

THE SLIDE

Film Treatment
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INTRODUCTION

The near future. Seattle, Washington. A world going about its business. Scientists at the University of Washington monitor deep space the way others monitor weather: routine, unglamorous, necessary. The tone is intimate and grounded. Science is the language, human connection is the heartbeat. When a rogue supermassive black hole is detected closing in on the Milky Way, the world does not end overnight. It ends slowly, then all at once. Against this extinction-level backdrop, one flawed and ordinary scientist races to turn an unfinished experiment into humanity's only exit.

LOGLINE

When a supermassive black hole is confirmed to be on a collision course with Earth, astrophysicist Dane Currier must use his experimental teleportation system to carry humanity to a distant star or all life ends.

SYNOPSIS

Astrophysicist Dane Currier and his team at the University of Washington discover a rogue supermassive black hole, dubbed Norma, hurtling toward Earth at one-tenth the speed of light. The President addresses the nation. Extinction is confirmed. Three months remain.

Dane reveals a teleportation system he has been secretly building in his apartment. He has already sent his dog and himself through it successfully. He proposes a plan: convert the system into a relay, build a third chamber, load humanity into digital stasis, and launch them toward Proxima Centauri b aboard a nuclear-propelled spacecraft called Genesis. The government agrees.

The team relocates to a secure facility in Chantilly, Virginia. Testing begins. Isaac Farragut, the scientist who first discovered Norma, volunteers to be the first human to enter long-term stasis. He survives the relay but dies the following day from complications during revival. Dane fixes the code and carries on.

On January 1, 2026, six thousand lottery-selected passengers are teleported into digital stasis aboard Genesis. Genesis launches from Kennedy Space Center. Dane is the last person to enter the system. A heat overload destroys the relay. He never arrives. He exists as a disembodied signal drifting through space alongside the ship.

Eighty-five years later, Genesis lands on Proxima Centauri b. The survivors emerge. Megan Trapper, Dane's partner, discovers on the arrival manifest that Dane failed to transfer. She grieves. Macy, his dog, looks into the empty air and wags her tail. Dane watches the six thousand begin their lives on a new world. He sees that Megan carries his child. He drifts into the dark, a ghost among the stars.

CHARACTERS

DANE CURRIER (30s): An unkempt, nail-biting astrophysicist at the University of Washington. He has spent months secretly building a teleportation system in his apartment, driven by curiosity and quiet obsession. When Norma is confirmed, his invention becomes humanity's only lifeline. His arc moves from self-doubt and isolation to sacrifice and peace. His goal is to get as many people as possible to Proxima Centauri b. His motivation is equal parts scientific purpose and love for the people around him.

MEGAN TRAPPER (27): An undergraduate astronomy major, sharp and unsentimental, with a quick wit that masks deep feeling. She is Dane's co-builder, his sounding board, and eventually his partner. Her arc is from brilliant sidekick to the person who carries Dane's legacy forward on a new world. Her goal is to see the plan through and keep Dane honest. Her motivation is a fierce refusal to let good work go to waste.

DINA JENSEN (24): A composed and sharp astrophysicist on Dane's team. She is the emotional and moral center of the group. Her arc moves through fear, grief over Isaac, and final acceptance. Her goal is to make sure the science is done right and the right people go through. Her motivation is the memory of her father, whose cold fusion research was stolen by the government, which makes her deeply protective of Dane's work.

ISAAC FARRAGUT (late 20s): Reserved and analytical, the scientist who first identifies Norma. He carries quiet guilt for discovering the thing that will end the world. His arc is a deliberate act of courage: he volunteers to be the first person to enter long-term stasis, wanting to discover something worth discovering. His goal is redemption through purpose. His motivation is love for Dina, which he keeps private until just before he goes through. He does not survive revival.

SECRETARY ERICK DONZE (60s): The US Secretary of Defense. Stone-faced and pragmatic, he becomes the key government ally who provides resources, cover, and access to classified nuclear propulsion technology. His arc is a conversion from skeptic to true believer. His goal is to get humanity off Earth before it is destroyed. His motivation is survival, plain and blunt.

CHAPLAIN ROSITA CAMPION (50s): A tiny, fierce Mexican-accented pastor stationed at the Chantilly facility. She provides spiritual counsel to passengers and staff. Her key scene is a direct, disarming conversation with Dane in which she helps him release his guilt over Isaac's death. She does not board Genesis, choosing to remain behind. Her motivation is complete peace with her own end.

MACY: Dane's twelve-year-old lab-hound-pointer mix. She is the second living creature sent through the Courier system, and the teleportation improves her: her eyes clear, her energy returns. She is a quiet emotional anchor throughout. She is the first to sense Dane's presence on Proxima Centauri b after he fails to arrive in body.

