

STL – 30 – Logic and Line Managers

Content Warnings

- Comedic violence
- Emotional abuse
- Alcoholism

[Show Theme - Intro]

IMOGEN

Rusty Quill presents: Stellar Firma.

[Show Theme – Intro *Continued*]

[Fade into peaceful music]

[Footsteps approach, door opens]

TREXEL

David!

[Music distorts and fades out]

DAVID

(Startled) Ah! Oh! What?! **(Screams intermittently)**

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) David, get up! Sit down! Turn around! Not there, get on the floor!
Leave— leave me alone! Leave me alone! Stop interrogating me!

DAVID

Trexel! Trexel! Trexel! (**Frazzled sounds**)

TREXEL

What— sorry!

DAVID

Wha— why?

TREXEL

I panicked.

DAVID

What— / panicked!

TREXEL

We're panicking.

DAVID

Yes, why are we panicking?!

TREXEL

Maybe it's because of the pod, David. Maybe we need to take the pod away.

DAVID

No!!

TREXEL

It's clearly causing... problems.

DAVID

No! No, no, the pod is the— the one shining light in my otherwise miserable and grey existence.

TREXEL

Well, then—

DAVID

Don't take the pod away!

TREXEL *continued*

I don't know why you're complaining, David! Just—

DAVID

Because you came in and just started shouting instructions at me!

TREXEL

You can't prove anything!

DAVID

This is *recorded* for the Build... wait. Wait, who is this recorded for?

TREXEL

That's a very good question, David!

[Beat]

DAVID

Which I'd like an answer for!

TREXEL

I'm sure you would, and so would I!

DAVID

Right, okay, so what you're saying is you don't *know*... who this goes to or why this is recorded?

IMOGEN

[Beep] The answers to some questions are: immediate recycling.

TREXEL

David, you're very question-y today, and I don't like the questions.

DAVID

Um, okay.

TREXEL

The important thing is, let's get down to sales business! Where's the brief?

DAVID

Okay, right, I'll go get the— **[pause]** Wait, where's the brief?

TREXEL

Where is the brief, David?

DAVID

(Crosstalk) Sorry, that's— question— No, but where's— where's the brief?

TREXEL

Where's the brief, David?

DAVID

No, but there is no brief.

TREXEL

David, there's got to be a brief!

DAVID

No, look! Look in the— look in— I— look in the—

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) How can you sales without a brief? Brief is sales, sales is brief!

Equals *sales brief!*

DAVID

Look in the brief hole!

TREXEL

Hang on. **(Muttering)**

DAVID

See?

TREXEL

There's just an empty, hollow lack of brief!

DAVID

It's an empty brief hole!

TREXEL

Well, hang on.

DAVID

There's no brief!

TREXEL

What day is it, David?

DAVID

What day? It's... well, it would be review day, but— we don't do reviews anymore!

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) We don't have reviews anymore.

DAVID

So where's the brief?

TREXEL

I don't know!

DAVID

Am— am I gonna go on trial again?!

TREXEL

(Gasps) David!

DAVID

Am I gonna— what?

[Sounds of Hartro screaming as she falls through the tube]

IMOGEN

[Beep] Line manager arriving.

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) David! David! Oh, no!

DAVID

(Crosstalk) What— what’s going— Wait, wait, wai—

[Hartro lands with a splash, panicked screaming from David and Trexel]

TREXEL

David—

DAVID

Hartro! Hartro!

TREXEL

Ah! HARTRO! HARTRO!

HARTRO

Ah...

DAVID

Why? Why is Hartro here?!

TREXEL

WHY IS HARTRO HERE?!

HARTRO

(Incredibly strained) Hello, boys!

DAVID

No!

TREXEL

I thought we left you, you scourge of Board!

HARTRO

You can't leave me, Trexel, and apparently, I can never leave you *either*.

DAVID

But it's not review day...

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) What did you do? What did you *do?!*

HARTRO

I've just come from the stakeholders' meeting! And guess what? They—

TREXEL

(All panic forgotten) Ooh! Ooh! A game! Um, um... the stakeholders have fired you. Out of a cannon into space!

HARTRO

Trexel, I am continuing to be your line manager, **(Trexel groans)** so you can relax now! And David 7—

DAVID

(Troubled) Oh...

HARTRO *continued*

—look at the ease on his face... the joy in the eyes...

DAVID

(Weakly) Yaaaay.

HARTRO

I am here.

DAVID

Hartro's here...

HARTRO

Truth has been restored and the stakeholders, they just needed a little probing and reminding that we come as a *team*.

TREXEL

A team?

HARTRO

Don't we come as a team...

TREXEL

We're a team like a... shark eating a *horse* is a team!

HARTRO

(Gleeful) Yes, and I'm the shark!

TREXEL

Oh, I'm a horse! **(Hartro laughs evilly)** Ah, look at my hooves! My wanton hooves!

DAVID

I am David.

IMOGEN

[Beep] I'm I.M.O.G.E.N.!

TREXEL

Well, *Hartro*, I've got a little problem that I think you're going to struggle to solve!

