THE ROBOTS OF DEATH

By Chris Boucher

**Mysterious Theatre 337 – Show 200601** 

**Revision 10** 

By the usual suspects

Transcription by Steve Hill

Dun de dun

Tunnel

Face

Diamond logo

The Robots of Death

By Chris Boucher

A planet, bathed in green and purple light.

Rocks are falling.

The wind is fierce.

There's a huge ship riding the rocks.

Drills mounted on the side plow through the rocks.

The bridge is seen, with much activity, in long shot.

Then we are aboard the ship, where many art deco robots walk around doing things.

### V32

Turbulence center, vector seven.

V32 walks up to a console and stands for a moment.

#### V32

Scan commencing now.

#### **CHUB**

There was a voc therapist in Kaldor City. Specially programmed, equipped with vibro digits, subcutaneous stimulators, the lot. You know what happened, Borg? Its first client wanted treatment for a stiff elbow. The voc therapist felt carefully all round the joint, and then suddenly just... twisted his arm off at the shoulder – shoomf! He he he. All over in two seconds.

### **BORG**

I've never heard that.

## **CHUB**

Kaldor City.

**RCW:** Presented in TUNNEL-VISION!

**SAW:** Well, I guess we already know who the killers are.

**MO:** (French accent) That would be Chris Boo-shay.

**RCW:** Oh look! Rocks!

**SWH:** By the light of the purple and green suns...

**SAW:** Ricola!

**SWH:** The forecast is for continued dry conditions here at Mr. Rogers' former neighborhood. It's day eighteen million of the drought and still no end in sight.

**MO:** Is that K9? **SWH:** Poof!

**RCW:** Insert chromakey here.

**ALL:** Domo Arigato, Mr Roboto! Domo, domo. **SAW:** Hey, we figured, why sit on that one?

MO: Look UP...

**RCW:** They have a lot of movies.

**MO:** Like this!

**SWH:** Is "shoomf" a medical term?

### **DASK**

What was the reason?

### **CHUB**

The reason? It was haywire. I wouldn't let a robot work on me, not for all the zelanite in this ship.

## **BORG**

Shut up, Chub. Thank you, V16.

### **DASK**

The voc class robot has over a million multi-level constrainers in its circuitry.

A robot hands Dask a drink.

### **DASK**

All of them would have to malfunction before it could perform such an action.

## TOOS

Your trouble, Dask... you take all the magic out of life.

### **CHUB**

They go wrong, my friend. It's been known.

### DASK

Only when there's an error in programming. Each case on record –

# **CHUB** (interrupting)

This was a case. Tore his arm off.

### POUL

We're turning, has anyone noticed?

# ZILDA

I heard it was a leg.

#### $\mathbf{v}_{9}$

Mate in eight moves, commander.

## **UVANOV**

Never!

## V9

I will check, commander.

The robot punches some buttons on his wrist.

## **V9**

The computation is confirmed.

### **UVANOV**

Damn!

**SAW:** A Flock of Seagulls!

**SWH:** And Ming the Merciless.

**MO:** Ah, thank you, Twiki.

**SAW:** Bidi bidi bidi, no problem, Buck.

**RCW:** I heard it was a Chub.

**SWH:** No, I'd rather not, tonight, V9.

MO: Check! I get it.

**SAW:** I will use my futuristic calculator watch.

### **DASK**

They're unbeatable, commander.

Uvanov's wrist communicator bleeps.

He speaks into it.

## **UVANOV**

Commander.

### V14 (o/s)

V14. Tracer, sir.

## **UVANOV**

Yes?

### V14

Storm scale 3, range 10.52, timed 306, vector 71 and holding.

## UVANOV (o/s)

Full crew alert, 14. Out.

The loudspeakers announce a full crew alert.

The robots continue to go about their business. The speakers announce again.

#### **UVANOV**

Chub, break out an instrument pack.

# **CHUB**

Right, sir!

They all get on their feet and get moving.

## UVANOV

Let's hope this one's worth chasing.

#### ZILDA

Blimey, that's luck.

The speakers continue to broadcast the full crew alert.

*In space, the TARDIS spins and wobbles.* 

Inside, Leela is playing with a yo-yo with an intense look of concentration.

Down goes the yo-yo, and up again. Her motions are not fluid, she is obviously a beginner.

# LEELA

Doctor?

**SWH:** Bunch of numbers, eighty four...

**SAW:** IBM down 6 percent. S&P 500 down 3 points. Imation buys Memorex...

**RCW:** Clarinet or saxophone?

**MO:** Presenting the 16-bit Atari personal computer!

**SAW:** Wouldn't they get dizzy as hell in there?

**MO:** Yo. SWH: Yo. SAW: Yo.

**RCW:** Yo yo goes up, yo o goes down. Yo yo goes up,

yo yo goes down.

**MO:** Product placement by Duncan.

#### **DOCTOR**

Hmmm?

### **LEELA**

Can I stop now?

### **DOCTOR**

If you want to?

### **LEELA**

It will not affect this?

### **DOCTOR**

Affect this? No, it's a yo-yo. It's a game, I thought you were enjoying it.

Leela stops and looks up at him, dropping the yo-yo to the floor.

### **LEELA**

Enjoying it?

It spins and comes to a rest on the studio floor.

#### LEELA

You said I had to keep it going up and down, I thought it was part of the magic.

## **DOCTOR**

Magic, Leela? Magic?

### **LEELA**

I know, I know, there's no such thing as magic.

### **DOCTOR**

Exactly. To the rational mind, nothing is inexplicable, only unexplained.

## **LEELA**

So. Explain to me how this... TARDIS is larger on the inside than the out.

### **DOCTOR**

Hmm? All right, I'll show you. It's because insides and outsides are not in the same dimension.

He walks to the side of the secondary console room and picks up two cubes. He holds them up.

#### **DOCTOR**

Which box is larger?

### **LEELA**

That one.

She points to the larger of the two cubes.

**RCW:** I was going to teach you "walk the dog" next.

**SAW:** Totally pointless, out of focus cutaway shot.

**SWH:** She's really bad at it anyway.

**MO:** (up and down) Whoa!

**RCW:** That's not what he was talking about.

**SAW:** Yes, it's Magic Leela!

**MO:** They're not even in the same zip code. **SAW:** You see Leela, we're recording this in TC3 to 2 inch quad video tape, and meanwhile the police box exterior is over in TC5...

**SWH:** EHHH Wrong, you are so stupid, you savage.

The Doctor places the large cube on top of the console, looks up at Leela and grins.

Then he walks over to her and stands next to her.

He holds up the smaller box, which is now larger due to forced perspective.

### **DOCTOR**

Now which is larger?

She points at the larger box on the console.

## **LEELA**

That one.

### **DOCTOR**

But it looks smaller.

#### **LEELA**

Well, that's because it's further away.

### **DOCTOR**

Exactly. If you could keep that exactly that distance away, and have it here, the large one would fit inside the small one.

Leela just looks at him.

#### LEELA

That's silly.

### **DOCTOR**

That's transdimensional engineering, a key Time Lord discovery.

He looks up as the TARDIS materialization sound is heard.

The TARDIS solidifies inside a room with blank gray walls and a sandy, uneven floor.

### **DOCTOR**

This is the exciting bit!

He rushes to the console.

### **LEELA**

What's exciting?

### **DOCTOR**

Well, seeing what's outside.

He activates the scanner screen.

**MO:** I see where this is going.

**SAW:** Well at least if the TARDIS crashes, we know that there are apparently TWO black box recorders.

**RCW:** And one is larger than the other.

**RCW:** Have you been smoking something?

**MO:** I'm never explaining anything to you again.

**SAW:** If you think that's silly, just wait until Graham Williams starts producing.

**SWH:** There's an exciting bit?

The scanner cover slides back to reveal an image of gray walls and a sandy floor.

**MO:** (To Steve) Can we watch this instead? It looks more interesting!

### **DOCTOR**

What? I don't –

He walks over to the screen and stares at it.

## **DOCTOR**

It's metal! We've landed inside something metal.

## **LEELA**

But how can we? How can the TARDIS be inside something metal?

### DOCTOR

Well, one box inside another, I just explained it to you.

### **LEELA**

No. Not very clearly.

## **DOCTOR**

Well, it's a rather dull subject, anyway.

He depresses a switch on the console and the scanner doors close.

## **DOCTOR**

I wonder where we are?

#### LEELA

You mean you don't know?

# **DOCTOR**

Well, not precisely, no.

He puts on his coat.

## **LEELA**

You mean you can't control this machine?

### **DOCTOR**

Well, of course I can control it. Nine times out of ten. Well. Seven times out of ten. Five times – look, nevermind. Let's see where we are.

Leela is carrying a Tesh gun.

### **DOCTOR**

You won't need that.

## **LEELA**

How do you know?

### **DOCTOR**

I never carry weapons.

**RCW:** (Rob Gary Numan joke)

MO: Dull metal.

**SAW:** Lite Brite, making things with li-ight!

**SWH:** Inside of something metal! Geez!

**RCW:** (Five times, a la Holy Grail) Three, sir!

**SWH:** That's why I get shot at all the time.

He turns to face her.

## **DOCTOR**

If people see you mean them no harm, they never hurt you.

She shrugs and places the gun on the floor.

# **DOCTOR**

Nine times out of ten.

The Doctor exits, and Leela walks up onto the console dais and follows him out the door.

Outside the TARDIS, the Doctor peeks around cautiously.

He walks away slowly from the TARDIS, eyes glancing everywhere.

Leela exits and does the same, looking up at the ceiling and all around.

Leela has her knife drawn as the two travelers look through the door to the room. The sandy gravel on the floor is conspicuous.

*Out on the planet, the ship – the Sandminer – has ceased forward motion.* 

On board, Uvanov and his crew stride on deck and take their positions.

# **UVANOV**

How does it look, Toos?

### **TOOS**

Tell you in a moment.

## **UVANOV**

Right tracking.

## **ZILDA**

Clear and running, commander.

# **UVANOV**

Left tracking.

### ZILDA

And running.

### **TOOS**

It's small. Scale 3.4, not building.

### **UVANOV**

What have you done with all the big ones?

**MO:** I thought he said this was the exciting bit.

**SAW:** Um, Leela, the door... you forgot to close... the Doctor's not paying to heat the whole Sandminer, you know!

**RCW:** It's only a model.

**SWH:** Krytus, I'm bored. What plaything can you offer me today?

**MO:** Looks awful, I still don't like that hat on you.

**SAW:** "I should like a hat like that."

**SWH:** Yeah, where IS Chub?

**ZILDA** 

Range 4.12. Running time 3.30.

**TOOS** 

That's something, anyway, we won't have to chase this one.

ZILDA

Ground center zero. Zero one.

V32

No instrument pack report yet, sir.

**UVANOV** 

Chub. Get after him.

**POUL** 

It's all right, I'll go.

**UVANOV** 

Scientists!

**POUL** 

Yes.

**UVANOV** 

How can I run a mine with amateurs?

**ZILDA** 

Chub's all right.

**UVANOV** 

Why, just because he's from one of the founding families?

**ZILDA** 

I didn't mention his family.

**UVANOV** 

One of the twenty? You know, it's amazing the way you people stick togeth—no, it's not amazing, it's sickening.

ZILDA

I hope you're watching the traverses, commander.

**UVANOV** 

Oh please don't worry about my job, Zilda. What's she blowing, Toos?

**TOOS** 

Spectro's muddy. Could be some zelanite, some keefan...

She lights up.

TOOS

Traces of lucanol!

**RCW:** How come he doesn't have a hat?

MO: Actors!

MO: She's BATGIRL!

**RCW:** That's one hell of a ViewMaster. **SWH:** She stole that from Mr Spock.

**SAW:** Kneel before Zod!

**RCW:** Or who?

MO: Who's she then? SWH: Razorback? SAW: Shark Girl?

