

STL – 020 – Machinations and Memory

Content Warnings

- Comedic violence
- Emotional abuse
- Gaslighting

[Show Theme - Intro]

IMOGEN

Rusty Quill presents: Stellar Firma.

[Show Theme – Intro *Continued*]

DAVID

(Talking to themselves) Ohh... I hope this goes well. **(Sigh)** I mean, it— it's got to go *better*... but I'll die if it goes really badly. No, it *must* be better. I'm— I'm better than Trexel. No Trexel, no problem! **[Footsteps approach]** I mean theoretically, not *actually*, but—

[Door swooshes open]

TREXEL

David! **[David yelps]** David, look at me. I am a mole tunnelling through the soil of creativity looking for nuggets! Nuggets, David. And do you think we found them? Do you think we've found them, David?

DAVID

Yes?

TREXEL

Yes, we have, David, because we have bonded. We have improved. We have unified as a unit, and together we have—I believe—over the past three days, made planets of wonder.

DAVID

Oh, yes! Yes, no, we definitely have, and it will definitely be down... to that! That is why these planets will please Hartro in a way which she has not been pleased before.

TREXEL

David, you're more glisteny than usual.

[Heeled footsteps approach]

DAVID

What? No, no...

TREXEL

I know you— you always have a—

[Door swooshes open]

IMOGEN

[Beep] Line manager arrival.

HARTRO

Hello! **[David and Trexel yelp]** Ah, review time! Hi, boys.

TREXEL

Hartro.

DAVID

(Nervously) Hello.

TREXEL

How... are you, Hartro?

HARTRO

I'm sufficient.

TREXEL

Your skin... and nails?

HARTRO

Uh, you do not need to talk about my skin every time, Trexel.

TREXEL

Okay, but I just— you have excellent, excellent—

HARTRO

David 7!

DAVID

(Trying to smile) Eeee.

HARTRO

Good news. You're alive.

DAVID

Y— yes?

HARTRO

You shall continue...

DAVID

Ooh!

HARTRO *Continued*

—to exist!

DAVID

Yay!

TREXEL

(Shouting) I knew it! I knew it, we're geniuses! *We're geniuses!*

DAVID

Right!

HARTRO

Okay, just pipe down there.

TREXEL

Sorry, I've— I've— I've— I've never— rarely been this excited, Hartro.

HARTRO

Alright, now what happens at the beginning of every review?

TREXEL

I tell you why I'm late. It's a real doozy this time! So, I was in the reactor core, elbow deep—

HARTRO

(Interrupting) Oh, just— just pipe— pipe there. Can— can I get comfortable while he tells me?

DAVID

Um. Oh yes, sorry, I'll get off this.

HARTRO

Just shift over, yes, there.

TREXEL

No, elbow—

HARTRO

(Interrupting) And— Oh, and I just wouldn't mind a bit of *something*... I don't know. Um, Trexel, a bit of something...

TREXEL

A bit of something— something.

HARTRO

Uhm... put— uh, is there some sort of cushion?

TREXEL

You— Do you want my cushion, Hartro? Is that— is that what's...?

HARTRO

Oh, you have a cushion?

TREXEL

Yes, I have my cushion.

HARTRO

I wouldn't mind your cushion.

TREXEL

My consultant's cushion.

HARTRO

Thank— thank you. Oh, thank you.

TREXEL

(Voice breaking) My father gave me this, but okay! Here we are.

HARTRO

And where were you?

TREXEL

Okay, so I'm elbow-deep in this reactor core. My hair, falling out all over the—

HARTRO

(Interrupting) Oh, and the funny thing is, I— you know what? It's the— it's the temperature in here. I feel *hot*.

IMOGEN

[Beep] Temperature is preset by Temperature Regulation Subcommittee 4 and cannot be altered.

HARTRO

I mean, is it just me— David 7, are you hot?

DAVID

Umm. I'm just—

TREXEL

He's always... Look, he's sweating right now.

HARTRO

And so the review. [claps] Let's continue, shall we?

TREXEL

Okay, so— I— do you wanna— Okay, fine. Fine.

