

## STL – 017 – Cardinals and Comfy Chairs

### Content Warnings

- Comedic violence
- Emotional abuse
- Alcoholism

**TREXEL**

Special thanks to Gilligan Mungus for today's submission! May you flail to no avail.

**[Show Theme - Intro]**

**IMOGEN**

Rusty Quill presents: Stellar Firma.

**[Show Theme – Intro *Continued*]**

**DAVID**

**(Muttering)** Okay, right, okay... let's just get this off.

**[Metallic clank of a hatch being pried open]**

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Watch it, buster!

**[Pop of suction releasing, followed by a whooshing of air from a suctioning tube]**

**DAVID**

**(Struggling noises and muttering through strain)** Ah. There. We. Go!

**[Pop of something going into the suctioning tube]**

**[Footsteps approach]**

**DAVID**

Just close it...

**[Door swooshes open]**

**TREXEL**

David?!

**DAVID**

**(Startled)** Oh! Oh! Ooh! Ah!

**TREXEL**

David, you are up on my desk!

**DAVID**

Uh, yes, Trexel.

**TREXEL**

And you're touching the tubes!

**DAVID**

W— well...

**TREXEL**

David, they're not your tubes.

**[David nervously sputtes]**

**TREXEL**

Are they your tubes?

**DAVID**

No!

**TREXEL**

Do you own a tube?

**DAVID**

No!

**TREXEL**

Are you a tube magnet?

**DAVID**

No!

**TREXEL**

Are you magnetised to a tube, and therefore, you're touching it?

**DAVID**

Uh, no, no.

**TREXEL**

Then why in Board's name are you touching. Our. *Tubes*?!

**DAVID**

Uh— uh— uh— I— I was cleaning the tubes.

**TREXEL**

Cleaning?

**DAVID**

They were very dirty! See?

**TREXEL**

They are ionised, David. No dust settles on them. Nothing sticks to them.

**DAVID**

Oh, it was a smear.

**TREXEL**

A smear?

**DAVID**

A smear of something. And I've— I've just... whoop! Wiped it away. See, see, look! There's no smear now.

**TREXEL**

Do you know what I think, David?

**DAVID**

Uh.

**TREXEL**

Do you know what I think?

**DAVID**

Um...

**TREXEL**

I think that that smear is from you caressing the tubes.

**DAVID**

Oh...

**TREXEL**

Touching them with your greasy clone hands, saying, “I love you, tube. You’re my only friend. I like you *more* than Trexel.” Is that it? Do you love the *tubes* more than you love *me*, David?!

**DAVID**

Uh, well...

**TREXEL**

Do I have to *burn* the tubes?

**DAVID**

Well, no, we shouldn’t—

**TREXEL**

Do I have to burn them out of our lives so they don’t get between us?!

**DAVID**

Well, no, we have to— We have to submit through the tubes, so we probably shouldn't touch the tubes anymore. Look, I'm—

**TREXEL**

Oh, now we're submitting to the tubes!

**DAVID**

What? No!

**TREXEL**

That the tubes are our lord!

**DAVID**

No, we're submitting—

**TREXEL**

They're no lord of mine!

**DAVID**

No, we're submitting the *brief* through the tubes!

**TREXEL**

I am lord!

**DAVID**

Ugh. Yes, okay, you're lord. The tubes will ferry your word to the Build Team. So, they need to... live?

**TREXEL**

The loyal tubes have gained my favour.

**DAVID**

Good. Okay. Right. Now— now we've sorted out that little political dispute, maybe we should... get on with the brief! Because it's still only 20 minutes before... the end...

**TREXEL**

What's the point, David?

**DAVID**

What do you mean what the point is?!

**TREXEL**

We know where this is going.

**DAVID**

Well, no, the point is—

**TREXEL**

You heard Hartro.

**DAVID**

Yes, but the point is I don't want to die!

**TREXEL**

Well, now, nobody wants to die!

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

I've never met anyone who wants to die.

**DAVID**

Well—

**TREXEL**

I never asked anybody about their feelings or thoughts, but, you know!

**DAVID**

Well, I'm telling you: I don't want to die! And the way we do that is we submit good planets! Okay? So let's get the brief on, let's pull our fingers out, let's do a good job like we haven't done!

**TREXEL**

Alright, David. I'll engage in your charade. Your *sad* [**David sighs**] puppet show inching towards death. But I'm a professional! And I will help you.

