

## STF 51 — Cafés and Camouflage

### Content Warnings

- Emotional abuse
- Existential crisis
- Mentions of: death threats, food & drink, smoking, alcoholism

**TREXEL**

Special thanks to Patrick Stöhr. Let the good times roll... down a hill, into a tree. It died.

**[Show Theme – Intro]**

**IMOGEN**

Rusty Quill presents: Stellar Firma.

**[Theme continues]**

**[Sounds of crockery & footsteps]**

**CUSTOMERS**

Alright, thanks David // Bye David!

**DAVID**

Bye!

**(David sighs)**

**DAVID**

Another day, another... actually nice day. I could get used to this.

**[A vent opens as Trexel hurtles into the room with a dopplering scream and thuds to the ground]**

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Trexel is here.

**DAVID**

Trexel!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** It was nice while it lasted.

**TREXEL**

Argh, David, you're like a lump of metal! Argh.

**DAVID**

Trexel, you're like a bucket of blancmange!

**TREXEL**

I didn't... I thought you'd break my fall, David, but you just broke me when I fell. Argh, ow, that hurts.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Warning: clone density at 21,450 kilograms per cubic meter.

**DAVID**

Sorry Trexel, you shouldn't have hit me at such high speed from the ceiling!

**TREXEL**

Well—

**DAVID**

We have doors!

**TREXEL**

Y’know, a vent is a much more effective route of ingress, David. People can't see you when you're in a vent. You walk through a door, people are like, “Hey. Show me your pass.” I don't got a pass, David. I lost all my passes on day two. That was years ago.

**DAVID**

Right. Okay. Well—

**TREXEL**

But I bring great news, David. We have to leave!

**DAVID**

Wait. No, no. Why?

**TREXEL**

Because this is awful, David! Look around you! Look at this squalid, little, dank café you've been running for these past weeks. Yeah, sure, it was a nice little hideout in a pinch, but we need to find something long term.

Hang on. Is that, is that... have you made a sign?

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

You've made a sign saying David's Place.

**DAVID**

Yes. It's David's place. I am David. This is my Place.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** I designed the font.

**TREXEL**

Oh, David, this is sad. This is sad.

**DAVID**

Why?

**TREXEL**

Is this what you want out of life? To run a small café in the corner of the station? Nobody paying much attention to you. And most importantly, no bar! Is that what you want, David, in your life? Is that what you want on your gravestone? I mean, clones don't get gravestones, but if you had one, do you want it to say 'David, he had a café. People liked him.'

**DAVID**

Well, this is the whole point. No-one's threatened to kill me, in about a week and a half! I mean, that was that one customer...

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Angry Jim is not allowed back on the premises.

**DAVID**

...but, y'know, other than that, no gunwalls.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Out here, you are beyond law.

**TREXEL**

Jim will be Angry Jim.

**DAVID**

Yes, Angry Jim will be Angry Jim. So, Angry Jim aside, like, it's been, it's been lovely.

**TREXEL**

David, you're telling yourself a lie. Things are simple. That doesn't mean good.

Yeah, sure. Nobody's tried to attack you. Nobody's tried to recycle you.

Nobody's threatened your very existence in a real and meaningful way. But we're in a backwater here, David!

This is a corridor of failure, inhabited only by wretched fools and derelicts.

**DAVID**

But what's... what's the alternative Trexel?

**TREXEL**

**(Wicked chuckle)**

Oh, I'm glad you've asked. Haven't you wondered where I've been? David, why didn't you ask me? David, ask me where I've been.

**DAVID**

I've, I've been trying really hard not to think about where you've—

**TREXEL**

David, ask me, ask me where I've been? Ask me where I've been.

**DAVID**

**(Weary)** Fine. Trexel, where have you been?

**TREXEL**

I have been for a reconnoitre! It's a word I've learned. It means looking about, but it sounds real fancy. What's that? What's that over there? Don't you worry, I'll reconnoitre! And they say, 'what did you say?' But you've already left, David. You've already left, and you've got a hat with corks on it for some reason, I haven't looked into why.

**DAVID**

So you've been reconnoitring instead of doing *the job that you have here*?

**TREXEL**

I don't... we discussed this. I don't want that job.

**DAVID**

Why wouldn't you want to be a plonger... sink chancellor? Sorry.

**TREXEL**

Yes. Well, you know, I, I, I like the title. Sink chancellor. Sounds pretty good—

**DAVID**

Chancellor of the sink.

