

STL – 003 – Gods and Trousers

Content Warnings

- Comedic violence
- Violence to Animals
- Emotional abuse
- Alcoholism

TREXEL

Special thanks to Wren Griffin-Harrigan for today's submission. May time dilatation shuffle your lives into new and interesting orders.

[Stellar Firma Theme – Intro]

IMOGEN

Rusty Quill presents: Stellar Firma.

[Stellar Firma Theme – Intro. Continued.]

DAVID

(softly groans) It's only twenty-one minutes left. Oh. That blinking light is... blinking away and... that's the blink of my demise.

[Door swooshes open]

(Trexel groans and sobs in pain.)

DAVID

Oh! Trexel! You're here! Right! We need to get to work. We've only got twenty minutes left!

TREXEL

(in pain) Oh David, you're so shrill!

DAVID

Yes!

TREXEL

Oh, you're so shrill. You're like a bell that's also an idiot.

DAVID:

Uh— Ding-ding-ding, it's time for work!

TREXEL

Please, please David, I've... I've got a very tender head right now.

DAVID

(crosstalk) Well— actually, ding-ding-ding, seven-and-a-half hours ago was time for work. But you're here now! So, we're gonna have to get on with it. Could you turn the light on please?

TREXEL

David, the light is too bright. Can we not work in the dark?

DAVID

No, we can't work in the dark.

TREXEL

(groans) Ohhh, okay. Okay.

IMOGEN

[beep] Access granted.

TREXEL

There it is.

DAVID

Right! Okay.

[bwoop of lights turning on]

TREXEL

Oh, my eyes!

DAVID

Press the button!

IMOGEN

[beep] Initiating.

TREXEL

Oh, my ears!

DAVID

Right! Okay. So, our next, uh, client request is... um... Ah! So this is from Mitsy Van Schuten, the 4th wife to the President of the Mars Concordant.

TREXEL

(groaning) Uhhh...

DAVID

Um... It's a planet dedicated to every adorable animal in existence, you know, tigers, sharks, barracudas... Oh, look at those adorable little fishy faces!

TREXEL

Who wrote this?

DAVID

Somebody who, um, likes stream of consciousness.

TREXEL

(softly) Hm.

DAVID

Yes... Anyway, so it says they must have an interactive ride through each animal enclosure where you can get out and play with them!

TREXEL

(groaning, with contempt) Oh Board damn it! Must we? Must we continuously design these inane orbs for these fatuous fools?!

DAVID

Um, you *are* a planet designer so yes?

TREXEL

This isn't what I wanted, David. Turning up when it's already too late in the day after one too many drinks at the Cosmic Lounge to see **(with disdain)** *you*, sitting there bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, shrieking away that we need to make a... new planet for these *vapid* fools!

DAVID

But we do, and we've only got... about eighteen minutes left!

TREXEL

I had dreams, David. I come from an incredibly prestigious line of planet builders. My ancestors were on the first ship off Earth... so I have high status here. And here I am... in this basement room with *you*.

DAVID

Yes. And so that I don't *die*, we're going to have to build some planets, because you are, as you've said, a professional planet builder!

TREXEL

(sarcastic) Oh, woe is David! Oh, I'm going to die unless you do the bare minimum of your job. **(fake crying)** Waah waah waah! Fine! Go on. What do you think we should do for— who— who was it?

DAVID

Uh, it was—

TREXEL

Mitsy Van something.

DAVID

Mitsy Van Schuten—

TREXEL

Mitsy Van Schuten.

DAVID

—the 4th wife to the President of the Mars Concordant. I don't really know what the Mars Concordant is but—

TREXEL

It's a large conglomeration of planets that agreed that they'll all meet on Mars once in a while, so they don't have a war or something.

DAVID

(attempting to coach Trexel) Right. So quite important then.

TREXEL

Well, relatively, I suppose. I'm not really a history buff.

DAVID

Influential, some might say.

TREXEL

Well, sure. Sure. It's one of the most powerful trading blocs in the galaxy, yes.

DAVID

So, maybe if the wife of the President had a planet from us and she liked it...
you might—

TREXEL

David, shut up.

DAVID

—be—

TREXEL

David, shut up. I've had an incredibly important idea.

DAVID

Yes?