**DAVID**

Right. Well, in your prof—

**TREXEL**

You're welcome.

**DAVID**

Fine. Yes. Okay, well, in your professional opinion, how do we solve *this* problem?

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Initiating.

**DAVID**

Here's the brief! Right. We have a submission from Cardinal Fang. Umm. They want a planet—

**TREXEL**

From who?

**DAVID**

C-Cardinal Fang?

**TREXEL**

Cardinal Fang?

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

...Cardinal Fang.

**TREXEL**

I knew this day would come.

**DAVID**

Okay. Do you want to maybe listen to what they—

**TREXEL**

Cardinal Fang...

**DAVID**

—want?

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

The Dark Rider.

**DAVID**

Uh.

**TREXEL**

The Shadow Minister.

**DAVID**

Uhhh.

**TREXEL**

Undersecretary for Death.

**DAVID**

Oooh!

**TREXEL**

The Nine Night Knight.

**DAVID**

Um.

**TREXEL**

The Spoken One.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

Cleaning the Streets of Dirt. Do not defy Cardinal Fang.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** He ministers to your very soul.

**DAVID**

Uh.

**TREXEL**

He ministers to your dreams.

**DAVID**

Um...

**TREXEL**

He takes your dreams. He turns them dream-like into further dreams then puts them back into your head, and you're like, "Are they my dreams?" Cardinal Fang!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

Cardinal Fang! Lord of Hypnos!

**DAVID**

Really?!

**TREXEL**

Cardinal Fang... Lord of All.

**DAVID**

Oh... okay.

**TREXEL**

**(Suavely)** Cardinal Fang.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Well, *they* are our client...

**TREXEL**

Oh, what do they want?

**DAVID**

Umm, well, they want this planet built because no one will expect it! Um, oh—  
no, that's—

**TREXEL**

That's just like Cardinal Fang.

**DAVID**

That is— that is—

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

Foam Trumpet.

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

The Unexpected Noise.

**TREXEL (whispering) and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Okay... And the one non—

**TREXEL**

Under your mattress! You hear a creaking. You think it's just the wind rustling at the eaves of your old country shack. You open a cabinet to get a glass of water out that you put in there earlier. Who do you see?

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Okay, I have to ask, what is Cardinal Fang's actual job?

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

Keeper of Records. Knower of All.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

For Stellar Firma, or...?

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

Gatekeeper to the Maintenance Closet of Life.

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Right, so whose maintenance closet is this?

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

Upkeep Minister of the Third Trimester.

**DAVID**

O—

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

—kay. So, he's some kind of obstetrician?

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

Beyond Gynaecology.

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

[Beep] Cardinal Fang—

**TREXEL**

—M.D.

**DAVID**

S— Okay. So, he’s got a medical degree.

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

[Beep] Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

Long-term Academic. Ph.D. in Everything.

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

[Beep] Cardinal (**elongated and digitised**) *Fang!*

**DAVID**

Right. Um, well, the one thing they absolutely want to have on this planet is a comfy chair.

**TREXEL**

Well, you know, everybody likes comfort.

**DAVID**

Even—

**TREXEL**

Even Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Yes, even— No—

**TREXEL**

Relaxer of Their Legs.

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

Everybody needs a nice sit down.

**TREXEL (whispering) and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Okay, well, you seem to know a lot about Cardinal Fang...

**TREXEL**

Cardinal Fang, you say?

**DAVID**

Yep—

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

Administrator to My Neurons! Justica!

**DAVID**

Oh, so that's just—

**TREXEL**

Templar!

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

Avatar.

**DAVID**

Uh— Mm-hmm.

**TREXEL**

Guiding Star.

**DAVID**

**(Whispering)** Right.

**TREXEL**

Temple Bar.

**DAVID**

Okay... Right.

**TREXEL**

So they want an unexpected planet that nobody will expect, and the only thing they need? A comfy chair.

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

If you're going to have an unexpected surprise, it means you don't know when the surprise is going to 'prise. Is that how that works? I want a surprise! It just 'prised! I'm not sure, but it's not important. So you want somewhere comfy to wait, sure. So we need to build this world out from that core ideal. A comfy chair. What is a comfy chair? You know chairs, David, don't you?

**DAVID**

Um. Well, I know one chair. This chair.

