

Old Reliable

written by

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ACT 1

ACT 1 SCENE 1. INT. GORDO ESU CHRISTMAS CAMP. EVENING.

Everyone is sitting around taking the annual Christmas Camp Quiz. BODINHAM is asking the questions.

BODINHAM

Okay, next round is the Gordo round.

Everyone groans, not knowing much about the subject.

BODINHAM (CONT'D)

(speaking over everyone)

Question 1: What was Gordo famous for?

Question 2: When did Gordo die?

Question 3: What type of monkey was Gordo?

Question 4: What was Gordo's nickname?

A hand is raised

BODINHAM (CONT'D)

(not seeing the hand straight away)

Question 5: What was the...

(noticing the hand)

Yes?

SCOUT #1

Umm, no offence, but we don't know any of this!

BODINHAM

What do you mean, you don't know any of this?

SCOUT #2

Exactly that, we have no idea what any of the answers are

SCOUT #3

I didn't even know that Gordo was a monkey!

BODINHAM

What? What did you think the emblem on all the uniform and letters was?

SCOUT #3

(Realising)

Oh yeah! Huh! I'd never noticed that before!

BODINHAM

(shaking his head
incredulously)

Unbelievable! You mean to tell me that no-one of you know the story of your Gordo?

All the scouts look a bit sheepish and shake their heads.

BODINHAM (CONT'D)

(Shouting)

Mike! We're gunna need a bit longer for the food, I need to tell the story of Gordo!

SCOUT #2

Is this gunna be another purple passion...because I swear, if it is...

BODINHAM

No it's not, just shut up a listen! It all started a lon, long time ago...Well, 66 years ago, when Gordo was just a little monkey, with a very big dream...

LIGHTS FADE. TIME TURNS.

ACT 1 SCENE 2. EXT. THE RAINFORESTS OF SOUTH AMERICA. DAY.

A lone figure, GORDO the squirrel monkey stares longingly into the sky. How Far I'll Go from Moana starts to play.

GORDO (SUNG)

I've been staring off into the night sky
 Long as I can remember
 Never really knowing why
 I wish I could focus on our world
 But I come back to this longing
 No matter how hard I try

Every turn I take
 Every trail I track
 Every path I make
 Every road leads back to the place I know
 Where I cannot go
 Where I long to be

See the light of the stars and the moon
 They call me
 And no one knows how far space goes
 If the breath in my lungs and the life stays inside me
 One day I'll know
 If I go there's just no telling how far I'll go

I know every monkey in this jungle
 Seems so happy in this jungle
 Everything is by design

I know every monkey in this jungle
 Has a role in this jungle
 So maybe I can roll with mine
 I can serve my tribe
 I can do my part
 I'll be satisfied if I don't depart
 But the voice inside says to make a start
 What is wrong with me
 See the lights as they shine in the sky
 They're blinding
 But no one knows how deep space goes
 And it seems like it's calling out to me
 So come find me
 And let me know
 What's beyond that sky
 But I just can't fly

See the light of the stars and the moon
 They call me
 And no one knows how far space goes
 If the breath in my lungs and the life stays inside me
 One day I'll know
 How far I'll go

GORDO holds the final note as if it was really impressive, despite having just sung it really, really badly. GORDO'S friend, MARCEL approaches.

MARCEL (O.S)

Gordo? Gordo? Is that you?

Marcel walks on stage

MARCEL (CONT'D)

There you are Gordo. I thought I could hear you!

GORDO

How did you know it was me?

MARCEL

Are you kidding? No-one sings as badly as you do- I could tell from the way all the other animals were fleeing from this area!

GORDO

(disappointed)

Oh...

MARCEL

(changing the subject)

Anyway, what are you are you doing all the way out here by yourself?

GORDO

Oh, you know...just thinking

MARCEL

(scoffing)

Thinking? More like day dreaming again! Why do you spend all your time staring off into space?

GORDO

Because there HAS to be something more! Look at how far it goes on for, we can't be the only ones here!

MARCEL

So what? It's not like we have any chance to actually see any of it. We're monkeys! Everything we know is in this jungle. No-one's ever even left the colony, and you're talking about not just leaving the jungle, but leaving the planet. All your life you've had your head stuck up in the clouds, I think it's time that you remember that clouds disappear. What's solid is the ground. The trees. The fact that we all have a part to make this colony thrive.

GORDO

How do you do it, Marcel? How are you content to spend every day plugging away as some tiny cog in a machine?

MARCEL

Well first of all, I'm a monkey, so I have no idea what a machine is, let alone a cog. Second of all, because it's necessary. We all have a job, and without every one of us doing our jobs, the colony falls apart. Just because something's monotonous and necessary, doesn't mean meaning can't be found in it. Knowing that without me, everything else would fall apart, why, that's what gives me purpose and meaning.

GORDO

That's not what I want though! Don't my needs matter?

MARCEL

Of course they matter, but the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one. Always. It's not that you don't matter, but the colony matters more.

GORDO

But I'm not like you- that's not enough for me! I just feel like I was meant for so much more.

MARCEL

What more is there than this?

GORDO

(defeated)

I don't know...

MARCEL

Come on. I think it's time we get back.

Marcel leaves

GORDO

...but I intend to find out

Gordo follows Marcel back to the colony.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 3. EXT. JUNGLE. DAY.

LT. HERRING, a burly soldier type is slashing his way through the jungle with a machete making excited noises with every slash, clearly loving what he's doing. He spots a bug and lets out a high pitched shriek before stamping on it and then jumping up and down on it. He realises it's dead and stops. He looks down at the mess and starts laughing.

LT. HERRING

Man, I love killing stuff

He keeps laughing. MARVIN walks up, sees LT. HERRING laughing and starts laughing as well

LT. HERRING (CONT'D)

(noticing that Marvin is
laughing)

I know why I'm laughing, but why are you laughing?

MARVIN

(shrugging)

I dunno. I often find that people are laughing and I never know why. I realised that it's easier to just laugh along and pretend I know what's going on!

LT. HERRING

(glaring at him
disbelievingly)

Are you a complete idiot?

MARVIN

(thinking hard)

Actually, I'm missing my big toe from an accident I had when I was younger

LT. HERRING

What?

MARVIN

So I'm not a complete idiot...my big toe is missing!

LT. HERRING shakes his head, astounded at MARVIN'S idiocy. He goes to move on deeper into the jungle.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

WAIT! Are you...are you sure you want to go deeper into the jungle?

LT. HERRING

What? Of course, why wouldn't I?

MARVIN

You heard what the locals said, the jungle's supposed to be haunted!

LT. HERRING

Don't tell me you're superstitious?

MARVIN

I'm not **SUPER**stitious....

(looks into the jungle and gulps)

but I am a little stitious.

They hear footsteps and foliage rustling coming from off-stage

MARVIN (CONT'D)

(starts getting hysterical)

See, I knew it was haunted. We shouldn't be here. I shouldn't be here. I knew I never should have taken this job, but oh no, I just had to listen to my parents. I just had to start a "real career" and now I'm going to die.

MARVIN falls to the floor, bawling. LT. HERRING looks at him, baffled. EMMA stumbles on stage, pushing through the foliage.

EMMA

Oh, Lt. Herring, there you are! I got a bit turned around back there and lost the trail. I'm so glad I managed to catch up to you though.

(she notices MARVIN on the floor)

Marvin? Is everything okay?

MARVIN

(realising he's not about to die and standing up)

Oh yeah, I'm...I just thought you were something else.

LT. HERRING

Doctor, please explain to Marvin here that this jungle isn't haunted

EMMA

Haunted? No, no, that's just an old wife's tale

MARVIN

I didn't know you had a wife!

EMMA

Not MY old wife. It just means a story that's exaggerated. This jungle is full of monkey colonies, every species of monkey you can imagine lies somewhere in there. That includes Howler Monkeys. Years and years ago, the natives would hear the shrieks and cries of the Howlers. Being a very spiritual, and honour bound culture, they believed that the souls of those who died without honour were trapped deep in the jungle

LT. HERRING

(scoffing)

Absolute tosh if you ask me

EMMA

I think it's beautiful! The thought that you're duty bound to make up for any of your transgressions towards others. I often find that when I treat someone unjustly, I feel trapped, I find this a wonderful expression of that!

LT. HERRING

Well I say take what you can, give nothing back.

MARVIN

Isn't that the Pirate Code?

EMMA and LT. HERRING stare at him for a moment, baffled.

EMMA

(getting back on track)

All that to say, no, these woods aren't haunted. In fact, the very reason they are claimed to be haunted, is the very thing that we are here to find!

LT. HERRING

(clapping his hands together)

To catch ourselves some monkeys! Marvin, I don't think the trucks will be able to any deeper, get the traps, you'll have to carry them.

MARVIN

(whining)

What? Why me?

LT. HERRING
Because that is literally your job.

EMMA
Come on, Marvin; I'll give you a hand.

They all walk off stage together.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 4. EXT. DEEP JUNGLE. DAY.

MARCEL and GORDO are travelling deeper into the jungle, returning to the Monkey Colony. Suddenly, GORDO stops.

MARCEL
(looking around)
Gordo? Why did you stop?

GORDO
Didn't you hear something?

MARCEL
Hear something? No, what did you hear?

GORDO
I dunno...it sounded like a roar...but not from any creature I've met. It sounded big. And terrifying.

MARCEL
Is this one of your jokes? I didn't...

GORDO
(interrupting)
Shhh

GORDO cocks an ear, listening hard. They hear footsteps.
Quick! Hide!

