

FADE IN:

EXT. UNKNOWN PLANET. DAY.

STARLORD and Drax are exploring an unknown planet. Drax scowls as Starlord rifles through a pile of rubble.

DRAX

I do not understand the point of this mission.

STARLORD

Drax, bud, Nick Fury called in a favor. And the money helps too. Looking for a recording Tony Stark left behind during a time jump isn't the worst way to pay off the Benatar's fuel bill.

DRAX

There are obviously many things that would be worse. We could be bleeding out in a sewer. Or we could be eating those moon squares you insist are food. That is much worse.

STARLORD

They're called Luna bars. And I know this is taking a lot of time. Trust me--it's worth it.

DRAX

Time is not the issue. We are bringing Pepper Potts a voice recording. It is not her husband.

STARLORD

1. Pepper wants closure.
2. Morgan Stark needs to hear her dad's voice.
3. I'm just in this for the money.

Path 1, Conditional 1:

STARLORD

Don't you want her to hear Tony's voice one last time?

DRAX

It is not the same as her husband. A voice recording cannot provide material goods, raise her child, or warm her bed. A voice recording would not satisfy her in a husbandly way.

STARLORD

Oh God. Just get it out of your system.

DRAX

It will not make her nether regions quake with passion. And it will not leave her breathless and moaning between a pair of sweaty sheets. Or on a kitchen floor. Or while hanging from a sturdy staircase banister. Preferably upside-down.

STARLORD

I'm not gonna be able to look Pepper Potts in the eye when we get back.

DRAX

Then she will think you are weak.

STARLORD

Okay, that aside--the voice recording is about memories. We can't bring Tony back to her. But just hearing his voice would mean a lot, you know? Maybe he left something special in that recording just for her. Or maybe one of these days, she'll start to forget just what he sounds like.

STARLORD looks down at his walkman.

STARLORD

It happens, you know? I couldn't tell you what my mother's voice sounds like anymore. It's been too long. And I don't want Pepper to forget. She's already been through so much. It's the least we could do.

DRAX

It is not the least. It is significant. I understand that now. But there is a part of me that recognizes it is still not the same as a living husband.

STARLORD

If we could find Tony on this planet and send him back to her, I'd do it in a heartbeat.

Path 2, Conditional 1:

STARLORD

It's important, okay? Now, I'm not saying Ego was father of the year-

DRAX

Your father was a celestial madman who repeatedly impregnated women with both children and tumors. No one would nominate him for such a prestigious award.

STARLORD

No. What I mean is--Ego was an awful dad. But I didn't know that until I grew up. Before then, I would have given anything to hear his voice. The closest thing I had were a few songs Mom told me she played on their first date. And well...we can give Morgan Stark something better. We can give her a direct message from her dad.

DRAX is quiet for a long moment. Finally, he nods.

DRAX

If my daughter were alive, I would spend every waking minute ensuring she knew I cared. Perhaps this recording was Tony Stark's way of doing the same.

STARLORD

Knowing him, that's exactly what he wanted.

Path 3, Conditional 2:

STARLORD

Look, I never really got to know Tony. Now, I won't ever have the chance.

DRAX

Certainly not. He is dead. That will not change.

STARLORD

But I know what's important right here, right now. And it's getting a good payday for all of us. If Tony's family gets some closure too, that's just a nice bonus.

DRAX

I see. That is unusually practical of you, Quill.

STARLORD

It's a win-win. We get the recording, Tony's family gets a little piece of him. All we need to do is look in a few more corners.

DRAX

I have checked the corners in these ruins. They do not contain the recording. There are only bugs. Many bugs.

Critical Path Resumes.

DRAX kneels down and searches through a crate. He stands up. His hands are empty but his expression is thoughtful.

DRAX

Tony Stark was a good man. And very boring. He spoke too much. But he took action when needed. Sacrificing himself with the infinity stones saved everyone.

STARLORD

Yeah. Sometimes I wonder about that, you know? Did he ever think about leaving everyone else to fight and just...running away with Pepper and Morgan?

DRAX

That would have been a cowardly act.