**TREXEL**

What's it like, David? Describe your chair to me.

**DAVID**

Uhm. Well, it's— it's plastic.

**TREXEL**

Mm-hmm.

**DAVID**

Uh, it's blue.

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

It's very slippery.

**TREXEL**

Oh, well that's not the chair's fault, now is it, David? That's more your secretions.

**DAVID**

Well... maybe. But as I say, I only know one chair, and this chair is slippery.

**TREXEL**

Well, you're a gooey boy.

**DAVID**

Yes. There's some sort of drainage funnel in the bottom, —

**TREXEL**

Yep.

**DAVID *Continued***

—um, for the, for the goo.

**TREXEL**

And also, if I was to let something out, that would also be handled by this drainage funnel.

**DAVID**

Okay, so, you know, it's a multi—

**TREXEL**

As we know, occasionally we have accidents, and we don't like to dwell on them.

**DAVID**

Yes, so... You're... You're dwelling, aren't you?

**TREXEL**

I just, ah, you know, it was so hard to clean them.

**DAVID**

*Well...* all we can say is good—

**TREXEL**

Gets everywhere!

**DAVID**

—good thing the chair had a drainage—!

**TREXEL**

People were looking at me, David! As I walked down the halls, they were saying, (**sniff sniff**) “What's that?”

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

“Oh. Geistman.”

**DAVID**

Well. Maybe we’ll keep a spare pair of trousers in the office. But! It’s a good thing—

**TREXEL**

Imagine if I were wearing a onesie! What would happen then? I’d have to cut it off at the waist!

**DAVID**

...I don’t want to think about that.

**TREXEL**

Neither do I.

**DAVID**

But I do want to think about the chair’s drainage tube!

**TREXEL**

Yes. The drainage tube.

**DAVID**

So, I find that quite useful, 'cause otherwise the goo would pile up and puddle up and pour over and—

**TREXEL**

Here's a thought: ...You're waiting in your comfy chair for people to come across your surprise planet so you can say, "Ha ha! You've been surprised."

**DAVID**

Okay! So— so, you think that Cardinal Fang *wants* people to *find* their planet and go—?

**TREXEL**

No good having a surprise if no one finds it!

**DAVID**

Okay. So this planet needs to be very findable?

**TREXEL**

There's a—

**DAVID**

Or very unexpected?

**TREXEL**

There's a fine balance. Ooh! I know! It's easy to find but not what you expect!

**DAVID**

Right! So what would people expect from Cardinal Fang? You seem to know a lot about their name.

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

You know what you're getting.

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

But is that what they want you to think?

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Uh. Good questions. And something we need to answer.

**TREXEL (slightly more slowly) and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

As I live and metabolise. **(Scoffs)** You know. I've always loved Cardinal Fang.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Okay, let's— let's play a game then, um, about Cardinal Fang. Uh, maybe, what if I start a sentence about Cardinal Fang—

**TREXEL**

Okay.

**DAVID**

—and you tell me what the end of the sentence is?

**TREXEL**

Okay. Do you want me to *be* Cardinal Fang while I'm doing this?

**DAVID**

Uhh. Will that help or make it quicker?

**TREXEL**

Let's make it an interview format. You've managed to secure an interview with Cardinal Fang.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL and IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Yes.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Roleplay holovision initiated.

**[Electronic powering on sound]**

**TREXEL**

This is— this is unprecedented. They never do interviews. They are mysterious. They are unknowable. You're a... a young up-and-coming journalist. This is a *huge* get for you, David! A *huge* get! You've got your little hat on with the word 'press' written on a, on a piece of paper tucked into the band for some reason—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Like some sort of ticket thing, I know, yeah.

**TREXEL**

I don't know what it's for! Sometimes it just says 'three and thr— thrappens' or something. It's not important. But you— you've— you're across the table—

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

—from Cardinal Fang.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** You're nervous. Your bowels clench.

**DAVID**

Oh...

**TREXEL**

Your buttocks *squeeze*—

**DAVID**

O... kay...?

**TREXEL**

—as, as they sit down, look across and say, **(in a slightly lower voice, imitating Cardinal Fang)** “What do you wanna know from Cardinal Fang?”

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Right, okay, yes, so... **(clears throat)**

**TREXEL**

**(Same low voice continues in quotes)** “Come on. Come on. I haven’t got all day.”

**DAVID**

Cardinal Fang—

**TREXEL**

“I’m doing Cardinal Fang’s accent.”

