

Space Rangers and the Viper Menace

Book, Lyrics & Music
by
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Setting

The Galactic Space Academy.

Time

In the distant future.

ACT I

SCENE 2

The Grand Entrance Hall for the Galactic Confederation Space Academy. A banner across the Grand Entrance (upstage center) reads, "Welcome Class of '08!" A table contains champagne flutes and refreshments. As the overture ends, PROFESSOR NEBULON, STELLINA FROST and COSMO BIGGS enter through the Grand Entrance.

NEBULON

Everything is perfectly planned, Cosmo, perfectly planned, just the way you asked.

COSMO

Good, good.

NEBULON

The music is perfectly arranged for the ball tonight, the banner is perfectly placed here in the hall, the caterers have created perfectly delicious culinary perfections, and the liquid refreshments are—

NEBULON picks up a glass and sips.

NEBULON (CONT'D)

Perfect!

STELLINA

I have taken extreme care with every detail, Professor.

COSMO

Yes, well, what about the alumni, are they all coming?

NEBULON

Alumni?

COSMO

It is a reunion, Professor Nebulon. That is what Interspatial Universal Dynamics has sponsored, is it not?

NEBULON

Oh, my yes, well of course it is. And of course they are, you can certainly depend on the alumni being here. Reunion and all that.

NEBULON takes another sip.

COSMO

And our special alumnus, he is sure to be here as well?

NEBULON

Strat Lancaster? My God, man, he's what this whole celebration is all about! Cosmo, have you lost your memory down one of your own IUD wormholes? You specifically stated in your offer to underwrite this class reunion, that everything depended on giving a hero's welcome to Strat Lancaster—

STELLINA

A man who certainly deserves a hero's welcome—

NEBULON

A Caesar's welcome! As many times as he's saved the whole galaxy, by thunder—

COSMO

Professor. I haven't forgotten. I just wanted to make sure you hadn't.

STELLINA

Professor Nebulon forgets nothing!

NEBULON

Never!

STELLINA

As long as I remember it for him.

NEBULON

Always!

COSMO

Interspatial Universal Dynamics is extremely proud of your distinguished graduate, as is everyone in the Galactic Confederation. And so of course I want to make sure that everything comes off as planned. Without a hitch.

NEBULON

No hitches, not one, Cosmo. Completely hitchless. You can take that to the bank.
(MORE)

NEBULON (CONT'D)

Ha-ha, as if you needed to take any more to the bank.

COSMO

Never hurts.

NEBULON

And your generous contributions to the Galactic Space Academy haven't hurt either. I don't know where we'd be without the Cosmo Biggs Library, the Biggs Space Cadet Induction Facility—

STELLINA

The Cosmo Anti-Grav Gymnasium—

COSMO

Don't forget the Cosmo Biggs GigaBiga Cosmotron.

NEBULON

How could I? The single most powerful cosmonic polarizing sub-quark particle smasher in the known universe! And the unknown, too, for that matter! Thanks to the GigaBigatron, our people have been making tremendous strides in quantum quarkatonic research. Tremendous strides! It's simply unbelievable the things they've come up with!

STELLINA

Unbelievable!

COSMO

Yes, I've seen the reports. Excellent work. The GigaBigatron was a good investment, a very good investment. Between you and me, Professor Nebulon, don't be surprised to hear about a stunning IUD product announcement in the near future.

NEBULON

More money in the bank?

COSMO

A man could do worse than buy a little IUD stock, that's all I can say.

NEBULON nods to STELLINA, who punches data into her handheld computer.

NEBULON

Thanks for the insider info... I mean, not insider, of course, but a little tip... well, not a tip, really, it's just sound investment advice, wouldn't you say?

COSMO

Think nothing of it, Professor. Consider this information as a small token of my gratitude for the excellent work you do, and the space cadets your academy produces.

SOUND: Trumpet fanfare. There is a commotion heard out the door.

COSMO (CONT'D)

Sounds like those cadets are approaching even now. By the way, Nebulon, I've taken the liberty of inviting a special guest to the proceedings. I hope you don't mind.

NEBULON

(distracted as he looks for the cadets)

My dear fellow, you paid for it, you can invite whomever you please. Oh, I can't wait to see my favorite pupil. I was, if I may say so, a mentor to Strat. He considered me as his father. Really, I guess all the cadets did. Ah, my children!