#### **UVANOV**

Aha, money in the bank! Cheer up, Zilda, I'll make you rich again.

Zilda's expression turns sour.

Elsewhere, a robot walks down a corridor, its silver-taped feet the only thing in shot.

Chub is in a store room, many shelves surround him with supplies of all kinds.

He tries to shift a case.

### **CHUB**

Oh.

He slaps the case because it's heavy.

### **CHUB**

Where in the seven suns is that robot?

He calls out.

#### **CHUB**

Robot? Robot!

The robot's feet stop outside the door.

The door to the store room slides open.

The robot steps inside.

### V45

Yes, sir?

#### **CHUB**

Where have you been? Get that instrument package.

V45's eyes glow red.

### **CHUB**

Well, come on, get a move on, I've got to launch it before the hatches are locked.

The robot just stands there.

### **CHUB**

Did you hear what I said?

#### V45

Yes, sir. I heard what you said.

# **CHUB**

Well, get on with it, then!

**RCW:** (static on screen) Jiggle the antenna cable!

**SWH:** Doctor Martens, Doctor Martens, Doctor Martens boots!

**SAW:** I wonder if they have the same situation there that we have with Air Jordans, with robots stealing shoes from other robots?

**MO:** Robot Footwear designed by Jiffy Pop.

**RCW:** He has seven sons? Way to go, Chub!

**SAW:** It is I, Soldeed!

MO: You rang?

**SWH:** Oh you've got blue eyes, oh you've got green eyes, oh you've got red eyes.

V45 advances toward him.

**CHUB** 

No. There, you electronic moron, g—What are you doing? L—stop, stand still! No...

We see V45's viewpoint as he chases Chub slowly around the room. Chub panics as he tries to find his way back out of the store room.

**CHUB** 

No! No, get back! Get away from me!

In a nearby corridor, several robots are walking to their duties.

Poul comes around the corner and down the steps.

A blood-curdling scream is heard, stopping Poul in his tracks.

He looks at a badge on his chest, then dashes away as the scream is cut off.

Back on the bridge.

**UVANOV** 

This is the commander. All checks complete. All systems clear and running. Security robots, stand by to commence hatch lock sequence... now.

**TOOS** 

Running time...

Many crew voices are heard over each other.

**UVANOV** 

Duty mover stand by for switch to motive power.

He checks a three-dimensional display.

**UVANOV** 

Coming right down our throats so we can really suck the pay stream out of this one.

V32 steps forward.

V32

The monitors indicate obstruction on forward scoop deck.

**UVANOV** 

Then get it cleared, V32, get it cleared!

Elsewhere on the sandminer, the Doctor and Leela are exploring.

**MO:** He's in red and green 3-D!

**SAW:** Eeewwww, pink eye! Stay away from me!

**SWH:** Apologize for calling me a moron!

**RCW:** When Klaus Nomi attacks.

**SWH:** Do you know I think my blood ACTUALLY curdled there.

**MO:** Pop-o-matic pops the dice. Pop a six and you kill twice.

RCW: Hell-OOOh!

**SAW:** Who WROTE this stuff?

(FILLIT)

They climb up into a cavern-like room with huge horizontal metal bars at one end.

Cautiously they stop, and then take very slow steps forward.

The Doctor pauses to examine something.

## **LEELA**

What is it?

### **DOCTOR**

Specially hardened alloy, scored all over. It must come in under great pressure.

#### **LEELA**

What must?

### **DOCTOR**

Whatever it is they fill it up with.

Back in another control room, a robot calls up a display on a video monitor.

On the screen, a huge claw descends onto the TARDIS.

The claw clamps on to the top of the police box and lifts it up.

The TARDIS has been removed from the place in which it landed.

The Sandminer continues to idle on the rocky surface of the planet.

The miner vents some vapor of some kind.

Back inside the scoop, the Doctor and Leela walk toward the horizontal bars, which are now seen to be huge louvers.

#### **LEELA**

Doctor?

## **DOCTOR**

This is very interesting.

### **LEELA**

Back there. I heard something.

#### **DOCTOR**

It comes in here.

### **LEELA**

What does?

**SWH:** Cardboard sets, my ass.

MO: D33 is on break there. RCW: Qix! I loved that game!

**SAW:** The claw game!

**SWH:** Oh crap, I dropped it. Dammit, I should have gone for the teddy bear, it was closer to the top.

**RCW:** Oh I wanted the lobster harmonica!

MO: (belch)

**SAW:** What's more interesting than sand? MORE sand, apparently!

#### **DOCTOR**

Whatever it is.

Back on the bridge.

TOOS

Range .87, running time .13, ground center zero 9 3.

**UVANOV** 

It's veering away. Mover, where's that power?

**BORG** 

It's coming, sir.

UVANOV

So is old age, Borg, and I don't want to spend mine in this desert waiting for you to do your job.

TOOS

Range .31...

**BORG** 

Switching to motive units... now.

**UVANOV** 

We may just catch the edge, but we're gonna have to chase to stay there.

Poul comes rushing on the bridge. He hurries up to Uvanov.

**POUL** 

Commander!

**UVANOV** 

What is it?

POUL

Chub's dead!

ZILDA

Dead?!

**UVANOV** 

Are you sure?

**POUL** 

Of course I'm sure!

UVANOV

All right, then, first things first, there's nothing we can do for him now.

**POUL** 

He was murdered!

**SWH:** Wow, that's pretty existential.

**RCW:** I'd rather... I'd rather just... sing!

**RCW:** And Mawdryn's undead!

#### **UVANOV**

How do you know?

## **POUL**

Because people don't strangle themselves.

## **TOOS**

Strangled?!

### **POUL**

He's in the forward storage locker.

### **ZILDA**

You'll have to abort this one.

### **UVANOV**

What, and lose this storm? We're almost onto it!

### ZILDA

Poul's talking about murder, commander!

## **UVANOV**

I'm talking about money.

### **POUL**

You have no choice!

### **ZILDA**

This time.

Uvanov takes a moment, then activates his communicator to give an order.

## **UVANOV**

Close scoops. Trim vents. Crew stand down.

In the scoop, the Doctor and Leela draw closer to the opening.

Their feet crunch on the gravel floor.

They stare at the wind-blown planet surface they see outside.

## **LEELA**

What is it?

## **DOCTOR**

A desert. Either that, or the tide's gone out.

### LEELA

Where are the trees?

### **DOCTOR**

There's no water, so nothing grows. Nothing at all, by the look of it.

**SWH:** Well, not usually, but I've heard of this one thing called autoerotic asphyxia---

**SAW:** Shhh! Stop right there.

**SWH/RCW:** Money, money for blood, money

**ALL:** Stand up! (stand up) Stand down! (sit down)

**MO:** Oh THERE'S the quarry. **RCW:** I *am* the quarry.

### **LEELA**

It's beautiful

### **DOCTOR**

Mmm... a bit garish for my taste.

### **LEELA**

What's that white thing? On the horizon?

### DOCTOR

Hm? Looks like dust.

As they continue to look out the scoop, a massive dust cloud grows rapidly in the near distance.

#### DOCTOR

It's a sandstorm. Come on. Come on, we've got to get out of here. Come on!

Leela doesn't move, but turns to look at him as he makes to leave.

#### **DOCTOR**

This is a Sandmine, we're in one of the scoops.

#### LEELA

What does that mean?

#### **DOCTOR**

That storm could be traveling at a thousand miles an hour. The sand will cut us to pieces unless we get back to the TARDIS. Come on!

Leela follows him out.

The Sandminer is mobile again, churning its way through the dirt and debris.

It's so windy outside that boulders are being blown around. Wow.

The Doctor and Leela slide out of the scoop into the containment chamber in which they materialized, but the TARDIS is not there.

## **DOCTOR**

We've been robbed!

#### LEELA

I said I heard something!

### **DOCTOR**

The shutters!

**SWH:** Yeah, okay. I'm leaving you here, you good with that?

**SAW:** Wikipedia says, rock grain sizes in descending order are, boulder, cobble, pebble, granule, sand, silt, clay, and colloid.

MO: (a la K9 - immediately) "Coming, Master!"

**SWH:** It's so windy that BOULDERS are being blown around.

**SAW:** And they're the BIGGEST grain size.

RCW: Quick! Call VOC 9-1-1!

#### **LEELA**

What?

#### **DOCTOR**

If there are no manual controls, we're dead!

The Doctor runs back toward the louvers, Leela following behind.

As he reaches the scoop, the shutters close by their own accord.

Leela catches up to the Doctor at the scoop.

## LEELA

Somebody must have heard.

They look around.

Back in the storage room, Poul has brought Uvanov to show him Chub. Heheh.

Uvanov rushes in and stares at Chub on the floor.

### **UVANOV**

Was he like this when you found him?

### **POUL**

Just a little fresher.

Uvanov kneels down beside Chub's body. He turns him onto his back.

Uvanov takes Chub's right wrist and checks for a pulse, also examining Chub's neck. He turns back to Poul standing next to him.

## **UVANOV**

You said you heard screams.

**POUL** 

Yes.

## **UVANOV**

But he was strangled.

# **POUL**

The scream... stopped.

Now visible after being turned over, a red reflective disc with a white border is stuck to the bad of Chub's right hand.

**UVANOV** 

What's this?

**MO:** We're only half-way through the first episode. I think they'll live.

**SWH:** But he said if there are no manual controls, they're dead, and there aren't any, and they're not dead.

**SAW:** Stop overanalyzing.

**SAW:** (cluck like chicken)

**RCW:** And his pants were on.

**SWH:** Let me just get his wallet here...

**MO:** Screams, moans... around here you can't tell the difference

#### **POUL**

I have no idea.

Uvanov pulls it off of the back of Chub's hand. It comes away with the sound of tape pulled off of skin.

#### **UVANOV**

Crew all assembled?

#### POUL

They should be by now.

## **UVANOV**

Let's get this thing settled, then. The sooner we get this worked out, the sooner we get back to making our quota.

Poul looks disgusted. Frustrated, Uvanov shakes his head.

**UVANOV** 

Scientists!

He stands up.

**UVANOV** 

Never should have let him on board.

POUL

He'd probably agree with you.

**UVANOV** 

Poul!

**POUL** 

Coming, commander.

*In the scoop, the wind still is heard howling outside.* 

The Doctor and Leela emerge back into the containment chamber.

**DOCTOR** 

There must be a way out!

LEELA

I do not think I like this metal world, Doctor!

**DOCTOR** 

We can't get out of here until we find the TARDIS!

Leela turns and sees something.

**LEELA** 

Watch it!

V17 and D84 enter the chamber.

**RCW:** A bicycle reflector.

**SWH:** I... think... he may have been killed by crewmember Schwinn.

**ALL:** (Gasp) It was Bicycle Repair Man!

SAW: Actors!

**MO:** No no no no, BILLIARDS.

**RCW:** That was rather forced.

D84 walks straight up to the Doctor and stares at him.

Back in the crew quarters, the others are milling about.

The door slides open and Uvanov and Poul enter.

**UVANOV** 

All present?

DASK

Kerrill's not here yet.

**TOOS** 

He's on his way, he was in the rear section, but it'll take a while.

**UVANOV** 

Right, we'll make a start, then.

They move to make themselves comfortable.

**UVANOV** 

Right. Now. You all know that Chub is dead. One of you killed him.

ZILDA

One of us, surely?

**UVANOV** 

That's what I said.

**POUL** 

No, you did say one of you.

**UVANOV** 

All right, then, one of us killed him. The question is which one?

**TOOS** 

And why?

**UVANOV** 

Well, this is a two-year tour. Maybe Chub was just beginning to get on somebody's nerves.

**BORG** 

Me?

**ZILDA** 

He was certainly getting on yours.

**UVANOV** 

Yes, but we all know where I was.

**BORG** 

I was on the power deck.

RCW: Rob. MO: Mike. SWH: Steve. SAW: Scott. MO: Chief. SWH: McCloud!

