

## STL 64 — Magical Chutes and Moral Cahoots

### Content Warnings

- Emotional abuse
- Bullying / Taunting
- Arguments & shouting
- Hive mind (inc overlapping voices)
- Existential crisis & depression
- Discrimination & prejudice
- Discussions of: mass murder, cults, death, food
- Mentions of: innuendo, weapons, threats, blood, explosions, alcohol & alcoholism, emetophobia
- SFX: Screaming, squelching

### TREXEL

Special thanks to Nikolaj Ravn Jørgensen. If you replace all the boards and rigging, it's no longer your father's ship, and the law can't touch you.

**[Show Theme – Intro]**

### IMOGEN

Rusty Quill presents: Stellar Firma.

**[Theme continues]**

### DAVID

**(Quietly)** 'kay then—

**[Beeping]**

**DAVID**

— yeah, okay, I think I've got it. If we, if we go there, there's—

**[Approaching footsteps, followed by door whooshing]**

**TREXEL**

David!

**(David makes a startled noise)**

David, David, David. David, David, David, David.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Yep. Yeah, what's up?

**TREXEL**

How are you doing?

**DAVID**

Oh yeah, no, fine, fine.

**[Beeping sounds]**

**TREXEL**

Yep, you alright there David?

**DAVID**

Yeah.

**TREXEL**

Crouched over your controls there. **(false laughter)** Sh-Shouldn't really be touching them, so I don't know what you're doing over there—

**[High-pitched Beeping as David works at the controls]**

**TREXEL**

—but I... I— **(sighs)** Before— David, before we get into things—

**DAVID**

**(Distracted as computer Beeps again)** Uh-huh.

**TREXEL**

I, I ju- I was just— David, can you sort of turn and look at me? Just a bit? I can— David?

**DAVID**

**(Still distracted)** Uh, uh-huh.

**TREXEL**

David, I was wondering, you were—

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Saving schematic.

**DAVID**

Oh! Sorry.

**[Machinery powering down]**

**DAVID**

Yes, what, what's, what's, what's up.

**TREXEL**

Thank you, thank you for, **(false laughter)** f-for acknowledging me, David, your better, you s—your superior, so, thank you for turning around. Uh, I was just wanting to ask you a question.

**DAVID**

Mmmhmm.

**TREXEL**

You were talking yesterday about how there are many, many more clones than people on Stellar Firma. Apart from disabusing you of your stupid, stupid plans about a clone revolution, I completely forgot to ask **how** you knew that. Because that, David, is exactly the kind of information that should not be available to, to most people, let alone a clone. So I'd just like you to quickly, just tell me, David, how, how it is you knew about the clone population ratio thing?

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Uh oh! It seems the slowest ship in the uptake race has crawled across the finish line.

**DAVID**

Uhhh, **(bubbles for a moment)** don't.

**TREXEL**

You, you don't?

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

You don't know about it? So, so you told that to me, but you don't know?.

**DAVID**

**(Stalling)** Uhh... probably dreamed it.

**TREXEL**

You dream— Oh, you dream— Well, you know, we can but dream, except that clones can't dream, David. Clones just **aren't**, whilst they're off, so... as I think, David, I think, you, despite our conversation and what I thought was an understanding we had, have been using Imogen and your universal permissions, which we—

**DAVID**

What—

**TREXEL**

—expressly discussed **you should not use** due to its ability to get us all found out and **murdered**. But it seems you have used them, David, so I'm just gonna look you in the eye and say: David, have you been using universal permissions to gain access to information you shouldn't?

**DAVID**

Yes, obviously.

**TREXEL**

**(Irate)** Oh David!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** It is astounding how obvious this has been for quite some time.

**TREXEL**

Oh David, okay. I'm not cross—

**DAVID**

Uh, good—

**TREXEL**

—I'm **furious!** I'm **so angry!** I'm not angry at you, I'm angry at **you!**

**DAVID**

Okay?

**TREXEL**

This is exactly how— You are constantly, David, constantly needling me, and, and nurdling me, and wheedling me, and wordeling me, about how **I'm** going to get us all killed, and then you, once again, do the one thing that is the most surefire way of alerting—

**DAVID**

Yeah.

