

THE NEXT GENERATION  
WRITTEN BY ANNABELLA VACA

LOGLINE:

The government kidnaps a class of highschool students to send them blindly into a black hole in order to find a suitable replacement for Earth. But one student was absent that day and now must embark on an insanely dangerous journey to save her surviving classmates.

TAGLINE:

When they said they wanted a break from high school, this wasn't what they had in mind

GENDRE:

Speculative sci-fi

FADE IN:

EX. USSR LAUNCH BAY- APRIL 12, 1961

The first manned rocket ship blasts off into space  
(archival footage)

CUT TO:

EX. RICE UNIVERSITY- SEPT 12, 1962

JFK

No man can fully grasp how far and  
how fast we have come.

CUT TO:

EX. NASA- JULY 16, 1969

Apollo 11, carrying the first men to land on the moon,  
blasts into orbit.

CUT TO:

EX. THE MOON

Neil Armstrong takes the first steps on the moon's surface.

ARMSTRONG

One small step for man, one giant  
leap for mankind.

CUT TO:

INT. NASA TELECAST

GEORGE APOLLO

In this modern age we struggle  
with a threat more imenant than  
the possibility of war. Today  
scientists race against the  
timebomb of our dying Earth; the  
earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes  
and floods she brings to our wake  
as recompense for our deeds  
against her. With the coming of  
unstoppable disease and  
disappearance of natural resources  
it had become wildy apparent that  
we are no longer welcome here.  
Ladies and Gentleman, the solution  
to all our problems will not be  
found in a lab, or it will, when  
it is too late for us. No, the  
solution to every problem we face  
here at the turn of the century  
will be found out there.

CUT TO:

EX. OUTER SPACE

GEORGE

(audio)

We are not alone in this universe.  
There is no reason to believe  
Earth is the only planet for us.

She is screaming for us to leave,  
and why should we not listen? I am  
pleased to announce the eleven  
launches of scout ships, we have  
planned for the next eight months.  
These ships, will carry a team of  
brave young men to the farthest  
reaches of the galaxy where they  
will find a home for me, and you,  
for all of us. Therefore as we set  
sail, we ask for God's blessing on  
the most hazardous, and dangerous  
and greatest adventure on which  
man has ever embarked. For the  
salvation of all mankind, We  
begin.

>Title Card<

FADE TO:

INT. AIRSEALED SUBURBAN HOME, BERKELEY

A Family of three crowd the window as yet another ship  
blasts into the unknowns of space. The parents hold their  
young daughter up so she can see as it vanishes into the  
polluted fog.

THE FATHER

(pointing)

Look at that Tesha, ain't that  
something...

TESHA, looks up at the sky in fear.

TESHA

Where are they going?

THE MOTHER

Where do you think, baby? They're  
going out to look for a new home  
for us.

TESHA

But... I like our home.

MOTHER

I know baby, but we can't live  
here forever. Don't you wanna see  
what's out there?

TESHA

But we don't know what kind of  
monsters, and aliens are out  
there! It's scary!

MOTHER

Well, good thing you won't have to  
go alone!

The mother blows a cherry on Tesha's shoulder, causing a  
giggle fit. Their voices fade...

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY, 10 YEARS LATER

TESHA blows a bubble in her gum, as she impatiently waits  
for her friends to arrive at school. Three come and talk  
with each other, while standing above her. She fails at  
getting their attention and they leave together, without  
even looking at her.

TESHA

Okay! Catch you guys at lunch  
then...(beat) its fine.

Tesha looks around the hallway once more. She stands and  
starts making her way to class, when her best friend  
VANESSA comes around the corner.

VANESSA

Hey! How was your weekend?

TESHA

Oh, it was good! How-how was  
yours?

VANESSA

I got tons of work done. I've been  
planning for tonight since friday!

TESHA

What's tonight?(beat) A party?

VANESSA

Well, not really. It's more like a  
gathering with speeches and such  
about 'Saving the Planet'!