They quickly take cover behind a nearby bush. LT. HERRING, EMMA, and MARVIN enter.

MARVIN
(whining again)
Are we there yet?

LT. HERRING
I already told you no! Do you see any monkeys here?

MARVIN
Well what if they're hiding?

LT. HERRING

Why would they be hiding? Where even would they hide?

MARVIN

(pointing to where Gordo and
Marcel have just hidden)

I dunno. They could be there

LT. HERRING

(laughing cruelly)

Ahaha, don't be ridiculous

EMMA

Studies do show that the monkeys in this region are unlikely to hide. Because of local beliefs, they have very little human interaction, and therefore have no reason to fear humans.

LT. HERRING

More fool them

EMMA

The monkeys have no reason to fear us, because we are not here to cause them any harm. We will be treating these monkeys humanely, is that clear?

LT. HERRING

(putting his hand on his gun)

You won't be saying that when they're trying to eat your face off because you've tried to capture one and now it's trying to fight its way out of a corner.

EMMA

I'm serious, Lieutenant. No harm will come to any of these monkeys. I'm here to make sure of that.

LT. HERRING

(holding up his hands)

Alright, alright; you're the boss!

EMMA

I think we've come as far as we need to!

MARVIN

(Collapsing under the weight
of the trap he's carrying)

Well, thank Heavens for that!

LT. HERRING

Now you just need to set up the trap!

MARVIN

Why is it always me!

EMMA

The good news is, this is the last one, then we can loop back round check on all the ones that we've already placed.

MARVIN

(distractedly)

More walking??? Nah, that's effort, man!

LT. HERRING

Well that's the job you signed up for...so I suggest you get a move on. The longer you take, the longer before you can rest!

MARVIN opens up his back pack and takes out a banana and places it on the ground

EMMA

It still astounds me that we can fit an entire trap into something that looks like a simple banana!

MARVIN

Well it's a lot heavier than a banana, I'll tell you that much for free!

EMMA

But still, it's a modern day miracle!

LT. HERRING

Yes, yes. "1958, what a time to be alive!" C'mon, let's get going, we've still got a lot of ground to cover today!

They all leave. After a moment GORDO and MARCEL emerge from their hiding place.

MARCEL

What was that about?

GORDO

I dunno, I can understand those noises they were making. but look, they left a banana behind...IDIOTS!

GORDO goes to pick up the banana

MARCEL

I don't know, Gordo. What if there's something wrong with it? There must be a reason they left it behind!

GORDO

Well if it's bad, I just won't eat it!

MARCEL

(nervously)

I've got a bad feeling about this, Gordo. I really don't think you should touch it.

GORDO

Relax, Marcel, what's the worst that could happen.

As he says this he reaches out to grab the banana. There's a loud mechanical clunk as he touches it, and cage springs up around him.

MARCEL

I told you not to touch it, and now you're stuck!

He runs over and starts trying to pry the bars apart to no avail.

LT. HERRING (OFF STAGE)

I heard something! I think something's set the trap off!

MARCEL

Oh crap, I think I can hear them, what should I do?

GORDO

(resigned)

You're going to have to leave me.

MARCEL

No way!

GORDO

You have to! Look, there's no time to argue. If they find you here, we're both for it. At least if you get away, you can warn the rest of colony to look out for suspicious bananas.

MARCEL

No Gordo, I don't want to leave you

GORDO

You have to. And who knows, this might be a good thing. We both know I was never cut out for the colony...I just don't fit in. And it's not like I have any family! You're the only one who even tolerates me!

LT. HERRING (OFF STAGE)

I'm sure it was just around here...ahh, there it is!

GORDO

They're getting closer. If you won't go, at least hide! NOW!

MARCEL

(starting to leave)

I love you

GORDO

I know.

MARCEL scampers back into the hiding place as LT. HERRING, EMMA, and MARVIN reappear. They initially don't notice that the trap has been sprung.

EMMA

It's incredibly unlikely that we've caught anything already. It was probably just a malfunction, there's really no need to get so excited!

LT. HERRING

Well all the more reason, to come and check it out- if it has sprung itself, we'll need to reset it. But somehow I don't think that that's the case...

He looks around and spots GORDO trapped in the cage

LT. HERRING (CONT'D)

(stalking over to the cage)

Well, well, well, what do we have here

EMMA

(now also noticing GORDO)

I don't believe it! We've actually managed to catch one!

EMMA pushes LT. HERRING out of the way to get right next to the cage. She crouches down next to cage. Meanwhile GORDO is gibbering in monkey noises.

EMMA (CONT'D)

(in a soft, soothing voice)

It's okay, buddy, we're not going to hurt you!

LT. HERRING

(looking disgruntled from the shove)

I wouldn't waste your breath- he's just a stupid animal; he can't understand what you're saying.

EMMA

(Rounding on LT. HERRING)

Do you have any idea why we're using monkeys for this venture?

LT. HERRING shrugs

EMMA (CONT'D)

I thought not. Besides the fact that I've always been able to bond very quickly with monkeys, we're using them, because they have a molecular make-up very similar to our own.

LT. HERRING and MARVIN look confused

EMMA (CONT'D)

That means that the way they'll respond to going into space, is very similar to how the human body will respond. Not only that, but monkeys, and particularly Squirrel monkeys, as this one is, are really very intelligent

They look back at GORDO, who is scratching his butt and sniffing his hand

LT. HERRING

(sarcastically)

Yes...it certainly seems that way.

EMMA

(defensively)

Well, it's a different kind of intelligence

LT. HERRING

Well, we'll see about that. Anyway, we've got what we came for. Marvin, grab the cage, and let's get out of here before more of his friends show up and try to rescue him.

MARVIN

Really? You think it's likely that they'll attempt a rescue mission?

EMMA

No, don't worry. So long as we get out of here quickly, we should be fine!

They all head out, as they are leaving MARVIN drops his security I.D. MARCEL peeks out from behind his hiding place.

MARCEL

(calling out in despair)

Gooooorrrrdooooooooo!!!!!!

MARCEL scampers off.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 5. INT. NASA HEADQUARTERS. DAY.

GORDO is locked up in a cage looking terrified. LT. HERRING is in the room taunting him.

LT. HERRING

You stupid monkey. You think you're so smart. Drawing us in with those big round eyes, and cute bushy tail...but you're not fooling me, I know what you're really like, you stupid animal. Not so smart now, are you, trapped in a cage.

EMMA and MARVIN enter, LT. HERRING doesn't notice them and keeps taunting the monkey.

Yeah, I wish all you stupid monkeys were caged like this. That's where you belong after all...or better yet; dead!

LT. HERRING draws closer to GORDO, sneering at him.
You know, this close, you're not even that cute. Just a stupid, ugly, smelly...

GORDO takes advantage of the proximity and spits in LT. HERRING'S face. He staggers back aghast, before charging back forwards trying to throttle GORDO.

WHY YOU LITTLE...

EMMA

(bringing a stop to the proceedings)

LIEUTENANT, STOP THAT THIS INSTANT

LT. HERRING

(wiping spit from his face)

Doctor Bentley, Marvin...how much of that did you see?

EMMA

We saw enough

MARVIN

We saw all of it! Do you think you'll get super powers, and be like a monkey man?

LT. HERRING and EMMA both stare at him incredulously for a minute

EMMA

I think he'll be okay.

(turning on LT. HERRING)

At least he will be if he never tries to do harm to these specimen again. Do you understand how important these experiments are? We are trying to put man in space, and to do that, we need to know that it's safe for people up there. Therefore, we need these specimen to show us the effects that it will have on the human body. For that, we need these monkeys. So, if you harm them, we can't do what we need to, and we all lose our jobs. Comprende?

LT. HERRING

Oh, I comprehend. But how do you expect him to?

He gestures at GORDO who is gibbering and making monkey noises in his cage

EMMA

I was just coming to that, we've developed something that will translate his noises into English, then we will be able to understand him.

LT. HERRING

Oh come off it. Surely that's not possible.

EMMA

Look, I'll show you.

EMMA approaches GORDO in his cage. GORDO starts shrieking louder, and EMMA makes soothing noises to calm GORDO down. He continues to gibber, but is now calm enough for EMMA to attach the bandanna to his head. As this happens, he suddenly goes from gibbering to speaking.

GORDO

...and you better keep that freak away from me from now on. Seriously, he needs to get laid!

GORDO stops speaking and looks shocked at the noises he's now making. Everyone else is stunned in silence for a moment.

EMMA

Errr, it must need a bit of adjusting. It doesn't seem to be working quite right.

MARVIN

No. It's working. He DOES need to get laid.

LT. HERRING glares at MARVIN.

EMMA

This is incredible! I can't believe it works!

She leans in closer towards GORDO.
Hi, my name is Doctor Emma Bentley.

GORDO

Hi Dr Emma Bentley, my name is Gordo

MARVIN

(pushing Emma out the way)
That is so cool! My name is Marvin!

GORDO

Hi Marvin, how come you only have one name?

MARVIN

My family disowned me and told me to change my name. I guess I was a disgrace and an embarrassment to it, and they didn't want me to carry it any more.

LT. HERRING

(sarcastically)

I can't imagine why...

GORDO

So now I can understand you, where are we? Why did you take me? And what do you want from me?

EMMA

We're in Cape Canaveral, we took you because we need you, and Gordo, we want you to go to space!

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 6. INT. NASA HEADQUARTERS. NIGHT.

LT. HERRING is sat in his office by himself going through some papers. MARVIN walks in and stands in the doorway.

