

**Stargate Universe
Prequel Series, Episode 2**

“Centripetal Acceleration”

By Laurence Moroney

Page 1. Single Panel page

Panel. Full page showing a star with a planet dangerously close to it. Close to the camera, surveying the scene we see part of the DAEDALUS.

Caption:

A rare cosmic event. The decaying orbit of a planet, being eaten by its host star. Monitoring the situation, the Daedalus under the command of Colonel Caldwell, with a scientific expedition under the command of...

TITLE: Centripetal Acceleration!

Page 2. Six Panel page

Panel 1:

Close on the face of Doctor Rush with his intense thousand-yard stare.

CAPTION: Doctor Nicholas Rush. A pragmatic scientist, one of the best of his generation...

Panel 2:

Over-the-shoulder view of Rush standing over a tech at a science console. The tech AIRMAN JOHNSON (F, 20s) is obviously following his commands. On the display we see the two bodies of the star and the planet. Waves that look like magnetic fields surround them, but they intersect and interfere with each other. Here is an [example](#). And [another](#). Rush is pointing at a space between the bodies.

RUSH: There. Can you measure there?

Panel 3:

Close on the face of Johnson. She's young, and a little intimidated. She's looking up at Rush, almost afraid to answer.

JOHNSON: That would mean we need to move in closer.

RUSH: (Off-Panel) Then do it.

Panel 4:

Johnson looking in the direction of Caldwell (note, he's an established character in Stargate TV shows http://stargate.wikia.com/wiki/Steven_Caldwell)

JOHNSON: Colonel?

CALDWELL: What is it Suzy?

Panel 5:

Rush turning around to face Caldwell, temper flaring, ready to freak out.

RUSH: Are you going to question all my decisions?

CALDWELL: If it threatens my ship and crew, yes.

Panel 6:

Caldwell standing over the console, looking at the graphic. An area in the center of the graphic -- where Rush had been pointing is highlighted.

CALDWELL: There? No way.

CAPTION: But one who always seems to rub people the wrong way...

Page 3. Three Panel with background.

Background should be similar to page 1 -- star with a planet in decaying orbit.

Panel 1:

Rush and Caldwell face to face but with space between them. Over the course of the page they'll get closer and closer indicating their increasing argument.

CAPTION: To the point of conflict...

RUSH: There's no way I can complete this mission if we can't.

CALDWELL: I am not risking this ship.

Panel 2:

Same scene. They are closer, and angrier.

RUSH: Do you know how hard it was to find a planet in this orbit? We'll never get another chance.

CALDWELL: I said **no**

Panel 3:

Same scene. Practically nose to nose. Rush poking his finger in Caldwell's chest.

RUSH: I will have you court martialed!

CALDWELL: I'll be alive to see it and so will my crew.

CAPTION: It wasn't always this way. Once Doctor Rush was a happier man. A professor in Berkeley, and...

Page 4. Six Panel Page 2x2

Note: This is a scene from the SGU episode 1x14 'Human'. In that episode Rush had flashbacks to the stuff in the next few pages. I'll put [screen captures online](#) of a good panel from the scene in question. Note that the flashbacks are different from the back story, so don't worry if things diverge a little if you watch the episode! :)

Panel 1:

See Page4_Panel1.png. Rush is returning home. The sound of beautiful music coming from inside the house.

CAPTION: a loving husband.

Panel 2:

See Page4_Panel2.png. His wife GLORIA RUSH (<http://stargate.mgm.com/view/othercharacter/116/index.html>) in the foreground, playing violin. Rush in the background, looking haunted.

CAPTION: With a dying wife.

Panel 3:

Breakfast. Later. Rush and Gloria together. See Page4_Panel3.png.

GLORIA: I spent most of the last 20 years watching what I ate.
Denying myself the things I most loved. And now, I
could eat anything I want, and nothing is appealing.

Panel 4:

Same scene. Reverse angle on Rush. See Page4_Panel4.png

RUSH: You've always wanted to travel home. To see them. Let's
go. Tonight.

Panel 5:

The bedroom. Later. Packing to leave. See Page4_Panel5.png

GLORIA: Are you sure you can afford to do this, your research
and all-

RUSH: The research can wait. You come first. Always.

Panel 6:

The couple kissing. Still very much in love. See Page4_Panel6.png

Page 5 - 5 Panel 2+3

Panel 1: See Page5_Panel1.png.

CAPTION: But time moved on. And after visiting Gloria's family, it was time to return to the college.

