

## STL – 25 – Trials and Terminations

### Content Warnings

- Comedic violence
- Emotional abuse
- Abuse of power
- Alcoholism
- Squishing sounds

[Show Theme - Intro]

**IMOGEN**

Rusty Quill presents: Stellar Firma.

[Show Theme – Intro *Continued*]

[Alarm from previous episode continues to blare]

**DAVID**

**(Mimicking the alarm)** Wee woo... wee woo... wee woo... wee woo... wee woo... wee woo... Are you gonna stop? I.M.O.G.E.N., could you make it stop?

**IMOGEN**

[Error buzz]

**DAVID**

No, just more alarm. **(Mimicking the alarm, more tired)** Wee woo... **(Sighs)** wee woo...

[Footsteps approach, door swooshes open]

**TREXEL**

David.

**DAVID**

Wee— Ah!

**TREXEL**

David, um. Hello.

**DAVID**

**(Bitter)** *Trexel.*

**TREXEL**

Uh, David, I... *may...* have overreacted.

**DAVID**

Did you submit the brief?

**TREXEL**

Absolutely not.

**DAVID**

Why didn't you submit the brief?!

**TREXEL**

Because I was angry, David! You— you had betrayed me! And don't let me— I haven't forgotten that you—

**DAVID**

Is that why this alarm has been going off for the last *18 hours*?

**TREXEL**

Yes, that's the trial alarm. You're going to have a trial.

**DAVID**

I'm going to have a *trial*?

**TREXEL**

**(Stammers)** At the end of it, you're—

**DAVID**

Why am I gonna have a trial?!

**TREXEL**

Because we didn't submit a brief, David.

**DAVID**

Does everyone have a trial?

**TREXEL**

No, not everyone has a tri— Look, let me— let me break this down. Calm yourself. I'm gonna shut off the alarm, hang on.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Access granted.

**DAVID**

**(Softly)** Right.

**TREXEL**

Here we go. **(Soothing)** Now, calm David. Soft David. Little David in a corner.

There you go. Happy now?

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

Okay, well, let's push on. Now, there has been a *distinct breach* of protocol, David.

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

A brief has not been submitted!

**DAVID**

Yes!

**TREXEL**

The reasons the brief has not been submitted—

**DAVID**

Because Trexel stole the brief.

**TREXEL**

Because David betrayed Trexel!

**DAVID**

Where is the brief, Trexel.

**TREXEL**

The brief is not important! I—

**DAVID**

Have you put it in a vent?

**[Beat]**

**TREXEL**

...No.

**DAVID**

Is it in a vent nest?

**TREXEL**

It— it may be in my vent nest, and I may have lost the vent nest. I went back to that place where there was lots of radiation, my fingernails came off, and I thought, “L-Let’s not do this!” So it’s somewhere in the vents. But irregardless, David, we missed the deadline. We missed the deadline *hours* ago, and I imagine that alarm’s been going off the entire time I haven’t been here, which can’t have been nice. But that— it’s also not important right now. What’s important is we’ve missed the deadline, and that is a *big* deal, David. Getting a bad planet? Planet that kills people? Sure! It’s a headache for legal! People die, I’m a bit sad about that. But if you miss a deadline? Automatic trial. And not all clones get trials! Mostly, you just recycle them and move on.

**DAVID**

**(Sarcastically)** I'm so lucky.

**TREXEL**

You're very lucky, David, and you should be thankful that you're gonna now have a trial, at the end of which—gonna admit—almost certainly gonna be recycled, but we have options, David.

**DAVID**

**(Dryly)** What options, Trexel?

**TREXEL**

I... will defend you. You're welcome. You are welcome.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** *You?* **(Immediately)** Can I defend myself??

**TREXEL**

No, absolutely not, you're a piece of property. I'm going to defend you, David, and that is— Well, I'm not gonna say I'm the *best* defence lawyer in the world, because that would be a lie. I've never done this before. But I'm pretty sure I'm pretty great, so I'm gonna give it a damn good go.

**DAVID**

Signs point to no.

**TREXEL**

Signs point... to fun! Come on, David, let's go to the trial room.

**DAVID**

Wait. I'm leaving? The room?

**TREXEL**

Yes! You can't have a trial in here, this is a consultancy room! Are we designing a trial? No, the trial was designed millennia ago!

**DAVID**

Right, I'm not gonna vaporise or burn up or... or anything if I leave this room?

**TREXEL**

No. It's just a door, David.

**DAVID**

**(Unsure)** Are you sure? I don't— I've never been through a door before.

**TREXEL**

Come on.

**DAVID**

Does it hurt?

**TREXEL**

You can hold my hand if you want.

**DAVID**

...No, I'll hold my own hand.

**TREXEL**

Okay. I'm gonna hold *my* own hand as well. It sounds fun. Right. **(Talking to himself)** "Come on, Trexel, you can do this!" "Thank you, Trexel!"

**DAVID**

Why did your other hand say— Doesn't matter.

**TREXEL**

Okay, David, let us go. Haha!

**DAVID**

Okay. Open door...

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Access granted.

**DAVID**

Yes. I'm on this side of the door.

**TREXEL**

Come on, David. Follow me through the door.

**DAVID**

And the other side of the door is on the other side of the door.

**TREXEL**

Yes, come on David. Come out of the room—

**DAVID**

So, lifting— lifting up my foot...

**TREXEL**

—into the hallway!

**DAVID**

Lifting up my foot... extending my foot... putting it down... **[Foot hits ground]**  
on my side of the door.

**TREXEL**

You've just— you've just— you've just sort of stamped, David. That's just a  
stamping movement.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** I don't— I can't— Well— I just— I'm trying... Okay.

