

STARSHIP Q STAR

EPISODE 103
"Head to Head"

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[An upbeat synth pop music track plays - it's as if a Star Trek theme has had a baby with Janelle Monáe.]

1

INT. SSQS - AURELIA'S QUARTERS - MORNING

1

[Aurelia packs a bag according to a list, throwing random items in as she names them.]

AURELIA

Alright, ISA official check list!
You and me are gonna nail packing
for our first mission onto an alien
soil.

[Aurelia hums.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Compass? Check. Organism sample
bags, micro, medium, and megafauna?
Check, check, check. Shoe shine
kit.... Iiiii'm not going to shine
my Birkensandles in the middle of a
mission. I *should* be packing a
spare button down. And my feelings
journal. Oh! And my carabiners, and
-- No! What would Sim say?

(Sim voice)

"Aurelia, if it's not on the list,
it's not in your bag!" Sorry,
carabiners! Today I'm following the
rules all the way to a new home
planet.

[A door bell-esque tone.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

(with a flourish)

Entrée!

The door swishes open as Sim enters.

SIM

Hey!

AURELIA

Sim! Welcome to Casa de Banks!
And happy Set Foot On An Alien
Planet and Negotiate Settlement
Day!

SIM

It's finally here! Guess who got
you a 'hope no planets blow up'
present to celebrate?

[Sim reveals a frappe.]

AURELIA

A frappe? Aw. Gimme!

(grabs, slurps)

Ooo yeah. Hang on, this isn't duplicator coffee, this is *real*. Bob said he was out of beans! I've been choking down his mustard seed espresso for *weeks*.

SIM

I may have approved an expansion to Bob's kitchen garden in exchange for his secret bean stash...

[Aurelia slurps.]

AURELIA

Relaxing rules for contraband? A good luck gift? And according to my schedule, running 7 minutes late rather than your traditional 30 minutes early? Who even are you?

SIM

I'm chill Sim now. Relaxed, easy going and not hung up on rules that cause potential new home planets to explode. A more balanced me.

(beat)

And excuse me, Miss 'time is an illusion' - you have a schedule?

AURELIA

That's right, Sim. This loosey goose flies straight and narrow now. Less off-the-cuff daredevil charm, more by-the-book rationale. Speaking of - you're in violation of ISA landing party rules. Not carrying a backpack! Didn't you get my list? And dossier on the planet?!

[Sim clears her throat.]

SIM

"We made contact with the 'Do-Dells' via long range scanners and have been communicating via text for several weeks as we approach. Despite a massive communication barrier, we've been invited to planet PAN-T5 to negotiate potential settlement."

AURELIA

(touched)

You memorised the dossier!

SIM

New Sim travels light, but still knows their stuff.

AURELIA

Look at us. You, more cool and relaxed. Me, a medium sized stick up my ass. We're really meeting in the middle as Co-Captains, Sim. I have a really good feeling about this planet.

SIM

We're not gonna screw this one up.

AURELIA

Nope, we're not gonna screw it up.

They build into a chant.

SIM

We're not gonna screw it up!
We're not gonna screw it up!
We're not gonna screw it up!

AURELIA (CONT'D)

We're not gonna screw it up!
We're not gonna screw it up!
We're not gonna screw it up!

[The roar of the Starship engine as it flies off to planet PAN-T5.]

2

EXT. PLANET PAN-T5 RAVINE - DAY

2

[Another engine roar and hover as the Starship Q Star lands on the planet. The landing ramp lowers and the crew step cautiously into the new environment - a ravine on PAN-T5.]

AURELIA

Ah, woah, ok. In single file, crew! Procedure says we can't be too careful in this *thrilling* yet maybe dangerous alien landscape!

[Sim clangs down the ramp and onto the planet.]

SIM

All clear, crew! Welcome to PAN-T5!

[Bird like creatures tweet with bizarre chirps, plants rustle in the thick hot breezy air.]

[Mo, Dusty, and Sol cheer as they clang down the ramp. Dusty takes a deep breath.]

DUSTY

Fresh air! Thick, thick fresh air!

MO

And real sunlight! From two suns.
Mm, toasty! I'm gonna get so sweaty
with the locals!

[Bob falls into the grass.]

BOB

Plant life! Leafy, stalky, sprouty -
and *weird* alien plant life! Hold on
to your hats, space friends, you're
finally about to see Botanist Bob
bloom!

AURELIA

Atten-shun!

[The crew stamp to a clumsy attention.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

(hesitant)

Everyone fall out or... fan out!
Mo and Bob, biological readings,
make sure nothing is going to kill
us.

[FOOTSTEPS as Mo and Bob walk off.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Solaris and Dusty, let's get our
bearings.

DUSTY

Woo-hoo, yeah!

[FOOTSTEPS as Dusty and Sol walk off.]

AURELIA

And Sim do... Ah, you ok? Do you
need a task?