HARTRO

I don't need to recycle David 7 today!

DAVID

(Weakly) Yaaaay...

TREXEL

Excellent, excellent. And by extension, that's because I am a... genius?

HARTRO

It would be wrong of me to kill your dreams in such a way as to say no, but I would like to just redirect the reasoning around to the fact that maybe it was the team-building exercises.

DAVID

Ooh, yes! Definitely.

HARTRO

Did you enjoy them?

DAVID

Uh, yes, and they were definitely really helpful. I— I do hope that they made the planets better... *Were* the planets better?

HARTRO

The planets were—wait for it... they were *slightly better*.

DAVID

Oh, that's good— that's very good.

HARTRO

It was— You could see that each planet was built upon a team coming together—

DAVID

Yes.

HARTRO *Continued*

—to create... plans. And it was as if you *understood* each other...

TREXEL

Yes, yes!

HARTRO *Continued*

—and... and were trusting each other,—

TREXEL

I felt this.

HARTRO *Continued*

—as if somebody had guided you to become that way. Like me.

DAVID

(Simultaneously) Yes— no, definitely. Yes.

TREXEL

(Simultaneously) Yes. Yes. Yes, absolutely, Hartro.

HARTRO

So, well done, Hartro.

DAVID

(Simultaneously) Yes, well done, Hartro! Yay!

TREXEL

(Simultaneously) Well done, Hartro. A round— a round of applause for Hartro.

[Trexel and David applaud]

HARTRO

Thank you. Thank— thank you.

TREXEL

This— this must be a real— a real boon for you!

HARTRO

Well, I mean I am **(laughing lightly)** getting recognition. You know, upstairs and **(giggles)** you know... Yes, and I've— I've received smiles from people that didn't even know my name before!

TREXEL

She's at smiling level.

HARTRO

Anyway, things are changing for me.

TREXEL

David, that's a big deal.

DAVID

Uh, that's— that's good.

TREXEL

Hartro, he doesn't understand the hierarchy here.

HARTRO

So, we need to keep this going. We need to keep this rolling, boys.

DAVID

Yes. Forever and ever and ever.

HARTRO

Yes.

TREXEL

But— but before— We can't get too carried away. We need to go over the planets and really luxuriate in their details, and really understand why the planets that I designed—

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL *Continued*

—are simply the best.

IMOGEN

[Beep] Consultant design recommendation file.

HARTRO

Planet 1.

DAVID

Yes.

HARTRO

For the lovely Cardinal Fang!

DAVID

Mm-hmm.

HARTRO

Oh, Car—

TREXEL

Cardinal *Fang*?

IMOGEN

[Beep] Cardinal Fang!

HARTRO

I believe they're referred to as "The Kind"?

DAVID

Yes, Cardinal "The Kind" Fang.

HARTRO

Yes, and you built them an unexpected planet.

TREXEL

Car— Car— Sorry, sorry, Hartro, Car— Cardinal Fang.

HARTRO

Yes?

TREXEL

Not a terrifying mono-being that knows all your thoughts.

HARTRO

No. Also referred to as The Benevolent...

DAVID

Yeah, The Generous.

HARTRO

The Generous.

TREXEL

Right.

HARTRO

The Happy-To-Clean-Your-Socks as well.

DAVID

The Full of Givitude.

HARTRO

Yes.

TREXEL

This is a nice one. Okay, well, I— I just— I was just asking for a friend. Okay, continue.

DAVID

Well, no, we— we discussed this. C-Cardinal Fang, one of the Cardinals of the Church of the Unexpected Surprise?

TREXEL

Ye—

HARTRO

Trexel, do you *know* who you're building your planets for?

TREXEL

Y-Yes. Yes!

HARTRO

‘Cause, I— I would say that that would be possibly the first and most important thing—

DAVID

Well, obviously, Trexel *does* know, because the planet was designed for that.

HARTRO

And the input I have to give back to you is... **(delighted huff)** well done.

DAVID

Yes, Trexel. Well done, Trexel.

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) Yes, it’s all coming. It’s all coming back, yes.

HARTRO

Is it coming back?

TREXEL

Yes, yes, Cardinal Fang...