**TREXEL**

Move the foot *forward*, David.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

Forward.

**DAVID**

Forward. And... **(very nervous)** down?

**[Door swooshes open, hum of hallway lighting]**

**TREXEL**

There it is!

**DAVID**

**(Voice echoing)** Oh... oh... ooh...

**TREXEL**

**(Voice echoing)** You've got a foot outside.

**DAVID**

And the other one...

**TREXEL**

Now bring that other little trotter out.

**DAVID**

Okay... ah...

**TREXEL**

Come on. Hoofs away!

**DAVID**

**(Nervous noises)** ...I'm outside!

**TREXEL *continued***

And you're outside, David! You're outside! And b—

**DAVID**

**(Immediate panic)** *Ooh*, it's so wide! Ooh! Oh! Where are the walls?! No!

**TREXEL**

Calm, David, calm!

**DAVID**

Where are the walls?!

**TREXEL**

Come here!

**DAVID**

Where are the walls?!

**(David yelps as Trexel slaps him three times)**

**TREXEL**

Calm down, Board damn you!

**(David whimpers)**

**TREXEL**

This is just a hallway, David. Now, I know it's very long—

**DAVID**

**(Hyperventilating)** But it goes— it goes so— it goes on forever!

**TREXEL**

It doesn't go on forever!

**DAVID**

Yes, it does!

**TREXEL**

It just seems like that! David, you have to be calm.

**DAVID**

Uhh...

**TREXEL *continued***

You have to be calm.

**DAVID**

Okay— I'm calm.

**TREXEL**

Calm.

**DAVID**

Calm!

**TREXEL**

Calm!

**DAVID**

I'm calm!

**TREXEL**

Calm!

**DAVID**

I'm calm!

**TREXEL**

**(Yells)** *Calm!*

**DAVID**

**(Screaming)** *I'm calm! Oooh!*

**TREXEL**

Lovely! Wonderful! This is progress, David. It's your first time out.

**DAVID**

**(Breathy)** So calm...

**TREXEL**

So calm.

**DAVID**

So calm...

**TREXEL**

How are you feeling, David?

**DAVID**

**(Extremely shaky)** *Very calm!*

**TREXEL**

I'm feeling pretty calm as well! Now come on, we've gotta make a little walk.

**DAVID**

Okay... walking. Yes. Right.

**TREXEL**

Now, David, you may find walking a little tricky, because—hand to Board—there *is*... a bit of a duty I have been neglecting.

**DAVID**

What?

**TREXEL**

I was *supposed* to be exercising you around the room.

**DAVID**

*What?*

**TREXEL**

Because that means your legs probably have atrophied quite a bit while you've just been sitting in that chair—

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL *continued***

—for weeks and weeks. So you may have a little trouble walking.

**DAVID**

Okay, well, um...

**TREXEL**

Left, right, left, right.

**DAVID**

Left. Right. **[Trexel repeating after him]** Left... right... left... right... **(Increasingly panicked)** left, right, left, right, *right, right, right, right!*—

**TREXEL**

No, left. No no, left! Left! Left— argh!

**[Sounds of pain as David walks into wall]**

**DAVID**

Ohh...

**TREXEL**

David, you've done a little bit of a semicircle into the wall and onto the floor there. Now, word of advice: if you don't go left, right, left, right...

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL *continued***

—I'll go right, left, right, left round to your behind and give you a kick in it!

**DAVID**

Okay, right! No, I'm left-righting, right-lefting, right! Yep!

**TREXEL**

Right.

**DAVID *continued***

Left, right, left, right, left... right! Okay, right... no, left. Uh, yes. Okay. Here I go. **[Takes a step]** Yes. **[Continues walking, Trexel hums]** Hmm... right. Room... 33. Okay. Room... 33? Room... 38? Wait, where did the other rooms go? **(Panicked)** Have we— have we skipped in time? Or space?! Or something? What—

**TREXEL**

David, David, calm yourself down. We don't number things in a *linear* fashion here at Stellar Firma —

**DAVID**

What?

**TREXEL *continued***

—and certainly not rooms.

**DAVID**

What?

**TREXEL *continued***

We shift them around, we reuse them... after a while, everybody loses track.

**DAVID**

Wait. Am I actually the seventh David?

**TREXEL**

Mmm?

**DAVID**

The seventh David. I'm David 7—

**TREXEL**

What?

**DAVID *continued***

—that means I’m one, two, three, four, five, six— David seven.

**TREXEL**

Could be.

**DAVID**

What?

**TREXEL**

Don’t know! Never checked.

**DAVID**

I don’t wanna come— I don’t wanna come before David 32!

**TREXEL**

You could have.

**DAVID**

Ahh!

**TREXEL**

Or you might’ve come after.

**DAVID**

Ohh...

**TREXEL**

Or maybe they never existed!

**DAVID**

*What?!*

**TREXEL**

Or maybe they are right now. Maybe you are both!

**DAVID**

What?! No! I don't wanna be— I'm David 7. I'm David 7... I'm David 7.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** No, that seems ridiculous. That seems ridiculous. I wouldn't worry about it, David.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL *continued***

You know, a golden rule of surviving in Stellar Firma is don't worry about it because the answer's probably *terrifying!*

**DAVID**

Okay... I'm just— just gonna take a sit down on this bench. Here I go—

**TREXEL**

No, that's not a bench, David—

**[Sizzling noise]**

**(David screams)**

**TREXEL**

Now, you've fallen foul of one of the early newbie mistakes of working at Stellar Firma—

**DAVID**

Hot!

