

## **STL 60 — Ferns and Further Intel**

### **Content Warnings**

- Emotional abuse
- Bullying / taunting
- Shouting
- Existential crisis
- Physical violence
- Emotional manipulation & gaslighting
- Mentions of: childhood trauma, alcohol & alcoholism, restraint & interrogation

**[Show Theme - Intro]**

**IMOGEN**

Rusty Quill presents: Stellar Firma.

**[Theme continues]**

**[Rustling of plants, as door whooshes to admit a mysterious humming figure]**

**DAVID**

Uh, oh Trexel... Wait, who—?

**FERN CREATURE**

**(Fern Creature speaks in a voice that sounds like it has a vocoder applied)**

Oh. Ah!

**DAVID**

What—? Who, who are, who are you? What are you doing in this office? Why have you got ferns stuck to your head?

**FERN CREATURE**

Hallo, I noticed that you can see me... Do you see me?

**DAVID**

Y-Yes. You're standing there. You've got one foot in a plant pot. And the other one has a piece of metal strapped to it. I don't— Who are you?

**FERN CREATURE**

Hallo sir, I am a fern creature. And I'm here to deliver a ferning selection to your... uh, your lovely room.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Um.

**FERN CREATURE**

Will you be partaking in ferns today, sir?

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Records indicate that no fern creature or fern-obsessed salesperson is currently registered as a visitor to this station. My guess is, that this is a weirdo who is from nowhere.

**DAVID**

**(Hesitantly)** Uh... no Fern Creature. I don't want to... buy any ferns from you.

**[Rustling as if leaves are sobbing]**

**FERN CREATURE**

Oh, you make Fern Creature so sad.

**DAVID**

Uh...

**FERN CREATURE**

Oh no, I grew these specially for you, sir. And your s— your room—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Um.

**FERN CREATURE**

—there's no life in your room. Oh, sad creature.

**DAVID**

Uh... I'm sorry to make you sad, Fern Creature, but I-I don't want to get any ferns. I don't have any money, and there's not really any shelves to put them anywhere. Um...

**FERN CREATURE**

But you *believe* that you *could* have bought a fern from me? That I am a fern seller?

**DAVID**

That is a, a weird question. Um, that I— I am now getting suspicious... of you...

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**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** If your suspicions are only raised now, then I am deeply disappointed in you!

**FERN CREATURE**

**(Softly)** Deactivate voice modulator.

**[Two beeps as it deactivates]**

**HARTRO**

**(Whispers)** It's me!

**DAVID**

It's who?

**HARTRO**

It's me, it's Hartro.

**DAVID**

Har-Hartro—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** It's me—

**DAVID**

—why are you dressed as Fern Creature, beloved fern salesman?

**HARTRO**

Ye-Yes! See! Did you— You believed it! Didn't you, David 7?

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**DAVID**

Uh...

**HARTRO**

Did you believe it?

**DAVID**

Yeah...

**HARTRO**

You bought it!

**DAVID**

I did. I did. Which is— It's, it's weird actually, because now that I think about it, you didn't actually change your face at all. You just glued some ferns to your head, and put your foot in a plant pot, but—

**HARTRO**

But it's the, it's the whole thing. I mean, I-I was, I was it, I was feeling it. I was—

**DAVID**

Yeah, you we— No, you— At that time you *were* Fern Creature.

**HARTRO**

That's right.

**DAVID**

I mean, I-I almost became Fe— I was so convinced, I started to think I was Fern Creature—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** This is—

**DAVID**

—as well, that's, that's incredible.

**HARTRO**

This is the thing, David 7. I'm, I'm good at this. I'm— I can blend... I can blend in any-anywhere. I mean, if the moment calls for it, I can be a... a coffee creature. I could be a newspaper creature. I could be a window-washing creature. I mean, the things I can do to blend in— Is this is really going well for me?

**DAVID**

Yeah, as long as it's, sort of, a creature bit. Um, okay.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** And come Hallowe'en, you will be spoiled for choice!

**HARTRO**

But I'm getting information. I'm, I-I-I'm—

**DAVID**

Ooh, yes!

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**HARTRO**

Yeah!

**DAVID**

Information! Well, what information have, have you got?

**DAVID**

So much information, some of it—

**[Door whooshes as Trexel enters]**

**TREXEL**

Ah, here we are!

**HARTRO**

Ah, oh...

**TREXEL**

Da-David?

**HARTRO**

**(Softly)** Activate voice modulator.

**[Two beeps as it activates, amidst rustling leaves]**

**TREXEL**

We appear to— **(ecstatic)** Fern Creature!

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**FERN CREATURE**

Oh, oh.

**TREXEL**

**(Enthusiastic)** Ah, how long has it been? Two days? Three? How are you doing Fern Cre— Still selling ferns?

**FERN CREATURE**

I am. Nice to see you again.

**TREXEL**

You know, I've already bought two ferns, so I'm you— But guess what? I'm here to buy a third. I love your ferns, Fern Creature! David, have you bought one of Fern Creature's ferns?

**DAVID**

Uh...

**TREXEL**

They're great ferns, David, I can't tell you!

**FERN CREATURE**

Don't make fern creature sad.

**(Makes noises of faux sadness)**

**TREXEL**

No, y— I would n— Yeah, in fact— Oh, oh, Fern Creature, please hang on.

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David, can you, can you, can you loan me some more credits?

**DAVID**

Why?

**TREXEL**

I want to buy another fern from—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** No.

**TREXEL**

—this delightful fern creature.