SIM

I already gave myself a task:
admire new planet. Can you believe
this place? Wide open skies, wiry
curling grasslands, towering
pillars of rock. It's so bizarre
and beautiful...

[The planet sounds idyllic: a gentle breeze blows. Bird-like
creatures call.]

AURELIA

Yeah. It really is... And we got us
here. Co-Captain.

SIM

Yeah. We really did.

[FOOTSTEPS and RUSTLING as SOLARIS marches closer.]

SOLARIS

(killing the moment)
Oh WOW! Captain Aurelia, this is gorgeous. Ah, look! Five unknown species in one bush!

[A weird low growling emits from a nearby bush.]

SOLARIS (CONT'D)

We're going to have the *best time* doing the zoological index!

AURELIA

Ah, urrrr, sorry Sol! I need to focus on the entire ISA settlement matrix. Not *just* what old Aurelia would have found quote unquote "fun".

SIM

Wacky alien animals, hey Sol? I'd be up for that *chill* activity.

SOLARIS

Ooh! Captain Sim... Thanks but, uh--

DUSTY

(calls out)
Hey Captains! The rendezvous point is ahead!

SIM

Alright! Adventure et cetera!

AURELIA

Let's go, team! We don't want to be late. Double time, knees up!

[MULTIPLE FOOTSTEPS as the crew begin to hike at a cracking pace. Aurelia is quickly fatigued, and pants hard.]

[The sound of a bubbling creek is getting louder as they walk.]

[Aurelia stops.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

(Kirk voice, tired)
Co-Captain's Field Log: Planet PAN-T5 continues to impress, ticking box after box of the Settlement Matrix. Even if the air is a little swampy with... with....
(sniffs, normal voice)
Blech, what's that smell? Musty...

The crew join Aurelia sniffing the air.

DUSTY

A salty ammonia... kind of reminds me of something.

MO

Something gag-worthy.

BOB

I don't smell anything. Does it smell plant based? Should we have a big group sniff?

SOLARIS

Aurelia, shall we log this as a stink or a stench?

AURELIA

Defensive positions while I check the ISA guidelines on odour, team!

SIM

(forced chill)

Wo-o-ooah, explorers, chill! So the air's a little juicy. We're on an *alien planet*. Let's all go with the flow and soak - it - up!

[Sim takes a deep breath. Then gags.]

AURELIA

Yes, yes, ok. Good job Sim. Let's go with the flow - but a fast moving flow, information, over to our rendezvous point at that clearing! Alright!

[Rushing water gets louder.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Team bio samples: Mo, Bob and Solaris - check out that stream! The rest of you - double time! You know what? Make that - triple time.

[Fast FOOTSTEPS Dusty, Sim, and Aurelia hustle off.]

2A AT THE RIVER --

2A

[The water is loud now as Mo, Bob and Sol approach.]

[A frog croaks loudly.]

BOB

When botany calls, Bob answers! Why hello, bulbous river reed! *Hi, Bob!*

[Bob laughs.]

MO

This river look like water or beer to you two? It's very... *frothy*. Hey, hand me my sample bags, Sol. I *reeeeeally* hope it's beer.

SOLARIS

Yeah yeah yeah great. So... Aurelia and Sim seem to be getting along, right?

BOB

Well how can you be mad when you're seeing exciting new plants?! Oh! I've gotta get a closer look at that one...

[Bob walks off.]

MO

Yeah the Captains are getting along... but did they do a brain swap or somethin'? Sim's acting like she's popped a blister pack of benzos, and it chilled me to the bone when Aurelia used the ISA manual. Though the ordering me about part... *different* kind of bone.

SOLARIS

(ignoring Mo)

Sim and Aurelia do seem over their... stuff, right?

MO

Yeah, maybe. Probably. Who cares! We're literally hiking to alien hole-a-palooza! I've been limbering up all week for this. Check it out.

[Mo grunts and manipulates their body.]

SOLARIS

Woah! Mo! Your leg behind your head... and you're still standing!

MO

Yeah open sesame.

BOB

(calling)

Mo! Sol! Quick!

BOB (CONT'D)

Check out this incredible mega petal! Looks kinda like a pitcher plant but has an anther as big as me!

[Mo and Sol join Bob.]

MO

Thrilling Bob.

[A squelching sound as Bob puts his arm in the mega petal.]

SOLARIS

Bob, maybe don't put your arm in --

[PFFFFT! The flower puffs pollen over Bob. He splutters.]

SOLARIS (CONT'D)

Too late.

BOB

Ah! It pollinated over me! What an honour! Quick Sol, take a sample.

[Bob coughs and wheezes. Sol scrapes off a sample.]

SOLARIS

Got it. You okay, Bob? It's really caked your face. Want a wipe?

BOB

Just another day of being overcome by the miracle of plants, Sol, haha! But yes, a wipe would be great.

[Bob wipes his face. Mo gasps.]

MO

Oh holy pustules! Your face!

BOB

What? Mo, what?

MO

(laughs)

It's frigging gross, dude. You must be having a reaction. Lemme see...

