

2 Old 2 Reliable

written by

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ACT 1

ACT 1 SCENE 1. EXT. OUTSIDE THE UPDOC. DAY.

A NEWS REPORTER is interviewing GORDO after a recent successful mission.

NEWS REPORTER

(to the camera)

I'm standing here, outside the United Planets Department of Containment, although more commonly referred to as UPDOC, with member of the Galactic League of Unambiguous Morals, Gordo. The League has just brought to justice yet another galactic baddie, who was warmongering, and causing general mayhem and mischief across the galaxy. Frankly, how one organisation, especially one so new, can have such a high turnover of catching baddies, is beyond this galactic reporter, so we're hear to get an insider's perspective.

(turning to Gordo)

Gordo, once again, your team has managed to apprehend another interplanetary villain, and in a manner that is nothing short of cinematic. Honestly, it was so visually stunning and impressive, that I don't think words could ever convey what an ethereal display it was. Luckily, everyone at home has already seen what went down, so we don't need to try and describe what a truly remarkable feat it was. As a member of the League, I would love to hear how it felt to be right in the middle of all that.

The news reporter holds the mic up to Gordo.

GORDO

Founder

NEWS REPORTER

Excuse me?

GORDO

You called me a member of the league. I'm actually the founder.

NEWS REPORTER

Really? I thought Starchips was the founder?

GORDO

He is, but so am I, we founded it together.

NEWS REPORTER

(trying to re-energise the interview)

Okay, well even better then. If you're the founder, you can give real insight into what went down today at UPDOC.

GORDO
 What's UPDOC?

NEWS REPORTER
 (pause)
 UPDOC? It's where we are now.

GORDO
 (still trying to push the
 joke, even though the
 reporter isn't getting it)
 No, but, what's UP DOC

NEWS REPORTER
 (still confused)
 Err...it's the United Planets Department of Containment. It's
 where all the high level baddies get brought after they
 apprehended...most of them by your team. Are you okay? Did
 you hit your head in the battle?

GORDO
 No, I'm fine, I managed to stay mostly out of the fray

NEWS REPORTER
 (jumping straight into
 "gotcha" mode)
 Ahh yes, I was hoping that we would get to that. I've been
 looking back at your previous successes as a team. It seems
 that that is often the case.

GORDO
 What is?

NEWS REPORTER
 That you are there, but not *really* involved.

GORDO
 Of course I'm involved, I'm the founder.

NEWS REPORTER
 (Correcting him)
 Co-founder. And yet, when I look back at the footage of all
 the successes of the league, it seems like Starchips is doing
 all the work, and you're just....there.

GORDO
 (getting defensive)
 I'll have you know that I'm doing very important work

NEWS REPORTER
 Such as?

GORDO

Such as making sure the area is clear, and initiating evacuation processes if they're needed. Or....

Realisation sinks in
Holding Starchips' equipment.

NEWS REPORTER

(smugly)

Yes. Important work indeed. And another thing: why do you keep calling it a "team" when it's really just you and Starchips?

GORDO

Well actually I think it was you that fir...

NEWS REPORTER

(interrupting)

So I guess the real question we need to ask is this: what do you even do?

Gordo looks obviously dejected at this point, and doesn't answer. STARCHIPS bursts into the scene, ecstatic over what they (he) has achieved today.

STARCHIPS

Don't worry folks, it's all been taken care of. Things looked pretty hairy for a second there- but they're all under control now!

The news reporter gets visibly excited at the sight of Starchips

NEWS REPORTER

(pushing Gordo aside)

Get out of my way, I'm going to talk to the real hero here

Gordo steps back, visibly upset by this incident. He goes and sits at a table and starts day drinking. The news reporter straightens their hair to look presentable, then shoves their mic in Starchips' face

NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)

Starchips, once again, you have saved the day in a heroic fashion, with little regard for your own safety. Tell us, what is that inspires to such greatness?

STARCHIPS

(embarrassed)

Really, it's nothing that anyone else wouldn't have done!

NEWS REPORTER

Come now! You say that, but I didn't see anyone else out there doing anything to help

STARCHIPS

Actually, my friend...

NEWS REPORTER

(talking over Starchips)

And if it's true that you are just doing what anyone else would do, then why is that wherever you go in the universe, no-one else seems to be stepping in.

STARCHIPS

Well I think that's because...

NEWS REPORTER

(talking over him again)

The truth of the matter is this, you are doing something that no-one else is prepared to do. You are putting your neck on the line, day-in-day-out, for no reason other than to save over people, Aren't you?

STARCHIPS

Well...I guess so, but it's really not...

NEWS REPORTER

And we have a couple of people here, who would like to thank you for the role that you have played here today

The news Reporter beckons to 3 small, ratty-looking orphans. The first 2 run over and hug Starchips, the third shuffles up and stands awkwardly to the side.

NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)

These poor, tatty, smelly, disease-ridden orphans wouldn't be here right now if not for the good work that you had done, Starchips. What do you say, orphans?

ORPHAN #1

Thank you, Mr. Starchips, I thought we were goners!

ORPHAN #2

(coughing badly)

You saved us from going the same way as our parents! Now we can live forever!

STARCHIPS

(to the News Reporter)

Is he okay?

ORPHAN #3

(emotionlessly)

We were destined for the sweet relief of the shackles of this life. You have delayed our great reunion with the ancestors. Pity.

Orphans #1 & 2 are still hugging Starchips. The News Reporter and Starchips are silent for a moment, both staring concernedly at Orphan #3

NEWS REPORTER

Anyway...How can you look at the beaming faces of these three, charming young orphans, and deny that you are a hero?

Starchips looks down at the two orphans, still hugging him. Orphan #3 still looks totally emotionless, staring blankly ahead. He smiles as he sees the looks on their faces.

STARCHIPS

Well...I guess I am a hero!

CUT TO.

ACT 1 SCENE 2. INT. GLUM HQ. AFTERNOON.

Gordo is still sat at the table, day drinking. He has been watching the news report in the League's common room.

GORDO

Space TV, turn off.

The "TV" turns off, and the the News Reporter, Orphans, and Starchips all disappear from the stage. Gordo picks up his drink again. PROF. HECTOR PLANK, a nerdy, middle-aged tech developer for the League enters. He is carrying his dog, SHAMPAGNE, who he takes everywhere with him. He is fiddling with a device of some sort. He doesn't initially notice Gordo.

PROF. HECTOR PLANK

(to Champagne)

Yes, Champagne, you're right, it just doesn't make sense. The sensor should be working, but no matter what we try, we can't seem to figure it out.

He stops talking as if listening to a response
Hmmm, an interesting idea. You could be right there, you know! What would I do without you, Champagne!

He goes to kiss Champagne. Just before he does, he spots Gordo sitting there, watching him.

PROF. HECTOR PLANK (CONT'D)

Gordo! How are you doing?

GORDO

(sighs)

Not great.

Hector nods understandingly.

PROF. HECTOR PLANK

You been watching that news report again?

Gordo nods

You need to stop torturing yourself with this! It'll not do you a lick of good! It's been a week, and you've just been moping around here every day. You need to shake it off!

GORDO

But he didn't even try to acknowledge me, Hector!

PROF. HECTOR PLANK

(shaking his head)

How many times do I need to tell you, that was an ambush if I ever saw one. Starchips isn't like that!

GORDO

Huh! That's what I thought at first as well, but you heard him call himself a hero! If he was really as much of a team player as he's convinced you he is, why would he say that? Face it, the only person who he's looking out for is himself.

PROF. HECTOR PLANK

Well have you spoken to him yet? Gotten his side of it all?

GORDO

Talk to him? I can't even bear to look at him! Selling me out like that on galactic television, where everyone could just watch it, and have a good laugh at me! No, he's lucky I haven't tried to talk to him, I'm so angry that if he were here, none of his stupid little powers would be able to stop me from kicking his ass! Why, if he were here, I'd...

At this point, Starchips enters. Gordo's demeanour immediately shifts from angry, to feigning happiness to see him.

STARCHIPS

(merrily)

Hi fellas, how's it going?

GORDO

Starchips! How you been doing? I feel like I haven't seen you in forever!

STARCHIPS

I've been doing well, thanks. About not seeing you in so long, I wanted to check in and make sure that we're okay?

Gordo gulps and looks panicked. He glances at Hector, who gives him a pointed look, and turns away under the guise of grooming Shampagne.

GORDO

O...of course we're alright, why wouldn't we be?

STARCHIPS

I've just been really busy working on something. I've barely left my room! I'm sorry for that. It's exciting stuff, really it is, but I often let that distract me. I'm sorry if I've been neglecting you recently in favour of work recently.

GORDO

What? No! Of course not!

STARCHIPS

You're sure?

GORDO

Of course!

STARCHIPS

(relieved)

Phew! Good, I am very glad to hear that, indeed! I could really use another set of eyes on what I'm working on, how about you swing by my room later, and I'll show you what's up?

GORDO

Yeah, for sure!

STARCHIPS

Great!

Starchips stands, then turns to Hector

You better come too, Hector, I think we'll need your help on this one too!

PROF. HECTOR PLANK

Me? Errr, sure,

He indicates Shampagne

we'll be there!

STARCHIPS

Glad to hear it.

He goes to leave the room, then stops and turns back to Gordo once more.

I really hope you know your friendship means more to me than anything, Gordo.

GORDO

Err, yeah...you too

Starchips smiles warm before finally leaving. Gordo waits for him to get out of ear shot.

GORDO (CONT'D)

See what I mean: sanctimonious prick!

HECTOR

Gordo, I really think that some of this might just be in your head.

GORDO

Oh-hoh! Now, not only do I have him out to get me, but now you're gaslighting me as well!

HECTOR

I'm not gaslighting you, and I really regret telling you what that means, you use it at the drop of a hat! And let me tell you- it's pretty hard to argue with someone that you're gaslighting them, because you either have to agree with them, or tell them that it's all in their head, and their perception of how they're receiving a situation is off, which is tricky because that's the definition of gaslighting!

GORDO

So we're agreed?

HECTOR

No, not at all! Look, I think you need to get over this irrational anger you have towards Starchips; just...think about all you've brought to GLUM!

GORDO

Yeah? And what exactly is that?

HECTOR

Well, you recruited me for a start, and I was able to perfect this universal translators, and look at all the technology we have now as a result of that!

GORDO

(dismissively)

That feels more like your achievement than mine

HECTOR

But finding me was your achievement

GORDO

Oh great, bringing on board some creepy guy who has a concerning relationship with his dog! What a legacy!

HECTOR

What about saving Starchips life? Surely by the transit of property, any good that he does, is done in your name! His achievements become your achievements because he's only alive because of you!

GORDO

(shaking his head)

No because at the point that I saved his life, he had already saved mine twice, so by the same logic it all reverts back to him!

HECTOR

(starting to get frustrated)

Well what about being a founding member of GLUM? Surely that's got to count for something!

GORDO

Not when the other founding member is him! Face it, there's nothing that I have, or even can, do to top him!

HECTOR

Well give yourself a break...he does have all those powers!

GORDO

Yeah, and everyone sees him as this great hero, and I'm just here, on the side. His little weirdo companion!

Weirdos Make Great Superheroes start playing from 0:43

GORDO (SINGING) (CONT'D)

I WANNA BE A SUPERHERO
WATCH ME FLY
ANYWAY THAT I WANT TO GO
AND YOU CAN GIVE ME ALL YOUR PROBLEMS
'CAUSE YOU KNOW I'LL SOLVE THEM
IT'S A SECRET EVERYBODY ALREADY KNOWS
WEIRDOS MAKE GREAT SUPERHEROES

BOTH (SINGING)

WEIRDOS MAKE GREAT SUPERHEROES

GORDO (SINGING)

SEE?
NOW IT'S CATCHING ON

BOTH (SINGING)
 WE'RE IN OUR VERY OWN PERSONAL COMIC-CON
 AND EVERYONE'S INVITED
 WEIRDOS UNITED!