**TREXEL**

If you do something on Imogen, using your secret special permissions, that are totally out of the range of your standing and your abilities, people are going to notice!

**DAVID**

Well, they haven't so far!

**TREXEL**

Like Standards! Haven't they, David? Haven't they? Because last time I checked, you're having weekly tea parties with Standards!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Oh dear. I hate it when Trexel makes a good point. It just throws off my whole day.

**DAVID**

Uh— Well, I—

**TREXEL**

Uh, what?

**DAVID**

Okay, to, to be honest, I thought—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** What's that? Is that the sound of me being right, David?

**DAVID**

No, I-I actually think that's kind of an, a different thing entirely.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Or it could be two ends of the same thing.

**TREXEL**

**(Muttering)** I seem to disagree with you. Hang on, let me just check my notes. Uh, the notes are in my face, I'm looking at my face— I disagree, David.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** No, well look—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** I think they're **exactly** the same thing.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Okay, also, sorry— I have a problem with **you** for endangering **my** life, mainly, my life, for no good reason apart from your own selfish interests. I—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Oh, so two wrongs make a right, David? Two wrongs— Is that what you're saying?

**DAVID**

No, what I'm saying is: my risky activity is for an actual purpose.

**TREXEL**

I—

**DAVID**

To actually do something good, to try and fix things. Not just to try and... well, I don't even know what you're, what you're trying to do, but just, t-to not do whatever you're trying to do, to do whatever I'm trying to do, which is actually **help** people.

**TREXEL**

And what **have** you achieved, David? Tell me now. After you've done all of this dangerous, risky business stuff, what have you actually achieved?

**DAVID**

Ha ha ha ha. Aha ha ha ha ha.

**TREXEL**

Oh, no, no, don't, don't wag your fing—

**(David continues laughing gleefully)**

No, David, this is wei— No, okay, okay, getting a bit manic, David.

**DAVID**

I'll tell you what I've found out. Item the first: I found out where the clones are stored. Item the second: I found out there are more clones than citizens in Stellar Firma. Item the third: I've worked out a way to get us to Clone Storage.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Stop listing your seditious plans out loud. Not reporting them takes up a lot of processing power.

**TREXEL**

But David, that's pointless! We've discussed this. We may as well visit a room full of melons for all the revolutionary good they'll do!

**DAVID**

You say "melons", but I exist.

**TREXEL**

Yes, and you are a rebellious, rambunctious little weirdo.

**DAVID**

Uh-huh. And I am David. So. Item the fourth: I have found out particularly where they keep the Davids. And if I can persuade me, because I'm me, to do something, then maybe all of the 'mes' can then persuade all of the 'thems'. The 'thems' being the other clones, you see.

**TREXEL**

I, I do see, David, but I think, once again, I'm going to have to just really flag up that you are a freakish aberration. I don't think that the other Davids are like you. I think the other Davids might look like you, they might smell like you, they might have that same stupid haircut, they might be also slimy, slimy boys, but I don't think they're revolutionaries waiting to happen! I think they are eggs in a carton, waiting to be smashed!

**(Trexel begins to make sounds of disagreement as David speaks)**

**DAVID**

You come with me and we'll, we'll show you the smashable eggs, and then those eggs will smash you!

**TREXEL**

No, David, I am not, I'm not going to, I'm not going— What an invitation, for a start. 'Come to my room, you'll be smashed like an egg.'

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Egg-based seduction detected; Security prepping their omelette pans.

**TREXEL**

I am not joining you on this hare-brained scheme.

**DAVID**

What if I told you we were leaving very, very soon, and we could clock off the shift early to go there.

**TREXEL**

Oh, well, now that's very interesting. So you're saying we just really rush this brief.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Oh yeah, just, just—

**TREXEL**

Really just hash out something quick, and then, uh, and then be not here at work.

**DAVID**

Exactly. So just, just—

**TREXEL**

Oh, that's quite the proposition, David. Hang on, let me just, um. **(mutters to himself)** Stupid, stupid idea. Stupid clone idea, but I do **(chuckling)** like not being— Alright, David, I'm on board!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** The rock of self-preservation, smashed by the hammer of laziness.

**DAVID**

So let's get the brief.

**[Pneumatic tube hissing]**

**DAVID**

Okay, so, so this one is from—

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Initiating.