HARTRO

Do— Yes, Cardinal Fang—

TREXEL

The Kind. The Benevolent.

HARTRO

The Benevolent, Kind—

TREXEL

Give attitude. Yes, yes.

HARTRO

The Whisperer of Dreams.

TREXEL

So on and so forth.

HARTRO

Yes. They were *very* pleased. Well, first of all, you gave them an unexpected planet, with a deliciously lovely, upholstered chair in the middle.

DAVID

Mm-hmm.

TREXEL

Mm-hmm.

HARTRO

It was a nice little touch!

DAVID

Did do that.

HARTRO

And an unexpected ornamental cathedral!

TREXEL

A cathedral?

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL

A— a cathedral.

DAVID

Mm-hmm.

TREXEL

(Uncertain) Yes.

HARTRO

Well, they obviously needed a cathedral for the believers.

DAVID

‘Cause the Cardinal is obviously a religious figure.

HARTRO

Trexel.

TREXEL

Mm-hmm.

HARTRO

Wake up.

TREXEL

Sorry, sorry—

HARTRO

Do you know where we are?

TREXEL

Yes, absolutely, sorry—

HARTRO

You’re on Planet 1, right.

TREXEL

(Quickly) You won’t hear— you won’t hear it again from me. Yes, I’m absolutely on board. We built a cathedral.

DAVID

Yes, we did.

TREXEL

We like the cathedral. Yes.

DAVID

Mm-hmm. And a garden.

TREXEL

And a— and a garden?

DAVID

And a garden.

TREXEL

And also a garden.

DAVID

Around the cathedral.

HARTRO

Verdant, rolling, green garden hills, I think they mentioned here, —

TREXEL

Lovely.

HARTRO *Continued*

—as a particular lovely joy that they liked.

TREXEL

Yes, well—

HARTRO

So, this lovely feedback, I mean, this is what I expect! This is what I normally get from my design teams. It's about time.

DAVID

Mm.

TREXEL

Well, you know what they always say, “you want a verdant hill, you come to Geistman”. They all— Ol' Verdant Hills Geistman! And they're not referring to my hot buns! **(Laughs, trails off)** Everybody's looking at me.

HARTRO

Nobody's laughing.

TREXEL

No, okay, well, you know, it was worth a go. Either way, I'm— I'm really— I'm a real Capability Geistman.

HARTRO

And it's just amazing! I mean, what's changed? I mean, I want to say the team building... so tell me it's the team building.

TREXEL

(Simultaneously) I think it's the te— it's the team building. We've been—

DAVID

(Simultaneously) Uh, yes, it's the team-build— team building, yes.

HARTRO

Is that what's done it?

DAVID

Mm. Oh, definitely.

TREXEL

We've been working as a team, yes.

DAVID

We're teaming up.

TREXEL

Yes.

HARTRO

So how— so just explain, how did that work? Which one of my exercises were you particularly pulling upon?

DAVID

Uhhh... the middle one.

TREXEL

Yes, that middle one.

HARTRO

(Gasps) That one. The— the puppets.

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) The one between the other two.

DAVID

(Simultaneously) Uh, yes. Yes, the one with the puppets. That really—

TREXEL

(Simultaneously) Yes, yes. The... the one with the pupp—

HARTRO

I knew it. I knew it! That—

DAVID

Really helped us get to the bottom of our relationship with each other and earn... and— and then when we came back from that, we were like... “Here we go. This is how we design... together.”

[Beat]

IMOGEN

[Beep] Hooray for teamwork! Within guidelines.

TREXEL

And you know what, it also helped me really explore my complicated feelings towards puppets of myself. Because I— I sat with that puppet, and I... I felt things that I... **(Tears up)** Sorry, come back to me—

HARTRO

Are you crying, Trexel?

TREXEL

No, no, my eyes are just...

HARTRO

Trexel?

TREXEL

I just— I've— I've—

HARTRO

If you're gonna cry, you look straight ahead, and you cry.

TREXEL

Okay, okay. [loudly] Oh, god...

HARTRO

Trexel, you don't half-cry. You cry.

