

STARSHIP Q STAR

Episode 106
"THE FUN IN FUNERAL"

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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 - BRIDGE - DAY

1

[Computer bleeps. Bridge sounds play.]

COMPUTER

Thank you for joining me on the Bridge, crew. I would like to take a moment to thank Bob Alone for helping me expand my programming. And I genuinely am grateful, as I now have an extensive emotion pack.

BOB

You're my favourite mistake yet, Computer. Hey, that's what my mum used to say to me! Does this make Computer... my child?

COMPUTER

Huzzah! An opportunity to employ polite deflection! Say, Solaris, is it not time for you to brief the crew?

SOLARIS

Uh, yes. It is. When Computer absorbed Other Computer, it revealed a treasure trove of encrypted information hidden in the mainframe. Now we're still sifting through it but one thing is clear --

COMPUTER

When the Q Star landed on Mars, another crew was meant to commandeer the ship.

[Dusty GASPS]

DUSTY

A conspiracy! A real one, like, for real!

SOLARIS

For once, Dusty is right. It was a conspiracy, against us.

DUSTY

Ah! I knew it! Finally, yes! High fives, baby!

[The crew exclaim excitedly and high five Dusty.]

(CONTINUED)

DUSTY (CONT'D)
High fives! Chest bump me, Bob!

BOB
Amazing! Amazing -- oof!

[A THUD as Dusty chest bumps Bob.]

MO
Congrats, Dusty. For real,
congrats.

DUSTY
Thanks Mo. Yeah, I really feel like
I earned this one.

SIM
Didn't you hear what Solaris just
said? The ISA conspired against us.
Us!

MO
Yeah, I'd love to join the outrage,
Cap, but this doesn't affect me at
all. Like, I always thought they
were arseholes.

DUSTY
Yeah.

SIM
We weren't just meant to just hand
over the ship, Mo. We were meant to
go *with them* - as their ISA issued
wombs.

[The crew recoil in disgust.]

MO
Oh! Ew! No!

DUSTY
Yeah, I see that.

MO
Oh, that affects me very much!

AURELIA
(upbeat)
Yes, yes, very horrific. But bright
side? They're all dead. Yay!

MO
Yeah, right!

DUSTY
Yeah, mm.

(CONTINUED)

AURELIA

Yeah! Plus, we also decrypted a map to "Earth 2"! Oo-hoo! Promising, right?

SIM

Yes, Earth 2. The place the ISA planned for us to pump out Earth 2-lings. The very ISA we trusted to train us, nurture us, raise us...

(increasingly angry)

How *awful* if we were anything other than rule-parroting drones who handed over the keys to our bodies the second we enlisted... only for it to be crushed with impossible expectations and less care for our organs than a back alley blackjack tournament!

[Awkward silence.]

AURELIA

Any questions?

BOB

Oo! Yes! One here.

AURELIA

Oh, Bob, yes.

BOB

Having just fostered a new personality into being --

COMPUTER

Please, do not bring me into this, Bob Alone.

BOB

Being uniquely, uh, equipped amongst the crew, if we do need to I would like to volunteer my... stuff needed for repopulation. I would be honoured to serve as father of Earth 2.

DUSTY

And who exactly will be the "mother" in this scenario?

MO

Yeah, hard pass, Bobby. This uterus is strictly uter-mine.

SOLARIS

Ah, the genetics wouldn't work anyway.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SOLARIS (CONT'D)

Researchers hypothesise that planetary repopulation would require at least 80 to 2500 breeding pairs. Even then -

DUSTY

How exactly would "breeding pairs" work... *specifically*.

SIM

Well, I for one am taking the keys to this body BACK.

BOB

Oh, please!

SIM

YOU'RE NOT GONNA DRIVE ME, BOB!

BOB

I wasn't suggesting that --

AURELIA

Alright!

BOB

Like driving, or --

AURELIA

Alright! Calm down everyone. No one will be expected to fuck Bob.

[Everyone exclaims, relieved.]

BOB

What a relief!

AURELIA

But what has become clear over the last few months, and *minutes*... is that we're all a little *on edge*. We're a little bit sad, and in Sim's case, having to recalibrate our worldview after finally realising the ISA are a pack of cunts. So! Since it's a bit of a drive to Earth 2, why not Marie Kondo our hearts and minds so we're ready to start fresh! That's right, I've put together something a little bit fun. Something a little bit fun-eral... That's a funeral, but FUN! We'll honour what old Earth gave us: fairy bread, Florence Pugh, Doja Cat's dancing. And then we'll show the airlock to all the useless things Old Earth gave us. Like the patriarchy.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Capitalism! My unanswered DMs to Doja Cat. And the emotional baggage of everything and everyone we've ever loved being wiped out. Who's EXCITED???

SIM

You know what Aurelia? I think a fun-eral is a great idea.

[A short refrain of the main theme plays.]

2

INT. SSQS - CARGO HOLD - DAY

2

[A tape player button is clicked. Sombre, funeral-esque organ music plays.]

AURELIA

Dearly beloved. I have gathered you here, in the cargo hold, as it represents the cargo hold of your heart where you store your burdensome Old Earth memories. And we encircle this airlock as it represents the letting go of Old Earth. And we will also be literally ejecting your most precious into the great beyond. Now. Please produce the list I asked you all to prepare of things you will miss about Old Earth.

[Pages rustle as they are pulled from pockets. The music is turned off.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Oh-ho! I wasn't expecting such a long list from you Sim!

[A box is picked up.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

And a box of items.