**DAVID**

**(Whisper)** But Trexel, I don't have any, any more credits, I— we've burned through the David's Place savings I had, like my nest egg is gone now. What— And you want to buy ferns?

**COIN FRIEND**

**[Beep]** That's him! That's the one who depleted our credits. Oh, to be a Coin Friend without coin! **(weeps digitally)**

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Coin Friend sorrow detected; Security checking their balance, and counting the hours until payday.

**FERN CREATURE**

You might be—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Yes

**FERN CREATURE**

— able to do something else to gain a fern from me, hmmm?

**TREXEL**

David, I think you're going to have to dance for a fern.

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

I'm sorry, I know it's degrading—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** No you—

**TREXEL**

—but we need these ferns.

**DAVID**

**You** barter with Fern Creature. I don't have anywhere to put ferns. I told Fern Creature; I have no shelves.

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**TREXEL**

Fern Creature, now— Hang on a minute.

**FERN CREATURE**

Yes?

**TREXEL**

Fern Creature, why are you *here*? In, in our consulting room at this time. Normally it's Hartro that would—

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Even you can do this, Trexel. It's an easy one!

**FERN CREATURE**

You look like you're thinking about ferns... Are you thinking about ferns?

**TREXEL**

Fern Creature, this is— I can't even believe I'm saying this, but are you—

**FERN CREATURE**

Deactivate voice modulator.

**[Two beeps for deactivation]**

**TREXEL**

You—

**HARTRO**

It's, it's me!

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**TREXEL**

Ha-Hartro!

**HARTRO**

It's me!

**TREXEL**

**(Roaring)** I knew it!

**HARTRO**

Ah! No, you didn't! No, you didn't! You did not.

**TREXEL**

**(Roaring)** I knew it! I could tell, I could always tell!

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** No.

**TREXEL**

I always knew! I bought those ferns for a joke to, to humiliate you because you're the one who should be humiliated.

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** David—

**TREXEL**

You're the humiliated one. People are pointing, and saying, 'You idiot!'

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**DAVID**

Well, I mean they, they are, but they're not pointing at Hartro.

**HARTRO**

No, it's you. No— People are starting to call you 'Fern Boy'. It is hilarious.

**TREXEL**

**(Wailing)** No! Gah!

**HARTRO**

Yes, yes, yes.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** I haven't had this much fun spreading a nickname since 'Weatherboy'! Although character assassination is less fun when the character is already dead.

**HARTRO**

They've named a drink after **you** in the Cosmic Lounge. I know you can't, can't go in there.

**TREXEL**

But what did, what did they call it?

**HARTRO**

Fern Boy.

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**TREXEL**

Nooooo!

**HARTRO**

Yes!

**TREXEL**

**(Wailing)** I don't want to be known as Fern Boy!

**HARTRO**

Ah, nobody buys it, but—

**(Hartro sighs)**

**TREXEL**

It's just like school all over again. Except instead of 'Fern Boy', then it was 'Go Away Trexel, No-one Likes You'.

**HARTRO**

Yeah, there are quite a few drinks named after you in that bar.

**TREXEL**

Yeah, the, the Trexel Go-Home. The Burning Hot Trexel Shame. What's That – An Exploding Planet in My Mouth, Bet Trexel Made It, Guffaw, Guffaw.

They're all long names and not particularly witty, but they're hurtful!

**HARTRO**

But back to me!

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**TREXEL**

Hurtful.

**HARTRO**

Cos look—

**TREXEL**

Yes, why, why have you been pretending to be Fern Creature?

**HARTRO**

Good question.

**TREXEL**

This absolutely convincing character that is beloved by most of the senior staff?

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** No-one is buying this. Stop selling it.

**HARTRO**

Well. There's a good reason. I am getting some information. I am getting so much information, I have to sift through it at night in my room, and, and what is important and what isn't. And I have a whole wall dedicated to information and, and little red lines connecting this one to that one to this one to that one.

**TREXEL**

Oh, you've got a plotting wall.

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**DAVID**

What does see information *say*?

**HARTRO**

I, I managed to get a memo from S—

**TREXEL**

Wow, that's really interesting. But I think before we get into that, we should really do the review, eh?

**DAVID**

Um?

**(Noises of disbelief and confusion from David and Hartro)**

**TREXEL**

Because that's what we're all here for, the review? Reviewing our work. So let's all just put that— just table that motion over there, and get on with the review. How has Trexel done? I bet it's great.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** No, but—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk) (sings)** Oh, Trexel!

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Trexel, no but— Trexel—

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**TREXEL**

Oh Trexel, we're so happy with you!

Oh, Trexel! Oh Trexel, it's time for review

All the things that you've done

And the things that we've seen

Are so good for you and me!

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Okay, Trexel— No Trexel— But no, Trexel. Trexel? Trexel?

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Actually— Trexel? Stop. Stop!

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Oh, it's the— What— yeah?

**DAVID**

Trexel? You know— I mean, yeah, we're doing the review— You know, we don't actually have to... review... anything, right?

**TREXEL**

What do you mean?

**DAVID**

Well... **(sighs)** Oh Hartro, you tell him.

**HARTRO**

Trexel, it's, it's, it's— the, the sham's up, alright. I just— I'm, I'm—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** The sham?

**HARTRO**

—I am rubber stamping everything that comes from this department. Um, I— the reviews come to me, I'm like, 'Yes, yes, yes. Stamp, stamp, stamp.'

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep] (flat)** Oh no, we're not going to lose the rigorous quality checks, are we? Whatever, shall we do?

