picture of Joseph as a smiling twelve-year-old outside the school. We move to the side and the last pictures in the case are of James and Linda.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Joseph walks along a path filled with headstones. He holds three flowers in his hand and solemnly observes the names of the headstones as he passes. Finally he comes to a stop before three gravestones next to each other.

He stands in silence before the three headstones and then places one flower in front of each headstone. He watches the gravestones in silence before he turns to walk away.

We pull in to the names on the three graves. The names read CLARK DECKER, JAMES MCCONNEL, LINDA MCCONNEL.

INT. JOSEPH AND EMILY MCCONNEL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Joseph walks into the house and sets his bag on the floor. He approaches a beautiful woman and grabs her from behind. The woman squeals in playful shock. This is Joseph's caring wife, EMILY MCCONNEL (45). Joseph turns her around and kisses her passionately.

We hear the voice of a young boy.

YOUNG BOY (O.S.)

Dad!

A young boy emerges from around the corner and runs toward Joseph. This is Joseph's energetic son, JAMES JR. (8). Joseph picks James Jr. up in his arms and twirls him around a few times before he places him back on the ground.

JOSEPH

Hey buddy, how's my little genius doing?

James Jr. laughs.

JAMES JR.

Good!

JOSEPH

Well I'm glad to hear that. Hey let's go outside, it's a perfect night for stargazing!

EXT. JOSEPH AND EMILY MCCONNEL'S YARD - NIGHT

Joseph, Emily and energetic JAMES JR. (8) stand outside looking up at the night sky. Emily turns and gives Joseph a kiss.

EMILY

Don't stay out too late you two,
I'm going to get ready for bed.

Joseph smiles affectionately at her as she walks back inside the house.

INT. JOSEPH AND EMILY MCCONNEL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Emily walks through the living room toward her bedroom. On her way she passes a picture resting on the counter. In the picture are James and Linda smiling.

EXT. JOSEPH AND EMILY MCCONNEL'S YARD - NIGHT

Joseph turns to James Jr.

JOSEPH

Come on follow me. We have to
escape the black hole! It's right
behind us!

Joseph runs to the center of the yard and lays down on the grass. James Jr. jumps on top of Joseph.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Oof! You are getting big.

James Jr. laughs.

JAMES JR.

Don't be a weeny.

JOSEPH

I'm no weeny!

Joseph tickles James Jr., who laughs cheerfully. They eventually both tire out and lay flat on the ground as they look up at the night sky.

JAMES JR.

Dad, has anyone ever counted all of
the stars in the sky?

JOSEPH

Not yet son, but we're close.

James Jr. begins trying to count the stars in the sky. Joseph laughs.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Hey buddy, always remember one thing.

JAMES JR.

What dad?

JOSEPH

A new day opens up a world of new possibilities.

Joseph smiles at James Jr. We look up into the night sky full of millions of bright and beautifully shining stars.

FADE TO BLACK.