**TREXEL**

—but I'm pretty sure you made it sound more than it was, because I certainly haven't cancelled anything. I had to wash-up plates in the back, because if I'm in the front, people are like, “Oh, that's Trexel!” And that defeats the point of hiding.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for you.

**DAVID**

Yes, washing-up a plate is cancelling that plate. That plate is getting cancelled.

**TREXEL**

No, you are being cancelled! If you have to— if you were to wash someone...

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

You wouldn't be, like, 'Ha! I've washed you, you idiot, I've won!'

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

That's you're, you're washing *them*. You are giving service to *them*. So, if a plate is a metaphorical person, I'm washing a plate in, sort of, a supine position, exposing all of my soft innards, like a dog! Like a dog on my back! I'm not a dog on my back, David! I'm a man on my feet!

**DAVID**

No, the washing, the washing is like the taxes. You take—

**TREXEL**

David! David! David! David! David! David!

**(David sighs)**

You're not going to convince me to be a Plongeur, bracket, Sink Chancellor.

**(drops to a whisper)** It's not happening. It's not happening, David.

**DAVID**

Yes. Well, I know it's not happening. I've been having to plunge my own plates.

**TREXEL**

I've got an alternative, David. I have been to the farthest reaches of Stella Firma, and I have a contact.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

Would you, would you consider with me, David?

**(David sighs heavily)**

**TREXEL**

David, come consider with me.

**DAVID**

Fine. Yes. I'm considering, Trexel. I'm considering.

**TREXEL**

Okay. Okay. I wrote it all down, I wrote it all down. Here we are. So my contact is called Randy Darbos. He is in the Department of Planetary Public Permits and Bribery, David! Bribery!

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

That's good. So, the motto, and I think this will really sell it, David. The motto of the Department of Planetary Public Permits and Bribery is: "Getting the right permission is just a case of wine-flavoured slurry away!" You see?

**DAVID**

O-Okay.

**TREXEL**

It's all— We've actually covered some of this, David. It's about greasing the wheels. It's about getting what you want. It's about, y'know, really skimming the wine slurry off of the top so you have your own vast personal supply to either use as an individual or sell on the black market. I, I, I don't see how it could be any better.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** It's government in action. The system works.

**DAVID**

Well. I mean, my, my main question is, how is it any better than this? I mean, it sounds like from their motto, it's just giving away liquids in order to get what you want. Whereas in here, what I want is, you know, station-mandated board cred and I'm giving away liquids to get the station-mandated board cred.

**TREXEL**

Okay. David, how many people do you interact with on a daily basis here? How many, how many people come into the, come into the café?

**DAVID**

Actually we've been really well. It's about 150 so far.

**TREXEL**

I'm sorry. What?

**DAVID**

150 covers a day.

**TREXEL**

**(Trexel splutters)**

David, I'm genuinely taken aback. I thought it was like six or seven randos.

**DAVID**

No, no, no, no, no. I mean, I've— Look, I've, I've got a decent stable of regulars now, let's say about 25 people, you know, popping in for the morning rush, the lunch rush, the evening rush as well. I mean, there's also the mid-morning rush—

**TREXEL**

That's three, that's three, that's four rushes David!

**DAVID**

Well, there is the brunch rush as well. And the elevenses rush...

**TREXEL**

A sixth, a sixth rush!

**DAVID**

...and the high tea rush.

Actually, just, the whole day is a rush, but I've got a good system. I mean, it'd be really helpful if I had somebody to cancel my plates for me, but you know—

**TREXEL**

Some sort of plongeur, maybe?

**DAVID**

Yeah, some sort of plongeur. But I've got it sorted out, I think. So, so really, like, our cover rate is incredibly high, and I have to say the tips... they are very generous.

And you can say a lot for Angry Jim, but that man is a tipper!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** He pays mostly to cover the emotional destruction.

**TREXEL**

Have you got, um, a business plan or something, David? Have you got a business plan you can show me?

**DAVID**

Yeah, yeah, yeah. No, no, here you go. Look.

**TREXEL**

Okay. Here we go.

**[Sound of paper being ripped gleefully as David looks on in spluttering horror]**

**TREXEL**

Okay, that's what we're doing to that! Tear up the business plan! Tear it up, David, because everything you've ever believed was a lie!

Imagine this: In the department of Planetary Public Permits and Bribery—

**DAVID**

Right...

**TREXEL**

—you don't have to have a business. There's no rushes. It's feet up all the way. Stick a bribe over there, send a threatening letter over there. Don't worry about it! You don't have to plunge anything. Things are just pre-plunged!