**DAVID**

Okay. Uh, so. Cardinal. Fang.

**TREXEL**

“Yes.”

**DAVID**

Uh. When you are at home on the weekend, what do you like to do?

**TREXEL**

“I like to look out at the stars and contemplate the fate... of man.”

**DAVID**

Okay. Well, turns out Sunday’s rolled around. Oop! You let the weekend get away from you! What’s the last thing you do Sunday evening before you’ve got to start your work on Monday?

**TREXEL**

“Well I like to heat up a glass of milk. Then pour it across the floor, scatter beads into it, and consider that is how the firmament came to be.”

**DAVID**

Okay... And, uh, and is—

**TREXEL**

“Your questions are insolent and childish.”

**DAVID**

O— ok—

**TREXEL**

“I will end you!”

**DAVID**

What? That— no, that’s not really that necessary, I’ll just—

**TREXEL**

“Your matter will come apart, and I will breathe it into my lungs, for I am Cardinal Fang!”

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

“Cardinal Fang.”

**DAVID**

So... should I just go?

**TREXEL**

“No, keep going, I like it.”

**DAVID**

Okay. Ah. Well. What’s your favourite colour?

**TREXEL**

“Azure.”

**DAVID**

...Good! And if you could do anything for 24 hours, what would it be?

**TREXEL**

“Sleep. Sleep and let the terrible voices of knowledge quiet from me. I cannot *not* hear them. **(growing increasingly louder and more frenzied)** They scream into the eternal darkness of my subconscious. We live. We die. You watch. You sit. You stand. You point. You know but cannot touch! You hear but cannot speak! I have a mouth and yet as I scream nothing changes! *All ends and continues!*”

**TREXEL [screaming] and IMOGEN [in a digitally lowered voice]**

Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

And scene!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Roleplay holovision terminated.

**[Electronic powering off sound]**

**TREXEL**

Okay, I liked that. That was quite nice.

**DAVID**

I think we got something there—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

—which is the comfy chair needs to be a sleeping chair to, um—

**TREXEL**

Have a little nap.

**DAVID**

—quiet the voices of knowledge?

**TREXEL**

A little nippy nap from those, from those voices.

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

Got— got quite— got quite angry at the end there, didn't old Cardinal Fang?

**DAVID**

Yes, uh, I do hope that was accurate. You *do* know a lot about Cardinal Fang, right?

**TREXEL**

Oh, I just went completely unconscious during that. I assume Cardinal Fang, being interested in this process, just nabbed my body. The minute I said, “I’ll inhabit Cardinal Fang” or something to that effect, my vision went black, uh, I felt sort of sleepy, and then I woke up and said, “How was that?”

**DAVID**

Right...

**TREXEL**

Did you speak with Cardinal Fang?

**DAVID**

Um... yes?

**TREXEL**

Lovely. How were they?

**DAVID**

...Scary.

**TREXEL**

Ah! I’ve always liked Cardinal Fang.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

But what they said is, yes, they— they— they like to sit down, —

**TREXEL**

Mm-hmm.

**DAVID *Continued***

—and spreading glasses of milk across the floor? And putting beads into it?

**TREXEL**

Yep, common pastime. A common pastime for— for beings that know the universe. Oddly, just pouring a glass of milk on the floor and scattering stuff into it, you know, that's a common thing. 'Cause it's very much like how the firmament came to be.

**DAVID**

Oh, well that's what Cardinal Fang was doing. Hang on, Trexel, is this something you do?

**TREXEL**

Beg your pardon?

**DAVID**

Is this something that you do?

**TREXEL**

I don't even pretend to be up to the calibre of Cardinal Fang, but I do consider myself somewhat of an all-knowing being. **(Chuckling)** How could I be such a good consultant if I wasn't so all-knowing? So yes, I— I have been known to knock over the glass or two of reconstituted lactose-filled water under my desk and just, well, pop a couple of crumbs in there and do my own little, my own little firmament gazing of— of time and I see the— the crumbs, they soak up the milk and they expand—

**DAVID**

Okay, Trexel.

**TREXEL *Continued***

**(Crosstalk)** —like universes. Crush them, eat them, lick them...

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Yeah, no that's— Yes. Right. And, okay. Yeah— Right.