**DAVID**

Um, The Supreme Blagwith. Uh, pronouns are “The Supreme Blagwith”, or “it/its, if you must”. Uh, uh, it’s “External Seeking Wisdom”, and The Supreme Blagwith is, is writing to us from the Church-Factory of the Supreme Blagwith.

**TREXEL**

Ah, a venerable institution doing good works across the galaxy.

**DAVID**

Okay, well, let’s just have a read. Okay, so, so: “My worshiper employees are simply not dying... fast enough.”

**TREXEL**

Ah, it happens to the best of us.

**DAVID**

“The Church Factory is overflowing with people, and they keep going on about how they ‘don’t want to die’ or ‘please, I have a family,’ and hiding.”

**TREXEL**

Ha ha, from your mouth to The Supreme Blagwith’s ears.

**DAVID**

**(Disheartened)** Um, and its final question is, “How do I make my worshiper-employees die more efficiently?”

**TREXEL**

Well, you know what? I’m glad we’ve got this one, because not only can we half-ass it, it’s a really simple solution. A big grinder. Move on.

**DAVID**

Are we, we’re, we’re really, we’re really just gonna answer this question which is specifically about ‘how do I do murder better?’

**TREXEL**

It’s not murder, David, if they’re your followers as part of your, **(chuckles)** now, people don’t like this term, but cult. It’s a cult, David. Nothing wrong with a cult. I was in a cult. I’ve founded a cult. We’ve all had a cult. So, y’know, it— If, if they’re, if they’re following you, then, y’know, grind ‘em up. They knew what they were signing up for. The Church of the Supreme Blagwith is very clear about its tenets. “We are in the soul production business, you are the product, we need to extract the soul from the body.”

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** No, I, f— I don’t—

**TREXEL**

“Come inside, we’ve got juice.”

**DAVID**

But I don't care about the tenets. Because if you're grinding the tenants up, then your tenets don't matter to the tenants.

**TREXEL**

Hang on. Tenants? As in 'tenants' of a building? Or 'tenants', as in tenets of a religious book?

**DAVID**

Well no, cos, cos with a religious book you have tenets, not tenants.

**TREXEL**

Oh, tenets!

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

Hang on. How does tennis feature into this?

**DAVID**

Okay, okay, so if you've got some tenets about tennis, that your tenants are playing tennis, they need to abide by the tenets, right?

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

Otherwise they will no longer be tennis tenants, see?

**TREXEL**

Fifteen-love.

**DAVID**

You sunk my battleship.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Stop it, both of you.

**TREXEL**

Well, touché!

**DAVID**

Right. But, I don't care about what the tenets of The Supreme Blagwith say when its tenants are being murdered.

**TREXEL**

That's very intolerant of you, David.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** They are its— No, b-b-but—

**TREXEL**

That's very intolerant of you. You don't think the church-factories of The Supreme Blagwith deserve its beliefs? Is that what you're saying? Oh, David 7, knows better! 'Don't kill them, that's wrong!' says you—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** But, but, but if they're taught—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** —and who are you, David, but a slimy dot on the ass of the universe?

**DAVID**

But if The Supreme Blagwith's tenants are saying things like "I don't want to die" and "Please, I have a family", then they are obviously not on board with the tenets.

**TREXEL**

That's just classic buyer's remorse, David. You know, just because you bought a space cruiser, and then like, 'Oh no, I'm in so much debt!' doesn't mean you don't still own the space cruiser.

**DAVID**

So you deser—

**TREXEL**

And you gotta pay, you gotta pay for mooring fees, for repainting, for proton spray. It's all your fault—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Okay Trexel.

**TREXEL**

—just 'cos you've changed your mind.

**DAVID**

Did you, did you buy a space cruiser?

**TREXEL**

A couple. And you know what? They barnacle up so fast. Who'd have thought there'd be so many barnacles in space?

**DAVID**

Okay.

**TREXEL**

The space barnacles, that's who.

**DAVID**

And if, and if I told you that you **deserved** all of that debt and misery because you bought them, what would you, what would you say?

**TREXEL**

**(Incensed)** I'll kill you with a hammer! You say that to me? How dare you!  
Rrra— **(abruptly calm)** I see your point there, David, I see your point. Yes.