HARTRO

Shoot.

TREXEL

You review us for our planet designs!

DAVID

Yes— no planets, no reviews!

TREXEL

No planet design! No— my— Sure—

HARTRO

Yeah.

TREXEL *continued*

—we knock a couple of ideas about, but mostly it’s about meetings! Of minds, **(David makes approving sounds)** of people, of *ideas*...

DAVID

And that’ll be client feedback!

TREXEL

You can’t review that!

DAVID

Not Hart-reviews.

TREXEL

You can’t review that!

HARTRO

If I didn’t know better, I would think that you didn’t want me here—

DAVID

(Placating Hartro) No! What are you talking about?

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) That’s *exactly* it. That’s exactly it.

HARTRO *continued*

(Crosstalk) —but obvious— that’s obviously not—

DAVID

No, that's not exactly it— that's not it at all!

TREXEL

What, is it not?

DAVID

Noo, it's not at all!

TREXEL

But I don't—

DAVID *continued*

—'Cause Hartro is our *line manager* again...

HARTRO

Yes, and you *are* right—

TREXEL

(Disappointed) Oh.

HARTRO *continued*

—on one account, Trexel, I will give you this one little titbit check. Gold star, I am not reviewing your planets—

TREXEL

Excellent. You can leave. Leave the room.

HARTRO

(Warningly) Trexel.

TREXEL

Please leave.

HARTRO

Trexel?

TREXEL

Okay.

HARTRO

I am staying, and I don't like that tone.

TREXEL

I'm sorry, Hartro, I just— **(choked up)** I just really got used to the idea that— you'd never— well, you know... *see me* again.

HARTRO

Well, get *unused* to the idea, because I am here. I am here to line manage, and to teach you... listen clearly... how to sale properly!

TREXEL

(Very upset) WHAT?!

HARTRO

Yes, I'm your sales training line manager.

TREXEL

This will— I— Who—

DAVID

Wait, but Trexel’s training me.

IMOGEN

[Beep] Warning: consultant spiralling.

TREXEL

I’m a trained salesman!

HARTRO

What? Trexel’s training you?

TREXEL

Trexel trained salesman!

DAVID

Yes, his— his—his ultimate guide to destroying sales.

HARTRO

What?

TREXEL

Ten Step Guide to Ultimate Sales Domination.

[Cheerful jingle]

HARTRO

Okay, well, this has not come too soon. Obviously, you need some guidance, and I'm here to do that.

TREXEL

Well— **(coughs)**

HARTRO

Now David, you lucky, lucky clone, you do not have to take all of your information from Trexel. I'm here to appease your mind—

DAVID

Okay.

HARTRO *continued*

—with some sales wisdom.

DAVID

It was mainly shouting and lying but it did seem to be working.

HARTRO

I can imagine.

TREXEL

David, do not impugn my system!

HARTRO

We all know that I don't shout. **(Chuckles)**

TREXEL

(Sadly) It's a good system.

HARTRO

So, today, for your special enjoyment, we will be doing some logic puzzles—

DAVID

Oh!

HARTRO *continued*

—and some brain teasers!

DAVID

Oh, I like having my brain teased.

HARTRO

Mm, yeah.

DAVID *continued*

Instead of my body and spirit.

HARTRO

So, just to get us warmed up, I'm just going to throw some ideas around, alright?

DAVID

Okay! Okay!

TREXEL

Is this a competition?

HARTRO

Yes.

TREXEL

Oh, good. Okay.

DAVID

What?

HARTRO

One of you—

TREXEL

I'm back on board.

HARTRO

One of you will win.

DAVID

What?

HARTRO

Yes.

TREXEL

What will we win? Uh, will it be access to the Cosmic Lounge again? Please, please, the drinks at the Astral Bar aren't f—

HARTRO

(Crosstalk) No. No, Trexel, that will— that will never happen. You— you gave that up.

DAVID

For me!

HARTRO

Stop living in the past.

DAVID

For me. For David. Hello.

HARTRO

For— for— for a David.

TREXEL

(Quietly) Yes, I remember.

HARTRO

Okay. Imagine a clone, not unlike David—

DAVID

Hello.

HARTRO *continued*

—is tied to a four-metre-long rope.

DAVID

Oh!

HARTRO

Okay?

TREXEL

Okay.

HARTRO

Alright, you imagining?

DAVID

I've never been tied to—

TREXEL

By what body part?

HARTRO

Let's say—

DAVID

Uh... *the knees!*

HARTRO

You want to be tied by the knees?

DAVID

Yes!

HARTRO

Right, well then—

TREXEL

By the knees.

DAVID

Wait, I'm being tied by the knees? I thought this was a hypothetical thing.

HARTRO

Sorry.

DAVID *continued*

I don't want my hypothetical knees hypothetically tied!

HARTRO

Hypothetically, a clone, much like David—

TREXEL

Mm-hmm.

HARTRO *continued*

—but not David 7—

DAVID

David 8.

TREXEL

A Davalogue.

HARTRO

David— David 8. Okay.

DAVID

Yes.

