

## STL – 018 – Star Theft and Star Marlins

### Content Warnings

- Comedic violence
- Emotional abuse
- Alcoholism
- Screaming
- Childbirth

**TREXEL**

Special thanks to Stefan Sipika for today's submission. May you achieve escape velocity.

**[Show Theme - Intro]**

**IMOGEN**

Rusty Quill presents: Stellar Firma.

**[Show Theme – Intro *Continued*]**

**DAVID**

**(Sigh)** Yeah. I knew it. I knew nothing would change. “Friends.” We’re “friends”. Well, ten minutes, not-friend. Or— **[footsteps approach]** I just— Look, I knew this was gonna happen. I knew this was gonna to happen.

**TREXEL**

**(Drawn out)** David.

**DAVID**

Trexel.

**TREXEL**

David 7. There you are. **(Soft chuckle)** I've been looking for you! Where have you been?

**DAVID**

In— in this, the same room I've always been in.

**TREXEL**

Isn't that just like you, David? Always in the room. Because you can't leave!  
**(Laughs)**

**DAVID**

Yes. Yes, that's very much like me.

**TREXEL**

Not allowed to leave. I know what you're thinking. He said he'd be earlier. And you're right, David! I did say I'd try and be a little bit earlier. I did say that. But the funniest thing happened, David. I was walking along the western terrace,  
—

**DAVID**

Mm.

**TREXEL *Continued***

—and I saw a beautiful pebble. And I thought, "I should get David a gift. He's my friend now. He's a friend of mine.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

We're friends." And I thought, "What can a friend get a friend more than a lovely pebble?"

**DAVID**

Being on time.

**TREXEL**

And I dropped that pebble and it fell in a load of other pebbles. And I thought, "Well, I have to find that pebble again." So, I was digging through and thinking, "I've got to do something for David. He's put up with so much from me!" And I thought, "I have to find him that pebble." And I— I couldn't find it. But I thought, "I'll find a good other pebble."

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

There's a couple of million pebbles on the western promenade so I started sifting through. And— and then I draw sort of a crowd, and **(laughs)** I did— I did throw a couple of pebbles. Security didn't take too kindly to that, so they detained me for a few hours for questioning and light tasing. But, after that, I got out and I thought, "You know what? It's time to go, pebble or no, to David to do some— some hard-core planet design."

**DAVID**

So, you don't have the pebble?

**TREXEL**

I don't have the pebble. But I do have... this letter I wrote you.

**[Paper rustles]**

**DAVID**

Oh.

**TREXEL**

Can I read it out?

**DAVID**

**(Hesitantly)** Yes?

**TREXEL**

Okay. **(Clears throat)** "From the desk of Trexel Geistman."

**DAVID**

No, no. 'Cause this is your desk. So...

**TREXEL**

Do, do you really want to do—? I've written— I've written you a lovely letter, David.

**DAVID**

Yes. No, let's listen to the letter.

**[Soft paper rustling]**

**TREXEL**

Right. “From the bedroom of Trexel Geistman. **(Sniffs)** Dear David 7, I’m Trexel Geistman! Hi! ...You know, I’ve been doing this for many years. Excellently. In fact, I’m really quite respected. In fact, you know what, you’re welcome.”  
There you go.

**DAVID**

Thank you. Yes, I’ll take that and—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** You can keep that. That— that’s signed by me.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Shredding.

**[Shredding noises]**

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** So, you can pop that on your wall there. Point it out to passers-by.

**DAVID**

Right. Yes, um. So, shall we... do the brief?

**TREXEL**

Why not?

**DAVID**

Design a planet?

**TREXEL**

You know? Between friends? Yes. Let's do the brief, David.

**DAVID**

Right. Yes. Okay. Well, good. I'm gonna get it out now, then.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Initiating.

**DAVID**

Okay. **(Sighs)** So, this client is Orren Thruul.

**TREXEL**

Orren Thruul.

**DAVID**

They want this planet in order to host the exhibits for their latest intergalactic art show, *Rebirth of the Star Marlin*.

**TREXEL**

*Rebirth of the Star Marlin*? Ah, a sequel! Have you heard of the *Birth of the Star Marlin*?

