

## Choose Your Own Adventure Endings II

1.

You decide its worth risking lowering your shields a little so that you can travel further without needing to recharge. A few hours pass, you are making good time and your energy reserves are holding. Then you here a loud crack and your front camera goes black. Something small has hit the camera and you are now driving blind.

You slow your ship to a near stop and raise the shields to full capacity. Then you put on your spacesuit and grab the only spare camera from a locker. Then you flick a button to depressurize the pod, click on your magnetic boots and gloves, and open up the pod door. You then begin awkwardly crawling out the door and onto the outside of your ship. You get to the cracked camera and take it out by turning it counterclockwise a few times. Then you screw in the new camera, and crawl back into the pod.

Once you are inside you close the door, repressurize the pod, and take off your suit. A glance down at your radar screen shows that ship sized objects are coming into view at a troublesome rate.

(continue to pirate ending)

2.

You decide that you would lose in a gun fight, but that the strange ship probably isn't willing to risk a colliding with you. The strange ship will have to move out of the way, and that will give you valuable time since it will need to reverse direction to follow you. You give your thrusters more power and stay on course, heading straight towards the ship.

The strange ship remains still, but you stay on course, hoping to call its bluff. A few seconds later, you are about to collide into the ship. It still doesn't budge. As you crash, your ship crunches like a soda bottle run over by a car.

3.

You patiently wait for the drone to continue its orbit. As it begins to disappear around the station a second drone starts to come

in from the other side. You dive headlong towards a dock in the hope of attaching before the second drone gets to you. But the drone bursts towards you and releases two rockets. With the added speed of the drones momentum, the rockets reach you well before you can get to the station.

You feel your ship jolt to the side as the rockets explode, and something in the rockets seems to have caused your radar systems to go into disarray. You glance down at your camera screens and realize that some kind of silvery substance seems to be clinging to you shield making it impossible to see. You haven't collided with the station yet which means the rocket explosion changed your course. Your shields flicker off, causing the silvery dust to dissipate. You have a clear view of space a few seconds before your ship is torn to pieces.

4.

You decide that if you don't take some kind of break the aloneness of space is going to drive you insane. You choose your favorite single player game, "Everwood VII" and are immediately on top of a horse. You are riding at a breakneck pace through the beautiful woods underneath a cheerful sun when you the game suddenly freezes.

Not only has a VR game never froze on you before, you've never even heard of a VR game freezing. You try everything you can think of to shut the game off so you can regain control of your body and take off the VR goggles. Nothing works. The game might automatically shut off after a few hours of inactivity. But by then it will be too late. You are left staring at the beautiful but now motionless woods. Somehow someone is causing VR games to freeze in order to steal ships.

5.

You decide it would be wise to stop at "Gorlon's Fine Dining" to stock up on some food. You fly past a guard droid and connect to a port. Once you are attached you hit a button for your pod entry door to pen. Then you step out into the hall and grab a hold of one of the handles rotating on a conveyor belt on the wall.

The belt takes you by a table and then asks

you to release. Normally you would have been given a seat, but the Diner is filled to the brim with desperate travelers like yourself. You manage to snag a hunk of fake chicken from the table and munch on it desperately. Your wrist band beeps and a ridiculously large sum has been deducted from your account.

You decide that's about all the food you can afford and grab a handle heading back towards your ship. When you finally get to the port door, you realize your ship isn't there. Only the station should have the port door access codes, so it likely that you aren't the only one in the restaurant who is trapped.

6.

You decide that gambling is your best shot at earning enough money to pay someone to fly your family off of earth. You fly within the shield barrier created by "Pug's Poker Palace" and put on your VR goggles. You are instantly transported to a poker table filled with strange avatars. You are sitting between a humanlike lion wearing a leather jacket and leprechaun whose green suit is covered from top to bottom with four leaf clovers.

Unlike most of the people sitting at the table, your avatar just looks like you. This is a high stakes game and you don't have enough money in your account. You discuss this briefly with the other players and they decide the title to your pod will be acceptable payment. Poker chips suddenly appear in front of you and the dealer passes at the first round of cards.

As the game continues your pile of poker chips continues to get smaller. You down to two stacks, and in a desperate attempt to regain chips you bet everything you have on a hand that is only a little above average. Most of the other players fold but the leprechaun decides to stay in. He lays down a winning hand and stares at you expectantly.

You quickly unplug from VR. Instead of trying to contact the leprechaun, you throw your thrusters on. To your horror you discover switching your thrusters on seems to have no effect. A glance down at your camera screens shows that three drones have attached to your ship and that there are small cuts in your ship's hull

where they've severed vital engine connections.

The cheerful voice of Pug the Pig begins speaking from your intercom, "This is Pug! \*Snort\* You are required by law to give this ship to its rightful owner. We no longer provide living spaces and employment because the eminent destruction of earth has raised the price of living spaces to over 90,000 dollars a night. If you do not willingly evacuate your ship you will be electrocuted."

You have little choice. You put on your space suit, open up the hatch and push off into space. Alone drifting through space, your oxygen tank slowly empties.

7.

You decide the distress signal might be real. You tell her that you are going to attach and give her some food supplies. Then you slow down, bring your ship besides hers, line up your hatch door, and attach. Your door flings open and a huge, robotic dog jumps at you. Your body provides little resistance against its steel teeth.