Panel 2: See Page5_Panel2.png. The man on the right is DANIEL JACKSON (<http://stargate.mgm.com/view/character/143/index.html>)

CAPTION: Where a new opportunity awaits.

JACKSON: I'm Doctor Daniel Jackson. I've been looking for you.

Panel 3: See Page5_Panel3.jpg

RUSH: I really don't have time for this.

JACKSON: I know about your wife.

RUSH: That's none of your business.

JACKSON: Is there a place we can talk in private? What I have to tell you might help.

Panel 4: See Page5_Panel4.png

RUSH: If it's a job you're offering. I'm not interested.

JACKSON: Your math is wrong. You forgot the higher dimensional relativistic effects.

Panel 5: See Page5_Panel5.png

RUSH: That's ridiculous. How would you know?

JACKSON: Not here. It needs to be in private.

Page 6. 6 Panel

Panel 1: Outside the door of Doctor Rush's office in the University.

RUSH: Will this do?

DANIEL: Perfect.

Panel 2: Inside Rush's office. It's a typical academics office -- old school desk, and whiteboards all over the walls covered in symbols.

RUSH: Well then, spit it out.

DANIEL: It will be easier if I show you.

Panel 3:

Close on daniels wrist -- some kind of remote device there. His other hand coming down on it. A WHOOSH NOISE.

Panel 4:

Rush and Daniel beamed aboard a ship in high orbit. This scene should evoke when Eli was surprise-beamed aboard the Daedalus during Episode 1 'Air'

Panel 5:

Reverse angle from Panel 4. Rush is shocked.

DANIEL: It's called the Stargate Program. It helps us travel to other planets and galaxies. But...

Panel 6:

Close up on Jackson's face.

DANIEL: There's a problem, and it needs you to solve it.

Page 7. 7-Panel 2-2-3

Panel 1: The research Stargate as seen in 'Air'. See Page7_Panel1.png.

DANIEL: (Off Panel) We found an ancient record. We're not exactly sure what it means, but we know that it leads to something on the other side of the Universe.

Panel 2: Lucian Alliance ships attacking a planet.

DANIEL: (Off Panel) Something important enough to kill for.

Panel 3: Rush in a research lab scribbling on a whiteboard. Already at work in solving the Stargate problem.

DANIEL: (Off Panel) It has power requirements the likes of which we have never seen.

Panel 4: Rush in the same research lab, looking up at the Stargate in wonder.

DANIEL: (Off-Panel) And we need to solve them before somebody else does.

Panel 5: A room in a hospital. Gloria in the bed, alone, looking through the windows at the sunny sky. Oxygen tube through her nose, tear running down her cheek.

RUSH (Off Panel): But what about my wife?

DANIEL (Off Panel): We can't cure her, but we can get her the *best* doctors there are.

Panel 6:

Close up on Gloria. Her eyes slipping closed. Machinery in the background showing a heartbeat.

DANIEL (Off Panel) We'll do everything we can for her.

Panel 7:

Similar to panel 6, but her eyes fully closed In the Bg, the machinery shows a flatline and a BEEEEEP.

Page 8. 6-Panel

Panel 1: Return to the scene with Rush and Caldwell face to face at the bottom of Page 3.

CAPTION: When she died, part of Rush died with her. Some say the human part of him was lost that day. Others say the real Rush was born...

Panel 2: Close up on Caldwell's face.

CALDWELL: Master Sergeant Zellmer. Get this man off my bridge and into the brig. Now!

Panel 3:
The Master Sergeant taking Rush by the arm, roughly. The MSgt isn't an established character. Just make her big and brutish.

RUSH: You can't do this-

Panel 4: Long shot of the bridge with the same scene, but they're being shaken by an impact on the ship. BOOM!

Panel 5: Close up on Caldwell, another BOOM shaking the ship.

CALDWELL: Report!

Panel 6: Johnson at her console.

JOHNSON: Weapons fire. We're under attack, it's the-

Page 9. Full page

Full page showing the scene -- Daedalus above the planet, still in its death spiral, atmosphere boiling away as it falls towards the star. In the foreground, launching death gliders and missiles is a Ha'Tak.

JOHNSON: (Off Panel) It's the Lucian alliance.

JOHNSON: (Off Panel, c'td) And we have no shields!

Page 10. 7 Panel 2-3-2

Panel 1. Another BOOM and the bridge is shaking. Caldwell standing between the two control consoles giving orders.