Vanessa pulls out a colored flyer and hands it to Tesha.

VANESSA

You'll be there...(beat) right?

TESHA  
Um, I dunno I'll have to ask-

VANESSA  
Please! I have no idea if anyone's  
gonna show up...

TESHA  
I'll be there.

VANESSA  
(hugs her)  
Your the best friend ever! (the  
bell rings) who just got me tardy!

TESHA  
(pulls away)  
S-Sorry! I'll make it up to you!

VANESSA  
(starts to walk away)  
Don't worry! Just get to class!

TESHA  
But!

VANESSA  
The event starts at five tonight,  
okay! You'll be there?

TESHA  
Ye-yeah! I'll be there.

Tesha starts to walk down the stairs, then comes back up.

TESHA  
Sorry again!

VANESSA  
Go!

Tesha jumps down the stairs, barging into her dead silent  
classroom.

INT. CLASSROOM

She freezes, as all eyes go on her. Including a strange man  
she's never seen before, who stands next to her teacher.

TESHA  
S-sorry...

She maneuvers to her seat.

TESHA

(once sitting, whispers)  
Who's that?

ELIZA

Ew, take your fish breath  
elsewhere.

BRAD

That's George Apollo, not that  
your cute little brian would know  
anything about science.

Tesha is about to strike back, when their teacher silences  
them;

MR.BIRCH

Alright now, children settle down.  
Now let's give our full attention  
to our guest speaker.

GEORGE APOLLO

Good morning everyone. I'm sure  
many of you recognize me. I am  
George Apollo, owner of Apollo and  
Beyond. I'm here to present to you  
all, a fabulous opportunity...  
(beat) the chance to sign up for  
the field trip of a lifetime. The  
chance to see the outer reaches of  
our solar system. You all will get  
to travel beyond Earth! See all  
sorts of wonders! And much much  
more.

The kids go crazy with excitement and curiosity. Students  
fire away questions.

GEORGE APOLLO

Now I know you all are very  
excited, I'll leave a signup sheet  
with your instructor...

Tesha raises her hand, the only one who didn't just burst  
out a question.

GEORGE APOLLO

(beat)  
Yes?

TESHA  
(sceptical)  
Where would we be going?

GEORGE APOLLO  
(takes a breath)  
You and your classmates would get  
to travel to... one of the moons  
of Saturn. Haven't you all always  
wanted to go there?

TESHA  
Not particularly, no. How much  
would it be?

GEORGE APOLLO  
All excellent questions, little  
miss; that is the best part. It is  
entirely free.

TESHA  
Why? (beat) why us?

GEORGE APOLLO  
This is an opportunity all high  
schools will get. (beat) In due  
time. If you have any further  
pestering questions, I recommend  
you visit our website. If that is  
too hard for you, here's a card.

Apollo flicks a business card at Tesha, who struggles and  
fails to catch it. The class laughs at her, and she melts  
in her seat.

FADE TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL- 12:00

Tesha walks slightly behind her friends. It's a group of  
six, one pair and one trio with her on the outskirts. All  
six wear respirators, and shout to speak. They start  
discussing Apollo's proposal...

FRIEND(1)  
Yo, do you believe this shit?

FRIEND(2)  
I know right, 'hi I'm mister  
billionaire lemme take a group of

FRIEND(2) [CONT].  
delinquent public school students  
to freakin mars'

TESHA  
(confused)  
He told our class we'd see 'the  
moons of saturn'

FRIEND(1)  
Wow, somehow that's even stupider.

VANESSA  
He told fifth period he'd take us  
to see Pluto...

TESHA  
Why would he tell every class  
something different?

FRIEND(2)  
Maybe there's multiple  
destinations.

FRIEND(3)  
Well I'm definitely signing up for  
the Mars trip.

FRIEND(1)  
Why! It sounds so stupid, I mean  
what the hell are you even gonna  
do there?

