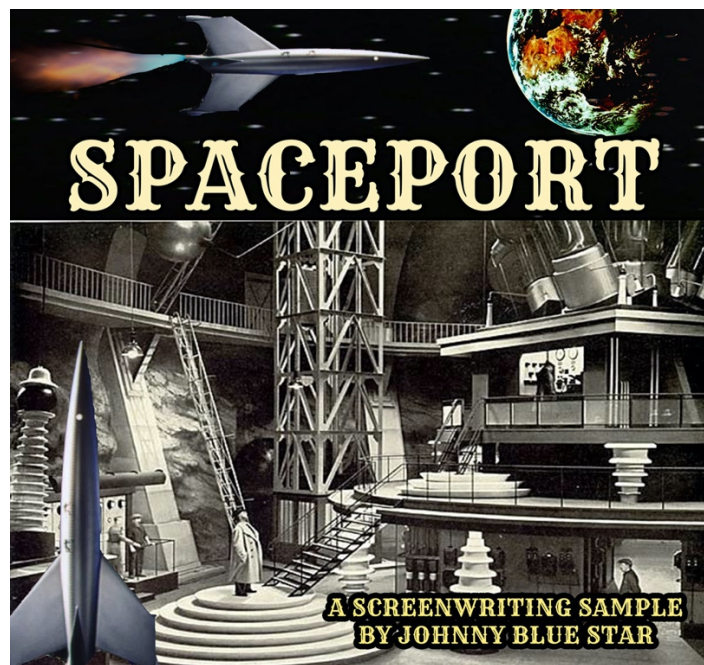


# SPACEPORT

-A SCREENPLAY WRITING SAMPLE-

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INT. RESTAURANT. WASHINGTON DC -- EVENING

Two brothers, Morris and Chuck, in their mid-forties, are having dinner together in a Japanese restaurant. Morris is an entrepreneur, involved in the creation of a space port. Chuck is an investigative reporter, recently turned freelance writer. Morris, who has been fairly cavalier about the material that his brother has developed about problems with the Space Program, is now surprisingly asking him to come onto the Board. He is told that Bernard Fitzgerald, a maverick space industrialist, has demanded his participation. Fitzgerald funded a case launched against the government about the Venus Lighter Expedition, a probe that would have ignited small thermonuclear devices in the atmosphere of Venus to test certain climate change theories. This was a black op component of an allegedly conventional space probe using a bi-modal reactor with the largest amount of plutonium ever launched from Earth. The discovery of this Black Op component by Chuck poisoned the

atmosphere for the Lighter Case, which went to the Supreme Court.

INT. RESTAURANT. WASHINGTON DC -- EVENING

Two brothers, in their mid-forties, are having dinner together in a Japanese restaurant.

CHUCK

Hell, Morris, why the hell did you bring me here if you were going to have spaghetti?

Points to Sushi.

MORRIS

I just can't eat that shit. It's whale food...

CHUCK

We know your opinion about sushi. But why did you bring me here? This is an expensive restaurant. You ordered a children's dinner.

MORRIS

It's the only thing I can eat.

CHUCK

Then why are we here?- I believe for the third time.

MORRIS

Because I want my big brother to be happy- and I know you love that shit.

CHUCK

Do I have to use water torture? You are way too selfish to give up a good meal for my humble pleasures.

MORRIS

I just want you to be in a good mood. And stay in a good mood- and just keep eating while I talk. Say nothing.

CHUCK

You know I can't promise you that.  
You are way too outrageous for me  
to say anything.

MORRIS

I want you on the Board.

CHUCK

Are you crazy?

MORRIS

\$10,000 a month. Does that sound  
crazy?

CHUCK

I haven't made ten thousand dollars  
a month in my life.

MORRIS

I know it.

CHUCK

Do you have some kind of a business  
death wish?

MORRIS

Hear me out.

Chuck signals the waiter. The server comes over, bows  
slightly. Chuck speaks to him in Japanese.

MORRIS (CONT'D)

What did you say?

CHUCK

I ordered a few more calimari.  
Actually, two plates, Big Brother.

MORRIS

Good. Eat up.

(pause)

I want you on the Board because it  
provides me with credibility.

CHUCK

To whom? The Space Agency. It's  
controlled by NASA- and you know  
who they hate.

MORRIS

They don't hate you. They're afraid of you.

CHUCK

They weren't until the Lighter case. They were in conspicuous violation of two space treaties and the Phillipine accord. I just called them on it. The Global Network took it from there.

MORRIS

There wouldn't have been a Lighter case without you.

CHUCK

Just trying to protect world civilization.

MORRIS

That's why I need you. With a lunatic like you on the Board, the Agency will be more cautious.

CHUCK

I thought you had an agreement with regards to military....

MORRIS

You know about agreements. And Bernard is waivering...

CHUCK

Good God. Is he...?

MORRIS

(nodding)

My secret weapon.

CHUCK

He's financing the spaceport?

MORRIS

The main man.

CHUCK

He's worse than I am. Good God, he deserves the credit for Lighter.

MORRIS

You ignited the flame.

CHUCK

But he paid for the lighter fluid,  
so to speak. God, he spent  
millions on attorney's fees.

MORRIS

He got it all back.

CHUCK

Nobody thought they would win.

MORRIS

He's pro-space, he loves the idea  
of a spaceport here, in the middle  
of America- and he coughed up seven  
hundred and fifty million-

CHUCK

And he wants you on the Board-

MORRIS

And you don't.

CHUCK

Under normal circumstances, I wish  
they would lock you up in some  
goddamn loft and throw away the  
key.

MORRIS

You'd visit...

CHUCK

Of course. I'm your brother,  
aren't I?

Waiter comes over with several plates of sushi. Chuck  
looks at his brother, smiles happily- and digs in with  
gusto.