TREXEL

The Mars Concordant is incredibly important.

DAVID

Oh.

TREXEL

And I would like to be in their favour.

DAVID

Right.

TREXEL

So maybe if I... I, Trexel Geistman, was to make an excellent planet for Mitsy, they'd like me, they'd back me, and I'd get better deals.

DAVID

(stiltedly feigning enthusiasm) What a good idea you, Trexel Geistman—

TREXEL

God, I'm good! Okay, come on David. David— David! Come on, wake up!
(gently slaps David's face and snaps his fingers a couple times) Wake up, David! Wake up!

DAVID

(sarcastic) Yes. Yes, Trexel. Oh... I am now awake. You have encouraged me to become... more awake.

TREXEL

Good. Why are you stating obvious things?

DAVID

Uh—

TREXEL

Come on. Come on. Move on. What do we want? What do we want to do?

DAVID

(sarcastic) Not a clue. **(normal)** Um, right. So, they want a planet dedicated to... every adorable animal in existence.

TREXEL

Mm. Mm.

DAVID

So, tigers, sharks, barracudas, things with adorable little fishy faces.

TREXEL

Got some— got a lot of old Earth stuff on there. I think— hang on, I've— I— I've got some files. Let's look at these.

IMOGEN

[beep] Old Earth Geological Fact File.

DAVID

Right.

TREXEL

Sharks... Okay... and barracudas... Okay. What was the other one?

DAVID

A tiger?

TREXEL

A tiger. Ooh, that's different. That's on the land. Okay, well we can't do any of those.

DAVID

Right.

TREXEL

They're *very* extinct, David. But we can make things that look pretty much like it. We can— we can take animals, paint them... dress them up. Do that sort of thing.

DAVID

Okay. Right. And it says that the planet is... dedicated? To every adorable animal in existence? So not that... not— not that they're there. It's just dedicated to them.

TREXEL

It's like a festival of hugs.

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL

A cavalcade of adorable eyes and wet noses and fluffy tails. Is that what they want?

DAVID

A sort of... theme park?

TREXEL

Look at it this picture of the shark.

DAVID

Oh.

TREXEL

Yes, that's a *shark*, David.

DAVID

Okay.

TREXEL

It's not got nice eyes, it's not got a nice tail, and it has got a lot of teeth.

DAVID

Well, they say here that apparently it has "an adorable little fishy face".

TREXEL

I suppose adorable little fishy face is in the eye of the beholder. Fine, okay. So, **(stutters)** we're going to be making some sort of, like... shrine? To— to the— to animals? **(stutters)** And something that celebrates them whilst also being a— a park in which they dwell. Is— is that what this idiot wants?

DAVID

Yes, they want a— So, a planet that's dedicated to them, but *also* it *must* have an interactive ride through each animal enclosure where you can get out and play with them.

TREXEL

Right. So it's a theme park.

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL

I'm making a theme park planet.

DAVID

A theme planet.

TREXEL

A theme... planet.

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL

(sarcastically) Right. Good.

IMOGEN

[beep] Stellar Firma Ltd is pleased to remind you that employee enthusiasm is mandatory.

TREXEL

Okay. Fine, fine, fine! Okay, well, what size is this gonna be? Let's look at the chart. **(sighs)**

DAVID

How many— how many cute animals are there?

TREXEL

There's gonna be lots. If it's going to be dedicated to every cute animal, all— in existence, living or dead apparently, then it's gonna be a pretty big planet.

DAVID

Ooh, ooh, no! It didn't say "living or dead"!

TREXEL

No?

DAVID

Oh, but it did say "tigers and sharks and barracudas" and they're all dead.

TREXEL

Which are pretty dead.

DAVID

So is it only dead animals?

TREXEL

If it's gonna be an entire park full of dead animals, that's *not* gonna be cute, David. That's gonna be a charnel house.

DAVID

Oh. Maybe some alive ones then.

TREXEL

You know what? Let's make this for two purposes. It's one for us, and it's one for them. So we're gonna give them *exactly* what they want. To the letter. No complaints. This is what you wanted!

DAVID

(fearfully) Okay?

TREXEL

So, there are going to be *lots of dead* animals on this planet, David.

DAVID

(softly) Right.