HARTRO

David 8 is tied by a four-metre-long rope and there is a *lovely* clone slurry.
Just— just—

DAVID

Ooh! Mm!

HARTRO *continued*

—just twenty metres away from David. I mean, David 8.

DAVID

But wait a minute! The— the rope's not long enough.

TREXEL

You're not gonna be able to get to that slurry, David!

DAVID

No! No! That's impossible! It's impossible! I saw my knees off! I eat my
kneecaps!

TREXEL

David! David, please!

HARTRO

How— how— however, however, listen. The David... the David manages to get the slurry. Okay. How come? The timer has started. You can begin.

[Upbeat, chiptune quiz music plays]

DAVID

Wait! Um... uh... s-s— uh, slimed out of the rope because his knees are very... slippery.

HARTRO

Eh-eh.

IMOGEN

[Error buzz] Incorrect.

TREXEL

Foolish. You can't get to the slime— You've got to get to the slurry!

DAVID

No, I'm always slimy! That's my secret!

TREXEL

Oh, good point. But I think it is this: a kindly consultant named, let's say, Gexel Heistman, **[quiz music grows distorted and fades out]** goes and gets the clone slurry, and very kindly places it on the clone's face.

HARTRO

Oh. You— Trexel, this is a side I haven't seen of you before. That— that you are kind, that you went and got the slurry—

TREXEL

Yep. Did I win? Have I won now?

HARTRO

(Crosstalk) No, because that's not the answer.

DAVID

Wait, wait, wait. Make the noise! Make the noise at him.

HARTRO

Eh-eh.

IMOGEN

[Error buzz] Incorrect.

TREXEL

Argh!

DAVID

Yes! Yes! Yes!

HARTRO

Eh-eh.

TREXEL

I don't like it.

DAVID

Right, um—

HARTRO

That means you're wrong.

TREXEL

I understand.

DAVID

Okay, okay. My go now. My go now.

HARTRO

Oh! **[Upbeat, chiptune quiz music plays]** Ten seconds left!

DAVID

Oh, oh, I— I bite through the rope.

HARTRO

Nope. Eh-eh.

IMOGEN

[Error buzz] Incorrect.

[Quiz music distorts, speeds up]

TREXEL

You fight through the rope.

HARTRO

Eh-eh.

IMOGEN

[Error buzz] Incorrect.

TREXEL

You kite—

DAVID

You light up the rope!

IMOGEN

[Error buzz] Incorrect.

HARTRO

Eh-eh.

TREXEL

You use a kite to kite the rope.

HARTRO

Eh-eh.

IMOGEN

[Error buzz] Incorrect.

DAVID

I take sight of the rope.

HARTRO

Eh-eh.

IMOGEN

[Error buzz] Incorrect.

TREXEL

Hike out of the rope!

[Music stops]

HARTRO

(With emphasis) Eh-eh!

['Game Over' type tune]

DAVID

Oh no, the big eh-eh. **(Babbles disappointedly)**

HARTRO

Whomp whomp whomp!

DAVID

Awww.

TREXEL

Okay, well, this seems insulting.

HARTRO

I will train you. Okay. So, the rope... listen to it... is not tied to anything.

TREXEL

No!

HARTRO

It's not tied to—

DAVID

But it's tied to my knees!

HARTRO

To your knee but nothing else!

TREXEL

But not to an anchor point, David.

HARTRO

Do you see— Okay, so—

DAVID

Oh, so I *hop* over to the clone slurry!

HARTRO

Yes, you can hop, you can run—

DAVID

And gorge!

HARTRO

You're not actually tied to anything!

DAVID

Oh.

HARTRO

So, this is what I want to get—

DAVID

That was a trick question. I didn't like that.

TREXEL

That was a trick question.

HARTRO

No. No. Eh-eh. Eh-eh.

DAVID

(Crosstalk) It was— it was— oh—

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) You tricked— oh—

HARTRO

No. No, this is just to show you that sometimes you create obstacles where there are none.

TREXEL

Is this designed to give us lateral brains?

DAVID

Did Trexel tie me up?

TREXEL

Did I tie him up?

HARTRO

Okay, moving on. Probably. Yes. Right, so, uh, points to me for that one **[triumphant tone]** because I made a very good point at the end but—

TREXEL

Wait, you can win?

HARTRO

I could win. **[Trexel groans]** Odds are I will win.

TREXEL

Did we find out what the prize was?

HARTRO

Lots of good things. Right, next. Imagine there are three cups of alcohol.

TREXEL

Yum yum yum, all gone!

HARTRO

No, Trexel. Imagine—

TREXEL

Mm-hmm.

HARTRO *continued*

—that there are three cups—

TREXEL

Yum. Yum.

HARTRO *continued*

—of—

TREXEL

Yum!

HARTRO *continued*

—alcohol—

TREXEL

All gone.

HARTRO *continued*

—on the counter here.

TREXEL

Yum.

HARTRO

Right. And you take one—

TREXEL

Mm, it's gone.

HARTRO *continued*

—how many do you have?