TREXEL

Huoaaaagh... emotions...

HARTRO

Have them.

TREXEL

Oh, gosh...

HARTRO

Have them...

TREXEL

There they are...

HARTRO

And stop.

TREXEL

Oh, oop...

HARTRO

Lovely. So, well done on Planet 1.

TREXEL

Wonderful. Wonderful. Wonderful! Wonderful! You know what? I— I—
(Scoffs) I feel like they're—

HARTRO

Are you *still* crying?

TREXEL

It's— a little bit! Hang on, I'll just—

HARTRO

Trexel, I said stop!

TREXEL

Sorry, hang on— give me a moment. **(Talking to himself)** Rrrgh! Pull it together, Geistman. Pull it together! Quiet! Dark... cupboards...! **(Calm)** There it is, I'm back in the room.

HARTRO

Okay. Can we continue the review?

TREXEL

Please. Thank you.

HARTRO

'Cause there's more I need to say.

TREXEL

Wonderful.

HARTRO

Right, so. The outcome of this is Stellar Firma has now been blessed with four more orders! We have a repeat customer!

IMOGEN

[Beep] Repeat customer logged. **[Fanfare plays]**

TREXEL

Y— yay!

DAVID

(Unenthusiastic) Yay. Yay. Yay.

TREXEL

Yay, yay! I have a repeat customer!

HARTRO

Yes.

TREXEL

This has never happened before, Hartro! I don't think it's ever happened before!

DAVID

(Sarcastic) What? Must have been the team building!

TREXEL

Yes!

HARTRO

(Pleased) It must have been!

TREXEL

Must have been mean the team building,—

DAVID

Must have been.

TREXEL *Continued*

—and also my towering genius! [DAVID: Yes!] Flowing over the edge like lava of hot creativity!

DAVID

Oh, cover me in that lava of hot creativity, I've written down your ideas and it's made a good planet!

TREXEL

Easy, David, let's not get weird about it. I'm sorry about that, Hartro.

HARTRO

That's fine. **(Pause)** Moving swiftly on...

IMOGEN

[Beep] Consultant design recommendation file.

HARTRO

Planet 2, Orren Thruul's... Oh, this was *The Rebirth of the Star Marlin!*

TREXEL

Yes, *The Rebirth of the Star Marlin.*

DAVID

Yes.

HARTRO

I love art. **(Sighs)**

TREXEL

We all love art here, don't we?

DAVID

I have never seen an art.

TREXEL

Well, *we* love art. Don't we, Hartro?

HARTRO

I am a connoisseur.

TREXEL

I'm more of a... journeyman.

HARTRO

So you built a planet.

TREXEL

Yes.

HARTRO

A bijou art planet with a state-of-the-art astral maternity aquarium.

DAVID

Mm-hmm.

HARTRO

I love that detail.

DAVID

Yep.

TREXEL

Yes.

HARTRO

So basically, we've got a lot of really happy people watching the birth of the Star Marlin!

TREXEL

Can I just check something?

HARTRO

Yes?

TREXEL

At any point is there any sort of hospital involved in this?

DAVID

Well, it's a maternity aquarium, which is a hospital.

HARTRO

Yes.

TREXEL

Yes, yes, I— you know what, yes, that— that— that makes sense.

HARTRO

I mean, I think there's probably people around in case there's any sort of complications, or just, you know, like if you need a wetting of your upper lip...

DAVID

Oh no, definitely, there were, I— I think about six support rooms, just to make sure. Obviously, birthing a Star Marlin is— is quite hard, and rebirthing it is even harder.

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) It's a complicated process. Complicated process.

HARTRO

I know— I know that there weren't any problems, because the Star Marlin has now, I can tell you, been born.

TREXEL

Wonderful. Wonderful.

DAVID

Good, yes.

TREXEL

Is it a Star Marlin or a Star Marlin?

HARTRO

(Pleased) It turned out to be a Star Marlin.

TREXEL

Wonderful! Their parents must be so happy.

DAVID

(Crosstalk) Awww, that's nice!

HARTRO

So they were particularly pleased with the lighting.

DAVID

Mm-hmm.