VANESSA  
Also, doesn't it take thirty years  
just to get to mars? It's not  
exactly a summer-study-abroad type  
thing.

TESHA  
It seems like a suspicious type  
thing.

FRIEND(1)  
Look, once again Tesha is telling  
us not to do something.

TESHA  
I'm not saying that- I-It's just-



FRIEND(1)  
(condescending)  
Yes...

TESHA  
I just don't trust him.

FRIEND(1)  
(beat)  
Well I am glad you shared another  
of your unnecessary opinions with  
us, but not everyone is as weak  
and scared as you.

CUT TO:

INT. TESHA'S KITCHEN

Tesha empties the dishwasher while her mother looks into  
Apollo's website.

MOTHER  
I don't see anything about  
sponsoring high school field  
trips... only scholarships- which  
you should also apply for.

TESHA  
He's just so suspicious looking..  
he just reeks angry old super  
villain.

MOTHER  
And what exactly is his evil plan?  
Giving children grants?

Tesha sighs and continues putting dishes away. She opens a  
cabinet and stops suddenly, looking confused.

MOTHER  
What's wrong, honey?

TESHA  
I... I just feel like I'm forgetting  
something.

Tesha looks at the clock (6:07), then looks at her unzipped  
backpack.

TESHA  
Oh! I forgot my binder at school.  
That's what it...is.

CUT TO:

INT. A HALF EMPTY AUDITORIUM

Vanessa stands beside the door looking left and right, wondering where her friend is.

FADE TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY- THE NEXT MORNING

A half asleep Tesha walks into school, hanging her respirator on the hook before climbing the stairs. She was running behind schedule this morning, and goes to meet her friends who arrived before her. They all look upset. She wonders if she should turn back, but decides to stay and wait for Vanessa. Who, right on cue jumps out of a nearby classroom.

VANESSA

Where were you last night?!

TESHA

(confused)

Wha?.... Ohh... oh my gosh- Vanessa  
I'm so sorry! I completely forgot-

VANESSA

No one came. You promised me you'd be there! I know you don't believe the planet is worth saving but I thought you'd at least support me! You said you would!

TESHA

I-I'm I don't know what to say-

VANESSA

You never support any of us, your always telling us what to do and what not to do based on your beliefs.

TESHA

Wait, how'd we get *there*? The only things I've said you shouldn't do are smoke, and go outside without a respirator.

VANESSA

Yesterday.

TESHA

What that Apollo guy? I don't trust him, but that doesn't apply to you.

VANESSA

Yes it does, why do you always  
have to be against us?

Tesha and Vanessa keep screaming at each other as their  
whole school watches and records, humiliating both girls.

TESHA

Well it sounds like I shouldn't be  
your friend anymore!

Tesha immediately regrets the words that just spilled out  
of her mouth.

VANESSA

No... maybe we shouldn't...

Vanessa runs past her and down the stairs. Leaving Tesha  
standing there with everyone staring at her. She runs to  
hide in the bathroom.

CUT TO:

EX. OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Vanessa runs out the doors, forging a respirator, as the  
security guard shouts after her. She gets only a few feet  
away before choking on the polluted air. She falls to her  
knees and coughs it out, wiping away tears. Then all the  
light on her is washed out by a sudden shadow... looming over  
her. She looks up and gasps.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL BATHROOM

Tesha paces back and forth mumbling to herself about how  
stupid she was and how much she regrets what she said, and  
most of all: how awful she feels that she forget about last  
night.

TESHA

...I have to make it up to her. It  
can't end like this.

Tesha leaves the bathroom and skids to a halt as she sees a  
huge SWAT team sneaking its way down the hall. One of the  
agents sees her, and raises a finger to their lips... Tesha  
looks to her left, where the fire alarm rests. She makes to  
pull it when a deafening high pitched frequency blares out,  
her hands go to cover her ears and she falls. The entire  
school covers their ears and one by one the sound knocks  
them all out.