[Upbeat, chiptune quiz music plays]

TREXEL

Uh, all three.

[Quiz music distorts]

DAVID

Two.

[Music stops]

TREXEL

I've had all three.

DAVID

There are two left. You took one.

TREXEL

No, I've had all three.

HARTRO

Eh— I just want to look at David 7 and go “eh-eh”.

IMOGEN

[Error buzz] Incorrect.

DAVID

What? Wait!

HARTRO

I would like to look at Trexel and say... “eh-eh”.

IMOGEN

[Error buzz] Incorrect.

DAVID

But there were three—

TREXEL

And I drank them all.

DAVID *continued*

—and you took one.

HARTRO

Yes.

DAVID

How many are left?

HARTRO

I'll repeat the question.

TREXEL

Say it again but slower... and with real alcohol.

DAVID

Uh, Trexel, please stop trying to drink the question.

(Trexel grumbles)

HARTRO

If there are three cups of alcohol (**Trexel slurps**) —

DAVID

Yes?

HARTRO *continued*

—on the counter (**Trexel slurps**) and you take one away—

TREXEL

Num num num.

HARTRO *continued*

—how many do you have?

[Upbeat, chiptune quiz music plays]

DAVID

One, because you took one.

[Quiz music distorts and ends]

HARTRO

Yes!

DAVID

Yes!

HARTRO

David 7!

TREXEL

No!

[Triumphant tone]

DAVID

Points for David! Ding-ding! Ding-ding!

HARTRO

David, you won't be able to drink this but here's a cup of alcohol!

DAVID

Um, I will not—

TREXEL

Give that to me!!

DAVID

No, I'm not gonna touch it. It's not clone alcohol.

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) Give it! **(Desperate)** Please! Please, give it to me!

HARTRO

So, if—

DAVID

I will take a victory swig from the slurry tube.

[Slurry pouring out of the tube, David slurping it up]

DAVID

Mm.

TREXEL

(With barely concealed desire) Well, as that, uh, lovely cup of alcohol is going unused perhaps it could come over to *these* lips.

HARTRO

(Crosstalk) Nonetheless— No no no no. **(Hissed)** That's David's.

DAVID

Yes, I'm going to put it on my bedside table.

[Cup drops on table]

HARTRO

What he does with it is his own decision.

TREXEL

He's going to use it to bathe his wounds if he doesn't give it to me.

HARTRO

Right, I just need to grab something quickly over here.

[Trexel and David fight over the glass of alcohol, crunching glass]

TREXEL

(Chewing the glass/alcohol, troubling laugh) Tasty, tasty.

DAVID

You... you ate the glass.

TREXEL

All of the glass. Worth it.

HARTRO

Alright. And... **[thump]** here. In front of you, feast your eyes on this little—
little creation I've made.

TREXEL

What's that?

HARTRO

You can see clearly there's a river running through the middle of the diorama.

TREXEL

Hartro, did you make this?

IMOGEN

[Beep] Arts and crafts detected. Green is not a creative colour.

HARTRO

And there are two banks which grass is growing out—

DAVID

Each blade individually painted.

TREXEL

It's incredibly detailed.

HARTRO

Um...

DAVID

Are those *daisies*?

TREXEL

Is this just for us or do you just have this at home?

[Beat]

HARTRO

Focusing on the... training apparatus, you will see—

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) Okay.

DAVID

(Crosstalk) Okay. Oh, the water is so realistic.

HARTRO *continued*

—there are three little figurines here.

DAVID

There are fish in there.

HARTRO *continued*

I've got, um— this is what—

TREXEL

Those fish are moving!

HARTRO *continued*

—you may not have seen this, but this is a chicken, alright. This is a chicken.

TREXEL

Okay.

HARTRO

And over here we have a fox.

TREXEL

What's a fox?

HARTRO

Uh, it's a— like a... dog.

DAVID

(Crosstalk) It's one of those.

HARTRO

Yeah, it's like a red dog with a tail. A red—

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) Oh, like a red dog. A red, pointy dog.

HARTRO *continued*

So, here's a red pointy dog.

TREXEL

Okay—

HARTRO *continued*

And here is, uh... grain. Which I believe it's— that's for the chicken. Okay.

TREXEL

Okay.

HARTRO

Chickens, well— chickens like grain.

DAVID

Okay, so I give the grain to the chicken.

TREXEL

Chicken's well-fed. The chicken thanks you. Maybe the chicken invests in your *business enterprise*. You become rich with the chicken! But suddenly, the chicken thinks it's bigger than you, better than you, and it's full of space cocaine! You're banging on its hotel door! *You gotta wake up chicken! Wake up!* But it's too late. The chicken's already dead.

HARTRO

Alright, Trexel. Just— a little bit of this water on your face—

TREXEL

Okay.

[A couple of water splashes]

HARTRO *continued*

—should help. Should just calm down.

TREXEL

Okay.

HARTRO

Right. It's just a chicken. It's just chicken, food—

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) Just a regular chicken that doesn't go on a bender.

HARTRO

Yes. It's just a regular chicken.

TREXEL

Okay.