MARVIN

Can we talk?

LT. HERRING

Oh, Marvin, I didn't hear you come in. What is it?

MARVIN

I just...why are you so mean to me when we're around other people?

LT. HERRING

(defensively)

I don't know what you're talking about

MARVIN

There you go again, you're always blowing me off and dismissing me. Why do you do that?

LT. HERRING

(sighs)

We've been over this...you know why I do it.

MARVIN

Well I'm sick of it. Why do you feel the need to hide, Redd?

LT. HERRING

Look, I've had a lot of experience in the military, and you know what I've learnt in that time?

Only arrogant idiots think there's shame in hiding, or retreating. When you're up against an enemy you can't defeat, when you're in a battle you cannot win, sometimes the best bet is to hide and bide your time. Wait for the time that you have the advantage.

MARVIN

Oh, that's rubbish, we both know that you're just scared.

LT. HERRING

(shouting now)

I AM NOT SCARED!

LT. HERRING realises that he's lost his cool, and sits down heavily, putting his head in his hands. "Rewrite the Stars" from 'The Greatest Showman' starts playing.

MARVIN (SUNG)

You know I want you
It's not a secret I try to hide
I know you want me
So don't keep saying our hands are tied
You claim it's not in the cards
But fate is pulling you miles away
And out of reach from me
But you're here in my heart
So who can stop me if I decide
That you're my destiny?

What if we rewrite the stars?
Say you were made to be mine
Nothing could keep us apart
You'd be the one I was meant to find
It's up to you
And it's up to me
No one can say what we get to be
So why don't we rewrite the stars?
Maybe the world could be ours
Tonight

LT. HERRING (SUNG)

You think it's easy
You think I don't wanna run to you
But there are mountains
And there are doors that we can't walk through
I know you're wondering why
Because we're able to be
Just you and me
Within these walls
But when we go outside
You're gonna wake up and see that it was hopeless after all

No one can rewrite the stars
How can you say you'll be mine

Everything keeps us apart
 And I'm not the one you were meant to find
 It's not up to you
 It's not up to me
 When everyone tells us what we can be
 How can we rewrite the stars?
 Say that the world can be ours
 Tonight

BOTH (SUNG)

All I want is to fly with you
 All I want is to fall with you
 So just give me all of you

LT. HERRING (SUNG)

It feels impossible

MARVIN (SUNG)

It's not impossible

LT. HERRING (SUNG)

Is it impossible?

BOTH (SUNG)

Say that it's possible

How do we rewrite the stars?
 Say you were made to be mine?
 Nothing can keep us apart
 Cause you are the one I was meant to find
 It's up to you
 And it's up to me
 No one can say what we get to be
 Why don't we rewrite the stars?
 Changing the world to be ours

LT. HERRING (SUNG)

You know I want you
 It's not a secret I try to hide
 But I can't have you
 We're bound to break and
 My hands are tied

LT. HERRING pulls away from MARVIN and a silence falls between them for a moment.

MARVIN

Fine. You won't be with me, even though I know you want to. I can understand that, I can even live with it. What I don't understand is that you're being so cruel to everyone around you. What's that about?

LT. HERRING

What do you mean?

MARVIN

Ever since we were sent on that monkey capturing assignment you got really...malicious. What's that about? You're not a bad guy, but more and more you're acting like one. Why? I've never seen you like this before, what has gotten into you.

LT. HERRING

(collapsing back into his
chair)

This assignment...it's personal for me.

MARVIN

Personal? Personal how?

LT. HERRING

As you know, I was raised by the army. My whole life I've been around this life, bred into it, trained to be a tactical and strategic machine, meant for this life.

MARVIN

Of course, everyone knows that.

LT. HERRING

Well what they don't know is why I spent my whole life around the army.

MARVIN

I always assumed that you were from a military family

LT. HERRING

That's half the story. The truth is that both my parents were with the army. My father was a sergeant, and my other was a mission handler. This was during the Second World War. Rumour had it that Hitler was a very superstitious man, spent all his time searching for the Lost Ark, and Temples of Doom, and Tesseract, and things like that; things of great supernatural power that he thought he could take out his opposition with if he got his hands on. People in our government started to get paranoid that he was on to something, and thought that maybe our military power should look into these things as well. My father was sent to lead a small task force into the very same jungle that we just visited. It was rumoured that there was a temple there, allowing from an ancient kingdom that had discovered the power to control monkeys. The brass thought that if we could control monkeys we would have a numbers advantage, as well as total domination in more difficult terrain. His mission was find the temple, search it, and return with the weapon; this dominion crown. Simple really...or it should have been.

MARVIN

What... What happened?

LT. HERRING

Something that wasn't supposed to. the monkeys were more territorial than was anticipated. They attacked.

MARVIN

And...you father?

LT. HERRING

(wailing)

They ate his face

MARVIN

(stepping over to him
compassionately)

That's awful, how do you know this?

LT. HERRING

One man survived. My mother had gown with them, she created a distraction to draw their attention to let him escape. He ran for days until he managed to get back to the base camp. He was barely coherent. It took him weeks to recover physically-months to recover psychologically. When he was finally able to articulate his thoughts, he told us what happened to him. To was a massacre. Those blasted monkeys, the killed everyone, tore them limb for limb.

(a dark cloud comes over him. He has a far away look and looks disgusted)

No. Monkeys might look cute and cuddly, but in reality, they are far from it. They took everything from me. There are an accursed species, and if I never see another monkey again...it'll be to soon.

MARVIN moves to hug LT. HERRING, this causes LT. HERRING to snap out of his reverie and he sidesteps the hug, wiping tears away and composing himself.

LT. HERRING (CONT'D)

(embarrassed)

But none of that concerns us now, we have bigger things a foot. Now tell me, how are you doing with that little secret project of ours?

MARVIN

Yes Lieutenant, it's going very well indeed! In fact just this afternoon I was able to sneak into her office and get the....

EMMA enters really excited at this moment, talking to herself. LT. HERRING quickly hushes him.

EMMA

(to herself)

I cannot believe how well it is working!

I knew that we would be able to establish rudimentary communication with the specimen, but I never dreamed that we would achieve this level of mutual comprehension! This really is quite astounding.

(addressing LT. HERRING and
MARVIN)

Oh, hello there, I didn't see you there.

LT. HERRING and MARVIN both greet EMMA slightly awkwardly. EMMA picks up on the mood

EMMA (CONT'D)

What is this? What's going on here? You guys seem a bit...weird.

MARVIN

(Trying to come up with an
excuse)

Oh yeah...the lieutenant just farted! Suuuuper awkward.

EMMA

(sniffing the air)

Really? I can't smell anything!

EMMA keeps sniffing the air and turning her head. LT. HERRING glares daggers at MARVIN when her head is turned away from her. EMMA'S head swings back round to him, and he quickly puts on a false smile.

LT. HERRING

(Being very falsely cheery)

That's the Herring guarantee: nice quick entry, make a powerful impact, and never outstay your welcome

LT. HERRING awkwardly laughs. There is an awkward pause for a moment.

LT. HERRING (CONT'D)

(trying to change the
subject)

So...what were you so happy about just then?

EMMA

Oh, well it turns out that my invention works a lot better than before. By falsifying electromagnetic waves, the thought translator that I've given the specimen has been infinitely more successful than we thought!

LT. HERRING

Err, and in English?

EMMA

My PENIS works!

MARVIN
(cheerfully)
That's great! Mine too!

LT. HERRING
(Confused)
I'm sorry, but WHAT?

EMMA
(rolling her eyes at the
confusion)
Not penis, P-E-N-I-S, the Pseudo Electromagnetic Neurological
Indicator System; The bandanna thing I gave Gordo! We thought
it would just give a really basic indication of his emotional
state, and if we were lucky allow low communication. The
level of comprehension and conversation that we've been able
to achieve has been...well astonishing!

LT. HERRING
(sarcastically)
How fascinating!

EMMA
(missing the irony)
I know right! I've been able to learn so much! Like, did you
know that the name Gordo means "old reliable" in his colony?
He says it's funny because the name couldn't be further from
the truth where he's from; apparently he was considered to be
quite the slacker. But he's been pretty reliable with
everything we've thrown at him, some of the staff have even
started affectionately calling him 'Old Reliable'. It's kind
of become his nickname

LT. HERRING
(overly cheerful)
You know Doctor Bentley, this is JUST what I needed

EMMA
(confused)
Really?

LT. HERRING
Yeah, I was just saying to Marvin here that I haven't been
able to sleep these last couple of nights and...

MARVIN
(interrupting)
No you weren't

LT. HERRING kicks MARVIN

LT. HERRING
(to MARVIN)
Yes I was!

(back to EMMA)

I was just saying to him that I haven't been able to sleep these last couple of nights and that story

(he fakes a yawn)

Was just boring enough to really send me off! So I'll be heading off to bed now. Goodnight doctor.

LT. HERRING exits laughing cruelly. There's an awkward pause. EMMA looks hurt and frustrated, MARVIN looks awkwardly embarrassed.

MARVIN

Look. I'm sorry about him. He doesn't mean it; he really is a good guy.

EMMA

(wasppishly)

Oh save it, will you. Besides, shouldn't you be going, I think that your precious LT. Herring has some more boots for you to lick clean.

Another awkward pause as the two look at each other. EMMA feels bad about her outburst, but is too stubborn to take it back.

MARVIN

Right. I'll guess I'll just...leave you to it then.