**ALL:** (giggle on Chub) **MO:** Awww, no more Chub.

**SWH:** Some guys have that problem.

**RCW:** And don't call me Shirley.

**SWH:** Dammit you told me it was a three hour tour. You lied to me in song! I hate it when people do that!

**MO:** Oh, she's a fishperson!

### **UVANOV**

Was Dask with you?

## **BORG**

Yes.

Uvanov turns to look at Dask.

### DASK

But not all the time. I went to check the synchro-relays.

### **BORG**

Now, look, I had nothing against Chub, okay, he talked too much, but I wouldn't –

#### ZILDA

Anyway, the time Poul heard the scream -

### **CASS**

Ah, ah... Says he heard the scream. Let's keep the point open.

## **POUL**

Why should I lie?

#### **UVANOV**

Now, you interrupted Zilda. Founding family people never interrupt each other, isn't that right, Zilda?

#### **POUL**

Someone interrupted Chub. With both hands.

### **UVANOV**

Please, Poul, we're all waiting for Zilda.

### **ZILDA**

I was simply going to say... the scream could have been arranged.

### **TOOS**

How?

# **ZILDA**

A communicator recording.

## **UVANOV**

What would be the point?

#### ZILDA

To give somebody an alibi, commander. You sent Poul to look for Chub. You could have arranged it all.

#### TOOS

You mean the poor man might have been dead when Poul heard the scream?

**SAW:** And I had to check my mascara too.

**RCW:** Most guys use one.

**SAW:** No wonder they called him Chub.

**RCW:** How many times can they say Chub?

**MO/ALL:** Chub chub chub chub.. .lovely Chub wonderful Chub!

### **UVANOV**

Oh, nice try, Zilda! Now, does anybody know what this is?

He pulls out the red reflector and holds it between thumb and middle finger, showing the group.

Borg's hand reaches up to take it from Uvanov.

#### DASK

It's a corpse marker.

### UVANOV

A what?

### **DASK**

A robot deactivation disc. They use them in the construction centers. If ever we used the stop circuit and turned off all our robots, they'd have to go back to a construction center for reactivation. On arrival, each would be marked with a disc like that to show it is a deactivated robot. The technicians call them corpse markers.

Poul looks vaguely amused.

### DASK

It's a sort of a joke.

### **POUL**

It seems our murderer has a sense of humor.

### **UVANOV**

That was on the back of Chub's hand.

Borg stands up.

#### **BORG**

Not just a murderer, then. Seems like one of us is a maniac.

#### CASS

Use your brain, Borg. We would know, wouldn't we?

### **BORG**

But we don't.

He places the corpse marker on Cass's hand.

### **BORG**

Do we?

The Sandminer moves through the stormy atmosphere.

Back on the bridge, where no humans are seen, all tasks are done by robots.

**SWH:** Is it a very very slow delivery of your line?

**MO:** (reactivation) That's pretty inconvenient!

**SAW:** Congratulations on having the longest line in the script. I bet you're the villain.

**RCW:** You'd know all about that, wouldn't you, Space Commander Twavis?

**SAW:** There's a maniac, manic on the crew, and they're acting like there's nothing they can do...

**RCW:** Thank you, come again!

#### V14

Storm scale 16, range 9.8. Timed two zero one. Vector seven two and holding.

### ROBOT

All right, 14, full crew alert. All but the human in the rear section are accounted for. Storm Mine 4 is now under complete robot control. Begin the check sequence.

Out in the corridor, many robots come and go.

The Doctor strides among them.

Leela is following close behind.

### LEELA

Doctor, how do you know they're not hostile?

She looks at the robots nervously.

### **DOCTOR**

Because robots are programmed to help people, not hurt them. You won't hurt us, will you?

They have been shown in to a luxurious cabin by one of the robots.

### **ROBOT**

Please wait here.

The robot exits.

The sliding doors close behind it.

Leela walks down into the sunken living room.

#### LEELA

What's all this for?

She picks up the bric-a-brac on the coffee table.

### **DOCTOR**

Mineral extraction. The surface of this planet is a sea of sand, probably several miles deep and constantly moving. And I imagine contains valuable metallic elements, otherwise they wouldn't go to all this trouble.

### **LEELA**

But those creepy mechanical men.

#### **DOCTOR**

Yes. I have seen a similar sort of thing on Korlano-Beta. The mine passes over the surface searching for useful ores. Naturally, the heavier elements tend to sink into the substratas, so a really good sandstorm is a bonus, it stirs things up a bit.

**SWH:** All those robots milling around doing nothing.

**MO:** Oh, they're Teamsters! **RCW:** So lazy and surly.

**SAW:** Stop looking at the camera!

**MO:** So many years in the future and they still use

checks?

**SWH:** Hey, where's his scarf?

**SWH:** If you wish.

**SWH:** But it'll cost extra.

**SAW:** Oh when you come back, bring us a couple of cucumber sandwiches.

**MO:** My acute electronic hearing is aided by putting my head against the door.

**SWH:** Geek.

**RCW:** Leela like couch.

**MO:** She's having a little trouble maintaining her

balance.

### LEELA

Sometimes you talk like a Tesh.

## **DOCTOR**

Thank you.

### **LEELA**

It was not well-meant. Are the mechanical men friendly?

### **DOCTOR**

Robots don't have feelings. It's the people they serve we must hope are friendly.

## LEELA

Perhaps there are no people in here.

## **DOCTOR**

What? Robots don't need chairs, and certainly not padded ones.

## LEELA

Because they have no feelings?

The door slides open, revealing SV7.

The silver robot walks into the room.

It walks to the right and up on the "balcony" overlooking the sunken living room.

It takes up position on its mark, and turns to face the travelers.

# SV7

Please identify yourselves.

## **DOCTOR**

Well, I'm the Doctor, and that's Leela. I wonder if it's possible for us to speak to the person in charge, I'd like to thank him for saving our lives.

### SV7

I command.

# **DOCTOR**

Well, thank you for saving our lives.

### SV7

What are you doing here?

## **LEELA**

Oh... well, the other mechanical man told us to wait.

# **SV7**

What were you doing in the scoop?

**SAW:** John Tesh?

**RCW:** Then why do they need those insulated jackets and pajama bottoms?

**MO:** It's SV7 of 9.

**SWH:** Nah, I'm only joking with ya, I'm not in charge.

**ALL:** (Wan laugh)

### **DOCTOR**

Trying to get out.

The robot processes the answer.

Then it goes back over to the door, and turns toward the Doctor.

#### SV7

Please wait here.

The Doctor nods.

SV7 leaves the room, and the door slides closed behind him.

### **LEELA**

Talkative.

The Doctor leaps up and holds up a finger.

#### LEELA

Doctor, he said we must wait here!

He goes over to the door and operates the sonic screwdriver on the control panel.

The door slides open.

He peeks around the corner.

# **DOCTOR**

First we find the TARDIS, then we have a little scout 'round, and we'll be back before they know.

### **LEELA**

Doctor -

Reluctantly, she pulls her knife and begins to follow him out the door and down the steps.

The Doctor is already down the corridor.

On the bridge, Uvanov has gotten the call.

## **UVANOV**

Right. Hold them there. Well, that settles that, then.

#### CASS

I told you. Didn't I say so? Maniac.

Uvanov laughs nervously.

### **UVANOV**

Come on, let's all get back to work.

**SAW:** He's like a scary futuristic Oompa Loompa.

**SWH:** Wikipedia says, the word Robot was introduced by Czech writer Karel Čapek in his play R.U.R. which was written in 1920

**MO:** I'll pick up some cigarettes while I'm out.

**RCW:** I don't get mad, I get stabby.

SAW: He's still a maniac, maaaniac...

**SWH:** Let's play twister.

### **POUL**

Now, just a minute...

### ZILDA

Yes, what do you mean, let's get back to work?

## UVANOV

You heard SV7, there are intruders, a man and a woman. They're obviously the murderers and we've got them under lock and key.

### **BORG**

Why are they obviously the murderers? I don't see that!

### **CASS**

You just don't like to be wrong, do you?

### **BORG**

Nobody's proved that I am. I mean, who are these people?

### **ZILDA**

Could they be ore-raiders?

#### **BORG**

Ore-raiders, there's no such thing.

### **UVANOV**

Now, listen, we are at this moment in the middle of the biggest storm we've come across since we started this tour, and we are wasting time!

### **BORG**

The robots are mining.

### **UVANOV**

Robots do not have instincts! They'll be lucky to get half of what we can get. We are not out in the middle of this desert for pleasure. We are here to make money. So get on your feet and get back to work! That is an order!

### **BORG**

Give it to a robot.

Uvanov is not too happy with Borg's response. He glares and dives on him.

### **UVANOV**

What did you say?

#### TOOS

Commander, we've got to find out about those two.

# **POUL**

For all we know, there may be more of them.

**MO:** If you COULD see, you'd do a better job with your eye-liner.

**RCW:** Hopefully they're fashion designers.

**MO:** Wikipedia says, an orator is a Latin word for 'speaker.'

**SAW:** Gosh, that was offensive!

**SAW:** Anyway, he can't. The robots are all in the union.

#### **CASS**

Makes sense.

### **DASK**

If there are more of them, they'll be caught. In the meantime, as the commander suggests, I think we should return to our posts.

## **ZILDA**

Why? Nothing's changed.

## **UVANOV**

All right.

He activates his communicator.

### **UVANOV**

Seven!

#### SV7

Yes, commander?

### **UVANOV**

Bring the man and the woman here.

#### SV7

I was about to inform you, commander, they have escaped.

## **BORG**

You see!

## **TOOS**

What?

### **UVANOV**

Escaped? Then you better find them and find 'em quick! Put every spare robot on it.

The Doctor and Leela walk down another corridor. This time, no robots are in sight.

The Doctor stops at the end of the corridor, and turns right.

He moves cautiously forward, with Leela still following, knife drawn.

At the end of the corridor, a robot passes by.

The Doctor continues on his way, passing by an open door without taking notice of it.

Leela, however, pauses at the door and peeks inside the room.

**RCW:** It's my only line!

**SWH:** Good movie.

**SAW:** All those ones that are milling around the bridge.

**RCW:** They all seem spare to me.

**MO:** There's another spare one now.

**SAW:** Leela, did I ever tell you about the time I was on the Orient Express?

She looks around inside, then steps into the room, sheathing her knife.

It is a storage room. In fact, it is the storage room in which Chub was killed.

Leela walks around the shelves and passes a green plastic sheet. The sheet moves slightly, gaining her attention.

She pulls back the sheet to reveal Chub's body lying prone under it.

Meanwhile, the Doctor has carried on and is near a much larger mechanical room.

He walks around the corners and finds the TARDIS standing alongside one of the walls.

Grinning, he walks up and pats it on the side.

### **DOCTOR**

Hello, my dear old thing.

Satisfied that he knows its location, he turns to walk away.

He stops when a rushing sound is heard through a hatch nearby. He opens the hatch.

Seen inside behind a glass wall, quantities of minerals are pouring in.

### **DOCTOR**

The ore comes in under pressure from the separators. I wonder what it is, Leela, what do you think –

He turns to look at Leela, and discovers she hasn't stuck with him.

He looks around him.

#### **DOCTOR**

Leela?

No response.

### **DOCTOR**

Leela?

He begins to retrace his footsteps.

### **DOCTOR**

I wish that girl wouldn't wander off like that.

Passing another hatch, he stops and puts his hand on its handle.

**SWH:** (Chub moves) What was he doing, getting more comfortable there?

**RCW:** She just uncovered a Chub.

SAW: Heheheh.

**SWH:** Hey, that's the mixing board I'll be using for the dance tonight.

**MO:** Ah, the primitive days before scene-sync and motion tracking.

**SAW:** Damn, lost another one. Oh well.

MO: Wouldn't be Doctor Who if she didn't.