ALUMNI (STRAT LANCASTER, SPARKS McBEAMISH, MILKITA VAYOVITCH, VENUS DEMILLE and others in the CAST) stream in, loudly boisterous. They completely ignore NEBULON, who stands with open arms, and hit the drink table.

NEBULON (CONT'D)

How sharper than a serpent's tooth is a thankless cadet.

STRAT

Back at the old school! It's been a while!

MILKITA

Too long!

SPARKS

At least they kept the liquor waitin' for us.

STRAT

A toast to the class of '08!

VENUS does cheerleader jumps.

VENUS
'08, '08, we're the class that's really great!

SPARKS
I'll drink to that!

MILKITA
McBeamish, you will drink to anything.

SPARKS
I'll drink to that, too!

I.2.1 "All-Star Reunion"
(www.puckettpublishing.com/music/scores/AllStarReunion.htm)

All-Star Reunion

SPARKS (CONT'D)
WE'LL RAISE A GLASS, AND MAKE A TOAST
AND DRINK TO WHAT WE ARE
SPARKS, MILKITA, STRAT & VENUS
WE'RE ALL WELL-KNOWN, THIS IS NO BOAST
EACH ONE OF US A STAR!

CHORUS
AN ALL-STAR REUNION
A COSY COMMUNION
THE STATE OF OUR UNION
IS LOYAL AND TRUE
THIS BAND OF COMPANIONS
WEARS GOLDEN MEDALLIONS
WE'RE BRAVER THAN STALLIONS
WE HAPPY, WE FEW
HEROINES AND HEROS
NOT ONE OF US A ZERO
WITHOUT US, THERE'D BE NO
REUNION TO DO

STRAT
I'M STRAT LANCASTER
IN SPACE I'M THE MASTER
MY ROCKET IS FASTER

VENUS
(spoken)
It's true!

STRAT
THAN ANY YOU'LL SEE
FROM HEAD TO MY BOOT HEEL
I'M FILLED WITH A STRONG ZEAL

I'M TRULY THE REAL DEAL
A HERO, THAT'S ME!
I WISH I COULD BE MODEST AND RESERVED
BUT I CAN'T HELP ACKNOWLEDGING
THE PRAISE THAT I'VE DESERVED

CHORUS
HE CAN'T HELP ACKNOWLEDGING
THE PRAISE THAT HE'S DESERVED

SPARKS
I'M SPARKS MCBEAMISH
I'VE NEVER BEEN SQUEAMISH
NOR GIVEN TO SCREAMISHLY
RUNNING WAY
THEY CALL ME THE SIDEKICK
I KNOW WHICH SIDE I SHOULD PICK
I'LL BE THERE AND RIGHT QUICK
WHEN STRAT SAVES THE DAY
I'M ALWAYS GAME TO PUSH IT UP A NOTCH
AS LONG AS I'VE GOT LOTS AND LOTS
AND LOTS AND LOTS OF SCOTCH

CHORUS
AS LONG AS HE'S GOT LOTS AND LOTS
OF SINGLE MALTED SCOTCH

VENUS
(slower)
I'M VENUS DEMILLE
I GIVE MEN A THRILL
IF GOOD LOOKS COULD KILL
SHE PULLS BLASTER FROM HOLSTER AND, SHOOTING OVER HER
SHOULDER, BLASTS A BOTTLE ON BAR.
THEN I WOULD BE TOP GUN
THE BRIGHTEST, I'M NOT
BUT I USE WHAT I'VE GOT

SPARKS
(spoken)
WHAT SHE'S GOT IS HOT

VENUS does cheerleader jumps.

VENUS
WE'RE NUMBER ONE! WE'RE NUMBER ONE!
WE'LL WIN THE RACE IN OUTER SPACE
'CAUSE WE'RE NUMBER ONE!