SWAT AGENT

Alright... bring in the pods.

Students are loaded into sleeping pods that levitate off the ground. Those pods are stacked onto trucks like legos, that speed off as soon as they're loaded.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

SWAT AGENT

Alright, the last van is loaded.

Tesha's pod is loaded in.

SWAT AGENT

Let's move out!

The last truck speeds away.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE APOLLO'S OFFICE

Apollo sits at his desk playing with a miniature replica of a yellowish-gold planet. Twirling it in his hands, like he just can't wait to conquer it.

SECRETARY-BOT

Sir?

Apollo barely looks up. He's just so fascinated with his planet.

SECRETARY-BOT

The children have been loaded.  
They're in ruit to the main hangar  
as we speak.

Apollo nods his head, pleased, not taking his eyes off the planet. He twirls it once more, then sets it back on his desk beside a small plaque labeled "Haven-GA54"

APOLLO

Excellent. Inform me the moment they arrive. Send them straight to the medical bay, we don't want to bring anyone ineligible. Remember we've got to move quickly. Police will be all over the school in minutes, after that it's only a matter of time until the news gets there.(beat)

SECRETARY-BOT

Yes sir, I'll inform the team of our timeline.

APOLLO

Good. good.

Apollo bends down to be eye level with the planet model.

APOLLO

At long last.

CUT TO:

INT. HANGAR

A huge hangar with a hole in the middle where bay doors can open for blast offs. Inside people bustle about in preparations. On one upper level a row of ambulances wait to return students that are medically unable to make the journey. Drivers wait impatiently for the doctors to make one final checklist.

DOCTOR 1

Reason?

DOCTOR 2

(reading off a list)

Hip dysplasia. Can't walk without crutches.

They move to the next car.

DOCTOR 1

Reason?

DOCTOR 2

Previously broken leg. Walking boot.

FADE TO:

INT. INSIDE THE NEXT AMBULANCE

Tesha slowly wakes up, confused by her surroundings. She looks at a blinking light in her arm, even more confused. She sits up, then falls back pretending to be asleep as the two doctors peek inside the open ambulance.

DOCTOR 1

Reason?

DOCTOR 2

Asthma. Won't be able to handle the change in oxygenation...?

DOCTOR 1

We're sending kids back for that now?

DOCTOR 2

I don't know, I didn't write it.

They move onto the next car. Tesha jumps up, terrified. Then catches her head, dizzy from the sudden motion. She peeks out of the car. The doctors aren't looking her direction. She tiptoes out of the car then runs to find cover. She looks around the massive hangar, looking for a way out or a clue as to where she is. She sees a row of giant windows facing inward. She looks both ways before going to them. The windows look down onto a massive space below, occupied by one giant spaceship.

TESHA

Holy shit... (beat) I gotta get  
outta here- is there an exit?

She scans the area below for the familiar green glow of an exit sign, but finds nothing. Until she spots a row of sleeping pods being loaded onto the ship, and even from this distance she can tell it's her classmates. Even her friends! She watches them be loaded onto the ship, shocked.

TESHA

But- they didn't sign up for...

She tilts her head to read the logo printed onto the ship: *Apollo and Beyond*. She gasps, then looks back down at her classmates- then sees Vanessa being loaded on as one of the last pods.

TESHA

(gasp)  
Vanessa?

OVERHEAD WOMAN

Lift off in T-minus one minute and  
counting.

Tesha jumps from the sudden loud voice. Looking all around for the source. Then she sees a staircase marked *Emergency Exit*. She looks back down at the ship, then back at the door. Then at a red clock counting down, then at a ventilation shaft that leads down to the ship. (beat)

MAN

Hey you!

Tesha gasps-

CUT TO:

INT. APOLLO'S OFFICE

The secretary robot stands beside Apollo's desk, as he flips through news channels looking for coverage.

SECRETARY-BOT

But sir, isn't news coverage bad?  
We don't want the public knowing  
what we've done.