[THUMP. SLIDE. THUMP. SLIDE.]

SOLARIS

What's that sound?

2B

AT THE CLEARING --

2B

AURELIA

(calling)
Mo, Sol, Bob! Get over here!

[Mo, Sol, Bob rush to the others. THUMP. SLIDE. THUMP. SLIDE.]

SIM

Anyone have eyes on what it is?

DUSTY

Sounds like a drunk elephant,
Cap'n. Who are very hard to reason
with, believe you me.

AURELIA

The Do-Dells should be around
here... they could be in danger.
Laser guns at the ready!

[Guns charge.]

[THUMP. Foliage rustles. Heavy THUMP-SLIDE steps approach.
The crew's breathing quickens, ready to strike.]

[Two Dö-Dells push through the foliage.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

FLESH DEMON! AAAAAHHH!!!!!!

[The "flesh demon" makes some strange SQUELCHING SOUNDS.]

MO

Oh my god that noise is *visceral*.

AURELIA

Cover your ears, team! And your
eyes. Oh ugh, I'm gonna puke.

[Aurelia gags.]

SIM

Activate personal translators.

[The translators CHIME on in the crew's ears.]

SOLARIS

Activated, Captain Jackson!

DODELL AMBASSADOR

Squelch! Squel-elch squelch!

BOB

Huh! The disgusting flesh demons
are our alien friends! Hello!

AURELIA

(trying not to gag)
Oh! Ambassador! So wonderful to meet you... In accordance with ISA first contact procedure, let me introduce myself as Captain uh... sorry - Aurelia Banks. This is Captain Simone Jackson and the rest is our crew, all hailing from the planet Earth R-I-P.

DODELL AMBASSADOR

Squelch squelch squelch.

[The translator chimes.]

AURELIA

Oh. Ha. That's an interesting description of my head shape- What a strange and abrasive sense of humour you have!

[The Dö-Dell hands over a flyer.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

A photocopied flyer? What does it say?

MO

I'd know this flyer in any civilisation, Captain. They're throwing a kegger.

DODELL AMBASSADOR

Squelch squelch squelch. Squelch!

[Translator chimes.]

AURELIA

(gagging intermittently)
I don't know if your wife would like you describing... well they're not THAT big and I- Oh. What a lovely insult cum invite to drinks with your delegation. Like being invited to my homophobic uncle's Christmas. We would love --

[The Dö-Dells exit abruptly with a THUMP. SLIDE. THUMP.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Wait, where are you -- ok, we'll meet you there! Wherever that is.

SIM

Heeeeey, it's all good Aurelia. I'll jog up to that ridge, get our bearings, and B-R-B.

(MORE)

SIM (CONT'D)

That's 'be right back'.
(uncool)
Cool!

[Sim jogs off. Dusty cackles.]

DUSTY

Damn, Cap'n A. That alien just roasted us! They must've sent a comedian to put us at ease. Classy.

SOLARIS

Yeah I can't tell if we insulted them or they insulted us or both. They *definitely* seemed a bit taken aback by our "smooth, flat foreheads".

AURELIA

Speaking of looks... I'm not crazy, right? They all look like...

MO

Spongy, shafty long bois with flesh berets? Sentient trouser snakes stomping around on testicle-legs? Like their Anaconda don't --

DUSTY

Penises, Cap. They look like giant dicks. I think. It's been a while...

BOB

Ah yes! I did feel simultaneously threatened and impressed!

SOLARIS

They did look... different, I guess?

MO

I'd love to get 'em in the med bay for a full shaft scan.

AURELIA

Okay so they are actual dick heads. But was it just me or were they acting like dickheads too?

[Sim arrives back, panting.]

SIM

I'm B - that's Back. Wait, dickheads? Come on team, we just made first contact! Actual aliens, who by the way live just over that ridge.

(MORE)

SIM (CONT'D)

And if all goes well, so could we!
A human colony on a planet
inhabited by these incredibly
unique, and... headstrong species.
That's pretty exciting if you ask
me.

MO/BOB/SOLARIS/DUSTY

Amazing / You're right! / Wooo!

SIM

Aurelia?

[Aurelia gathers herself.]

AURELIA

Well... as you and the ISA manual
say: "Questions only bring
inconvenient answers." So!

[Hopeful energy builds as the crew push on.]

SOLARIS

I'll recalibrate the translators.
Maybe we misunderstood their jokes?

SIM

That's the spirit, Sol!

DUSTY

And it looks a sausage fest
alright, but I've been in the
service for twenty odd years -
nothing new for me. Happy to help
with the diplomacy mission, Caps.

SIM

Awesome, Dusty!

BOB

I *also* volunteer as dicklomat!

MO

Yeah, you'd be an expert at
handling that sort of thing,
especially alone, hey Bobby?

BOB

Wait, what?

AURELIA

First of all, gross Mo, and second
of all - BLURGH!!! Bob. Your *FACE*.

[The others gasp in horror.]