THREE ACT SUMMARY

ACT ONE

Dane Currier and Dina Jensen monitor signal data in the University of Washington lab late at night. Dina confirms an unidentified object approaching the Milky Way at over one-tenth the speed of light. Isaac Farragut is called in to run a reciprocal check. He confirms it. The object is thirty-seven times the mass of Sagittarius A and accelerating. Dane alerts the NRAO, GEODDS, and the Deep Space Network. He sends a communique to the Secretary General's office and flags the object as a potential extinction-level event.

Dane attends a campus symposium and receives a text from Dina confirming the object is a super-supermassive black hole headed directly for Earth. He gets food with fellow student Megan Trapper and returns to the lab. The team connects with Dr. Ron Sikorsky and then with DSN contact Henry St. James in Australia, who calculates a collision date in late February. He confirms there is no survivable outcome.

Dane briefs Secretary of Defense Erick Donze and Dr. Sikorsky by video. Donze asks for plain facts. Dane delivers them: gravitational seismic disruption, atmospheric collapse, the sun fragmenting, spaghettification of the planet over weeks. The object is named Norma. The President is briefed.

The President addresses the nation. He confirms Norma is a supermassive black hole on a collision course with Earth. Three months remain. He implements martial law. Campus riots break out that night.

Dane returns to his apartment. He has two egg-shaped teleportation chambers, Nova and Ava, built against the far wall. He has sent birds through them unsuccessfully and his dog Macy through successfully. Macy is improved by the transit. Dane strips and enters Nova himself. He comes through Ava intact. His chronic stomach problems are gone. Megan Trapper arrives and finds him naked in the apartment. She reviews the transfer logs and identifies a significant surplus of valence electrons in Dane's profile, suggesting the system strengthens whatever passes through it.

Megan raises the possibility of long-distance relay travel. They discuss Proxima Centauri b as a destination and nuclear pulse propulsion as the means. They agree they need a third chamber and a way to get it there. They name the idea Courier 3.1.

ACT TWO

Dane reveals the teleportation system to Dina and Isaac. Isaac goes through Nova and arrives in Ava intact, exhilarated. Dina declines for now. Dane contacts Donze and proposes the plan: build a third chamber, send it to Proxima Centauri b aboard a nuclear-propelled spacecraft, and relay human signals there for stasis transit. Donze calls it insane and then agrees to it. He confirms the government has been working on nuclear pulse propulsion in secret.

The team builds Aurora, the third chamber, in Dane's apartment. Henry St. James sends Dane a farewell text and kills himself. The team works through the night. Tanks roll through Seattle. The world is coming apart.

Donze arranges for the team and all equipment to be relocated to a secure facility at Chantilly Air Jet Center in Virginia. Before they leave, Dina warns Dane that the government may seize his work the way they once seized her father's cold fusion research. Dane promises to be careful. The team reassembles the chambers at Chantilly. Aurora is now large enough to hold livestock as well as humans. Isaac volunteers to be the first human to enter full stasis via the relay. He argues that someone has to go first, and it should be him. He privately tells Dane he loves Dina and will tell her after he comes back, not before. The team presses their hands against Nova's glass and counts down.

Isaac goes through. He is stored on Aurora's SSD drives. Reintegration begins. He arrives frozen solid and catatonic. Dane performs CPR. They use the AED three times. Isaac comes back. He

describes the stasis as years of luminous, peaceful dreaming. He tells them reintegration needs to be faster or the subject will not survive.

Isaac tells Dina he loves her. The following day he codes and cannot be revived.

Dane and Megan find the error in the relay code. They rewrite it. They run successful tests with birds. Macy goes through and arrives intact. Dane enters Nova for a week-long stasis test. He comes back healthy. Megan realizes she loves him. She goes through for one day while Dane is in stasis. She returns safely. They are confirmed on the manifest.

Genesis, a 167-foot spacecraft, is assembled at Chantilly. It carries compressed supply containers, livestock pens, seed storage, medical provisions, tools, and Aurora. The nuclear propulsion system is classified and being fitted onto a rocket at Kennedy Space Center. Donze confirms launch preparations are on schedule.

The President and Donze visit Dane's lab and inspect the chambers. The President calls them impressive. Donze confirms the relocation plan and asks Dane to run the teleportation operation himself on launch day.

Saturn is pulled apart by Norma. The team watches it on a live feed.

ACT THREE

January 1, 2026. Six thousand lottery-selected passengers arrive at Chantilly. Dane addresses the crowd. A father named Levi asks why his wife and daughter were not selected. Armed guards move to the edges of the room. Donze explains the lottery was indiscriminate. The crowd presses back but eventually submits. Chaplain Rosie moves through the line, praying with those who need it. Dina takes blood samples. Megan checks names. Nova begins flashing in a steady rhythm as passengers go through one by one.