MARVIN leaves quietly. EMMA crosses her arms determindly and glares off for a moment. She gives a grunt of frustration, and then stomps off after Marvin.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 7. INT. NASA HEADQUARTERS. DAY

EMMA and GORDO are sat together.

GORDO

Please, just one more game

EMMA

You said that last time!

GORDO

But I actually mean it this time

EMMA

You said THAT last time as well!

GORDO

Oh please, and I won't ask you for the rest of the day

EMMA

(rolling her eyes, but
grinning despite herself)

Fine

GORDO

Yes!

BOTH

Rock. Paper. Scissor. SHOOT!

*On 'shoot' EMMA pulls out scissor. GORDO pulls out
paper- the only thing his hand will allow*

GORDO

Ughh! You win again! How do you keep beating me?

EMMA

Maybe it has something to do with the fact that girls are
smarter than boys? Maybe I'm just better than you? ...or
MAYBE it has something to do with the fact that your hand is
designed to only let you use paper, so I just keep picking
scissors

GORDO

(laughing)

Well, you might be on to something there....one more game?

EMMA

Gordo...

GORDO

Okay, okay. It's just so exciting here- there's so much going
on, and I still can't believe that I get to go to space! I'm
constantly learning new things, new skills, meeting new
people, getting to play new games! I just can't get enough of
it!

EMMA

Well don't get too complacent, you'll be shipping out soon
enough

GORDO

SPACEshipping out

EMMA

(chuckling)

Exactly, so we really should be getting some work done.

GORDO

Alright, explain the mission to me again. What do I need to do?

EMMA

Well, you don't really need to do anything. You'll be going up in the shuttle, spending a little time in space, and then coming straight back.

GORDO

So, if you don't actually need me to do anything, why do I need to be in there; you're not even letting me steer the thing!

EMMA

We need to test our space equipment- make sure it works for people. The best way to do that is to make sure that it works for monkeys like you. Your make up is very similar to ours, so the thinking is that if you can take it, we can.

GORDO

Wouldn't it be easier to just send up a person?

EMMA

(clearly feeling awkward at this question)

Well...the people in charge think- and, I don't agree with this personally- but, they think that your life is more...expendable than a human life.

GORDO

So, they're sending me, in case I die?

EMMA

Yes

(*there is a pause before she quickly adds*)

But that's not going to happen

GORDO

How can you be so sure?

EMMA

Because I invented to space equipment, didn't I!

GORDO

But how do you know you did it properly?

EMMA

Because I'm a genius!

(*she touches his bandanna*)

I made that didn't I?

GORDO
(still not convinced)

I suppose...

EMMA
Anyway, that's for me to worry about- I'm not going to let my best friend die up there, am I? The only thing you need to worry about is your physical training with Lt. Herring.

GORDO
Urgh, I HATE that pyscho!

EMMA
Yes, I must admit that he is unnecessarily harsh with you; I hope it's not upsetting you at all?

GORDO
Don't worry- it doesn't effect my self steam

EMMA
(pause)
Your what?

GORDO
You know, like how much you push yourself to keep going when things get tough: your self steam

EMMA
You know, in roundabout way, that almost makes sense.

EMMA looks at her watch

but we better get going if you don't want to incur "that pyscho"'s anger! Come on.

EMMA picks up GORDO and carries him off.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 8. EXT. NASA HEADQUARTERS. DAY.

LT. HERRING is outside looking frustrated, tapping his foot and intermittently checking his watch. MARVIN is stood next to him holding a clipboard and looking at the sky.

MARVIN
Nice weather today, isn't it.

LT. HERRING
We're in Florida, in June...of course it's nice weather.

MARVIN

Alright, alright. I was just saying, no need to bite my head off.

LT. HERRING

Well you do insist on being an idiot- it wears on my nerves. Between that, that stupid "Gordo" being around all the time, and trying to pull off our-

(He looks around
conspiratorially and
whispers)

-secret plan without anyone catching on, it just wears a man down, you know?

MARVIN

Oh, that reminds me, last night I managed to break into the flight co-ordinators office. I did what you told me and...

EMMA and GORDO come rushing in, cutting MARVIN off

LT. HERRING

(snarling)

You're late

EMMA

(looking at her watch)

He's not late, he's right on time!

LT. HERRING

He's late if I say he's late. Anyway, why are you here? Did his bandanna thingy break and you have to speak for him now.

GORDO

Hey, I don't need anyone to speak to me, I can speak up for myself: I have self steam!

LT. HERRING

Oh do you now? Well I suggest you go and run off some of that steam by giving me those 20 laps of the facility you owe me.

GORDO

Ugh, I hate running. Why do I have to do this?

LT. HERRING

Because she

(he points aggressively at EMMA)

Has specified that you must be in peak physical condition to undergo this mission, and "lucky me", it therefore falls under my remit to get you there, so when I say run, I expect you to run, not stand around here asking stupid questions! NO GO GO GO!

GORDO looks startled and runs off.

LT. HERRING (CONT'D)
 (calling after him)
 AND MAKE IT 30 LAPS FOR CHEEK!

EMMA
 Why are you so harsh on him?

LT. HERRING
 I don't know what you're talking about. You asked me to make sure that he's fit enough for this trip you're sending him on, I'm just doing my job. If you want him to survive the launch tomorrow, you better let me do your job. But if you'd rather cuddle up with him, and do your make-up, and talk about how "like, totally cute that technician in the engine room is" then by all means, be my guest. It's not like I care if he survives or not.

EMMA
 You know what, you're just a bully, and I don't make time for bullies.

EMMA storms off. LT. HERRING looks disgruntled, MARVIN looks uncomfortable.

LT. HERRING
 Come on, Marvin. We've still got a lot to sort out for things to go the way WE want tomorrow.

LT. HERRING stalks off and MARVIN quickly follows behind him.

END SCENE.

ACT 1 SCENE 9. INT. NASA HEADQUARTERS. MORNING.

EMMA and GORDO are sat down talking. GORDO is looking very nervous.

EMMA
 (finishing a story)
 And that, Gordo, is how to revive a fellow explorer if they ever lose consciousness! It's important to know these things now you're an official space explorer, our very own starship ranger!

GORDO
 Really? It's that simple

EMMA
 (nodding)
 Works every time.
 (pause. And then excitedly)

This is it Gordo! Today's the day- all our hard work is going to pay off!

GORDO

(forcing a smile)

Yeah, it's really great, isn't it!

EMMA

What's up? Don't tell me you're getting second thoughts? I thought you said you'd always wanted this?

GORDO

I have! It's all I've ever wanted- to be the first monkey in space? That's a legacy that I've always wanted! But...now that I'm facing it...I'm kind of....scared.

EMMA

Scared? What have you got to be scared about?

GORDO

Ummm, my life? I don't know if you know this about me or not, but I've gotten pretty attached to this whole living thing. I think I might actually want to carry this on.

EMMA

Look, you're not the only one who's got things on the line here, I've got a lot to lose as well if you don't go through with this.

GORDO

What? Your job? That's hardly comparable to your life though! It's not exactly the same thing.

EMMA

(getting angry)

My job is my life. If I lose it, what's the point of all this been. Look, I'm not going to force you to do anything, I guess I just thought you were more than some normal monkey. I thought you were special.

GORDO looks dejected. EMMA silently backs away. Status Quo starts playing.

GORDO (SUNG)

It starts with not questioning the answers
And giving up before you've begun
It locks all the doors
Increases the pressure
And in a flash
Your time is up before it's done
And you won't know how it can feel
To feel at all

So I say no to status quo

Who wants to be like the rest
 And deny the best that I'm meant for
 I will show the status quo
 Who wants to be normal
 I'll never conform
 I will be content to resent the status quo

I'll kick down the walls around me
 They don't know how strong I am
 I'm not defined by boundaries
 They will never understand
 I'm so much more
 Than status quo
 forget about being another pipe dreamer
 Stuck on the bottom floor
 And I know
 It's time to go
 So maybe I've gotten everything that I wanted
 But I think that I might have made it so
 When I said no, no, no
 To status quo

I am a starship ranger
 I'm gonna do everything I can
 It's everything I am
 To always be a starship ranger
 Cause it's everything

GORDO, invigorated by the song, charges off to get ready for the launch.

LIGHT'S FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 10. NASA HEADQUARTERS. DAY.

LT. HERRING is waiting. MARVIN peeks his head round the corner, sees that LT. HERRING is alone, and walks up to him excited.

MARVIN
 (excitedly)

I did it!

LT. HERRING
 (also excited)

You did? You managed to get it all on the ship alright?

MARVIN
 Yup!

LT. HERRING
 AND you managed to get what I told you to?

MARVIN

I sure did!

LT. HERRING

Excellent, my boy, excellent! Well, let's see it!

MARVIN starts fumbling in his pocket for something. Just then EMMA storms in in and he quickly stuffs it back deeply in there.

EMMA

Well boys, this is the end of the line.

LT. HERRING

(getting flustered)

I...I don't know what you're talking about

EMMA

Gordo

LT. HERRING

(a bit too quickly)

It wasn't us!

EMMA

(raising an eyebrow)

I shouldn't think so, unless you've somehow learned mind control

LT. HERRING

What? What are you prattling on about, woman?

EMMA

Gordo's getting cold feet. He might be refusing to go.

LT. HERRING

(genuinely concerned)

What? He's not going? He can't not go!

EMMA

I am surprised to find you reacting so strongly, lieutenant. I didn't get the impression that you cared too much for much for him. I must say I appreciate the unity on the matter though...for once.