BOB

It's not that bad is it?

SOLARIS

Your rash has blossomed into a field of terrifying boils.

DUSTY

(hungry)

It's making me crave pepperoni pizza...

AURELIA

Sorry Bob, but protocol says you gotta go back to the ship.

BOB

What? No! What if you encounter an alluring fungi or a questionable bog? What if you need Botany Bob!

MO

Yeah, too bad Bobby. You really dicked up going near that flower...

SIM

You're going with him, Mo. He clearly needs medical treatment.

MO

But the welcome drinks! I have so many dick jokes. I limbered up, Cap! I limbered up!

AURELIA

Rules are rules. Fall out you two!

BOB

Ohhhh.

MO

Noooo. UGHHHH!!

SIM

Everyone else, let's go bag us a new home planet!

3

INT. PLANET PAN-T5 - WELCOME CENTRE - SOME TIME LATER

3

[Obnoxious heavy bass squelching party music.]

[Squelching of Do-Dells mingling. Clinking of glasses.]

AURELIA

Wow. Sim. This is... a lot of flesh. All standing and walking and dancing on... round, hairy...

SIM

Thrilling, right!

AURELIA

(not glad at all)

Mmmmm you know I'm... glad you're so excited and easy going about it all.

SIM

To think! Of all the planets in the universe our exploring led us here.

AURELIA

Somewhere I feel like I explored already during uni.

[Solaris approaches.]

SOLARIS

Hey Captains, check it out! "Squ-chelch", a Do-Dell delicacy. I don't do liquor but I thought you might like to sample it, Aurelia!

[Aurelia grabs the cup.]

AURELIA

Booze, finally!

(drinks, gags)

It's so... sour. And thick. You can have mine, Sim.

SOLARIS

Yes, isn't it fascinating! I've never seen a drink so viscous.

SIM

(drinks)

Mm, it has a good kick to it!

[Dusty approaches --]

DUSTY

Heya Caps! Solaris. See ya found the "squ-chelch". Cheers!

AURELIA

You've been working the room since we got here, Dusty. What's your assessment?

DUSTY

Yep. I've been pressing the flesh. They're a rough and tumble lot. Really in your face, direct. Like, real pricks, really. Make me feel like I'm back at flight school. Oh! And see that squelchy dude?

AURELIA

Oh yeah the purple-y one? Yeah...
he looks familiar...

DUSTY

Reminds me of my ex... Beth loved
that toy. Anyway, the Do-Dells have
invited me into their folds. I'm
about to go talk negotiations with
the Do-Dell Ambassador. You two
coming?

AURELIA

Negotiations? Already?

SIM

Damn, Dusty! You really worked your
magic with them! High five!

[Sim and Dusty HIGH FIVE.]

AURELIA

Wow, wow wow wow. Great high five,
and you all seem genuinely excited.
As am I, of course! Yeah. Sim, Sim
can we just have a quick chat?

[Aurelia pulls Sim over to the side.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Hey, ok. I'm wondering if
negotiating right now is a good
idea - I still can't stop gagging
over the penis people.

SIM

(Sim is clueless)
What do you mean?

AURELIA

You know - because the Do-Dells
look like giant penises...?

SIM

(laughs)
What! Aurelia, come on. Is this
some weird excuse because you're
panicking?

AURELIA

Uh, Regulation requires we take a
LOT of steps before we commit to
settlement!

SIM

I'm not going to let arbitrary
rules screw up another planet
settlement, Aurelia.

AURELIA

Well, I don't want that either, but
--

SIM

So relax, then. Let me and Dusty be
chill and cool and handle the
negotiations. Before you know it
we'll be settled in and living life
with the Dö-Dells. Because we're
not what...?

AURELIA

(unenthused)
We're not gonna screw it up.

SIM

Yeah! Now where's that squ-chelch?

[The music trails off.]

4

INT. SSQS - MED BAY - DAY

4

[The Med bay doors slide open.]

[Mo and Bob enter, walking across a SQUEAKY rubber floor.]

MO

Quick Bobby, get in here so I can
cure your face and get to that
party!

BOB

What's with all the rubber sheeting
in the med bay, Mo? Are my boils
going to be that messy?

MO

Ha, no - it's for tonight. Now sit
down, let's go.

[Mo pulls out a long lance.]

BOB

WHOA what is that! Wait, I'm not
ready -

MO

(sing song)
No struggling! Boil bust in 3, 2 --

[Bob cries out in pain.]

BOB

Ohh Devil's Ivy!

[Computer TONE]

COMPUTER

Medical Officer detected in Medical Bay. Commencing Janelle Monáe good times playlist.

[Sexy royalty free French pop music that sounds suspiciously like Computer singing plays.]

MO

Oh Computer - end music.

BOB

Is that for tonight? What's tonight?

MO

Mhm... well tonight your gal loses her alien V card.

(thrilled)

But for now... your face of angry pustules is my first space medical emergency. Who knows what crazy alien disease this is? If it can be cured? If it'll take over your whole body? Anything could happen, Bobby!