On January 8th, a group of people affected by the slide, their bodies partially translucent from Norma's proximity effects, burst into the lab armed with stolen weapons. They demand to be sent through. One passenger is shot and killed trying to stop them. Security alarms trigger. Armed squads pour in from every entrance. The ghost figures are contained. One passenger is dead. After a pause, the line reforms and the sequence resumes.

The moon is pulled from orbit and disappears. The team watches from outside.

The teleportation count reaches 5,000. Donze arranges for Levi's wife and daughter to be included. Asher runs to them across the lab.

Dane has a final meeting with Donze, who confirms he himself is on the manifest. The counter reaches 6,000 passengers. The team flies to Kennedy Space Center. Macy greets Dane on the tarmac. Genesis stands at Launch Complex 39.

Dane visits Chaplain Rosie. She tells him she is staying behind. She sends him off with peace. That night, Megan comes to Dane's quarters. They are together for the last time. January 19th. Nova and Ava are reassembled in the KSC lab. Megan steps into Nova and faces Dane through the glass. She presses her hand to the door. He mirrors her. The sequence fires. She is gone. Dina is already stored in Aurora. Dane verifies the code, kisses the laptop, and steps into Nova. The techs salute him. The four-minute launch countdown begins. The sequence fires. Nova blazes white.

Dane experiences the transit as a stream of images: Earth crumpling, faces of friends, Isaac standing still and at peace. Then silence. He moves through deep space as pure awareness, without a body. He catches up to Genesis in the void and travels alongside it. Eighty-five years pass like nothing.

Genesis enters the atmosphere of Proxima Centauri b and lands. Megan emerges, nude and whole. She looks out at the alien landscape under the red dwarf sun. Macy bounds down the ramp and puts her nose to the ground. Dina follows. Passengers stream out behind them. Levi, Asher, Parker, Hudson Stigall.

Megan checks the arrival manifest. Dane's profile reads: subject failed to relay. Catastrophic system failure due to ambient heat overload. She collapses into Dina. Macy trots back over and stares into the empty air.

Dane drifts close to Megan. He cannot touch her. He cannot speak. He sees the warmth at her midsection. She is pregnant. He forms the words with nothing. She flinches. She looks at the space in front of her for just a moment. Then she looks away.

She straightens. She takes Dina's hand. They walk down the ramp together onto the surface. Six thousand people spread out across the alien landscape. Asher chases his sister. Levi holds his wife's hand. Macy runs circles around all of them.

Dane drifts above it all. Nova and Ava are gone. Aurora is sealed. There is no receiver left anywhere in the universe. He watches his child, his dog, his people, alive on a world not yet named. He drifts into the forever dark. He is signal without receiver. He is love without body.

THEMES

Sacrifice: Dane gives everything for an outcome he will never experience. He builds the exit for humanity and cannot walk through it himself. His death is not heroic in the traditional sense. It is quiet, accidental, and complete. The story argues that the most significant acts of love often go unwitnessed.

Identity and Existence: The teleportation system forces every character to confront the question of what makes a person who they are. When you are disassembled into data and reassembled elsewhere, are you still you? Dane's final state, a disembodied consciousness drifting through space, pushes this question to its furthest limit.

Faith and Science: Dane is a scientist who resists easy comfort. Chaplain Rosie does not try to convert him. Instead, she reflects his own language back to him: cause and effect, equilibrium, action and reaction. By the end, the two systems of belief meet in the same place. He went through Nova with eyes that see. That is enough.

Grief and Continuation: Isaac's death sits at the center of the story. Dina loved him and told him too late. Dane failed to code the system correctly and carries that. The film does not resolve grief. It carries it forward. Dina walks onto a new planet with her loss still intact. Megan carries Dane's child. Life continues through and because of what has been lost.

Human Resilience and Dignity: Against complete annihilation, people still stand in line. They still argue, love, fear, and help each other. Passengers step naked into a machine they cannot fully understand and trust it anyway. A child asks a simple question. A father fights for his family. An old man boards a ship for a planet he will never see with waking eyes.

CONCLUSION

The Slide is a story about what people choose to do with the time they have left. It is not a disaster film. It is a film about love, invention, and the cost of saving others. Dane Currier does not survive his own miracle. He builds the door and cannot walk through it. His story matters because it reflects something true about human nature: the people who give the most are rarely the ones who receive the reward. Norma arrives at a moment when audiences are hungry for science fiction that feels earned and emotionally honest. It is intimate in scale and infinite in scope. It asks who we are when everything is stripped away, and answers with six thousand people stepping naked onto a new world, still standing, still human, still beginning.

END