LT. HERRING

(backtracking)

Well...I just mean that if I'm going to have to have spent all this time with him, it had better get my name in the history books fo great achievements. If he doesn't go, no glory for me!

EMMA

Ahh, never let them say you were an altruist.

MARVIN

Well he is very honest.

EMMA

Pardon me.

MARVIN

(earnestly)

I know the Lieutenant has his faults, but you're right, he tells the truth all the time. He's an all-true-ist.

EMMA and LT. HERRING stare at him flabbergasted. All of a sudden, GORDO bursts in.

GORDO

You're wrong: my feet have never been warmer!

EMMA

I said that like two minutes ago. How did you hear me if you only just got here?

GORDO

It took me that long to come up with that cool entry line.

LT. HERRING

Well sorry to burst your bubble, but that doesn't even make sense as a phrase!

GORDO

Of course it does. I wasn't here, and she said I had cold feet. Now I am here, and I'm sure that I want to be here, so I must have hot feet.

LT. HERRING

But that's. That's not...

EMMA

(interrupting)

It hardly matters. Does this mean you're in, Gordo?

GORDO

(saluting)

Affirmative, commander

EMMA gives GORDO a massive hug in excitement.

EMMA

I KNEW you wouldn't let us down. Marvin, Lieutenant, prepare for take off.

Dramatic take off music starts playing. GORDO's helmet is lowered on to his head. EMMA, LT. HERRING, and MARVIN all stand in a line. GORDO walks down the line, they each shake his hand and salute.

EMMA enthusiastically, LT. HERRING begrudgingly, MARVIN proudly. GORDO steps forward and looks at the ship. He looks back nervously. EMMA gives him a thumbs up, MARVIN nods encouragingly, both smiling. LT. HERRING keeps staring ahead stoically. GORDO enters the ship and prepares for take off. They all join in for the countdown.

ALL

10. 9. 8. 7. 6. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1. BLAST OFF!

GORDO'S ship takes off in a huge roar of engines. And blasts out of site. EMMA rushes over to her computer.

EMMA

Good, good. Everything's looking stable. Yes, there he is approaching orbit. Come on, Gordo. Come on, Gordo!

(pause. And then excitedly)

He's done it! He's reached orbit!! Okay, attempting to establish communication.

EMMA touches her ear.

Gordo? Can you hear me Gordo?

GORDO (OFF STAGE)

Coming in loud and clear, Emma.

EMMA

It's good to hear your voice, Gordo! How's the view?

GORDO (OFF STAGE)

I can't complain, Emma. How's things looking on your end?

EMMA

Everything's looking good and...

A beeping starts. EMMA stops speaking and starts looking worried.

Gordo, is something happening?

The transmission starts crackling and they can no longer hear GORDO. The beeping continues.

Something's gone wrong. He's heading off course. He's heading straight for...

A loud fire crash can be heard.

EMMA (CONT'D)

(desperately into her ear piece)

Gordo? Gordo? ANSWER ME GORDO!

Static continues to be heard over the radio. EMMA dissolves into tears. MARVIN looks horrified. A smile spreads across LT. HERRING'S face.

LIGHT'S FADE.

END OF ACT 1.

ACT 2**ACT 2 SCENE 1. INT. GORDO ESU CHRISTMAS CAMP. EVENING.**

All the scouts are sat there dumbfounded. BODINHAM in still stood at the front.

SCOUT #1

So that's what happened to Gordo? That's the story of the monkey we're named after?

BODINHAM

Well yes...and no

SCOUT #2

What do you mean?

BODINHAM

Well, according to the history books, that's as far as the story goes, however, we know that that was only just the beginning...

LIGHTS FADE. TIME TURNS.

ACT 2 SCENE 2. INT. NASA HEADQUARTERS. DAY.

EMMA is sat with her head in her hands looking completely dejected. MARVIN and LT. HERRING are also in the room.

EMMA

I don't get it, what went wrong up there?

LT. HERRING

(genuinely distressed)

I just can't believe he's gone. Just like that. We've lost him.

EMMA

Not necessarily- his equipment really was top of the line- it might have been enough for him to survive.

LT. HERRING

(excited)

What?? He might be alive?

EMMA

(suspicious)

Yeah, but what do you care? It's not like you ever had much love to spare for him?

LT. HERRING

(trying to act cool)

I don't...it's just a shame...you know, waste of resources and all that!

MARVIN

(changing the subject)

So what happened then? Was there a mess up at the launch?

EMMA

No, the ship launched just it was supposed to, but then, just before it exploded it suddenly changed trajectory, and started going off in a completely unplanned direction. That should not have happened. And it definitely shouldn't have hit that asteroid. There must be an explanation!

MARVIN

(suspiciously)

Well, I'm sure it was just a freak accident that we'll never have an answer for. No point in asking questions now!

EMMA

(standing up)

There's always an answer, and I intend to find this one out. If I look back through the logs, I should be able to find when the flight path changed, and if I can figure that out, hopefully I can work out why it changed.

MARVIN

But even if you do find that out, that doesn't necessarily mean you'll be able to find out who changed it, or even if it was the computer doing it automatically.

EMMA

Not necessarily. Ever user has a unique access code. If we can find the change, we'll also be able to figure out who made it. Thanks, Marvin. This talk helped me figure out what I need to do!

EMMA leaves determinedly, clapping MARVIN on the back as she leaves as a gesture of thanks. MARVIN and LT. HERRING share a concerned look.

MARVIN

Do you hear that? She'll be able to figure out it was us! We're screwed!

LT. HERRING

(thoughtfully)

Not necessarily. Yes, the fact that it was all logged could be a problem, but you followed my instructions, yes?

MARVIN nods

LT. HERRING (CONT'D)

Then you used her log in. She'll know she didn't make the change, but she'll be no closer to figuring out who it was that made the change.

MARVIN

How does that help us?

LT. HERRING

We now have the advantage of knowing that she's on to us. She doesn't know that she's looking for us, and that means we have time to get ahead. All we need to do is make sure that we both have alibis for that time.

MARVIN

(panicking)

I don't think I packed my alibi when I moved here!

LT. HERRING

(incredulously)

How are we the same species? An alibi is a cover story. It means that you can't have done the crime because there is evidence that you were somewhere else!

MARVIN

Ohhhhh

(pause)

How are we going to get one of those?

LT. HERRING

Simple, I'll be your alibi.

MARVIN

But if we just say we're each other's alibi's, won't that seem suspicious?

LT. HERRING

No, I know there were people who saw me during that time- I made sure of it just in case. I'll say you were with me. People are so used to see you trailing behind me they'll assume that you were there as well if I claim you are.

MARVIN

You do cast a rather large shadow, it wouldn't be hard for people to assume they'd missed me in your wake

LT. HERRING

(defensively. Trying to tuck
in his stomach)

I know I've but on a bit of weight recently, but it's not that noticeable is it?

MARVIN

I meant your personality. This all seems a bit risky, are you sure it's the right thing?

LT. HERRING

There is no way that they can find out what we did. There's no turning back now. If they did find out we'd be court marshalled at best.

MARVIN

(nodding resolutely)

You're right. There's no going back.

LT. HERRING

You go make sure there's nothing else tying you to the scene...I'm going to go delete the security footage of you anywhere near that place.

They catch each other's eyes

Don't worry, Marvin, I'm not going to let anything happen to you.

They quickly and tenderly hug each other, and then pull apart and he'd out in their separate ways.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 3. EXT. AN ASTEROID IN SPACE. DAY.

GORDO is lying sprawled out amidst the wreckage of a crash and completely unconscious. Suddenly, STARCHIPS appears, humming "Starships" by Nikki Minaj. He spots the lifeless body of GORDO and goes to investigate.

STARCHIPS

Hey buddy. You alright?

No response

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)

I saw that metal box thing of yours crash into this astroid. I didn't know what had happened so I came to check it out.

Still no response. STARCHIPS takes another step closer.

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)

Sorry, am I bothering you? I can leave. Do you want me to leave?

Still no response. STARCHIPS moves closer to GORDO and looks like he's examining him

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)

This would be so much easier if I knew anything at all about your anatomy. Let me try something.

STARCHIPS rests his horn on GORDO and starts making strange noises. After a moment GORDO wakes up gasping.

GORDO

Where am I?

STARCHIPS

It worked, you're alive!

GORDO

(noticing him for the first time)

Woah, who are you?

STARCHIPS

My name is Starchips. I was just flying past when I saw your crash- thought I'd come over and see what happened. That's when I found you!

GORDO

But if you're from space, how can we understand one another.

STARCHIPS

I think it has something to do with that thing on your head. It seems to have the ability to translate. I merely used evolved mind to create a psychic link with it, teaching it my language. We can now communicate freely.

GORDO

Wait a second, did you say crash? If we're space, what did we crash into?

STARCHIPS

An asteroid

GORDO

An asteroid? That wasn't supposed to happen. There wasn't supposed to be an asteroid...what's an asteroid.

STARCHIPS

It's like a big rock that travels through space.

(looks up)

Although, by the look of things, it's not going to be an asteroid for much longer.

GORDO

What do you mean? Is it going to break apart?

STARCHIPS

No...well, in a sense, yes. It looks like it's heading towards that planet over there. When it breaks the atmosphere it stops becoming an asteroid, it becomes a meteorite.

GORDO

(looking up)

Wait a minute...I recognise that planet. Emma had one just like it in her office. It spun around she said it was model of...of Earth! It's going to hit Earth!

