

Dawn of the Celestialpod Narrative Bible

Rationale Statement

Dawn of the Celestialpod is a physics based, 2D, action RPG where you become a space squid. You must burst through and destroy a fleet of spaceships in order to save your entire species. The core part of Celestialpod is our physics based tentacle system that enables you to swing, pull, and grab your way through rigorous challenges. Mastering the use of your tentacles is key as ships are filled with gravity where movement is hindered. Overcome the hostile environments inside the ships of the robotic fleet and destroy them from the inside out!

Synopsis and Summary

In Dawn of the Celestialpod, you and your fellow starfish are captured by a genocidal fleet of ships piloted by the programming of a long dead race. While most of the stars are being used to power the ships and their defenses, one of them manages to escape and frees you before being killed. After giving you the rest of its power, you evolve into a squid capable of shooting lasers and pulling apart the capsules holding the starfish with your tentacles. Now you must fight your way through the fleet, freeing the starfish and destroying the ships, all the while discovering more about what created these technological monsters. It becomes clear that these robots were created to harvest power for use by a race incapable of self-sufficiency. A glitch in their programming caused the robots to target their creators and become an infinitely destructive force, forever dedicated to finding new species, using them for power, repurposing their bodies as new robotic defenses, and causing their extinction. After fighting their way through the entire fleet, you face a final enemy, the S4 that learned from the squid DNA hidden in the starfish,

which you must destroy in order to reach the computer that almost doomed your race. After the S4 is defeated, you may take down the computer that would otherwise exterminate the rest of the life forms in the universe.

Planet Overview

Piranha Planet: A, humid, forested planet, *Novo* compensates for the heat with a thick tree-cover. The dense tropical forest is broken only by deep, wide rivers and smaller streams. The sole inhabitants of *Novo* are small fish and insects, existing peacefully and surviving off of the fruit dropped by the many different types of fruit trees. The planet has apparently become overrun by them, and might need to evolve to become more compatible with an overabundance of prey with no apparent predator.

Sand Dollar Planet: *Mira* is a planet full of sand with just enough salt water to cover almost all of it. With a few sandbars that break the nearly unending water's surface, the planet is seemingly bereft of life save for plankton and swaths of algae that one can find in the shallows. The heat from the sun provides a pleasant warmth to the entirety of *Mira*, encouraging photosynthesis and, if one were to visit, playful splashing or relaxation. Without anything to consume it, the algae floats alone, slowly but surely growing to eventually cover the planet.

Jellyfish Planet: Covered by oceans with only rocky crags breaking the surface, *Aurita* boasts deep, wide, and long-ranging trenches underneath the water. Coral reefs and underwater caves abound, potentially trapping the unthinking air-breather who dares to go spelunking. There are no larger creatures inhabiting the expanses of saltwater, surprisingly, instead one finds plankton, small fish, and crustaceans making a living among the coral. The slow-drifting currents are perfect if one wanted to gently float around the island, swaying the kelp and seaweed.

Species Bios

Starfish:

The *Teroideans* are a peaceful species, having never experienced any conflict before being taken by the mysterious ships that suddenly attacked their planet. Spending their days frolicking on the surface of their green and idyllic planet, the star-shaped creatures exist peacefully within the galaxy. With five limbs and a single eye in the center of their body, the *Teroideans* carry within them mysterious and transformational DNA tracing back to ancient and powerful tentacled beings. Some believe that with a sacrifice of great importance, that DNA can be unlocked.

Piranhas:

The *Serrasals* used to act as apex predators of *Novo*, keeping the insect and fish populations in check. With strong jaws and powerful fins, these swift swimmers efficiently took down their prey. *Serrasals* worked in teams, pursuing and corralling those creatures unfortunate enough to put itself in their sights. After the *Serrasals*'s sudden disappearance, the insect and fish populations of *Novo* began to grow unchecked. There was never an explanation for the absence of these fierce hunters, leaving one to wonder what could take on the entire species.