TREXEL

There are going to be piles and piles of them. Cute, lovely, *dead* animals.

DAVID

Eugh...

TREXEL

As well as I— cute, lovely, alive animals as well—

DAVID

Oh! Oh.

TREXEL

—that you can play with and stroke. Because that’s life, David. That’s life. You can’t have darkness without light, you can’t have hugs without sorrow, you can’t have whispering without **(yelling)** *lots of shouting!*

DAVID

Right. So we could have a planet sort of in a— sort of static orbit, maybe where the *light* side of the planet has all the *alive* animals, —

TREXEL

Hmm.

DAVID

—and then the *dark* side of the planet has all the *dead* animals. So it’s some sort of, like, happy adorable theme park, and then also...

TREXEL

The dark, —

DAVID

The dark...

TREXEL

—unlit, charnel house of death.

DAVID

Yes. You know, for all people!

TREXEL

I like it, David. You know what? And there— there is something to be said for the macabre. People like scary holo— holoshows. People like to be, like, scared when people jump out of things and go “boo!”

DAVID

Right!

TREXEL

So maybe they’ll like half a dark planet full of corpses!

DAVID

Do we need them to jump out and go “boo”?

TREXEL

No. No, they’re dead, David. They can’t do that anymore. That’s sort of the point.

DAVID

But— but what if we s— stapled them to *actors* who jumped out and went “boo”?

TREXEL

Oh my god, you’re a genius, David! You’re an absolute genius! Not only are they gonna be walking around mounds of mangled and decaying cute animal

corpses, every now and again, one's going to stand up and say "How d'you do!"

DAVID

Yes!

TREXEL

That's going to be really frightening!

DAVID

Like some sort of haunted... zoo.

TREXEL

Planet. Haunted zoo... haunted zoo...

DAVID

(crosstalk) Haunted zoo planet.

TREXEL

David, do you feel an advert coming on?

DAVID

Haunted zoo planet!

IMOGEN

[beep] Roleplay holovision initiated.

[electronic powering on sound]

[Stellar Firma Ltd. theme playing in background]

TREXEL

(crosstalk) Welcome to the haunted zoo planet.

DAVID

Ooh!

TREXEL

Gasp as you see adorable animals in piles and piles of death.

DAVID

Ahh!

TREXEL

Gasp as one stands up and says, "Hello!"

DAVID

(startled) Ahhh!

TREXEL

Calm down on the nice side of the planet where you hug a stoat or something.

DAVID

(relaxed) Ahhh...

TREXEL

It's perfect, David!

DAVID

Ah!

TREXEL

People will flock! People will flock!

IMOGEN

[beep] Roleplay holovision terminated.

[music ends, electronic powering off sound]

DAVID

(crosstalk) Great! Right! Lots of people! So... how are we going to get hold of all of these corpses?

TREXEL

Hmm. It's a good question, David. And also, it does bring up the good question of where do we get all of these *live* animals as well.

DAVID

Yes. Also, you'd mentioned "land" and "not land".

TREXEL

Traditionally known as sea, David, or sometimes lake.

DAVID

Ooo!

TREXEL

Could be a river! Let's have all of them.

DAVID

There's lots of not land. This is very confusing.

TREXEL

It's— it's very complicated, David! Ge— geoforming is one of the most important parts of our job. What. Are. You. Standing on. Is it wet? Is it dry? Is it dry but also moves? Is it wet but it's hard, like ice?

DAVID

Some sort of metallic foam right now.

TREXEL

Some sort of metallic foam right now. It's very absorbent on the foot.

DAVID

Hmm.

TREXEL

So it's going to be incredibly important that we have a diverse range of biomes on this planet.

DAVID

Right, so we currently have The Four Biomes—

TREXEL

Mm-hmm

DAVID

—which is land—

TREXEL

Yup.

DAVID

—lakes—

TREXEL

Yes.

DAVID

—rivers—

TREXEL

Yes.

DAVID

—and sea. Those are the four biomes—

TREXEL

(crosstalk) Okay, I think— I think there are more biomes than that, David.

DAVID

Are there?

TREXEL

Yes, because you've got hot land—

DAVID

Ooo!

TREXEL

—cold land—

DAVID

Okay.