STARCHIPS

Is that a problem? This galaxy seems pretty barren, and the samples of life that are here are very...rudimentary. Hardly even started evolving yet.

GORDO

Yes it's a problem! That's where I'm from!

STARCHIPS

Oh. Well if it's any consolation, this kind of thing happens to planets all the time! And it's not like it will destroy all life....just half of it on the side it will hit.

GORDO

That's not something I'm willing to let happen: we've got to do something to stop it.

STARCHIPS

I can see the virtue in that. But what can we do?

GORDO

You seem to have some sort of magical, mystical powers. Can't you rub your horn to do something about it?

STARCHIPS

It doesn't work like that. While my advanced capabilities must seem so to you, I'm not actually omnipotent! Besides, think about how boring that would be plot wise!

GORDO

There must be something we can do! Why we see if we can get communications back on line.

STARCHIPS

The crash was awfully big, but maybe if we can find the radio, I'll be able to use my mind to project the waves back to where they need to go.

GORDO

That seems convenient

STARCHIPS

And yet, that is where we are. Shall we get looking?

GORDO

Yeah, I bet Emma's worried sick about me! I can't wait to tell her that I survived!

STARCHIPS

And this Emma. Is that someone special?

GORDO

(sheepishly)

Well no...I dunno. Maybe.

STARCHIPS

Sounds like you've got a bit of thing for her.

GORDO

I dunno about that. It's weird. I think she see's me as like...

STARCHIPS

A little brother?

GORDO

More like a pet. But I really admire her, and I think she's great!

STARCHIPS

(nodding)

Sounds confusing.

GORDO

Yeah, it's like, do you ever meet someone, and just feel like you're in a play, and you're supposed to be in love, because it adds tension to the story, but it'd be weird, because one of you's a monkey, and that's how AIDS happens. Do you ever get that?

STARCHIPS

Errr, I don't think anyone ever has had that. That's not a thing that happens to people.

GORDO

Yeah...I just don't know how else to explain it.

STARCHIPS

Come on, buddy, let's go find this radio!

STARCHIPS leads GORDO back towards the wreckage.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 4. INT. NASA HEADQUARTERS. DAY.

EMMA is sat working on her computer. MARVIN comes in carrying a cup of coffee for her.

MARVIN
how's the investigation going?

EMMA
(taking the coffee)
Not great. I managed to access the log, but apparently...it was me that changed the flight plan. I've managed to keep that fact away from the Director's ears for now while I try to figure out who it actually was, but I don't know how long I can keep this up. I need to find out who did it before I get fired.

MARVIN
And do you have any idea who it might have been

EMMA
(shaking her head)
None at all. I'll give whoever it was this much: they really seemed to know what they were doing. For all intents and purposes, it might have been a ghost!

LT. HERRING walks in.

LT. HERRING
Dr Bentley, the director wanted to see you ASAP.

EMMA
Well. I guess this is it then.

(turning to MARVIN)
Marvin, it's been nice knowing you.

(turning to LT. HERRING)
Lieutenant...

LT. HERRING
(cutting her off)
I can't imagine that's true in my case

EMMA
(smiling grimly)
Actually I was going to say that at least I won't have to put up with you any more.

LT. HERRING chuckles

LT. HERRING

Well, I haven't exactly made things easy for you while we've been her. Still. I respect your passion. Best of luck with everything.

Their eyes meet for a moment, and a look of mutual respect is shared between them. EMMA walks out to face the music.

LT. HERRING (CONT'D)

(checking to make sure that
EMMA has left)

Well? What were you able to find out? How's her investigation going? Is she on to us?

MARVIN

No, she has no idea who it was. I think that we've gotten away with it. Only...

LT. HERRING

Only what?

MARVIN

Only...I dunno, she seemed pretty desperate, and sometime desperate people do desperate things.

LT. HERRING

You're not wrong there. Well, with any luck, that'll her being fired. She'll lose her job and will have to drop the investigation. We're almost out of the woods with this one.

MARVIN

(dejectedly)

Yeah...I guess

LT. HERRING

What's wrong?

MARVIN

It's just...is it worth it? Have we done the right thing when we have to be so secret about it? And now it's cost Emma her job! How can we justify this?

LT. HERRING

We justify it with the millions of lives we've saved by doing this. They'll never know our names, or even that they were at risk of dying, but they'll owe it all to us. And that knowledge, even if the world can never know what we did, that's enough for me. And it has to be enough for you.

At that moment, there's a beeping on one of the consoles. MARVIN goes over and finds a phone looking thing and picks it up.

MARVIN

Hello?

GORDO and STARCHIPS enter onto the other side of the stage. They have the radio.

GORDO

I think I heard something! I think it's working!

MARVIN

Hello?

GORDO

Marvin, is that you? Man, am I glad to hear your voice!

MARVIN

(trying to sound
professional)

And who am I speaking with?

GORDO

Marvin, it's me!

MARVIN

I don't think I know any "me"s, what's your last name, please?

GORDO

Not me, It's Gordo!

MARVIN

(shocked)

Gordo! YOU're alive?

LT. HERRING perks up at the mention of GORDO. He rushes over to try and listen in.

GORDO

Yes I'm alive, but only thanks to my friend here

MARVIN

You're friend? Who's your friend.

GORDO

His name is Starchips, he's a space travelling unicorn.

LT. HERRING

What's he saying, what's he saying?

MARVIN

(putting a hand over the
receiver)

Something about having starch hips, maybe he's been eating too many carbs? My mum always used to say 'a moment on the lips, a lifetime on the hips'.

LT. HERRING

That can't be right.

LT. HERRING tries to crowd in closer to the radio.

GORDO

Is that Lt. Herring, is Emma there too? Do you guys know what went wrong.

MARVIN

Emma's not here right now Gordo. As for what went wrong...

MARVIN and LT. HERRING share an uneasy look

MARVIN (CONT'D)

That was our fault.

GORDO

You guys don't need to blame yourselves like that. I know everyone did everything they could. I just wondered what happened.

LT. HERRING

(taking the radio)

No, it really was our fault. Mine and Marvin's I mean.

GORDO

What are you talking about.

LT. HERRING

Listen. As you know, Marvin and I were posted here by the military. The reason we were put here was to keep us out of the way, and keep us silent. We were serving in Vietnam together, we were posted there for years, but over that time we made friends with the villagers in the village we were based. We spent time with them, bonded with them, learnt their story, heard their side of this stupid war we're in. Turns out, they're not evil, in fact most of them are just having to live with the consequences of the few. Anyway, we were in a top secret briefing. Apparently they were going to begin an evacuation of US soldiers from Vietnam. The plan was to claim that we were surrendering and going home, but in reality, it's because there was an asteroid that only the US knows about heading straight for Asia. It would hit Vietnam, and wipe out the entire country...along with most of Asia. Having seen what I've seen I couldn't let that happen. I kicked off, I begged, I pleaded trying to get them to change their plan, but they didn't want to go for it. So they...they...

LT. HERRING looks too dejected to carry on. MARVIN takes the radio back.

MARVIN

They shipped us out to here.

GORDO

So I'm guessing I'm now on that asteroid? How did that happen?

MARVIN

By pure chance I overheard a few conversations I don't think I was supposed to. Redd here

(he points at LT. HERRING)

Always tells me that I'm very unnoticeable, and just blend in, and I guess there must be some truth to that. Anyway, I soon found out that the government wanted more money to fund their war in Vietnam, and that there were slashing the budget for the space race since there hadn't been any significant advancements in some time. This put the pressure on. Your "friend", Emma knew that all her work would be for nothing, and she had to do something. She knew that all the equipment that she had spent so long perfecting would work perfectly, but she hadn't advanced her work on the ship quite as far. She thought that if she pretended that would both be sufficient, they would send someone up.

GORDO

But that means...

LT. HERRING

That she knew that it wouldn't work. The ship was supposed to blow up. All she was trying to do was prove that the rest of the equipment was up to snuff, and that we were almost there with the ship. Then they would keep funding her and allow her to finish her work. I'm sorry Gordo, but you it was never in her plan for to survive the trip.

GORDO

No, it's not true- I don't believe you! I understand why you'd be doing this Lieutenant, you always were out to sabotage us, making up a story like this isn't beyond you at all, but you, Marvin. Why do you follow him around like this, just going what he says?

MARVIN and LT. HERRING share a look

MARVIN

Because I love him.

GORDO

Wait...Marvin gay?

MARVIN

I actually prefer the Beatles

GORDO

Well that explains why you let him boss you around so much, but I still refuse to accept that this is true- Emma cares about me!

MARVIN

I'm sorry, Gordo. But it is. In terms of caring about you, she has always seemed to have an...affinity for monkey.

GORDO

So then how did I end up here.

LT. HERRING

We broke into her office. We changed the flight plan so that your ship would intersect the path of the asteroid. I'm sorry we did that to you, Gordo, but it was the only way to save all those people.

GORDO

And that's alright is it? My life is forfeit so long as it saved all those others?

LT. HERRING

To be blunt. Yes. You were going to die anyway, so we had to take a risk to try to prevent a disaster that would wipe out millions.

MARVIN

We wouldn't have done if there was any other way. Believe me, it was all we could have come up with.

GORDO

You could have saved me. You could have set me free.

LT. HERRING

To what end? There would always be another monkey?

GORDO

You could have at least told me.

LT. HERRING

Would you have believed us?

GORDO

No, I guess you're right. I wouldn't have believed you. I can't even believe you now.

MARVIN

Well, we have one more job for you, Gordo.

GORDO

(incredulous)

You want more from me?