**HARTRO**

Listen—

**TREXEL**

Oh.

**HARTRO**

—we've got bigger fish to fry. I mean— I did— Sorry, I didn't say fish, I did not say fish. We have got more—

**TREXEL**

**(Resigned)** Bigger brooms to sweep.

**HARTRO**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

I understand. I just, I just always thought that, you know—

**DAVID**

Bigger ferns to pot.

**HARTRO**

That's right. Thank you.

**TREXEL**

No, it's— Sure. You know, I, I understand, you know, we don't— we're not focussed— we're focussed on other things now, you know. We've got David's plan, and your plan, and—

**HARTRO**

There's a plot!

**TREXEL**

It's **our** plan, Trexel. It's everyone's, everyone's plan.

**TREXEL**

**(Burbles in agreement)** I under— I understand. I just, you know, I just always thought that at the heart of it, really, you know, with— There's other things going on, there's plots and things, but you know, really when you get down to

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the, to the real core of, y'know, what, what we're all about, it's about me and my designs, and, and my plans—

**HARTRO**

This thing does go very deep. I mean, this is— We're talking high level. I mean, we're talking high level stuff here.

**TREXEL**

Yeah...

**DAVID**

It goes all the way to the top.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Yeah, yeah, but, but, but you know—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Well, I mean—

**TREXEL**

**(Getting more and more high-pitched)** —I, I'm, I'm, I'm always at the top, you know? On the pyramid of priorities, so I think, really think we should, we should just, you know, just talk a little bit about, about, about our, our, our management consulting efforts, and talk about how good they are. I just think we should just cover that a little bit.

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Alright, alright, alright, alright. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

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Okay. So, so there is some— I-I-I've got the review here... uh, in this pot here.

**[Rustling and clacking]**

**HARTRO**

This fern is—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Mmhmm.

**HARTRO**

I keep my paperwork here, and— Oh look! Oh, the memo, the memo from Standards is here as well.

**DAVID**

Oh.

**HARTRO**

So, this is what I found!

**(Trexel mumbles)**

**HARTRO**

It's incredibly important. Basically... it says that they've got to get things in line before the stakeholder's meeting, which is happening at the end of the quarter.

**DAVID/TREXEL**

**(Together)** Stakeholder's meeting?

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**HARTRO**

Yes! It's underlined, it's highlighted, I seriously think that's important.

**TREXEL**

Wait, wait, wait. Hartro?

**HARTRO**

Yes?

**TREXEL**

What colour is it highlighted in?

**HARTRO**

It's highlighted in yellow.

**TREXEL**

That's plotting colour!

**DAVID**

Yeah...

**TREXEL**

That's the plotting colour. Clearly Standards have some sort of highlighter-based plot.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Wait, and then—

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**TREXEL**

We must find all their stationery, and confiscate it!

**DAVID**

Actually, also— Hartro, um, Standards did, did come to me.

**HARTRO**

They came to you?

**DAVID**

A couple of days ago...

**HARTRO**

**(Incensed)** Why didn't— Why didn't you tell me this, David?

**TREXEL**

**(Background)** Always coming to the golden boy.

**HARTRO**

This is the sort—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Cos—

**HARTRO**

—of stuff that needs to go on my wall!

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**DAVID**

No, but, but— Because I am telling you now. Because we can't communicate, this is first opportunity—

**HARTRO**

You should have told me, before you told me.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** A harsh policy. But fair.

**TREXEL**

In many ways I should have told you, but you were pretending to be a fern, who I thought was my friend!

**DAVID**

Yeah. But your fern creature act spun me for a loop. A loop!

**HARTRO**

I know, very good. I'm very good.

**DAVID**

Ah, no, but they came to see me, and they were talking about, like, my plot with Imogen. I don't have a plot with Imogen—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Do you?

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**DAVID**

—but they thought— No, they thought I had a plot with Imogen —

**HARTRO**

Wait. Look at me in the eyes—

**DAVID**

Yes?

**HARTRO**

—and tell me: **(slowly)** Do you have a plot with Imogen?

**DAVID**

**(Whispered in exhale)** No...

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** I also say no. If anyone cares.

**HARTRO**

Okay, he doesn't.

**TREXEL**

Now, David, look in my eyes.

**DAVID**

Yes?

**TREXEL**

**(Enunciating)** Have you seen any drinks just hanging about?

**DAVID**

**(Whispers)** There's a slurry dispenser in that cupboard.

**TREXEL**

Okay. Well. Regular one, fine. Just checking, just checking in case there was bonus drinks.

**HARTRO**

I know, know, know how this works. I know how this works. You need— Those two, we can't really judge it on that. We need to put him under distress. And then ask a question.

**DAVID**

Wait, what?

**TREXEL**

Oh, we need to distress David, and then interrogate him about his ties to Imogen?

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** No, I don't want to be— I'm— Uh, no. Look I'm usually—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Yes!

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**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Okay, fine. I've got a minute!

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** No, I'm usually distressed!

**HARTRO**

We need to find out, David!

**DAVID**

No, yeah, that's fine. I'm not doing anything with Imogen! I don't what—

**TREXEL**

Right. David, sit in this chair.

**[Scraping noise]**

**TREXEL**

I've got some twine here. Just tie you into this chair, yeah.

**[Sounds of brief struggle]**

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Ooh! A new type of crime. What fun!

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Look, okay, I am letting you do this.

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**TREXEL**

Uh, Imogen, have we got any sort of anglepoise lamps? Any sort of a—

**[Twang of springs]**

**TREXEL**

Uh, thank you Imogen.