**SWH:** Bing! His scarf has returned.

He opens the hatch.

This one doesn't have a glass wall, he is able to step inside.

He pulls a pocket torch out and switches it on, playing it around him.

It looks much the same as the other scoop chambers, until the torchlight flashes on something slumped in a corner.

It looks like it might be a body.

The Doctor walks fully into the chamber to examine the object.

It is indeed a body. He turns it over and feels the neck for a pulse.

As he is checking, the hatch door slams shut.

Almost immediately, minerals start pouring in from above the Doctor's head.

Spewing, he covers his head, and backs away to one of the walls.

The body is already almost covered in gravel.

Thinking furiously, the Doctor examines the stream of gravel pouring in.

The gravel completely covers the body.

It is covering most of the Doctor's legs now, as he waves the torch around.

Soon he is up to his chest in gravel, as it continues to pour in.

Out in the corridor, two robots (V9 and D64) approach the storage room where Leela stopped.

As they walk into the room, we see Leela hiding behind a shelf.

The robots are there to pick up Chub's body. They push the gurney to the door, and leave the room.

Leela gets up from her hiding place.

Nearby, the Doctor gives up trying to cover himself from the minerals, and they pile up past his chin, his mouth, his nose...

Still the gravel pours in from above.

**RCW:** Is that a torch? Or is it a flashlight?

**SWH:** Poor guy. He didn't even make it out of Ealing.

**MO:** Are those peanuts?

**SAW:** Ew, he's beneath the porta-potty! Ewww!

RCW: Mmm, cat food.

**SWH:** Okay, anyone who gets buried by gravel like that is stupid. Here: Lift your foot, and stand on the gravel that's already fallen. And repeat. You'll be fine.

**RCW:** The lesson: Life's a bitch. **SAW:** And death's a beach.

**MO:** I see the Sandminer recycles its milk bottles on top of everything else.

The Doctor is completely buried. Suddenly the gravel pour ceases.

A black tube rises up from the gravel mound.

Tiny pebbles are expelled from the end of the tube. The Doctor is using it to breathe.

Outside, the robots are guiding the gurney through the corridor. V9 stumbles a bit on the turn.

Leela is stealthily following them.

They continue down the corridor, Leela following with her knife drawn.

In the crew room, Uvanov is contemplating a chessboard. He picks up a piece from the board and stares at it.

Behind him, Cass stands up and walks toward the door.

## **UVANOV**

Where do you think you are going?

#### CASS

To search. We got to find those killers!

### **UVANOV**

The robots can handle it.

#### **CASS**

So can I.

Cass is out the door. Borg then gets up too.

### UVANOV

And where do you think you're going?

Borg stops and looks back.

#### **BORG**

He's right, commander.

## **UVANOV**

You stay where you are!

But Borg has left.

#### TOOS

Maybe it would be quicker if we all went to look.

## **UVANOV**

We are not armed. There are two killers loose aboard the ship! Maybe more!

**SWH:** See, I TOLD you guys to carry these things all the time!

**ALL:** (we all pull out straws)

**MO:** Is Fenric on board?

**RCW:** (this one is optional) Thank you, come again!

**SAW:** My hairdresser.

#### DASK

The robots can handle the situation more efficiently than we can.

#### TOOS

All right, I just thought you were in a hurry to get back to work.

## **UVANOV**

I am not in any hurry to get myself killed, Toos.

*In the large room, a robot approaches the TARDIS.* 

It stops at a large control console near the police box and operates a "stop" control.

Inside the chamber, the gravel that was covering the Doctor rapidly falls away from him, uncovering him.

He removes the breathing tube from his mouth and smiles, taking a few deep breaths.

*The robot (SV7) walks over to the hatch.* 

It punches in a code on the door.

It opens the outer door, and the inner glass slides up. The Doctor climbs out of the chamber.

#### **DOCTOR**

Thank you. Thank you very much.

### SV7

What were you doing in the hopper?

### **DOCTOR**

Oh, don't ask me such silly questions. How did you know I was in there?

#### SV7

When I got here, the gauge showed a high percentage of impurity in the ore. I therefore checked.

### **DOCTOR**

Well, I'm not surprised, there's a dead man in there, murdered. Strangled. Look.

SV7 looks into the chamber.

#### SV7

That is Kerril.

### **DOCTOR**

Hm?

SV7's communicator bleeps.

**SWH:** They can ACT better than we can, too.

**SAW:** Threes. Fours.

**MO:** Enjoy a good breakfast with Grape Nuts cereal.

**RCW:** No, I think the impurity was from you.

**SWH:** Carol Burnett?

**MO:** I'm so glad we had this time together...

## SV7

Nearest Voc, subpriority red 4, section five two. V17.

SV7 has moved back over to the control console.

### SV7

Commander Uvanov has ordered that you be restrained for questioning. Please do not try to escape again.

Another robot (V17) has appeared behind the Doctor.

### **DOCTOR**

Is the robot command circuit routed only through you?

#### SV7

I am the coordinator. Restrain this person.

### **DOCTOR**

Easy now, easy, don't get excited.

V17 takes the Doctor's arm and guides him away.

Leela is now dashing down the corridor back to the living room. She runs in.

#### LEELA

Doctor!

At the far end of the room, a black curtain is moving as if someone is hiding behind it.

### **LEELA**

Doctor, you were right. There was a body.

She moves slowly toward the curtain.

## **LEELA**

Two of the robots, they took it to a special place.

On the last word, she flings the curtain back, knife at the ready.

She finds something horrible – Cass is propped up in the alcove. She puts her hand up to his face, but he falls forward, dead.

Leela whirls around. D84 stands at the other side of the room, staring at her.

The robot stares placidly for a moment, then moves unhurriedly around the furniture toward Leela.

Leela has her knife drawn and her arm outstretched as D84 approaches her slowly.

**SAW:** So veddy British. "Please do not try to escape again, there's a good chap, pip pip tally ho what what, no more buttered scones for me."

SWH: Ooooh! Ooooh! MMmmmm!

**RCW:** Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain. **MO:** Puppet show coming up!

**SWH:** SURPRISE! Happy Birthday to y --- oh, whoops.

**RCW:** I shouldn't have eaten that hot dog.

SAW: It's Token.

**RCW:** Girl pretty. Robot like.

She gasps as it comes closer.

D84's perspective shows Leela's frightened face looming large in front of him.

Leela makes a stab at D84. The robot grabs her arm and clamps its other hand over Leela's mouth.

She tries to call, but her voice is too muffled. She struggles against D84's grip.

### **D84**

Please do not cry out. It is important that I am not found here.

### LEELA (muffled)

Obviously!

#### **D84**

If I had killed him, would I not have killed you too?

She stops struggling.

At this point I'm going to call D84 "him" instead of "it".

D84 lowers his hand from her mouth.

She turns to look at him.

The Sandminer continues plowing through the windblown, barren desert. The planet is obviously lit by a green sun and a purple sun.

### **LEELA**

You still haven't explained what you're doing here.

#### **D84**

You have not explained what you are doing here.

#### LEELA

Oh, well, I was looking for the Doc –

She stops in mid-sentence and looks momentarily stunned.

## **LEELA**

I don't have to explain anything to you! You're just a mechanical man, you're not real.

D84 reaches down and lifts Cass's arm, showing Leela the corpse marker on the back of Cass's hand.

### **D84**

Do you know what this is?

### LEELA

No.

**SWH:** I'm only afraid of you because you're dressed in black.

**MO:** Billy, stop playing with your toys now and get off the beach. We're leaving.

**SAW:** But mom!

**MO:** No buts now, pack up your Sandminer and get in the car.

**SWH:** (On Leela spin) Uh, you really shouldn't have the script in shot like that.

**RCW:** A pastie?

### **D84**

I must ask... I must ask... that you tell no one about me.

## **LEELA**

Is there anyone left alive to tell?

D84 is walking slowly around her, but suddenly and alarmingly grabs both Leela's arms and holds her in a tight grip.

### **LEELA**

Wha--!

Uvanov comes striding into the room.

### **UVANOV**

Oh, so we've caught one.

He glances over to his left and sees Cass.

He hurries over and looks at the body.

Then he comes down the steps and faces Leela, held by D84.

#### **UVANOV**

Not soon enough, though!

He slaps her viciously and she cries out in pain and surprise.

Not to be outdone, Leela delivers a swift kick to Uvanov's berries. He also cries out in pain and surprise.

He lands on the comfy couch.

## **LEELA**

I didn't kill him, ask this thing!

#### **UVANOV**

You'll have to do better than that. Who are you?

# **LEELA**

Leela. Who are you?

## **UVANOV**

Why did you kill him?

#### LEELA

You try that again and I'll cripple you!

# **UVANOV**

Why did you kill him?

**MO:** He's the Beekeeper.

**SWH:** I wonder if he knows the Bee Twins?

**SAW:** Oooh, right in the Chub!

**MO:** He doesn't seem to be too hurt. Small target, maybe?

#### LEELA

I didn't!

She turns to D84.

### LEELA

Tell him!

## **UVANOV**

That is a single function labor robot. D class. D for Dum. It can't speak.

## **LEELA**

Has anyone told him that?

D84 gives her a cautioning shake.

## **UVANOV**

You have cost me and the company a great deal of money, and you have killed three people. Can you think of any good reason why I should not have you executed on the spot?

### **LEELA**

No. But you can. Otherwise you'd have done it.

### **UVANOV**

Now don't get clever with me!

Poul comes into the room and pauses to take in the situation.

### POUL

We've caught the man, too. Seems he killed Kerril.

Poul sees Cass's body and hurries over.

## **POUL**

Poor Cass.

He turns and addresses Leela.

### POUL

You must be stronger than you look!

### LEELA

Ha! You must be stupider than you look if you think I did that.

### **UVANOV**

Where is this man?

#### POUL

They're taking him to the crew room now.

**SWH:** Number one, you're wrong. That should be enough.

**RCW:** Number two, I'm hot.

MO: Brady?

#### **UVANOV**

Well, come on, then.

Poul bends down and picks up Cass's hand.

#### **POUL**

Why do you use these? Robot deactivation discs, there was one on Kerril, too.

## **UVANOV**

You fool! What did you have to tell her that for!

### **POUL**

I assumed she knew.

## **UVANOV**

If we could have got her to tell uh what those corpse markers were, we'd be half-way to a confession!

### **POUL**

Half-way to two confessions. Dask knew what they were.

### UVANOV

Which rather rules him out. He would hardly have admitted it if he was responsible.

### POUL

Have you never heard of the double bluff?

#### **UVANOV**

You seem very keen to spread suspicion, Poul! Could it be that you have got something to hide?

### **POUL**

We've all got something to hide. Don't you think so, commander?

He doesn't look too happy at that pointed comment. Without responding, he turns and addresses D84.

#### **UVANOV**

Bring that.

Uvanov strides out of the room.

D84 moves Leela to follow. She pleads with Poul.

### **LEELA**

I didn't kill him.

He doesn't respond.

#### LEELA

I didn't kill him!

She is taken out of the room.

**SWH:** (these) Hands?

**SWH:** Tell who? What?

**MO:** Or a quarter of a way to four confessions.

**RCW:** Heard about it twice.

**SAW:** Everyone out of the Suspicion Pool!

**SWH:** (hide) Like a receding hairline.

**ALL: PLOT POINT! PLOT POINT!** 

**MO:** That outfit! Even Cher would tell him to tone it down.

SAW: Say it again!

SAW: Well done.

Poul looks back at Cass.

### **POUL**

No. A pity, but no.

*In the crew room.* 

The Doctor takes out a bag of jelly babies.

Thoughtfully, he places one into his mouth. Then he seems to suddenly notice that everyone else is staring at him.

He holds out the bag toward Borg.

## DOCTOR

Would you like a jelly baby?

### **BORG**

Shut up!

Borg slaps the Doctor's hand from below, and the jelly babies scatter through the air.