MARVIN

Yes, but we'll make a trade. You only have to do this for us if we can prove to you that we're telling you the truth. And who knows, now that you've got your friend with you...you might even make it out of this alive. If we can't satisfy you beyond a shadow of a doubt, you can walk away from it.

LT. HERRING starts disputing this agreement, but is quickly hushed by MARVIN.

GORDO

I can't believe that this story is story is true. But fine, but know this, when I have proof that you're making this up, I will do everything in my power to see you two brought to ruin. Now, what is it you want me to do?

LT. HERRING

Atta boy. We stashed the hull of the ship with loads of explosives. They're due to go off when the ship re-enters Earth's atmosphere. Our hope is blow up the asteroid before it impacts. That wasn't likely to work very well though. With you on there, you can find a deep crater to stick it in. The closer they are to the middle, the smaller parts it'll fracture into. Then, you can start the timer, and blow it up before it even hits the atmosphere. That'll be the best chance that we have to minimise the damage.

GORDO

(to STARCHIPS)

This sounds pretty dodgy. What do you think.

STARCHIPS

Well, you only have to do it if they can prove that they're telling the truth. Besides, so long as we've got at least 30 seconds to get out of here, that should be enough time for me to get you out of here safely.

GORDO

(into the radio again)

Okay, we'll do it. But ONLY if we get proof.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 5. INT. EMMA'S OFFICE. DAY.

LT. HERRING and MARVIN are searching through all of Emma's belongings.

LT. HERRING

Come on, there has to be proof somewhere!

MARVIN

I know, I know. I'm looking for something that proves what she did.

LT. HERRING

This is the problem with waging war on people smarter than you- they're always a step ahead. She must have got rid of everything to hide her trail...not that it will do her much good, I expect she's been fired as we talk.

MARVIN

All the more reason for us to crack on with this search- she'll be back here any minute now.

EMMA walks in looking furious

EMMA

Or, she might be back right now

LT. HERRING and MARVIN spin around to look at her.

EMMA (CONT'D)

What's going on here?

LT. HERRING AND MARVIN

Nothing.

EMMA

(rounding on LT. HERRING)

I should have known it was you. Always bulling others, and pushing them around. You never could let anyone else have success, could you?

(turning to MARVIN)

And YOU! I trusted you- I thought you were better than this, but in the end you always were just a spineless jellyfish doing what he was told.

MARVIN looks dejected and hurt by these comments.

LT. HERRING

Cut the indignant righteousness act, cupcake, no-one's buying it. We know what you've done.

EMMA

What I've done? WHAT I'VE DONE? I'm pretty sure that you messed with a precise flight plan, causing the death of a monkey, then you cover it up, frame me, and now I find you in my office going through confidential documents, and you come here talking about what I've done? How dare you?

LT. HERRING

We both know that it wasn't us that got Gordo killed. It was you.

EMMA

I don't care what the director says, it was you that changed the flight plan

LT. HERRING

Oh, I'm not denying that. But it wasn't the change in plan that killed him, was it? It was you rushing through equipment that was ready for space.

EMMA

What are you talking about, there was absolutely nothing wrong with the space suit that Gordo went up there in

LT. HERRING

You're right. There wasn't. But there was a fault with a rocket, wasn't there.

EMMA

(spluttering)

Perposterous. You're talking rubbish!

LT. HERRING

No I'm not. Why don't you admit it, I promise that we won't tell anyone, and you know that I'm a man of my word.

EMMA

(smiling evilly)

You think you've got the upper hand, but you don't. Tell me, what's the greatest weapon a person can have?

LT. HERRING

An apache helicopter?

MARVIN

Love?

EMMA

Knowledge. See, your parents weren't the only ones on that little mission into the jungle all those years ago.

LT. HERRING

(taken aback)

What. What are you talking about?

EMMA

My father was there too. In fact...he was the one who survived. He returned, and not quite as empty handed as people might think. When he came back, he'd lost his mind, it took them days to restore his wits, but when he stumbled back here, he was carrying something. Oh, they thought it was just a trinket, a souvenir that he'd picked up along the way, but it was so much more than that. The fools, didn't see it for what it was, and he had no recollection of why he had it when he came to, so he said that I could have it.

I think he was glad for me to take it away from him, I think it's presence was a painful reminder that a lot of people had lost their lives for it, but pretty soon I realised that it was the very thing that had gone into that forsaken jungle for in the first place:

(she pulls a bandanna out of her pocket)

the dominion crown. Silly name really, it's not much of a crown, but then I suppose if it was then I never would have gotten my hands on it. Over the years I discovered what it was, and I used it, I told you that I'd always been able to create strong connections to monkeys, that's how I did it. I used the crown to bend them to my will...not that that was needed with that idiot, Gordo. Anyway, it was from studying the crown that I was able to lovingly craft my PENIS, I used the crown as a prototype and created my PENIS to be simulate neuro-waves in order to translate conversation between species...because that's how science works. I used that to manipulate monkeys and over species into testing my other inventions, thereby developing my space research further. I was so close as well. Another few months on that rocket and it would have been perfect, but no, the government had to cut our funding. And for what? That stupid war in the East! No, I had to convince them, so yes, even though it wasn't ready, I sent Gordo, knowing that he would die, but hoping that his death would make them see sense. Make them see that the work we were doing...that we ARE doing, is so important, and that with a little bit more time we would be there...but I guess that doesn't matter

MARVIN

Because you'll be going to prison.

EMMA

Oh, I wouldn't be so sure about that. You know, it's funny really, lieutenant: your parents died to so that my father could provide me with the very thing that I'm going to end your life with.

EMMA puts on the crown

The most powerful weapon is knowledge, but only when you can use that knowledge to control. Marvin,

As EMMA speaks his name, MARVIN goes rigid and enters a zombie like trance

EMMA (CONT'D)

...kill the Lieutenant.

MARVIN turns slowly to LT. HERRING, and starts walking towards him like a robot

LT. HERRING

(pleading)

Marvin. Please don't. It's me.

MARVIN grabs LT. HERRING by the neck and starts choking him. LT. HERRING falls to his knees struggling with MARVIN'S grip

EMMA

(mockingly)

What's this, Redd? Too weak to fight off Marvin...or...no, It can't be. You can't bring yourself to hurt him. How delicious. Oh this is even better than I planned, you're going to die at the hands of the person who means the most to you!

LT. HERRING

(choking)

Marvin....I....love....you

As he says this MARVIN snaps out of his trance and releases LT. HERRING who collapses to the ground gasping for breath.

EMMA

(taken aback)

What happened? Why did you stop?

MARVIN

True love must have broken the spell

EMMA

Oh, you've got to be shitting me

MARVIN

I am.

EMMA

What?

MARVIN

It had nothing to do with love. You never had me under a trance.

EMMA

What, that can't be true! I tested the crown thoroughly. I know it works flawlessly.

MARVIN

Oh, it does. But that isn't it.

MARVIN pulls out the REAL crown, which he had stolen earlier in Act 1. Plot twist, baby!

Lieutenant, are you okay?

LT. HERRING
(standing)

Yeah, I'm fine.

(rubbing his neck)

I know I told you to make it believable but did you have to strangle me that hard?

MARVIN

Sorry boss.

EMMA

No, this can't be happening.

LT. HERRING

Oh, but it is. We both know that I'm a man of my word, so neither of us are going to turn you in.

EMMA

You can't be serious? You think I'll let you get away with this just because you're letting me free.

LT. HERRING

We won't have to turn you in, because you're going to turn yourself in! Marvin, if you will.

EMMA realises what's about to happen and struggles to reach MARVIN, but is unable to, before...

MARVIN

(putting on the crown)

Emma, go and turn yourself in!

EMMA suddenly snaps into a zombie like trance and marches off stage.

LT. HERRING

(pulling out the radio)

Gordo, did you hear all that.

GORDO and STARCHIPS walk on stage. They've been listening to the whole conversation through their radio.

GORDO

(heartbroken)

Yeah. We heard.

LT. HERRING

I'm so sorry about this Gordo, I really am.

GORDO

Yeah right. This is what you wanted.

LT. HERRING

(sighing)

I only want the truth. I'm sorry that finding it caused so much pain for you. Gordo, I hope you can find it in yourself to do what we've asked. But if not, I'll understand.

LT. HERRING and MARVIN walk off stage. GORDO looks broken for a moment. STARTCHIPS approaches him.

STARARCHIPS

Hey buddy, how ya doin'?

GORDO

(sarcastically)

Yeah, great!

STARARCHIPS

I know it feels bad now, but it's going to get better some day.

GORDO

(snapping)

Oh, what do you know? You're just some stupid horse that flies through space. You act all evolved and smart, but you don't know what you're talking about. I've had enough of you. Just get lost.

STARARCHIPS

But how can y...

GORDO

(shouting)

I said get lost! I don't want you around anymore!

STARARCHIPS leaves dejectedly. GORDO slumps to the floor. After a moment 'Scream' Starts playing.