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

Oh, wonderful show. A wonderful show. Orren did a— an amazing job on that one. I didn't go because it sounded like it would be... culture. But I heard a lot of people did go and they were like, "Gosh. That's quite the Star Marlin. Did you see it get born?"

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

Did you see the birthing sack? Did you see it split? Did you see the Marlin midwives taking it out and cleaning it up?"

**DAVID**

Okay, so, this is a show about...

**TREXEL**

The birthing of the Star Marlin.

**DAVID**

Okay. And do you know what the *Rebirth of the Star Marlin* is— is about? I— I don't know if they've done any previews or anything like that. But I don't really have *access* to...

**TREXEL**

Well, ch— What do you— Check on I.M.O.G.E.N.. You'll get a clip of th— the original. Just type in the *Birth of the Star Marlin*. It's a *classic*, David, I've heard.

**DAVID**

Okay. Well, right. Let's just have a look here. Okay.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Opening holovid: *Birth of the Star Marlin*

**[Calm music, growling, screaming, birthing noises]**

**TREXEL**

Ah, there's the Star Marlin. Giving birth.

**DAVID**

Oh.

**TREXEL**

There you are.

**DAVID**

Augh, oh.

**TREXEL**

That's graphic. That's graphic. So much more fluid than you would expect.

**DAVID**

Ooh! Oh. Oh. **(Gagging)**

**TREXEL**

Culture. Culture.

**DAVID**

Ugh. I'm going to turn it off. Okay, there— there we go.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** That seems about right. Culture.

**[David takes deep breaths]**

**TREXEL**

So, the rebirth I imagine someone's popped it back up and it's coming out again.

**DAVID**

Oh.

**TREXEL**

At a guess! That's what I'd say's happening.

**DAVID**

Right. So, Star Marlins, is that a real... thing?

**TREXEL**

D— do you want to roll back the tape? That's a Star Marlin.

**DAVID**

Oh, that's actually a—

**TREXEL**

A Star Marlin, they— they are...

**DAVID**

That's not a prop.

**TREXEL**

They're a benevolent force in— in the universe. The Star Marlin is a symbol of hope and— and— and, um, purity in the galaxy. Like a fine chilled glass of vodka. It sits there, pure, unblemished. That's the Star Marlin.

**DAVID**

Okay, that Star Marlin looked pretty blemished to me and what it was doing was not pure.

**TREXEL**

Birth is beautiful, David. Birth is beautiful. Remember when you were born? How was that?

**DAVID**

Awful.

**TREXEL**

Okay, maybe a bad example because you're a clone and your birthing process was a little bit awful. But— but real people birth and real Marlin birth is a *beautiful* thing, a— a time for bonding, a time for coming together, a time to be *covered* in amniotic fluid!

**DAVID**

Okay. Right. Well, what they want is something for this *Rebirth*—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID *Continued***

—*of the Star Marlin* to host the exhibits... for the latest intergalactic art show?  
So... there are exhibits?

**TREXEL**

Yes. Of course. Of course. This Star Marlin's been alive for a while. It's being reborn, sure. But you need the accoutrement of a Star Marlin life well lived.

**DAVID**

Right, so this was sort of a— a— a walking show where you— you wend your way through—

**TREXEL**

Yes, wend your way.

**DAVID *Continued***

—the various artifacts of the Star Marlin—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID *Continued***

—and then the pièce de résistance—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID *Continued***

—was watching... *that*.

**TREXEL**

*The Rebirth of the Star Marlin.*

**DAVID**

Right. Okay, well, what they *absolutely* must have, —

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID *Continued***

—umm, is excellent lighting.

**TREXEL**

Well, of course. If you can't see the Star Marlin being born, w— w— what— what's the— what's the point of going to the **(laughs)** *Rebirth of the Star Marlin* show.

**DAVID**

Hmm.

**TREXEL**

“Oh, look. I— I— I'm looking at the, at the artifacts that have— have made up the life of one of the beautiful creatures that are Star Marlins. Oh, no. It's entirely dark.” **(yells)** *Are you a moron, David?!*

**DAVID**

What? No. I— This is— That's the non-negotiable feature, so, they thought that it was necessary to specify that, so...