APOLLO

I have everything in place. Fake  
accounts, and more people  
interested in ship #17. Besides,  
no one cares about some measly  
Oakland public school students. No  
one will go looking for them.

CUT TO:

INT. HANGAR

Tesha doesn't think twice and opens the vent, jumping in and  
sliding down multiple stories towards the ship. She shoots  
out the bottom skidding on the slick floor, sliding past  
people bustling out of the blast radius. The bay doors far  
above the tip of the ship open, and the rocket ship's doors  
start to close.

MAN(2)

Woah woah woah someone stop her!

Tesha jumps up and races in, her feet just barely making it  
before it closes. Once inside she scrambles this way and that  
looking for Vanessa's pod.

OVERHEAD WOMAN

T-minus thirty seconds...

Tesha looks all around, panicked. Then see's Vanessa over a  
sea of other faces. She slides over other pods to get to  
hers.

OVERHEAD WOMAN

Lift off in ten, nine, eight-

Tesha tries to pry it open but it won't budge.

OVERHEAD WOMAN

Seven, six-

TESHA pulls and pulls with all her might, leaning towards the  
closed doors out, desperate...

OVERHEAD WOMAN

Five, four-

Tesha looks at Vanessa, asleep in the pod. Oblivious to what's about to happen...

OVERHEAD WOMAN

Three, two-

TESHA

no-

OVERHEAD WOMAN

ONE.

Fire blasts out the ignition, and Tesha is thrown back by the sheer force of it. She's plastered to the floor as the rocket shoots up into the atmosphere.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE APOLLO'S OFFICE

Apollo watches the distant rocket blast off across the bay. In the background Channel 4 plays on the TV.

FEMALE NEWS REPORTER

In a shocking turn of events... an entire Oakland highschool student population disappears, teachers and police dumbfounded on the whereabouts of these missing teens. Eye witness accounts claim to have seen the students leaving on busses, together. It is still unclear if there is a master kidnapper on the loose, or runaway public school children.

Apollo smiles.

FEMALE NEWS REPORTER

In other news, the 17th rocketship from Apollo and Beyond can be seen blasting off, carrying a team of a dozen scientists prepared for a long journey ahead of them. It's still unclear if proclaimed billionaire, George Apollo, owner of the company as in fact found a new planet for human kind, but many are still unconvinced that will even solve the problem... alas, only time will tell.

SECRETARY-BOT

Mr. Apollo... we have a situation.



Apollo barely looks away from the window, staring at the trail of smoke the rocket leaves behind. It disappears into the fog.

APOLLO

Hmm?

SECRETARY-BOT

There's a stow away...

Apollo slowly, eerily turns his head.

APOLLO

*What?*

The Secretary-bot shows him a video monitor of Tesha(now on conscious), plastered to the ground on the ship beside Vanessa's pod. The interior of the ship jerks, and Tesha floats in the air.

APOLLO

(angered)

As soon as you can transmit a message. Get her off that ship.

FADE TO:

INT. SPACESHIP- LOCATION: SPACE

(close up on Tesha's eyes opening. Zoom out to see Tesha floating upside down) Tesha screams and flails her limbs about not knowing what to do. Then clutches her gut.

TESHA

(pained noise)

This feels so weird.

Tesha's face lights up, and she looks around below her at the pods. She finds Vanessa and pulls herself back down.

TESHA

I'm gonna get us outta here.

She looks around and spots a window.

TESHA

We can't have gone far, right?

She pushes herself off, and floats towards the window, kicking her legs like she's swimming.

TESHA

I've always wanted to see Earth  
from up-

Tesha looks down at a planet covered completely in shades of grey and white.

TESHA  
(eyes wide)  
That's not Earth...

Bangs and rattles come from around the corner, including voices.

GUARD (1)  
Stow away in quadrant 6, no 7.  
Which one is this.

GUARD (2)  
Gimme that.