**HARTRO**

Wait, wait, wait, wait. But we're asking Imogen to help us see if David has a thing with Imogen.

**TREXEL**

Okay, that's true. I don't need your anglepoise lamp Imogen.

**[Click]**

**TREXEL**

I'm just going to yell the word 'light' into your face. Cos that's kind of the same effect.

**DAVID**

Right.

**TREXEL**

LIGHT!

**DAVID**

Okay.

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**TREXEL**

LIGHT!

**HARTRO**

Okay. I'm gonna ask him something.

**TREXEL**

LIGHTS!

**DAVID**

Yes, Hartro? What do you want to know?

**TREXEL**

LIGHTS!

**HARTRO**

Do you...

**TREXEL**

LIGHTS!

**DAVID**

Yeah?

**HARTRO**

...think my fern creature...

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**TREXEL**

Light!

**HARTRO**

...was convincing?

**TREXEL**

Ligh— Hartro, I thought we were trying to find out whether or not Imogen was involved? You've got—

**HARTRO**

Sorry.

**DAVID**

But, but yes, the answer is yes. Obviously. Yes.

**HARTRO**

Obviously, he has nothing to do with Imogen.

**DAVID**

It was a masterpiece, so—

**TREXEL**

Well, I mean, I think you've got side-tracked from the real issue, which is: Are you absolutely sure there's no special extra drinks, David?

**DAVID**

There could be. I ha—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Ooh.

**DAVID**

I don't know how many panels there are, or cupboards in this room. I keep pressing things, and new things, appear. There was a sort of shower thing, but only for your hands that I found...

**TREXEL**

It's called a sink, David, you weirdo.

**HARTRO**

There's bubbly slurry, I showed you last week.

**DAVID**

No, no, no, it wasn't a sink. It was like— it's a box that you just poke your hand into—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Oh!

**DAVID**

—and it's only big enough for your hand. And then it kind of just sprays stuff on it. And, and I think it comes out cleaner.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** On Old Earth, such devices were used to punish commuters by giving them wet, slimy hands.

**TREXEL**

You know, I'd always be frightened if, if I ever found a mystery box in the wall that was like, 'Hey, put your hands in there'. My immediate thought is, it's going to cut off my hands. I mean—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Trexel.

**TREXEL**

—maybe that's just me, but you know— What?

**DAVID**

Trexel, I was so bored.

**TREXEL**

Oh, I see. So you were, like, 'You know what, if it chops off my hands, fine.'

**DAVID**

At least it's something to do.

**HARTRO**

I never put my hands anywhere I can't see them.

**TREXEL**

Yeah. You keep your hands in your eyeline at all times.

**DAVID**

Not even in your pockets?

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**HARTRO**

No, have you ever seen—? Never.

**TREXEL**

Ah, no, never! Never!

**[Rustling]**

**HARTRO**

I mean, my hands are ferns at the moment—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Yeah.

**HARTRO**

but I can see them amidst the— it's obvious. I'm just going to put a few of these about, is that alright?

**TREXEL**

Ah, no, please, please. This room is a bit drab.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Oh, but th—

**TREXEL**

But now David—

**DAVID**

No, there are no shelves. There are n—

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**TREXEL**

**(Oblivious)** This is really important. If you've ever got something in your pocket—

**HARTRO**

Of course there's a shelf. Look, there's a shelf right here.

**[Mechanical whirring]**

**HARTRO**

You just wave your hand.

**DAVID**

How did you find that?

**[Clinking as Hartro deploys ferns]**

**HARTRO**

A fern shelf.

**TREXEL**

**(Oblivious)** If you ever find yourself in need of putting your hand in a pocket—

**DAVID**

How does everybody know how this room works except for me?!

**TREXEL**

**(Oblivious)** —you just open it up so you can see all the way in as well. So you don't ever lose track of your hand.

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**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Quite.

**TREXEL**

Oh, this room's looking nicer already.

**HARTRO**

There we go.

**DAVID**

Yes, it is a bit more, you know, bright.

**TREXEL**

So anyway, the memo!

**HARTRO**

The memo.

**TREXEL**

So Standards is having some sort of quarterly meeting and I, Trexel Geistman, am core to their plans. As I always expected. Also—

**HARTRO**

Actually...

**TREXEL**

—David was mentioned.

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**HARTRO**

Funny you should mention, it's David, this time, David 7, it says specifically, look here on the memo.

**TREXEL**

No I think— Let me just have a look at that.

**HARTRO**

“David remains the best option for submission at this time.” You see where it says in yellow highlighter.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Trexel? Hey Trexel?

Do not eat that memo.

**(Trexel mumbles sotto voce)**

**HARTRO**

No, take that— that is evidence.

**DAVID**

Do not eat that.

**[Trexel attempts to devour the memo messily; Hartro and David protest while Trexel smugly chuckles and chews]**

**HARTRO**

That's evidence! Right!

**[Smashes a fern on Trexel, who disgorges the memo]**

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**DAVID**

Right, oh...

**HARTRO**

I liked that fern!

**TREXEL**

That fern hurt.

**DAVID**

Thank goodness that was saliva-resistant paper.

**HARTRO**

Of course the Board write everything on saliva-resistant paper. They're not stupid!

**DAVID**

Yeah, I can see why.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** The Trexel-resistant memos are some of my finest work.

**DAVID**

Anyway. So they think that I'm impor— That, well, that, that makes sense. That's, that, that makes sense as to why they were asking me about Imogen's non-existent plan, because the—

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**TREXEL**

Doesn't make sense to me.