**DAVID**

But, but Trexel, most of my life up until this point has been sitting in a dark room on my own—

**(Trexel sighs contentedly)**

**TREXEL**

Ah, beautiful.

**DAVID**

—for around about 23 and a half hours every day!

**TREXEL**

Ah, wonderful, sounds like paradise. Why did you leave?

**DAVID**

Because it was awful! And also because, well, I mean, you were there for that half hour every day. Imagine that half hour...

**TREXEL**

Yes?

**DAVID**

...but very boring.

**TREXEL**

Well now, hang on, let me just have a think. Well, ah, Trexel's there, that's pretty good.

Well, look, let's not get bogged down, David. Just because we're on the run from every judicial element of Stellar Firma because we discovered the dark secrets at the core of this world, doesn't mean we have to moulder in some sort of service-based industry job.

We should be back somewhere where there's hierarchy, somewhere where there's corruption, somewhere where I can not do anything for hours on end and still be credited with doing something. I haven't even told you the best bit, David!

**DAVID**

What? What, what, Trexel?

**TREXEL**

They've got a shredder. And this shredder is called Mr Deniability!

**DAVID**

**(Not convinced)** Okay...

**TREXEL**

Ah!

**DAVID**

Good, I mean, good name, but—

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** He's employee of the month. Every month!

**DAVID**

That—

**TREXEL**

Think of the razzmatazz! Like, oh sorry, 'have you seen those forms?' 'Ask Mr Deniability.' And then they walk over to an office, and it's got a brass plaque with Mr Deniability. And then they open the door, and it's, like, a big, oak desk and a large, leather wingback chair, and it's turned away from you, And there's a roaring fire. And there's a cat sleeping on the table, you know? And you're like, 'Oh, excuse me. Is that Mr Deniability?' And there's nothing, but maybe like a, like a, a wisp of cigar smoke that emerges over the chair. So you know someone's there, and you're like, 'Sorry to disturb you, is that Mr Deniability?' And then suddenly the chair turns round, there's just a shredder there! It's just a shredder with a cigar balanced on top. What a prank!

**DAVID**

Right. So, hang on. Have you **seen** Mr Deniability? Or is this just all on the words of Randy Darbos?

**TREXEL**

Er, well, I did say, “Hey, Randy, where's Mr Deniability?” And he said, ‘In that cupboard’, and then I just sort of imagined it from there, but I imagine that's what was going on!

Oh, calloo callay, frangeous day, when I meet Mr Deniability.

**DAVID**

Right. Do you maybe not, just, like, wanna meet Mr Deniability instead of working at that department? Don't you want to— Like, maybe they could give you a day pass or a VIP ticket, maybe a backstage shredder pass?

**TREXEL**

Ooh. Ooh. Something on a lanyard, at least. Cause if it's on a lanyard, it's, it's pretty important.

**DAVID**

But, remember, you'll have to use a fake name. Okay. You can't— When they say who, who are we putting on the lanyard, you can't just say, ‘Oh, it's Trexel Geistman.’ Cause then, cause then, as you say, all the judicial elements of, of Stellar Firma will fall on top of you, like a ton of... bricks.

**TREXEL**

David, David, David, I've had an alter ego sorted out for years. It's Trexyl Gystman.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** That's just an ego!

**DAVID**

Um, that's your name?

**TREXEL**

No, no. It's spelled with a Y. Trex-yl. Gystman.

**DAVID**

And that's it?

**TREXEL**

Yeah, it's a different name. It's got a Y in it.

**DAVID**

But your surname is still Geistman.

**TREXEL**

That's also got a Y in it... but no-one knows where.

**DAVID**

Okay. I mean, I'm gonna guess it's after the G.

**TREXEL**

I mean... **(Trexel burbles for a bit)**...you sort of popped my balloon there, but yes, Trexyl Gystman.

**DAVID**

Okay. And have you used this before?

**TREXEL**

Yes, yes. I, I walked into, er... I walked into, er... a security office, and yelled "I'm Trexyl Gystman!" but there was no-one there. Have you ever met a member of Security?

**DAVID**

Um, was Harry Security? No, he was IT...

**TREXEL**

That was IT.

**DAVID**

Er... and you...