**TREXEL**

Sorry! Sorry!

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

**(Chuckling)** Vision started to go there again.

**DAVID**

Right. And just... uh. Just a check, Trexel.

**TREXEL**

Yes, you.

**DAVID**

If you were to have 24-hours free, —

**TREXEL**

Mm-hmm.

**DAVID *Continued***

—would you like to sit in a chair and sleep?

**TREXEL**

I'd *love* to sit in a chair and sleep. Would the chair have a cup holder? I'd need a cup holder, of course.

**DAVID**

Well, for your milk, yes.

**TREXEL**

And also, another one for my cocktail.

**DAVID**

Okay, two cup holders.

**TREXEL**

Or maybe a cocktail involving *milk*.

**DAVID**

Wait, hang on a minute. We're not designing a chair for you. What I mean is, if you'd like to have a sit-down for 24-hours and sleep—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

—why would you do that?

**TREXEL**

Why would I do that?

**DAVID**

Yes. Why would you, Trexel, do that?

**TREXEL**

Oh, yeah. To quiet the voices.

**DAVID**

Okay, Trexel.

**TREXEL**

Yes?

**DAVID**

Were you just saying what you want to do but in Cardinal Fang's voice?

**TREXEL**

No, no. You— you— you met Cardinal Fang.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Right...

**TREXEL**

That was absolutely Cardinal Fang.

**DAVID**

**(Suspicious)** Do you know Cardinal Fang?

**TREXEL**

Yes! Yeah, me and Cardinal Fang, we go way back.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

Oh, Cardinal Fang. Old— Old Cardy F. Fang Boy. The Fang Man. The Fang-Meister General.

**DAVID**

So— so those titles you knew about Cardinal Fang?

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

Well, obviously they're real.

**TREXEL**

Sure.

**DAVID**

So would you mind repeating them all?

**TREXEL**

Um.

**DAVID**

Would you mind repeating one of them?

**TREXEL**

Uh, okay.

**DAVID**

Cardinal Fang the...

**TREXEL**

...Fang-Fang... Fang-Meister General?

**DAVID**

I don't think that was one of them.

**TREXEL**

That was— that was one— the last one I did. It's Fang— Fang-Meister General.

**DAVID**

Okay. Well, let's do another. **[Beat]** Do you know who Cardinal Fang is?

**TREXEL**

**(Quietly)** Yes.

**DAVID**

Okay, so, who— who is Cardinal Fang?

**TREXEL**

A friend of mine!

**DAVID**

A friend of yours?

**TREXEL**

A good... a good close friend of mine! Me and Cardinal Fang go *way* back.

**DAVID**

Right. Maybe you could just tell us some fun things that you and Cardinal Fang did when you were children.

**TREXEL**

Well, yes, yes, yes. Of course. Of course, if we're— if we're childhood friends, and we go all the way back to the— to the very start, then, uh, yes. Of— of course I can.

**DAVID**

And one of those would be...?

**TREXEL**

Oh, you want to hear— you want to hear one— you want to hear one right— right now?

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

Okay. Okay. We were. Children. Together.

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

We were playing in a field of wheat.

**DAVID**

Mm-hmm. Right.

**TREXEL**

The wheat was up to *my head*, uh, and up to their— their neck 'cause they're a little— a little taller than me.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

And, uh, and— and they were— they were saying, ‘Oh, Trexel! You’re my best childhood friend! But I... am destined to be an unknowable being. So, one day, you know, I’m gonna grow up and, uh, I’m gonna stop returning your calls and messages. And, um, and you’re gonna tell people that, uh, that we were childhood friends and, while that is *absolutely true and 100% a thing*, uh, if they say things like, “Well, why don’t you call them?” or— or— or “Tell— tell me about what they’ve been up to lately, given that you’re such a close friend”, I won’t reply. And I won’t have replied for— for many, many years and— and therefore, your complete lack of contact with me later on in life is— is— is completely justifiable and absolutely something that doesn’t mean **(beginning to grow upset)** that we’ve never known each other and that you’re only saying that you know me because you think it makes you look important!’

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Warning: consultant spiralling.

**TREXEL**

“An important consultant with contacts. Like Cardinal Fang.”