STARLORD

Would you have run off with your wife and daughter if you knew Thanos was coming?

DRAX

If I had, I would not be able to look at them again without shame.

STARLORD

1. I know what you mean.
2. I wish Tony hadn't had to die.
3. Let's just move on.

Path 1:

STARLORD

Before the snap, part of me wanted to whisk Gamora away to a quiet little part of Missouri and pretend the universe wasn't about to catch fire. We could have ridden it all out and raised a few green babies whenever someone else made the world safe again.

DRAX

Ugh. Please do not reproduce with Gamora. She is a strong warrior. Your genetics will dilute any fighting capabilities her children may have. And your features will make them repulsive. So very, very repulsive. Mantis will look beautiful in comparison. I feel nauseated just thinking about your horrible children.

STARLORD

All this talk about good gene pools is really rich coming from a guy who's bald as a baboon's ass.

DRAX

There is no need to get personal.

Starlord sighs.

STARLORD

Anyway, when Gamora died trying to stop Thanos...I couldn't let that go to waste. And when she came back, all I wanted to do was stop that ultraviolet asshole. Just so she could keep living.

DRAX

Tony Stark did the same for his wife and daughter. It was an honorable choice.

Path 2:

STARLORD

It just doesn't feel fair. The guy helped bring back everyone that day. Me, you, hell--even Gamora. And I...I didn't care if I died after losing her. Being snapped out of existence? It was a relief, honestly. But Tony had a family. One he put together after half the planet was dusted.

DRAX

Did you feel ready to fight when you saw Gamora on the battlefield?

STARLORD

She's the reason I fired my guns.

DRAX

And Tony Stark's family was the reason he put on Thanos's glove. His sacrifice was for them. And for the rest of the universe.

STARLORD

Yeah. Who knew a guy like Tony could be such a softie in the end?

DRAX

I was not surprised. Tony Stark was very soft and fleshy beneath his iron suit. Like all humans. But he understood his purpose on the battlefield.

Path 3:

DRAX

You want to stop talking? That is new for you.

STARLORD

Let's just focus on the payday, okay? We're gonna get a good, hot meal for everyone on the ship the next time we're planet-side.

DRAX

I want something that is served in a garlic reduction.

Critical Path Resumes:

STARLORD finds a console. He presses a button and watches it power on. Tony Stark's voice rings out.

TONY

Hi Pepper. Maguna. Did I say, "I love you 3000," the last time I saw you both? I hope so. Because if you're getting this, I'm probably not there to say it anymore. Yeah. Not exactly how I hoped this would all turn out.

STARLORD pauses the recording.

STARLORD

I think I just found what we're looking for.

If the player chose Conditional 1:

DRAX

Good. Tony Stark's family needs this recording.

If the player chose Conditional 2:

DRAX

I am looking forward to the money. And new snacks.

Critical path resumes.

STARLORD

As soon as this downloads, we'll
be back on the Benatar faster than
Dale Earnhardt.

DRAX

Who is this Dale Earnhardt? If he
is so fast, why haven't we
recruited him?

STARLORD

I ask myself the same thing every
single day.

STARLORD clicks a button. He downloads the message. But just then, the sound of gunfire rings out. They spy enemy ships chasing the Benatar through the skies. One fires at the Benatar while the other docks on the planet. Robotic stormtroopers race toward the ruins as ROCKET speaks over STARLORD's comms system.

ROCKET

(Through comms)

Get ready, Quill! Unlike your
little peashooters, these guys
actually pack some firepower!

STARLORD

Thanks, Rocket. I'm really feeling
the love through the comms.

GAMORA

(Through comms)

Hold them off for as long as you
can! We'll be planet-side shortly.

GROOT

(Through comms)

I am Groot!

STARLORD pulls out his guns as the stormtroopers get closer.

STARLORD

Get your knives ready, Drax. We're
going in blazing.

Drax lets out a boisterous, gleeful laugh.

DRAX

This is excellent! They are all
going to die horribly!

DRAX and STARLORD rush at the stormtroopers. A battle
begins.

FADE OUT.