

Skinsuits

Comedy/Scifi

by
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CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
GORF	N/A	N/A	Male
MIEM	N/A	N/A	Female
MAN	It would help if he had grey hair.	N/A	Male
WOMAN	N/A	N/A	Female

MIEM stands staring at a large screen in front of her. The screen shows earth approaching through space. GORF enters.

I don't think mine fits.

GORF

Looks fine to me.

MIEM

Are you sure it isn't too big?

GORF

(GORF starts pulling the skin on his face.)

Feels a bit loose.

GORF

I'm telling you, it's fine. You'll see worse than that when we get there.

MIEM

What's the mission again?

GORF

We need to help them. They're close but need a little push before they can join us.

MIEM

GORF starts walking awkwardly around.

No, there's something not right here.

GORF

He starts re-arranging the contents of his crotch then pulls his trousers out to look inside.

Are you sure they've all got these... appendages? They're not very practical.

GORF

Half of them have them.

MIEM

What have the other half got?

GORF

Holes. MIEM

Urgh. GORF

MIEM
(pressing into her crotch)
Tell me about it.

GORF
What are the holes for?

MIEM
For the appendages to go in. It's how they breed.

GORF
That's disgusting. Is this really the type of species we want in the Galactic Confederation?

MIEM
It's not up to us.

GORF
True.

He feels around to the rear of his trousers.

GORF
Oh, I've got a hole, too.

He fumbles at the front and the back.

GORF
But I can't get the appendage in.

He looks into the front of his trousers again.

GORF
And it's started leaking.

MIEM walks over and looks into GORF's trousers.
MIEM reaches into her pocket and brings out a length of string.

MIEM

Just tie the tip. I stuffed mine with paper.

GORF

Thanks.

GORF takes the length of string then reaches into the front of his trousers with both hands and fumbles around.

GORF

(pulling his hands out)

Much better.

MIEM

(looking more closely at the screen)

Good. We're nearly there. Prepare yourself for landing.

GORF firmly grabs his genitals.

BLACKOUT.

FADE UP:

MIEM and GORF are sitting on two chairs centre stage. There is a gap between them.

GORF

Why didn't we just land nearer the human settlement?

MIEM

We can't just turn up in a Class 4 Ultracruiser. They'll mistake us for gods again.

GORF

(looking around)

So, what's this we're in?

MIEM

They call them locomotives.

GORF

And they're powered how?

MIEM

Coal.

GORF

What in the name of blackholes is that?

MIEM

A fossil fuel. They burn it.

GORF

That doesn't make any sense. Their sun's so conveniently placed for a Dyson sphere.

MIEM

I know. That's why they need a little push.

GORF

More than a push. Do they even know what a Dyson sphere is?

MIEM

Not yet. (starts laughing) I heard it's going to share it's name with a vacuum cleaner.

GORF

They need to clean?

MIEM

Did you not read your briefing notes?

GORF

I may have given them a cursory glance.

MIEM

This is a Pre-Type 1 Civilisation, OK? They don't have the technology we have. Things get dusty here, amongst other more 'fundamental' failings.

GORF

Then why even consider them for the Galacticon?

MIEM

They've registered as having empathy.

GORF

Oh. Right.

(looking to the side)

Nice view. I like how they've kept their foliage. It really gives it a homely feel. I miss leaves.

MIEM

Pre-1's all seem to have it... and wildlife, too. Not necessary post-elevation. Just use your simulator if you're so keen.

GORF

It's not the same.

GORF stands up and starts doing lunges.

GORF

I think I'm getting the hang of this skinsuit now, though.

MIEM

(looking around)

Sit down, people are staring.

GORF

No, they're not.

GORF then falls backwards and rolls to a stop.

MIEM

Now they are.

GORF

What happened?

MIEM

We stopped.

GORF

They don't have velocity inhibitors?

MIEM

Not yet.

GORF

Are you sure this is the right planet?

A woman appears from behind centre-stage and walks between the chairs. She smiles at MIEM who smiles back.

MIEM

I'm sure.

BLACKOUT.

FADE UP:

MIEM and GORF now sit centre stage on two chairs without a gap between them. MIEM mimes driving.

GORF

So what's this? A locomotive you control yourself?

MIEM

They call it a horseless carriage. It's a personal transportation system. A relatively new invention here.

GORF

(GORF looks around with disdain)

This is new?

(he looks up)

It doesn't even have a weather barrier. I can see the sky.

(his demeanour changes)

What a lovely shade of blue.

GORF smells the air.

GORF

But what's that smell? More fossil fuel? Absolute savages.

GORF starts looking around, investigating the 'car'. He leans forward and mimes pressing buttons.

MIEM

Leave those alone.

As GORF presses a particular 'button' in front of MIEM a horn blares.

GORF

(he jumps in fright)
Oh, my auditory nerves!

MIEM

I told you to leave it alone.

GORF

So they travel around in these metal boxes? Don't they realise how dangerous they are?

MIEM

And it's only going to get worse. One day they'll all have them.

A short pause.

GORF

Are we nearly there yet?

BLACKOUT.

FADE UP:

MIEM and GORF are now lying next to each other on the floor in 'bed'.

GORF

Remind me what we're doing again?

MIEM

Sleeping. Think of it as standby mode.

GORF

How long does it take?

MIEM

Eight to ten hours.

GORF

How often do they do it?

MIEM

Once every planetary rotation.

GORF

No wonder their technology isn't advancing very quickly if they waste half their time doing this.

MIEM

It's what strengthens their empathy, I think. Commander Volcom tried to explain it to me. It's their dreams that make them so special. They dream of something better.

GORF

But why do *we* have to do it? Can't we just go and give the card to the Earthman and go home?

MIEM

Timing is everything. If we get it wrong then it could alter the chain of events and who knows what might happen. Our futurologists were very specific about that.

They lie there for a short while.

GORF

I can't sleep.

GORF rolls over and looks at MIEM.

GORF

You want to try the appendage thing?

MIEM

No.

GORF

Spoilsport.

BLACKOUT.

FADE UP:

MIEM and GORF are now standing centre stage.

MIEM

So all we need to do is wait for him to come along and give him this.

MIEM holds up a small card. GORF takes it from her and has a look.

That's it? That's all they need?
GORF

Yep.
MIEM

And you're sure he's a scientist?
GORF

Their greatest. Here he comes now.
MIEM

A man appears from stage right and starts walking towards them.

Are you sure that's him? He's only got one head. My cousin's got three and he's only a lab assistant.
GORF

I'm sure. Give me the card.
MIEM

GORF attempts to pass the card to MIEM but drops it. The man walks past and continues across the stage.

You idiot.
MIEM
(to GORF)

MIEM bends and picks up the card and then calls after the man.

Albert! Wait!
MIEM

The man turns back round and approaches MIEM who hands him the card.

A nudge. From friends.
MIEM

ALBERT

What is this?

(looking at the card and reading)

$E=MC...$

BLACKOUT.

FADE UP:

MIEM stands beside a large screen and keyboard. The screen shows a star-field. GORF stands next to her.

GORF

See, it was fine. A couple of seconds didn't matter. And now we're nearly home can I take this thing off, it's starting to itch?

MIEM

I'll just check it all went to plan.

MIEM taps the keyboard in front of the screen and an image of an atomic explosion appears.

MIEM

(she hangs her head)

Shit.

FADE TO BLACK.