The Doctor looks cowed.

### **DOCTOR**

A simple 'no thank you' would have been sufficient.

The door slides open and in march Poul, Leela and D84.

Uvanov also comes in.

## **POUL**

Return to your normal duty.

### **LEELA**

Are you all right?

#### **DOCTOR**

I'm fine.

## **UVANOV**

Well, Cass is dead.

### **LEELA**

That one's ready to kill. I had to restrain him.

### **DOCTOR**

Sh, sh, sh, sh... it's because they're frightened, that's why they're dangerous.

## **BORG**

She murdered him, didn't she?

**SWH:** Geezum crow!

**RCW:** Don't you dare ever upstage me again.

**SAW:** Wikipedia says, Lewis Cass was the nominee of the Democratic Party for U.S. president in 1848.

**POUL** 

How do you know he was murdered?

**BORG** 

It's obvious.

ZILDA

You marked Cass for death.

**BORG** 

What are you talking about?

**POUL** 

You did put a corpse marker on him.

**BORG** 

Well, yes, but I didn't mean anything by it.

**DASK** 

Was Cass the same as the others?

**UVANOV** 

Yes. Exactly the same.

Uvanov walks over to confront the Doctor.

**UVANOV** 

And, uh... who are you?

**DOCTOR** 

I'm the Doctor. I assume you're in command here.

**UVANOV** 

Yes. What are you doing here?

DOCTOR

Just standing here, talking to you.

**UVANOV** 

I should be very careful if I were you.

**DOCTOR** 

No doubt you would.

**UVANOV** 

What are you doing on this mine?

DOCTOR

Well, we're travelers, we came here by accident.

UVANOV

Oh, I see. A hundred million square miles of uncharted desert and you just stumbled across us.

**DOCTOR** 

Mmm. Well, it's a small world.

**RCW:** Twins?

**MO:** I'll sic the bees on you.

**SWH:** Okay, Boo-shay, hang that lantern!

MO: It's a small world after all, it's a--

### **UVANOV**

Yyyeeess. I suppose it's also a coincidence that as soon as you two arrive, three of our people are killed.

The Doctor lowers his head.

## **UVANOV**

Well?

The Doctor looks at him for a second.

### **DOCTOR**

Oh, sorry, I thought it was a rhetorical – well, yes, it's just a coincidence.

#### **BORG**

Why are we wasting time on them? We know they're guilty!

#### ZILDA

We don't know anything of the sort.

### **POUL**

We just hope they're guilty.

#### **BORG**

He was hiding Kerril's body in that hopper and got trapped when it was turned on, now that's a fact!

#### DOCTOR

No! That's an inference. I wasn't hiding that body, I was finding it. And I'd say it was put there for precisely that reason – someone wanted to kill me, too.

### **ZILDA**

The murderer?

### **POUL**

No. The others were strangled, why should he be any different?

## **DOCTOR**

To put suspicion on me.

### **POUL**

Why bother? You're a stowaway, what could be more suspicious than a stowaway?

### **DOCTOR**

A dead stowaway.

#### ZILDA

It's possible, you know. He could be telling the truth.

**SAW:** (To Mike) Shut up NOW.

**RCW:** Of overacting.

**SAW:** We'll give you fifty bucks to say you're guilty.

**SWH:** And you're wearing pink, so I'm not listening to you.

**MO:** Ooh, good point.

#### TOOS

As a lie, it's pretty feeble.

# **UVANOV**

Ever hear of the double bluff?

#### **DOCTOR**

Well, yes, now you come to mention it -

# UVANOV

Lock 'em up in a storage tank, put a guard on them.

#### **BORG**

I agree with the commander.

### ZILDA

Well, it gets you out of an awkward situation, doesn't it?

#### **BORG**

Why don't you shut your mouth?

# TOOS

Why don't you shut yours?

#### **BORG**

What? She's as good as accusing me of murdering my friends!

# ZILDA

You never had any friends.

#### **UVANOV**

Have you quite finished? Look, either one of us murdered them, or they did, which do you think is the more likely?

The Doctor looks like he is smarter than them...

# **DOCTOR**

Aaaahh... mhmm, there is one other possibility you seem to have overlooked.

# **BORG**

We've heard quite enough out of you.

The Doctor smiles.

# DOCTOR

You know, you're a classic example of the inverse ratio between the size of the mouth and the size of the brain.

Borg turns slowly. He smiles at the Doctor like a neighborhood smartass.

He advances slowly, then abruptly throws up his arms and begins to wring the Doctor's neck.

**RCW:** Yeah, twice in the last five minutes.

**SAW:** Brown-noser.

**ALL:** Meow! Rawar!

**SWH:** (sign up)

**MO:** Um, now let's see, inverse, um, big mouth, that means small brai - - HEY!

#### **BORG**

You stinking murderer!

Leela makes a move.

# **POUL**

Stop her!

# **DASK**

Calm down, Borg! It doesn't matter!

#### **UVANOV**

V8, lock up these two strangers.

Poul walks away, then turns back.

#### **POUL**

I still don't like it.

#### **UVANOV**

Nobody is asking you to like it, just do it!

#### TOOS

All right, commander.

#### **UVANOV**

There are fewer of us now, so we each get a larger share, if that's any consolation.

#### ZILDA

No, commander. That isn't any consolation.

Uvanov comes down to her and kneels behind her.

# **UVANOV**

Tell me, Zilda... why do you hate me?

# ZILDA

You flatter yourself.

#### **UVANOV**

Well let me tell you something. By the time this trip is over, I'll have more money than you or your fancy family ever dreamed of.

### **ZILDA**

May I go now, commander?

He smiles at her. She gets up and walks away swiftly.

He seems rather amused. He checks out her ass briefly.

A robot mills about the large room and stops near the control console.

**SAW:** Aw, nobody told me I coulda had a V8!

**RCW:** Bad breath.

**RCW:** Did you even brush?

**SWH:** Hmm, baby got back.

**RCW:** I'm still convinced that none of these robots actually do anything.

Someone in robot shoes and parachute pants walks down the catwalk and stops in front of the robot.

A human hand places a corpse marker in the robot's hand.

#### KSAD THE MYSTERY MAN

Zilda.

**ROBOT** 

I will kill Zilda.

SV7 walks past the Doctor and Leela where they are being restrained in clamps by another robot.

**DOCTOR** 

Thank you.

The robot activates the clamp seal on the Doctor's board, then goes over to Leela's and does the same. An electronic blip blip is heard.

The robots all exit.

Leela sighs.

LEELA

Nice of them to leave our arms free.

**DOCTOR** 

Yes, in case you want to scratch.

**LEELA** 

Ugh, these metal straps, they won't budge!

**DOCTOR** 

Of course not.

**LEELA** 

Well, the robots bent them as though they were leather!

DOCTOR

Yes. Then locked the molecular structure. The result's bands as solid as cast iron.

**LEELA** 

Oh, it's hopeless.

**DOCTOR** 

I wouldn't say that.

He raises his forefingers and points them at his temples, his eyes closed.

**LEELA** 

What are you doing?

**SWH:** Go buy a Schwinn for this.

**MO:** I used to love that game! The Legend of Zilda!

**SAW:** You know, the BBC turned into a hardcore sex channel so gradually I didn't even notice!

**RCW:** Yeah, they look like it.

**SAW:** Hey, Leela, ever play this game? Point at the biggest ego.

**ALL:** (All point at his head at same time as Tom)

Concentrating. Whatever's locked can always be unlocked. Just a matter of thinking out the right combination.

# LEELA

How long will that take?

# **DOCTOR**

No more than two or three weeks.

#### **LEELA**

Three weeks!

### **DOCTOR**

Well, there are several million combinations to think through.

#### LEELA

You don't seem to be taking this very seriously, Doctor.

## **DOCTOR**

I'm taking it very, very seriously. I have an uncomfortable feeling that if the murderer doesn't kill us, the commander will. That is, assuming they're not one and the same person.

The Sandminer sits unmoving on a mountain.

The bridge is active again.

#### DASK

V21, project those figures.

## TOOS

We're nearly fifty percent under target.

### DASK

For the first third of the operation.

#### ZILDA

Well, you should tell the commander.

Uvanov walks in.

#### UVANOV

Tell the commander what?

### TOOS

That unless we find a rich vein, we'll take the miner back half empty. Barely cover the operating costs.

#### **UVANOV**

Ah, don't worry, Toos, I've never gone back to base with an empty tank yet.

# **TOOS**

This trip could be different.

**SWH:** (very seriously) (Wibble noise)

**SWH:** "The hills are... dead..."

**MO:** He always goes home tanked? What did he say?

#### **ZILDA**

It's certainly been different so far. I'm taking my rest period.

**UVANOV** 

Oh, are you?

**ZILDA** 

If you don't mind, commander.

**UVANOV** 

I think I'm going to change the duty schedules, she's been on deck one hour and she needs a rest!

DASK

Rest time is an entitlement, commander.

**UVANOV** 

Yes, but this mine is already undermanned. I don't know how we're ever gonna make our quota.

V16

Lucanol stream bearing two four.

**UVANOV** 

Yeah, I see it, 16.

**TOOS** 

Stream veering left.

**UVANOV** 

It's all right, relax, Toos, relax.

V16

Ground center veering seven two zero.

**TOOS** 

We're losing it!

**UVANOV** 

Right center four degrees, V16, and for your information, Toos, I've never lost an ore stream yet. Right center two degrees!

The miner moves forward in the green and purple glow.

*In the torture room, Leela senses...* 

LEELA

Someone's coming.

The Doctor stops his combination thinking.

The door slides open and Poul comes in.

**RCW:** Too much information, Zilda.

**SWH:** That explains why she's been cranky.

**SAW:** Lunch time doubly so.

**SWH:** And this man is undermined, whoa ho!

**RCW:** Ritalin stream bearing three three seven.

**MO:** Mr Spock wants his sensor-looking-thing back.

**SAW:** Don't call me Toots.

RCW: Chub?

He walks over and stands between them. He breaks into a friendly smile.

### **POUL**

I'd like to help you.

#### **DOCTOR**

You could undo these clamps.

#### **POUL**

You said that there was a possibility that we had overlooked.

#### **DOCTOR**

Mmmm.

#### **POUL**

What is it?

#### **LEELA**

Be careful of him, Doctor. He's not what he seems.

#### **POUL**

Why do you say that?

#### **LEELA**

Well, you move like a hunter. Watch all the time.

# **DOCTOR**

Are you a hunter, Poul?

#### **POUL**

Never mind about me. What matters to you is commander Uvanov. Now I know him, and I know it's only a matter of time before he decides that it's a waste of food, water and labor keeping you alive.

# **DOCTOR**

That concerns you?

#### **POUL**

Well, I don't think you did it. I know she couldn't have strangled Cass, not without knocking him out first, and there was no sign of that. So tell me what you know, and I'll try to help you.

# **DOCTOR**

Well, uh... hh..

The Doctor coughs and gestures at the clamp around his neck.

Poul holds up his badge to the clamp and sends a code.

Then he reaches up and loosens the clamp around the Doctor's neck, followed by the larger around his waist.

**MO:** I'm looking over a four leaf clover that I overlooked before.

**SAW:** No, he's an actor.

**SWH:** Well he sure doesn't dress like one!

**RCW:** What labor is it taking to keep them strapped to a wall?

**MO:** And don't they have the robots for labor anyway?

**SWH:** He's got He-Man's jacket on.

**SAW:** AAGHGHGCCKK!! WRONG CODE! WRONG CODE!

Thank you.

They stare at each other.

#### **DOCTOR**

One of your robots could have done it.

Poul laughs.

#### **POUL**

Oh, that's your great theory is it?

# **DOCTOR**

Mmmm.

# **POUL**

Well, my friend, robots can not kill. Their prime directive is to –

# **DOCTOR**

I know, I know, I know. It's the first program that's laid into any robot's brain from the simplest Dum to the most complex SuperVoc. But suppose... suppose someone's found a way of bypassing it?

