

ROCK PAPER SCISSORS

CHARACTERS

Jacob CARTER (mid-30s, American - based on Chris Hadfield)

Michael CARTER (mid-30s, American)

Note: Their matching surname-patches, childhood pictures, knowing each other very well, and friendship establish a brotherly bond.

OPENING SEQUENCE

1 EXT. EARTH ORBIT

The camera emerges from behind the Earth, revealing the vastness of space. The International Space Station (ISS) floats against the backdrop of stars and Earth. As the camera pans, opening title rolls, followed by subtitle.

One module arriving and connecting to the ISS.

Title: "ROCK PAPER SCISSORS"

Subtitle appears: "International Space Station, Year 2030"

ACT 1 - ROCK

2 EXT. SPACE - ISS DEBRIS

A close-up of debris floating in orbit, remnants of a satellite. In the background, the ISS, unaware of the danger.

Subtitle: "many minutes before impact"

3 INT. ISS - MAIN MODULE

Inside the ISS, the Earth is visible through a small window. On the wall, a bulletin board holds papers, including an evacuation plan, photos, tasks, tools (red pliers), monitors (displaying status, one is oxygen).

Astronaut comes into scene; he appears to be grabbing tools. He takes red pliers. Soon he returns them back and grabs drill instead. In a rush, he forgets to fasten the pliers back. Camera stays on the tools for a while.

Voice over (V.O.) during shots 3 to 4 (muffled):

"ISS, this is Houston. We have a situational update. A significant event involving satellite destruction in low Earth orbit has been detected. Preliminary tracking indicates a debris field with potential intersection to your current trajectory. Closest approach is estimated in approximately 50 minutes. Stand by for further analysis and recommended actions."

4 EXT. SPACE - ISS PANEL

Outside the station, JACOB, and a MICHAEL work side by side, disconnecting cables from a module. They use tools, including the large red pliers and drill.

5 EXT. SPACE - ISS PANEL

POV: JACOB disconnects the last cable and looks at MICHAEL, who turns around, being done too. They turn to the final panel of cables. JACOB suggests a game of Rock Paper Scissors. The MICHAEL agrees with a nod.

6 EXT. SPACE - ISS PANEL

Close-up of both hands playing Rock Paper Scissors. JACOB loses with rock.

7 EXT. SPACE - ISS PANEL

MICHAEL smirks and laughs, salutes and slowly moves / flies away. JACOB turns back to the panel and starts working, something glints in the distance.

8 EXT. SPACE - ISS PANEL

Close-up of JACOB's face through helmet as he works, he looks up and freezes. His pupils widen, he is terrified.

9 EXT. SPACE - ISS DESTRUCTION

POV: JACOB looks into the distance, when suddenly debris begins to smash into the ISS around him. Chaos ensues.

10 EXT. SPACE - ISS DESTRUCTION

The ISS is breaking apart. We see modules getting destroyed.

11 EXT. SPACE - ISS DESTRUCTION

Wide angle of ISS getting destroyed.

Cut to black.

ACT 2 - PAPER

12 INT. ISS - MAIN MODULE

Inside the module, the view of Earth is now accompanied by the destroyed station. Wrecked walls, sparks, lights flickering, papers and the evacuation plan are damaged, float in space.

Subtitle: "30 minutes after impact"

13 INT. ISS - MAIN MODULE

Close-up on wall with racks, *Emergency Ration* sticker half-torn off the last meal pack.

As camera pans to the side, it reveals a door with a timer: Escape module *compression in process. Time left: 14 minutes.*

14 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

JACOB and MICHAEL float together in a relatively intact module. Between them is their last meal - a can of beans. Around them, red lights flicker, and every display shows errors, of them is *low oxygen*, that is visible.

15 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

MICHAEL, still processing the whole situation, looks at the food, gestures, and suggests playing Rock Paper Scissors.

16 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

JACOB nods in agreement.

17 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

Close-up: They play, and the JACOB loses again, this time with scissors.

18 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

MICHAEL laughs, but this time its different kind of laugh, almost like a fake one.

19 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

Wide shot of them two. MICHAEL is reaching for his can of beans, while JACOB thinks... he turns around, almost facing towards camera and sees something. He floats towards us.

20 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

Over the shoulder shot: Arriving near the panel wall with computers, JACOB looks at screen that caught his attention. Screen reads: *O₂ Remaining: 05:12... 05:11... 05:10...*

21 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

JACOB sights... he turns around and sees the airlock timer be at 13 minutes. In background, MICHAEL eating his beans gives him a thumbs up. Then he sees the timer as well, and his smile fades away.

ACT 3 - SCISSORS

22 INT. ISS - EVA PREP ROOM

Wide shot of dark room with bright window to another room. Debris floats everywhere. Suddenly, we see two silhouettes approaching, we hear door rattling, then click and door opens. Light fills the room.

23 INT. ISS - EVA PREP ROOM

Shot of them two standing in doorway, observing the room. They point their flashlight to orange suit on left, which is fully intact. They look at each other with a slight relief and smile. Then they look back into the room.

24 INT. ISS - EVA PREP ROOM

They slowly point the flashlight on the orange suit on right. The suit seems fine, but the helmet is broken. Glass is shattered by sharp tool - red pliers.

25 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

They are both in the same situation, but instead of food, there's a helmet between them. They are finishing dressing into the orange suits. Then they look at each other...

26 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

Closeup of hands getting ready for the last game of rock paper scissors. As the hands get in position, they stop for a second.

27 ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

INSERT CUT: Escape module *compression*. *Time left: 9 minutes*.

28 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

INSERT CUT: monitor timer reads: *O₂ Remaining: 00:06... 00:05... 00:04...*

29 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

Hands play rock paper scissors; each time they stop their hands, we hear beeping from the O₂ monitor counting down.

JACOB ends with scissors.

MICHAEL ends with rock, winning for the third time in a row.

30 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

Close-up of JACOB nodding in defeat.

31 INT. ISS - SURVIVING MODULE

JACOB's POV: MICHAEL grabs his helmet, looks at us, and puts the helmet on us. The helmet almost instantly gets foggy and it's harder to see. MICHAEL appears to be tightening the helmet on us, then he floats a further away. He grips the badge under his suit, detaches it and puts it in our hands.

Cuts to black.

END CREDITS SHORT MONTAGE (5 pictures)

CHILDHOOD: Two boys in cardboard helmets playing outside.

TEENS: Trading chocolate bars, playing RPS. (Jacob losing)

ADULTS: University graduation.

NASA MISSION: Picture before launch in their orange suits.

LAST IMAGE: Mission badge framed in Jacob's hand.