**TREXEL *continued***

—the heating ducts look like benches! That is just a piping hot area in order to heat the hallway in the darkness of space. They *have*, however, made them look a lot like a lovely, comfy bench.

**DAVID**

**(Weakly)** Burnt through my onesie...

**TREXEL**

Have you burnt through your onesie?

**(David continues to moan in pain)**

**TREXEL *continued***

You've only got one of those, David!

**DAVID**

I *know!* They're not— the onesie...

**TREXEL**

Hang on, I've got some clone repair tape here.

**DAVID**

Okay, here we go. Right. Oh! Eeh!

**[Trexel unrolls tape and pats it onto David]**

**TREXEL**

There we go. There it is...

**DAVID**

**(Disturbed)** So sticky...

**TREXEL**

There it is. Now, that *will* bond entirely to your skin and become part of you—

**DAVID**

What? No!

**TREXEL *continued***

—but it's the same colour as your suit, so... who cares?

**DAVID**

Hooray...

**TREXEL**

Hooray. Come on.

**DAVID**

Okay...

**[Footsteps continue]**

**(David sighs)**

**TREXEL**

Hmm.

**DAVID**

All the plants are dead...

**TREXEL**

Hmm?

**DAVID**

The plants. They're dead.

**TREXEL**

Oh, yes, they died years and years ago! I think it's actually impressive that they haven't turned into mush. Another wonderful achievement for the Stellar Firma Ltd. Bioengineering Environmental Division. Plants, although dead, do not rot.

**DAVID**

Good, yes, well done...

**TREXEL**

Now, people did say that will mess up the eco-cycle, because you need plants to rot in order to, **(laughs)** to feed the new plants, but this way, the plants die and *nothing* else grows! There's poisoned earth!

**DAVID**

Okay, and we're through this... horrible dark bit.

**[Sound of lights flickering]**

**TREXEL**

Oh, yes. The lights haven't worked here in quite a while. I'll tell you for why— they stopped working... Yes.

**DAVID**

O-Okay, right, well, oh... onto the light, I guess? Um, where— where is the justice room?

**TREXEL**

The what room?

**DAVID**

The justice room!

**TREXEL**

The where room?

**DAVID**

The justice room!

**TREXEL**

Where are we going?

**DAVID**

The room... for the justice??

**TREXEL**

No, I was— I was following you!

**DAVID**

What? No! I don't know where I'm going, *you* know where I'm going!

**TREXEL**

*I* don't know where we're going!

**DAVID**

**(Stammers)** Well, you have to know where we're going—

**TREXEL**

Hang on a minute.

**DAVID**

—otherwise how are we gonna get where we're going?!

**TREXEL**

Hang on a minute. I've got a map here; I drew it at lunch. Hang on. Here we go.

It *is* on a napkin from the Cosmic Lounge, so it has got quite a lot of vomit on it.

**(Examines map briefly)** Okay, th-this way. Come on, this way.

**DAVID**

Right, okay, okay, okay.

**[Metal pipes, light dripping noises]**

**DAVID**

Oh, it's... Oh, it's all very wet down here. Ah, oh...

**TREXEL**

Oh, yeah— don't step in those.

**[More sizzling]**

**(David yells in pain)**

**TREXEL**

Those— that's not a water puddle, that's a battery acid puddle. I *am* taking us through an area marked as "Warning: Battery Acid".

**DAVID**

Oohh... oooohhhkay... ohh, just pick around that...

**TREXEL**

I gave Harry a call about it a little while ago, and said, "Harry! There's battery acid in the hallways!" But he said, **(slight Scottish accent)** "Oh, I can't help, Trexel. Stop calling me, Trexel!" Ahaha! What a guy.

**DAVID**

Right. Okay, are we— are we close yet? I'm getting quite—

**TREXEL**

We are pretty close. Here it is.

**DAVID**

I've got another burn.

**TREXEL**

Just— What have you got another burn on?

**DAVID**

My foot?

**TREXEL**

Oh, and the battery acid.

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

Ah, hang on, I'll put clone tape around that. **[Stretches tape]** It won't help, but it'll make me feel better.

**DAVID**

No— ah! Ooh! Oughh, so sticky...

**TREXEL**

Here we go! There it is. Don't try and pull that off because, as I say, it has bonded to your skin—

**DAVID**

Bonded to my skin, yes.

**TREXEL *continued***

—and will just pull it away, **(chuckling)** and there'll just be *bone*, David!

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL *continued***

Nobody wants bo— you know what? I don't know if clones *have* bones.

**DAVID**

I'm pretty sure I have bones.

**TREXEL**

Clone bones?

**DAVID**

Clone bones.

**TREXEL**

Are clone bones a thing?

**DAVID**

I think— I think I've got clone bones.

**TREXEL**

**(Disbelieving)** Okay...

**DAVID**

Well, I'm—

**TREXEL**

Should we find out? Should we break your leg—

**DAVID**

*No.*

**TREXEL** *continued*

—and see if anything comes out?

**DAVID**

No, let's not.

**TREXEL**

Okay, fine.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

And here we are!

**DAVID**

Okay! In the... **(quietly)** *Jrsstesce* Room.

**TREXEL**

In the what now?

**DAVID**

In the *Jrsstece* Room.

**TREXEL**

David, I want you to think very carefully about something.

**DAVID**

But it's J, space, s, t, space, c, e. Room.

**TREXEL**

David. David. David. David, do you think it's a great idea, *just* as you're about to go on trial, to point out the fact that somebody has misspelled the word 'justice' on the door of the Justice Room? Do you think that the people listening—and don't get me wrong, David! There are *plenty* of people listening right now!—

**DAVID**

What? Oh!