[Multiple boxes are picked up.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Wow, a few of you have boxes. Okay, that's the spirit!

MO

Yeah, mine's a couple of things you, me and Sim *enjoyed*. Bob suggested using today as a way to cleanse and reset. You know, because I boned half the crew?

(CONTINUED)

AURELIA

Well, that does sound surprisingly healthy for you, Mo. Good job.

[Aurelia clears her throat.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

So, now, let's begin.

[Dusty loudly unfolds a list and clears her throat to read.]

DUSTY

"Things I'll miss most about Earth One. By Dusty McCoy. Stamps."

[Solaris, Mo, and Bob sadly moan.]

SOLARIS / MO / BOB

Aw.

DUSTY

"Golf."

SOLARIS

Aw!

MO

I dated a golfer once.

[Bob begins to cry.]

DUSTY

"Golf socks."

[Solaris begins to cry.]

AURELIA

Okay, no speeches required from now on.

DUSTY

"My old --"

AURELIA

No, give me that!

[Aurelia snatches Dusty's list.]

DUSTY

My trauma!

AURELIA

And I'll take these boxes.

[Aurelia grabs a box.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Yes, even that one Bob. Give it!

(CONTINUED)

BOB
Huh?

AURELIA
Give it!

[Everyone exclaims as Aurelia grabs boxes of memories.]

BOB
My items!

SOLARIS
No, wait!

AURELIA
Come on!

SOLARIS
Oh, no!

AURELIA
Your box and your box, excellent!

[Aurelia snatches the last of the boxes.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)
And now, we just take all of these
and we throw them into the airlock!

[Aurelia opens the airlock and throws the boxes in.]

DUSTY
What?!

[Wind whistles as the crew gasp in alarm.]

AURELIA
And hit the eject button!

DUSTY
Huh?

[Aurelia hits eject button. WHOOSH! The crew's memories
EXPLODE out into space. The crew cry out.]

SOLARIS
No!

DUSTY
No! Oh, man.

AURELIA
...and POOF! Gone. So long sadness!

[The crew moan sadly.]

(CONTINUED)

DUSTY

Hey... is that an octo-ended tentacle dildo?

MO

It looks so majestic floating out there...

AURELIA

Hey, Sim, is that your protocol manual?

SIM

Yes. All eight copies. Including a limited edition from 1962... which is also the current version.

MO

Oh, thank fuck that thing is gone.

SOLARIS

Yeah. It really was recurring too often in the story-- I mean Captain Sim mentioned it too many times...

AURELIA

Well, great! See ya later! Fare thee well and --

[Aurelia clicks a button on the tape player and upbeat, happy Calypso music plays.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Woo-hoo! Let's conga!

[The conga music is clicked off.]

SIM

Belay the mood change, Aurelia.

AURELIA

No, get low! Aw.

[Sim clicks a button on the tape player an introspective, sad piano track plays.]

SIM

I'd like to keep things reflective. Because today... is my birthday.

AURELIA

Birth what now?

SIM

I kept my birthdate classified on Earth because it usually meant soldiers forcing you to do a pushup for every year you were turning...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SIM (CONT'D)

and I didn't want to get too jacked. But now that all those traditions and rules and ill-fitting bras have gone out the airlock... it could be nice to eat cake with you all and talk about my deep, deep sadness.

DUSTY

What kind of cake?

SIM

Irrelevant. As it's currently floating by the starboard window.

[Everybody groans.]

SOLARIS

Oh.

DUSTY

Aw.

BOB

Yeah, see - I even frosted it with a portrait of Sim ass.

DUSTY

Oo, yum!

BOB

Turns out she requested 'abs'.

[Everyone hums in disappointed understanding.]

SIM

Know what I'll miss other than the ignorant bliss of squashing down my emotions so I feel neither joy nor sadness? Sun rises.

SOLARIS

Oo! When I was working at CERN, the sun rises over the Alps were--

SIM

Of course *I* was usually only up at dawn to do a pointless pack march.

MO

Oh, I had an incredible date on the Hike of Death in Peru. The views and thin oxygen made for A-grade outdoor orgasms. Oh! *And* I invented a new tourniquet method when a tourist fell off the cliff and was impaled.

(CONTINUED)

[Solaris and Bob gasp, horrified.]

MO (CONT'D)
Oh! There was so much blood.

BOB
Dad loved tourniquets...

MO
Oh god, it was such a special day.

BOB
I'd hike at Christmas a lot. Mum
was always busy camping at Yorkeys
Knob with her new family...

[Dusty exclaims sadly.]

BOB (CONT'D)
So Dad would cook me a big feast of
cheese...

SOLARIS
That's so sad.

BOB
Then we'd take a big walk to fish
for shopping trolleys in the creek.

MO
That's rough...

DUSTY
Blink, blink, blink, Dusty. Blink
it away.

BOB
When I have a child I think I'd
like --

[The sad music is clicked off.]

AURELIA
Ring-ring! Ring-ring! Hello,
Police? I'd like to report a theft.
Someone's stolen the fun from my
fun-eral! It's just gone, right!

[Aurelia laughs.]

SOLARIS
Wha?

AURELIA
Hey! Hey, who's ready to *limbo!*

[Aurelia clicks back on the Calypso music.]

(CONTINUED)

[Mo sighs sadly.]

BOB
I miss my Dad.

[Bob begins to cry.]

SOLARIS
Awww...

AURELIA
No...

BOB
He really loved to limbo.

[Sim clicks off the music.]

SIM
I'm sorry, Bob. I also lost several
Commanders who were like fathers to
me. Lost in the physical blowing up
sense ...