HARTRO

That was very, very—

TREXEL

You know, it's hard to coerce a sun, but we did it. We got that— And you know—

HARTRO

Sorry—

TREXEL

—the time bombing— What now?

HARTRO

Sorry?

TREXEL

Coerced sun?

DAVID

Well, we went for bioluminescent algae in the end?

TREXEL

Yes, yes, yes.

HARTRO

That's right.

TREXEL

We started with coerced sun, but then we...

DAVID

Yes, and then we moved onto...

TREXEL

Bioluminescent...

DAVID

Algae.

TREXEL

Algae.

HARTRO

Because—

DAVID

Locally sourced!

TREXEL

Locally sourced.

DAVID

Yes.

HARTRO

That was a good choice. I mean, I—

TREXEL

Yes.

DAVID

Yes, well done, Trexel.

TREXEL

Very moody lighting, from a bioluminescent algae.

HARTRO

It's very moody. And do—

TREXEL

It's like a teen's bedroom.

HARTRO

And you know that just leads me on to say... there's been repeat business requested.

IMOGEN

[Beep] Repeat customer logged. **[Fanfare plays]**

HARTRO

I mean, they want to follow this Star Marlin through their *whole* life.

TREXEL

Ah!

HARTRO

They don't want to miss anything.

TREXEL

The Life of a Star Marlin...

HARTRO

So what does that mean, Stellar Firma? More business? Yes?

DAVID

Two repeat businesses!

TREXEL

Two!

DAVID

For Trexel.

HARTRO

We could *say* Trexel, but really—

DAVID

Hartro.

HARTRO *Continued*

—behind— Yes.

TREXEL

But for H— for Hartro. For Hartro. And— and her team-building acumen.

DAVID

Yes, for Hartro's team, which *includes* Trexel.

TREXEL

Trexel Geistman.

HARTRO

Orren Thruul—

TREXEL

Yes.

HARTRO *Continued*

—has received an award.

[Trexel gasps]

HARTRO

This is serious. It's from the Art Justicar.

TREXEL

Oh, they're a harsh critic. That's— that's a big get. I remember the Art Justicar actually reviewed one of my planets. **(Chuckles)** The review just read **(Shouting)** 'Why?!'

HARTRO

I mean, often, I wake up in the morning and I think, "Oh I'm doing a review for Trexel", and I just look at myself in the mirror, and I say, "Why?"

DAVID

Ooh, I know! Um, because you team-built him and now he's good at designing planets.

TREXEL

Yes, you— you grew me like a— like a plant. Like a— a very, very competent yet misunderstood plant that you team-built into a mighty bush.

HARTRO

I *do* feel like any success that you are having now does have something to do with me.

DAVID

Mm-hmm.

TREXEL

It has to!

HARTRO

But I still feel no real connection. So, yes, a plant, but maybe you're just... a soggy root?

TREXEL

(Drawn out) I'll... take it!

IMOGEN

[Beep] Consultant design recommendation file.

HARTRO

And our final planet for today's review... the *pièce de résistance*.

DAVID

Mm.

HARTRO

I think you did end high. Henkka is pleased as punch. They are just relaxing; they feel so relieved...

DAVID

Well, it was all the water, really. That's, uh... for— for easing joint pain.

HARTRO

I mean, how did you come up with that? I mean, water cycling through a body... I mean nobody even thinks of that.

DAVID

Well, I don't—Trexel, how did you think of that?

TREXEL

Well, I— I— I— when I was, uh, thinking about this planet that I remember designing, I— I was thinking when I'm in the bath, and, uh, the bath is empty and I'm fully clothed because I've fallen in, and I'm lying there, looking up at my ceiling, thinking, "how did it come to this?" and you know what gets me

up? I just turn on the tap with my foot, and the water flows down my fully-clothed legs and up my fully-clothed body, and— and— and just for a moment, the fabric resists the water. It's not water-resistant fabric, but it's— it's not wet yet— and then suddenly, it breaks down, and the water soaks through, and I'm in a full cold bath, fully clothed, and I'm thinking, "If I was old... this would be pretty good".