HECTOR (SINGING)
 OOOOOH!
 AND I CAN BE WITH MY TRUE LOVE
 SHAMPAGNE, HERE I COME!

GORDO
 AND LOVING A DOG ROMANTICALLY IS VERY COOL!

HECTOR
 YEAH!

BOTH (SINGING)
 WEIRD IS THE ONLY RULE AND
 I WANNA BE A SUPERHERO
 WATCH ME FLY
 ANYWAY THAT I WANT TO GO

GORDO (SINGING)
 AND YOU CAN GIVE ME ALL YOUR PROBLEMS

HECTOR (SINGING)
 I'LL GIVE YOU ALL MY PROBLEMS

GORDO (SINGING)
 CAUSE YOU KNOW I'LL SOLVE THEM

HECTOR (SINGING)
 CAUSE YOU KNOW I'LL SOLVE THEM

BOTH (SINGING)
 WEIRD IS SUPER AND NOW YOU KNOW

GORDO (SINGING)
 WEIRDOS MAKE GREAT SUPERHEROES

HECTOR (SINGING)
 WEIRDOS MAKE GREAT SUPERHEROES

GORDO (SINGING)
 WEIRDOS MAKE GREAT SUPERHEROES

*The both sink back into their chairs as the song ends.
 Gordo's face transitions from joyful and hopeful, back
 to sad an dejected.*

GORDO
 Yeah...if only

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 3. INT. SPACE BARN. EVENING.

BELLA, a young girl in her teens, is working in the space barn. She is tinkering with a big machine. She stands up, wiping sweat from her forehead and walks over to the space barn door. She looks up at the stars and sighs, looking forlorn. Her best friend, CHARLIE, walks in, and spots the machine that Bella has been working on. Charlie is impressed, and lets out a whistle, causing Bella to turn around

CHARLIE

Whatcha working on here?

BELLA

(turning around and grinning)

Charlie, I didn't hear you come in!

CHARLIE

You know as well as I do- I can be pretty sneaky when I need to be! Plus, you are like, the least aware person I've ever met. A space elephant could sneak past you!

BELLA

Yeah, yeah. How did you know where to find me?

CHARLIE

Er...you live here!

BELLA

I meant in the space barn!

CHARLIE

You're always in here, dreaming of a better life, and working on whatever's taking your fancy this week. Which brings us back to the question at hand.

Charlie indicates the machine that Bella had been working on

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What exactly is that thing?

BELLA

Oh, that! Well, it's really interesting actually, basically, I found traces of Superium- you know, the mineral

CHARLIE

Of course I know, everyone's heard of Superium!

BELLA

Right, so anyway, as you know, I like to take regular soil samples from around the farm...

CHARLIE

I thought you said this was interesting?

BELLA

It is interesting, just listen! So I'm taking these samples, and I find traces. Wanna guess what of?

CHARLIE

Errr...Superium?

BELLA

(a little put out)

Oh....yeah...how'd you guess?

CHARLIE

Because you literally JUST told me! What is with you, Bella?

BELLA

Oh, right, yeah, sorry! Anyway, I found these traces, and it got me thinking: what if there's more than just traces?

CHARLIE

(sceptical)

More? Why would there be more than just traces? You know where you are right: farm planet! The whole point of that is that all the soil on this rock is filled with traces- that's why we have such bountiful yield across the whole planet, and why everyone born here is destined to dull and boring life of farming. Forever. With no hope of leaving for some grand adventure.

BELLA

Dammit, Charlie, why are you explaining all of this to me like I've....like I've just been dropped onto this planet with no concept or visual clues of what it is, and how we live. Don't you think I know all that? But don't you find it weird that there wouldn't be....more of it.

CHARLIE

Bella, Superium in it's mineral form is the rarest substance in the whole galaxy...maybe even the universe. Don't you think that if there were more here, then someone would have found it by now?

BELLA

That's exactly what I intend to find out. This machine should, in theory, work as a giant magnet for all the Superium nearby.

CHARLIE

All of it? Won't that mess up all the farmland over the entire planet?

BELLA

(Laughing)

Don't you think I thought of that? I've designed it to only draw on the biggest concentration of Superium that it can find, and pull that, rather than all the Superium. If I'm right, then we'll have the biggest Superium payout anyone's ever seen!

CHARLIE

And if you're wrong?

BELLA

(shrugs)

Then all the machine will draw is a couple of insignificant flecks...I would be very surprised in my actions here ended up destroying the entire planet!

CHARLIE

Okay, so you gunna give me a demonstration, or what?

MARY (OFF STAGE)

(yelling)

Bella? I told you to be in by now!

BELLA

(looking at her space watch)

Shoot- I didn't realise how late it is! Sorry, Charlie, we've got people over this evening. I think it's a big deal- Mum seems very stressed about it all!

Bella covers up the machine

BELLA (CONT'D)

The demo'll have to wait- come over tomorrow and we'll give it a whirl!

CHARLIE

See you then!

They both rush off.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 4. INT. GLUM HQ. EVENING.

Starchips is in his lab, tinkering away on something. Hector comes and knocks on the door

STARCHIPS

(not stopping his work)

Come in

Hector enters, looking at the big machine that starchips is working on

HECTOR

Hi Starchips, you wanted to show me something?

STARCHIPS

Hector! Yes, I wanted to show you this machine that I've been working on. I've been thinking, GLUM currently is limited by how quickly we can travel, right?

HECTOR

Right, but with the speed of your flying, you can get there pretty quick

STARCHIPS

(shaking his head)

Pretty quick in comparison to most vessels, but when there's a disaster, they need help NOW, not in the time it takes even me to get there- especially if I'm travelling with Gordo with me! No, what we really need, is to be able to get there instantaneously...

He leaves the sentence hanging for a moment. Hector catches on to what he's suggesting, and starts freaking out

HECTOR

Oh no. No way. It's too risky! Trust me, if you've even suggesting what I think you are, you're crazier than I thought! You can't go messing around with teleportation!

Hector begins pacing back and forth- looking visibly stressed. Starchips attempts to calm him.

STARCHIPS

Hector, just listen. I know that you've had some bad experiences with instantaneous galactic travel before, but I think I've cracked it- I think I know what went wrong with your attempt. Correct me if I'm wrong but, did you use any superium in your formula?

Hector suddenly stops pacing back and forth. His eyes grow wide and his mouth drops open. He collapses into a nearby chair.

HECTOR

Oh. My. Space God. Of course! Superium would act as a stabilising agent, THAT'S where it all went wrong! So...so it was fault. I could have done more. WHAT HAVE I DONE?

Hector collapses in on himself sobbing loudly. Starchips looks confused, then carries on with what he's saying

STARCHIPS

Errr, so anyway, I've been playing around with effects of superium- it really is quite the versatile substance, and it occurred to me that it had some truly fascinating applications. Why, despite being considered the most versatile substance known to space mankind, we've barely even begun to tap the vastness of it's possibilities.

Hector suddenly snaps out of his meltdown

HECTOR

Wait. You said you were "playing around" with superium. Where in space did you get enough of it to be "playing around" with? It's the rarest thing that there is!

STARCHIPS

(slightly shifty)

Oh...well, you know how you sometimes find money in a pair of jeans, or a coat you've haven't worn in a while?

HECTOR

Yeah...

STARCHIPS

Well it was kind of like that!

HECTOR

You found the rarest and most valuable substance, in the entire universe....in an old coat pocket that you'd forgotten about?

STARCHIPS

No, of course not! It was a metaphor, it was LIKE that

HECTOR

I think that's actually a simile

STARCHIPS

Anyway, that's not important. The point is, I think I've figured out how to use the superium to bring about a level of stability that was previously not possible.

HECTOR

So what do you need me for?

STARCHIPS

I need you to check my working. I need you to look over what I've got so far, and make sure that I haven't missed anything. To go over it, and see if you think that it'll work.

HECTOR

(hesitant)

I dunno...I swore that I'd never again play around with teleportation. The risks involved...

STARCHIPS

(earnestly)

Hector. I need you on this one.

HECTOR

(sighs)

Can I at least sleep on it and let you know tomorrow

STARCHIPS

(smiling)

Of course

Hector stands and strides over to the door. Starchips opens it to allow Hector to leave and Gordo falls into the room. They both look at him sprawled on the floor

GORDO

Err...hi

STARCHIPS

(confused)

Gordo? What are you doing?

GORDO

Well, I know it probably LOOKS like it was listening to your conversation, and had my ear pressed against the door, but that's not what it was. I was...err...walking past, and then I dunno, I think you ummm, you created a gust of wind! Yeah, when you opened the door so forcefully you created a gust of wind, and it, it blew me through the now open door. You should be more careful how you open doors in the future!

Starchips completely believes the story. Hector is shaking his head and smirking because he knows what's up.

STARCHIPS

What a bizarre event, but stranger things have happened! I really am sorry, Gordo, I didn't realise the effect that opening the door would have. I will definitely be more careful in the future

GORDO

Yes, well, see that you are please.

Starchips leaves. Gordo and Hector start to walk off together.

HECTOR

(laughing)

A gust of wind, yeah?

GORDO

Oh, shut up.

The both leave.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 5. INT. BELLA'S HOUSE. EVENING.

Bella enters the house from outside. Her mum is standing in the room. Which room? I don't care. Maybe the kitchen, maybe the living room. It doesn't really matter. Anyway, she's standing there looking impatient.

MARY

Where have you been? I called you ages ago!

BELLA

I was in the space barn

MARY

How much do I need to tell you, you are only allowed to play around with your toys when you've finished all your space chores

BELLA

They're not toys- they're experiments

MARY

(waving her comments aside)

Well whatever they are; not until you've finished your chores

BELLA

Well I have finished them actually. Anyway, why are you getting all stressy with me?

MARY

(getting angry)

How many times do I need to tell you? We have a very important guest joining us for dinner tonight

BELLA

(scoffing)

And how many times do I need to tell you: he is not important!

MARY

I am not having this debate with you again, he is not a bad guy

BELLA

Not a bad guy? Is that what you call degrading the entire planet, just to satisfy his megalomaniac need for control? He literally owns over 75% of this planet, and he destroys so much of it just to minimally increase his fortune- which, by the way, so much that no-one could spend it in an entire lifetime!

MARY

Bella, please can you just...

BELLA

I mean, this whole planet used to be so enriched, and full of life. And not just the farm life, but people as well. Now everyone works for him in some way or another, or has to work twice as hard for a quarter of the pay, as he destroys the land, makes it less viable for farming.

MARY

I know, how many times do we need to...

BELLA

Not to mention that he chokeholds us even further- pushing his total and utter control over the market by keeping the costs of sales so low that turning a profit is next to impossible

MARY

That's what I'm trying to tell you...

BELLA

But I can't imagine why he's coming here- he hates us! We're one of the only farms left holding out against him at this point! Why does he want to come here?

MARY

(yelling now to be heard over
her daughter's incessant
chattering)

Because I'm selling the farm to him

The both look at each other for a moment, neither of them ready for the truth to be spoken out loud. Bella stares at Mary, unable to reconcile what she's just heard. Mary stares back, unable to believe what she's just let slip.

BELLA

We're....we're selling?

MARY

I'm so sorry Bella. I know this isn't what you wanted.

BELLA

Not what I wanted? You're bloody right this isn't what I wanted!

MARY

If there was any other way...

BELLA

And I'll tell you another thing- It's not what dad would have wanted either

At the mention of Bella's father, Mary is visibly hurt, which slowly turns back to anger that her daughter would deliver such a low blow. Bella realises that she shouldn't have said that, but is too angry to back down now.

MARY

How dare you bring him into this. Don't you think if there was any other way, I would have tried it? Don't you think I know what this place meant to him- means to all of us! How dare you use him to try and manipulate me like that.

BELLA

Manipulate you? So now reminding you that he existed is manipulating you is it? Well soooooory for talking about my father.

MARY

You think that there is one day of my life that I am ever able to just "forget" that he existed? You don't need to remind me of anything.