**TREXEL**

No, no I'm not in Security... **(trails off muttering indistinctly)**

**DAVID**

No, no, but, uh, but we didn't even have Security when I was on trial, which is the kind of time that you'd expect to—

**TREXEL**

You'd think there'd be some sort of bury henchman, but it was just Imogen and Hartro in that room. No... Anyway, that's probably nothing.

So, yes. Anyway, I haven't yet used it in front of an individual of authority, but I've certainly yelled it a lot, whilst crawling around vents or emerging from plant pots.

**DAVID**

Right. Okay. Well fine.

Anyway, anyway, getting back to this department.

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

So your pitch is, 'Come to the Department of Planetary Public Permits and Bribery, Randy Darbos works there. You don't have to do much, and they have a shredder. With a fun name, admittedly'?

**TREXEL**

The funnest name! Yes.

**DAVID**

And that's.... so, what else would make—

**TREXEL**

What's not to like David? Sorry, sorry, y-y-y-you're just repeating that back to me as if any of that was bad.

**DAVID**

No, but, okay. So, we've been here— Well, **I've** been here for the last week and a half, right? We've had—

**TREXEL**

**I've** been sleeping here... sometimes—

**DAVID**

Good. Well, good—

**TREXEL**

—when I'm not in the vents passed out drunk.

**DAVID**

Well, that's, that's also fine. I just don't want to live in vents forever. I mean, we could, but we shouldn't. We've been here for the last week and a half, and we've had no attention, nothing from Standards, and there's been hide nor hair of Hartro.

This is a really good place to lay low now. So **why** is the Department of Planetary Public Permits and Bribery, apart from Randy, nothing, and the shredder, a good place or a better place to lay low than here?

**TREXEL**

Because David, you've got to keep moving. You know sharks?

**DAVID**

Uh, I've heard of them.

**TREXEL**

Yeah, so if, if a shark was to stop moving through the water—

**DAVID**

Yes?

**TREXEL**

—he dies. Something to do with gills. I've never looked into it. It might even be wrong. But I'm like a shark in that when I eat, my eyes roll back in my head to protect me from all of the blight. Do you understand?

**DAVID**

I... don't.

**TREXEL**

Let me, we put it another way. I'm like a Highland elk, proud and antlered, and also, in certain seasons, a bit ruddy. Do you see?

**DAVID**

Um...

**TREXEL**

Let me, let me put it another way. I'm like a, I'm like an Indigo Gibbon, high up in a mangrove tree swinging to and fro, honking at my mates. Do you understand?

**DAVID**

Ahhh...

**TREXEL**

You clearly haven't got it. I'm like, like a deep-sea sponge, secretive at the bottom of the ocean. Ooh, what's in my sponge? I'll never tell my pillowy depths. You understand?

**DAVID**

Okay. No, I think I've got that right.

**TREXEL**

No, no, no. Let me put it another way. I'm like, uh, I'm like, uh, uh, a blue green algae bloom on a mysterious Venusian moon. You know, am I, am I a nitrogen-based organism or maybe more carbon dioxide or maybe, or maybe, actually I'm, uh, argon-based. Ooh, what's that! You see?

**DAVID**

No, you've lost me again.

**TREXEL**

Okay. Now imagine I'm a small electronics company on a meteorite. You know, I mine zinc from the core in order to make components for semiconductors. You see?

**DAVID**

Oh yes, no, no, that, that one completely. Yes. And, and for you, the zinc is the wine slurry.

**TREXEL**

Exactly! Now you're getting me David.

**DAVID**

Now I get it.

**TREXEL**

So you've got to keep moving, otherwise the forces of justice will come. I've been fleeing from the forces of justice for longer than you've had hot dinners, which is never, because the slurry is often cold. And if there's one thing I've learned, it's that if you find somewhere nice and stable and safe, and you start putting down roots and making friends and gaining a social circle, then when they inevitably discover you, the loss is all the more emotionally destructive.

So, cut yourself off! Keep moving! Never lay down roots. That's the Geistman way. It's on our family crest. It's a tree with no roots, and there's a motto that says, "No Roots For Me!"

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** In Ligno, Mortuus Est.

**DAVID**

O-Okay. Fine. Well, look that might work for you, in your spongy, gibbon, electronics, zinc elk, gibbon company... thing, but I'm like a wee hermit crab. I started in a small shell, and now I've grown it, and I've found a new shell, and it's good, and it's safe, and, and it protects me. And, and that's David's Place. Da-David's, David's Place is the big—

**TREXEL**

I understand.