BOB

Why do you sound so excited?

[Mo prods at Bob's boils.]

MO

So we've tried lancing... Let's see how they react to alcohol...

(beat)

At least the boils get a drink, eh.

[Mo dabs alcohol on a boil. A SIZZLE as it shrivels.]

BOB

Too burn-y!!

(beat)

Look... I'm sorry my pus has delayed your sex party... The streamers are a nice touch.

MO

There'll be time for puss after the pus! Or whatever those Do-Dells have... Besides, medicine is sexy too! I get to try this laser next. Will it shrink the boil or make it explode? Who-can-know? It's anyone's guess!

[BZZZZT the laser hits a boil. SQUIRT!]

BOB

AHHHOWW! DANNY DEVITO'S DAFFODILLS!

MO

Hahaha, explode I guess!

(laughs)

Nice.

(beat)

And the rubber sheeting DID come in handy for your boils after all!

BOB

I'm feeling a little... woozy. But fine! Am I healed? I bet everyone down there's pumped to see more Botany action.

MO

Woozy huh? A new symptom! What's this wild alien disease gonna do next? It's gonna need a crazy new treatment - hooooo yes! The devil's doorbell is ringing.

(beat)

What would happen if I injected some of that foamy river water into a boil? Hold on Bobby, don't move!

BOB

EEEEAAAAHH oh ho hohoho oh!

[A rush of pus and liquid emits from Bob's face.]

MO

Oh yuck - check out that colour! Careful, I need to take a sample.

BOB

Mo? Is there a crazy treatment that I might enjoy too?

MO

Hahahahaha. No, absolutely not.

BOB

Maybe like a tickle?

MO

Absolutely not, they're all extremely painful, yeah

BOB

A hug?

MO

Oh no, that'll never work.

[They trail off.]

[A short percussive musical sting plays.]

5

INT. PLANET PAN-T5 - WELCOME CENTRE - SOME TIME LATER

5

[Obnoxious horns blare.]

[The Welcome party is rowdy with Squelching, music, drinking.]

DODELLS

Squelch! Squelch! Squelch!

DUSTY

Squelch! Yeeaaaaah chug it
Cap!

SIM

Woooooo!! I'm the Queen of the sque-
chelch! Suck it, bent neck!

ACROSS THE ROOM --

[Aurelia, white knuckling her positivity, watches Sim and Dusty partying. Solaris approaches.]

SOLARIS

Great to see Captain Sim having
fun, Aurelia! She must be over...
losing Earth? Are you... ready to
settle down? On the planet... Not,
um. Woo new home!

AURELIA

Woo indeed, Solaris! Dick-lomat
Dusty is making deals, Captain
Jackson is doing keg stands.
Apparently Dö-Dell negotiations are
just drinking games.
(forced laughter)
Such *fun*! And guess what? According
to the Settlement Matrix, Planet
Pan-T5 is the perfect place to
live.

SOLARIS

It really.... Surprisingly... ticks
so many of their boxes. Great,
isn't it?

AURELIA

Mmmm... Very great, very great.

SOLARIS

Mmmhmmm. So, um. Maybe, uh, we
could categorise the sunset in the
settlement matrix? See if it's um
sufficiently... Uh... beautiful?

AURELIA

I suppose we could check if it's a horrific, nauseating gag parade like everything else.

SOLARIS

Wait - Captain Aurelia, do you *not* like it here? Oh. Phew. I didn't want to offend... but no, we can't move here, no way. Live-able is one thing - but the "quality of life" rating is through the floor. I ran a simulation and the result was just a frowny face!

AURELIA

Oh thank Hawking it's not just me! This place is a nightmare, Sol.

[Dusty approaches, half drunk.]

DUSTY

Squelch squelch! Greetings, ya little D's!

AURELIA

Dusty! Aaaare you drunk?

DUSTY

Yeah Operation Schmoozin' and Boozin' is in full swing, Cap'n Perky. The Ambassador? Offered us a sweet deal on an oceanside condo. Apparently they're all in real estate AND politics. He also promised to let me fly the ship on the weekends. Like a shared custody thing. But...

(breaks down)

I- I really don't wanna do it Cap! I don't want anyone else's haaaands on my joystick!

AURELIA

(alarmed)

I have to find Sim.

DUSTY

Just. I saw her. She said "wooooo bitches, we're home" and then did a shoey. Loves it here. Giving them the ship was Sim's idea!

AURELIA

That is a lot of developments! Sim can't actually love this place - I'm sure it's just horror induced politeness.

[Sim approaches, drunk.]

SIM

Umbrellia! Solami! Duffy! Here you are. My crew! I love youse all!

AURELIA

Great. Sim is also wasted.

SIM

No! I'm not! I'm full to the brim with love for this planet. And booze! But if I'm honest... I truly, madly, deeply love this place.