GORDO (SUNG) (CONT'D)

The day a door is closed
The echoes fill your soul
They won't say which way to go
Just trust your heart
To find what you're here for
Open another door
But I'm not sure anymore
It's just so hard

Voices in my head
Tell me they know best
Got me on the edge
They're pushing, pushing - they're pushing
I know they've got a plan
But the ball's in my hands
This time it's man to man

I'm driving, fighting inside
 A world that's upside down
 And spinning faster

What do I do now - without you
 I don't know where to go
 What's the right team
 I want my own thing
 So bad I'm going scream
 I can't choose, so confused
 What's it all mean
 I want my own dream
 So bad I'm going to scream

I'm kicking down the walls
 I gotta make them fall
 Just break through 'em all I'm punching, crashing - I'm going
 to
 Fight to find myself
 Me and no one else
 Which way, I can't tell
 I'm searching, searching
 Can't find the...way that I should turn
 I should turn right or left
 It's...It's like nothing works - without you

What do I do now - without you
 I don't know where to go
 What's the right team
 I want my own thing
 So bad I'm going scream
 I can't choose, so confused
 What's it all mean
 I want my own dream
 So bad I'm going to scream

*EMMA comes on stage as a symbol of GORDO's thoughts,
 she stands silently, centre-stage*

Yeah the clock's running down
 Hear the crowd getting loud
 I'm consumed by the sound
 Is it her? Is it love
 Can the music ever be enough?
 Gotta work it out, you can work it out
 You can do it, you can do it

*During the instrumental, LT. HERRING and MARVIN enter.
 They form an air band with EMMA. At the end of the
 instrumental, LT. HERRING and MARVIN take one side of
 the stage, EMMA takes the over, representing the
 warring conflicts of GORDO'S allegiance. They continue
 to air band.*

I don't know where to go
 What's the right team
 I want my own thing
 So bad I'm going scream
 I can't choose, so confused
 What's it all mean
 I want my own dream
 So bad I'm going scream!

I don't know where to go
 What's the right team
 I want my own thing
 I want my own thing!
 I can't choose, so confused
 What's it all mean
 I want my own dream
 So bad I'm going to scream

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 6. INT. NASA HEADQUARTERS. DAY.

*LT. HERRING and MARVIN are both sat there, drinking.
 LT. HERRING drains the rest of his whiskey and stands
 up to get a top up.*

LT. HERRING

You having another?

MARVIN

(passing over his glass)

Yeah, go on then. So what happens now?

LT. HERRING

We've done everything we can do, all that's left is to wait
 and see

MARVIN

How can you be so content to just sit there and wait? You're
 normally all action.

LT. HERRING

(handing back the drink)

Marvin, there comes a time in every battle where all the
 cards are on the table, you've made your bet, and it all
 that's left is see what your opponent is playing. I've learnt
 the hard way that when you reach that point the only thing
 left to do is wait patiently for them to show their hand.

MARVIN

And what do you think is going to happen?

LT. HERRING

I don't know, Marvin, I really don't. But I have a feel that that monkey won't let me down. He had the nature of someone who always does the right thing.

MARVIN

And if he doesn't?

LT. HERRING

If he doesn't, then all of this has been for nothing.

(he holds up his glass)

I don't know if this is a celebration or a wake, but either way...cheers.

LT. HERRING downs his drink again. As he puts it down, the radio goes off. LT. HERRING and MARVIN both rush for it.

MARVIN

Gordo? Is that you?

GORDO enters holding the other radio

GORDO

Yeah it's me.

LT. HERRING

You son of a bith, you came through for us!

GORDO

Of course I Did. I couldn't let all those people die. It just took me a moment to realise it...and don't call my mum a bitch. Now, I've buried the explosives like you said.

LT. HERRING

Excellant! There should be a timer on them.

GORDO

A timer?

MARVIN

Like, a clock thing

GORDO

Yeah, I can see it.

LT. HERRING

There's a small button just next to it. When you press that you'll have 60 seconds to get out of there.

GORDO

I don't think I will be getting out of here.

MARVIN

What are you talking about? What about your unicorn friend?

GORDO

I...I sent him away. It's just me.

LT. HERRING and MARVIN share a look

LT. HERRING

Well, maybe you can find a safe space to hide. Once you set the timer, just try to get as far away as you can. Who knows, maybe Emma managed to do a good job on your survival suit.

GORDO

Thanks, Lieutenant, but as you said, I was never supposed to come back from this one.

MARVIN

Gordo. You can't do this.

GORDO

I have to. Where I come from, we have an expression 'the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one'. I never really understood that before. I get it now. I'm ready for this.

MARVIN goes to protest further, but LT. HERRING lays a hand on his shoulder and takes over the radio.

LT. HERRING

Gordo, I'm sorry for the way I've treated you. I was so focused on seeing you as a monkey, I failed to see that you're the best man there is. Good luck.

GORDO

Thanks, sir. I'll do my best.

LT. HERRING and MARVIN put down the radio and leave. GORDO is left alone on stage.

GORDO (CONT'D)

(to himself)

I guess this is it then. I always wanted a strong legacy. Legacy. What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see. What did Herring say? The small button next to the timer? Ahh, there it is.

GORDO looks around for a moment.

GORDO (CONT'D)

Well. If I'm going to go. At least there's a good view. This one's for you, Emma

GORDO pushes the button, then kneels down to accept his fate as the countdown begins. He's there, dejected for a couple of seconds before STARCHIPS bursts in.

GORDO (CONT'D)

STARCHIPS! You came back for me?

STARCHIPS

I never left! Didn't we establish earlier that the only way to get the radio signal to Earth was my telepathy power. You should have known!

GORDO

But, if you were here the whole time, why didn't you come out sooner.

STARCHIPS

Dramatic tension, my man. Now, let's get the hell out of here- the only way I want to blow up is on instagram.

GORDO

But what if you can't make it in time.

STARCHIPS

Well the longer you delay, the more likely that is. Get on!

GORDO hops on STARCHIPS back and the fly dramatically, speeding through space.

GORDO

Just a little further and we'll be out of the blast radius....

The explosion happens. Everything is plunged into black.

LIGHT'S FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 7. EXT. SOMEWHERE IN SPACE. DAY.

GORDO is standing over the lifeless body of STARCHIPS.

GORDO

No, no, no this can't be happening! He's dead because he tried to save my life. There must be something I can do. Think, Gordo, think. Wait, didn't he save my life by touching me with his horn? Maybe if I...

GORDO grabs STARCHIPS' horn and squeezes

GORDO (CONT'D)

Crap, that didn't work...if anything I feel stronger and his breath has got even weaker.

Dammit, I don't care if I only survived because of this suit, this is all that bitch, Emma's fault! ...wait a second, EMMA! She told me how to revive any other space Explorer. What was it again. I know you want to...eat some bread? No that wasn't it. I know you want to give some hea... that can't be right either! Ohh, what was it?

Light Outside starts playing

GORDO (CONT'D)

That's it!

GORDO (SUNG) (CONT'D)

I know you wanna stay in bed
 But it's light outside
 It's light outside
 So know I'm gonna stay right here
 You saved my life once
 You saved my life

And I
 Will try
 To get you up
 Cause it's beautiful outside
 And we'll fall
 But we'll try
 We'll do our best
 And I'll love you all the while
 Because you saved my life once
 Because you saved my life once

I know you wanna rest your head
 And just forget the night
 Forget the night
 So know I'm gonna stay right here
 I'll sit by your side
 Sit by your side

And I
 I'll try
 To get you up
 It's beautiful outside
 We'll fall
 But we'll try
 We'll do our best
 And I'll love you all the while

Because you saved my life once
 Because you saved my life once
 Because you saved my life once
 Because you saved my life once

I think I always knew you would be
 I think I always knew you would be

The greatest
 The greatest
 I think I always knew you would be
 I think I always knew you would be
 The greatest
 The greatest

Because you saved my life once
 Because you saved my life once
 Because you saved my life once
 Because you saved my life once

As the song ends, STARCHIPS slowly wakes up

STARCHIPS
 What happened? Am I dead? Is this Heaven?

He turns around and sees GORDO

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)
 Is this Hell?

GORDO
 (laughing)
 No, we made it! We made it! You saved me, then I saved you
 and We saved everyone!

GORDO hugs STARCHIPS

STARCHIPS
 That's great, we should tell the others!

GORDO
 Yeah, we should

(reaches for the radio)
 ...except, I lost the radio.

STARCHIPS
 Well, I'm sure they'll have seen it. And they know who they
 have to thank for that.

GORDO
 So what do we do now?

STARCHIPS
 Well, you're a space explorer, aren't you?

GORDO nods.

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)
 So let's go explore us some space! Hop on buddy!

GORDO climbs onto his back.

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)
 (as they fly off stage)
 First stop: Uranus!

LIGHT'S FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 8. INT. CHRISTMAS CAMP. NIGHT.

BODINHAM
 And that is the story of Gordo

SCOUT #1
 Is that it?

BODINHAM
 What do you mean?

SCOUT #1
 Well you were talking for like...2 hours

SCOUT #2
 Nothing new there

SCOUT #3
 And it didn't even answer all the questions you asked! What
 WAS his nickname

SCOUT #2
 What even WERE the questions you asked?

SCOUT #1
 It was so long ago I don't even remember

BODINHAM
 Well if you think that's bad, you should hear the story of
 Hanno.

SCOUT #3
 What's that one like?

BODINHAM
 Basically Madagascar, but with more out-of-date references.

SCOUT #2
 No thanks.

BODINHAM
 Well, there is one thing that I know: Starchips and Gordo are
 still out there, exploring space. You know how I know?

ALL SCOUTS
 No. How?

BODINHAM

Because Starchips was meant to fly.

STARSHIPS by Nikki Minaj starts to play. All the characters come back on stage and sing/dance along to it as they take their bows. Instead of "starships" they sing "starchips". After they all bow individually, they come together to take a group bow before dancing off-stage, shutting the door, and having a massive celebratory dance party back-stage.

LIGHT'S FADE.

END OF ACT 2.