**TREXEL *continued***

—that *you*, just before your trial to see if you're going to *survive*, have chosen this time to be pedantic about the spelling of the word 'justice' on the door?

**DAVID**

...I don't know about you, but I read 'Justice Room' right here.

**TREXEL**

So do I!

**DAVID**

Good ol' justice... yep...

**TREXEL**

Look— look at that interesting and creative spelling of 'justice'! What an intelligent person did that!

**DAVID**

Yes, um...

**TREXEL**

Justice room, indeed!

**DAVID**

Justice room.

**TREXEL**

Come on inside, for some hot, fresh justice.

**DAVID**

Okay... here we go.

**[Door swooshes open]**

**DAVID**

Oh, this looks a lot like the old office!

**TREXEL**

Yeah, nope, eh... all these rooms are pretty much the same except in this room is where the justice happens.

**HARTRO**

Ah, Trexel! David 7. Our trial. I always knew it would end like this... but I didn't think it would happen so soon. Especially after my team building! Did that not do a *thing* for you?

**TREXEL**

Well, I-I think it helped a little bit, but then, you know, events somewhat—

**HARTRO**

You waste *everything* I do. Every good thing I've ever done you've wasted. Well, *I'm* prosecuting today, so get ready to feel the *wrath*.

**TREXEL**

I don't want to feel the wrath! David don't let her use the wrath!

**DAVID**

Trexel stole the brief!

**TREXEL**

Wh— *betrayer*! How could you keep doing this?! I'm defending you, you—

**DAVID**

He— he just took it! He took it from the room—

**HARTRO**

*Save it* for the trial.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Trial initiated.

**[Dramatic musical synth sting]**

**IMOGEN**

Please select justice mode.

**TREXEL**

Ooh, interesting.

**DAVID**

A good one.

**IMOGEN**

Show trial.

**TREXEL**

Mm-hmm.

**IMOGEN**

Kangaroo court.

**TREXEL**

Fun!

**IMOGEN**

Trial by combat.

**DAVID**

No no no no no.

**IMOGEN**

Trial by fire.

**TREXEL**

Interesting!

**DAVID**

Oh, no, no, no.

**IMOGEN**

Trial by bear.

**TREXEL**

Ha!

**DAVID**

Uh...

**IMOGEN**

The Harrowing.

**HARTRO**

Oh, yes.

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

Not that one.

**IMOGEN**

Fair trial.

**TREXEL**

**(Quietly)** Um... let's— what should we go—? Uh—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk, whispered)** Yes! Yeah, that one, that one, that one, that one.

**HARTRO**

The. Harrowing.

**TREXEL**

No— fair— fair trial, fair trial, please. We'd like a fair... trial.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Fair trial selected.

**TREXEL**

Nailed it! David, you are welcome. I am acing this lawyer thing.

**HARTRO**

That's not going to save you.

**TREXEL**

*I'm* going to save him. *I'm* going to save him with my mind!

**HARTRO**

There will be no saving today.

**DAVID**

Can I defend myself? Please?

**TREXEL**

D-David, please, this isn't about you. I'm going to use my big brain. My big, creative brain to save this innocent clone boy— I'd like it on record that my client is innocent. Can I do that? Is that something I do— objection! Overruled! The important thing is—

**HARTRO**

Simmer down, Trexel, we haven't even begun.

**TREXEL**

Okay.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Prosecution initiated.

**[Dramatic musical synth sting]**

**HARTRO**

We all know why we're here. A design brief deadline has been missed. Trexel Geistman. We all know he has some failings.

**TREXEL**

Mm-hmm.

**HARTRO**

He likes to drink moisturiser.

**TREXEL**

Well, yes.

**HARTRO *continued***

*He is consistently late—*

**TREXEL**

Sure.

**HARTRO *continued***

*—He has been hanging around in the ducts, don't ask me why—*

**TREXEL**

Well, it's quiet in there.

**HARTRO *continued***

*—But this is not a trial for Trexel Geistman. No, this is a trial for Trexel Geistman's clone, David 7.*

**TREXEL**

Yes, *that's* him! *That's* the clone right there!

**DAVID**

**(Whispers)** *You're my defence!*

**TREXEL**

That's the one in the corner— Sorry?

**HARTRO**

Trexel—

**DAVID**

**(Whispered)** You're my defence...

**TREXEL**

Oh, I beg your pardon.

**HARTRO**

—*pipe it*. The prosecution will show how David 7's failings have caused a design brief submission to be missed.

**DAVID**

*Trexel* stole the brief!

**TREXEL**

Well, I— you know— Look, that's as maybe, but I think Hartro will agree that any criticism of Stellar Firma Ltd.'s—

**HARTRO**

*Trexel*.

**TREXEL**

—bloodline based—

**HARTRO**

The less you say, the better.

**TREXEL**

But I was going—

**HARTRO**

I am about to tell them why David 7 is at fault.

**TREXEL**

Okay.

**HARTRO**

Can you just *pipe it*?

**TREXEL**

Look, I'm just trying to help.

**HARTRO**

A number of security alerts have been submitted from Trexel Geistman's office. I can only assume that David 7 had something to do with these.

**DAVID**

Wh—

**TREXEL**

**(Softly)** Yes.

**HARTRO**

The tubes in Trexel's office were found to be tampered with. Also, there is an audio blog on I.M.O.G.E.N., and that is something—

**DAVID**

Uhhh...

**TREXEL** *continued*

—that we all know at Stellar Firma clones should not be allowed to do.

**TREXEL**

An audio blog? I didn't know— An audio blog?

**DAVID**

Uhhh...

**HARTRO**

You don't know everything, do you, Trexel?

**TREXEL**

Wh— but David, an audio blog?