**DAVID**

—I'm, I'm David, no, I'm David and I'm in the— And the, and the shell is— the shell is the place. And then I'm inside the, the place and—

**TREXEL**

Which is why you've done a sign that says David's Place, and you've drawn like a little shell next to it.

**DAVID**

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

That's why, that's why the cup, the café logo is a hermit crab. I-I thought it was quite clever actually. It's sort of like a meta—

A-A-Anyway. Do you see?

**TREXEL**

Yeah, it's stupid, David.

**DAVID**

**(Dejected)** Oh.

**TREXEL**

It's stupid, and you're stupid. You should shut up, and just come with me.

**DAVID**

But I, but I don't want to.

**TREXEL**

But you **have** to, David, you **have** to come with me.

**DAVID**

Look, Trexel, this is, this is working for me. Right? What have you seen at the, at the, the Department of Planetary Public Permits and Bribery that is *so* alluring? Did you just talk to Randy? Did you go there yourself? Like, did you—

**TREXEL**

I went there, I went there, David, David. I went there, please don't... accuse me of, of, uh, half-, half-arsing my work. I gave it a full arse, David, a full, round arse.

**DAVID**

Well, those unplonged plates have no arse, but...

**TREXEL**

It's an arseless plate.

So I went there and I saw the most— David, um, do you understand the concept of an under the table deal?

**DAVID**

Uh, it is a deal done under— while sitting under a table.

**TREXEL**

David, David, David, you're absolutely right. All secret deals are done underneath tables. Now, so, you've normally got tables, and they're just sort of regular, you know, common or garden tables, you use them for typing, or maybe dinner parties, or maybe sacrificing a small being to your ultimate god of eternal power, you know, tables.

And so every now and again, you're doing something **under** the table. That's to indicate it's a, it's a backroom deal. It's something you don't want people to see. In the Department of planetary Public Permits and Bribery, they just turn the tables upside-down to start with, because **all** of the deals are under the table.

You see? So it's just flat pieces of wood on the floor with four legs sticking up, and everyone cross-legged around them, passing bribes back to each other.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Really cutting out the middle table!

**DAVID**

Right. And wouldn't you walk into these tables and their legs, and kind of bump your nethers, and wouldn't it— Isn't everyone just kind of curled up, holding bits of themselves?

**TREXEL**

Absolutely. And that actually helps you conceal the brown paper bags that you've been carrying. If you're curled up in pain, and you're like, 'Oh my nethers!' And then somebody is like, 'Oh, can I help you, sir or madam?' And you're like, 'No, no, it's fine. Leave me.' And that's because you're curled around a big bribe, and that's how you get away from the cops.

**DAVID**

So, you've, sort of, just got a bunch of people, kind of shuffling around, curled up on their sides, handing brown paper bags to one another?

**TREXEL**

Full. Of. Cash.

Now, obviously on Stellar Firma we have a credit-based currency and it's not a physical thing, so there's just, you know, it's just pieces of, y'know, paper with the word "Money" written on them, and then, and then it'll just, sort of, put up into a bill... But it feels good!

**DAVID**

Right... yeah. So, it's just not the same if you don't hand over a brown paper bag.

**TREXEL**

It's not the same. You know, if you, if you bribe somebody by clicking a button, say 'I've transferred you some credits', and then there's sort of an awkward silence and everyone goes 'Ooh, well that's no, that's a bit anticlimactic, y'know. And then you just hand over a paper bag full of random pieces of a paper.

**DAVID**

Couldn't you put that button under the table?

**TREXEL**

But then it will be on top of the table, because remember all the tables are under the table, because they're upside-down.

**DAVID**

Well, that's fine. Then you just put, put the, put the button on top of the table—

**TREXEL**

You could just put a big red button in the middle that just has the word "BRIBE" written on it. And then when you get to that point, everyone just go 'BAM! Bribe!'.

**DAVID**

Yeah! Why wouldn't you want to do that? You'd walk, you'd walk up to each other, you'd nod, you'd greet each other. Then you'd say 'Wha-bam! Bribe!'

**TREXEL**

You see, David! You're already engaged! Yes, you're already part of it!

**(David protests loudly)**

**TREXEL**

Come on, David. Get in the vent! Get in the vent with me.

**DAVID**

No! That was an extradition. That was an extradition. We've left that life behind. There is no problem solving here. Just selling small cupcakes.

**(Trexel sighs heavily)**

**TREXEL**

David. I just don't, I just don't understand why you're being so... cloying about this. We've always just, you've always just done what I've said before? Come with me to a new department, a new life.