TREXEL

—temperate land—

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL

—land that's not that hot but there's no rain—

DAVID

Okay!

TREXEL

—land that there's *loads* of rain and it's really cold.

DAVID

Ooh.

TREXEL

Lakes: cold lakes, hot lakes—

DAVID

Huh?

TREXEL

—lakes that are really high— Well, (**stutters**) you see, the list goes *on*, David.

DAVID

Yes, but I'm pretty sure we need to get *all* of the things in that list, otherwise we're gonna miss some.

TREXEL

Okay, then you've got rivers. Slow ones.

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL

Fast ones.

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL

Ones that aren't that fast—

DAVID

'Kay.

TREXEL

—but they're quite, like, deep, and so if you get under them, then you get sucked away.

DAVID

Ooh!

TREXEL

Pebbly ones.

DAVID

Right.

TREXEL

Sandy ones. Ones where it's— it looks nice, but actually has lots of sharp rocks just underneath. I think that's all the rivers.

DAVID

Okay. Right.

TREXEL

Now, seas. *Really* salty. Oh, there's so much salt in the sea! Put your— put your hand in? Oh, now you— you've— you've preserved your hand—

DAVID

Ooo!

TREXEL

—and it just falls off. Then, another sea. No salt at all. Full of bacteria. Just out the— out the wazoo. Just— and nothing can live! Nothing can live in *either* of these seas. Too salty! I can't live in this! I not— I'm not a fish that can— that can live in this much salt. Oh! There's not enough salt. I'm not a lake fish, I'm a sea fish!

DAVID

Did a fish hurt you, Trexel?

TREXEL

I don't like fish. They're really *weird*.

DAVID

Right.

TREXEL

You ever looked at a fish real close?

DAVID

No. I've not been out of this room.

TREXEL

(crosstalk) Don't— H-Hang on, I— hang on, I've got one in my satchel. Hang on.

[unzipping sound]

DAVID

What? Why?

TREXEL

Here. Here, look. Look at this fish.

DAVID

Eugh!!

[wet flopping noises, David making sounds of disgust]

TREXEL

Yeah! Look at this!

IMOGEN

[beep] Fish detected. Security alerted.

TREXEL

(crosstalk) Go on, kiss it!

DAVID

No!

TREXEL

Exactly. **(kiss sound)** You complete me.

[awkward silence]

DAVID

(unnerved) Okay...?

TREXEL

Don't look too heavily into my relationship with that fish.

[squeaking noise, zipping sound]

DAVID

I. Will. Not. So! It sounds like, in fact, there are just four biomes, but there are lots of different types of land—

TREXEL

Yes.

DAVID (Cont.)

— river, lake, and sea.

TREXEL

Yes. And it's gonna take absolutely *loads* of time to work them all out, David. So I— You can't let anyone know about this. I've got a little bit of a work-around. We do have... some stock planets. **(conspiratorially)** Sh-sh-sh-sh! Don't let anyone hear you say that. If it ever got out that we used and reused stock planets we would be in... absolute trouble.

DAVID

Oh.

TREXEL

S-Stop looking around David, it's— it's more of an expression. Like, this room, it's— it's— it's a consultancy room, it's— it's fine, if we— if we're overheard. Obviously—

DAVID

Oh right. And— and— and the microphones?

TREXEL

Oh, well obviously that's for the Build Team.

DAVID

Right.

TREXEL

And the Board, who will obviously be overseeing this— but they don't mind. They don't mind. It's just that— it's just that the clients can't know.

DAVID

Oh! The clients.

TREXEL

The clients can't know.

DAVID

Right. Okay.

TREXEL

So we can just use one of these, you know, pretty varied planets, and just pop some stuff on it. You know, planets all look the same, and, you know, maybe you— you're looking at a planet, and you look at another planet and you think "Is that the same planet? I'm not entirely sure." Because they're all *orbs*, David.

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL

They're orbs with the furniture moved around.

DAVID

Right. Okay. Um, I mean, uh, and— and *effectively* they just want a planet for every adorable animal in existence.

TREXEL

Yes.

DAVID

Which sounds, broadly, quite simple?

TREXEL

Broadly quite simple. Just get a really varied planet.

DAVID

Sure.

TREXEL

The tricky bit— the really *tricky* bit, David, is— is— is sourcing these animals.