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

...David, this is a trial, and they've just accused you of having an audio blog.

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

Do we have a clip of the audio blog?

**HARTRO**

Yes, we do.

**TREXEL**

Okay.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Audio initiating.

**DAVID**

**[Recorded]** Hello. And welcome to... **(Singing badly)** ♪ David's... Fact Corner!  
Where I'm... David 7! With facts! ♪ The... number one and... only, um, audio  
blog from... me, David 7, where I... Da— David 7, bring you... facts! N-Not about  
David 7. About other— other things. Uh— **[Recording cuts off]**

**TREXEL**

David?

**DAVID**

That wasn't me.

**TREXEL**

David, that was entirely inappropriate! Clones aren't allowed audio blogs!

**(David makes noises of muffled consternation)**

**TREXEL *continued***

He's just shaking his head— just shaking his head and shrugging his shoulders. I don't like this David 7 character. I know— Wait a minute, hang on a second, he is an innocent clone boy. Continue.

**HARTRO**

Can the court show that David 7 was nodding his head that that was his voice?

**DAVID**

No! No, I wasn't.

**IMOGEN**

[Beep] Nod recorded.

**HARTRO**

And the tubes in Trexel's office. David 7, can you explain how those were found tampered with?

**TREXEL**

**(Stammers)** Your Honour, I would like to request a writ of silent judgment! By which I can silently judge David and then tell everybody what his answers are.

**IMOGEN**

[Beep] Silent judgment rejected.

**TREXEL**

Ok, worth a go. Okay, David, off you go. Don't incriminate yourself just because you did it. Right, off you go.

**DAVID**

I *didn't* do it.

**TREXEL**

Ok, yeah, well that's as maybe. I don't think anyone really believes that but give it a go.

**DAVID**

I-I didn't— I didn't! I didn't. I didn't. I didn't. I didn't— tubes? I don't know what a tube is. I've never seen a tube in my life.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Guilty plea recorded.

**DAVID**

Wha— tha—! Oh...

**TREXEL**

Did you— did you just plead guilty, David?!

**DAVID**

No!

**TREXEL**

It sounded like you pleaded guilty! It was registered as guilty!

**DAVID**

Wha— I didn't! I didn— **(stammers)**

**TREXEL**

Just stop talking! You're— you're a hot mess, David, you're a hot mess!

**DAVID**

**(Worried)** Oh...

**HARTRO**

To be honest, it doesn't really matter what David 7 says. This is all just for show and we need to carry on and this is very inconvenient, Trexel.

**TREXEL**

I think we selected "fair trial", Hartro.

**DAVID**

We did select fair trial.

**TREXEL**

We selected the fair trial.

**HARTRO**

The Harrowing would have been much quicker.

**TREXEL**

Well, yes, it would have been much quicker, but it would be messier as well.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** But I don't want to be *Harrowed!*

**HARTRO**

Right, David 7, there also have been a number of security alerts. Would you like to speak anything about that?

**TREXEL**

Yes, security alerts, David. What do you think of those?

**DAVID**

Uh, Trexel spends a lot of time sad, and that... sets off a security alert.

**TREXEL**

I also had that fish one time.

**HARTRO**

I'm not buying— oh— *fish?*

**TREXEL**

Yes, I had a fish.

**HARTRO**

You had fish in the office?

**TREXEL**

I have a fish right now! Hang on, I'll just get it.

**HARTRO**

*Do not* take out the fish, Trexel—

**[Fish slapping sounds]**

**TREXEL**

There it is! There it is!

**IMOGEN**

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

**TREXEL**

Fine, fine sea bass. Look at it then. Yes...

**DAVID**

See? It's Trexel's security alerts! I have nothing to do with this!

**TREXEL**

A fine bass. A fine, fine bass. Look at it there. Look at the lines, sultry lines...

**HARTRO**

So, David 7, you *do* admit that there were fish in the office?

**TREXEL**

Kiss me, you fool.

**HARTRO**

In the— in the design room, there were fish.

**DAVID**

He's licking that fish!

**TREXEL**

Oh yes... whoa, hey! Hoo now, this is for private time. Just gonna pop the fish back in there.

**[Puts fish back in the bag]**

**DAVID**

Look— but— the number of security alerts that come from Trexel’s office probably haven’t significantly increased while *I’ve* been there.

**TREXEL**

Good point. Let’s check the statistics. How many were there before David and how many are there after?

**IMOGEN**

[Beep]

**HARTRO**

There were one hundred and— let me— seventeen before David—

**TREXEL**

Mm-hmm. The week before. Okay. Week after?

**HARTO**

—and, uh, three hundred and ninety.

**TREXEL**

Okay, that *is* more, David. That is more.

**DAVID**

Oh... um...

**HARTRO**

That’s significantly more. So—

**TREXEL**

That is more. How do you plead, you guilty fool?! Hang on a second. Hang on.  
Wind that back a little bit. How do you plead, you innocent fiend?!

**DAVID**

I-Innocently?

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Lie detected.

**TREXEL**

Ah, David, you're *really* bad at this!

**DAVID**

Ohh...

**TREXEL** *continued*

Hang on. Just— Let's just test something. Say you're innocent, David?

**DAVID**

I'm innocent.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Lie detected.

**TREXEL**

Well, you know, I'm gonna do my best, David, but it's stacking up against us!  
This is a fair trial we selected.

**DAVID**

Oh. Oh... I'm David 7?

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** ...Truth acknowledged.

**TREXEL**

There we go.

**DAVID**

**(Disappointed)** Oh, okay.

**TREXEL**

Well, at least that's true! At least that's true.