**IMOGEN**

**[Error buzz]** Silencing topic.

**TREXEL**

**(Yelling, emotional)** ‘Cardinal Fang! Opener of Doors! Climber of Ladders! Friend of Yours! Because you’re important, Trexel! You’re important and— and people respect you and they— and they love you! And when they close their eyes at night they think, “Why— why aren’t I more like Trexel Geistman?!”

Because he’s— he’s such a great guy!” **(Vague crying noises)** He’s such a great guy.

**DAVID**

Okay. And scene. And scene. And scene. And scene.

**TREXEL**

**(Whispers)** He’s such a great guy.

**DAVID**

And scene.

**TREXEL**

Have you got a glass of slurry for me?

**DAVID**

Uh... I can’t do—

**TREXEL**

Consultant slurry. Consultant slurry.

**DAVID**

Well, I can’t— I can’t get the consultant slurry!

**TREXEL**

Get it!

**DAVID**

No. We have established that I— No, we have—

**TREXEL**

**(Screams)** Get me some consultant slurry!

**DAVID**

No! Get your own consultant slurry!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Sass detected. Security alerted.

**TREXEL**

**(Surprise)** What?

**DAVID**

Get your own consultant slurry.

**TREXEL**

**(Distressed)** I'm in charge here.

**DAVID**

I can't get consultant slurry! It shocks me!

**TREXEL**

You should try though!

**DAVID**

No!

**TREXEL**

Try!

**DAVID**

I— No! I'm not trying to get you consultant slurry.

**TREXEL**

**(Voice breaking)** Why are you doing this to me?

**DAVID**

Because...

**TREXEL**

Why are you hurting me like this, David? I am a victim here. You're coming and picking me apart at my very edges. What, what, out of some sort of power trip, David?!

**DAVID**

You picked yourself apart! I didn't even do anything! All I did was ask you some questions and then you had a sudden spiral!

**TREXEL**

Exactly! You ask *questions*, David! You— you— you— you pick, and you can't just accept that maybe, maybe Cardinal Fang likes me. And that we're friends. You're like, **(imitating David)** "Oh, oh! How do you know him? How do you know him?"

**DAVID**

**(With contempt)** We have— we have about one minute left of this shift, which you turned up to... with only 20 minutes left of this shift, and you spent the vast majority of it pretending that you knew the client!

**TREXEL**

**(Laughs, voice taking on a bitter tone)** Oh, it's easy to point the finger of blame! I warned you about the blame game, David. I warned you about that game. You want to play the game, David? You want to play the blame game? I'm going to have to play the blame game with you, David.

**DAVID**

**(Voice also taking on a bitter tone)** Right. Let's play the blame game.

**TREXEL**

Let's play the blame game. Let's play this game-game.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Blame Game initiated.

**[Dramatic musical sting, like the intro of some high-pressure game show]**

**DAVID**

So whose fault is this?

**TREXEL**

This is your fault, David. Do you know why?

**DAVID**

No, I don't, *Trexel*.

**TREXEL**

I am a constant! I am a constant in this process. There's no two ways around it, David. I'm going *nowhere*. So you can do whatever you want. But the results,

David, the results are down to *you*. You can't blame me! I'm like gravity! Or falling over when somebody attractive is looking at you.

**DAVID**

**(Very done with this)** Okay. Fine. We have twenty seconds left. It's a ball. With a chair.

**TREXEL**

A ball with a chair.

**DAVID**

A big chair.

**TREXEL**

Yes. Yes, let's submit that.

**DAVID**

Fine.

**TREXEL**

A— a big ball-chair planet.

**DAVID**

*Four* cup holders.

**TREXEL**

Four cup holders.

**DAVID**

And a head rest.

**TREXEL**

Sure!

**DAVID**

And it goes flat like a bed.

**TREXEL**

Why not?

**DAVID**

Brilliant.

**TREXEL**

Pop it in the tube.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Would you like to submit?

**DAVID**

Will do. There it goes.

**[Chime, pneumatic tube hissing]**

**IMOGEN**

Submitting.

**[New clunk noise]**

**DAVID**

*Great.*

**TREXEL**

You happy, David? 'Cause I'm happy. Because you know what we've had? A breakthrough.

**DAVID**

What?

**TREXEL**

Conflict is the soul of friendship.

**DAVID**

O... kay.

**TREXEL**

And I— **(soft sigh)** I feel like... I feel like we've become friends, David.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

Adversity breeds friendship.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Friendship established. ...Security alerted.