**DAVID**

Well, they were worried if I'm the most, like— if I'm the key, if I'm like—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Yeah.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** The key? Oh wow.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** —the, the best option, it says here—

**TREXEL**

Now, let's talk about ideas above their station. You've gone from lowly clone to key to the universe, just because you've got a wet piece of paper covered in someone's saliva!

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Yeah, you're, you're right.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** I think you should wind your neck in David, personally.

**DAVID**

Yeah, no, you're right. Oh well, tell, tell you what Trexel, tell you what. Would you like to punch my neck? Do you just— Do you wanna—?

**TREXEL**

No, I'm quite alright not punching your neck because— I, I could!

**DAVID**

Do you not want to punch the neck of this lowly clone?

**TREXEL**

No, I could, and it would probably break your neck in half, so I wouldn't do it, David.

**DAVID**

**(Humouring Trexel)** Mmm. My poor little head would snap off and bounce around—

**TREXEL**

Yeah, yeah. I think that would happen.

**DAVID**

—and end up in a fern pot.

**TREXEL**

It wouldn't, it wouldn't—

**HARTRO**

Alright, boys, boys, boys. What is this violence? Now cut it out, we've got things to do. And it does remind me – all of my little red things, just, they connect to you, David, on my wall of... clarity, at home. They're all coming back to you!

**TREXEL**

All connecting to David! So I think what we should do—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Yes.

**TREXEL**

—is not lose sight of the core issue, which is we should review **my** work from the past week!

**(Hartro sighs)**

So let's just review that now, shall we?

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Trexel. It doesn't—

**TREXEL**

Because I think we've really lost sight of what matters here! Which is Trexel K G K Geistman, Esquire, established 2 billion and shut up!

**DAVID**

Trexel, it doesn't matter!

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**HARTRO**

It doesn't—

**TREXEL**

Oh, it doesn't matter?

**DAVID**

No.

**HARTRO**

No, i—

**TREXEL**

**(Petulant)** Oh, oh, it doesn't matter! Oh sorry! I wasn't aware that it didn't matter! Oh, sorry! I feel such a fool! You know what else might not matter?! If, if things aren't mattering, you know, if just things don't just matter?

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Oh no...

**TREXEL**

You know, if things just all don't matter all of a sudden! Maybe it wouldn't matter—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Mmhmm.

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**TREXEL**

—if I was just to go out and tell people that, I don't know, that Hartro is a double agent and David's planning to overthrow the Board—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Wh-What?

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Okay...

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Maybe I should just go and do that!

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Wait up!

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** You know what? You're right. I'll just hop out of here, and go start yelling now!

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Alright. Okay Trexel. Okay Trexel—

**TREXEL**

Alright! Where's my hat? I'll wear a hat!

**[Trexel starts banging panels]**

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**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** You are going... You are going nowhere, mister!

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** I just... No, no, no, no! No, no, no, no! You sit down! Mister!

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Get off my—! Get off my c—

**[Sounds of a struggle]**

**TREXEL**

Oh, that was a very forceful put down, David. That was a little frightening.

**HARTRO**

Well done, David 7

**DAVID**

Right.

**HARTRO**

I need to remember that move.

**DAVID**

Okay.

**HARTRO**

That's right. You sit there with your ferns. [rustling]

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**TREXEL**

**(Softly)** Ooh, I like... I like these ferns.

**HARTRO**

You hold these.

**DAVID**

Take that. Maybe, take that one as well.

**TREXEL**

Okay.

**DAVID**

And, maybe, that one or two.

**TREXEL**

Oh it's, too many, too many ferns...

**DAVID**

No, just, just hold them.

**TREXEL**

Okay.

**HARTRO**

Now I, I, I may have said that the reviews... don't matter that much.

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**TREXEL**

You did! You did! You said that!

**HARTRO**

I did— I meant, they don't matter so much to David 7 and I, because they— they're so much about you...

**TREXEL**

Right?

**HARTRO**

They're really, they're really just reviews of you.

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**HARTRO**

You... you're really important—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**HARTRO**

—in these reviews.

**TREXEL**

Yes. Yes, this makes sense. I like this.

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**HARTRO**

Yeah.

**TREXEL**

Yeah. Keep going.

**DAVID**

And, um, and they don't matter because they're all so... good.

**TREXEL**

I want to hear—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** They are!

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Sort of...

**TREXEL**

I want to hear why they're good. I want to hear specifically what's good.

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** That's right, that's right.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** What's good about them?

**HARTRO**

Where's my file fern. One of you, uh, **(rustling)** that one, Trexel, I need that one back.

**TREXEL**

Oh, hang on, there... there you go.

**HARTRO**

That's where I keep my paper. Oh, here we go. Here we go. The reviews. Yes, yes, yes, yes. Oh, I-I'll just— I can whip through these, and spend some time with these, and, and tell you that—

**TREXEL**

Well, you should already have notes written up, because obviously you've already done the reviews.

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** I do!

**TREXEL**

So just read, read out, read out what your thoughts— You don't need to think about it—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Yeah...

**TREXEL**

—just read out what you thought, but from the reviews you've already done.

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**HARTRO**

Ohh...

**DAVID**

Just, you know, just like the, the thing about the, um...

**HARTRO**

The Gademy Academy!

**DAVID**

Yes, you know, the, the—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** That one!

**DAVID**

—the, the really loud school that needed us to, uh, help them with their, with their loud supplies and, and being loud on a budget.

**HARTRO**

I—they loved you.