**TREXEL**

Fine. Fine. Fine. Well, you know, sometimes artists *are* a little flighty. “Oh, I need light. Oh, oxygen please.” Demanding people.

**DAVID**

Right. Um, so, this is a— I— I’m assuming this is... like, the same sort of format as, as the previous one so...

**TREXEL**

No no no no no, David. No no no no, David. David, David, David. Silly, stupid David. Quiet. Shh, shush, quiet David. Quiet. I’m just going to press my hand up against your face.

**DAVID**

Mm.

**TREXEL**

Stupid— **(laughs)** stupid, beautiful David. Shut your face. Shut it. Shut that hole.

**[Beat]**

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Prolonged clone-consultant contact. Security alerted.

**DAVID**

Mm-hmm.

**TREXEL**

The first birth of the Star Marlin, as the name suggests, was the *first* birth of the Star Marlin. What exhibits are you gonna have? “My first day in the womb.” “My 400th day in the womb.” Wombs are pretty similar. It’s just a gently growing egg that then gets, like, a— arms and a face. You know, th— there’s not much to go in there. That’s maybe, like, one wall of an exhibit. So, with that one, it was like, “Hello. Sit down. Bam! Birth of a Star Marlin. [DAVID: Right.] One showing. Get out. Buy some candy floss.” You know, that real first effort.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

his, this is a more mature show. A more mature showing. Now it’s about the *journey* of the Star Marlin. You can’t be reborn unless there’s something you’re being reborn *from*. So many hopes! “Ah, a Sta—” Role play, David. Role play. We need to do some role play. We need to do some role play. Role play, role play.

**DAVID**

Uh, okay. Right. Yes.

**IMOGEN**

[Beep] Roleplay holovision initiated.

**[Electronic powering on sound]**

**TREXEL**

You’re a— you’re a newly born Star Marlin.

**DAVID**

Um. **(purring)**

**TREXEL**

You've got it! You've got it. That's exactly how a Star Marlin sounds. You are a universal symbol of peace and prosperity. Everything that you do is watched, like— like a hawk.

**[DAVID purrs, but with an uptick, like a noise of confusion]**

**TREXEL**

Will you unite two people, or will your ignorance of their plight cause a war? I— it's all possible. You're a Star Marlin. You're a symbol for everything that is good and hopeful.

**DAVID**

**(Starting to panic)** Oh. Oh! Oh, this is a lot of pressure.

**TREXEL**

Exactly. And your failure will directly hurt people.

**DAVID**

Oh!

**TREXEL**

Now, imagine you're in a world with information superhighways crisscrossing this way and that. Everybody watching your every move. Every planet. **[David makes panicked noises]** Billions upon billions of beings looking at you every day.

**DAVID**

No. No!

**TREXEL**

“Look to the Star Marlin.”

**DAVID**

That’s too much! That’s too much!

**TREXEL**

“Help us. Save us!”

**DAVID**

No. I can’t! I can’t!

**TREXEL**

**(Yelling)** “Save us!”

**DAVID**

**(Panicking)** I can’t! I can’t! Aahh! Ah!

**TREXEL**

Wanna be reborn?

**DAVID**

Aahh, umm...

**TREXEL**

Want it to start anew?

**DAVID**

Uhh...

**TREXEL**

Want a fresh start?

**DAVID**

Ahhhh, are people going to look at me less?

**TREXEL**

Maybe. Who knows?

**DAVID**

Um. Can I be reborn not as a Star Marlin?

**TREXEL**

It's the *Rebirth of the Star Marlin*, David. You can't be born as something else.

**DAVID**

Okay, well, if I'm gonna be reborn, could I... maybe be a less pressured Star Marlin?

**TREXEL**

Perhaps. Only you can write that story, Star Marlin David. "Only you as we follow the *Rebirth of the Star Marlin*."

**IMOGEN**

[Beep]

Roleplay holovision terminated.

**[Electronic powering off sound]**

**TREXEL**

Do you see?