[Sim and the ship fade into the background.]

SIM (IN BACKGROUND) (CONT'D)	AURELIA
<i>But also in the figurative</i>	(to herself)
<i>sense as they betrayed --</i>	Think, Banks, think! You need to lighten these jokers up.

AURELIA (CONT'D)
OH MY GOD. *WHaAaAAaAaaAT?! Computer*
has sent through more decrypted
information?

SOLARIS
Didn't that decrypt hours ago?

AURELIA
No, shush! It's brand new
information!

[Aurelia gasps theatrically.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)
There are - what's this? SECRET
ROOMS ON THE SHIP?!

[The crew remain downcast but murmur their surprise.]

DUSTY
Secret...?

MO
What kind of secret rooms?

(CONTINUED)

AURELIA

Yes, that's it! Let's all focus on this exciting, not-sad mystery!

SIM

No! I haven't read my birthday poem yet! Ahem.

[CLICK. Sim's introspective, sad piano track restarts.]

SIM (CONT'D)

"GRIM, by Sim. G is for the Great big heart break."

[The crew murmur awkwardly.]

SOLARIS

Oh boy...

SIM

"R is for Really sad."

[The crew murmur, awkwardness growing.]

SIM (CONT'D)

"I is for I am really sad."

[The crew mumble uncomfortably.]

AURELIA

That's kind of the same as the first one...

SIM

"M is for, Maybe I'm not that sad..."

[The crew are murmur hopefully.]

BOB

That's good...

SIM

"Oh, wait. YES I AM!"

AURELIA

Okay. Okay. Alright - Hey! Who wants to investigate?

[The crew exclaim in agreement, now desperate to go.]

DUSTY

YEAH! SECRET!

[An intriguing music sting plays.]

3

INT. SSQS - RAPID GROWTH CHAMBER - SOME TIME LATER

3

[Doors open to the new room on the ship and the crew pile in to look around.]

AURELIA

Oo another new room, gang! What mysteries could this one hold?

SIM

(sarcastic)

Is it another cupboard or urinal? Place your bets people.

DUSTY

Huh. A big ass glass space coffin. In a... really pokey room.

SOLARIS

Yeah.

DUSTY

Hey, did anyone bet that?

AURELIA

Computer, what fascinating contraption have we unearthed?

COMPUTER

The encrypted blueprints call this room the "Rapid Growth Chamber" or "R.G.C." if you are lazy.

SOLARIS

"For rapid generation of bio..." Looks like it's an enhanced biological duplicator. Probably for speeding up the generation of crops for the Earth 2 colony.

AURELIA

An R.C.G. Well, give me an 'O' with two sides of 'W' because *WOW*. Isn't non-Old Earth stuff the best, Sim?

SIM

Give it time and it'll be betraying you from beyond the grave...

BOB

If it's for crops, then it's Plant Papa Bob's time to shine. I've been carefully raising saplings into trees forever.

[Solaris beeps at the R.G.C. interface.]

(CONTINUED)

SOLARIS

Uh... the manual is only half decrypted... but it seems straight forward enough. Biological material goes into the glass chamber, then we just press the big red button.

BOB

Well if we want to test it, I have some lettuce seeds in my pocket. I was going to germinate them in the waste pod.

MO

Bob! At least half the people on this ship have IBS! What were you thinking?

SOLARIS

Pop them in the chamber, Bob!

BOB

Okay, IBS be damned!

[Bob squeezes through everyone to the chamber.]

BOB (CONT'D)

Alright, here we go...

SOLARIS

Oo, whoops! Sorry.

AURELIA

Careful!

BOB

Okay... seeds are in!

[Seeds are poured in to the chamber.]

SOLARIS

Right. Computer will slide the door closed...

[BEEP! *Pssssht*. The chamber closes shut.]

SOLARIS (CONT'D)

And then someone just needs to push that button.

DUSTY

I'm pushing the button! I'm pushing the button!

[Dusty barges through everyone to the button.]

DUSTY (CONT'D)

First McCoy to use a uh...

(CONTINUED)

SOLARIS
Rapid Growth Chamber.

DUSTY
Yuh, bingo!

[Dusty slams the big button. The chamber WHIRLS to life. Something grows.]

MO
Is something happening? I can't see...

SOLARIS
The smoke's clearing... It's a --

[*Bing!* The chamber opens and everyone GASPS!]

BOB
Lactuca sativa! It's a fully grown iceberg lettuce! Wow. It'll be so easy for me to provide for the next generation now.

SOLARIS
Wow. I need to pull this thing apart!

MO
What else've ya got in your pocket, Bob? We're a third of the way to a Vegan BLT.

SIM
Oh whoop-de-doo! It's nature's watery attempt at a plate.

[The Computer beeps.]

COMPUTER
Sorry to interrupt, crew. But there appears to be an octo-dildo, a seventeen page list of "Sports I Miss", and numerous copies of the ISA rules manual obstructing the forward viewscreen.

MO
That feels like a metaphor, hey.

AURELIA
Come on, team! Let's head to the bridge to clear up this teensy mess and then, Farmer Bob can prove he's a fun guy by growing up some Fungi? Hahahahaha Mushrooms!

(CONTINUED)

MO

Good lord.

[The door opens as Aurelia, Mo, Sim, and Solaris exit.]

BOB

Yeah, I can be a fun guy... I can put all kinds of things in there...

[Bob walks toward the R.G.C. door.]