**HARTRO**

I would *also* like to add that there was a time, David 7, where you tried to give me clone slurry.

**(David stutters)**

**TREXEL**

That is assault.

**(David continues to stutter)**

**HARTRO**

That is an assault on a line manager.

**DAVID**

I— I— I can only *give* you— you wha— I just— you wanted to get slurry—

**TREXEL**

Listen to him. Listen to him blabber.

**HARTRO**

Yes.

**DAVID**

I could only— clone slurry—

**TREXEL**

That's the blabbering of the innocent, in my opinion.

**DAVID**

I can't— it shocking—

**HARTRO**

And stop there. I'd also like to add David 7 is sassy. He's a clone, and clones should not be sassy.

**TREXEL**

It's true, you are a sassy, sassy boy, David.

**DAVID**

No, I'm not.

**IMOGEN**

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

**TREXEL**

There you go.

**HARTRO**

I rest my case.

**TREXEL**

Damned from his own innocent mouth!

**HARTRO**

And it is for these reasons that the prosecution recommends that David 7 be recycled without any delay.

**TREXEL**

That's— that's pretty, pretty convincing. I know if I was a judge, I'd be blending you right now. But I'm not! I'm a defence lawyer so best of luck to me!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Defence initiated.

**[Dramatic musical synth sting]**

**TREXEL**

My turn! My turn! Ooh, I love this bit. Okay, hang on, let me just get into the zone. Right, okay. **(Talking to himself)** Justice... justice well. Get a bucket of truth, dip it in the justice well! Pull it up! It takes a long time, because justice is hard but here it is! The weight in your arms pours you into a cup of integrity. Take a sip—

**DAVID**

Trexel.

**TREXEL**

Sorr— What?

**DAVID**

Please take the wig off.

**TREXEL**

Hang on a second! Take a sip— mm, that’s sweet, sweet justice. Throw it in the face of lies!

**(David yelps)**

**TREXEL**

Sorry David, sorry. I didn’t mean to throw— Although, you *are* full of lies...

**DAVID**

Please, please take the curly wig off!

**TREXEL**

Well, I like the curly wig. I think—

**HARTRO**

And could you please put the fish down?

**[Fish sounds resume]**

**TREXEL**

Well— Fine, okay, fine.

**[Puts fish back in the bag]**

**TREXEL** *continued*

Just pop that back in there. **(To the fish)** I'll deal with you... later. **(To Hartro)** I intend to prove today, to you, the assembled people and clones and AI matrices, which, might I say, are sounding particularly sultry today! Did you defrag your core, I.M.O.G.E.N.?

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Flattery rejected. Security alerted.

**TREXEL**

Worth. A. Go. But we have all gathered to find the truth. What is truth? That's an interesting question. I have a flip chart. Can I get the flip chart out? **[Paper rustles]**

**HARTRO**

Oh, Trexel, this is such a waste of time!

**TREXEL**

Okay, well then, we won't use the flip chart! **[Throws away chart]** I don't need it. Truth doesn't need a flip chart. It just needs a keen mind, a wide mouth! Big, hairy hands! Big thigh—

**[Fish noises resume]**

**HARTRO**

*Put the fish down.*

**TREXEL**

Okay, **[Puts fish back in the bag]** I'll just pop that back in there. I'll deal with you... justice. Now, I understand David 7 looks guilty. Because of his guilt, for one? Sure. Because of the fact that he has wide, terrified eyes, the eyes of the guilty? But if you look deep into those eyes, you'll see a tiny little barcode in there, because that's how we tell clones apart when we want to do that. And if you scan that barcode, you know what it says? Clone. And who among us hasn't been a clone at one time in our life or other— I know I haven't! Neither has Hartro. It's only David. I'm not sure what point I'm making, but the *important* thing is that David is *guilty* and should be *recycled*— Hang on.

**HARTRO**

Can we please initiate the Harrowing? Please.

**TREXEL**

No, no we can't initiate the Harrowing!

**DAVID**

No! Please don't Harrow me!

**TREXEL**

Okay, hang on, let— I can do— I can do this. David 7. Thief? Who can say? That's not what we're talking about here but think about it! Look at his shifty eyes. I intend to prove here today, now, in this time, in this second— well, that second's gone. But we're gonna come back 'round to that second because the universe is infinite and sort of a— a closed circle, so eventually everything will come back 'round. So— so— what does any of this really matter, if you think about it? Uh-huh? Uh-huh? I.M.O.G.E.N.? Does— does any of this really matter?

**IMOGEN**

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

**TREXEL**

This keeps happening. This keeps happening. What is it— why have security never turned up? I keep on alerting them and they never turn up. Am I not important enough? I— I demand a trial for security because security are the *real* ones that—!

**HARTRO**

**(Through gritted teeth)** *Oh my Board*, Trexel, can you just shut your trap for one second?! We've come to the end of the line! We are at a trial! David 7 is here. He is about to be recycled! Just. Shut. Your mouth.

**TREXEL**

Can I—

**(Hartro shushes)**

**TREXEL *continued***

Can I finish my case?

**HARTRO**

Shut! Your mouth.

**TREXEL**

Can I just— I just want— closing statement—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Shut it now or I'll put a foot in it.

**TREXEL**

I... I do not accept trial by foot. I will... rest my defence. In saying—!

**HARTRO**

And rest.

**TREXEL**

In saying! That David 7—

**DAVID**

**(Tiredly)** Yes?

**TREXEL**

Sweet, innocent thief David 7—

**DAVID**

*No.*

**TREXEL**

—is not guilty of this particular crime, but I'd keep an eye on him! Because, you know—

**DAVID**

**(Resigned)** I'll take it. I'll take it.

**TREXEL *continued***

—there's no smoke without fire. Mm-hmm. Okay. The defence rests.