HARTRO

Lays an egg maybe occasionally. Maybe. Okay. You don't—

DAVID

Is it laying an egg now?

TREXEL

Is it laying an egg right now?

DAVID

Do I have an egg?

HARTRO

No— **(sighs)**

TREXEL

Is the egg part of the equation?

DAVID

I throw the egg in the river and feed the fish!

(Hartro sighs)

TREXEL

Yes.

DAVID

Wait, what's the point?

HARTRO

I'm trying to say something! Could you just put— Give me back the chicken.

TREXEL

Okay.

HARTRO

He belongs there. **[Sets chicken in diorama]** And he's next to his grain. Right. Here's the thing, **[one of the diorama figurines falls over]** you do not want the chicken next to the grain because chickens like grain. You do not want the fox next to the chicken—

TREXEL

Mm-hmm.

DAVID

Okay.

HARTRO *continued*

—because the fox likes the chicken.

TREXEL

I've got it! Chuck—

DAVID

Like— but *like-likes* the chicken, or...?

HARTRO *continued*

Oh! Oh! Oh! And there's a boat!

TREXEL

Oh, there's a boat?

HARTRO

Here. There's the boat. **[drops boat down]**

DAVID

Oh, wow! A three-master!

TREXEL

I've got an idea.

HARTRO

Okay.

TREXEL

You put the—

HARTRO

Oh, wait, the— And your time begins... now.

[Upbeat, chiptune quiz music plays]

TREXEL

I've got it. You put the grain in the boat. You sail the boat down the river. The chicken remains on one side of the river, the fox on the other. And then there's just a thousand years of **[quiz music grows distorted]** light tension between the nations of chicken and fox.

DAVID

But wait. The chickens don't have any grain, so they immediately starve to death.

TREXEL

Well then, that's— that's—

DAVID

And the fox doesn't have any chicken. So, everybody's dead which means there's no longer a problem.

[Music gradually grows softer and ends]

TREXEL

The whole of the universe tends toward entropy and this is just one example of that. You are welcome. Ten points for me.

DAVID

What, and— and me.

TREXEL

No, I came up with the idea. You merely assisted, so five points for you, twenty points for me.

DAVID

Wait, no, hang on a minute, but you just—

TREXEL

Minus six points for David for ungratefulness.

HARTRO

Uh, Trexel.

TREXEL

Yes.

HARTRO

Uh, who gave you the points?

TREXEL

I—

HARTRO

Not— No one.

TREXEL *continued*

—somewhat assume— I somewhat assumed they were on the—

HARTRO

No. No, you're pointless.

TREXEL

Oh, well okay.

HARTRO

You're pointless. In many ways, you are pointless.

DAVID

Uh, speaking of points, what is the point of this exercise?

HARTRO

David!

DAVID

Yes?

HARTRO

Stop asking questions, that's the point of this exercise.

DAVID

Oh.

HARTRO

Obviously, there's a—

TREXEL

Well then, I've done really well because I haven't made David ask any questions.

HARTRO

Eh-eh. Okay, everybody loses once again.

['Game Over' type tune]

[Sounds of Hartro moving the figurines around]

HARTRO

Obviously, what you do is you put the chicken in the boat and they— he goes over there. And he's not with that. And then this— the fox comes and then you do that and then, obviously, everybody then— everyone's on the other side.

DAVID

No, that didn't— wait, no—

HARTRO

And then— and then that's done.

DAVID

But that didn't work. But that wasn't— but then you had the—

HARTRO

(Crosstalk) And that's a point. That's two points for me.

TREXEL

Also, was— was the point—

HARTRO

Excuse me.

TREXEL *continued*

—to get them from one side to the other? That was never said.

HARTRO

That's what a boat does!

DAVID

But wait, can the chick—

HARTRO

Do— **(sighs)**

DAVID

Can— can I swim?

HARTRO

No, you're a clone.

TREXEL

Can the fox swim?

HARTRO

Is David the fox? I didn't say David was the fox.

DAVID

No, but you just get the fox to swing over. Does the grain float?

TREXEL

Good point.

HARTRO

Right, we're moving on.

TREXEL

Okay.

HARTRO

We're moving on. Obviously, th-there was a very clear sales point that I was making there about—

DAVID

Well, there were about six sails on that boat.

TREXEL

Six on that mast.

HARTRO *continued*

—and— That's right. Six points to be made there that all are mine [**distorted triumphant tone**] so that's seven to me. Well done.

TREXEL

Can I keep this little boat?

HARTRO

No.

TREXEL

Okay.

HARTRO

That is for the winner.

TREXEL

But it sails my dreams.

HARTRO

Right, so, I'd like you to close your eyes. Okay.

DAVID

Uh, around Trexel?

TREXEL

I don't— I can't.

HARTRO

I would like you to attempt to close your eyes.

TREXEL

Okay, here we go. Nope.

HARTRO

Alright.

TREXEL

Ahhh... no.

DAVID

You could just face a corner. I find that—

TREXEL

I could face a corner.

HARTRO

Yeah. Go stand in that corner.