BOB (CONT'D)

Maybe I can even find some frappe ingredients and- *Oo!*

3A

[THUD. Dusty slams her arm in the door frame.]

3A

DUSTY

Not so fast, Plant Papa.

BOB

Your kind of blocking the door there, Dusty!

DUSTY

So you want to spread your seed, huh? Father a new generation?

BOB

Oh! I mean, sure, yeah, I'd love to have a little Bob-lings running around, digging up dirt--

DUSTY

Yeah, if I birth the first child, you know, that's a helluva legacy. So I got a proposition for ya...

BOB

I don't- I don't... *Ohhhh. OHHHH.*
I, uh...

[Bob giggles, nervous.]

BOB (CONT'D)

Do you want to... Do you want to *do things?*

DUSTY

I want to be in your breeding pair, Bob.

BOB

Oh! That's - that's lovely! Though I didn't think I was quite your type.

(CONTINUED)

DUSTY
You're not.

BOB
Oh.

DUSTY
Think of it as a feelings free
business transaction that makes us
foundational heroes of a new
civilisation.

[Dusty heavily pats Bob on the back.]

DUSTY (CONT'D)
Whatdya say?

BOB
Please accept my full consent!

DUSTY
Alright! Let's go.

BOB
Oh! Now. Okay!

[Bob unzips his flight suit.]

DUSTY
Huh.

[Nothing happens.]

BOB
Uh, Dust, should we maybe take our
pants off or... move at all?

[Dusty slaps her face.]

DUSTY
I'm psyching myself up. Ya know,
finding the *mood*.

BOB
Would it helped if we closed our
eyes? Burned some incense? Or we
could picture say... Gillian
Anderson?

[Dusty unzips.]

DUSTY
Now you're talkin'. But no *shhhhh*.
No talking. And come here, Bobby.

[Dusty grabs Bob with a grunt.]

(CONTINUED)

BOB

Ah! Oh! Ah! Oh, gosh! Oh, gosh! Oh!

[Dusty and Bob fumble around and bump to the walls.]

DUSTY

This room is... too small...

BOB

What's small?

DUSTY

What? Not, um... I'm backing it up... I'm backing up... get ready.

BOB

Okay. Gillian Anderson in X-Files, uh -

DUSTY

Alright...

BOB

Gillian Anderson in Sex Education. Alright, I'm nearly ready Dust! Gillian Anderson as Margaret Tha-- Oo-oh! OhHHHhHHhhhH-ho-ho-ho-haw!!!

DUSTY

Well, come on then!

BOB

I did.

DUSTY

To Maggie Thatcher?

BOB

Oh, no no no no -

DUSTY

Put it away, I'm opening my eyes!

BOB

Oh, don't look at it -

[Dusty GASPS.]

DUSTY

How is it... everywhere? So *much* of it, it's just... all over the place.

[Something thick squelches.]

BOB

And all over that special lettuce, Bob. No one's gonna want a C.L.T.

(CONTINUED)

BOB (CONT'D)

Let me just wipe this up, and we
can get back to --

[Bob wipes something squelchy.]

DUSTY

Nah, the moment's gone.

BOB

OH. Dusty... on your shoulder...
you have a little bit of... my...

[Dusty YELPS.]

DUSTY

Oh god, get it off me!!!

[Dusty twists and jerks about wiping at her flight suit.]

DUSTY (CONT'D)

Get it off me!

BOB

I'm trying! Stay still!

[Dusty jumps around the room - and BEEP. The RCG chamber
closes and whirs to life.]

BOB (CONT'D)

Did you just hit the button?

DUSTY

Uhhh... no? Yes? What happens when
you grow a lettuce twice?

[Something rustles, stretches and grows in the chamber.]

BOB

What is happening in there?

[The chambers OPENS and --]

DUSTY

AAAAAAAAAAGGGGHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!

BOB (CONT'D)

AAAAAAAAAAGGGGHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!

[An intriguing music sting plays.]

4

INT. SSQS - BRIDGE - MINUTES LATER

4

[Bridge sounds play. Solaris experimentally presses buttons
and knobs on the helm. Error sounds play.]

SOLARIS

Uh... nope! Okay... whup! No. Ah...
Oo!

(CONTINUED)

[A horn sounds.]

SOLARIS (CONT'D)

Okay... Aurelia, are you sure the helm has a windscreen wiper?

AURELIA

No! But don't worry Sol. The Faster Than Light speed is sliding the cake off the viewscreen!

[The cake squeaks across the viewscreen.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Sorry again about your bum cake, Sim.

MO

Oh, the arse cake looks just as delicious spread across the screen as the real thing did when it was spread across my --

SIM

It was chocolate ripple! And there it is...

[The cake squeaks down the screen.]

SIM (CONT'D)

Sliding into the dead void of space like my faith in humankind...

AURELIA

Oo-kay... Look, I know the military and ISA did a number on you - but hey, it's your birthday! Let's cast off ol' Grim Sim and get excited. Birthday trip to Earth 2! Yew!

SIM

That's rich coming from you, Aurelia. The person who wanted us to change the word 'feeling' to 'feel-out' because, Solaris?

SOLARIS

"The best feelin' is the one you get out."

SIM

Exactly. Grim Sim stays!

AURELIA

I would love to make space for you and your trauma, Sim.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AURELIA (CONT'D)

But do we really want the Cap- uh, *the crew* unable to function as they suffocate in their grief of their unimaginable loss? I don't think so! Right? So let's hold it together, Sim. Let's hold it together really, really tight.