BELLA

(getting increasingly emotional)

Oh yeah right. You act like he was never even here half the time, and the other half- the other half you act like I'm not even here.

Mary stops in his tracks, shocked at what he has just heard his daughter say. His shifts from angry to apologetic. Bella stands with her back to him, really upset by the argument.

MARY

Bella, you're the most important thing- the ONLY thing in my world that matters to me, there isn't anything that is more important to me. You are the first consideration in all of my decisions. You always have been, kid. You know that right?

Bella starts to turn to Mary, tears in her eyes. Suddenly, there is a loud knock on the door. Bella freezes as she waits to see how Mary will respond. They stare at each other for a moment

MARY (CONT'D)

(torn)

It's him

BELLA

(quietly pleading)

please Mum

The knock comes again, louder

MARY

I'm sorry, Bella. I have to.

BELLA

Most important thing my arse

Bella runs away, crying. Mary goes to follow her. There's another loud knock on the door, and she stops, looking at the door. She takes one more pained look back at where Bella has just left, and goes to answer the door.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 6. INT. GLUM HQ. NIGHT.

Gordo sits by himself in the HQ cafeteria

GORDO

(to self)

What was I thinking, listening in on them like that- I am SUCH an idiot!

Starchips walks in and sits next to Gordo

STARCHIPS

Ahh, Gordo, I was looking for you. Is everything okay?

GORDO

(feigning surprise)

Me? Yeah, why wouldn't everything be okay?

STARCHIPS

That was just a nasty tumble you had, I wanted to make sure that you weren't hurt.

GORDO

(brushing it off)

Oh. That. Yeah, you don't need to worry about me, I'm fine.

STARCHIPS

well, so long as you're sure

Gordo nods

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)

Good, because I need to talk to you about what I've been working on

GORDO

(under his breath)

So you don't really care about me then, you just need something

STARCHIPS

(confused)

Pardon

GORDO

Nothing. You were saying?

STARCHIPS

Yes, I've been working on a device that will allow us to teleport anywhere in the galaxy

GORDO

(pretending that this is new information, even though he heard it through the door earlier)

Teleportation? No way! Wow, I had no idea that you were working on that! That's incredible

STARCHIPS

Yes, I think so too!

GORDO

And I suppose that you've reached a certain point but you're unsure how to keep moving it forward?

STARCHIPS

Yes, how did you guess?

GORDO

Ohhh, just intuition. And I suppose you need me to have a look at it, figure out the...zoo rectum stuff?

STARCHIPS

Zoo rectum? do you mean 'superium'?

GORDO

Yeah, that's what I said isn't it? Supper-eum.

STARCHIPS

Sorry, must've misheard you. No, nothing like that. Hector's actually helping me with all that stuff.

GORDO

Oh. So what are you telling me for?

STARCHIPS

(confused)

Because we're partners.

GORDO

(a little taken aback)

Oh. Right. So, what's the plan with it?

STARCHIPS

Well, what, in your opinion, is the thing most holding up our operation?

GORDO

The fact that only one of us is good for anything?

STARCHIPS

(a bit upset)

I try my best

Gordo seems momentarily confused, not realising that Starchips views himself as the deadweight in the team.

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)

Anyway, this should help us to traverse anywhere, almost instantaneously. Just think about the possibilities!

GORDO

We wouldn't have to walk to the toilet- we could just teleport there

STARCHIPS

Come on, you can do better than that. Dream bigger

GORDO

We can sell it to space Amazon and make gajillions of space dollars!

STARCHIPS

No, this isn't about money!

GORDO

Right, right. Of course. We could...we could teleport the inside of a volcano onto the heads of our enemies and burn them alive!

STARCHIPS

(horrified)

What? No- we could help people!

GORDO

(embarrassed for not thinking
of this sooner)

Well, yeah, of course we could help people. I didn't realise you were asking for the obvious answers. Obviously the first thing would be using it to help people.

STARCHIPS

Just think: any part of any planet that we have jurisdiction over, we could get right in there before conflict has even started really, put a stop to it before it gets out hand.

GORDO

And I thought the punishment came after the crime

STARCHIPS

Oh, it still will, obviously, we're just talking about less crime before the intervention. Less pain and loss of life.

GORDO

I dunno- it seems like a stretch to think that we would be there that quickly. It's a lot of power.

STARCHIPS

But you and I have that power. My father lived by a philosophy, a principle, really. He believed that if you could do good things for other people, you had a moral obligation to do those things! That's what's at stake here. Not choice. Responsibility.

GORDO

(trying to undercut Starchips'
brilliance with dissent)

Well, I don't know about you, but that feels like too much power. No one should have that much power- it's dangerous.

STARCHIPS

That's why I need you, Gordo. You're the best of us.

GORDO

I am?

STARCHIPS

(earnestly)

Of course you are. I trust your moral compass over everything. This is what I wanted to talk to you about. If my plan works, I'm setting it up so that it will only work on your authority. That way, if you feel it's being abused, we won't be able to go anywhere.

GORDO

(a far off look in his eye)
The power of the Sun in the palm of my hand

STARCHIPS

What?

GORDO

Nothing. You were saying that I would have total control and authority over this machine

STARCHIPS

Absolutely. Nothing would- could happen with it without your say so

GORDO

(after a moment)

Hmmm, you do make some very interesting points. You know, now that you've explained it all too me properly, I can definitely see the benefits of it. Maybe this is a good idea after all.

STARCHIPS

That's the spirit- I knew you'd come around! Come on, let me show you how it works.

GORDO

Starchips and Gordo walk off together.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 7. EXT. A HILL ON FARM PLANET. NIGHT.

Bella sits by herself on a hillside, staring at the stars, she looks sad and deep in thought. Charlie comes up behind her.

CHARLIE

I thought I'd find you here

Bella whips around to see Charlie standing there

BELLA

Oh, Charlie. It's you.

CHARLIE

(sitting down next to Bella)

Try to sound too excited about it!

BELLA

Sorry, I just thought it was...never mind.

A short silence falls between them

BELLA (CONT'D)

Anyway, what are you doing here

CHARLIE

I just came to see if you were okay

BELLA

Why wouldn't I be?

CHARLIE

I just had a feeling.

Bella gives Charlie a doubtful look

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And your mum told me you'd stormed off

BELLA

(scoffing)

Typical. Her sending you to check up on me because she doesn't care enough to do it herself

CHARLIE

Come on, Bell, that's not fair.

BELLA

Not fair? She barely gives me the time of day.

CHARLIE

Your mother cares about you, how can you not know that?

BELLA

She doesn't care about me, she only keeps me around because she needs my help on the farm. Other than that, she doesn't even see me.

CHARLIE

(eyes rolling)

Don't be so melodramatic- of course she sees me

BELLA

Not the real me. She only sees the person she wants me to be- that's not who I am

CHARLIE

And how much do you see her?

BELLA

(not realising the irony)

What's there to see? She has exacting standards, and I'll never be the daughter she wanted. She wanted the perfect daughter: beautiful, obedient, and doting.

The sort of daughter who will charm some rich guy into being a husband to look after them. And instead she got...

(starting to get sad)

well she got me. And that's just not who I am. I try to be the version she wants, but it's just not who I am.

CHARLIE

(sympathetically)

And have you tried telling her that's how you feel?

BELLA

(switching straight back to angry and indignant)

She wouldn't be able to hear it. She's decided who I am, and written me off. Well I'm done with it. If she doesn't want me, then I'm done with her. I don't need her. I don't care.

CHARLIE

(losing patience)

Why do you always do this? You refuse to accept any love that anyone shows you, and you always make it their fault. It's like ever since everything that happened with your dad, you just decided not to let anyone love you again.

BELLA

No I don't

CHARLIE

Yes. You do. You refuse to accept any love that anyone has for you. And the funniest thing is you're so self-obsessed that you can't even see that you're doing it!

BELLA

(dismissively)

Oh yeah, because of all these people
(gesturing at the empty landscape)

Lining up to love me, and to be there for me. Oh no wait, there's no one here.

CHARLIE

(upset)

I'm here. But clearly that's enough for the amazing Bella. Well congratulations, you get what you want: I give up. I'm done with your shit.

BELLA

Oh, come on, Charlie. And you said I'm melodramatic!

CHARLIE

I mean it. I'm done with never feeling like enough for you. I hope you wake up one day and are happy with your decisions. I doubt you will be, but I hope so.

Charlie storms off

BELLA
(calling after Charlie)

CHARLIE. CHARLIE.

Bella waits for a moment to see if Charlie is going to return. When this doesn't happen she collapses back down, visibly upset. Reflection from Mulan starts playing.

BELLA (SINGING) (CONT'D)

Look at me,
I will never pass for a perfect bride, or a perfect daughter.
Can it be,
I'm not meant to play this part?
Now I see, that if I were truly to be myself,
I would break my family's heart.
Who is that girl I see, staring straight back at me?
Why is my reflection someone I don't know?
Somehow I cannot hide
Who I am, though I've tried.
When will my reflection show, who I am, inside?
How I pray, that a time will come,
I can free myself, from their expectations
On that day, I'll discover some way to be myself,
and to make my family proud.
They want a docile lamb,
No-one knows who I am.
Must there be a secret me,
I'm forced to hide?
Must I pretend that I am someone else for all time?
When will my reflection show, who I am inside?
When will my reflection show, who I am inside?

Bella sits back down, feeling hopeless. She sits there for a moment before HOGARTH, a bumbling, sycophantic herald comes waddling in. Bella doesn't notice him at first, but gets startled when he begins speaking.

HOGARTH
(grandly)

Ladies and gentlemen, I have the privilege, the pride, nay, the pleasure, to introduce to you, the Count of Commerce, the prince of property, the Baron of...buying shit. You know him, you love him, you probably work for him or are unemployed. Ladies and Gentlemen: Lord Henry Harbinger, The Grandmaster!

THE GRANDMASTER, a tall, cocky man comes sauntering in. Hogarth simpers at him. Once Bella is over her shock, she looks at him disgustedly. The Grandmaster tries to act embarrassed by the introduction, but clearly loves it.

THE GRANDMASTER

How many times do I need to tell you, Hogarth, there's no need for such an elaborate introduction with so small an audience.

HOGARTH

(confused)

But...you just said you wanted the grand introduction

THE GRANDMASTER

(glaring at Hogarth)

I did not. You must have misheard me.

HOGARTH

(submitting)

Of course, my lord. Sorry, my lord.

BELLA

(sarcastic)

Sorry to interrupt, but you are clearly working through something important here, so I'll just get out of your way to allow you the peace and quiet you so clearly deserve

She stands and goes to leave. Hogarth sidesteps, preventing her exit.

THE GRANDMASTER

Actually, my dear, it is for you that we have come to this...

He looks around, unimpressed by the scenery before turning back to Bella

Quaint little hillock.

BELLA

Well, I have no interest in hearing what you have to say, so if you don't mind, I'll be leaving now

She keeps trying to get around Hogarth, but can't

THE GRANDMASTER

How strange. The apple really does fall far from the tree. I mean, your mother seemed very interested in what I had to say to her this evening.

Bella stops in her tracks

BELLA

What?

THE GRANDMASTER

Your mother. She seemed a lot more receptive to my offer than I thought she would be.

BELLA

(getting in his face)

I swear, if you threatened her in any way, I'll...

THE GRANDMASTER

(laughing)

Threatened? I didn't need to threaten her. Come now, even a kid like you must realise how hopeless the situation is. I'm not the bad guy, I'm trying to help. Give a fair price for the land, and take all the pressure off. I'm even letting you both stay there and run the farm...at least until I find a better purpose for the land. That parts even written into the contract. How is that unfair of me? You get all the bills taken care of, you get paid, you get to keep your home, and you lose the stress of responsibility. I'm not the bad guy here.