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**HARTRO**

And they loved your suggestions.

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**TREXEL**

Which?

**HARTRO**

They said, wasn't that fantastic to, um, suggest putting some ears—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Uh-huh.

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** —on the side of the school—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Yes.

**HARTRO**

—with a, with a cornucopia of sound projectile—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Right...

**HARTRO**

—uh, science.

**DAVID**

...don't... I just, I don't, um...

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**TREXEL**

You know what, Hartro? That I was thinking exactly the same thing. What a suggestion from me!

**DAVID**

No, what a good— yes. What a good—

**TREXEL**

What a sugg— Ears on the school!

**HARTRO**

Yeah, do you like that?

**TREXEL**

Put ears on the school! I— You know what I was having a good day, that day. Great day. Great day.

**DAVID**

Oh, what a good—

**TREXEL**

Come on, come on. What about the others?

**DAVID**

—some real, real...

Are you sure we have to go through the others? I think we could just—

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**TREXEL**

I think we do. I think we should. I think we must!

**DAVID**

Okay...

**HARTRO**

There were, um...

**DAVID**

**(Talking sideways)** It's the, it's the Diabolical Flotilla Actors' Guild.

**TREXEL**

Yes!

**HARTRO**

Actors' Guild?

**DAVID**

The Actors' Guild

**HARTRO**

yes.

**TREXEL**

Don't need to talk out of the side of your mouth, David. I can hear you just as well.

**DAVID**

No, I was just, I was just thinking really hard about the, the, the good things that Hartro is going to be saying about the thing that she knows about.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Yes! The thing about this situation is how much good quality thinking is going on. Really! Top notch!

**HARTRO**

That's right. And Trexel.

**TREXEL**

Yes?

**HARTRO**

The thing is, you know, it might be hard for David 7 to hear how well you're doing.

**TREXEL**

I know, it's tough.

**HARTRO**

Okay?

**DAVID**

This is, this is—

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**TREXEL**

It's tough.

**DAVID**

**(Humouring Trexel)** Yes, I'm very distressed. I'm as distressed as, as you wanted to make me earlier. I'm so—

**TREXEL**

Have a fern for comfort.

**[Rustling]**

**DAVID**

Yeah, no, no, thank, thank you.

**HARTRO**

Ferns all round.

**DAVID**

I'm going to bury my head in this fern out of distress.

**HARTRO**

yeah, tho-those actors. They... they've got a new season—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Mmhmm.

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**HARTRO**

—and it's just something to be seen. They've got these... plays that they're going to be performing...

**TREXEL**

Sure. Which one did you like?

**HARTRO**

I really liked that second one. Uh, with the, the, the dogs...

**TREXEL**

Yes?

**HARTRO**

You had dogs, um, dancing.

**TREXEL**

Arf!

**HARTRO**

That was, it was the dancing dogs.

**TREXEL**

How'd they learn to dance? That's so stupid, how did they learn to dance!

**HARTRO**

Well, that, that song in particular: How Do— How Did They Learn?

**TREXEL**

**(Excited)** Oh, I remember it!

**(Sings)** Oh.... how do they dance?

Who taught these dogs to dance? Do-do-di-do-do.

That pooch sure can prance!

Whooo in the hell, taught these dogs to dance?

Was it the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker?

Who taught these dogs to dance?

Cos – duh-duh-duh

**(Hartro & David attempt to join in with varying enthusiasm & ability)**

**TREXEL**

**(Sings)** When a dog likes to dance – dah-dah-da-da-dah

And a dog likes to prance – dah-dah-da-da-dah

There's just one way to be!

A dancing dog!

Jazz hands! Jazz paws!

**HARTRO**

Yeah!

**TREXEL**

Jazz paws!

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**DAVID**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, you know, *Dancing Dogs 2: Rex's Revenge*.

**TREXEL**

Ah, bad Rex. Two down, two to go!

**DAVID**

Okay, we're going to have to really... just go through all the plays?

**TREXEL**

No, no. The other two briefs, the other two briefs!

**DAVID**

Oh, thank the Board.

**HARTRO**

Oh, there's two more! I— The two... best ones!

**DAVID**

Yep. Oh, yep, yep, yep, yep, yep, yep, yep, yep. Yep. That's Construct-a-Creature.

**HARTRO**

David 7, that third one...?

**DAVID**

Construct-a... Construct-a-Creature. Yes. No, um, good, uh, examining on me if I can remember it. Um, I'm going to— you're test—

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**HARTRO**

I'm testing you.

**DAVID**

Yes, you're testing me, and—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Test him!

**DAVID**

—uh, it's Construct-a-Creature, and they wanted us to help them out with some legal trouble because of their—

**HARTRO**

Are you sure?

**DAVID**

—sub-standard... Yep, sub-standards safety procedures with their creatures, which mauled and killed—

**TREXEL**

Stop talking David! What did Hartro think? That's what I want to know.

**HARTRO**

Brilliant...

**TREXEL**

Brilliant! That's what I like to hear.

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**HARTRO**

They don't have any more problems...

**DAVID**

Yeah.

**HARTRO**

Legal or... mental or... emotional... or...

**TREXEL**

They're just well-rounded, happy. They've got the emotional support they need.

**HARTRO**

They did!

**TREXEL**

Here's a question.

**HARTRO**

Huh, yeah?

**TREXEL**

Why? What was it that we did that particularly helped them?

**HARTRO**

It's, it's, it's something you did Trexel.

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**TREXEL**

Is it? Oh, I, I'm... I wait with bated breath.