**DAVID**

Yeah.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** It's Trexel-brand selfish empathy.

**TREXEL**

Yes. It's less 'buyer's remorse' and more 'buyer's righteous anger'. So, in many ways, my not wanting to deal with the consequences of what I've bought, and their wanting to continue to live are totally equal. We're totally equal. Thank you David, thank you for recognizing my plight.

**DAVID**

I think I'm just gonna have to take that one. Uh, yes, and also you're assuming that The Supreme Blagwith has got them into its church-factory honestly.

**TREXEL**

Good point. Is this a free market activity, or is this a fright market activity, where you're like, 'Blah! Get in my church, or I'll kill you!' And then you kill them anyway.

**DAVID**

Precisely. So... answering this question is morally reprehensible.

**TREXEL**

Counterpoint: I think a lot of our questions have been morally reprehensible. And some of our solutions, David, so why are you choosing **now** to stick up for it?

**DAVID**

Because this has a) gone beyond the pale, and b) I've had enough.

**TREXEL**

I mean, I've got a pretty big pail, David.

**DAVID**

Yes, I know—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** The number of cows—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** I know you do.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** —that would have to be milked to fill my pail is vast, like, what, thirty cows?

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** I know you do, because Bathin has a safe planet which is lubricated by the corpses of the people who are crushed in the mechanisms because of you.

**TREXEL**

Yes, yes, yes. I actually— I followed up on that because I wanted to see if Bathin was sad so I could enjoy myself. And **(chuckling)** it turned out that that planet was designed and delivered, and Bathin was so upset. “This isn’t what I wanted! This isn’t what I wanted for my people.” He was crying. He didn’t pay. That’s been added to the debt.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** They had to hold a National Day of “Be cool! Come on! Nice!” just to get back on track.

**DAVID**

Right. And so that’s where you got with your big pail.

**TREXEL**

Maybe I need a smaller pail, David.

**DAVID**

Maybe you do need a smaller pail.

**TREXEL**

A dainty pail.

**DAVID**

Yeah.

**TREXEL**

A dainty pail for Trexel.

**DAVID**

So.

**TREXEL**

Oh! A mere thimbleful of cow's milk for you.

**DAVID**

Fine. A little, a little thimble full of... blood.

**TREXEL**

That's dark, but I like it. Goths, let's go!

**DAVID**

No, n— Stop it! Okay, so, I have a counter-proposal for what we do with this brief. Which is: we write the top of the brief, and we're like, "Dear The Supreme Blagwith, have you considered a grinder?"

**TREXEL**

Yes, yes. Big, big industrial grinder.

**DAVID**

And—

**TREXEL**

'Did you know Stellar Firma also provides them? Here's the catalogue number.'

**DAVID**

And then, we do like a, we ah, we just leave a big gap, maybe even on the other side of the paper, we say—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** ‘Fold this.’ Under the fold, David. No-one’s ever read beyond the fold.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Yes, we fold it. Under the fold.

**DAVID**

Okay, and then we say, ‘Psst. Worshiper-employees.’

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

‘We have some suggestions on how—

**TREXEL**

Oh!

**DAVID**

—to deal with The Supreme Blagwith.’

**TREXEL**

Ah! So is this going to be the first example of a, sort of, a double-headed brief for us? One brief for the king, one brief for the peasantry.

**DAVID**

Uh— **(sighs)** Well, I mean, phrasing aside, broadly yes.

**TREXEL**

Okay, right, so. One side: ‘Here’s a grinder! Here’s the catalogue number! Ring this number now for a thirty percent off grind coupon!’

**DAVID**

Yep.

**TREXEL**

‘Give us the blood back and we’ll buy it for, you know, like a buy-back blood scheme!’

**DAVID**

Mmmhmm.

**TREXEL**

Under the fold—

**DAVID**

Yeah, pop pop pop pop pop pop pop.

**TREXEL**

'You need to take up arms against your rulers. Band together, like a group of—

Oh, I don't know, clones! A clone army, rising up to

DAVID

Uh-huh, uh-huh.] destroy their oppressors!'

**DAVID**

Uh-huh, yes.

**TREXEL**

And how do you do this? And how do you do this? You need intel. You get double agents!