BELLA

Yeah right. I may be a kid, but I'm smart enough to know that if the oil company wants to buy your land, there's oil there

HOGARTH

Well shows how much you know, we're not even an oil company

Bella and The Grandmaster both look at him

BELLA & THE GRANDMASTER

It's a metaphor, idiot

BELLA (CONT'D)

(turning back to the
Grandmaster)

So what is it then? What makes the land so valuable to you. You wouldn't be offering if there was something in it for you.

The grandmaster sizes her up for a moment, and then grins to himself.

GRANDMASTER

I could use someone who thinks like you. Space God knows that we're short of brains round here

He shoots a look at Hogarth

BELLA

(incredulously)

You really think that I'm going to let you take our farm, and then just become your lackey as a thank you? You've got another thing coming.

GRANDMASTER

(sighing)

I thought as much. Can't blame a guy for trying though.

BELLA

So is that what you wanted me for then? To gloat and offer me a job?

GRANDMASTER

Actually no, I'm not one for gloating. It's so...unbecoming. Your mother seemed hesitant to sign. I am genuinely trying to help, I know the last few years have been a struggle since...well, since everything that happened to your family.

A pained expression shoots across Bella's face

This deal could be exactly what you need. I've told your Mum I'll be back tomorrow, and then the offer is off the table. I was hoping that you might be able to talk her round. Make her see sense.

BELLA

(thoughtfully)

Okay, I'll talk her round

GRANDMASTER

(surprised)

Really?

BELLA

Sure. IF you tell me why the land interests you so much

GRANDMASTER

(shaking his head)

Always with the suspicion, there's just no helping some people I guess. Well, Bella, you've heard what I've had to say, I guess you'll just have to decide what to do. Don't waste too much time though...clocks ticking.

He grins again, before swirling around and stalking out. Hogarth bows to Bella.

HOGARTH

You have just had the honour of the presence of Henry Harbinger, The Grandmaster of the...

GRANDMASTER (OFF STAGE)

NOT NOW, HOGARTH

Hogarth looks startled, and then quickly runs after the Grandmaster. Bella looks after them for a moment, stunned. She pulls out her phone, dials a number and holds it to her ear

BELLA

Charlie? Look, I'm sorry about what happened, but I really need your help.

(pause)

Tomorrow? At the Space Barn? Like we agreed?

(another pause, then Bella grins)
Great- We've got a lot of work to do.

Bella exits, still talking on the phone.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 8. INT. GLUM HQ. INT. SPACE BARN. MORNING

This scene is going to be split between two locations, which the characters from both places being on stage simultaneously. When there is speaking on one side, the other is frozen, but remains on-stage.

Starchips, Gordo and Hector walk into the lab. Hector is, as always, carrying Champagne.

STARCHIPS

(excited)

This is it boys, today's the day!

GORDO

(sarcastic)

Yay!

HECTOR

It is all quite thrilling, isn't it! We stand on the precipice of change, and not just as spectators, but as the very people ushering in the future!

STARCHIPS

Very well put, Hector, very well put indeed

GORDO

Well then Starchips, you got us up at this un-space godly hour. What's the plan?

STARCHIPS

Well...

He starts to share the plan, as he does, they all freeze. Bella and Charlie enter on the other side of the stage

BELLA

Look, I already said I'm sorry, didn't I?

CHARLIE

Umm, I'm not totally convinced that counts as an apology

BELLA

Did I, or did I not say the word sorry?

CHARLIE

I mean, you did, but I'm not sure it's count when it's immediately followed with 'is that what you want to hear?'

BELLA

(throwing up her arms in exasperation)

Alright, fine, I'm sorry you happy?

CHARLIE

For now, but I'm sure it won't last long

BELLA

Look, do you want me to show you this machine or not?

CHARLIE

It's the only reason I'm here

Bella and Charlie freeze. The action cuts back to the other three.

GORDO

You're joking

STARCHIPS

Of course not

GORDO

You expect me to be the first person to go through teleportation, when it's completely untested?

STARCHIPS

No, no, of course not

GORDO

Good because it sounded like...

STARCHIPS

I expect us **both** to do it. Together.

HECTOR

And it's not tested- we stayed up all night running all the necessary tests.

GORDO

Oh. Yeah. Great. That really fills me with confidence! "Oh Gordo, we want to hurtle yourself through space on this hunk of junk we created. Don't worry though, you'll be perfectly safe. We'll be here to make sure that nothing goes wrong after having no sleep"

HECTOR

Don't be so dramatic, Gordo

STARCHIPS

Yeah, it'll be fun!

GORDO

You and I have very different interpretations of fun!

They freeze and the action goes back to Bella and Charlie. They are looking at the machine now.

CHARLIE

This seems intense, are you sure it's going to work?

BELLA

Yeah, I just turn this dial up to set the range, adjust for the size of samples that we're looking for, and turn it on. Piece of cake...at least in theory.

CHARLIE

Theory? Wait, Bella, tell you've tested this already?

BELLA

Well, not exactly

Charlie looks horrified. Bella quickly goes to reassure Charlie.

BELLA (CONT'D)

But it's really safe. I did everything properly to make sure that nothing would go wrong!

CHARLIE

That's what you said with the turbo space tractor you built

BELLA

That was different, I was rushing it and didn't have the parts. This time is totally different!

CHARLIE

And THAT'S what you said about the auto-pilot crop-duster that you built

BELLA

Look, do you trust me or not?

CHARLIE

NOT. definitely not!

They freeze again. The action pivots. Starchips is pleading with Gordo.

STARCHIPS

Come on, Gordo. You're the bravest person I know. You got this.

GORDO

I'm the bravest person you know?

STARCHIPS

Of course you are. Look, if you're really not up for it, I'll do it solo, but I'd feel a lot better if I had my best friend by my side

HECTOR

So Gordo, I guess the real question, are you brave enough to do what Starchips is doing?

Gordo shoots Hector a dirty look

GORDO

I can't believe I'm saying this, but fine; I'm in. Now, explain to me how this works.

*They turn to look at their machine, and then freeze.
The action, once again, pivots.*

CHARLIE

Look, I get it, you're super convinced that this is going to work. Great- love the self-belief. I'm just saying, why do you *need* to rush it? Why can't we take it a bit slower and just see where it goes?

BELLA

Because they're coming to take the farm!

CHARLIE

All the more reason to make sure it works properly

BELLA

(exasperated)

We don't have time! They're coming today

CHARLIE

What? Today? You didn't tell me that

BELLA

Of course I did

CHARLIE

No, I think I'd remember that

BELLA

Well, either way, we don't have time to take it slow and see. They said that they were going to come back today

CHARLIE

But what makes you so sure your mum is going to sell? This always meant so much to your...to you all

BELLA

(pained)

I know, but what other option does she have? The Grandmaster said that if she didn't sign the contract today, then eh deal is off the table. My mum is so stressed about everything at the moment, if she could give over control, and get all that money, then I know she'd take it. Even if it was just to make sure that I was looked after

CHARLIE

(sympathetically)

And maybe that wouldn't be the worst thing. Your mum's not an idiot, Bella.

BELLA

No, it would be. Don't ask me how I know, but I just know that he's up to something. IF this machine works, and we can find some Superium, then everything changes. We wouldn't need his money anymore!

Charlie takes a long look at Bella

CHARLIE

I can't believe I'm saying this, but fine; if you're convinced that this is the best option...

BELLA

The only option

CHARLIE

Then I'm in. Now, what settings do we need?

They freeze again. The others are now huddled round a computer screen.

HECTOR

(pointing at the screen)

Now, I think we aim for this old mining planet here. It's been abandoned for generations now. In fact, the only civilisation around for space miles is farm planet, and even that's far enough away that if anything goes wrong, nobody should get hurt

GORDO

(muttering)

Should

STARCHIPS

But nothing will go wrong, so it's fine.

HECTOR

Exactly, we'll be fine

GORDO

What do you mean we, you're not involved

HECTOR

Fine, you'll be fine

GORDO

Well that's easy for you to say!

STARCHIPS

Stop worrying! Right, we're all set

He directs Gordo

You and I need to stand here, and Hector will fire up the machine.

Hector puts Champagne down, and puts his thumb up

GORDO

(muttering)

Well I feel so full of confidence

STARCHIPS

(cheerily)

Right, we're all ready. Just don't move, Gordo, or it could go horribly wrong

GORDO

Wait, What?

Both sides are now unfrozen as Bella and Charlie also stand in front of their machine. Bella looks excited. Charlie looks scared with fingers in ears as if in anticipation of an explosion

HECTOR & BELLA

3....2....1....Go

Nothing happens on Bella and Charlie's side. They brace themselves for a moment or two, then slowly relax looking disappointed. They then start fiddling with the machine, confused. Simultaneously to this, Gordo is starting to freak out as something is happening

GORDO

Guys. I don't like it guys. I would like to get off please

HECTOR

Just relax, Gordo. Trust the process

STARCHIPS

Actually, this does feel different to how it's supposed

GORDO

(really freaking out)

What? What do you mean? No, I need to get off. Abort. Abort Mission.

STARCHIPS

Gordo, stop moving!

GORDO

This is not safe!

HECTOR

Gordo, you need to stay still, you're making the machine go haywire!

STARCHIPS

Something is going wrong. Please just stay still, Gordo, you're making it go wrong

HECTOR

Guys, it seems like it's pulling you off course, I'm not sure what's.....GORDO, NOOOO!

As he is talking, Gordo finally manages to break free from the spot he's standing. Seeing this, Hector calls out, diving in to get Gordo back to his spot. This puts him right in the middle of the machine with Gordo and Starchips. At this moment there's a loud explosion, followed by all 5 characters screaming.

LIGHTS FADE.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

ACT 2 SCENE 1. EXT. A ROAD ON FARM PLANET. DAY.

*The Grandmaster sits in the back of his space car,
being driven by Hogarth.*

GRANDMASTER

Just think, Hogarth, in just a few hours, I will own that farm

HOGARTH

It is awfully nice of you to buy it so that it doesn't cause them any more stress!

GRANDMASTER

Yes, well, I'm just a really nice guy. And of course, it doesn't hurt that there's all the superium under the ground either!

HOGARTH

What? There is?

GRANDMASTER

OF course there is- we'll be rich...well, I will

HOGARTH

You're already rich

GRANDMASTER

Not on this level. This'll make me look like a peasant by comparison.

HOGARTH

And how did you know it was there?

GRANDMASTER

They told me

HOGARTH

They did?

GRANDMASTER

Well, the late husband did. Before his...unfortunate accident he was going to go into business with me. He found evidence of great superium stores underneath his land. He came to me with a business proposal. If I provided the capital to mine it, he would provide the land an labour, and we'd split the profit. I asked what his family thought about it, but he said he was exploring his options before telling them. He liked to have all the information. Yes. Such a shame that the tragedy took place before he could ever them. A real shame.

HOGARTH

So now all that land, and the superium is going to be ours?
What a stroke of luck!

GRANDMASTER

Yes. Luck.

HOGARTH

Just a shame that you promised not to evict them. Ironic really- getting all that Superium, but not being able to access it. Still, it'll be nice knowing all the Superium's there, even if you can't get it. Maybe we should call it "unobtanium" instead

GRANDMASTER

What a stupid name. What do you take me for, some self-important film director for a crap and frankly overrated film that has no purpose being made in the first place, let alone get a whole plethora of sequels, and definitely has no right being Avengers:Endgame has highest grossing film of all time? No, that's stupid. Besides, I said that I wouldn't evict them, UNTIL I have another purpose for the land, and if I'm not mistaken, mining is another purpose for the land.

He starts laughing, Hogarth joins in. At that moment, an unconscious Gordo hits the windscreen, causing them to crash.

GRANDMASTER (CONT'D)

What the hell was that? Hogarth, go check

Hogarth gets out the car and investigates. He finds Gordo

HOGARTH

It looks like a monkey

GRANDMASTER

A...a monkey?

The grandmaster also exits the car. He Goes over to Hogarth looking at Gordo on the floor

HOGARTH

See, a monkey

GRANDMASTER

That isn't just a monkey; it's an omen!

