

The Miles High Club  
by  
Doug Brook

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Directed by Kylie McCormick

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**PREVIEW SCRIPT**

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(An interview room. A table, on one side sits the administrator **KINSEY** - can be a man or woman. On the other side sit **JONES** and **CONLEY**, a man and woman, respectively, in NASA jumpsuits.)

**KINSEY**

So you two met while training together as backup crew for STS-123 and have now been married for four years.

**JONES**

That's right.

**KINSEY**

Great. All of your preliminaries checked out fine, so now we'll just go over the mission details and then you're both on the first manned mission to Mars.

**CONLEY**

Do you think they'll ever change it from "manned" to something more inclusive?

**KINSEY**

I've wondered the same thing. But what would it be? Personned? Peopled?

**JONES**

Crewed.

**KINSEY**

You think personned or peopled would be a crude term?

**JONES**

No, I was suggesting "crewed." Crew. Crewed.

**KINSEY**

Oh. It might confuse people, don't you think?

**JONES**

(moving on) So why did these two spots open up? I understand the agency wants a married couple on the mission, but I know we weren't first on the list.

**KINSEY**

The previous candidates were disqualified during the screening process. You know there's a hundred ways that can happen. Of course, I'm not at liberty to say why in their cases.

**JONES**

Of course.

**KINSEY**

You both would serve as mission specialists, conducting various experiments throughout the journey. You yourselves would also be studied, as will all the crew, as you weather the unprecedented duration of this trip.

**CONLEY**

Makes perfect sense. There's never been a mission anywhere near three years long before.

**KINSEY**

Right. We're taking every precaution, but there is inherent risk for precisely that reason.

**JONES**

And it's not like we'd be leaving a spouse behind to worry all that time.

**KINSEY**

True. So, why do we want a couple on board? Of course, this mission is a first step toward colonization. We'll monitor everyone's physical condition throughout, but also the psychological and social effects of the trip. With most of the crew, we'll study long-term effects such as homesickness, but colonization would eventually include families.

**JONES**

You want to see how our marriage holds up after three years in a tin can.

**KINSEY**

Yes. Your screening indicates you're in a strong, healthy relationship. You'd likely have no problems working together earthside for such a duration, so we'll study if there are issues brought on by the rigors of space travel.

**CONLEY**

That sounds fine. I wouldn't expect any trouble.

**JONES**

Neither would I.

**KINSEY**

Neither would we. So you can expect periodic interviews during the trip. Nothing too intrusive, but a bit beyond normal crew evaluation.

**JONES**

Certainly. Is that why O'Connell backed out? Talk about pulling out too quickly...

**CONLEY**

Tom, please. I think it's fine, if the questions don't get too personal.

**KINSEY**

They shouldn't. So, as you know, ever since the start of space exploration there's been a lot of pride taken in achieving firsts. The first satellite, first man in orbit, first man on the moon, first woman in space, and so on.

**JONES**

We'd be the first married couple in space. We figured there might be talk shows to do.

**KINSEY**

Yes. And, being a married couple in space together for three years, you would also be the first people to have sex in space.

**CONLEY**

Excuse me? What about not getting too personal?

**KINSEY**

I said the evaluation questions wouldn't get personal. Had you really not considered this? Do you think you'd exercise abstinence for that long? Of course not. For your safety we leave nothing to chance and must prepare for every possibility. You wouldn't want to be the first couple to get injured while having sex in space, would you?

**CONLEY**

All right. Keep talking.

**JONES**

I'm beginning to understand why the other couple bailed out.

**KINSEY**

Couples. You're actually the fifth couple we've considered.

**CONLEY**

Tom...

**JONES**

Let's hear it out. It doesn't hurt just to hear. It might not be as bad as it sounds.

**CONLEY**

You're enjoying this, aren't you?

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