**DAVID**

Wha— n— no! 'Cause I— I didn't write the show. I didn't make the show, so I don't know— like, I felt like that when you described—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID *Continued***

—being a Star Marlin to me. But we can't assume that that's how Orren Thruul will approach this kind of thing. Art is subjective.

**TREXEL**

You can't— you can't assume? David, all I do is assume! Every single day. Assume this. Assume that. Never ask anyone their opinion!

**DAVID**

Maybe that's the problem.

**TREXEL**

...The problem?

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

...David. That's a good point. Okay. I won't assume.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

What do we do?

**DAVID**

Ah.

**TREXEL**

Ah-ha ha! I have caught you. In a logical trap. If I don't assume, how can I create? If I'm waiting on everybody for their input— "Oh, I won't— I won't make this mountain explode every Thursday because I'm waiting for the input from the client." "Oh, maybe they want nitrogen in the atmosphere, but I've used ammonia. Maybe I shouldn't have done that." I'm not going to wait around for some pencil-necked, pencil pusher to pencil me into their pencil book for a pencil meeting, am I?!

**DAVID**

Okay. Okay.

**TREXEL**

Am I! Am I?

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

Have I done that?

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

Exactly.

**DAVID**

Okay. Well— so— o— okay. Well, in which case, maybe in the past your assumptions have been slightly wide of the mark.

**TREXEL**

Mm-hmm.

**DAVID**

Hence the reaction and feedback we've had and the deaths you've caused on most planets.

**TREXEL**

Almost certainly.

**DAVID**

So... what would you assume—

**TREXEL**

Mm-hmm.

**DAVID *Continued***

—about the *Rebirth of the Star Marlin*?

**TREXEL**

Fluids.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

You need to waterproof the room.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

This is gonna be a fluid affair. Sloshing gallons of amniotic sac fluids.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

Everywhere!

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

You don't wanna keep any books on the floor, they'll be ruined.

**DAVID**

O—

**TREXEL**

Got any old antique furniture? Keep it off the floor!

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

It'll be covered in birth fluid.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

So, we need a tank. In fact, let's make a pit. Tanks are easier than pits. Right. An entirely waterproof world. Water can't even touch its surface. It just springs off.

**DAVID**

Ah— oh— hmm. Okay. How are they going to drink?

**TREXEL**

They don't. It's an art exhibit. Keep them thirsty. Keep 'em off balance. Keep 'em off kilter. This is a hostile world because *art* isn't your *friend*.

**DAVID**

How long was the *Birth of the Star Marlin*?

**TREXEL**

Twenty-nine hours.

**DAVID**

Okay, and sequels are usually longer.

**TREXEL**

Sixty-four hours.

**DAVID**

Okay. So... we're gonna have people not drinking anything for sixty-four hours?

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

Now, remember what I said about your assumptions? So let's do the opposite of that. Right?

**TREXEL**

Okay. Fluid everywhere!

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

Everybody's drowning!

**DAVID**

What? No!

**TREXEL**

You know— in fact, everybody turns up to a— an entire water world. You tie a lead weight to their foot. It's freshwater, though. **(Yells)** *Drink as much as you want! Are you happy now?!*

**DAVID**

No, that's just—

**TREXEL**

*You've got water!*

**DAVID**

No, that just murders people.

**TREXEL**

But that's the exact opposite of what I said.

**DAVID**

No, it's not.

**TREXEL**

Is it not?

**DAVID**

No! Where did the lead come from? Where did the drowning come from?

**TREXEL**

You've got to get them in the water.

**DAVID**

No, you don't have to get them in the water.

**TREXEL**

You really get them in it, man.

**DAVID**

You just said that it was— you need to be a waterproof room 'cause there's going to be a lot of water! All I'm going to assume now is that the *Rebirth of the Star Marlin* is a particularly dry affair!

**TREXEL**

Okay.

**DAVID**

Should take place on a mountain.

**TREXEL**

Fine.

**DAVID**

Actually, what's the— the habitat of a Star Marlin? I assume it's the void of space.

**TREXEL**

It is indeed the void of space. They— they glide through the void of space dispensing justice and wisdom hither and yon.

**DAVID**

Okay, so why do you think it's so wet?