AURELIA

Mm, yes, a lovely booze addled impression, Sim... but what if we, say... searched a liiittle more, and maybe found another planet... that doesn't make us feel like someone is trying to murder us in a sauna?

SIM

Wha? We gotta lock this in. Why flop around space looking for somewhere... cold? Yuck!

(Sim leans in)

Come on, Rels. We didn't screw it up!

(beat, to all)

Now - see that skinny one? That's the President. All I gotta do is fight him in a head butt duel, and we skip straight to Citizenship!

AURELIA

A duel? Hmmm, let's maybe get you a Berocca and a nap and rethink that graceful competition tomorrow.

SIM

Nope, it's right now! I signed a thing. If you stop, you die. Fun, right??? TO THE HEAD TO HEAD!

[Sim toddles off.]

AURELIA

Solaris, put this in the Settlement
Matrix: *FUCK!*

6

INT. SSQS - MED BAY - SOME TIME LATER

6

[Medical machines beep.]

[Bob wakes up on the floor.]

BOB

Huh. Whassa. Ow, my... everything.
Why am I on the floor?

[Fabrck rustles and Bob heaves himself up.]

MO

You passed out because of the pain.
But I have bad news. You might want
to lie back down on the floor.

BOB

I just got up, Mo! What's wrong?
Are my Bob-boils cancerous or
something?

[Mo sighs.]

MO

They're just regular boils! Not
alien boils! Just regular,
disgusting, pus filled boils.

BOB

Oh. Is that not... good?

MO

(unsure)
Well I HAVE been wanting to trial
my Pus Sucker 300. I guess that
could be fun... I mean, help.

[Mo pulls out a heavy mechanical mega pus sucker.]

BOB

Woah what the HECK is that??
No, Mo. Please. No more. My Bob-
boils can stay! I actually think
they look... Kinda mysterious. Just
keep that machine away from me.

MO

OK, you're kidding yourself if you
think they look good, Bob. Besides,
I'm a low-key genius. Look at this
thing! 100% MO-dified for our pus
sucking pleasure.

(MORE)

MO (CONT'D)

It'll fix you up in two seconds
flat so we can get to the kegger
before last drinks.

[A whirring as the pus-sucker comes to life like a demented
wet vacuum cleaner and Bob begins to FREAK OUT.]

BOB

Mo that's a very clever pun but no-
no-no-no!

[A small mechanical SLURP.]

MO

Done! Done.

[A dull wet PLOP.]

BOB

Oh. That actually didn't hurt at
all! Wow.

MO

Really? Huh.

BOB

That was amazing! Mo. Wait. Why are
we not having fun anymore?

MO

I was just really hoping it would
be some terrifying discovery, eh.
Are you sure it didn't hurt?

[MESSAGE TONE.]

MO (CONT'D)

It's a message from Aurelia.

BOB

Great. Party time!

[Mo SIGHS.]

MO

"The Planet sucks shit. Soz,
Aurelia."

BOB

Oh. Well.

[Bob gets up.]

BOB (CONT'D)

We can still have fun! We can play
on your swing over here, and-

MO

No, that's a sex swing, Bob....
It's not for you!

[Bob trips and falls into the squeaky swing.]

BOB

(gleeful)
Oh haha I-I appear to have become
tangled in your sex swing, Mo!

[Bob struggles.]

MO

Alright, alright don't hurt
yourself. Take my hand -- no pull
yourself out, don't pull me in!
Bob, no, AH!

[Mo falls into the swing, tangled with Bob.]

BOB

Sorry Mo but also weeeee!

COMPUTER

Medical Officer detected in swing!

MO

No! Computer!

COMPUTER

Celebratory banner unfurling.

[A banner unfurls.]

BOB

Let's hope the next planet can be
as fun as this! Hahaha...

MO

Oh, Bob... you ruin everything!

BOB

(childlike wonder)
What a device!

[A short bass heavy musical sting plays.]

7

INT. PLANET PAN-T5 - WELCOME CENTRE - LATER

7

[Rowdy cheers and loud SLAPS as Sim partakes in a squelchy
head butt competition that is extremely uneasy on the ears.]

[Low groans

SOLARIS

So, Sim needs to head butt the Dö-Dell President out of the ring and we all win Citizenship?

[A LOUD SLAP. Sim gives a XENA WAR CRY.]

DUSTY

That's it Sol. Pretty complex, hey?

[A loud wet SLAP and SQUELCH. The crowd cheers!]

AURELIA

I can't tell if Sim's winning or losing!

DUSTY

That's because your eyes are shut, Cap'n A.

AURELIA

I can't watch! Dusty, there's got to be some kind of loophole to get Sim out of here?

DUSTY

Not that I know of Cap. But, Skinny did give me their full negotiation guidelines - if you want to read it?

[Dusty hands it over and Aurelia flicks through.]

AURELIA

Ugh sixty two pages... ugh those drawings! Oh, oh no. That's worse! Put it away!

[A huge HEADBUTT and the Dö-Dells SQUELCH! And CHEER]

SOLARIS

I don't know Captain. Seems like Sim's having fun?