Hogarth turns to look at him slowly, mouth open

HOGARTH

You're telling me, that this monkey is like, an Islamic priest? That's amazing!

GRANDMASTER

What? No, not an Oman, you idiot; an omen, a sign from above!

HOGARTH

Ohhhhh, right! What sort of a sign?

GRANDMASTER

Well that depends, is it still alive?

HOGARTH

I don't know.

GRANDMASTER

Well check!

Hogarth quickly bends down to search for signs of life

HOGARTH

I have concluded that it is...alive, but it's hurt

GRANDMASTER

Then it is a good omen. Quick, let's get it home to if we can heal it. The farm will have to wait.

Hogarth picks up Gordo and puts him gently in the car. They drive off back the way they came.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 2. INT. SPACE BARN. DAY

Starchips, Bella, and Charlie all lie unconscious in the wreckage of the space barn. Starchips slowly rises.

STARCHIPS

(groggily)

Where am I? What was I...The experiment! It must've worked but, this doesn't seem like a mining colony

He looks around, and finally spots Bella and Charlie, also unconscious. He rushes over to Bella, who is closer, and immediately starts trying to heal her with his horn.

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)

Why isn't this working? My horn doesn't seem to be working!

He feels it, realising it's broken

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)

My horn! Oh no, if my horn's broken, then I won't be able to channel any of my powers...what am I going to do.

In his panic he has forgotten about Bella's condition, he now notices her again

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)

Oh crap, how am I gonna help her?

He panics and starts just whacking her with his head. After a little while of this, Bella comes to

BELLA

(defending herself from the
blows)

Ow, ow, hey. Stop that. STOP IT!

She stands up as she finally manages to push Starchips off her

BELLA (CONT'D)

That really hurt you know!

STARCHIPS

Sorry- I wasn't sure how else to wake you and your friend with my horn broken

BELLA

Your...horn? Wait- my friend. Charlie!

Bella looks around, spotting Charlie and jumps in. She starts gently shaking Charlie.

BELLA (CONT'D)

Come on Charlie, wake up. You need to wake up, Charlie, you can't be dead. I will not let you be dead.

The shaking gets more vagarous

BELLA (CONT'D)

I cannot do this without you, Charlie. You will not be dead.

The shaking gets more vagarous still

BELLA (CONT'D)

No, no, no. NOOOO!

Bella finally stops shaking Charlie, collapsing on their chest sobbing. Charlie finally stirs, and notices Bella crying.

CHARLIE

And here was me thinking you didn't care

BELLA

Charlie! I thought....I thought you were...

Bella and Charlie embrace

STARCHIPS

Oh, what a happy conclusion to this saga

CHARLIE

(noticing Starchips for the
first time)

Ummm, Bella, what is that?

BELLA

I don't actually know, he was here when I came to, and I was so worried about you that I forgot to ask you.

(turning to Starchips)

Who are you, and what are you doing here?

STARCHIPS

Allow me to introduce myself: I am Starchips. As for what I am doing here, I am little confused about that myself. I was experimenting with teleportation when I found myself here, which I must admit, is not where I was aiming.

CHARLIE

Wait, Bella, you don't think this has anything to do with your machine does it?

BELLA

I don't see how it can be, I mean, he's a space...unicorn...thing. Hardly a lump of superium, is he?

CHARLIE

(abashed)

Alright, it was just a suggestion

STARCHIPS

Wait, did you say Superium?

BELLA

That's right, I invented this machine that draws out all nearby sources of it.

STARCHIPS

Did you now...

BELLA

Yeah, there used to be a mining colony near here that mined Superium. During the mining process, a lot of it thrown into the atmosphere and settled here: farm planet. We thought if we could collect it, we could make lots of money.

STARCHIPS

(with a glazed over
expression)

I'm sorry, I didn't quite follow that. When I crashed, I seem to have broken my horn. It's making it very hard to concentrate. I feel very, light...

Starchips collapses. They both rush forward to help him.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 3. INT. MARY'S HOUSE. DAY.

Mary is furiously cleaning her house, and is solely focused on this task. There is a knock on the door. She doesn't notice it. A second knock, louder this time. She doesn't notice it again. Hector cautiously enters the house and spots Mary.

HECTOR

Hello?

Mary still doesn't notice. So Hector tentatively touches her on the shoulder

HECTOR (CONT'D)

Excuse me

Mary whirls around, screaming. She clutches her chest and breaths deeply, trying to calm herself down

HECTOR (CONT'D)

(trying to defuse the situation)

Oh, I'm so sorry- I didn't mean to startle! I should have called out "he's behind you!" or something

Pause

MARY

(Starting to calm herself down)

Sorry, who are you exactly? What are you doing here?

HECTOR

Oh, really sorry. I did knock, but ummm, you didn't respond

MARY

Yeah, sorry. When I'm stressed, I clean, and when I clean, I'm so focused I probably wouldn't even notice if our space barn exploded or something! I was just in the zone, so didn't hear you.

HECTOR

Well, this is not the way that would usually like to introduce myself, but my name is Hector

MARY

Nice to meet you, Hector. So what exactly are you doing here?

HECTOR

I wish I could tell you!

MARY

Is it classified? I mean you're clearly a scientist from your get-up.

Mary starts connecting dots, and getting hostile
 If he's sent you here to start running tests on the land or what not, then you can bloody well do one. I'm sick of it. I've told him that I'll make a decision about selling when I make a decision. Who does he think he is- acting like I've already signed away the land, and sending his meddlers to come and snoop around our farm when it doesn't even belong to him yet- IF it ever does! And another thing...

HECTOR

(hands raised defensively)

I have no idea what...or who you are talking about. I don't even know where I am!

MARY

(eyeing him suspiciously)

Really? If that's the case, then what are you doing here?

HECTOR

I wish I knew! I work for GLUM- we really need to change that name- and we were testing out instantaneous intergalactic travel

MARY

What?

HECTOR

Teleportation. Anyway, I wasn't even supposed to be involved in the test, I was running the machine, but it started going haywire, and I got sucked into the vortex

MARY

That seems like it might be difficult to convey visually

HECTOR

Yes, I suppose it would,

turns to audience
 but just so we're all clear: that's what happened

MARY

Right, so you ended up here. But why would you come to my farm for the test?

HECTOR

Well, we didn't mean to- we were aiming for the old mining colony nearby. We must've miscalculated it slightly, and well, ended up here. I have no idea how that happened though.

MARY

Didn't you say you were testing it- maybe the mapping system was off?

HECTOR

We used the same system for the co-ordinates that we use for the ship, and we've never had any problems with that. It should have been the most accurate part of this.

MARY

Maybe the machine is just less precise than you wanted.

HECTOR

Maybe, but that's the case, my friends could be...well they could be anywhere! Who knows what dangerous situations they've gotten themselves into.

They both look concerned at this idea

FADE TO BLACK

ACT 2 SCENE 4. INT. THE GRANDMASTER'S PENTHOUSE. DAY.

Gordo is spread out on a sofa, living the life of luxury. The Grandmaster is talking animatedly- enamored by the presence of Gordo. Hogarth is in the corner looking sullen, and shooting jealous looks at Gordo.

GRANDMASTER

So yeah, monkeys have always been the emblem of my family, so when I saw you- I knew that it bode well for my endeavors

GORDO

Makes sense, I am pretty big deal!

GRANDMASTER

(laughs)

I have no doubt! Just think of the things that we could do between us!

HOGARTH

(under his breath)

I remember when he used to say that to me

GORDO

Oh yeah? Like what?

GRANDMASTER

Well with you as my lucky charm, there is no venture that I wouldn't be successful in. You would be right by my side through it all. You could take any role that you wanted in my empire. You could be my partner, and have half of all that we make together. I could treat as a king. You would be worshipped, and everyone would offer you worship and reverence.

HOGARTH

(under his breath)

I wouldn't.

GORDO

Reverence you say....

GRANDMASTER

I could give you tech that would make you unstoppable. You could be my personal enforcer and bodyguard! You'd be like...like a superhero!

GORDO

A...a superhero? That's all I've ever wanted

GRANDMASTER

Then that is what you shall you be.

GORDO

That sounds amazing- what would you need from me?

GRANDMASTER

You would be my business partner. Together we will triumph, conquer to competition, and RULE THE WORLD

Gordo looks concerned. The Grandmaster notices this

GRANDMASTER (CONT'D)

...of business. Rule the world of business.

GORDO

Business? What business?

HOGARTH

(under his breath)

Call *him* loyal, I'd never question you like this

GRANDMASTER

Ohh, you know. Buying, selling. Shipping and receiving. Paperwork. Deals. Just your standard, every day, business-type things.

HOGARTH
(under his breath)

very reassuring

GORDO

I dunno. This sounds kinda sus. You're not, you're not a *baddy* are you?

GRANDMASTER
(laughs)

A baddy? Me? Listen- I have a lot of money, and other people don't. I just buy what they have in exchange for money. I still let them live there and run place, but without all the nasty stress of having to be responsible. Do I then charge them rent? Sure, but only to allow me to help out others in a similiar way. Does that make me "bad"?

GORDO

I mean, it sounds pretty fucking evil to me.

GRANDMASTER

Sure. If you think buying up property that I don't need, displacing people and then charging them double the cost to live there, and then yeah, sure I guess I'm "evil". But if that's your metric, then aren't we all a little bit evil?

GORDO

I guess...

GRANDMASTER

Look, don't get too caught up in the weeds of it all. Think about yourself. Hasn't there ever been something that you've wanted...I mean *really* wanted? I am in a position to make that happen. You ever gone through life feeling smaller, weaker, less than other people?

HOGARTH
(under his breath)

every day

GORDO

I...yes, I have

GRANDMASTER

Me too. I haven't always been this influential. I grew up with nothing. People always used to look down on me for it until one day I decided that I wouldn't take it anymore. I set my nose to the grindstone, and worked. I worked until I became the person I wanted to. And the people who made of me? Well, let's just say they don't any more. And it's the same with you! With the stuff I can give you, no-one will be able to make sure you feel small ever again! And I mean really, with an offer like that, how bad could I possibly be?

'How Bad Could I Be' starts playing. Hogarth takes out some sunglasses and puts them on to fully become a hype man.

GRANDMASTER (SINGING) (CONT'D)

How ba-a-a-ad can I be? I'm just doing what comes naturally.
How ba-a-a-ad can I be? I'm just following my destiny.
How ba-a-a-ad can I be? I'm just doing what comes naturally.
How ba-a-a-ad can I be? How bad can I possibly be?
Well there's a principle of nature

HOGARTH (SINGING)

principle of nature

GRANDMASTER (SINGING)

That almost every creature knows.
Called survival of the fittest

HOGARTH (SINGING)

survival of the fittest

GRANDMASTER (SINGING)

And check it this is how it goes.
The animal that eats gotta scratch and fight and claw and
bite and punch.
And the animal that doesn't,
Well the animal that doesn't winds up someone else's lu-lu-
lu-lu-lunch

HOGARTH (SINGING)

Munch, munch, munch, munch, munch

GRANDMASTER (SINGING)

I'm just sayin'.
How ba-a-a-ad can I be? I'm just doing what comes naturally.
How ba-a-a-ad can I be? I'm just following my destiny.
How ba-a-a-ad can I be? I'm just doing what comes naturally
How ba-a-a-ad can I be? How bad can I possibly be?
There's a principle in business

HOGARTH (SINGING)

principle in business

GRANDMASTER (SINGING)

That everybody knows is sound.
It says the people with the money

HOGARTH (SINGING)

people with the money

GRANDMASTER (SINGING)

Make this ever-loving world go 'round
So I'm biggering my company, I'm biggering my factory,
I'm biggering my corporate size.

Everybody out there, take care of yours and me?
I'll take care. of.
Mine, mine, mine, mine, mine.

HOGARTH (SINGING)

Shake that bottom line

GRANDMASTER (SINGING)

Let me hear you say 'smogulous smoke'

HOGARTH (SINGING)

Smogulous smoke

GRANDMASTER (SINGING)

Schloppity schlop

HOGARTH (SINGING)

Schloppity schlop

GRANDMASTER (SINGING)

Complain all you want, it's never ever, ever, ever gonna stop.