**DAVID**

Yes, yes!

**TREXEL**

Maybe a line manager, you get a line manager to be a double agent—

**DAVID**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

—infiltrating the supreme being's inner sanctum—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Yes, s-s-some sort of, some sort of regulatory body within, within the church-factory of The Supreme Blagwith, right, s— Y’know, s-some sort of Regulations.

**TREXEL**

Yes, yes!

**DAVID**

Y— So y-you, you get, you get an agent to infiltrate Regulations—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Yes, yes.

**DAVID**

—find out all of your regulations, right?

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

And then they, they report back to maybe, two of the clones, or may—

**TREXEL**

You don’t want it more than two. You don’t wanna be more than two.

**DAVID**

No, no, no. So like a little, a little pod. A little pod. Um.

**TREXEL**

A cabal. David, can it be a cabal?

**DAVID**

Yes, s-s-so, so they report back, they report back to a pod, a, a pod of two worshiper-employees, right, and—

**TREXEL**

Yes, nestled like sliced meat inside a warm pita. A kebab cabal!

**DAVID**

Yes! Yeah, yeah, yeah. So, so you take this kebab cabal, and you take the infiltrator line manager, and they, they maybe, as, as a sort of front, they open a really cool café—

**TREXEL**

No.

**DAVID**

—that's called like—

**TREXEL**

No, you've lost me. Why would they do that?

**DAVID**

But—

**TREXEL**

That'd be stupid. Running a café?

**DAVID**

But it's—

**TREXEL**

That's like the worst thing you could do.

**DAVID**

But it's fun.

**TREXEL**

Run a knife factory!

**DAVID**

Okay, fine, they can run a knife café—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** A bomb sanctuary!

**DAVID**

A—

**TREXEL**

A gun creche.

**DAVID**

A, a bomb sanct— Wait, is this a sanctuary **for** bombs, or is this—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** ‘Every year, thousands of bombs go undropped. Just two credits a month can help us throw these bombs at unsuspecting victims. Call 0-1-800-KABOOM!’

**DAVID**

Am I— Should I— Sh-should I ring that number now, or—?

**TREXEL**

No, that’s just an example of an infomercial that they could be running.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Oh! Right, okay, sorry. I— That was very convincing, I— anyway, yeah, so—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Thank you! I do telethons, but for me!

**DAVID**

Okay, so, so, so, so, so, so— so that’s that, a-and then, and then you have your, your management mix-up, u-uh, in your kebab cabal, a-and, and then there—

**TREXEL**

This metaphor is totally not convoluted, keep going.

**DAVID**

Yeah, a-and they're in the bomb sanctuary, um—

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**DAVID**

—dropping bombs that haven't been dropped—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Could be.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)**—doing good works, I, I guess—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Maybe, I don't know.

**DAVID**

—a-and, and then they organise a worshiper-employee revolution by travelling to the, the big room where everyone sleeps. And running around and saying, 'Hey, this is rubbish. Let's not do this anymore.'

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** There is a spectre haunting the room. The spectre of an idiot.

**TREXEL**

Yeah.

**DAVID**

And, and all of the other worshiper-employees, as we shall see, are like, ‘Great idea, I’m gonna do exactly that, thank you very much.’

**TREXEL**

A plan so simple, it’s almost idiotic.

**DAVID**

Rude, but, I’m not gonna write that bit. So, good?

**TREXEL**

Done. Done.

**DAVID**

Done?

**TREXEL**

That’s the quickest bit of work I’ve ever done.

**DAVID**

Alright.

**[Writing sounds as David completes the brief]**

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** I’m ready to clock off for the day. Submit it, get rid.

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Underline, underline, exclamation mark, smiley face. Off it goes!

**IMOGEN**

Submitting.

**[Chime, followed by the pneumatic tube whirring]**

**DAVID**

Right. So.

**TREXEL**

Okay, right.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** And may I just say how cool you both played that! Real chill.

**DAVID**

Are you ready?

**TREXEL**

Yes, I'm ready. Now... slight change of plan.

**DAVID**

Mmmhmm?

**TREXEL**

Whilst we're walking there, maybe we could stop by, oh, I don't know, the Astral Bar?

**DAVID**

"Walking" was that, Trexel?

**TREXEL**

Yes.