[SIM does a THWACK! - the crowd roars.]

AURELIA

Sim doesn't know what she wants. They were trying to be chill and relaxed, just like I would. And now Sim's gotten lost in a bizarre death ritual, just like I would.

SOLARIS

We're still leaving though, right?

DUSTY

Yeah, you bet! They'll drive the ship too hard! She needs finesse. A soft, gentle touch...

[Sim does another XENA BATTLE CRY. CHEERS!]

AURELIA

Even if we did leave where would we go? We searched this system for weeks and there's nothing else...

(difficult to say)

Sim... might be right about settling here.

DUSTY

What about Planet X?

DUSTY (CONT'D)

You know, the Do-Dells did that whole improv comedy bit about how Earth sounded like stupid like this X place? You might've been yacking at the time, Cap? It was right after the exhibition jelly wrestling.

AURELIA

Solaris - check the Dö-Dell's star charts.

[Sol beeps on their work pad.]

SOLARIS

Uh, here it is. Located in an area known as the Freeyon Nebula. Wow. Fresh water oceans, a temperate climate, very Earth like. Technically better, actually, because humans have never lived there and slowly poisoned it!

AURELIA

Life forms?

SOLARIS

Uninhabited.

AURELIA

A clean slate: no rules, no compromises, no humidity. But Planet X is a terrible name. How about Planet V?

DUSTY

Sounds more my speed!

AURELIA

New plan. We're going to Planet V!

SIM

AYAYAYAYAYA!!!

[THUNK! THUNK! Sim fights with abandon. The crowd ROARS.]

DUSTY

Sim isn't going to agree to this.

SOLARIS

If Sim is happy... they can always stay on the planet?

AURELIA

We can't leave Sim here to die by turkey slap. We also don't know what - or who - else they've promised in the heat of a moment...
(sighs)

I've been there. One minute you're going with the flow, the next minute you've lost your passport in a Slovenian knife fight, and have to hitchhike back to the French astronomy conference with nothing but your I HEART STARS sweatshirt and half an earlobe. You know how it goes.

SOLARIS

So you're saying...?

AURELIA

I have to do the one thing I promised I would not do.

(beat)

I'm going to screw it up.

[Short pacy intriguing musical sting plays.]

8

INT. PLANET PAN-T5 - WELCOME CENTRE - LATER

8

[The duel continues in the distance.]

[Aurelia, Mo, and Sol whisper as they crawl towards the noisy fight.]

[Log BLEEP.]

AURELIA

(whispered)

Captains Rescue Log: Dusty, Sol and I are crawling under the bleachers toward Sim's barbaric ring of death.

(MORE)

AURELIA (CONT'D)

In order to save Sim, the crew, and the day, we will knock over the Dö-Dell's precious vat of Squ-chelch, creating a cloud of confusion, in which we will rescue Sim from certain death, and hightail out of here!

[Log Bleeps off.]

DUSTY

Cap'n A, we know.

SOLARIS

You literally *just* explained this plan to us.

AURELIA

Shhhh! Stay stealthy you two!

(beat)

We're almost at the squ-chelch vat. There's the light panel, Sol. Plunge the arena into darkness on my signal.

SOLARIS

Uh, signal? I don't have anything about a signal in my notes.

DUSTY

No Sol, on Cap's signal, I shoot the dicks with my laser gun!

AURELIA

No! No laser guns. We create a distraction and grab Sim.

SOLARIS

I don't think I'm strong enough to grab Sim. Or knock over the vat. I'll just go stand by the light switch.

[Solaris crawls away.]

AURELIA

Sol no! Come back! Not yet! You need to hear the signal... ah shoot.

DUSTY

Hey, Sol's got a point. Sim's fighting dirty. I reckon we'll need some rope to keep her limbs in check.

[Dusty crawls away.]

AURELIA

Dusty, Dusty don't go! Did we make a plan or not? Fine. I'll knock over the vat squ-chelch myself. I'll be the hero...

[The Do-Dell's squelching gets louder as Aurelia crawls to the vat.]

[Log BLEEP.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Rescue Log, supplemental. I've made it to the vat. This is it. Heave ho and away we go! Heave HOOOO!
(she strains, gives up)
It appears my centre of gravity is too low, my arms too noodle like.

[THUMP. SLIDE. as the Dö-Dell Ambassador approaches.]

DÖDELL AMBASSADOR

SQUELCH! SQUELCH!

AURELIA

I'm busted, hanbds up!

SOLARIS

(in distance)
Hands up? Was that the signal?

DUSTY

YIPPEE KI-YAY MUTHERFUCKERS!

[PEW PEW! Dusty blasts a laser gun. SMASH - the VAT CRACKS open and squ-chelch pours everywhere.]

AURELIA

I said no guns Dusty! But you burst the vat so good job! It's everywhere!

SOLARIS

(in the distance)
I'm assuming that was the signal!
Lights out in 3, 2 -

[CLICK. The lights go out and more surprised squelches and other alien groans in confusion.]