CALDWELL: Deploy interceptors, and get our 302's in the air!

Panel 2. The f-302 hangar bay aboard Daedalus. A KLAXXON booms overhead. Frantic activity as crews prepare the fighters. Two Pilots: KELLY (Female, 20s, Caucasian-Blonde) and COLLINS (Male, 30s, Latino) running, helmets under their arms.

COLLINS: Shields must be down. They're hitting us hard.

KELLY: Probably that damned Rush again!

Panel 3. From inside Kelly's cockpit as the ship whooshes away.

COLLINS (Radio): They're scrambling fighters. Focus on them. Let Daedalus worry about the Ha'tak

KELLY: Roger that.

Panel 4. The F-302's rush into battle. There's only 8 of them, with a swarm of incoming death gliders.

KELLY (Radio) But they better fix those shields fast!

Panel 5. The F-302's and the Lucian Alliance Death Gliders start dogfighting. Total Melee. Lasers flying.

COLLINS (Radio) Just focus on your job, Lieutenant Kelly!

Panel 6. An F-302 blasting a Death Glider out of the sky

KELLY (Radio) You know that's what I do best

Panel 7. Reverse view of Kelly in her cockpit, a death glider dropping in on her tail.

COLLINS (Radio) On your six, Kelly!

KELLY I see him, I can handle it...

Page 11. 4 Panel

Panel 1. On Daedalus Bridge. The LIGHT of an outside explosion streaming through the window, blinding them for a moment.

JOHNSON We lost Blue 2

CALDWELL Kelly....

Panel 2. BOOM! They're hit again. The whole bridge is rocked.

Panel 3. Reverse angle on Johnson's console, she's wide eyed in shock, Caldwell steadying himself using her chair.

JOHNSON Another incoming!

CALDWELL I need those shields!

Panel 4. Outside the ship as they get hit again. A massive explosion on the hull! BOOM! The death gliders and F-302's still dogfighting.

Page 12.

Panel 1. On the bridge a sea of chaos. Zellmer is down, dead. Caldwell has hit the floor, with Johnson knocked out of her seat, beside him. She has her fingers on his throat, taking a pulse. Rush sitting up, shaking his head.

JOHNSON	He's alive
RUSH	Get back to your post!

Panel 2. Johnson staring daggers at Rush. This is all *his* fault, but he's yelling at her. Rush getting up to get to her console instead.

JOHNSON	What are you doing?
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Panel 3. Rush at Johnson's console. Johnson standing behind him, hand on his shoulder, trying to get him away from it.

JOHNSON	Get away from that!
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Panel 4. Close up on Rush, turned towards her, angry.

RUSH	Either help, or shut up. Your choice. You might not realize it, but / don't want to die either.
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Page 13. 4 Panel

Panel 1. An airman approaches, behind Johnson. He draws his weapon to point at Rush.

AIRMAN Step away from the console, Doctor Rush

Panel 2. Reverse angle on Rush, working feverishly on the console. The Airman in the background, gun pointed at Rush.

RUSH No. And if you're going to shoot, do it now. Put me out of my misery.

Panel 3. Similar to Panel 1, but now Johnson has her hand on the Airman's arm, pulling the gun away.

JOHNSON Nothing to lose.

Panel 4. Similar to Panel 2. Rush on the console. Sarcastic look on his face.

RUSH (Sarcastic) Thanks for the vote of confidence.

Page 14- Six Panel 2x3

Panel 1. Outside, as the battle rages, the Daedalus activates its engines, and turns, heading away from the battle. Collins F302, shooting up a death glider in the foreground

COLLINS (Radio) What are they doing?

Panel 2. Back on the bridge. Rush frantically at work.

RUSH I'm taking us into the atmosphere.

Panel 3. Close up on Caldwell coming to. Trying to clear his head.

CALDWELL Report.

Panel 4. Johnson returning to kneel over him.

JOHNSON Shields still down. Weapons offline. We have some engine power, so Rush is taking us into the atmosphere.

CALDWELL Rush?

Panel 5. Caldwell trying to stand. A little shaky on his feet.

CALDWELL Rush I want you to...

Panel 6. Johnson steadying Caldwell.

JOHNSON Sir, I think I know what he's doing. And if I'm right, it just might work.

Page 15 – 4 Panel

Panel 1. From high above, the battle still rages. The Daedalus heads through the atmosphere, the Ha'tak pursuing.

JOHNSON (Off Panel) He's heading into the atmosphere.