[Beat]

IMOGEN

[Beep] Sadness detected. Security alerted.

HARTRO

Well, you've just created a horrible image in my head, Trexel, but it— it was a *beautiful* planet! It still is! I mean, the way that it cycles through the universe with such speed, and that need to bounce, just...

TREXEL

Just bouncing all over the... cycling through...

DAVID

From solar system to solar system.

TREXEL

...Right.

HARTRO

Well, it's— it's something about the ever-jumping quality between solar system to solar system that has that effect on the joints.

TREXEL

Ye-Ye-Yes.

DAVID

Mm-hmm. Well, it's the fluctuations of gravity, —

HARTRO

That's right!

DAVID

—and— and obviously the jumping from solar system to solar system—as long as the— the maths is done right, and it’s calculated very precisely—um, is the best way to achieve that without expensive machinery, uh, and— and a lot of overhead! Obviously.

HARTRO

It’s so, *so* scientific!

DAVID

Yes, really! Yep.

TREXEL

(Uncertainly) Yes, and— and— Was— was the— was the maths right?

HARTRO

Oh, yes! The way that you managed to keep it at just that nice, warm temperature...

TREXEL

Well, of— of course, you know, when— when Geistman builds a planet, that’s a keeper.

DAVID

I saw you crunch those numbers and woo! Were those numbers crunched.

TREXEL

Oh, I— I crunched through them like I crunched through my morning breakfast cubes. Crunch crunch crunch...

HARTRO

And isn’t that interesting, that somehow the breakfast cubes that are retaining that heat, in that planet?

TREXEL

It— Yes. Yes, yeah, who would— who would have thought we could repurpose the cubes that we all eat for breakfast, for sustenance,—

DAVID

Mm-hmm.

TREXEL *Continued*

—could also be an excellent insulator? Who would have thought that?

DAVID

Well, obviously you!

TREXEL

Obviously— obv— yeah, me, that— that’s who I— Sorry, I didn’t finish that. Let me try that again. Who would have thought of that? Aha! It was a trick. The answer is me, Trexel Geistman, because I’m a genius.

DAVID

Well done... Trexel and Hartro.

TREXEL

Yes.

DAVID

And also Trexel, but actually Hartro? But yes, Trexel. Everyone. Well done, everyone who is here.

TREXEL

Yes.

HARTRO

Well, I feel like I need to just say something slightly terrible to you, Trexel, because you— you— It’s alright— You just—

TREXEL

(Crosstalk, shouting) Oh, here it is, here it is! I thought it was all going well and now with the t— then the *knife* comes out—

IMOGEN

[Beep] Knife detected. Security alerted.

TREXEL

—and plunges into my body! Who’s died? What’s exploded? Why am I in trouble? Hartro, please, I’m sorry! Please, look, I— I’ll put all of your feet in my mouth!

HARTRO

(Mild surprise) Okay. I mean, I was just going to say, you know, “try not to come in drunk”, or, you know, “get here earlier”, or... “you might need another tracker soon”, but... let’s just do the feet! Let’s do the feet.

TREXEL

Right. Okay. Feet in. Okay. Here we are.

HARTRO

You know—

TREXEL

Couldn’t have just kept my mouth shut, could I? Okay, here it— **(Voice muffled by foot)**

HARTRO

And I believe... David 7, did he say *both* feet this time?

DAVID

I think he did, yes.

[TREXEL makes muffled noises of protest]

HARTRO

I mean, it *was* special request.

[A second foot is inserted]

DAVID

Well done, Trexel.

HARTRO

I think we need to just— Trexel, how do you feel about doing an okay review?

[TREXEL makes muffled sounds of affirmation]

DAVID

I think he liked it.

HARTRO

Did he?

DAVID

Mm.

HARTRO

He looks sad, though...

DAVID

Must be tears of joy coming out of his face.

HARTRO

(Gasps) Trexel, I'm so happy that I could get you here. I feel like, as a line manager, this is the sort of day that I strive for.

TREXEL

(Muffled) Alright, can I take your feet out of my mouth, Hartro?

HARTRO

I appreciate me too.

TREXEL

(Muffled) Yes, but can I take your feet out of my mouth?