MILKITA
MY NAME IS MILKITA
AND NO ONE IS SWEETER
BUT CROSS ME, I BEAT-A

THE WALL WITH YOUR HEAD
AM SMARTER THAN VENUS
AM ALMOST A GENIUS
BUT MEN CHOOSE BETWEEN US
THEY CHOOSE HER INSTEAD
I WONDER WHAT SHE HAS THAT I MUST LACK
I SHOULD TRY A FRONTAL FULL ATTACK

**MILKITA stands proudly before
SPARKS.**

STRAT, SPARKS, VENUS & MILKITA
WE'RE HERE TO TELL THE MAN IN THE MOON
THAT HE'LL NEVER SEE A HAPPIER REUN-ION!

CHORUS
AN ALL-STAR REUNION
THIS COSY COMMUNION
THIS BAND OF COMPANIONS
WE HAPPY, WE FEW
HEROINES AND HEROS
NOT ONE OF US A ZERO
WITHOUT US, THERE'D BE NO
REUNION TO DO
WITHOUT US, THERE WOULD SIMPLY BE NO REASON
TO HAVE THIS ALL-STAR REUN-ION!

SPARKS
And while we're at it, three hyper-cheers for
the man o' the hour, Strat Lancaster, the
record holder for most consecutive years of
single-handedly saving the Galactic
Confederation! Hyper-hip (hooray!) Hyper-hip
(hooray!) Hyper-hip (hooray!)

STRAT
Sparks, you're embarrassing me. This is really
too much.

VENUS
No way is it too much. Not for the greatest
galactic good guy ever!

SPARKS
Not to mention the brightest star in your
constellation.

VENUS
I am kind of attracted to the boy.

SPARKS
Like xrays to a black hole.

STRAT

Like what to a what?

VENUS

Sparks, you say the weirdest things.

MIKITA

Words not weirdest thing he does.

SPARKS

I only get weird when I'm around you folk.

STRAT

Which is all the time.

SPARKS

Aye. Yer right.

NEBULON

Strat! It's great to have you back on campus. Although I suppose I should address you as "First Lieutenant Lancaster", eh?

MILKITA

Actually, Professor Nebulon, is now Captain Lancaster. Strat was recently promoted.

SPARKS

Again.

QUEEN URANA SIDHARKOL and her minister, COUNT QUASARO enter unnoticed and survey the scene. QUASARO points at STRAT and whispers something to URANA.

NEBULON

Well, well, well, my boy. Captain! At this rate, it can't be too much longer before you make admiral.

STRAT

It was a field promotion. During the last action against the Viper Squadron in the Sirius sector. You see, we were surrounded in four dimensions, when all of a-

COSMO

I'm sure no one could possibly deserve it more. Professor?

NEBULON

Oh my, where have my manners gone? I'm ruder than one of those Space Vipers! Captain Strat Lancaster, allow me to introduce Cosmo Biggs, one of the Academy's most generous benefactors—

COSMO

The most generous benefactor.

STELLINA

Very much the most generous.

STRAT

Mister Biggs, *the* Cosmo Biggs? Of the Biggs Holographic Archives? The Cosmo Biggs Arena?

SPARKS

Home field of the Rocketmen, the best damn fusionball team in this or any sector.

CROWD

Rockets gonna sock it to you. Zoom! Zoom! Zoom!

VENUS does a cheerleader jump.

VENUS

Zoomeroonie!!!

COSMO

Guilty as charged, I'm afraid.

STRAT

Sir, it is an honor to meet you. You've done so much for the Academy.

COSMO

The honor is mine, I assure you, captain. You've done so much for the galaxy.

URANA

(stepping into the conversation)

Yes, he has done much. It is a wonder how the galaxy ever survived without young Lancaster to constantly save it.

NEBULON

Queen Urana. Your highness!

NEBULON bows.

NEBULON (CONT'D)

But I had no idea you were coming.

COSMO

Professor Nebulon, this is the special guest I told you about. Professor Nebulon, and Space Rangers, please welcome Queen Urana Sidharkol, ruler of the Nephilia Sector.

ALL bow, curtsy, genuflect, etc.

STRAT

Your highness.

URANA

Please, please. No excessive groveling. A humble bow is sufficient. So nice to finally meet you Professor. Your work at the Academy is known throughout the galaxy. And of course the famous Strat Lancaster needs no introduction. You are such a big, brave man, Captain Strat Lancaster. Or may I call you Strat?

STRAT

Why, sure, your highness!

URANA

And you may call me Urana if you like.