**[Dramatic musical sting]**

**HARTRO**

In closing, I think it's worth mentioning, obviously Trexel is not the one on trial here.

**TREXEL**

No justice! No justice for Trexel.

**HARTRO**

Yes. It's David 7 that we're here for today. But let us find out more about Trexel Geistman. The man, the myth, the shuttle crash.

**TREXEL**

I crashed *one* shuttle.

**HARTRO**

The planet destroyer.

**TREXEL**

Okay, that happened a few times.

**HARTRO**

Who is he?

**TREXEL**

Who am I? Who are we asking?

**HARTRO**

I have a collection of voice clips that I will play now, if the court approves.

**TREXEL**

Ooh! Please! I would love to hear what people think of me.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Surprise evidence approved. Audio initiating.

**[Stellar Firma theme plays]**

**WITNESS 1**

Trexel Geistman? Well, I've— I've got nothing against him personally, but, uh... well, he did leave me to die on that asteroid that time.

**WITNESS 2**

He's the reason I only have one eye, you know.

**WITNESS 3**

A planet he designed travelled itself back in time and affected my home world's orbit! Now I'm stuck in a time paradox and my body's evolved all weird...

**WITNESS 4**

Trexel Geistman. If ever I come across him again, I will do to him what he did to my space tug.

**DAVID**

**[Recorded]** Well, he's always late, and honestly quite abusive, and he's— he's just a terrible planet designer! He's just— he's just really, really bad. Uh— anyway, what is this for?

**TREXEL**

David, how could you?

**TREXEL**

**[Recorded]** Well, I would describe myself as a sort of a— a design maverick and a liar! An absolute liar! I should know, because I'm lying right now. Or am I? Ha ha, gotcha. Or did I? I'm in a bush. Anyway, what's this for?

**[Recording clicks off, music stops]**

**HARTRO**

And after hearing what we've all heard now, we have to ask ourselves, can we really trust Trexel Geistman? When he says David 7 is innocent, well, we know that just simply is not true. In fact, often the *opposite* of what Trexel Geistman says is, indeed, true. Trexel Geistman's words... not equal to true. I rest my case.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Character assassination approved.

**TREXEL**

Oh come on, we selected fair! May I say one final thing in closing be— before sentencing?

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Final desperate plea approved.

**TREXEL**

Thank you, I.M.O.G.E.N.. Thank you. We've all heard a lot today and... I might not know a lot about justice, but I know one thing: I'm Trexel Geistman. Not your big-city Stellar Firma centrally approved attorney-lawyer-person-thing. But I know a thing or two about *home* truths. The truths that *really cut deep*.

**TREXEL *continued***

I know when I look out at this courtroom at these angry, angry faces, at the sweating clone here, there is something that really hits home. The old ways are the best. Ignore your problems. Move on! Don't— don't— don't overanalyse stuff! Think about— think about the little guy. The small businessperson. The microscopic germ that's been defrauded of their savings. That's who we really need to— to focus on.

**TREXEL *continued***

Because if there's one thing I know—and I'm aware that that's three things now—but if there's one thing that I know? It's that justice is a dish best served tepid. Not too hot! You'll burn your mouth, and then the skin will come away. But not too cold. Cold justice? What's that? That sounds like a bad procedural. "I'm Justin Cold Justice, attorney of death!"

**TREXEL *continued***

But the important thing is, and I should know a thing or two about things, because I am one... I think we're all things here. I'm a thing, you're a thing. I.M.O.G.E.N., sort of a thing. So, aren't we all just things together, in this crazy mixed-up world?

**HARTRO**

Is this going anywhere?

**TREXEL**

To sum up! The justice that must be served today is a justice of a temperature of our own choosing. When we look back on this date, years from now, we want to think, “Yes, that was some lukewarm justice that was served that day.” And I spoon it into my mouth. And I spooned it into the mouth of my friends! And my friends turned to me and said, “You’re invited to a dinner party, Trexel. You *don’t* have to break in through an air vent! You’re invited and there’s a chair for you, and you don’t have to push Jackson off his chair to get in!”

**TREXEL *continued***

...So in closing, if justice is to be served here today... and if justice is to be observed here today, not running behind a bush, but in plain sight with a strong light shined on it so justice goes, “*Whoa!* What’s that light all about?”, that we need to accept one home truth. Back home, where we all live at home. That without David 7, I am a lesser consultant. No other consultant has loved a clone more than me, and no other clone has survived longer in my care than David 7. And on that fact alone, and with that one point, and with that one home truth, living in your house, eating stuff out of your fridge, you *must* agree! You *cannot* reject the fact that I *love* him! ...Love is strong. I *like* him... quite a bit. The defence rests.

**IMOGEN**

[Beep] Plea accepted... Guilty.

**[Dramatic musical synth sting]**

**TREXEL**

**(Heated)** *Damn it, damn it, damn it!*

**DAVID**

Oh, dear.

**TREXEL**

I thought I did a really good job!

**DAVID**

No, you didn't. You did a terrible job.

**TREXEL**

You're guilty, David!

**DAVID**

Well—

**TREXEL**

Fine, fine. I didn't want to have to do this, but there is one way out of this *hot mess* of your own creation, David. The employee handbook! **(Brandishes handbook, gasps)** "Oh, gosh, what's he got there? Oh, I didn't think he would— he's a small-town country lawyer. **(Gasps)** Oh my gosh, what's he gonna—"

**DAVID**

*Trexel.*

**TREXEL**

Sorry, sorry. Sorry! Sorry. **[Flips open book]** David 7 is property of Stellar Firma, and I, Trexel Geistman, am acting *in loco parentis* of that property. *Vis-à-vis, avec moi*, he is my property. We all agree? Yes, we do.