Sand Dollars:

The longtime residents of the planet *Mira*, *Scutellas* scuttled between sand bars while consuming algae and plankton. The flattened, disc-like creatures lived an idyllic and peaceful life, probably in part due to the fact that the merest surprise might prompt a *Scutella* to explode. With their bad habit of exploding when startled, *Scutellas* and their planet were left largely undisturbed by other species. Undisturbed, that is, until the entire species disappeared with no

explanation. The sandy planet they lived on is now a watery desert, devoid of substantial sapient life.

Jellyfish:

Creatures known as *Scyphos* once inhabited *Aurita*, feeding off of the thriving populations of plankton, crustaceans, and fish. Floating gracefully along with the currents, *Scyphos* were found in both shallow and deep areas, inhabiting all depths of their planet. *Scyphos* would catch their prey using their long, swaying tentacles, paralyzing small fish and crustaceans before pulling them up slowly to be consumed. They've been absent from their planet for quite some time now, however, leaving the creatures they preyed on to overrun the planet.

Starfish Dialogue Outline

Tutorial:

- “In your new body, you can do more than I ever could. You can use your abilities to save us all. I believe in you.”
 - (Ghost starfish: encouraging)
- “The ship is escaping with another starfish! We can't let it get away!!”
 - (Ghost starfish: urgent)
- (Wait 2 Seconds) “Use [Tentacle 1 Button] and [Tentacle 2 Button] to throw and grab with your tentacles.”
 - (Ghost starfish: calm)
- (After using Tentacle) “Holding down [Tentacle Buttons] will bring you closer to what you've grabbed onto.”
 - (Ghost starfish: calm)

- (When player is near ship) “You can use your cursor to guide your tentacles after you throw them. Try getting around the wings of the ship!”
 - (Ghost starfish: encouraging)
- (After Squid.position.y > wings.position) Good job, you’re really learning how to swing your tentacles!”
 - (Ghost starfish: encouraging)
- (Wait 2 Seconds) “Look another starfish is being held captive. Get into the ship so we can rescue them!”
 - (Ghost starfish: urgent)
- (After getting into the ship) “Help them escape by grabbing the lid on top of the containment pod!”
 - (Ghost starfish: urgent)
- "It looks like the energy they've collected from us is draining out of their pipes!"
 - (Ghost starfish: encouraging)
- "That must mean any ship systems attached to them will power down."
 - (Ghost starfish: calm)
- "Look, that gravity generator turned off!"
 - (Ghost starfish: encouraging)
- (After releasing starfish) [Other Starfish Talks] “Quick, we gotta get out before the entire ship explodes!”
 - (Live starfish: urgent)

Upgrade Tutorial:

- “Click here to select an ability.”
 - (Ghost starfish: calm)
- “Use starfish power to upgrade your abilities and ready yourself for the next fight.”
 - (Ghost starfish: calm)
- “You should choose the [laser] upgrade, it’s a signature squid move!”
 - (Ghost starfish: encouraging)
- “You can see your remaining starfish power here.”
 - (Ghost starfish: calm)
- “You can come back here to upgrade your squid abilities at anytime.”
 - (Ghost starfish: calm)

Beginning of Level 1:

- “In your new form, you have a laser. Press [Laser Button] to fire a shot and break through their defenses!”
 - (Ghost starfish: encouraging)
- (After doing it once) “Excellent, you can even hold [Laser Button] down for a longer charge with more power.”
 - (Ghost starfish: calm)

Thrust Upgrade Dialogue:

- “You can push yourself to go faster by pressing and holding the [Thrust Button].”
 - (Ghost starfish: encouraging)
- (After using it once) “Make sure to orient yourself in the right direction first!”
 - (Ghost starfish: urgent)

- (After using it again) “You have a limited amount of energy, so watch the meter! Rest for a moment to allow yourself to recharge.”
 - (Ghost starfish: calm)

Bomb Upgrade Dialogue:

- “You can now drop bombs by pressing the [Bomb Button].”
 - (Ghost starfish: calm)
- (After using it once) “Bombs cost energy, so make sure you have enough before you drop them!”
 - (Ghost starfish: calm)

After tutorial:

- “It’s you! Wait, they got hit by the ship’s lasers? I suppose that explains your new form.”
 - (Live starfish: worried)
- “We had seen you two escape and only hoped that you would come to rescue us as well.”
 - (Live starfish: happy)
- “Those capsules they were keeping us in, if felt like they drained us of our life force..”
 - (Live starfish: sad)
- “Please, you must help the others! They cannot be left to such a terrible fate!”
 - (Live starfish: urgent)

After Windtunnel:

- “I can’t believe you made it! It seemed impossible to make it past the ship’s defenses.”
 - (Live starfish: happy)
- “We appear to power their defenses. I hate that our lives are used to imprison us!”