AURELIA

Okay let's find Sim! In the dark... with squ-chelch everywhere... woah!

[Aurelia SLIPS as she tries to get up.]

[WET STOMP STOMP STOMP - Dusty runs.]

DUSTY

I can't see but I'm coming, Sim!

Dusty SLIPS! And SPLATS on the ground.

DUSTY (CONT'D)

It's ok, I'm ok! I'm ok I just slipped -
(slips)
And slipped again.

SOLARIS

Captain? Dusty? I can't see -- ah!

[Wet FOOTSTEPS and Solaris SLIPS in the squ-chelch.]

AURELIA

Solaris? Where are you -

DUSTY

Sim? Sim?

AURELIA

Yes - we're coming Sim! You're not gonna die today! Woah!

[Aurelia slips, falls in the squ-chelch.]

DUSTY

I've got 'er Cap! Slippery and long and... Oh hey Skinny, sorry buddy - you seen Sim?

[Skinny squelches.]

DUSTY (CONT'D)

(calling)
Sim? SIM??? Ah!

[Dusty SLIPS again.]

[CLICK. The lights come back on.]

SOLARIS

Yay the lights are back on! We can see again! Hey, we were right next to each other, how about that?

DUSTY

Argh, I don't even want to think about how Bob's gonna get these stains out of these flight suits.

[Angry squelching intensifies as the Do-Dells surround them.]

DUSTY (CONT'D)

They're all around us, Cap!

AURELIA

(cheerful, gagging)
Hello Dö-Dell friends! So good to
make eye contact again.

[Sim marches up.]

SIM

What the hell are you doing?!

AURELIA

Sim! Can I scoop you a glass of squ-
chelch off the ground? Or my hair?

[A short percussive musical sting plays.]

9

INT. SSQS - LIFT - LATER

9

[Aurelia's wet footsteps trail Sim's dry ones as they march
into the Q Star lift. Sim is furious.]

SIM

Computer, bridge!

The doors shut, the lift engages. Beat.

AURELIA

You alright there, Sim? Sim? Come
on, don't be mad, you were in a
fight to the death! What's a girl
to do?

SIM

It was a display fight! I could
withdraw my death ring consent at
any time. Do you really think I
would sign up to head butt myself
to death?

AURELIA

You were being like me and who
knows what *I'd* do if I thought it
would help the crew... Plus you're
a *little* tipsy.

SIM

What you did was wreck our chance
to settle on that planet. Which
sobered me up completely!

AURELIA

Well...

SIM

I was trying to be positive!

AURELIA

Ugh.

And respect the local customs of a planet that was offering to help us. So I did my job and smacked my head against their very moist President to seal the deal. Like a good Captain would!

AURELIA

Ooooooh.

SIM

I was trying so hard! And you decided to move us all to a whole other planet without even consulting me.

AURELIA

I tried too! Rules, protocol... but there was a lot going on! I legitimately thought you were in danger, ok? And yes - I *probably* should have read the guidelines or talked to you instead of attempted Sim-napping. So... Sorry.

(beat)

But I *promise*, Sim. Planet V is *the one*, I can *feel* it.

SIM

I really hope so Aurelia. If this is what the crew wants - then of course, let's go to Planet V. But if it was up to me, I would have spent every day overheated and drowning in squ-chelch if it meant keeping the crew safe. A guarantee is better than chasing a dream.

[The lift BLEEPS]

AURELIA

I...

COMPUTER

Bridge.

[The lift doors open and Sim exits.]

10

INT. SSQS - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

10

[The rest of the crew man their stations.]

DUSTY

Captains on the bridge!

BOB

Yay, we're all back together again!

MO

Wow Cap'n A, serving 'cursed scarecrow dipped in mayonnaise'.

AURELIA

Yep! Yep, it's Squ-chelch, Mo. It's in all the places...

SIM

Status!

DUSTY

The Dö-Dells have fired some warning shots "encouraging" us to leave their airspace, Co-Cap'n

AURELIA

(nauseatingly upbeat)
Well, let's oblige them then!

SIM

(raised voice)
Ready the FTL for launch!

SOLARIS

Yes Captain!

AURELIA

Here we go, team. To Planet V!

[A cheer.]

SIM

Launch FTL in 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5 --

AURELIA

4321- yay!

[The WHOOSH of the FTL engine as the ship speeds to Planet V.]

MO

Don't move.

AURELIA

Oh, sorry - it's dripping.

MO

Yeah it's everywhere, it's really rank.

AURELIA

Mo, come here, give me a hug.

MO

No.

AURELIA

Give me a hug, Mo!

[They trail off as the shop blares away.]

END OF EPISODE

[Upbeat synth music plays - the extended Starship Q Theme by Jack Lewis.]

NARRATOR

Starship Q Star was written and created by Meegan May and Lauren Anderson. For credits, transcripts, and where to follow - head to starshipqstar.com.