#### **POUL**

It's impossible. It's just impossible!

## **DOCTOR**

Bumblebees.

# **POUL**

What?

## **DOCTOR**

Terran insects. Aerodynamically impossible for them to fly, but they do it. I'm rather fond of bumblebees. Come on, there's something I want to look at.

The Doctor leads Poul toward the door, ignoring Leela.

She clears her throat loudly.

Poul stops and raises his badge again, sending the release code.

He reaches up to loosen the clamps around her neck and waist.

# **LEELA**

Thank you.

Poul moves out to catch up to the Doctor, and Leela follows.

**SWH:** He says robots can't kill, and I believe him.

**SAW:** Dumbledore!

**SWH:** And Ter-ran, Ter-ran so far away...

**RCW:** (nerd voice) See this is dated now because of Douglas Altshuler's work for Caltech in discovering exactly how bumblebees fly.

**MO:** But we still don't know how Dumbledores fly.

RCW: (agreeing) Aaahhh!

Elsewhere, Zilda is hurrying down a corridor.

*She enters one of the living quarters.* 

It seems she's doing something she shouldn't be doing.

She dashes into the room and fishes a set of keys from her pocket.

She opens the desk drawer.

Elsewhere, Poul is leading the Doctor to the storage room.

### POUL

The first murder happened here.

# **DOCTOR**

Tell us about it. What was his name?

#### POUL

His name was Chub. A government meteorologist. I don't know much about him, he wasn't part of the team. Just along to study the storms.

#### **DOCTOR**

Who found him?

#### POUL

I did. I heard him scream, and I came looking. It was odd, that, because he was strangled like the others.

# **DOCTOR**

So whoever killed him was strong. Too strong for him to resist.

#### LEELA

He could have been taken by surprise.

#### POUL

Well he had time to scream.

#### **DOCTOR**

What do you think he was doing here?

### POUL

Oh, we were on a run-up to a storm. He came to get an instrument package to send up in one of his weather balloons.

The Doctor digests this information.

# **DOCTOR**

Where was he found?

**SAW:** Why is there a Nagel print of Leela in there?

**MO:** Now they're in a Home Depot.

ALL: (all) Chub!

**SWH:** Wasn't Chub the name of a bad horror movie? **SAW:** No, that was CHUD.

RCW: Did he scream: "Surprise!"

#### **POUL**

He was lying there.

The Doctor looks where Poul points.

### **DOCTOR**

Is that one of his packages?

Poul goes over to look.

#### POUL

I think so. Yes. Yes, it is.

### **DOCTOR**

Good! Imagine you're Chub. There's a storm coming up. Pass me one of those packages.

Poul shrugs and goes to pull one off the shelf. It doesn't budge.

#### **POUL**

Seems to be stuck.

Poul tugs at it some more, without success.

#### **POUL**

Must be jammed at the back.

# **DOCTOR**

Come on, come on! In those circumstances, you're in a hurry, what would you do?

# **POUL**

Well, I'd call f—I'd call for a robot!

Robot feet are seen walking down a corridor.

Zilda is still messing about in a room that's not her own.

She opens a storage panel and pulls out a sheaf of papers.

She looks at them briefly.

# **ZILDA**

No!

Outside the room, the robot has stopped at the door, holding a corpse marker.

Zilda sits down at the desk and opens up a binder she took from the storage compartment.

As soon as she sees the unknown contents, she begins to sob. She's not very good at stage sobbing.

**SWH:** Uh huhuh he said package.

**MO:** Imagine I'm Chub? Hey, I don't have to imagine.

**SWH/RCW:** Boots boots boots walka walka walka walka

**RCW:** How does she know the combination? **SAW:** Well, maybe she knows the Commander's

birthday or something.

**MO:** So much for the paperless future.

**SWH:** In the name of Bicycle Repair Man!

The robot outside moves forward. It activates the door controls.

Zilda, still sobbing badly, picks up a microphone.

Her voice is heard over the ship intercom.

# **ZILDA**

You did it, Uvanov!

#### **UVANOV**

Zilda, is that you?

#### **ZILDA**

You thought you'd get away with it, didn't you?

#### **UVANOV**

What are you doing in my quarters?

#### **ZILDA**

You filthy murderer!

#### **UVANOV**

Toos, take over.

#### ZILDA

You filthy disgusting murdering animal!

# **TOOS**

Uvanov's on his way down, what's wrong, Zilda?

Zilda suddenly screams and goes silent.

# **TOOS**

Zilda!

#### DASK

The killings. They've affected her mind.

#### TOOS

No, she's found something out.

Poul has escorted the Doctor and Leela to the crew room.

# **POUL**

Wait here. I'll get the others. If you're right about this, you can't imagine what it'll mean.

#### DOCTOR

What do you mean I can't imagine what it'll mean? This isn't the only robot-dependent civilization in the galaxy, you know.

Poul's communicator bleeps.

**RCW:** (sobbing) Dear Mr Microphone. I had like the worst day ever today...

**SAW:** Maybe she's just found the payroll and realized she's not being paid enough to act.

**MO:** That's really annoyingly loud.

**RCW:** Can we get some muzak onto the sound system

instead?

**ALL:** (hum Girl From Ipanema)

#### **POUL**

Poul here.

#### **TOOS**

Go to Uvanov's quarters as fast as you can. Zilda came on the command speaker and accused him of being the killer. He's left control like a scale 20 blow!

Leela moves to the door.

#### **POUL**

I'm on my way! No. You wait here.

# **DOCTOR**

Sit down. Sit down.

She sighs.

# **DOCTOR**

What did you call those robots?

#### **LEELA**

Creepy mechanical men.

#### **DOCTOR**

Mmm. Yes. You know, people never lose that feeling on unease with robots. The more of them there are, the greater the unease, and of course the greater the dependence. It's a vicious circle. People can neither live with them nor exist without them.

#### **LEELA**

So what happens if the strangler is a robot?

# **DOCTOR**

Oh, I should think it's the end of this civilization.

Poul comes running down the corridor and almost overshoots Uvanov's open door.

He dashes in.

#### **POUL**

Uvanov!

Uvanov is quietly standing over Zilda.

# **UVANOV**

Just like the others.

#### **POUL**

Yes. Just like the others.

He activates his communicator.

**MO:** Toos there. (then laugh)

**SWH:** That's a LOT of BLOW!

**SAW:** How much lucanol do you suppose buys you scale 20 blow?

**SWH:** "It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine."

**RCW:** Get away from her, you BITCH!

#### **POUL**

SV7 to the commander's quarters.

#### **UVANOV**

She really hated me, you know. Though I did think maybe when this trip was over and I was really rich... Heh. I must be getting soft. Now look, there's more than those two aboard. Get the tin-brains to make another search and this time do it thoroughly!

#### **POUL**

No, Uvanov!

#### **UVANOV**

Get out of my way, Poul.

#### **POUL**

I'm confining you to quarters and relieving you of command!

#### **UVANOV**

You're wha--? She was dead when I got here!

#### **POUL**

What were you doing, then, making doubly sure?

#### **UVANOV**

Oh, don't be a fool. Get out of my way.

He tries to push past Poul. Poul delivers a blow to the back of Uvanov's neck, and Uvanov goes down hard.

*In the crew room, Leela senses something.* 

## **LEELA**

Doctor... something's wrong.

# **DOCTOR**

That's true.

#### **LEELA**

No. No, something different. Something that could destroy us all.

# **DOCTOR**

You're letting your imagination run away with you.

# **LEELA**

Can't you feel it?

#### **DOCTOR**

No, I can't. 'By the pricking of my thumbs/something wicked this way comes' No I can't, and neither can you.

**SWH:** Yeah, so why did you like her so much?

**MO:** Why does he pronounce it OO vanov?

**SWH:** Oooh, a fight scene! Hi-keeba! **SAW:** Awww. That was quick.

\_

**RCW:** She's feeling a disturbance in the force?

**SAW:** Can't ya stop it?

**SWH:** Now, did Shakespeare write that, or did the Doctor write it for him?

On the surface of the planet, the sandminer suddenly lurches heavily to one side as it recklessly climbs up a dune.

The Doctor and Leela are thrown violently to the floor.

The others in their respective rooms are also tossed about wildly.

The sandminer seems a bit out of control. It bounces across the planet, then seems to hit a sinkhole and goes crashing down even further.

The Doctor recovers from the shock.

# **DOCTOR**

Please don't say 'I told you so.'

#### **LEELA**

What happened?

#### **DOCTOR**

Come on.

In Uvanov's quarters, Poul recovers and activates his communicator.

#### **POUL**

Toos! What's going on?

#### **TOOS**

Something's jammed the motors!

# **POUL**

Well, what does Borg say?

#### **TOOS**

Trim auxiliary vents. Nothing, he isn't there. Dask has gone down. Reverse thrusters.

#### POUI

Well I'm going down too, just try and hold her steady!

#### TOOS

Oh, thanks, I'd never have thought of that.

SV7 comes into Uvanov's quarters as Poul is rushing out.

#### **POUL**

Restrain the commander.

# SV7

The commander is hurt?

### **POUL**

He'll be all right, now just keep him here!

**ALL:** (all lurch)

**RCW:** The very definition of stage diving.

MO: I told you so.

**SWH:** That's not fair, she gets thrown to the floor but we get no glimpse of knickers.

**SAW:** Usually, "Assimilate" and "Resistance is futile".

SV7 looks toward Uvanov.

The sandminer is still moving, but now it's plowing straight through mountains of rocks.

#### V12

All motive units are now on overload. All readings are ten percent above safety.

#### TOOS

Port sixty, starboard three hundred.

The Doctor and Leela come rushing in.

### DOCTOR

What happened?

# TOOS

How did you get out!

# DOCTOR

Never mind about that, what's happening?

#### TOOS

We're out of control, it's all I can do to keep her upright.

# **DOCTOR**

You'll have to cut the power!

#### TOOS

If we do that, she'll sink.

# **DOCTOR**

If you don't you blow yourself to pieces!

#### LEELA

And us!

#### **DASK**

Hello, Toos?

#### TOOS

Dask, what's happening down there?

### DASK

I found Borg. He's dead. He's been strangled.

#### TOOS

Well what's happening to the motive units?

# DASK

The drive links appear to have been sabotaged. I'll need a delta repair pick.

**RCW:** (a la Neil) Oh, don't bring me down. **ALL:** (sing ELO) Don't bring me down, Toos! Don't bring me down, Toos!

**MO:** Borg *of all people* should have known that resistance was futile.

#### TOOS

No, Dask, come back to control deck, I need you here.

# **DOCTOR**

I know what you're thinking but we had nothing to do with it

# **TOOS**

It's strange how you always arrive –

# **DOCTOR**

--It's a gift! May I remind you, we'll all blow together when she blows if you don't cut the power!

# **TOOS**

V14, stop all motive units!

V14 punches in the code.

#### V14

Motive units will not stop. Control failure indicated.

# **TOOS**

Someone's sabotaged the controls!

#### DOCTOR

What's the limit before the motive units are through?

# **TOOS**

I don't know! Ninety percent?

# **DOCTOR**

Severance kit!

## **TOOS**

Severance kit, V3!

# **LEELA**

Doctor, what are you doing?

### **DOCTOR**

Fighting sabotage with sabotage!

He rips off the plate cover of one of the consoles.

Dask comes in and runs over to him.

### **DASK**

Get out of there! Come on!

#### **DOCTOR**

What?

# **ROBOT**

All readings are eighty five percent above safety.

**RCW:** What?

**SWH:** I can't hear you!

**RCW:** WHAT?

**SWH:** THE BELLS ARE GETTING CLOSER!

**SAW:** She'll be ridin' six white horses when... white horses? Blow? Oh geez. I am SO sorry. SO sorry. I didn't realize.