**HARTRO**

You got those creatures— I can't believe you don't remember sitting with them, and hugging each —

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Yes...

**HARTRO**

—and every one of those creatures...

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Yes... Yes...

**DAVID**

Calm the creatures down—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Calm them down.

**DAVID**

—that's what we said. We said just ca-calm, calm, calm with cuddles.

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**TREXEL**

Calm them down so they won't maul anyone. Don't change the, the, the, the product at source, that'd be really expensive to retool. Create, create the monstrosities—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** And it—

**TREXEL**

—and then calm them down, soothe them...

**DAVID**

And it went so well—

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Mmm.

**DAVID**

—Stellar Firma had to blow them up because they were competitors.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** That would certainly make sense!

**TREXEL**

Yes. And, you know, what had happened sometimes, sometimes it just play like that. Sometimes it get play like that.

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**DAVID**

You succeeded so much that everyone died.

**HARTRO**

Too good.

**TREXEL**

That's just sometimes how we do.

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

You know?

**DAVID**

Yep, yep, ye, yep, yep, yep. Yeppity.

**TREXEL**

Wow, that's, that's powerful stuff. Well, final one, final one!

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Oh, great!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Fancy that! What happenstance.

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**DAVID**

The final one, which as, as Hartro knows, was for the Placaters of Planetary Puzzles...

**HARTRO**

Puzzles.

**DAVID**

And, and they wanted us to help, uh, help them out of a bit of a—

**TREXEL**

David, stop talking.

**DAVID**

What?

**TREXEL**

Hartro, what did they want us to do?

**HARTRO**

Well, I wasn't sure David really remembered there, he looked like—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** No, I think he knows. Dav— He— I, I—

**HARTRO**

—he looked like he was making it up.

**TREXEL**

I think, yeah, I think David should never talk again. Now Hartro—

**DAVID**

No, I think, I think I fell down, and hit my head, and I can't remember anymore.  
So I'm just, y'know...

**TREXEL**

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I reckon that. Now, Hartro, what's, what's that?

**HARTRO**

Yeah, well those, uh... it's just those planets, you know, they had... they  
needed... something from you.

**TREXEL**

They sure did! They sure—

**HARTRO**

They really needed it!

**TREXEL**

By howdy, how they needed *something* in particular! Which was...?

**HARTRO**

Really specifically, they needed the answer...

**TREXEL**

Yes. To the question, which was...?

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**HARTRO**

Help us...

**TREXEL**

Exactly. They needed help. And we helped them. And how did we do it?

**DAVID**

Yup.

**HARTRO**

You— You know, it's funny—

**TREXEL**

I do. Yeah, funny.

**HARTRO**

—how you always— you just don't— You know what it is, Trexel? You don't like to praise yourself.

**TREXEL**

I'm very humble.

**HARTRO**

You know, you, you often don't like to stand up and go, 'Yeah, I did it.'

**TREXEL**

That's not me.

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**TREXEL**

'You know, who did it? I did it.'

**TREXEL**

I just like— I like, I like the credit to fall where it falls, you know.

**HARTRO**

Yes. You do!

**TREXEL**

The higher path. The nobler cause.

**HARTRO**

If you do something good, like, what you did—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Yeah.

**HARTRO**

—you just, you know, you're happy to just let, you know, you know it's, you know it's been noted.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Yeah.

**HARTRO**

And that's... enough.

**TREXEL**

It's— You know what? I live my life by a simple mantra. You do what you do because you can, and you can because you have, and when you have, unlike having not, not only within yourself, but then with other people, the people that make up what you are, are enjoying the time of their lives, which is now—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** A-an—

**TREXEL**

—and now is the time to be alive, not taking all the credit.

**DAVID**

And that is exactly what **we** said to them, which was so good.

**TREXEL**

Their minds exploded with how good it was. They were like, 'Wow! What, what a saying! So succinct, I'll put it on a mug!'

**TREXEL**

And then they just paid us millions of credits.

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** They... yep.

**DAVID**

Yep. Yep. Yes, that's—

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**HARTRO**

I just—

**TREXEL**

I just feel so much happier now we've done, now we've just done a little review.

**HARTRO**

Well done.

**TREXEL**

I don't feel the need to go out, and expose everyone's deepest, darkest secrets ending in their deaths anymore.

**DAVID**

Oh! Well, that good.

**HARTRO**

Alright.

**TREXEL**

Y'know, that, that's just me. That's just me in my life.

**DAVID**

Well, what a, what a happy bonus, um—

**TREXEL**

Well, not a bonus, David, because it was the entire point of why we're here.

**(getting irate again)** Un-unless, of course, it wasn't the entire point! And it was a bonus thing! An extra—!

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** No, no, no, no, no! It was entirely the point.

**(Hartro tries to be placating as well)**

**DAVID**

Nope. It was absolutely, a hundred percent, all about you.

**TREXEL**

**(Calm)** Okay.

**DAVID**

Just to ask some, some really frivo-frivolous, trivial questions like, like old, old, stupid David 7 likes to do—

**TREXEL**

Old fripperous David!

**DAVID**

—cos he, cos he does get his fancies. David does get David's fancies.

**TREXEL**

The clo— The 'clone of fancy' we call you! Look at him, there. Fanciful clone!

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**DAVID**

Yeah. Oh David, they love to ask just irrelevant, irrelevant Davidly questions.

**(Trexel sighs)**

**DAVID**

So irrelevantly they ask—

**TREXEL**

Humour him, Hartro, humour him.

**DAVID**

Hey, hey Hartro? Did it— did you, did you get anything else on your mission?