Panel 2. Close up on the Daedalus as it enters the atmosphere of the dying planet. Reddish haze, stormy, winds buffeting the ship

JOHNSON (Off Panel) The atmosphere is thick enough, and the E-M storms strong enough to dissipate their beam weapons

Panel 3. On the bridge of the alliance Ha'tak as they watch the flight of the Daedalus

JOHNSON (Off panel) But they know we can't stay in here for long, unshielded

Panel 4. Exterior shot, showing the Daedalus flying through the atmosphere below, making waves and eddies in the thick air, and beginning to burn like a shooting star.

JOHNSON (Off Panel) So they'll follow us, waiting for us to emerge. Giving them a clear shot at our unshielded rear. An easy kill shot.

Page 17 – 6 Panel 2x3

Panel 1. Back on the bridge. Reverse angle at the console, with Rush still working, Johnson and Caldwell behind. Johnson with her hand on Rush's shoulder.

JOHNSON You did it!

Panel 2. Rush, still hard at work on the terminal.

RUSH Get the 302's back aboard. We have to get out of here.

Panel 3. Johnson looking to Caldwell who nods acceptance.

CALDWELL Do it. Combat landing.

Panel 4. Exterior shot as the remaining 302's are coming in hot to land on the deck.

JOHNSON (Off Panel) All birds on deck.

Panel 5. The Daedalus jumps to Hyperspace!

Panel 6. As the ship streaks away, we see the planet begin to disintegrate. Huge chunks pulled from the surface, like an explosion in slow motion.

Page 18 – 6 Panel 3x2

Panel 1. Deep Space. The Daedalus drops out of hyperspace.

Panel 2. Bridge of the Daedalus. Rush slumped back at the console, rubbing his eyes. Johnson leaning over him, working at the console.

CALDWELL Report.

Panel 3. Same as Panel 2, Johnson turned back towards Caldwell.

JOHNSON We're going to be okay sir. Systems coming back online.

Panel 4. Same as Panel 3. Rush, turning the seat to leave.

CALDWELL What did he do?

RUSH I'm still here, Colonel

Panel 5. Johnson at the console, turned back towards Caldwell.

JOHNSON Gravity waves, sir. Rush's sensor array worked.

Panel 6. Rush walking away from Caldwell, who is behind him in the bg.

RUSH Yeah. It worked. And it showed us the destructive interference was enough power to destroy a ship.

RUSH (Ct'd) But not enough to dial the 9th Chevron

Page 19. 6 Panel 2x3

Panel 1. The Daedalus, back in Earth orbit. Later.

O'NEILL (Off-Panel) So, it didn't work?

Panel 2. O'Neill's office. He sits, facing Rush and Caldwell across his desk.

RUSH It worked, General. We were able to predict the optimal spot for the gravitational waves constructive and destructive interference.

CALDWELL And it destroyed a Lucian Alliance ship

Panel 3. Close up on O'Neill in one of his 'shrug' moments.

O'NEILL But it didn't work.

Panel 4. Back to the angle from Panel 2. Rush looking incredulous.

RUSH If you mean it gave us enough power to power the 9th Chevron, then....yes.

O'NEILL It didn't work.

RUSH Right.

Panel 5. O'Neill, smirking a little, enjoying the needling.

O'NEILL Caldwell. How long before the Daedalus is back in service?

CALDWELL (Off Panel) Another day or two, sir.

Panel 6. Another angle on the office. Caldwell turning to leave.

O'NEILL Good. Dismissed Colonel.

CALDWELL Yes, sir.

O'NEILL Not you, Rush. You stay.

Page 20. 6 Panel 2x3

Panel 1. Close up on O'Neill.

O'NEILL What do you know about Naquadria?

Panel 2. On Rush, in his 'lecturing' mode where he's most happy.

RUSH It's a highly unstable isotope of Naquadah. It doesn't occur in nature, and...

Panel 3. On O'NEILL, happy to interrupt

O'NEILL And...it looks like our friends in the Lucian alliance have gotten their hands on it. Lots of it.

Panel 4. Close on Rush – looking concerned

RUSH How?

O'NEILL That's what I want *you* to find out.

Panel 5. Longer shot at the office – both men talking

O'NEILL If they've been able to get their hands on a lot of it...

RUSH The power!

Panel 6. Another look at Earth, beautiful, but vulnerable.

RUSH (Off-Panel) It could power the 9th Chevron

O'NEILL (Off-Panel) Or worse. Much worse...