DAVID

Right.

TREXEL

I don't know if the people down in biology are gonna be able to— to generate... facsimiles of pretty much every animal in existence, living or dead.

DAVID

Barracudas, tigers, —

TREXEL

Exactly

DAVID

—sharks, all of the other ones.

TREXEL

All of the other ones. Those three specifically don't live anymore. We have to make them from scratch.

DAVID

Right.

TREXEL

And that seems like a *real hassle*, David.

DAVID

Okay. Do you think that these people *know* what tigers and sharks and barracudas look like?

TREXEL

Hmm. That's a g— that's a *good* question David. They're not from Earth. They have no access to our history and our— an-and our old animals. They just— they just *heard* about these animals, you know, around and about, at parties or something, and they're just saying, "Ooh, I'd like one of them. I'd like one." It's like when people really think they know, like, a type of alcohol, and they're like, "Ooh, no, you have to have that one", and then you do a blind taste test and they're all like "Mmh, all of these are good!" and then everyone jumps out and says "Ha *ha*! You *idiot*, Trexel! You don't know anything about this type of alcohol! It's *all* the same alcohol, Trexel! Get out of the club! Get out and never come back!" ...You know when that happens to you?

DAVID

(sarcastically) I can imagine.

TREXEL

Hmm.

DAVID

Right. ...so, they don't know what the animals look like, which means you can get any kind of animal!

TREXEL

We can just get a large selection of animals, who's gonna check?

DAVID

Als— also, is there some kind of— *is* there, actually, some kind of centralised database in which every single animal in existence, adorable or not, has been catalogued?

TREXEL

Oh yes, it's all in I.M.O.G.E.N..

DAVID

Oh.

TREXEL

It's all in I.M.O.G.E.N.! Do you want to log in to I.M.O.G.E.N.? We'll log in to I.M.O.G.E.N. right now.

IMOGEN

[beep] I.M.O.G.E.N. online.

DAVID

(crosstalk) Well, I mean, that is a problem then, because they can look at I.M.O.G.E.N. and know exactly how many of those animals we've covered, so we're going to have to cover... a lot of them.

TREXEL

I.M.O.G.E.N. is an internal system, David.

DAVID

Oh...!

TREXEL

I.M.O.G.E.N.'s for us. I.M.O.G.E.N. is *ours*.

DAVID

Is there an external one?

TREXEL

No!

DAVID

Oh!

TREXEL

No! No, no, no, that would be like having an external trouser. It's just for you.

DAVID

...Right. (pause) Do we have external trousers?

TREXEL

No, David, don't—

IMOGEN

[beep] Legwear fact file.

TREXEL

You're getting really into this external thing. Do not have external trousers, David. You start having external trousers, you're gonna get external trouble.

DAVID

So I want some *internal* trousers.

TREXEL

You just want regular trousers, David. I don't know what's wrong with—

DAVID

Just trousers.

TREXEL

I don't know what's wrong with you, David. You're getting really, really focused on trousers.

DAVID

I'm— I've— I'm in just—

TREXEL

Take off your trousers, David.

DAVID

No!

TREXEL

They're too distracting. Take them off! Take them off!

DAVID

(crosstalk) No! I— I'm in a onesie! I'm in a onesie!

TREXEL

Oh, okay. Well, you know—

DAVID

It's kind of the thing that I was grown in. I'm not sure— you come in in different onesies, but I have the same one!

TREXEL

Hmm. It's not very fashionable, is it, David?

DAVID

I don't think they made it to be fashionable...

TREXEL

Kind of just like— kind of just like a, just like a grey.

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL

Get a— get a pinstripe. Ooh! Get *swirls*.

DAVID

(wistfully) You could bring me one of those onesies. I could wear your onesies.

TREXEL

(angrily) Don't *touch* my onesies. They're *mine*!

DAVID

(mournfully) Okay...

TREXEL

They make me look fashionable. They make me look *good* down at the Cosmic Lounge. So, next time you look at one of my onesies avariciously, think again! They're not for you!

DAVID

(meekly) Yes, Trexel.

TREXEL

They're for *me*!

DAVID

(meekly) Yes, Trexel.

TREXEL

Have we established that?

