Blueshift - Episode One

[music]

Steve: Hello, I'm Steve Fantasia.

Maggie: And I'm Maggie Masetti.

Steve: Welcome to the March 2007 episode of Blueshift, produced by the Astrophysics Science Division at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Maggie: Yes, the first episode! Pretty cool. We've got endless possibilities and lots to learn. Such as... what is an Astrophysics Science Division, and what do we do here? I get that question a lot when I tell people I work at NASA.

Steve: Ah, yes, the whole, "That sounds very interesting. Um, what exactly do you do?" routine.

Maggie: Well, when you say you work at NASA, most people think you're either an astronaut or a rocket scientist. Those people certainly do work for NASA, but NASA also does a lot of scientific research about the Earth, the planets, and the larger Universe. That's our Division's main job - we study the Universe beyond the Solar System!

Steve: We also design scientific instruments, balloon experiments, satellites and software that try to answer basic questions about the Universe we live in. We study everything, from the big bang to black holes, distant galaxies to supernovae, using many different kinds of light - from the kind we can see with our eyes to ones we can't see, like infrared, X-rays, and gamma rays. We also study cosmic rays...

Maggie: ...which aren't really rays...

Steve: ...and gravity waves, which aren't even a part of the electromagnetic spectrum! Using satellites like the Hubble Space Telescope, WMAP, Swift, and Suzaku, we are trying to figure out the origins and ultimate destiny of the Universe around us. We are also the home of Dr. John Mather, who just won the Nobel Prize in Physics!

Maggie: Now, we may be able to peer into black holes, but we're just getting our feet wet when it comes to making podcasts.

Steve: So sit back, subscribe, and hold on tight as we explore the Universe!

[music]

Maggie: In this, our first episode of Blueshift, we want to give you a