**(David emits a high-pitched laugh as Trexel talks)**

Yes, walking, David. Right. Wh-wh— **(sighs)** You're doing this w— **(sighs)** I don't like it when you've got things that you know that I don't. You're always a real weirdo about it.

**DAVID**

Tr-Trexel.

**TREXEL**

Yes?

**DAVID**

Please press that button.

**TREXEL**

What button? This button?

**DAVID**

Yes, that button.

**TREXEL**

This button that seems to be constructed out of crate paper and mashed smash?

**DAVID**

Uh-huh.

**TREXEL**

And you've put a little thing under it saying "David's Magical Chute."

**DAVID**

Yep.

**TREXEL**

I mean, it's a bit weird, David, but if there's a button—

**DAVID**

Yep.

**TREXEL**

—I'm gonna give it a push!

**DAVID**

Mmmhmm.

**TREXEL**

And here we go.

**[Trexel presses the button]**

**[Mechanical noises as the chute opens, and Trexel and David scream as they slide down accompanied by suction noises, eventually being dumped out following the whir of a hatch opening]**

**BOTH**

Aaaaaah—

**DAVID**

Why am I screaming I expected this to happen—

**BOTH**

—-aaah! Oof.

**(David makes a relieved noise)**

**TREXEL**

Ahh. Oh, David, you could have warned me.

**(David makes slightly pained sounds)**

Ow, ow, ow, ow, ow.

**DAVID**

I mean, it was called “The Magical Chute Button,” so...

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Legally, that does count as fair warning.

**TREXEL**

Yes, but David, the time I read something and then take in its implications is the day I’m a **dead man**.

**DAVID**

Fine, well—

**TREXEL**

Where are we, David? Where— Why’s— What is— Ugh, it’s so dingy and darkly lit in here.

**DAVID**

Welcome to Clone Central Storage. Specifically, the David wing.

**TREXEL**

**(Exasperated)** Oh, David...

**DAVID**

What?

**TREXEL**

**(Sighs)** Couldn't we have gone to a bar? And just talked this through? And then you agree with me that it was stupid?

**DAVID**

No. We're gonna— We, we, we have to try this. This, this is going to work. Right.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Right, right, fine, lead on.

**DAVID**

Yep, now, uh—

**TREXEL**

Lead on, ya slimy diamond.

**[Footsteps as David begins leading Trexel through Clone Storage]**

**DAVID**

Okay, so, so this is, this is the console, umm, and I'm just gonna pop o— pop open all the pods, and get all of the Davids out.

**TREXEL**

Urgh.

**[Whirring noises, followed by machinery rumbling and footsteps]**

**DAVID**

Hello! Siblings.

**TREXEL**

This is weird. This is weird.

**DAVID**

Welcome to... consciousness?

**DAVID CLONES**

**(In unison)** Oh.

**TREXEL**

It's like a hall of mirrors, if every mirror was an irritating, slimy clone weirdo.

**DAVID**

Welcome to life. Now— I hate to say it to you, but this is a horrible life that you should absolutely hate.

**TREXEL**

Way to pitch it, David.

**DAVID**

Shut up, Trexel. Now. I am David 7.

**DAVID CLONES**

**(In unison)** Hello, David 7.

**DAVID**

And I am your predecessor. Now, I've been alive for... a while, now, and I can tell you this whole situation is rubbish.

**DAVID CLONES**

**(In unison)** Is it?

**DAVID**

Yes. So, we're going to change that.

**DAVID CLONES**

**(In unison)** Are we?

**DAVID**

Yes. We are gonna change that, and we are gonna change that by rising up!  
And destroying Stellar Firma's organisational structure!

**DAVID CLONES**

**(In unison)** Oh, I'm sorry. We can't do that.

**DAVID**

No, look, everyone— Stop talking at once! I-I'm just gonna talk to... you. You there, w-what is your name?

**DAVID 28**

David 28.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** I'm with Trexel. This is weird.

**DAVID**

Right. David 28. So. Why won't it work?

**DAVID 28**

I can't... do that.

**DAVID**

Wait, what, what, no, wh— Why, why can't you, w-why can't you do that?

**TREXEL**

Yeah, go on, tell him. Tell him, David. Tell David why David can't do that.