DAVID

(meekly) Yes, Trexel.

TREXEL

My onesies.

DAVID

(meekly) Yes.

TREXEL

Okay.

DAVID

(meekly) Yes, Trexel. Sorry Trexel.

TREXEL

Right, so we'll just get a— just a— you know, a pretty *wide* selection of animals, you know, a— a couple of the standards, maybe a couple of exotics, then we just *kill* half of them, pile them in big mounds, get a few actors **(stammers)** to shuffle around —

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL (Cont.)

—and move them about a bit and— and— and bingo boingo, there's your planet!

DAVID

Right, yes, uh... I mean, th— th— they also, they want an “interactive ride” through—

TREXEL

Oh, I forgot about the *ride*, David!

DAVID

Through each animal enclosure.

TREXEL

Each— Oh, they want them to be in enclo— they don’t just want them all sort of milling around?

DAVID

Or we could just put lots of fences up!

TREXEL

You know what? Just put up a— This is a wonderful thing. It’s called “painting a target around where you happen to hit”. So you just *release* the animals. Give it a week. Let ‘em *really mix*. Some will eat each other; some will get away. It’ll be fine.

DAVID

Well, that’ll make some of the dead animals!

TREXEL

Exactly! Then just start building fences. They’ll— they’ll just naturally just shuffle themselves into roughly the right order, and then if anyone questions,

you just say, “It’s diversity. You’re looking for a diverse biome here. That’s why we’ve mixed them.” Put up the fence, claim that’s what you always meant to do.

DAVID

Right. And then we can *draw* some sort of... *line*—

TREXEL

Mm-hmm.

DAVID

—that people can... travel on. A travel line...

TREXEL

Mm-hmm.

DAVID

That they *get* on, in some capacity... and go around...

TREXEL

David, do you want a monorail? We can *make* a monorail, David.

DAVID

Monorail?

TREXEL

A monorail.

DAVID

Monorail!

TREXEL

Exactly! I've told you, it's a monorail!

DAVID

What is a monorail?

TREXEL

It's a singular rail with a carriage upon it that travels, and it always seems to go... *wooooshhhh...*

DAVID

Ooo...

TREXEL

It never goes clunk or clank like a— like a regular track or— or rail line, it's always a... *wooooshhhh.*

DAVID

Right. That sounds *very* exciting.

TREXEL

They're *very* exciting, David. Every time you get on a monorail, even though it's basically like any other kind of train, it's *really* exciting.

DAVID

Ooh. So, we have a... monorail—

TREXEL

Mm-hmm.

DAVID

—that goes through each enclosure—

TREXEL

Yes.

DAVID

—and every so often we just stop it, let people out, —

TREXEL

Yeah.

DAVID

—and then they can get back in—

TREXEL

You can just stop it randomly as well. Again, paint the target around where you've hit. Just open the door and claim, "This is a stop."

DAVID

A Diverse Environmental Experience!

TREXEL

Ex-actly. Anyone questions it, it's because they don't like diverse environmental experiences and they're a monster.

DAVID

Right! Okay! Well, that sounds good!

TREXEL

Wonderful.

DAVID

So, we have: One of our stock planets that we found—

TREXEL

Mm-hmm.

DAVID

—that's kind of got a lot of stuff in it, and we just find a bunch of animals, dump them on, draw some fences, put in the monorail, bingo bango bongo, there is your planet!

TREXEL

Well, when you put it like that, David, it sounds like we've really half-assed this planet.

DAVID

Have we?

TREXEL

Yes, we absolutely have!

DAVID

Oh, no!

TREXEL

Well done! That's *exactly* what we want to do! Really *half* an a— if you can give a *quarter* of an ass, that's even better! Just *really skim* it through the line.

DAVID

What— d— does that mean they're gonna like it?

TREXEL

Who knows, David? Who knows and who *cares*!

DAVID

We care!

TREXEL

Oh god, we care, David! Oh god, I forgot the fact that we *really care*! Okay, okay, okay, okay. We've got a couple of minutes left. We re— we need to really put a, put a cherry on this weird rubbish cake.

DAVID

Okay! What do— what do presidential wives like?

TREXEL

Um, um, um, um, um, p-power!

DAVID

Power?