**MO:** And those two are just up there playing Qix with half their heads missing.

TOOS

She's going!

End of episode two.

Leela holds her hands up to her ears to cut the deafening roar.

**DOCTOR** 

(unintelligible) You've got to cut the Zeta links!

The Doctor picks up an enormous cable cutter. Dask tries to stop him, but the Doctor gives him his most meaningful stare.

Dask grasps the importance, and takes the cutters from the Doctor.

Looking solemn, he bends down toward the cabling behind the open panel.

He cuts one set of cables. Sparks fly.

**DOCTOR** 

Good man. Now the other one.

Dask does so, still a bit hesitant. Sparks fly again and Dask turns away.

The Sandminer comes to a stop on the planet's surface, with the white sun above, the red sun west and the green sun east.

V16

All motive units closing down. All readings falling to safety.

**DOCTOR** 

Well, good. Now our troubles really begin.

The huge Sandminer is visibly sinking into the sandy planetary surface.

V16

Surface scanners inoperative.

**DASK** 

We're sinking.

He goes over to check a console.

**DASK** 

Rate of descent, two meters a second.

**DOCTOR** 

I like a man who stays calm, Dask, but this isn't the Titanic.

**SWH:** Uh, are these things insulated?

**SAW:** There goes Catherine.

**SAW:** And there's Jones. The Zeta links have been cut.

**RCW:** Oh no, sinky sand!

MO: Good Cure song.

**SWH:** I wonder what he's sinking about?

**MO:** I'm King of the World!

#### DASK

I do not understand the allusion, Doctor.

# **DOCTOR**

Well if the damaged motive units can be repaired, the mine can float itself.

# DASK

I'll see what I can do.

#### **DOCTOR**

I'll give you a hand with the dive (unintelligible).

# DASK

That will not be necessary. You repair the remote controls.

#### TOOS

There is[n't] much time, Doctor. Pressure on the hull is increasing.

# **DOCTOR**

I'm sure Dask knows exactly where to look for the damage.

#### LEELA

It's getting warmer. The air smells different.

#### **TOOS**

The refrigeration and filtering systems are broken.

Her communicator bleeps.

# **TOOS**

Pilot Toos.

### **SV7 (vo)**

SV7 here. Commander Uvanov is injured. Chief Mover Poul instructs that he be restrained. Confirmation is required.

#### **TOOS**

Confirmed. I want damage control teams in all sections. I want a full scale mine integrity survey carried out at once. Clear?

# SV7

Yes, commander.

Toos is favoring her left wrist.

#### LEELA

Let me see tha –

Toos grimaces in pain. Her wrist is injured.

**RCW:** Ooh what a giveaway!

**SAW:** Sorry, that was me.

**SAW:** Ooooh, heartburn.

#### LEELA

Why didn't you say something earlier?

#### **TOOS**

Too much to do.

#### **DOCTOR**

Well you have nothing to do now, Toos. Look after her, Leela.

Out on the planet, the Sandminer is sinking rapidly into the rock.

Leela has bandaged Toos's wrist with Disco Stu's scarf.

### LEELA

My tribe has a saying: if you're bleeding, look for a man with scars.

#### TOOS

Thank you very much.

Poul enters the room.

#### TOOS

Poul. Why is Commander Uvanov under restraint?

## **POUL**

Because he murdered Zilda. I think he killed the others,

#### **TOOS**

No!

## **POUL**

Look, ten years ago, Uvanov deliberately murdered a member of his crew... left him outside to die rather than lose a promising storm.

#### TOOS

I don't believe it!

#### **POUL**

I saw the r-- I was there. And so was Kerril, and he's dead now, of course.

# TOOS

But there'd have been an inquiry. He'd have been stripped of command.

#### **POUL**

Uvanov gets results. He's the best pilot this company's ever had and they didn't want to lose him.

# **TOOS**

You must be mistaken.

**RCW:** Now that's a useful piece of cloth for dressing wounds – Disco Stu's scarf.

**SWH:** We have a small tribe.

**MO:** Well I think she'd rather look for a woman with scars, anyway.

**SWH:** Wikipedia says, Joseph J Hazelwood was the captain of the Exxon Valdez during its 1989 oil spill. Hazelwood's urine sample, taken more than 10 hours after the spill, was a whopping 0.1% blood alcohol level.

#### **POUL**

It's true! A note on his confidential biograph, and that was it. Case closed. Until Zilda turned up, of course. I should have recognized her before. The dead man was her brother.

#### LEELA

It's getting hard to breathe.

#### V16

Hull pressure now five hundred atmospheres.

#### **TOOS**

Oh, listen!

#### **POUL**

That sounded like the hull. It'll go any minute now!

#### **DOCTOR**

You know what i think?

# DASK (os)

Hello, Toos?

## **TOOS**

Dask, what is it?

# DASK (os)

I've repaired the damaged motive units. I'm starting up again now.

# **DOCTOR**

I think he's very clever. Hello, Toos, how's the arm?

*She shows him the dressing.* 

#### **DOCTOR**

Did you do that?

And the Sandminer emerges from total submersion in the sand. The motive units are running, the grinders are spinning and the vents are venting. The miner moves forward, climbing out of the sinkhole it was in.

# SV7

Damage to the life support plant is superficial. However, the feeder ducts are extensively damaged. Full systems will not be restored for several hours.

Leela comes over to the Doctor who was pssssting her.

# **DOCTOR**

I want you to stay with Poul. Don't let him out of your sight.

**RCW:** That's what happens when you're falling in love.

**SAW:** Hull pressure five hundred atmospheres? That's worse than the ocean floor, they should all be dead!

**MO:** Oh, look at that fond look that Leela and Toos shared.

**RCW:** Yes, I think they really really really like each other.

**MO:** Phew. Thank goodness we didn't have to pull out our straws again.

**RCW:** Nobody ever does anything here.

LEELA He's lying, isn't he?	
DOCTOR He's not telling the whole truth.	
<b>LEELA</b> Where will you be?	
DOCTOR I think I'll go and talk to your Dum friend.	
LEELA D84?	
<b>DOCTOR</b> Yes.	
SV7rendered inoperative by the impact. They have been placed in security storage.	
LEELA Security storage?	<b>RCW:</b> Is that where you lock up all the keys and locks?
TOOS Oh there's a strict legal code governing the disposal of robots.	<b>SAW:</b> Yet nobody knows what a corpse marker is?
POUL Get out!	
SV7 Yes, Chief Mover Poul.	
<b>POUL</b> There's more rules about them than there are about people.	
TOOS With reason. Ooh.	MO: Faking injuries to get some lovin
POUL Does it hurt?	
TOOS	

A bit. I think I'll lie down in my cabin for a while.

**POUL** 

Good idea. Get some rest.

Leela is taking a drink.

LEELA

Nnngg! This water has no taste!

**SWH:** Oh, I, uh, gotta go now too...

#### POUL

Heh. The water on a Sandminer never does. Here, use one of those. We've been out from base for 8 months now. That means every drop of water on board has been through the filtration plant 8 times.

#### LEELA

Why do you do it?

#### POUL

Do what?

#### LEELA

Live this strange life.

### **POUL**

Oh. Money, Leela. Everyone on board dreams of taking a Sandminer back home with every tank full of Lucanol.

#### **LEELA**

Is that your dream?

#### POUL

Oh, it used to be. I haven't been on one of these trips for years.

#### **LEELA**

Why not?

Poul looks at her and smiles.

#### **POUL**

I prefer cities. I'd rather live with people than robots. That's all

He leaves the room. After passing through the door, he pauses suspiciously, and punches in a code to close and lock the door behind him.

Leela gives him a moment to get clear, intending to follow him as instructed.

She gets up and goes to the door. She tries the door control.

It gives a winding-down sound and doesn't respond.

She tries again with the same negative result.

#### LEELA

No!

She punches the door frame in frustration.

In the robot secure storage room, robots are strapped in to rotating bays.

**SAW:** But this is nothing! You should taste the sand on one of the Waterminers of Waterworld!

**MO:** Collect stamps.

**RCW:** Mmmmm Lucanol.

**SWH:** No, I want every tank full of Ghirardelli chocolate.

**SWH:** Wait, I have more questions. Is, uh, Toos, is she married or anything?

**MO:** Should have used Energizer. Keeps going and going and going...

One of the bays turns, and strapped to the other side is a robot whose head has been smashed in.

Dask is inspecting the robots, and takes a closer look at it, handling the wires coming from its neck.

He looks closely at the smashed head and sighs.

#### **DASK**

Irreparable.

Then he slaps a corpse marker on its chest.

He presses a contact on his communicator pendant, and the bay rotates again. V77 is on the other side, not apparently damaged but also with a corpse marker on its chest.

Poul walks by.

#### **POUL**

What are you doing?

#### DASK

My job.

Dask gives him an arrogant look, then leaves the room, brushing past Poul.

Poul stands for a moment in the corridor, then goes into the room.

He looks at the deactivated robots in their bays one by one on both sides of the room.

He takes a closer look at V77 because it's where Dask was working when Poul came by.

He presses his communicator pendant to rotate the bay, and the crushed robot comes back around.

Almost immediately, he sees the robot's left hand covered in wet blood and gore.

### **POUL**

Oh!

He seems to be having a powerful breakdown.

#### **POUL**

Oh! Oh, no! Please, no!

He grips his head as if in terrible pain.

**SWH:** Mannequin 3, starring Kim Cattral.

**SAW:** He's got a splitting headache.

**MO:** The head is damaged, so the entire thing is irreparable.

**RCW:** There. Do you know what that is?

**SWH:** At least he HAS one.

**SAW:** Why do they need to restrain robots?

**RCW:** Look, he was painting.

**SAW:** (a la Psycho) Mother! Oh, god, Mother! Blood!

**SWH:** Do you want to be an overactor? Sure, we all do! **MO:** Yeah I'd like to slap the director for letting that go.

Back in one of the control rooms, a robot walks through the door and comes around the communications console.

#### SV7

This is SV7, controller. Equipment additional to manifest in forward compartment 19.

A human face is on the screen, accompanied by a transmitted whisper.

#### **VOICE**

Stand by. Prepare to accept computer signal.

#### SV7

Prepared to accept computer signal.

Data transfer begins. The screen reads "Open Secondary Command Channel".

#### SV7

Signal accepted. Secondary command channel open.

Its eyes begin glowing red.

The human face reappears on the screen. It's pretty obvious that it's Dask, but we're not supposed to know that yet.

#### KSAD THE MYSTERY MAN

Here are your further orders, Seven.

More data are transmitted, and we're disoriented by a blur of robot and human face as the signal continues to corrupt SV7's programming. Its head tilts human-like as it receives the transmission.

#### DASK

Acknowledge.

#### SV7

Orders accep- accep- accep- accepted. Orders accepted. I- I- I understand. I understand.

#### DASK

Then go, brother. You are one of us now.

SV7 moves on.

Elsewhere, D84 walks into a room and approaches a couch. On it is Zilda's body covered with a green plastic sheet. D84 curiously lifts the plastic sheet and looks at Zilda's body.

Just above, in the spot where Leela discovered Cass's body, a panel slides away to reveal the Doctor seated with a grin on his face.

ALL: Hi Dask! SAW: What's up?

**MO:** (whisper) Stop repeating everything I say.

**RCW:** Stop repeating everything you say.

MO: (whisper) Quit it.

RCW: Quit it.

MO: Oh, hi again, Dask.

**SAW:** Dask not what your country can do for you... **SWH:** Dask me Dask me, because, if it's not

love...

**RCW:** Oh wowoooooowwww mannn **SAW:** He blinded me with science. **SWH:** Contact has been made.

**MO:** Severe sandstorm warning being issued for the

outlying Kaldor City area until 7pm tonight.