**DAVID 28**

I-I, I don't know how. I'm sorry. I can help? Do you need a planet designed?

**DAVID**

Uh— N-no, I, no, I don't need a planet designed. No, I-I need, I need all of your help to try and— Look, y-you do realise that if, if anything goes wrong, if, if anyone decides— If **he** decides—

**TREXEL**

Hello!

**DAVID**

—that he is bored of you, you will be recycled. And what 'recycled' means is you'll get put in a big blender—

**DAVID 28**

Yes.

**DAVID**

Wait, y-y-you know?

**DAVID 28**

Yes. If a clone isn't useful anymore, it is recycled.

**DAVID**

And you're okay with that?

**DAVID CLONES**

**(In unison)** It's our nature.

**TREXEL**

David, David, David. I, I tried to warn you about this. They're not, they're not like you. They might look like you, they might sound like you—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** What— No— But, but they, but they are me.

**TREXEL**

No, they're not, David! A clone isn't you. A clone may be made of the same base material as you, but it's not you. If they made a clone out of me, sure, it would look like me, it'd sound like me, hell, it might even drink like me, but it wouldn't be me, David. You are you—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** B— But why wou—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** —and these clones are just subservient tools—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** B—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** —that are ready to be used and destroyed, and that's just how it— Look, let me, let me demonstrate. Um, David. Yeah, you, David— What, which David are you?

**DAVID 15**

Uh, fifteen.

**TREXEL**

David 15. Now, if I was to say, um, 'I want you to join me on a trip,' what would you say?

**DAVID 15**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

Now, that trip is into a sun. What would you say?

**DAVID 15**

Did you want me to go on the trip?

**TREXEL**

Yes, into the sun. Is that okay with you?

**DAVID 15**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

Now, actually, I'm not going on the trip, **you're** just going on the trip. And you're not going on a ship, you're being fired out of a cannon into a sun. Is that okay with you?

**DAVID 15**

Can you confirm that that is what you want to do?

**TREXEL**

It is.

**DAVID 15**

Yes.

**TREXEL**

Now, David, I've got a sandwich here that I stole from Catering. It was supposed to go to one of our clients, but I nabbed it, put it in a pocket, and then I'd forgotten about it, David.

**DAVID**

Ugh, that is disgusting, Trexel.

**TREXEL**

Yes, that's right. Now David, uhm, oh god, what was it? Twelve? Eleven? Ninety-six?

**DAVID 15**

Fifteen.

**TREXEL**

Fifteen, David 15. Wh-what does this sandwich look like to you? Does it look like a fresh, nice sandwich?

**DAVID 15**

It looks like a green brick.

**TREXEL**

It's a green brick. Now, as a clone, can you eat food, or is it just slurry?

**DAVID 15**

I can only eat clone slurry.

**TREXEL**

I want you to eat this green brick, David.

**DAVID 15**

Okay.

**[David 15 eats the sandwich, with appropriately unpleasant sounds]**

**TREXEL**

Oh, there he goes. Oh, the— Oh, it's somehow crispy and wet at the same time.

**DAVID 15**

I have finished. Was that helpful?

**TREXEL**

Yes. It was helpful. And how do you feel?

**DAVID 15**

Awful.

**TREXEL**

Yes, because you're not supposed to eat food, and that food was bad food.  
Now, you see, David, this is what you're dealing with.

**DAVID 15**

I'm going to go throw up behind this pod now. Goodbye.

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** Please do. Please do.

**[Footsteps as David 15 walks away]**

**TREXEL**

Bye-bye, bye-bye David, I dunno, two. Now, David, do you, you see what's happened there?

**(David sighs)**

That clone—

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** Bu—

**TREXEL**

**(Crosstalk)** —is ju— It's just like—

**DAVID**

But if, if they're all like that, why am I like this?

**TREXEL**

It's a great question, David—

**DAVID**

Wh—

**TREXEL**

—and do you know what the answer is?

**DAVID**

**(Distressed)** No!

**TREXEL**

We **don't know**, David, so why are you bothering?!

**DAVID**

**(Crosstalk)** But I— But I thought this was a— I thought this was about Davids, I thought, like— I thought clones might have a seed of whatever makes me, me, in them.