Come on how bad can I possibly be?

How ba-a-a-ad can I be? I'm just building the economy.

How ba-a-a-ad can I be? Just look at me pettin' this puppy.

How ba-a-a-ad can I be? A portion of proceeds goes to charity.

How ba-a-a-ad can I be? How bad can I possibly be? Let's see.
All the customers are buying.

HOGARTH (SINGING)

How ba-a-a-ad can I be?

How ba-a-a-ad can I be?

How ba-a-a-ad can I be?

How ba-a-a-ad can I be?

How ba-a-a-ad can I be?

GRANDMASTER

(SINGING) (CONT'D)

And the money's multiplying.

And the PR people are lying.

And the lawyers are denying.

Who cares if a few trees are dying?

This is all so gratifying.

GRANDMASTER (SINGING) (CONT'D)

How bad? How bad can this possibly be!?

The hold at the end of the song, both panting after the physical exertion of performing. Gordo looks impressed.

GORDO

Yeah, you're right. It's just capitalism! If it was that bad, they'd call it something scary, like "facism". I'm in.

They shake hands looking excited about the possibilities.

GRANDMASTER

Excellent, let's go draft up the paperwork

HOGARTH

Er...aren't you forgetting something

GRANDMASTER

(confused)

I don't think so...

HOGARTH

Well when we hit him, we were on our way to that farm. You seemed to think it was very urgent, or have you just given up on that?

GRANDMASTER

Oh right, of course, the farm. Tell you what, you head down there now, and get a lay of the land. Soften them up and make sure that they're not planning on trying to weasel their way out of our little deal. We'll finalise things on this end meet you down there

HOGARTH

You, you want me to go there....without you?

GRANDMASTER

Sure, what could possibly go wrong.

HOGARTH

I won't let you down

He rushes off, excited about the opportunity to shine

GRANDMASTER

He definitely will let me down

GORDO

I was just about to say the very same thing

They start walking away together.

GRANDMASTER

You know, Gordo, I think this is going to be the start of a beautiful friendship!

They leave.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 5. INT. SPACE BARN. DAY.

Gordo is just coming to after being unconscious for a few moments. Bella and Charlie are crowded around, trying to revive him. He comes to.

STARCHIPS

Goodness, gracious, me. What happened?

CHARLIE

You were talking, you said something about feeling light-headed and then you collapsed.

STARCHIPS

Yes, yes, sorry about that. As I was saying- I damaged my horn in transit, without it, my power has no focal point, and is waning

BELLA

Your power, what do you mean?

STARCHIPS

I'm a space unicorn. I have powers.

BELLA

Space unicorns don't have any special powers.

STARCHIPS

(simply)

I can

CHARLIE

That's awesome! What sort of powers?

STARCHIPS

I can fly. I can communicate telepathically. I can heal people when they're hurt. And...well, basically anything the plot demands

BELLA

How are you possibly able to do that? That is not native characteristics of the space unicorn

STARCHIPS

(shiftyly)

I'm just a special boi, I guess. Anyway, as I said, my horn is the focal point of the powers, with it broken, it's all just sort of...leaking out of me. It's quite a fiddly situation to be in.

CHARLIE

I don't think I understand what you just said really, but is there anything we can do to help?

STARCHIPS

I don't see how there can be! The only thing that I need is to get back to GLUM HQ

CHARLIE

Great. Let's get back to there then.

STARCHIPS

That's just it- I don't think I can.

BELLA

What do you mean?

STARCHIPS

I don't know how to get back. The plan was for Hector to beam us back after a few minutes from the HQ, but I'm pretty sure he looked like he got sucked into the teleportation vortex when we came here.

CHARLIE

Who's Hector?

BELLA

Why can't you just fly?

STARCHIPS

Someone I work with. And I would have, but I can't trust my powers. It wouldn't be safe. Besides, I need to find my friends before I even think about heading back

CHARLIE

Great- where are they?

BELLA

If he knew that, he wouldn't need to find them would he!

CHARLIE

I'm just trying to be helpful!

STARCHIPS

Wait a second. What did you say that device of yours did?

BELLA

It was designed to be able to draw in any superium in the nearby area. By it exploded when you came crashing in. Besides, I'm not sure that it would be that useful- unless your friends happen to made of superium!

STARCHIPS

(shaking his head)

But they wouldn't need to be. Presumably, one of the aspects of the machine is a material identifier to know what it's trying to draw in- in this case the Superium.

BELLA

Of course! Why didn't I think of that!

CHARLIE

What? Did I miss something?

BELLA

We can set the identifier to search for his friends. When it's indicated where they are, we'll know where to find them. You're pretty smart, Starchips.

STARCHIPS

(humbly)

I have my moments

They all suddenly turn and look towards the window, then look at one another.

BELLA

You guys hear that?

CHARLIE

Yeah, it sounded like a car

BELLA

You don't suppose it's...

Bella and Charlie race to the window. And look out.

CHARLIE

Isn't that...

BELLA

Yeah, the Grandmasters car. Shit. We don't have time for this right now. I was hoping he wouldn't show up until later.

STARCHIPS

Now I feel like I'm missing out on something

BELLA

(turning from the window)

The guy who's going to buy the farm. It looks like he's here to close the deal. That's the reason we were looking for the superium, so that we don't have to sell to him

CHARLIE

(still looking out the window)

Wait a minute, it looks like it's just his henchman assistant guy. It doesn't look like the Grandmaster is here...What's he playing at?

BELLA

Well whatever it is, it can't be good. Charlie, you go keep an eye on him, make sure he doesn't do anything too underhanded. Starchips and I will start trying to work on salvaging this machine to be able to track down his friends.

CHARLIE

I'll see what I can do

BELLA

Be careful. We don't know dangerous he is.

They share a look for a moment, and then Charlie rushes off. Bella watches after Charlie for a moment, then notices Starchips looking at her, and acts nonchalant.

STARCHIPS

So what exactly is it that we're looking for?

BELLA

(walking over to the remains of the machine)

Well, it should be right around....that's strange.

STARCHIPS

What?

BELLA

I've found the part, but it's lighting up like crazy. It's saying that there's a lot of superium right around here.

STARCHIPS

(sighs)

I was worried about this. Look, I'm feeling a bit light-headed again, so I don't think I can come up with a convincing lie.

He sits down

I've got a lot to tell you.

Bella sits down opposite him, and he starts telling the story.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 6. INT. MARY'S HOUSE. DAY.

Hector and Mary are sitting at the kitchen table, each with a mug in their hands.

MARY

And we haven't seen him since then.

HECTOR

I'm sorry, losing a loved one like that is always hard

MARY

(shrugging)

It is, but however hard it is for me, it's 10 times harder for Bella. I'm not sure she ever recovered really. She was so close to her Dad, and not even knowing what happened- just disappearing like that one day. It's been really hard for her.

HECTOR

(nodding understandingly)

I get it. I lost my wife.

MARY

My condolences. How did you lose her...if you don't mind me asking?

HECTOR

Not at all. I was working on the instaneous intergalactic travel... the

MARY

(Warmly)

Teleportation. I remember.

HECTOR

Right. So I was working on that- and there was an accident. It messed with my memory a bit, it's strange. Somethings are really clear to me, even little things. But then there's bigger things that are just a hole for me. Like I can't even remember where I came from. And now I'm just trying to find my way back to that moment.

MARY

I'm so sorry. If it helps, as someone who's lost a husband in a way that sounds potentially similiar- I'm sure wherever she is, she really misses you.

HECTOR

Thank you, but I don't think it matters.

MARY

Why not?

HECTOR

With my memory, I hardly remember what her real face looks like anymore. Sometimes it's so bad I wouldn't be surprised that I had whole children I don't remember! Not to mention the accident disfigured me a bit. I'm worried that if she ever saw me with her real eyes again, that she wouldn't recognise me. Between the two of us, we could be...sitting opposite one another drinking coffee and not even know it!

The both laugh at the thought, then catch one another's eye. They stop laughing as they both share the same thought. Before they can vocalise it there's a knock at the door

MARY

(leaping up)

Ohh, that's probably him!

She opens the door to find Hogarth standing there

MARY (CONT'D)

Hello. Do come in.

HOGARTH

Thank you

He walks in and sits down. Mary looks him expectantly. He notices the look

HOGARTH (CONT'D)

Sorry, were you sitting here?

MARY

No...well yes, but I mean, I was expecting more of a fanfare.

HOGARTH

How do you mean?

MARY

Well usually, whenever you enter the room first, you make a seemingly grand speech to introduce the Grandmaster

HOGARTH

Yeah, well he's not here. And to be honest with you, I'm not really feeling all the fanfare today

MARY

(sitting down)

I am sorry to hear that. Why ever not?

HOGARTH

You ever feel under-appreciated

MARY

(laughing)

I am the mother of teenager...so yes.

HECTOR

I work for the two most self-centred people in the universe- believe me, we've travelled a lot of it. As much as they complain about being overlooked, they treat me the way they think they get treated. So yeah, I get it too.

HOGARTH

Well it's not very nice. It was okay when he treated everyone like that. I was just able to tell myself "don't give it any mind, Hogarth, it's just his way. He appreciates you really. He's just emotionally stunted, and doesn't know how to express appreciate- dare I even say; friendship. But between the two of you, you both know how much he values you". But ever since we hit that monkey, he's been all over it. Makes you realise what he's really like. How he's not really withholding. That you just...you just weren't special enough for him to open up to. It just stings a bit you know?

Mary and Hector share a look

HECTOR

That sounds tough.

MARY

Can I get you a cuppa?

HOGARTH

(wiping his eyes)

That would be nice thanks.

Mary gets up to make another cup of tea. There's another knock at the door. Mary goes to answer it, and finds Charlie standing there.

CHARLIE

Morning, Mary, is Bella is here?

Charlie enters the kitchen without waiting for a response.

MARY

No, she isn't actually. Now that you mention it, I don't think I've seen her all day. We err, had a bit of a fight last night.

CHARLIE

Oh really?

Charlie plonks down at the table

Why don't you sit down and tell us all about it. Take your time. Spare no detail.

MARY

(giving Charlie a confused look)

Thanks Charlie, but I just actually finished talking to Hector about it then

Charlie looks annoyed that this delaying tactic didn't work before spotting that Hector looks upset

CHARLIE

(to Hector)

You alright, mate, you look upset about something.

HECTOR

Well. I am very glad that you asked. Basically, when I think about it, it all stems back to my birth.

MARY

I'll just get the kettle on.

Hector starts digging in to his life story. Mary and Hector look exasperated about what is clearly going to be a long story. Charlie looks pleased that the delaying tactic is working.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 7. INT. SPACE BARN. DAY.

Starchips has just finished talking to Bella. She stands there, looking stunned.

BELLA

I can't believe it!

STARCHIPS

I know

BELLA

And he doesn't know?

STARCHIPS

No idea

BELLA

Man. That's crazy. But you mean to tell me that, that I could have that power?

STARCHIPS

Of course, anyone could

BELLA

(a power hungry look I her eye)

Ohhh, the things I would do with that. How do you stop yourself from just, taking whatever you've wanted?

STARCHIPS

I need to be careful. I recognise that temptation in me daily. I surround myself with good people, like Gordo, who won't let me abuse my power in that way. They're honest people, who would never be corrupted by power.

BELLA

But there's so much inequality and injustice in the world. How do you stomach it, knowing that you could stop it all, with the snap of your finger.

STARCHIPS

Look at it this way: What's the worst thing you could do to someone?

BELLA

Ummm, undermine them and belittle them, to the point where they lose all sense of self worth, and will totally degrade themselves at the smallest implication, just for a tiny sliver of validation?

STARCHIPS

ummm, no. Murder.

BELLA

I could think of things worse than that, but it might make the tone of this whole thing a bit dark.