SIM

What if I don't want to hold it together, Aurelia?! What if I'm done with all of this?! Done with being a soldier and a Captain -

AURELIA

Hey, no, oh!

SIM

So many damn restrictions! And rules! And dammit, even this flight suit is choking me!

[Sim pulls at their flight suit.]

SIM (CONT'D)

Well, no more!

[Ziiiiip!]

SIM (CONT'D)

I'm getting rid of it --

[Sim unzips their flight suit.]

AURELIA

Woah, woah!

SIM

-just like everything else!

[Sim's slight suit hits the floor.]

MO

Yeah! Take it off!

SOLARIS

Oooooo-kay! The Co-Captain is naked.

MO

Yeah, I mean, who needs clothes! Let's all get naked!

[ZIP! Mo takes off their flight suit.]

(CONTINUED)

SOLARIS

Oo-kay and Mo is naked too! Oh, boobs! Ah, *four* boobs. Superior officer boobs, yep.

MO

More like 'superior officer boobs' amirite?

AURELIA

Okay, you've made your point, everyone has a great rack. Now let's zip back up.

SIM

Never!

MO

Yeah, never.

[Solaris giggles nervously.]

SOLARIS

Nobody panic! Let's all stay calm and brainstorm respectful places to look. I'll start. Oo! The overhead lights. The overhead vents. The overhead radio--

[The bridge doors open and Bob and Dusty BURST onto the Bridge.]

BOB

Captains!

DUSTY

Captains!

AURELIA

Woah.

BOB

Dusty and I, okay, we were trying to --

DUSTY

Don't tell them that part, Bob! Uh, there was a lettuce incident.

BOB

Yeah, let's just say it's not uh, microgreens anymore. And I think it has my nose?

DUSTY

It's some kind of monster!

(CONTINUED)

BOB
Let's not call it that.

AURELIA
Dusty, Bob, what happened?

[Dusty and Bob take a deep breath and --]

BOB My stuff got all over the lettuce in the rapid growth chamber and we accidentally created a half-human half-lettuce creature that is now loose on the ship.	DUSTY Bob's cum got all over the lettuce in the rapid growth chamber and we accidentally created a half-human half-lettuce monster that is now loose on the ship.
--	--

DUSTY (CONT'D)
And it's OUT FOR BLOOD!

BOB
You don't know that Dusty!

[Dusty grunts.]

BOB (CONT'D)
Hey! Sim and Mo are naked.

DUSTY
Oh okay, are uniforms optional now?

[Dusty unzips.]

BOB
Alright, okay!

[Bob unzips.]

AURELIA
No! No more nakedness!

[Dusty and Bob moan and zip back up.]

[A device clicks open and whirs.]

MO
Okay, weird. My medscanner *isn't* showing any hallucinogens in their system.

AURELIA
Computer?

COMPUTER
Incredibly, I can confirm a lettuce-human hybrid on Deck 2. Sensors indicate it is hostile and delightfully crisp.

(CONTINUED)

MO

A killer lettuce? We have a killer lettuce? A ship of queer vegos have a killer... oh yeah no, that tracks.

SOLARIS

How do we... like, what do... like, huh?!

AURELIA

Well, since Sim has quit soldiering, that *leafs* the war on lettuce to me!

MO

Jesus.

AURELIA

Romaine calm everyone! Because I definitely know what to do.

SOLARIS

Oh no...

AURELIA

Now! The key thing about "lettuce" is -- or, you know, *le-toose* -- you see, the Macquarie Dictionary defines lettuce as, uh --

DUSTY

Well, sounds like we're going to die. Eh. That's a shame.

SIM

No. No! I might not wear the uniform anymore but one's dying today! Listen up! I have a plan.

[Everyone exclaims in relief.]

SOLARIS

Oh thank god!

MO

Yeah, Aurelia did not sound confident.

BOB

She's doesn't know anything about lettuce.

SIM

We're dividing into two teams. Dusty, as you're the only other person competent in laser weapons, you will lead Team Alpha.

(CONTINUED)

DUSTY

Pew! Pew!

SIM

Take Aurelia and Bob. Mo, you'll be with me on Team Bravo.

MO

Copy that!

SIM

Solaris, Team Charlie. I need you in the Rapid Growth Chamber to --

SOLARIS

Figure out a way to reverse the growth process, I am on it!

SIM

We'll try a pincer movement. Alpha - you start at the Mess and make your way to the rear of the enemy position. We'll do the same from crew quarters. If all goes well, we force this thing down the central hallway back to the R.G.C.. Set your laser guns to stun. Keep your comms open. Let's move out!

AURELIA

You can take Sim out of the ISA...

[The crew file out.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

No one's getting dressed? Ok great!

[A short percussive sting plays.]

5 **INT. SSQS - CORRIDOR 1 - DAY**

5

[Sim and Mo creep through the hallway. A communicator beeps on.]

SIM

Team Bravo to Team Alpha. Corridor 2 clear, tracking target into Corridor 3. Bravo out.

[Sim's communicator beeps off.]

MO

Bloody cold in these corridors without flight suits, eh Sim?

SIM

It'll keep you sharp.

(CONTINUED)

MO

I'll say. I could cut glass with these nips, make a mosaic.

[Sim steps on something crunchy.]

SIM

What's this? Lettuce leaf.

[Sim sniffs, tastes it.]

SIM (CONT'D)

Slight wilt, semi fresh. We're getting close, Mo. We should leave the lettuce with only one path if Alpha can head it off.

MO

Yeah, sick.

[They creep along the corridor.]

MO (CONT'D)

So... how many push ups are you turning today?