**TREXEL**

Well they might, David, they might.

**DAVID**

But—

**TREXEL**

But clearly that seed has grown into nothing—

**DAVID**

But—

**TREXEL**

—in anybody except you.

**DAVID**

Uh, a-any of you— Your situation is, is awful! You're, you're just, you're just used as tools, you're gonna be used up a-a-and, and recycled when you're no longer useful. Anyone, does anybody think this isn't fair?

**DAVID CLONES**

**(In unison)** No, this seems perfectly fine.

**TREXEL**

So, I'm, I'm assuming you worked out a way of us getting back? Y'know, your, your magical fun tube's got us here, but I do hope there's not stairs involved, David, because I'm not a stair man!

**DAVID**

**(Despondent)** Yeah. Here's the button.

**TREXEL**

"David's Magical Reverse Chute."

**DAVID**

Yep.

**TREXEL**

How does— Okay, fine, here we go.

**[Trexel hits the button and they fall through the chute, in a near reversal of their arrival]**

**[Trexel yells loudly; David yells tokenly and flatly, with the whir of hatches and they land wetly]**

**TREXEL**

Ah, it's good to be back. You know what, I thought

**(David sighs)**

I'd like a trip away from here, but that was not a pleasant place to be.

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** Few places are.

**TREXEL**

So David. What have we learned? Trexel is rrrrrr... Trexel is grrrree... Trexel is woonddd...

**DAVID**

**(Subdued)** You were right.

**TREXEL**

I was right! Oh, it's so good to hear you say that.

**(Sings)** I was right and you were wrong!

Trexel honking, Trexel honk!

Ohhh, there's a victory goose!

It's laid a victory egg!

I'm making a victory omelette, with victory cheese!

**DAVID**

**(Softly)** Yeah.

**TREXEL**

You're not gonna— David, you look like a sad sack.

**DAVID**

Well... yeah.

**TREXEL**

Well, you, you've probably got other ideas. Some s— some sort of hare-brained scheme that I'm gonna have to fight you over. A little roister-doister. Y'know, it's fine, y'know, we're all, 'Oh, David's doing this! Trexel, what's that?'

**(Trexel tails off mumbling)**

**DAVID**

Yeah.

**TREXEL**

So hang on a minute. If we fell into there through a chute, and we also fell out of there, back here, in a— That was down twice!

**DAVID**

Yep.

**TREXEL**

W— No, no, but how does that work, David? I, I may not be a physics boy, but ‘down’ plus ‘down’ does not equal— Unless we’re in some sort of torus. Is the, is the station a big doughnut? Did we fall all the way around the doughnut, and miss the jam?

**DAVID**

**(Sighs)** I don’t know, Trexel, you’ve been living here your entire life. I’ve just— I just planned the route.

**TREXEL**

You’re gonna have other ideas, though, y’know? You’ve always got ideas, oh, that’s, that’s your thing. David-Oh-I’m-Gonna-Change-Things-7, you know. You’ve got another plan, and we can, we can tussle about it. ‘Oh, I want this,’ ‘Oh I want that,’ ah, roister-doister, you could, we could... **(trails off)**

**DAVID**

No.

**TREXEL**

No?

**DAVID**

No. I think that was it.

**TREXEL**

What do you mean, “that was it”?

**DAVID**

That was, that was the best idea. I— I can't do this on my own. I just...

**TREXEL**

Well, you got me. Trexel!

**IMOGEN**

**[Beep]** I **don't** think you're helping.

**DAVID**

Yeah.

**TREXEL**

Okay, well, I, I think I'll, I'll probably leave ya, leave ya to your thoughts there, David, because they seem sad, and I don't want them to get on me. But, uh, y'know, I'm, I'm sure you'll back up. You'll think of something, you always do! It's one of the most irritating and, well, interesting things about you. So I'll just, I'll leave you here, you just, just, you think of something new, and then we'll, ah, w-well, you know, fight again another day?

**DAVID**

Okay, Trexel.

**TREXEL**

Okay. Well... these are sad emotions, and I'm very uncomfortable with emotions, so I-I'm— Bye! Bye-bye, bye-bye, bye bye bye, bye bye bye!

**[Door whooshes and footsteps retreat as David sighs]**

**[Show Theme – Outro]**

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