TREXEL

Why would you marry a president if you didn't want some power?

DAVID

Okay, um... guns! Guns in the monorail so you can *shoot* the animals!

TREXEL

Yes! Yes! The power of life and death over everything that you see. It's not so much a monorail as a death-o-rail.

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL

You open the window, you *shoot* indiscriminately into a herd of wilde-things, and then you just *laugh*. You just *laugh* as the blood flows around you.

DAVID

Yes! And then on the other side of the planet, you have a *life* gun!

TREXEL

Yes!

DAVID

And you find a bunch of tiger corpses, and you just *shoot* them, and they come back to life, and you laugh because they have to exist—

TREXEL

Exactly!

DAVID

—as this terrible thing, and they'll just die eventually!

TREXEL

They don't want to be alive! Their souls have gone—

DAVID

Exactly!

TREXEL

—and yet here they are!

DAVID

(frantically) Trapped! In an enclosure! On their own! In the dark!

TREXEL

Excellent, David. You know what? You know what powerful people want? To be *God*. And that's what we've made them. Now, it's really not important that we have to make some sort of life gun. The people down in Biotech can really just sort that out for us.

DAVID

Right. Okay.

TREXEL

Good save, David. Good save. **(chuckling)** I was really worried there for a moment, but you've really pulled that back with the whole "let's make them a god" thing. Ooh, oh, David, David, we're running out of time.

DAVID

Okay, right, yup, run run run run run run run.

IMOGEN

(crosstalk) [beep] Would you like to submit? **[chime, pneumatic tube hissing]**
Submitting.

(Trexel and David sigh in relief)

TREXEL

There it goes. There it goes.

DAVID

Do you think that was a good one?

TREXEL

David, I have absolutely no idea if that was a good one.

DAVID

Oh.

TREXEL

It— it felt good, it felt good coming out, but uh... once I've sat with it for a while, who could say? But hey, what are the stakes, other than my future career and your continued life. **(laughs contentedly)**

DAVID

(sceptically) Yes...

TREXEL

Ahhh, dear. You know I— I've enjoyed today, David. I really have. I haven't enjoyed my job in quite a long time, and it's— it's nice to, you know, come into the office, twenty minutes before we need to shut and, you know, really just— really just *jam* out a planet with someone.

DAVID

Could you— if you enjoyed it so much maybe come in a little...earlier tomorrow?

TREXEL

David, I have a lot to do. You know? This isn't all I have. Yes, this is my job, *yes*, it's what I'm supposed to do, *yes*, it's incredibly important for my future life that I do well, but I *really* have a lot of sitting.

DAVID

You also mentioned a lot about your... legacy and, and history of your family, it's very important to them, —

TREXEL

Sure

DAVID

—so maybe you should spend some time...? On it...? **(voice pitching up and cracking)** And also? I'd like to live...?

TREXEL

I'll have a think about it, David. I'll have a think. But I've got an appointment with Jonny down at the Cosmic Lounge.

DAVID

Right...

TREXEL

So uh, I'll see you later.

DAVID

Um...

TREXEL

Bye now!

[door swooshes closed]

DAVID

(sadly) Bye... Ohhh. Right. **(more cheerfully)** Well maybe he'll be in earlier tomorrow. I hope...

[door swooshes open]

TREXEL

David, just wanted to pop back to say—

DAVID

Ah! Uh...

TREXEL

—I'm absolutely not going to be early tomorrow.

DAVID

Ah! Ohh.

TREXEL

Bye bye!

[door swooshes closed]

DAVID

Oh. Okay. Uh. Oh! Oh, he's left the I.M.O.G.E.N. terminal on.

IMOGEN

[beep] New user detected. Please state your name.

DAVID

Um...David 7?

IMOGEN

New user created. **[David’s recorded voice played back]** “Um...David 7?”
Information access permission— **[error buzz]** Error. Error-error-error-error
[continues, rapidly increasing in speed and pitch] Unknown error. Rebooting.

DAVID

Um... Oh no! Oh dear! Oh no!

IMOGEN

Critical Error. Defaulting to universal permissions. **[chime, pause]** Logged in.

DAVID

Ooh!

IMOGEN

What is your query?

DAVID

Hmm. Interesting.

[Stellar Firma Theme – Outro]

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