STARCHIPS

Let's just stick with murder then. Anyway if you murder a murderer, the number of murderers in the world doesn't go down- it stays the same

There's a pause for a moment as Starchips looks like he's just said something really wise

BELLA

What if you murder a whole bunch of bad people? Then from the second one, it's all profit, right!

STARCHIPS

No, that's not the point! It's about the damage that something like that will do to your soul! Is that what you want?

BELLA

(sighing)

What I want doesn't seem to matter. It's over. The machine didn't work. I'm resigned to a life of having to work for the Grandmaster for the rest of my days. Getting that Superium was our only chance, and that's all over now

STARCHIPS

Not necessarily. I've been thinking. The readings on your machine were way higher than what they should have been for just me.

He goes over to the machine

Here, look. I think the machine worked- it pulled the superium right to surface. According to this it's just underneath the wreckage of the machine.

BELLA

Well how helpful is that! That's gotta weigh tonnes. The very thing that is going to save us from financial ruin, we can't get at because we don't have the means to excavate it.

STARCHIPS

Isn't it ironic. It's like rain on your wedding day.

BELLA

That's not really irony.

STARCHIPS

We don't need to get into that now. Ugh, if only my horn wasn't broken, I could use my super strength to move the wreckage, and we could get the superium. But with it all leaking out of me, I can't keep my head straight long enough to channel it.

BELLA

Wait. Didn't you say it would give anyone powers? What if you transferred it to me?

STARCHIPS

Hmm, I dunno.

BELLA

Yeah, then I could use it to mine the superium. I could even fix your horn, and then we could use the new superium to give you your powers as well.

STARCHIPS

It could be risky...

They look at each in the eyes. Bella pleading silently.

BELLA

Help us, Starchips. You're our only hope.

STARCHIPS

Okay, let's do it. But I'll warn you: as the power floods through you, you will feel invisible, but you are not. You'll feel unstoppable, but you just need to overcome that, and not let it go to your head. Got that?

BELLA

(nodding)

Got it

STARCHIPS

Okay. Grab my horn.

She does

Ready?

BELLA

Ready.

Starchips starts straining, kind of like he's taking a dump. Bella starts to convulse as the power flows into her

STARCHIPS

It's working! Hold on!

Bella starts screaming as the power races through her veins

BELLA

How much longer?

STARCHIPS

We're almost there!

They're both screaming now. All of a sudden, they both stop. Bella collapses suddenly. Starchips is panting, but rushes over to her.

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)

Bella? Bella? Say something!

Bella suddenly wakes up. 'Defying Gravity' starts playing from 1:15 to 3:44

BELLA (SINGING)

Something has changed within me
 Something is not the same
 I'm through with playing by the rules
 Of someone else's game

Too late for second-guessing
 Too late to go back to sleep
 It's time to trust my instincts
 Close my eyes and leap!

It's time to try defying gravity
 I think I'll try defying gravity
 And you can't pull me down

STARCHIPS (SINGING)

Can't I make you understand
 You're having delusions of grandeur?

BELLA (SINGING)

I'm through accepting limits
 'Cause someone says they're so
 Some things I cannot change
 But 'til I try, I'll never know!

Too long I've been afraid of
 Losing love I guess I've lost
 Well, if that's love
 It comes at much too high a cost!

I'd sooner buy defying gravity
 Kiss me goodbye, I'm defying gravity
 And you can't pull me down

Starchips, come with me
 Think of what we could do, together!

Unlimited
 Together, we're unlimited
 Together we'll be the greatest
 Team there's ever been
 Starchips, dreams the way we planned 'em
 If we work in tandem
 There's no fight we cannot win
 Just you and I, defying gravity
 With you and I defying gravity
 They'll never bring us down!

The music fades out. Bella looks at Starchips.

BELLA (CONT'D)

Well, are you coming?

STARCHIPS

Coming? What do you mean? I thought you were going to stay here, remove the wreckage and get the superium?

BELLA

(laughing)

And still have the Grandmaster find some way around it? No thank you. I can't beat the game he's made, but now I have all this power, I can make up my own rules.

STARCHIPS

What are you saying?

BELLA

I'm saying if you can't beat 'em...kill 'em.

Bella flies away.

STARCHIPS

(calling after her)

Bella! Belllllllaaaa!

He tries to fly after her and falls on his face.

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)

Right, I lost my powers. Well...bugger.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 8. INT. THE GRANDMASTER'S OFFICE. DAY

The Grandmaster is having a drink. Gordo enters wearing a mech suit that looks like Bodinham. He moves around the room like he's trying out a new outfit.

GRANDMASTER

(excited)

Well, what do you think?

GORDO

Yeah...it's nice

GRANDMASTER

Nice? That thing's state of the art! Do you have any idea how expensive that was to make?

GORDO

Yeah, no. I know. Sorry. It's just...not how I imagined it would be from how you describe it.

GRANDMASTER

What do you mean?

GORDO

Well it's not much to look at is it? And it's not as...streamlined, as I thought. It's a bit doughier.

GRANDMASTER

You should've seen it 10 years ago! Trust me, this is a big improvement!

GORDO

And I'm not sure how I feel about the colouring of it either.

GRANDMASTER

The hair?

GORDO

That too. But the skin as well. I mean, white? Pretty basic.

GRANDMASTER

(a bit defensively)

But that's just aesthetics. It moves pretty good right? Definitely much faster than you were before. And it's stronger than it looks! Not to mention- it can fly!

GORDO

Yeah, I guess. I just...I just thought it would be more like that "sparky" model you had downstairs!

GRANDMASTER

Oh, trust me, you don't want that one.

GORDO

No? It looked great!

GRANDMASTER

Sure, it looked great, but performance wise...not the one

GORDO

How so? It looked great!

GRANDMASTER

Well okay, it looked good, and to be fair, it is quicker and stronger. But I built it wrong.

GORDO

You built it wrong?

GRANDMASTER

Yeah, I can't figure out how to turn it off. It just keeps going and going- it's very exhausting!

GORDO

I see

GRANDMASTER

And it's very temperamental

GORDO

It doesn't work for everyone

GRANDMASTER

That too, but it also blows up quite a lot. I used quite a short fuse when I had it built. It does make it more quicker and stronger, but it does mean that it blows up quite easily.

GORDO

Ahh, that does sound tricky.

GRANDMASTER

Plus this one's better at volleyball

GORDO

Is that relevant?

GRANDMASTER

Not really. Just felt like everyone needed to know. So all things considered, as we've extensively tested them over the years, the "Bodinham" model is by far superior to the "Sparky" model.

GORDO

Really?

GRANDMASTER

(nodding)

Unquestionably. Look, I know it's not perfect, but it makes you a lot stronger, and faster than you were before. Not to mention that you can fly in it. You're basically a super hero when you wear that thing!

GORDO

(getting enamoured by the idea)

Yeah?

GRANDMASTER

Yeah, buddy! Why not take it for a spin?

GORDO

Okay, where should I go?

GRANDMASTER

I'll tell you what, I'll put the co-ordinates in for that farm. Why don't you go down and see how Hogarth is getting on? Knowing him he probably needs some help.

GORDO

Okay, hop on!

GRANDMASTER

I'm not getting on that thing. Think how ridiculous it will look.

GORDO

But, I'm supposed to be your personal bodyguard, right? I can't leave you here unattended. Especially without Hogarth to protect you as well.

GRANDMASTER

I'll be fine! I can look after myself. Besides, you'd basically need one of those suits to be able to break in here, and I'm the only person around here with that much power. You don't need to worry about me. In fact, I would go as far as to say that I am invincible. I can say with 99% confidence, that I will literally, never die.

I'm just too rich and powerful. Bad things don't happen to people like me. Go! Have fun, and get a feel for the thing!

GORDO

Well, if you're sure...

GRANDMASTER

I am

GORDO

Okay then. Here I go!

*Gordo flies away. The Grandmaster smiles after him.
Then salutes.*

GRANDMASTER

God speed, chosen one.

He takes another swig of his drink

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 9. INT. MARY & BELLA'S HOUSE. DAY.

*Hogarth is still tearily going through his life story.
We get the impression that this has been going on for
a while. Hector and Mary look really, really bored.
Charlie is continuing to act engage to keep him
distracted.*

HOGARTH

And that brings us to my 5th birthday party

CHARLIE

The one where no one came?

HOGARTH

That's the one. My mum told me that the postman must've lost the invites, but I know it's because they all hated me.

CHARLIE

That must've been hard

HOGARTH

It was, it really was!

*Hogarth is sobbing now. Charlie passes him some
tissues*

HOGARTH (CONT'D)

Thank you

CHARLIE

Your welcome. So tell me what your relationship with your father was like

HECTOR

(looking at his watch)

Wow, is that the time

He gets up to leave

HOGARTH

Oh. Great. Right on que. Someone else leaving me! Classic Hogarth, always driving people away.

He starts sobbing again and collapses onto the table

HECTOR

No, no. I just meant...it's time to stand up and stretch my legs.

He makes a big show of stretching his legs

Ahhh, much better. Now where were me.

Mary rolls her eyes

MARY

I hate to interrupt all this, but Hogarth, weren't you here for a reason?

HECTOR

What? No? Oh, wait. Yeah, I was! That's right, the grandmaster sent me here to get the paperwork started! Where did I put that?

Hogarth starts rummaging for his paperwork. Charlie shoots Mary a dirty look, but she and Hector are too relieved to notice.

CHARLIE

No, we can't stop now! We were just starting to confront some demons!

HECTOR

Yes. We can.

MARY

Now Charlie, the man's come here to do a job, so I say, we let him do that job and stop taking up all his time.

HOGARTH

Yes, I really should...

At that moment there is a loud crash.

MARY

What on Earth was that?

HECTOR

(muttering)

Whatever it was, it's got to be better than this

CHARLIE

Yes, lets leave all our things and paperwork right here and go and investigate what that noise was!

They all rush out to investigate.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SECNE 10. INT. SPACE BARN. DAY.

Gordo stands in the middle of the wreckage, looking impressive. Starchips is on the floor, the crash having weakened him now he is without his powers

GORDO

Pretty sweet, huh?

STARCHIPS

Gordo? Is that you?

GORDO

Yeah it is, and now I have exactly what you didn't want me to- I am as powerful as you are.

STARCHIPS

What have you done to yourself? You look hideous!

GORDO

Just. It's a suit. I still look like me. Okay. So just, lay off.

STARCHIPS

But, where did it come from?

GORDO

Jealous are we? Knew you would be. I knew you wouldn't like it once I was your equal. Doesn't feel great does it, knowing that you're not going to have the limelight anymore.

STARCHIPS

Well, I've got some bad news for you, pal. Looks like we're still not equals

GORDO

(laughing)

Oh, you are arrogant. Trust me, this suit has every power you ever had. I am more than your equal.

STARCHIPS

I don't doubt it. But I am powerless now. I've lost my power.

GORDO

You...you lost your powers?

STARCHIPS

Well, not lost exactly- I know exactly where it is. I gave it away.

GORDO

You gave it away?

STARCHIPS

I did. I realised that I am more than what I am capable of. It is the choices that I make, the responsibilities that I put on my shoulders, regardless of the power that I yield, that truly defines me. THAT's something that I learnt from watching you. I a hurting girl losing everything, and I asked myself "what would Gordo do?" So I gave up my power, to do the right thing?

GORDO

You, you think that highly of me?

STARCHIPS

I do.

Hector, Mary, Charlie, and Hogarth enter at this point

HECTOR

It's true, Gordo. All he talks about is how much he admires you.

GORDO

That's not true. I don't care what he says. All he does is undermine and degrade me.

STARCHIPS

What? I never meant to do that! If I did, I really am sorry- it wasn't my intention. I guess that I have been so focused on being like you, I forgot to work on just enjoying liking you. I'm sorry for that, Gordo.

GORDO

No. I won't believe it. You're just saying this because I'm the one with power now. You won't fool me this easily.