TREXEL

Okay. Okay.

HARTRO

And, um—

DAVID

Okay, well, with Trexel in the corner, I'm more comfortable about closing my eyes.

HARTRO

Well good, David.

DAVID

So, um, here they go.

HARTRO

Alright.

DAVID

And closed.

HARTRO

You're in a room.

TREXEL

Yes, well that's obvious.

HARTRO

Shut up, Trexel.

TREXEL

Facing the corner.

HARTRO

That was... **(Pause)** Trexel.

TREXEL

Yes?

HARTRO

Sometimes do you think you could just close your mouth? In fact, do you think if you had an aid to help you close your mouth, that you might just keep it closed sometimes.

TREXEL

(Stutters) I suppose that might keep it closed. I don't know if you—

DAVID

Oh! I have a sock I found.

[Opens drawer]

HARTRO

That is— that is fan— Thank you, David.

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) Uh, no, I don't— No, I don't think this is— I—

HARTRO

Is this one of your socks?

DAVID

No, I just found it. I don't wear socks.

HARTRO

Oh. Oh.

TREXEL

You don't like socks, David.

DAVID

No. It's why I'm giving it away.

HARTRO

Oh. Well, David has a sock that he doesn't like—

TREXEL

Whose sock is this?!

DAVID

I don't know but I kept it in my *hate* drawer.

[Closes drawer]

TREXEL

Oh, you have a hate drawer? I knew we shouldn't have given you a— **[Muffled from hate sock being put in his mouth]**

HARTRO

There we go. Right. So, Trexel with his hate sock in the corner over there **(muffled complaining from Trexel)** faced away since you can't close your eyes, just face the wall. Okay, good. Now, I use my imagination voice. **(Voice deepens)** Imagine you're in a room. **(Trexel muffled noises)** And in this room is— David and Trexel are in the same room.

DAVID

Mm-hmm. Okay.

HARTRO

There are three light switches in this room.

DAVID

Right.

HARTRO

Okay.

[Trexel makes muffled noises]

HARTRO

And they go to three light bulbs which are connected through electricity onto the other side of the wall. You see, the picture is there's a wall with three light switches. The electricity goes through to the other side of the wall where there are three light bulbs.

DAVID

Okay.

TREXEL

(Muffled) Okay.

HARTRO

Now, I would like you to decide, in a moment, you are allowed to switch on and off the light switches however you like, but then you are going to go through the door to the other side of the wall, see the light bulbs indeed which are on the other side, and you have to determine which light switch belongs to which light bulb— oh, sorry— **(deepens voice)** —which light bulb.

[Upbeat, chiptune quiz music plays]

DAVID

Okay.

HARTRO

Your time has begun.

DAVID

Okay, so— so I'm gonna open the door.

(Trexel makes muffled noises)

HARTRO

But— Oh, oh! But you can only go through once.

DAVID

Okay.

HARTRO

You see, you can't— you can't, like—

DAVID

Yes.

HARTRO

Yeah.

DAVID

Okay, so— so I send Trexel through the door—

TREXEL

(Muffled) Huh?

DAVID *continued*

—and then as I turn on and off the light switches, Trexel... shouts which of the lights are going on and off.

HARTRO

Yeah, but Trexel—

TREXEL

(Spits out the hate sock) You'll never get the information out of me! **[Quiz music stops]** I'm no snitch! You'll never get me to say— All the lights! All of them are on!

DAVID

No, you shush! You shush! Go— **(shushes Trexel more)**

[Trexel struggles as David puts the hate sock back in Trexel's mouth]

HARTRO

Wow!

DAVID

Right, well that's Trexel dealt with.

(Trexel makes muffled outrage noises)

HARTRO

David, I'm very impressed!

DAVID

Thank you.

HARTRO

The way you shoved that hate sock in **(Trexel makes muffled outrage noises)** was just real—

DAVID

Well, I'm just getting into the— the spirit of things.

HARTRO

Yeah, yeah.

DAVID *continued*

A bare room with a bare light bulb and somebody shouting about information, I mean, it just— the mood overtook me.

HARTRO

So, you're saying you would use Trexel.

DAVID

Yes.

HARTRO

Ah! Interesting. That's not the correct answer, but—

(Trexel muffled smug noises and laughing)

HARTRO *continued*

—I'm going to give you a point for it anyway.

[Triumphant tone]

DAVID

Yay!

HARTRO

‘Cause I like your initiative.

DAVID

Okay, good. Thank you.

HARTRO

Right. Trexel, would you like to come back?

TREXEL

(Muffled) Mm?

HARTRO

Yeah, you can take— I’ll take it out.

[Trexel spits the hate sock out of his mouth]

HARTRO

That’s disgusting.

TREXEL

Bleh!

HARTRO

Let’s put that back in your hate drawer.

DAVID

Oh, yes. Yech!

[Hate drawer opens and closes]

TREXEL

(Pouting) Hartro, I don't think it's appropriate to allow a clone to act like that to me.

HARTRO

Well, he did it in the spirit of sales. And when it's in the spirit of sales and it's for the team, I say, "yah, yah, yah".