FEMALE GUARD  
In here!

Tesha panics and pushes back to Vanessa. She pulls herself down so she's barely hiding beneath her pod. The guards come around the corner holding net guns. Magnetic boots keep them on the ground.

GUARD (1)  
Where is it, no she? Where is she?  
Are you sure it's this one?

Guard 2 shrugs.

FEMALE GUARD  
I heard something... Look around.

They walk around the pods looking for signs of Tesha. Their boots make a >sheenk, rrrrrrg, sheenk, rrrrrrg< sound as they walk. Tesha moves under the pods, making her way towards the end of the corridor. She sees a closet that might give her better cover. She listens for the sounds of the boots, judging their distance. Then pushes off.

FEMALE GUARD  
Gotcha.

A net is launched at Tesha as she screams. The other guards coming hurrying.

GUARD (1)  
You caught it- no her. You caught her.

GUARD (2)  
What now? We get a raise?

FEMALE GUARD  
No. boss's orders. We dump her.

TESHA  
Nonono wait- let's talk about  
this! I could help around the  
ship- Wait!

They start walking to an evacuation pod, as Tesha pulls at the metallic net.

TESHA  
Wait- no please wait!

The female guard opens the pod doors and is about to throw her in, when Tesha latches onto guard 1.

TESHA  
Please- I'm just a kid!

GUARD (1)  
Hey let that go- no me! Let me go!

The Female guard kicks guard 1 off balance knocking both him and Tesha into the pod.

FEMALE GUARD  
Tootles.

She pushes the eject button and they're both blasted down onto the white planet.

CUT TO:

INT. EVACUATION POD

GUARD (1)  
(banging at the sealed door)  
No no!

Tesha fights with the metal net but it's no use.

CUT TO:

EXT. SNOW PLANET

The pod crashes, kicking up snow and dust.  
Tesha rubs her head, and tries again with the metal net.  
Guard 1 prys the door open, letting in a freezing breeze, and a small patch of snow by the door that Tesha isn't close to.

TESHA  
Wait! Help me!

Guard 1 leaves the pod, but the second he gets outside he screams in agony and falls onto the snow screaming more. Bloody spots are left where his hands touched the snow. Tesha scoots way from the open door. Guard 1 somehow gets up and runs, screaming with every step, when a giant square shaped, white snow monster moves in the near distance. Locking eyes with the pod Tesha sits in. It charges, butting guard 1 a hundred feet in the air on it's way, dropping him face first into the acid snow. The monster knocks into the pod, rolling the door to face the sky. It peaks into it. Tesha screams and tries to back away. It sticks its tongue into the pod, licking at the metaic net, lifting it and Tesha up. Tesha see's it's sharp teeth and throws the net around it and pulls. This tears it open and she slides out of it. The monster leans back, chomping down the net, licking its lips with delight. It goes back and starts tearing bites into the sides of the pod. The monster lifts the pod with Tesha inside up with its mouth and smashed on the ground. It does this multiple times, smashing a hole in the bottom that Tesha falls out of. Tesha catches herself with her hands, which was a mistake. Her palms go deep into the snow and she screams in sudden pain. When she looks at her hands, they're covered in small holes as the acid snow eats away at her skin. She scrambles out of the way at the monster smashes the pod into the snow again. Tesha's teeth chatter, her hands and arms bleed as more snow gets onto them. She coughs, the monster smashes the pod again and the ground below Tesha gives out. She screams as she falls down, down, down.

#### INT. APOLLO'S OFFICE

The secretary-bot watches a monitor, while a now salt and pepper haired Apollo taps his fingers on his desk impatiently.

APOLLO

So, is she off the ship?

SECRETARY-BOT

She has landed on an exoplanet you marked *uninhabitable*, with the side note *acid snow*.

Apollo smiles at this.

APOLLO

No one can survive on that planet.  
If she's landed there she's  
already dead.

SECRETARY-BOT

Not yet.