**DAVID**

Okay. Well, that was—

**TREXEL**

My friend. David 7.

**DAVID**

Me. Yes. Okay. So, while—

**TREXEL**

Employee-friend.

**DAVID**

Okay. Yeah— fine.

**TREXEL**

I'm still angry that you wouldn't get me slurry.

**DAVID**

Sure. But. Okay, so now we've had this breakthrough, maybe, *maybe*, if you come in, for a favour for a friend, me, David 7, a little earlier and we work on the planet and you—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

Yes?

**TREXEL**

That's reasonable.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

That's totally reasonable, David.

**DAVID**

Okay!

**TREXEL**

You just— You know, for a friend. For a friend in need. For a friend that, if this doesn't go well, will be literally killed.

**DAVID**

Yes, that's me.

**TREXEL**

You know, and— and— and who wouldn't do that for a friend, David?

**DAVID**

Yes, who wouldn't do that?

**TREXEL**

Who? Who amongst us would turn up just, just even ten minutes earlier for a friend?

**DAVID**

Yes. Even ten minutes.

**TREXEL**

Like, what— that— well— How— how is that— What— what— what do they got on?

**DAVID**

Not— nothing, probably.

**TREXEL**

Probably. They'd probably just be sleeping or crying. Or probably sleeping and not crying.

**DAVID**

Yes, sleeping, right. Fine. So they can just put their alarm on—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

—a little earlier—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

—and come in a little earlier—

**TREXEL**

That's reasonable.

**DAVID**

—and stop their friend from being killed.

**TREXEL**

Anybody would do that.

**DAVID**

Good. So I'll see you tomorrow.

**TREXEL**

At a certain time, yes.

**DAVID**

Okay...

**TREXEL**

I will turn up... a little earlier. But, David, I'm a creative. And so I can't guarantee— I'm flighty, David. I'm flighty. **(in a strange, birdlike voice)** Like a bird. Like a bird! Flap flap! Flap flap! Give me seed!

**DAVID**

I will take seven and a half hours late over seven hours and forty minutes late.

**TREXEL**

Okay. I'll do that. I'm making that commitment to you. Tomorrow, I am turning up. A little bit earlier. And if I don't, David.

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

And if I don't.

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

You know that's because I am a *liar*.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

A word is a consultant's bond. And if I break that word, then I am a liar.

**DAVID**

Right. Okay. Shift's over.

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

See you tomorrow. Friend.

**TREXEL**

See you tomorrow. *Friend. Buddy.*

**DAVID**

...Pal.

**[Beat]**

**TREXEL**

Cardinal Fang!

**DAVID**

Okay, no, we're not doing this anymore!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Cardinal Fang!

**TREXEL**

Cardinal Fang! Knower of Time! Arriver of Clocks! Alarm Lowerer!

**[Door swooshes closed]**

**DAVID**

Okay, he's gone. Well, he's definitely not turning up tomorrow. Maybe at all. Anyway, I should go get that brief. Right. Here we go. **[Opens tube door, pneumatic tube seal breaks]** Right. Okay. **[Tube door shuts] (sighs)** Now to get some *actual* work done.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** I.M.O.G.E.N. online. How can I help you... **[David's recorded voice played back]** "Um... David 7?"

**DAVID**

Access design brief records.

**IMOGEN**

Accessing design brief records.

**DAVID**

They should be... somewhere. Ah. Here. Okay. Date and time logs.

**IMOGEN**

Accessing date-time logs.

**DAVID**

Find user: Trexel Geistman.

**IMOGEN**

Searching.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**IMOGEN**

Search complete.

**DAVID**

**(Sighs)** Edit design submission time codes.

**IMOGEN**

**[Error buzz]** Access denied.

**[Sound of large and threatening gun unfolding, low tone beeping]**

**DAVID**

Ahh, um. Uhh... use universal permissions.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Access granted.

**[Beeping stops, gun disassembles and retracts]**

**IMOGEN**

Permission to edit.

**DAVID**

I don't believe it! It actually worked. **(Laughs)** Now I have the brief and I can make good without Trexel ruining it or shouting at me, and then I can just edit the time codes, and no one will know we missed the deadline... And I... I won't die.

**[Show Theme - Outro]**

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Stellar Firma – 017 – Cardinals and Comfy Chairs

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Trexel Geistman – Tim Meredith