**TREXEL**

In space?

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

Have you been in space? Have you been in the vacuum of space, David? Look in my eyes. Tell me. Are you a vacuum of space man?

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

Are you a vacuum man?

**DAVID**

No?

**TREXEL**

Are you a v-man?

**DAVID**

I— No?

**TREXEL**

In which case I vehemently say, you know nothing of space. And neither do I. So, *who's* to say, David? Water is a fluid. And gas can act like a fluid. So, in the vacuum of space where there's no gas, then why wouldn't it act like a fluid as much as a fluid would. Do you follow? Do you follow? It's— it's a logical progression, David. Gases can be like fluids. Fluids can be like gases. There isn't any gas or fluid in space. So, maybe the space is a fluid gas. Maybe it's a fluid gaseous fluid flow flowing flowidly through the flow-flow.

**DAVID**

Okay, I think we've got a bit too hung up on the Star Marlin thing.

**TREXEL**

What is gas?!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Gas: a gaseous substance.

**DAVID**

Right. It's— it's a show. It's an art show.

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

Okay. So, wha— what do you need for art show? And they want good lighting, okay?

**TREXEL**

Ah.

**DAVID**

Which implies maybe they— they need the things that shows *normally need*.

**TREXEL**

The light *is* the show.

**DAVID**

No. Th— the show is the *Rebirth of the Star Marlin*.

**TREXEL**

No. David, shut up! The light is the show. You have a lamp. You have an uplighter. Au contraire, sir. That's merely a way of saying "I have been defeated by a system that I hate. Oh, oh, I'm showing art that is supposed to— to *challenge* the patriarchy and challenge the preconceptions of your universe but I'm using a lamp. What is a lamp other than an expression of— of— of *control*. Down with the lamp! Up with the imprisoned sun!" You lasso a sun out of the sky. We don't make one, David. We steal one. We thieve a sun away from a solar system, *casting* it into everlasting darkness.

**DAVID**

What?

**TREXEL**

And you imprison the sun in an orb. And around that orb, you channel mirrors. And then, you channel the mirror— the mirror orb. **(Voice gets louder and louder)** A whole trumpet into the room in which you're lighting. And is lit with a thousand lumen light of a stolen sun! And *there* is your *art*!

**DAVID**

Okay. Two things. How many lumens do you think is in a sun?

**TREXEL**

I— uhh—

**DAVID**

A lot more than a thousand.

**TREXEL**

Is it more than a thousand?

**DAVID**

Yes! Second, right, how do you think solar systems work? You can't just take the sun out of them. They're not just dark. They— they— they—

**TREXEL**

But that's, that— that's art, David.

**DAVID**

No, you've just killed, like, billions of people.

**TREXEL**

No! We'll— we'll only need it for a weekend. We'll put it back later.

**DAVID**

But the solar system's gone by then.

**TREXEL**

Really?

**DAVID**

Yes!

**TREXEL**

W-W-Well, won't it all just sort of hold in place until we put it back?

**DAVID**

No, the sun's what holds it in place!

**TREXEL**

Gravity! Of course! I've got— Well, thank goodness you were here, David. I was this close to stealing *plenty* of suns.

**DAVID**

Well, look.

**TREXEL**

That's how my last four wars started, so...

**DAVID**

**(Sighs)** Look, the— the idea of the imprisoned sun is quite interesting.

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

They want excellent lighting.

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

The sun is an excellent way to make light.

**TREXEL**

And the imprisonment of it is such a comment on the fact that you've imprisoned a sun!

**DAVID**

Okay, no. Okay, look, Trexel. It mi— It sounds like maybe you have some bunched-up creativity that needs an outlet. Okay?

**TREXEL**

Yes. And I just want to help, David. You understand. I just want to help.

**DAVID**

Maybe— maybe you should go write a play in your own time.

**TREXEL**

I actually have a— a small manuscript here, if you'd like. **[Papers rustle]**

**DAVID**

Okay, no— Not, not—

**IMOGEN**

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

**DAVID**

Trexel.