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** What are you doing? Trexel, what are you doing?

**TREXEL**

A-ha! I am— I am justicing, right here, right now. Give me a— give me a little bit of arm room for my justice. *So*, if Trexel Geistman owns David 7, then under the trading statutes of the Employee Handbook, Section Y6354, paragraph 478, sentence K: “*In cases of property confiscation and destruction, a Consultant*”— that’s me—“*has the right to invoke swapsies.*” **(Gasp)** Swapsies, gasp! Gasps around the courtroom. “Swapsies.”

**DAVID**

Trexel.

**TREXEL**

“Oh, what’s swapsies? I hope he explains it.”

**DAVID**

*Trexel!*

**TREXEL**

He’s gonna explain it! I may switch out property of equal value to be confiscated in place of the property originally proposed. As such, I, Trexel

Geistman, am giving up my privileges and employee access to the Cosmic Lounge. **[Silence]** Audible gasps. Audible gasps from everyone.

**HARTRO**

This is ridiculous.

**TREXEL**

And it is with great personal sacrifice that I, Trexel KGK Geistman, do hand in my employee access card to the Cosmic Lounge, and in so doing, save the sweet clone life... **(shaky breath)** of David 7.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Swapsies requested. Evaluating submission.

**TREXEL**

**(Muttered)** Please, come on, please.

**IMOGEN**

Submission granted.

**DAVID**

Really?

**IMOGEN**

David 7 swapsied.

**TREXEL**

Yes!!

**DAVID**

Yes!! Swapsied!

**IMOGEN**

Please submit employee access card for recycling.

**TREXEL**

Ahh...

**[Sounds of card being shredded]**

**TREXEL**

Oh, there she goes!

**HARTRO**

This is such a sham.

**TREXEL**

Shine on, you crazy access card...

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Trial concluded.

**[Dramatic musical synth sting]**

**HARTRO**

**(Angrily)** Well, that was a waste of time.

**(David gives a relieved sigh)**

**HARTRO *continued***

Trexel— Augh! That’s it. I have an appointment, I’m off. I’m going to be keeping my eyes on you, Trexel, so don’t. Screw. Up.

**TREXEL**

**(Smugly)** Bye, Hartro. See you next week.

**[Door swooshes closed]**

**TREXEL**

We did it, David. We did it as a team.

**DAVID**

Trexel—

**TREXEL**

A team that I led and beautifully executed.

**DAVID**

Could you have always swapsied?

**TREXEL**

Beg your pardon?

**DAVID**

Could you have always done swapsies?

**TREXEL**

Oh, yes, absolutely. That was always an option.

**DAVID**

**(Furious)** And you knew about it from the start?!

**TREXEL**

Well, I wanted to have a go at the trial, David. I've never had a go at a trial! Would you— would you— would you take from me the pleasure of doing a speech at a trial? That's— that's the top, David. That's the pinnacle of Geistman!

**DAVID**

I thought I was gonna be *recycled!*

**TREXEL**

Well, we all have, you know, woes and worries —

**(David sighs and whimpers)**

**TREXEL *continued***

—and I don't think you should make this all about you. You're been quite selfish, David. I saved your life! Eventually!

**DAVID**

Yes, okay, you did, and I appreciate it. I know the Cosmic Lounge was important to you, and you're not gonna be able to see Harry anymore, so—

**TREXEL**

Well... I mean...

**DAVID**

—thank you.

**TREXEL**

That's not *entirely* true, I mean, I... I'll just go to the Astral Bar with him.

**DAVID**

What?

**TREXEL**

The Astral Bar. It's next door. It's actually a little bit nicer than the Cosmic Lounge, but you know, it hasn't got as good pool tables, so I don't normally go there. But Harry will be down there already. In fact, **(chuckles)** I'll pop off at the moment!

**DAVID**

**(Furious)** *Trexel!!! Right, that's it!*

**[Voices become tinny, as if being heard through recording]**

**DAVID**

**(Screams)** Come here and gimme that fish! G-Give it!

**[Sounds of struggle, David beating Trexel over the head with fish]**

**TREXEL**

Get off that. That's mine! **(Yelling)** Hartro! Save me, Hartro! He's gone mad! He's a guilty clone, blend him! Blend him! *Blend him!*

**[Fish slaps continue]**

**IMOGEN**

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

**[Click of recording playback ending]**

**NUMBER 1**

Well, well, well... who would've thought it of old Geistman? No matter.  
Number 48?

**NUMBER 48**

Yes, Number 1?

**NUMBER 1**

I think we will be taking a... **(ominously)** very close interest in David 7 from  
now on.

**NUMBER 48**

What?

**NUMBER 1**

I said I think that we and David 7 are going to be crossing paths again.  
Presently.

**NUMBER 48**

Well, what does that mean?

**NUMBER 1**

It means that— it means that David 7 will be hearing from us soon. Very soon.

**NUMBER 48**

See, this is exactly it! This is what I've been talking about! Clear communication  
in the workplace. Congratulations, you sound very impressive and scary, but I

haven't got a damn clue what to do with it! Are we killing David 7? Are we kidnapping him? Sending him a threatening note?

**NUMBER 1**

No, that's not what I mean—

**NUMBER 48**

You *always* do this. Always with the ominous tone. You're not impressing anyone. This is exactly what Dr. Kroll was talking about, communication is key. Clear communication. You don't listen. You never listen.

**[Footsteps retreat, door swooshes closed]**

**[Show Theme - Outro]**

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