DAVID

The spirit of sales compelled me.

HARTRO

Hm.

TREXEL

Okay, well I do respect the spirit of sales. It has guided me throughout my entire life and my every decision, so I will respect it in this case, but I— I wish to lodge my complaint.

HARTRO

Lodged.

IMOGEN

[Beep] Complaint ignored!

TREXEL

Okay, right. I've got an answer.

HARTRO

I— for your last and final—

TREXEL

I— I— I have an answer to the— to that question. I have an answer! I know, I know the answer!

HARTRO

No, no. David, David already came up with—

DAVID

I got— I got the points.

HARTRO *continued*

—not the right answer but an an—

TREXEL

It was wrong! I have a right answer, I'm sure!

HARTRO

I've accepted David's.

DAVID

Yes.

HARTRO

I've accepted David's answer. You should be happy. He's part of your team.

DAVID

I sold the answer to Hartro and— and—

HARTRO

And I bought it.

DAVID *continued*

—she bought it.

TREXEL

Well, I see what's happening here. Quite the duo. Quite— quite— quite the conspiracy of two.

HARTRO

Aw.

TREXEL

No, no, it's fine. It's fine.

HARTRO

Did you— do your f—

TREXEL *continued*

You're going to concoct— If you're going to concoct these silly logic puzzles and questions and, even when David's wrong, you're gonna give him the point.

No, I understand.

DAVID

Well, no, tell you what—

TREXEL

This is— this is what's been happening *all my life! I'm a genius!* And people *conspire* against me!

DAVID

Well, tell you what, Trexel. Um, if Hartro had one puzzle left, so— so if she gives it to you and I promise I'm not going to answer at all. So, all of those points are on the table for you.

TREXEL

Yes, okay, yes. Yes, that works for me. Okay.

HARTRO

And a little twist actually.

TREXEL

Okay.

HARTRO

This last one's for me. So, the two of *you* get to come up with a riddle for me.

And if—

TREXEL

I get to do— I get to do the riddle all on my own. All on my own!

DAVID

(Crosstalk) Okay, so that means that I don't— And— and you have to come up with the riddle on your own.

TREXEL

This is Trexel’s time to shine.

DAVID

Trexel has to make a riddle.

TREXEL

Okay.

HARTRO

So, if I get it, then I win. And if I don’t get it, you— you win.

TREXEL and DAVID

Okay.

HARTRO *continued*

Thus, um, getting A pluses for the— the lesson.

TREXEL

Okay, so I’ve got to come up with a riddle right now that’s both logical and you can’t answer.

HARTRO

Yes. I’m—

TREXEL *continued*

I can do this. I-I can do this.

HARTRO

I'm just gonna go over in the corner here and just take my—

TREXEL

Okay. Okay.

[Upbeat, chiptune quiz music starts up again]

TREXEL

Um... Uh...

DAVID

I-I'm— I'm gonna go lie down in bed and— and not doing anything.

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) No, uh, no. David...

DAVID

'Cause I did promise. I promised to Trexel. I promised to Trexel—

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) Well... **(uncertain laugh)** Da-David.

DAVID *continued*

—and I'm keeping my word.

TREXEL

Oh, let's—

DAVID

Here I go. Lying down.

TREXEL

No, David.

DAVID *continued*

Oop, now I am gonna pretend to be asleep. **(Fake snores)**

TREXEL

No, Da— No, open your eyes, David. No, David, that's not real sleep.
(Desperate) Please. David, please, I need help!

DAVID

What?

[Music distorts]

TREXEL

I need help, David. I can't do this on my own!

DAVID

Okay. **[Music fades out]** Well... **(Pause)** ...what is it worth to you?

TREXEL

What— what do you mean?

DAVID

I think I will help you if you give me three of your points.

TREXEL

But David, I don't have any points. I'll be in minus three points!

DAVID

Then... riddle away.

[Music resumes]

TREXEL

Oh! **(Exasperated noises)**

HARTRO

Alright, I'm ready! Here I am!

TREXEL

(Whispers to David) Okay, you can have them. You can have them. You can have them.

HARTRO

Try and stump the line manager.

TREXEL

Right, we've got one. **[Music stops]** We've got one, haven't we, David? We've got a— we've got a real humdinger, **(whispers to David)** because you promised.

DAVID

Um... wait, no but— Okay, so— and— and we're doing it now?

HARTRO

Yeah.

TREXEL

Right now, David. **(Whispers to David)** You've got my three points now come up with a riddle.

DAVID

We're doing it *right* now.

TREXEL

That was the deal.

DAVID

Okay. Okay. I am... slippery... and tasty. I have... two siblings but I am the only one who will talk to you. I am needed for your... sustenance. Who— who am I?

TREXEL

Good question. Who he? What be?

DAVID

W-W-What be?

HARTRO

Hmm.

DAVID

Oh, sorry. Time is ticking.

[Upbeat, chiptune quiz music starts up again]

TREXEL

(Softly) Tick tock. Tick tock. Tick tock. Tick tock. Tick tock.