**TREXEL**

**(Reading manuscript)** We open on a summer's day. Earth 3.6. The Kreluvean Era. Capaltan Dag watches over—

**DAVID**

Okay, scene. Okay, scene. Right. We can't do this now. We have a planet to design.

**TREXEL**

Yes. Of course. Of course. Of course, David.

**DAVID**

And the show is the *Rebirth of the Star Marlin*—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

—by Orren Thruul.

**TREXEL**

Okay, well—

**DAVID**

Not whatever that was by Trexel Geistman.

**TREXEL**

What have we got so far?

**[Beat]**

**DAVID**

Nothing!

**TREXEL**

Nothing? Surely not. Surely—

**DAVID**

No, we've got... an imprisoned sun?

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

But nothing else.

**TREXEL**

Okay. Well, we've— we've— we got— we've got four or so minutes left. Okay, le— let's back to basics. Strip it back. Strip it back. Strip it back. Nothingness.

**DAVID**

No!

**TREXEL**

No atoms at all.

**DAVID**

No. Okay—

**TREXEL**

We start physics from the word go.

**DAVID**

Right, we—

**TREXEL**

Right, first physical law, David. Give me a physical law.

**DAVID**

No, we're not doing— We have to make a planet!

**TREXEL**

Well, you don't want to do— to be too complicated. I strip it back and that's too simp—

**DAVID**

Okay, you stripped it back too far. Can we please just start *with* a planet.

**TREXEL**

Okay.

**DAVID**

A ball, right? What's the environment of this planet?

**TREXEL**

Non-Newtonian.

**DAVID**

A: that's not an environment, and B: it makes no sense.

**TREXEL**

**(Whimpers)** Well... I don't know what you want from me, David.

**DAVID**

Can we just have a ball? They want to put on an art show, right?

**TREXEL**

Yes. Yes.

**DAVID**

They just want a nice place to put on an art show.

**TREXEL**

**(Quiet)** Alright, fine.

**DAVID**

Somewhere fancy.

**TREXEL**

**(Quiet)** Okay, fine.

**DAVID**

So they can have their clientele there.

**TREXEL**

Okay, that's fine.

**DAVID**

With good lighting!

**TREXEL**

I'm saying it's fine. Everything's fine. We're having a lot of fun. And everything's fine. Okay. You want a little planet. Just a little dinky, short-use planet for a little art show to be on it.

**DAVID**

It doesn't even have to be short use. Just has to be a planet where you can put on an art show.

**TREXEL**

W— w— w— what you just want it to be sitting around after the show's done sixty-four hours? We put a time bomb in the middle of the planet.

**DAVID**

No! Wha— No. They've paid for the planet; they can *keep* it.

**TREXEL**

Fine, if you want to be really reductive about it, David. I didn't realise you were such a square.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** That's not what reductive means!

**TREXEL**

You're a reductive square. Look at that square reducing. I can barely see it anymore. Oh, it's just a pixel. A pixel on a screen. A tiny—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Wha— Ok, I'm a... really tiny square that wants to design a good planet!

**TREXEL**

David, I've upset you. And for that, you are sorry. But we have to agree on something, David. We haven't got that much long left.

**DAVID**

Okay. You saw some stuff about the *Birth of the Star Marlin*, right?

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

Apart from that *horrible* video you showed me, —

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID *Continued***

—is that pretty much everything you know about the Star Marlin?

**TREXEL**

Almost absolutely. I didn't even go to that show.

**DAVID**

Okay. Well, if it's still a birth, then it should look like maybe a place where a birth should happen. Maybe some sort of operating theatre. They're going to need a big building, —

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID *Continued***

—for this show.

**TREXEL**

Okay.

**DAVID**

Maybe it should look like a big hospital.

**TREXEL**

And every single member of staff of the hospital is **(yells)** *a captured imprisoned sun!*

**DAVID**

What?

**TREXEL**

**(Yells)** Forced into labour against their needs and wills! “I don’t want to operate on this lady. I haven’t got arms. I’m just an orb under high pressure!”

**DAVID**

No... stop. Assumedly, Orren Thruul will bring their own staff members!

**TREXEL**

So, you don’t want all the staff to be imprisoned suns.

**DAVID**

No!