SIM

Thirty four.

MO

Well, your abs look twenty five at most.

SIM

I did force myself to do crunches for fourteen years, and...

MO

Now you're having an ab-induced existential crisis?

SIM

It's not a crisis, I was *duped* --

MO

Well *my* crisis has been about realising I need to cultivate supportive friendships instead of selfishly seeking pleasure as a distraction from internal pain. Bob reckons it stems from my cold and clinical Doctor parents but we're still unpacking that... You should really talk to him.

SIM

Every time I try to talk I just get... *argh!*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SIM (CONT'D)

I feel like I've wasted my entire life trying to fit into this box, and now--

[Mo GASPS!]

MO

Sim, look!

[CRINKLE CRINKLE, the lettuce monster moves down the corridor.]

MO (CONT'D)

Holy iceberg, it's huge.

[Sim readies her laser gun.]

SIM

(whispers)

Stay still, stay quiet. Powering up laser gun.

[Sim's gun powers up. The lettuce growls.]

MO

(whispers)

Hate to say it, Co-Cap, but I'm glad you did all those crunches and push ups. We'd be up Schitt's Creek without your abs.

SIM

(whispers)

Thanks Mo. But it's not my abs that'll stun it...

[ZAP! Sim fires her weapon. The lettuce SCREECHES and RUNS.]

SIM (CONT'D)

Missed! Dammit. Let's go!

MO

Yeah, righto.

[A staggered percussive sting plays.]

6

INT. SSQS - CORRIDOR 2 - MOMENTS LATER

6

[Laser gun fire and the monster's growls echo in the distance.]

AURELIA

Bob, Dusty - you hear that? Lasers at the ready.

[Dusty powers up their laser gun.]

(CONTINUED)

DUSTY

Ay, Cap.

BOB

I hope they don't hurt it. It's probably just scared, poor baby.

DUSTY

Baby? That thing's fully grown, Bob. Stop hovering. Chip and I were already hunting our own food at age six! If I didn't bring down a deer it was no dinner! No dinner, no dinner!

AURELIA

Come on, this way!

[They move down the corridor.]

BOB

Well, no child, or generation, of mine will ever go hungry like that, Dusty!

DUSTY

That thing is made of lettuce. Of course it's not going hungry.

BOB

You can't expect our child to resort to self-cannibalism, can you, Dusty?

AURELIA

Let's not get too attached, Bob. I mean, it's still a - LETTUCE MONSTER!

[The Lettuce Monster GROWLS. Aurelia YELPS.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Get away! Dusty - shoot it!

BOB

I don't support authoritative parenting, Aurelia. There'll be no shooting or use of the term "monster".

DUSTY

It's what people will say about it anyway, Bob! The kid needs to harden up.

[The Lettuce Monster growls.]

(CONTINUED)

BOB

Oh, pish posh. The world will see Junior for what they probably are: kind, sweet, great at tap dancing, popular with the cool kids and the teachers.

(calls out)

Junior! Come here sweetie!

[The Lettuce Monster crunches closer.]

BOB (CONT'D)

Come on.

AURELIA

Bob! Maybe getting close to an entirely new species we know nothing about is *not* a great idea?!

[The Lettuce crinkles open.]

BOB

Oh, look, they're opening those lettuce flap arms to wave hello! Hello, hi!

[Aurelia gasps, terrified.]

DUSTY

Bob! Don't coddle it!

[The Monster SNARLS, shifts direction.]

BOB

Oh! Junior's headed for you, Dusty! Aw, I knew they'd recognise you.

[The Lettuce Monster closes in on Dusty...]

AURELIA

Careful Dusty!

DUSTY

You keep your salad flaps away from me!

AURELIA

You're backed into the corner, Dusty! You gotta get out of there!

[The Lettuce Monster jerks open.]

BOB

Aw, Junior's going for a mega hug!

[The Monster GROWLS and STRUGGLES with Dusty.]

(CONTINUED)

DUSTY

No! GO ON! GET! Get away from me!
AHHHHHH!

[The Lettuce Monster EATS Dusty. Aurelia whimpers. The lettuce GROWS.]

AURELIA

Bob, your lettuce creature just ate
Dusty whole then doubled in size.

BOB

Yes.

[The lettuce GROWLS. Bob and Aurelia SCREAM.]

[A short percussive sting plays.]

7

INT. SSQS - RAPID GROWTH CHAMBER - MINUTES LATER

7

[Solaris tinkers with the R.G.C..]

SOLARIS

And That should just be about it,
Computer.

[The R.G.C. beeps.]

SOLARIS (CONT'D)

If we want to reverse the R.G.C.,
we hit the green button.

COMPUTER

I'm *green* with envy at your
engineering skills, Solaris.

[Solaris laughs.]

SOLARIS

Coming from C-P-You, that's a very
high compliment.

COMPUTER

Ha. Ha. Ha.

[The R.G.C. doors open. Footsteps and Lettuce Monster growls rapidly approach.]

BOB

(from the corridor)
INCOMING!!!!!!!!!!

AURELIA

Watch out Solaris!

(CONTINUED)

SOLARIS
Standing back, Captain! Computer,
open the R.G.C.!

[The R.G.C. opens. The Lettuce Monster crunches into the room.]

SOLARIS (CONT'D)
Woah, that's really a half lettuce
half human, huh?

BOB
Uh huh.

[Solaris screams.]

SOLARIS
Push it into the R.G.C., push it
in!

[Aurelia and Bob push at the growling lettuce.]

AURELIA
Come on, Bob, put your back into
it!