**DAVID**

But that's because everywhere has always been awful, and I've kept moving on in the hopes that anything would get better. And now it is! This is good for me! This could be good for you as well.

**TREXEL**

But what if I don't want to stay here?

**DAVID**

Well, then you don't have to.

**TREXEL**

What? Do you mean, I, I go... to... the Department of Planetary Public Permits and Bribery, and you, and you stay here?

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Yes! Go away, Trexel. It's the perfect plan!

**DAVID**

Yes. If that's, if that's what you want, as long as we— we can stay—

**TREXEL**

That makes no sense at all, David! **(splutters a bit)** We are— You're my clone, and I am the consultant, and that's the end of it.

**DAVID**

Trexel, you're not a consultant anymore.

You're not consulting on anything. Unless you want to consult some plates about the dirt that's on them.

**TREXEL**

**(Dejected realisation)** So I'm just old— just, just regular Trexel Geistman. Not a consultant. Not on the executive track. Just Trexel Geistman. Just Trex— Just Trexel...

**DAVID**

I mean— Well, no, hang on, we could, we could maybe... you could become Sink Consultant?

**TREXEL**

**(Sings)** Who am I?

**DAVID**

Plates Consultant?

**TREXEL**

**(Sings)** What is my point anymore?

**DAVID**

Kitchen Consultant?

**TREXEL**

**(Sings)** If I've not got my name written on a door.

**DAVID**

Well, we could write it on the kitchen door.

**TREXEL**

**(Sings)** If I don't have a job description

then what is the tradition

on which I'll base my actions and my life?

**DAVID**

**(Hopefully)** Cleaning plates?

**TREXEL**

**(Sings)** Trexel Geistman—

**DAVID**

Try using a different name.

**TREXEL**

**(Sings)** —never cleans a plate.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

**(Sings)** Trexel Geistman, standing against Fate.

**DAVID**

Okay, please just stop shouting your own name li—

**TREXEL**

**(Sings)** If Trexel Geistman isn't a consultant

then what... is... he?

**(Trexel trails off into sobbing)**

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** I had hoped for fewer songs this time.

**DAVID**

That's a question you have to ask yourself, Trexel.

**TREXEL**

**(Bawlingly)** Can I have a cupcake?

**DAVID**

Yes. There you go.

**[Messy sounds of consumption whilst crying]**

**DAVID**

Oh Trexel, why do you eat like that?

**TREXEL**

**(Slightly more composed)** You know, just because the cupcakes are formed out of slightly chilled slurry, because that's the only... food source we have, it doesn't make it any less charming. **(Starts sobbing again)**

**DAVID**

I know.

**[Continued sounds of 'cupcake' consumption]**

**DAVID**

Do you feel better?

**TREXEL**

A little bit.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

I'm going to go back in the vents now, David. I— You've given me a lot to think about.

**[Trexel starts shifting furniture, some cutlery falls to the ground]**

**DAVID**

Fine. If, if, if, if that's— If that's where you need to be right now, then be right there. But let me tell you, there will always be a dirty plate with your name on it. If you want to come back and plunge.

**(Trexel mumbles in response)**

**TREXEL**

See you later.

**[Vent hisses shut]**

**DAVID**

See you later, Trexel.

**[Various mechanical sounds and that of machinery whirring and hissing]**

**[Computer static and beeping]**

**TREXEL**

**(Recorded playback)** See you later.

**DAVID**

**(Recorded playback)** See you later, Trexel.

**HARTRO**

**(Snarling)** There you are, you pair of life-ruining stupid, stupidheads,

**[Communications activation bleep]**

**HARTRO**

**(Conspiratorially)** Big Bad Wolf. This is Mother Hubbard. The cupboard is no longer bare. I repeat. The cupboard is no longer bare. It is... unbare.

**(Regular voice)** I've— What I'm saying is I've found them. I've found them. Proceeding to extraction.

**[Two more bleeps and communications cease]**

**[Show Theme - Outro]**

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Created by: Tim Meredith and Ben Meredith

Producer: Katie Seaton

Executive Producer: Alexander J. Newall

Editing: Maddy Searle

Stellar Firma 51 – Cafés and Camouflage

Mastering: Jeffrey Nils Gardner

Music: Samuel D.F. Jones

Artwork: Anika Khan

### **Cast**

I.M.O.G.E.N. - Imogen Harris

Hartro Piltz – Jenny Haufek

David 7 - Ben Meredith

Trexel Geistman - Tim Meredith