**TREXEL**

What about coerced moons?

**DAVID**

That doesn’t— You’ve— you’ve just made that up.

**TREXEL**

A blackmailed comet!

**DAVID**

That’s not even a thing!

**TREXEL**

Okay. Well, you obviously haven't lived, David. I've blackmailed a comet or two in my time.

**DAVID**

Well, I don't think they're going to be very—

**TREXEL**

"I've got pictures of your icy tails, so you better do what I say."

**DAVID**

Okay. I... just don't think they're going to be very useful staffing an *art show*.

**TREXEL**

Alright. Tell you what, David. There's such a thing as a hospital cube.

**DAVID**

Right. What's one of those?

**TREXEL**

It's a big cube which is pretty much automatically kitted out to be a hospital.

**DAVID**

Brilliant.

**TREXEL**

How about we just use one of them, put a time bomb in the middle, —

**DAVID**

Okay, no— Look—

**TREXEL *Continued***

—staff it with suns, orbit it around a moon that’s actually as big as a sun so it gently becomes a sun as it orbits around!

**DAVID**

**(Done with this)** Actually, yes. No. Fine Trexel.

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

These are all *brilliant* ideas.

**TREXEL**

Thank you.

**DAVID**

I’m just writing them *all* down in the brief and look.

**IMOGEN**

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

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** We’ve not got much time left so you’ve nailed it again.

**TREXEL**

Nailed it again.

**DAVID**

Off it goes!

**[chime, pneumatic tube hissing, clunk]**

**IMOGEN:** Submitting.

**TREXEL:** There it goes! Ah. Wonderful! Wonderful!

**DAVID:** Yes. Brilliant. So—

**TREXEL:** You know, we work better as friends, David. We work better as friends because, you know, I— I'm going to admit that, previously, I've been a little incalcitrant in my approach to the design process. My way or the highway. But this more collaborative approach, David, you know, as friends, as— I'm not going to say equals because I'm *absolutely* not your equal! I'm above you in *every* single way conceivable! But, beyond that, it's a much nicer way of working, don't you think?

**DAVID**

Yes. It was... beautifully relaxing. Now, I'm sure you have a lot of... things to be getting on with.

**TREXEL**

No. I just want to bond, David. How 'bout we talk about you? How are you feeling, David?

**DAVID**

Uhh...

**TREXEL**

You can tell old Trexel.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

You can tell Uncle Trexel.

**DAVID**

Well—

**TREXEL**

I may be your boss, David, but I'm also your friend who's your boss.

**DAVID**

Well, maybe. I mean, I was really interested in... the, umm, script you were writing so— But— but I thought that— that maybe the first draft's a little rough. Uh, maybe you wanna go away and— and— and workshop that and then— and then you can—

**TREXEL**

But you— but you think there's potential there?

**DAVID**

Oh, no, absolutely. Yes, I think you should probably go work on it right now.

**TREXEL**

Would you like me to do the— the— I have a character treatment for— for a character I call Dominic Quailface. Would you like to— to read that very quickly?

**DAVID**

Oh, no, no. I'm sure it's really, really good.

**TREXEL**

No. Okay, you—

**DAVID**

So you should probably just, uh, maybe, go and write him in more. He sounds so... very, uh, compelling.

**TREXEL**

**(Chuckling)** Well, he's one of the Quailface Nine so I would hope so, David.

**DAVID**

Okay. Well, why not Quailface Ten?

**[Beat]**

**TREXEL**

Quailface Ten, you say?

**DAVID**

Yes. Oh, you— Yes. Why don't you, uh, go—

**TREXEL**

**(Excited)** Yes, of course. That's what's been missing from the Sixteenth Act!

**DAVID**

Okay, so, off you go. Off you go. Off you go. Yes.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** There's only nine Quailfaces so we— Maybe there was a Quailface that would— Yes, of course! Th— thank you, David! Thank you!

**[Door swooshes closed]**

**DAVID**

**(Sighs)** Right.

**[Brief is pulled from the tube, whoosh from vacuum being unsealed,  
pneumatic tube door closes]**

**DAVID**

Now I can get some proper work done.

**[Show Theme - Outro]**

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