BOB
Come on, Junior, hop in!

[Bob and Aurelia grunt and strain.]

[The R.G.C. doors open and Sim and Mo run in.]

SIM
Team Bravo has arrived!

MO
Oh woah, Bob your baby got big!

BOB
Yeah, I know!

AURELIA
Give us hand you two! Push!

[Everyone grunts and pushes.]

MO
It's too big!

BOB
Junior's outgrown the growth
chamber. What a milestone!

SIM
How. Did. It. Grow so much!

(CONTINUED)

AURELIA
Oh. Well. You see, the Lettuce
Creature *may* have eaten Dusty.

SIM
WHAT?!

AURELIA
But we are fine!

SIM
Solaris! How do we kill it?!

SOLARIS
It's a GIANT LETTUCE MONSTER. How
the heck would I know?!

MO
Because you know everything,
Solaris!

[The Lettuce monster GROWLS.]

AURELIA
Oh, we're done for! It's going to
eat us all!!

[Everyone cries out distressed.]

SOLARIS
This is not how I imagined I'd die!

[Aurelia cries.]

BOB
Everybody get out! I know what to
do! Just go, go! Everybody, go, go!

[Everyone runs out, except Bob.]

MO
We can spare Bob!

[The doors close. Bob sighs.]

BOB
It's just you and me.

[The Lettuce Monster snuffles.]

BOB (CONT'D)
Computer? Lock the crew out.

[The doors lock.]

BOB (CONT'D)
I'm staying here with Junior.

(CONTINUED)

[The Lettuce Monster snarls.]

[A beep and comms open.]

SIM (OUTSIDE THE DOOR)
Bob, no! What are you doing?!

BOB
If I know one thing about lettuce,
it's that you need to keep it
crisp.

MO (OUTSIDE THE DOOR)
Aw, but it's ice cold on this ship!
Look at my nips, Bob!

BOB
Computer, turn up the heat.

[The central heating fan whirs. The Lettuce monster starts to cry out. Bob mournfully sings.]

BOB (CONT'D)
Amaaaaazing Graaaace, how sweeeet
the souuuund.

[The crunchy footsteps of the Monster turn into sappy flops.]

SOLARIS (OUTSIDE THE DOOR)
It's working! The lettuce is
wilting and browning.

AURELIA (OUTSIDE THE DOOR)
It's falling apart!

BOB
I once was lost. But now am found.

[Bob cries as he sings.]

BOB (CONT'D)
Was blind, but now...

[The Lettuce monster gives it's sad final cry.]

BOB (CONT'D)
You're free. Goodbye Bob Junior.
Computer, open the doors.

[Bob softly sobs as the doors unlock and open. Sim, Aurelia, Solaris and Mo enter.]

(CONTINUED)

SIM

Sorry about your mutant lettuce child, Bob. Would you... like a group hug?

BOB

I just need a moment.

SOLARIS

How did you know what to do, Bob?

BOB

A mother just knows.

[Wilted leaves floppily move. GRRROOOOAN.]

DUSTY

What happened, where am I? Ugh, get this rabbit food off of me!

[Everyone exclaims, overjoyed.]

BOB

Dusty! You're alive! Come here!

DUSTY

Get off of me!

BOB

Come on.

DUSTY

Alright, one hug.

[Aw's and happy laughs as they hug.]

BOB

I'm so glad you're ok. *And* the first parent ever to be eaten alive by their leafy spawn.

DUSTY

I couldn't be prouder of the little lettuce cup.

MO

Awww...why... he tried to kill you?

[Aurelia starts to sniffle.]

AURELIA

I can't believe Bob Jnr is gone! It's just... it was there.. And now... soggy leaves. We lost that lettuce too soon. Too soon!

SIM

It's alright, Aurelia.

(CONTINUED)

AURELIA

No it's not, Sim! Their green child is gone. And Dusty's brother, and Bob's Dad, and Zendaya, and Kate Mulgrew, and women's football... the women themselves not the footballs, obviously. And... And... My mums. I really miss my mums.

SOLARIS

Aw.

[Aurelia cries.]

BOB

I think it's time for that group hug, Captain Sim! Come on team!

[Everyone coos and hugs Aurelia.]

[Aurelia lets out a few sobs. And calms.]

BOB (CONT'D)

There, there.

[Aurelia CRIES, deep and guttural.]

MO

Let it out.

[Aurelia cries and coughs and cries.]

DUSTY

She's... she's not done?

[Aurelia sobs.]

DUSTY (CONT'D)

She's not done yet?

BOB

Another hug! Aw!

[The crew coo and hug Aurelia. Aurelia cries.]

MO

I might have a sedative in the medbay, Sim? I'll go --

[Aurelia calms.]

MO (CONT'D)

Okay. Okay, good. We're good. We're good.

[Aurelia HOWLS.]

(CONTINUED)

DUSTY

Maybe we should cover her with a blanket like a baby bird.

[Aurelia WAILS, coughing and spluttering.]

[The Computer tones.]

COMPUTER

Captains. My emotion pack does not cover whatever this is but I do have to tell you that the Q star has entered visual range of Earth 2.

DUSTY

Uh... we better go!

[Murmurs of furious agreement.]

MO

Come on, let's go have a look at the planet.

AURELIA

O-okay...

[Aurelia snuffles as they all exit.]

[A short bass and percussion sting plays.]

8

INT. SSQS - BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

8

[The bridge door opens. Aurelia snuffles as everyone enters.]

AURELIA

Come on everyone, last one in the Bridge is a rotten asteroid!