- (Live starfish: worried)
- “Do not succumb to these evil ships! We all believe that you can be the one to save us.”
 - (Live starfish: encouraging)

After Pipe (where piranhas are introduced):

- “Did you see those things? It’s like they were alive!”
 - (Live starfish: urgent)
- “They’re like a species that disappeared from another planet in the galaxy.”
 - (Live starfish: worried)
- “Apparently lost, now made of metal and used as guard dogs for our captors.”
 - (Live starfish: sad)
- “But you can destroy them! Don’t stop now. Please keep going and save the rest of us!”
 - (Live starfish: encouraging)

After Hammer:

- “You’ve rescued more of us? They’re okay? Oh that’s such a relief.”
 - (Live starfish: happy)
- “None of us have seen any other living creatures in this ship, it’s spooky.”
 - (Live starfish: worried)
- “How can we fight back against the very machine that contains us?”
 - (Live starfish: worried)
- “You need to find the rest of us, and find out what’s going on! I believe in you.”
 - (Live starfish: urgent)

After Starfish (where sand dollar bombs are introduced):

- “We heard explosions, are you alright?”
 - (Live starfish: worried)
- “Those bombs looked like forgotten creatures from the planet Mira.”
 - (Live starfish: sad)
- “Their sudden absence from the galaxy had always been a mystery, until now I suppose.”
 - (Live starfish: sad)
- “Without your help we would have faced the same fate I’m sure.”
 - (Live starfish: sad)

After Lavalamp (where jellyfish are introduced):

- “How did you make it past those tentacles?”
 - (Live starfish: worried)
- “Those robots were reminiscent of a species that used to inhabit Aurita.”
 - (Live starfish: sad)
- “I can’t believe such peaceful creatures were used to create these deadly monsters.”
 - (Live starfish: worried)
- “You’ve managed to make it this far, though. If anyone could finish this, it’s you.”
 - (Live starfish: encouraging)

After Spikes:

- “We still haven’t seen any living creatures.”
 - (Live starfish: sad)
- “The creators of these ships must have passed away and left these machines running.”
 - (Live starfish: worried)

- “They must maintain themselves, forever scouring the galaxy for new species to use.”
 - (Live starfish: worried)
- “Thank you for destroying them, making sure we live on.”
 - (Live starfish: urgent)

After Trout:

- “Thank the stars you’ve come to save us, and not left us to the mercy of these beings.”
 - (Live starfish: happy)
- “These abilities you’ve received are great, but do not become complacent.”
 - (Live starfish: urgent)
- “There are still more of us held by our captors, being used to power these terrible things.”
 - (Live starfish: worried)
- “Do not let them take the rest of us for their own purposes. Do not let us down.”
 - (Live starfish: encouraging)

After Mace:

- “You’ve gone through so much, and yet there is still more for you to face.”
 - (Live starfish: sad)
- “Those holding us have tried to retreat, knowing you were coming.”
 - (Live starfish: encouraging)
- “While I believe in you, their last resort must be in that ship”
 - (Live starfish: worried)
- “We have been depending on you this entire time, and you have not let us down yet.”
 - (Live starfish: urgent)

After boss level:

- “I don’t know how you managed to take that gigantic thing down, but you did it!”
 - (Live starfish: happy)
- “They must have used us to create what they thought would beat you once and for all.”
 - (Live starfish: worried)
- “Soon, we must celebrate your victory, and our regained freedom.”
 - (Live starfish: happy)
- “We will mourn those we’ve lost, but for now, let’s go home.”
 - (Live starfish: encouraging)