HARTRO

"Can I take a sick day off?" **[Trexel makes noises of protest]** No, sorry Trexel, there's no such thing as a sick day off. Sorry. Let's take those out. There we— there we— there we go. **[Feet removal sounds]** Now, I do *not* enjoy that, but I know how valuable you find it.

TREXEL

...Right, you *don't* enjoy that?

HARTRO

No, I just know that it seems to produce quality work.

DAVID

Part of the process.

HARTRO

It's part of— Yeah.

TREXEL

Part of the process.

DAVID

As you said, part of the design process is... sometimes messy. And involves feet... in... mouths!

TREXEL

Thank you, David. Thank you very much. Yes, yes. Well— well, what a— what a strong review that was! I mean— I mean, quite— quite alarmingly strong, and **(chuckles)** so many bits I had to be reminded of! But that's old— that's old Trexel Geistman, old— old "Hole in the Brain" Geistman, they used to shout at me! "Where's his brain?"

HARTRO

Okay, wha— wha— wha— Uh, right there, Trexel, just hold on a minute. I'm just gonna grab my things and go before you have your monologue.

TREXEL

Okay. Okay.

HARTRO

All right. Boys, carry on, do what you're doing, and—

IMOGEN

[Beep] Line manager departing.

HARTRO

—don't get complacent. Bye-o!

DAVID

Bye! Bye.

[Door swooshes closed]

TREXEL

Bye! Bye, Hartro!

DAVID

Bye. **(To Trexel)** Remember when you got into that vent and forgot what you were doing over a weekend?

TREXEL

(Softly) Right, I just— Yes, I— I suppose...

DAVID

And— and the other times you forget when to come into work?

TREXEL

Yes, but there's something— there's something strange about this.

DAVID

Is it?

TREXEL

David, I'm— I'm obviously— I'm incredibly happy.

DAVID

Well, it must be—

Incredibly happy, unbelievably happy! This is— this is a... a really *strong* review! And— and— and you're still alive, which is fine, I suppose, and I just— but I normally don't forget *this much!* Normally I-I *know* when I've forgotten something. There's a blank or a black but this time it was just—

DAVID

(As though he's had an idea) After the team-building exercise, did you go on a bender?

TREXEL

I suppose I did go on a bit of a bender, and I did drink all that moisturiser, and that can't be good for me. That's something I haven't done before.

DAVID

Maybe you've got the— the moisture holes.

TREXEL

Maybe I've got moisture holes in my brain. Well, I'll go down to medical and see what they can do, but you know, I think the big takeaway here is, while I do have a gnawing knot of suspicion that *something's* wrong in the very pit of my stomach— right now? Right now? It's time to celebrate.

DAVID

Good review.

TREXEL

Good review.

DAVID

Well done, Trexel.

TREXEL

(Softly) Well done, Trexel.

DAVID

You... we'll see you on... Monday.

TREXEL

Yes. *Probably* see me on Monday.

DAVID

Oh— hey, just relax, maybe! It— it seems maybe this, uh... more relaxed attitude you're taking to your work is— is doing well. You know, maybe just take it easy. You— you deserve a good weekend of rest and relaxation.

TREXEL

Thank you.

DAVID

‘Cause— ‘cause you did so well.

TREXEL

Thank you, David. And—

DAVID

With those planets.

TREXEL

I don’t think— I don’t think I maybe say this enough, but I... I know we obviously gave Hartro a lot of credit for the team building, but, uh, you and I both know that... what’s really changed is... well, how close we’ve become.

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL

You *are* still a tool! You know, that— that’s— that’s something we can’t get— get away from. You’re a clone. Clones aren’t friends. Friends aren’t clones. You can’t have clone friends. “Send that clone away, he’s no friend of my son. You’re not allowed to love a clone, Trexel, you idiot. Get in the box!” You know, that’s— you know, that’s the rule. **(Awkwardly)** But, uh... yeah. I’ll see you on Monday.

[Door swooshes closed]

DAVID

Okay. Bye! **(Pleased)** Oof! *Nailed* it.

[Show Theme – Outro]

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