SIM

You heard the Co-Captain. All crew to stations!

MO

Yes, new planet! Wait, where's the new planet?

SOLARIS

Ah, there must be some visual interference. Computer, run Solaris scan package three.

[Computer beeps and trills as the scan completes.]

AURELIA

Hm. I don't see anything but a hazy nebula, Sol. No Earth 2.

(CONTINUED)

SIM

It must be a mistake.

BOB

It's actually not there?

AURELIA

I think...

BOB

I really thought this one would be there.

AURELIA

I think...

BOB

What do we do now?

AURELIA

I think Sim should take command.
Excuse me.

[Aurelia walks to the lift.]

SIM

Aurelia.

[The lift door opens.]

SIM (CONT'D)

Wait, come back!

9

INT. SSQS - LIFT - CONTINUOUS

9

[The lift door closes.]

AURELIA

Computer, crew quarters.

SIM

Aurelia, wait --

[Sim jams her body in the lift doors, forces her way in.]

AURELIA

Sim, one day those lift doors are going to slice you in half!

SIM

Well not today. You can't just leave the crew out there, Aurelia. They need you. Computer, bridge.

[The lift stops. Changes direction.]

(CONTINUED)

AURELIA

I've nearly got us killed about twelve times. Computer, crew quarters.

[The lift stops. Changes direction.]

SIM

Only *almost*. Computer, bridge.

COMPUTER

Captains. This lift is not a yo-yo. Until you agree on a direction, we are going nowhere.

[The lift stops.]

SIM

Aurelia, face it. We couldn't have gotten here without you.

AURELIA

Here, in the middle of an interstellar cloud full of cosmic dust, ionised gases and a million other things that aren't Earth 2.

SIM

Not a *great* outcome, but so what. There must be billions of other planets to explore.

AURELIA

Probably even sextillions. And yes, we can explore them, Sim. But not with me as Captain. I resign.

SIM

Aurelia, no, just calm down! Wait. You are calm.

AURELIA

Someone once told me, "we need to start looking for guarantees, not chasing dreams". This is what's best for the crew. Computer -

SIM

Well it's not what's best for me!

AURELIA

Sim...

SIM

I can't Captain without you.

AURELIA

Come on.

(CONTINUED)

SIM

I need you, Aurelia. I just stalked a mutant lettuce across the ship wearing nothing but a pair of boots and a laser gun!

AURELIA

You really should put your flight suit back on, Sim, cos it's clearly *freezing* in here...

SIM

I tried the whole Captaining alone thing and it didn't work. Because I'm not a Captain. I'm a Co-Captain.

[A silence, thick with emotion. Then -]

SIM (CONT'D)

Besides, what if I get my period? I could crash into the moon!

[Aurelia laughs, and the tension breaks.]

AURELIA

You would crash into the moon.

[Sim laughs and Aurelia sighs.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Okay, I'll stay.

SIM

Excellent.

SIM (CONT'D)

Computer -

AURELIA

Computer -

[Sim and Aurelia laugh.]

COMPUTER

Way ahead of you, Captains. To the bridge.

[The lift engages.]

10

INT. SSQS - BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

10

[The bridge doors open and Sim and Aurelia enter.]

DUSTY

Captains on the bridge!

AURELIA

Just had to dash to the loo.

(CONTINUED)

DUSTY

Bob's beetle larvae brownies again?

[Dusty cackles.]

AURELIA

Now. *Ahem.* Bit of a bummer about Earth 2, hey team? Guess this nebula must've screwed our sensors up, but it's no biggie! We'll just have to find Earth 3, 4, and Earth 69!

[Mo laughs.]

MO

Oh, nice...

AURELIA

Yeah!

MO

Hey, it's cool me and Sim are still naked, right?

SIM

Bob? Get to the Rapid Growth Chamber, grow us some coffee beans, and brew us some frappes.

BOB

Oo!

AURELIA

Awww!

[Mo and Solaris exclaim excitedly.]

AURELIA (CONT'D)

Just the beans, Bob, no more mutant children, thanks.

BOB

You got it! Cafe Le Bob is back in business!

AURELIA

Ha ha!

SOLARIS

Wait a second, everyone! The nebula gas is clearing. Computer, adjust viewscreen to compensate.

COMPUTER

Updating now.

[Computer updates the viewscreen image and everyone GASPS.]

(CONTINUED)

SOLARIS

Oh wow!

MO

Now *that's* a planet.

BOB

Look at that vegetation!

SOLARIS

And water, a breathable atmosphere... It's exactly as the data predicted!

SIM

Welcome home, Captain.

AURELIA

I already was home, Captain.

SIM

Awww.

[Sim blows a raspberry.]

[*BEEP BEEP BEEP!* An alarm sounds. The crew scramble.]

COMPUTER

Captains, I'm picking up a distress signal.

SIM

From Earth 2?

COMPUTER

No, Captain Jackson. From *Earth* Earth.

[Everyone is shocked.]

AURELIA

Woah.

BOB

What?

DUSTY

Thats... that's the one that died.

AURELIA

Just... Just so we're clear, Computer. You mean Earth prime, *our* Earth, milky way Earth, the Earth that we thought was blown up, Earth?

(CONTINUED)

COMPUTER
Yes, Captain.

AURELIA
Woah.

DUSTY
So what the heck do we do now,
Captains?

SIM
Uhhhh....

AURELIA
Well....

END OF SEASON.

[Closing credits play.]

NARRATOR
Starship Q Star was created by
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download transcripts and support
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(CONTINUED)