HARTRO

You do have a spirit of fun in you. **(Chuckles)** I like being up against the *wall*. I like it when stuff's hard and it's tricky and I have to think. Ooh. Ooh. Ooh. I'm gonna go with... **[Music stops]** slurry.

DAVID

Eh-eh.

['Game Over' type tune]

HARTRO

What? What?

TREXEL

(Gasps) How the mighty have fallen!

DAVID

I-I'll maybe give you half points because it's specifically clone slurry.

TREXEL

Oh, so close!

DAVID

I have two siblings, two siblings which are consultant slurry and manager slurry. So, I was specifically clone slurry.

HARTRO

I think you'll find, actually, David 7, that when I said slurry, I was *looking* at your clone slurry tube. I did— I was—

TREXEL

(Crosstalk) Oh, that seems like a technicality. Now, Hartro, please.

HARTRO

Trexel.

DAVID

This was not a *mime* answer competition. This was a *word* answer competition.

HARTRO

Oh, oh, oh—

TREXEL

Let's not be petty, Hartro. Admit when you've failed.

DAVID

But—

HARTRO

Now, I-I would if I had. And I have— I hadn't. I was— I was looking at the clone slurry machine and I—

DAVID

Well, tell you what.

HARTRO

Yes.

DAVID

I like your ingenuity. Seventy-five percent of the points.

[75% of Triumphant tone]

TREXEL

Okay, David, we're getting a little bit— that's— that's... that's a little bit—

HARTRO

I'll take it! I'll take it. I'll take it.

DAVID

Right. Sold!

HARTRO

Which means I am the winner!

[Triumphant tone]

TREXEL

David, you fool!

DAVID

Yay! Wait—

HARTRO

I get the boat. I get the chicken. I get the—

TREXEL

David!

HARTRO *continued*

I get all of the river and the grasses.

TREXEL

Your generosity has cursed us, David! We could have had *all* the figurines! And we could have made a little diorama of our own! I'd have been the chicken! You'd have been the bag of grain! And the fox would have been my father because he always threatened to eat me!

IMOGEN

[Beep] Cannibal fox father detected. Security alerted.

DAVID

Uh, oh. Um, well, how about— Could we keep the landscape?

TREXEL

Could we keep the landscape?

HARTRO

Hmm... **(Pause)** David.

DAVID

Yes?

HARTRO

You can keep the landscape.

DAVID

Yay!!!

HARTRO

(Crosstalk) See, that— that doesn't—

TREXEL

(Upset) Oh, for good— Board it! Ah!

HARTRO

This is— this is nice. This is homework actually. This means that David can construct, along with you Trexel, some learning environment, some sales-like homework play— play around dioramas. This is great. Yeah, I'll leave that there with you, David.

DAVID

Yes. Well, actually, in— in the time that I would spend working but actually waiting for Trexel, I could— I could maybe make you a Trexel chicken out of— of goo and slurry.

TREXEL

You'd do that?

DAVID

Yes.

TREXEL

Would you make a... fox father?

DAVID

I-I would. And a little boat for him not to sail away from Trexel chicken.

TREXEL

What about... what about a little bag of grain with a number 7 drawn on the side?

DAVID

Yes, I-I'll do that. Yes, that'll give me something to do while I wait for you to turn up.

TREXEL

(Dark) And then I can consume you, David. Peck by peck I will absorb your grainy soul until I have your—

DAVID

(Crosstalk) Wait, hang on a minute. Hang on a minute.

TREXEL *continued*

—logical powers inside of me! Yum, yum, yum.

HARTRO

(Crosstalk) And do you see what I've done here. I've created a real team.

TREXEL

A delicious team, David.

HARTRO

So, I will see you—

DAVID

(Anxious) Yes, I feel so... good.

HARTRO

Yes.

DAVID

(Anxious for the rest of the conversation) Yes, I feel so good about what's happened here.

HARTRO

Good. Yes.

DAVID

This is a really exciting and—

TREXEL

Peck. Peck.

DAVID *continued*

—positive develop...ment.

HARTRO

Happy to help. I'll see you two lovebirds in about five sessions, I believe.

DAVID

(Unsure) Okay.

HARTRO

Happy sales.

DAVID

(Nervously) Happy sales.

[Door swooshes closed]

TREXEL

Goodbye, Hartro.

DAVID

Umm...

TREXEL

Well, David. Quite the turn of events. You're quite the logical clone, aren't you?

DAVID

Uh...

TREXEL

But you have revealed your delicious knowledge and I will have it. I will have it, David.

DAVID

Um, okay.

TREXEL

I don't know how, but it involves me metaphorically eating you as if you are grain.

DAVID

Uh...

TREXEL

I'm gonna have to work up what that means from there, but I'm pretty sure it involves *eating something*.

DAVID

Okay. Maybe drinking something.

TREXEL

Could be. I'll go work it out. I'll see you *later*.

[Door swooshes closed]

DAVID

Okay, bye. **(Nervous laugh)** Oh, dear. Oh, no.

[Show Theme - Outro]

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