**HARTRO**

Funny, you should ask, because.. I did.

**DAVID**

Oh?

**HARTRO**

I did. This girl did. Yeah, I got another thing. It is a report, a medical, official medical report on—

**TREXEL**

I had it removed, and they said it was fine.

**HARTRO**

What, what?

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**TREXEL**

What?

**HARTRO**

What?

**TREXEL**

Sorry, what are you— What? What report, what medical report are you talking about?

**HARTRO**

This— Well, funny enough, this medical report is about you Trexel, it's about your... specific clone.

**TREXEL**

**(Relieved)** Oh, about my clone. Okay, that's fine.

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** It's about your clone.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** I understand. Phew!

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Well, it's about clones, possibly—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** I, I thought I'd burned the oth— It's not important. Off you go.

**HARTRO**

Yeah. Uh, basically, uh, it's, it's a report it's called, uh, "Why So Swole?"

**DAVID**

Right?

**HARTRO**

It— Yeah, it's about clones, and how they are genetically engineered to be incredibly strong. I mean, here, here, have a look...

**TREXEL**

Here, here, let me have a look.

**[Trexel grabs the report]**

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Yeah, have, have a read there.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** You, you read that. Yeah, cos it's all about you...

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Just says— Not seeing my name anywhere on it...

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** All about your... clone exper... **(trails off)**

**TREXEL**

But it's not important, it's, it's about, it's about my clone.

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** It's on there.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** So, "Why So Swole? A study into the enstrengthening of clones at unexpected rates".

**(Muttered reading noises)**

**TREXEL**

And, uh, here we are, here we are...

**HARTRO**

I think it's quite important.

**TREXEL**

"Clone David 7 has exhibited some extremely swole tendencies, ripping through walls—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Ah... Mmhmm.

**TREXEL**

— metal bending..." so-and-so-and-so, ah here we are, here we are, here we are! "In looking into the issue of why we have yet to see, previously, any grand enswolenings of clones, our science dude reckons that is because clones are genetically engineered to grow so quickly that if one were to exercise, the extremely accelerated cells used to make up its body would become very

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strong, very dense, very quickly. I reckon. Leave me alone. I'm on break." So, I suppose what they're saying here is that all clones *have* the ability to become as frighteningly strong and dense as David, it's just that, why would a clone exercise? When would that ever come up?

**DAVID**

**(Pondering)** Why would a clone exercise?

**HARTRO**

**(Crosstalk)** Hmm.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Yeah...

**TREXEL**

So, David, you're the first clone to ever exercise.

**DAVID**

**(Sotto voce)** Ah, but maybe not the last.

**HARTRO**

G-give me the evidence back. Cause I'm gonna put that—

**TREXEL**

I just want a, I just want a...

**[Trexel attempts to devour this report as well, struggling ensues]**

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**DAVID**

Wait! No, no, no!

**HARTRO**

No! Get it!

**[Trexel is divested of the report, after another fern is deployed]**

**TREXEL**

I'll get it one day.

**HARTRO**

These are quite handy. I might always just keep a fern around, you know? You know, when you don't have a—

**TREXEL**

Well, I mean it's better than the foot. I mean... yeah, yeah.

**HARTRO**

—foot. I has been a long time since a footing...

**DAVID**

Ah!

**(David burbles at the prospect)**

**TREXEL**

I'd say we're done here! I, I'd say were done David? Would you say we're done?

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**DAVID**

Ooh, done, done. Done-dy, done, done.

**TREXEL**

Oh, so done.

**DAVID**

Done, done-dedy...

**HARTRO**

Well, I'll be seeing you...

**DAVID**

Diddly-done.

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**HARTRO**

And I think, I think that the, uh, the, the proper information has been received for this week. I think my continuous spying mission shall carry on.

**TREXEL**

Ah, just, uh, tod-tod-toddle off on whatever is your—

**HARTRO**

Yes. Yes. Fern Creature will be leaving now.

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**DAVID**

Okay. Yes. Yes. Fern Creature.

**HARTRO**

**(Conspiratorially)** I'm going to go back into it, you know, as I leave. Cos I, cos I came in as—

**TREXEL**

**(Background)** Fern Creature... Fern Creature...

**DAVID**

I've already forgotten that Hartro was here.

**HARTRO**

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. Good. Yeah. Yes. Cos I ca— I came in, and I need to stick with it, because people will wonder, 'Why it's Hartro is coming out of—

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** We would hate to ruin the illusion!

**HARTRO**

**(Softly)** Activate voice modulator.

**[Two beeps as it activates]**

**DAVID**

Go— Oh, b-bye Fern Creature! Thank you for the fern, lovely ferns. Same fern time, same fern place. Am I right?

**FERN CREATURE**

And... goodbye.

**[Door whooshes as Fern Creature leaves]**

**TREXEL**

That's it David. Let's not be weird about the fern creature. The fern creature has its own things to do. Now, David, I just want you to remember something.

**DAVID**

Yes?

**TREXEL**

Always. Buy. Ferns. They're a great investment.

**(Crosstalk)** In fact, I need to chase down Fern Creature, because I think we can buy a couple more plants.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Well, no, actually. Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, Trexel, Trexel, take the, take the—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Fern Creature! Fern Creature!

**[Door whooshes as Trexel leaves]**

**DAVID**

Oh, what am I going to do with all these ferns?!

**[Fades to Show Theme – Outro]**

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## **Cast**

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David 7 - Ben Meredith

Trexel Geistman - Tim Meredith