STARCHIPS

Gordo, you've always been the one with the power. You just didn't see it. I've just watch the lure of power turn one person I care about, I'm not going to let it destroy another.

HECTOR

He's right, Gordo. Chasing power like this, it only leads to people's downfall.

GORDO

What do you know about this, Hector?

MARY

More than you think

Hector puts a hand on Mary's arm to gently restrain her. He sighs deeply.

HECTOR

I once sought power like you do, a different kind of power, but still. I worked on creating instaneous localised travel. My wife, she helped me. Together we built a machine that would teleport you, between two connected chambers. She volunteered to trial the machine for me, while I ran the computer...but it all went horribly wrong. Just as the machine was firing up, our pet dog ran into the other chamber. The machine went haywire! The consciousnesses transferred, but...but their bodies didn't.

Everyone is stunned

STARCHIPS

They swapped bodies

CHARLIE

Like 'The Fly'

HECTOR

No, it was anything BUT "fly". Do you know how humiliating it is to have to lock your wife in a cage? To follow her around, picking up her little poopies with one of those mini turd shovels??? It was the furthest from power that I've been. So please, Gordo, don't make the mistakes that I did.

GORDO

Wait. So, Champagne is..

HECTOR

My wife. Yes. I promised myself and her that some day I would return her to her real body, but it's been so long. I have no idea how much of her is left in there, and how much has succumbed to her canine instincts

GORDO

I see what you mean, she does hump a lot of pillows

HOGARTH

Well, that might not be *just* the canine instinct

Everyone looks at him a bit disgusted look

STARCHIPS

(to Gordo)

So you see, Gordo. You can't pursue power like this. You know the man you truly are, Gordo. This heart is where you truly live. This heart, right here.

The words finally get through to Gordo. He drops out of the Mech Suit. 'Trying Too Hard Starts playing.

GORDO (SINGING)

Gotta be unique but gotta blend in
Hide my inner geek and keep pretendin'
Gotta keep 'em laughin'
Though I'm only half in
Gotta put a show on 'til I know they like me

Gotta be aloof, make a good impression
Gotta hide the proof of my self expression
Never be revealing
Gotta be appealing
Suddenly I'm feeling
Like I'm getting so

STARCHIPS (SINGING)

Small

GORDO (SINGING)

Breaking into little pieces

STARCHIPS (SINGING)

Losing power
Getting weaker

GORDO (SINGING)

Gotta do whatever pleases
'Til they let me in

STARCHIPS (SINGING)

So we try to be more than enough

GORDO (SINGING)

Trying to be strong and tough

STARCHIPS (SINGING)

Try to be something we're not

GORDO (SINGING)

Try to fit a different plot

BOTH (SINGING)

Proving we're bold
Without causing a fuss
We're trying so hard to be us
Will it ever be enough?

GORDO (SINGING)

Gotta be unique but gotta blend in
Hide my inner geek and keep pretendin'
Gotta keep 'em laughin'
Though I'm only half in
Gotta put a show on 'til I know they like me (like me)

STARCHIPS (SINGING)

Breaking into little pieces
Trying to be strong and tough

BOTH (SINGING)

Like me, l-like me, but I know there's nobody like me
Doo-doo-doo-doo
Doo-doo-doo-doo
Doo-doo-doo-doo
Doo-doo-doo-doo
Doo-doo-doo-doo
Doo-doo-doo-doo
Doo-doo-doo-doo
Doo-doo-doo-doo
Doo-doo-doo-doo
Doo-doo-doo-doo
Doo-doo-doo-doo
Doo-doo-doo-doo
So we try to be more than enough

GORDO (SINGING)

Trying to be strong and tough

STARCHIPS (SINGING)

Try to be something we're not

GORDO (SINGING)

Try to fit a different plot
Proving we're bold without causing a fuss

STARCHIPS (SINGING)

We're trying too hard to be us

BOTH (SINGING)

We're already more than enough
In a world where no one wears disguises
We would all be free
But being divided is what was decided
So that's how it has to be
But if we try to uncover what's real

GORDO (SINGING)
I'm already strong and tough

BOTH (SINGING)
Put down our armor and shield

GORDO (SINGING)
Gonna fit the plot I've got

BOTH (SINGING)
And just remember, you're never alone
If the back that you've got is your own

GORDO (SINGING)
Gotta be unique but gotta blend in (trying too hard to be us)
Hide my inner geek and keep pretendin'
Gotta keep 'em laughin'
Though I'm only half in
Gotta put a show on 'til I know they like me

BOTH (SINGING)
No more trying too hard too hard to be me
'Cause that's one thing it's easy to be
Take the trying away and be free
'Cause it's their turn to try to see me

As the music fades, the two characters embrace. This holds for a moment, before Hogarth starts sobbing again.

HOGARTH
See, that's what I need

HECTOR
A Friend?

HOGARTH
No, a hug

Mary turns and gives him a hug

CHARLIE
Speaking of friends- where did Bella go?

STARCHIPS
Oh right. Yeah, well, that's who I gave my powers to?

MARY
You what?

You tries to disentangle herself from Hogarth's embrace, but he's holding her too tightly. She gives up.

STARCHIPS

Yeah, I messed up. It was only supposed to be so she could move the rubble but it went to her head. She's gone to kill the Grandmaster- whoever that is.

HOGARTH

(still holding Mary)

She won't be able to get to him, he's got so many defences!

GORDO

She will if he's got Starchips' powers. He basically told me that himself!

STARCHIPS

Wait, you know him?

GORDO

Yeah I know him, he's the guy that gave me this suit!

STARCHIPS

Can you get me there? Maybe if we get to her in time, we can stop it from happening.

GORDO

Only one way to find out buddy!

He gets back in the suit

Hop on.

Starchips hops on

CHARLIE

You guys go ahead- we'll take the car and meet you there.

GORDO

On it!

He flies off- Starchips on his back

STARCHIPS

Hey, this is kinda fun! Wheeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!

The rest of them race off to the car. Mary and Hogarth shuffling, still in their embrace.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 11. INT. THE GRANDMASTER'S OFFICE. DAY.

Gordo and Starchips are running to the office

GORDO

All I'm saying is, remember where we parked

STARCHIPS

And all I'm saying is: stop caring about that suit. We've got bigger things to worry about

They burst in the room. Bella is standing over the Grandmaster pointing a gun at him. He is dead

STARCHIPS (CONT'D)

Bella. Wait. Remember: if you murder a murderer, the num...

BELLA

Yeah, yeah, I know. The number of murderers stay the same. Well you're a bit late for the fortune cookie morality.

STARCHIPS

What do you mean?

GORDO

(to Starchips)

I think she means that he already killed him

STARCHIPS

I know- I was going for shock, not confusion

BELLA

And you must be Gordo

GORDO

That's me

BELLA

Well, well, well. Looks like you got your friend back, Starchips. Guess you didn't tell him what you told me?

STARCHIPS

No, I didn't.

GORDO

What's this?

BELLA

Didn't you ever wonder what Starchips here was doing near that asteroid- the one that ruined your life?

GORDO

(shrugging)

He's a space unicorn- he was just flying around!

BELLA

Amnd how many space unicorns have you met?

GORDO

Just the one

BELLA

Because they can't fly. They don't have any powers. He was there because that asteroid had a core of pure superium. That's what he's been using to get his powers. He's not the virtuous hero that he would have you believe him to be. He goes around, finding sources of superium to maintain his powers. They deplete over time, you see.

STARCHIPS

Gordo, you have to believe me, I only do it to help others

BELLA

Trust me, Gordo, you're better off without him. He's been lying to you from the start. You should come with me instead. We could do a lot you and I.

STARCHIPS

(ashamed)

Gordo. I'm sorry

GORDO

(quietly)

That asteroid ruined my life

STARCHIPS

I know.

GORDO

It ruined my life, but it would have whether or not you were there. I couldn't have escaped without you. The only difference you being there was that I was able to survive, that's all that matters.

BELLA

But he lied to you. He held you back. He made himself look better by belittling you.

GORDO

No. He didn't. I know him, and if you have his powers then that means you can read minds. You're just finding my biggest insecurities and trying to use them against me, but it won't work. It won't work, because I know now that we aren't defined by our powers, or what we're capable of. We're defined by the choices we make, and how we use the power that we do have. That's my character arc, baby!

STARCHIPS

Well said, Gordo

BELLA

Well. Nevermind. You're inconsequential anyway. There could be...6 of you and you wouldn't be able to stop me and all the power that I have now.

Charlie, Mary, Hector and Hogarth all run into the room. Hogarth is ready to set the Grandmaster straight

HOGARTH

Right, Grandmaster, it's time that you and I have a little talk...

They all spot the Grandmaster, dead on the floor. They are all shocked. Hogarth squeals, dives next to him and holds his body, sobbing.

MARY

(shocked)

What happened?

BELLA

I did what had to be done.

CHARLIE

Did you Bella? Is this really what needed to be done?

BELLA

Of course it was. Aren't you sick of it, Charlie? Aren't you sick of constantly being on the back foot, of having to constantly be the little guy- being pushed around by bigger and more important people?

CHARLIE

Yes, but...

BELLA

Well me too, so I did something about it

Bella takes Charlie's hands

I did it for us- I did it for you. I know you want more, Charlie. Now we can have it.

Charlie looks longing into Bella's eyes for a moment, then takes back her hands.

CHARLIE

(quietly)

Not like this

BELLA

Fine, if you don't want to be come me, I can live without you.

MARY

(stepping forward)

But I can't live without you

BELLA

It's done now, Mum. I can't stay here.

Mary looks back at her new friends and sighs. She turns back to Bella

MARY

I know. So I'm coming with you.

BELLA

Really?

MARY

Really.

HECTOR

Mary, you don't need to do this. There's another way.

MARY

No, there isn't. I've already lost a husband, I can't lose my daughter as well.

Hector nods, sadly- understanding. Mary turns to Bella
I know we've not always seen eye-to-eye but, but maybe this can be a new start for the two of us

BELLA

(happily)

Yes. I think it will be

The two rush off together. No-one makes a move to stop them. Hogarth is still crying over the Grandmaster. Charlie is in shock, looking devastated. Hector is resigned. Gordo and Starchips are helpless

GORDO

Shouldn't we try and do something to stop them

STARCHIPS

I don't think there is anything to do, friend. We'll just have to call this one a loss, regroup, and fight on to another day. I'm sure this isn't the last we'll see of them.

CHARLIE

(with a steely look of
resolve)

You can bet on that. I'm coming with you.

GORDO

Really?

CHARLIE

(nodding)

I feel like I have to

STARCHIPS

(to Hogarth)

You better come to. You'll be better off with us than picking up the pieces here

They all stand in a close formation

GORDO

Well then guys, I guess welcome to GLUM...ugh, we have to come up with a better name!

They all put their hands in the middle and cheer. At this point the News Reporter comes back in.

NEWS REPORTER

I am here at the scene of a particularly grisly and violent crime. Once again, the League are standing right in the midst of it, with no sign of another perpetrator. Care to comment?

Gordo looks to Starchips instinctively. He just smiles back.

STARCHIPS

You've got this one, you know, as our leader

Gordo smiles deeply, then turns to the news reporter

GORDO

Well, ti was all over Superium. We lost the fight, but I guess in the end you could say the real superium was the friendships we made along the way.

NEWS REPORTER

(laughing)

No, no. I won't be that easy. You're being arrested

GORDO

(confused)

What?

NEWS REPORTER

You are standing in the middle of a high profile murder. There are no other suspects, and only someone with the powers that your "crew" is known to possess could have pulled it off. I was not asking for your virtuous speech of heroism, I was asking for a confession. So, Gordo, Any last words?

Gordo looks around at his new friends.

GORDO

Just one...RUN

They all run backstage, leaving the Grandmaster dead on the floor, and the New Reporter looking dumbfounded as "It's In The Way That You Use It" begins to play.

They all return one by one to take their bows, and then have one final bow all together, before leaving the stage again.

Lights fade.

END OF ACT 2.