STRAT

I would like. Thanks... Urana.

VENUS

Hmph.

QUASARO

Ahem.

URANA

Oh, yes, Quasaro. Professor Nebulon, this is my minister, Count Quasaro.

QUASARO clicks his heels and bows.

QUASARO

At your service.

URANA

Strat, I overheard you saying that you were promoted during a battle with that horrible Viper Squadron. That must have been terribly exciting. And dangerous.

VENUS

Oh, it was! Terribly exciting. And terribly dangerous, wasn't it, Strat? Darling.

STRAT

Yes. Uh, Urana, this is my... friend, Venus DeMille.

VENUS

Friend?!

STRAT

Really good friend. She's a girl. She's my really good... girl... friend.

URANA

You must be very proud of your boy... friend, Venus, is it?

VENUS

(taking STRAT's arm)

Oh, you bet I am. Proud enough to go supernova. He's the cutest little galaxy-saver in the whole galaxy! Tell the queen about your fight with the Vipers, Strat.

SPARKS

Na, let me tell her. It's usually my tail the Strat-man is pulling out of the fire.

I.2.2 "Saved Again"

(www.puckettpublishing.com/music/scores/SavedAgain.htm)

Saved Again

SPARKS (CONT'D)

THE VIPER SQUADS WERE FIRING
LEFT AND RIGHT
OUR COMRADES WERE EXPIRING
SHOT DOWN IN MID-FLIGHT
AND WHEN YOU'RE DEAD
IT'S HARD TO FIGHT
THE SITUATION HOPELESS
NO RESCUE IN SIGHT

CHORUS

WHEN SUDDENLY
OUT OF THE BLUE
WHO CAN IT BE?
IT'S YOU KNOW WHO
LIKE AN ANGEL IN THE NIGHT
SAVED AGAIN!

SPARKS

THANK THE STARS, 'CAUSE WE ARE

CHORUS

SAVED AGAIN!

SPARKS

LOOK AT THAT, IT'S STRAT, WE'RE

CHORUS

SAVED AGAIN! THANK THE STARS THAT WE'RE ALL SAVED AGAIN!

MILKITA

REMEMBER WHEN STRAT SAVED THAT PRINCESS, OH VAT WAZ HER NAME?

**VENUS forms two over her ears with
her hands.**

VENUS

(spoken)

Princess Leia.

SPARKS

Oh, yeah!

(sings)

HE RESCUES FICTITIOUS PEOPLE AND REAL ONES THE SAME

VENUS

THEY HELD PRINCESS LEIA HOSTAGE
IN A TINY ROOM
AND WE DON'T PAY HER POSTAGE
SHE'LL MEET HER DOOM
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME
'TIL THINGS GO BOOM
SOMEONE NEEDS TO SAVE HER
WHOM DO YOU PRESUME?

CHORUS

NO VOLUNTEER
NOBODY DARED
WE QUAKED IN FEAR
OH, WE WERE SCARED
THEN STRAT BURST THROUGH THE GLOOM!
SAVED AGAIN!

VENUS & SPARKS

LEIA'S SKIN WAS BY HIM

CHORUS

SAVED AGAIN!

VENUS & SPARKS

THANKS TO HIS SKILL WE WILL BE

CHORUS

SAVED AGAIN! THANK THE STARS THAT WE'RE ALL SAVED AGAIN!

STRAT

I'M A TOTAL SPACE CADET
LIVE BY THE SPACEMAN'S LAW
I NEVER WILL REGRET
THAT I HAVE SAVED YOU ONE AND ALL
FROM DEATH AND CERTAIN DOOM
AND FROM THE VIPER'S CLAW
ANYTIME YOU'RE IN TROUBLE
YOU KNOW WHO YOU CAN CALL

CHORUS

HE'S BOUND TO SAVE US ALL
SAVED AGAIN! JUST LOOK AT THAT, IT'S STRAT, WE'RE
SAVED AGAIN! HE'S SUCH A STAR, AND WE ARE
SAVED AGAIN! HE'LL SAVE THE DAY. YAY!
SAVED AGAIN! THANK THE STARS, 'CAUSE WE ARE
SAVED AGAIN! THANK THE STARS THAT WE'RE ALL SAVED AGAIN!