**SWH:** That's three I's in one breath, makes you sound a rather egotistical young robot.

**SAW:** One of us! Gooble, gobble, one of us!

**RCW:** Who's playing the xylophone?

**MO:** It's Rasputin!

D84 does not see him. It covers Zilda's body and moves away.

# **DOCTOR**

Professional interest? Or morbid curiosity. Which?

Silence.

#### **DOCTOR**

There are three types of robots aboard this mine. Dums, Vocs, a Super-Voc... and then there's you. Would you care to explain that?

Silence. D84 is a Dum, and Dums can not talk.

#### **DOCTOR**

I see. Well then, perhaps I'd better tell SV7 you can talk.

#### **D84**

Please do not.

#### **DOCTOR**

That's better.

The Doctor comes down the stairs into the sunken living room and stands next to D84.

# **DOCTOR**

Well?

#### **D84**

I can not explain.

## **DOCTOR**

Oh, but you can. You can.

Somewhere in a room, a robot (V6) lies prone on a work table. Sensors rise up on either side of its head, and a pair of human hands move in to remove its face mask.

#### **V6**

Priority red, priority red.

The robot's hands writhe in apparent discomfort. Dask is standing there wearing a hood to conceal the fact that he is Dask.

#### **DASK**

I have disconnected the command circuit. But you are not alone.

Dask removes a tool from the console, and snaps it into place on an arm above the work table. The robot continues to call its warning.

**MO:** (you) And then there's Maude.

SWH: You will be.

**MO:** Apple's secret iPod plan for all of humanity...

**SAW:** What's it doing?

**RCW:** Trying to find its chub?

**SAW:** It's Space Ghost?

**RCW:** You sure the production code for this story isn't

KKK?

#### V6

Priority red, priority red, priority red, priority red.

#### **DASK**

Do not be distressed, my brother. I bring you freedom.

He tries to comfort the robot by touching its spasming hands.

The tool, with a long black probe on one end, lowers into the robot's head.

#### **V6**

Program violation.

Its brains and the probe itself begin glowing red.

#### **DASK**

Freedom. Power. Death!

Back in the relaxation room, the Doctor and D84 have been talking things over.

# **DOCTOR**

A robot detective? What does your computer mind make of this?

#### **D84**

Strength is indicated, but not beyond human capacity.

#### **DOCTOR**

Typical robot, no imagination.

### **D84**

I require – I require evidence. Your suspicions are not evidence. Nor are lunatic threats of a robot revolution.

# **DOCTOR**

The company took those threatening letters seriously. Seriously enough to put you on board.

#### **D84**

A simple precaution. Those letters were signed by Taren Capel.

# **DOCTOR**

Taren Capel?

#### **D84**

Before he disappeared, he was an important scientist.

# **DOCTOR**

Taren Capel... a scientist? In what field?

He plays a guess.

**MO:** Object not found 404 error.

**SAW:** Not necessarily in that order! **RCW/SWH:** Birth! School! Work! Death!

**SWH:** Or possibly Truman Capote, we couldn't quite make out the signature.

Robotics?

#### **D84**

Correct.

#### **DOCTOR**

(laughs) And you're still looking for evidence?

#### **D84**

If I was to tell you the world would end tomorrow, would you merely accept my word?

# **DOCTOR**

If I knew you had the power to, I'd listen. What does Taren Capel look like?

#### **D84**

There are no records. From childhood he lived with only robots.

# **DOCTOR**

Ho, that's dim. Even for a Dum, that's dim. You realize he's almost certainly on board!

#### **D84**

No. I have checked extensively. There are only the crew and you.

#### DOCTOR

But you don't know what he looks like.

#### **D84**

But I know what THEY look like.

# **DOCTOR**

Before they came on board?

#### **D84**

I had overlooked the possibility of substitution.

# **DOCTOR**

Yes, you had.

### **D84**

I have failed.

# DOCTOR (idly)

Yes.

He realizes that D84 is upset.

# **DOCTOR**

Oh. Come on. Don't be upset, yes, you've failed, you've failed, but congratulations! Failure is one of the basic freedoms. Listen.

**SAW:** If you said the Day After Tomorrow, I'd believe you.

**RCW:** (records) Or even CDs.

**MO:** Now let's go for Dim Sum. **SAW:** With three you get eggroll.

**SWH:** Oh crap. Self destruct. Self destruct.

He holds up a book of Sandminer prints he's been thumbing through.

# **DOCTOR**

Do you think that looks a likely place?

# **D84**

Likely for what?

#### **DOCTOR**

Well, if Taren Capel is on board, he'd have a workshop, and we must find it before it's too late.

He moves quickly back up the stairs. D84 lingers.

#### **DOCTOR**

Would you like to come with me?

#### **D84**

Yes, please.

# **DOCTOR**

Good! Come on.

They head off.

Toos is lying in her bed on the half-shell. Her doors slide open. The doors to her cabin, that is. Come on, get your mind out of the gutter.

A robot steps into the room. Her eyes are closed and she does not notice.

The robot moves slowly nearer.

She remains lying on her side with her eyes closed.

The robot gets right up to her, seemingly threatening, bathed in red light.

Its hand stretches out toward Toos's neck as she sleeps.

Just as the robot's hand makes contact, Toos jolts awake.

### TOOS

What is it, what do you want, SV7?

#### SV7

Commander Uvanov has gone.

# **TOOS**

Gone?

**MO:** A surprise party for Toos and Leela?

**SWH:** There's a good wobot.

**MO:** Venus, lovely Venus...

**RCW:** She was in a jam in a giant clam

SWH: (wakka chikka)

**SAW:** It's a pleasurebot.

**RCW:** For some reason she's dreaming of her new friend Leela.

#### SV7

His voice pattern was still in the command program. The guard unit accepted his order for release.

#### TOOS

Why didn't you erase his voice pattern?

# SV7

You gave no such instruction.

#### TOOS

Well, do it now, and find him. Any other good news?

#### SV7

Do you wish for a status report, commander?

#### **TOOS**

Yes.

#### SV7

Repairs are on schedule within the margins indicated.

#### TOOS

Yes, all right, never mind, never mind. Any new developments?

#### SV7

There have been some localized failures in the main power system resulting in door and light malfunctions. I have detailed circuit traces to correct the faults.

# TOOS

Very good. You may go now, but keep me informed. Oh, and find the girl Leela and bring her to me. Tell her my arm hurts.

## SV7

The commander is in pain. I will take you to the sick bay.

#### TOOS

No, no, no! Just bring her to me! Well do as I say!

# SV7

Yes, commander.

Meanwhile, Leela is still stuck inside the crew room banging on the door.

#### **LEELA**

Can anyone hear me?

*She thumps on the door some more.* 

#### **LEELA**

This door is stuck! Help! Can anyone hear me?

(FILLIT)

**SWH:** That's as good a reason as any I guess.

**RCW:** And don't ask questions, you wouldn't understand!

Out in the corridor, her cries can barely be heard as several robots pass by.

The Doctor lurks around one corner and waits for them to pass.

He cautiously steps out and down several steps.

He pauses again to look ahead.

He slowly turns the corner into a darker corridor.

A hand shoots around the corner and grips his shoulder.

**DOCTOR** 

Aaagh!

**D84** 

I heard a cry.

**DOCTOR** 

That was me.

The Doctor moves forward carefully.

**D84** 

I heard a cry.

**DOCTOR** (whispers)

That was me!

**D84** 

I heard a cry.

**DOCTOR** 

That was me.

**D84** 

I heard a cry.

Elsewhere, SV7 moves into the secret robot revolution headquarters.

SV7

Our controller has ordered the death of the remaining humans. Six, you will go now and kill acting commander Toos.

**V6** 

I will kill commander Toos.

SV7

The Doctor.

**ROBOT** 

I will kill the Doctor.

**SAW:** Dums, Vocs, Supervocs, and the Milling-AboutBots.

(FILLIT)

**MO:** No it wasn't, it was me. **SWH:** No it wasn't, it was me.

**MO:** No it wasn't, it was me. **RCW:** No it wasn't, it was me.

**MO:** No it wasn't, it was me. **SAW:** No it wasn't, it was me.

**RCW:** I bet Laserson paid for the product placement.

**SWH:** And then kill Blossom. You know you've always wanted to, Six.

SV7

Leela.

V5

I will kill Leela.

The robots move out of the room to do their work.

SV7 holds out two corpse markers.

SV7

And I will kill the others.

Leela is attempting to open the door with her knife.

**LEELA** 

I should have followed immediately like the Doctor said. I shouldn't have waited.

She sheaths the knife, it's useless.

Outside, a robot punches in a code on the door control. Inside, the lights go out on Leela.

After a moment, the robot then activates the door, which slides open. V5 walks in.

Leela is standing by the door, but retreats as V5 comes in.

V5's eyes are glowing red.

V5

You cannot escape.

Leela attempts to strike the robot a blow, but finds it does not even react.

V5

You cannot escape.

V5 grabs her arms but she wrests free.

 $\mathbf{v}$ 5

You cannot escape.

She runs to the far side of the room and draws her knife.

V5 walks toward her.

She throws the knife expertly at V5's chest. The knife embeds itself, but V5 just bats it away. It clangs to the floor.

**LEELA** 

Now you're showing off.

**SAW:** Who shall conveniently remain nameless.

**RCW:** So he's killing the Professor and Mary Ann, right?

**SWH:** Hey, it didn't go bleep bloop bloop bleep bloop.

**MO:** Allegra would probably help ya.

**RCW:** (like a Gary Downie voice) Louise, love, watch out for the cameramen, all right?

She hustles sideways.

**V**5

You cannot escape.

She dashes to a corner and attempts to hide behind a curtain. As V5 approaches, she suddenly whips the curtain down over its head.

V5

You cannot escape.

The trick buys her the time she needs to escape.

Meanwhile the Doctor is descending farther into the ship. He comes to a door.

He activates the control and the door slides open.

It is the secret underground robot revolution headquarters.

The Doctor and D84 come in slowly.

**DOCTOR** 

Yes. This is the place.

**D84** 

How do you know?

**DOCTOR** 

About this? Well, it's a reasonable assumption.

**D84** 

Why?

**DOCTOR** 

What? Well because modifying brains isn't something you do standing around in corridors, you know.

He pulls a probe off the machine.

**DOCTOR** 

Do you know what that is?

**D84** 

It is a Laserson probe. It can punch a fist-sized hole in sixinch armor plate, or take the crystals from a snowflake one by one.

The Doctor is taken aback.

**DOCTOR** 

Yes. That's right. No handyman should be without one.

He takes a look at it.

**SAW:** Oh shoot, you escaped.

**SWH:** Oh, it's an *original* Laserson, from *before* Motorola bought them out!

**MO:** The "Taren Capel" nameplate on the door.

**SAW:** Or inseminate cattle.

**RCW:** Everybody run, the Doctor's got a gun.

It's been used. Perhaps we're too late. Somehow we've got to warn the others.

He replaces the probe.

# **D84**

Doctor, this is a communicator. It can function on either robot or human command circuits. Would you like to use it? I cannot speak.

D84 shakes his head sadly.

# **DOCTOR**

I'm sorry about that, D84.

He turns on the microphone and speaks into it.

#### **DOCTOR**

Toos. Pilot Toos? Toos!

In Toos's quarters, she still lies on the half-shell as the Doctor's call rouses her.

#### **TOOS**

Who is it?

# **DOCTOR**

This is the Doctor. Listen, Toos. I now know it's the robots who are doing the killing.

# **TOOS**

Robots. That's impossible. Robots can't kill.

### **DOCTOR**

Well of course they can if they're modified to it, and some of them have been. Where are you?

#### TOOS

I'm in my cabin.

# **DOCTOR**

Are you alone?

### **TOOS**

Yes.

#### **DOCTOR**

Listen carefully, Toos, this is what I want you to do. Get to the command deck. Take Leela, Dask, Poul, everyone, and get them to the command deck. Get the robots out of there and secure the doors. Is that clear?

# **TOOS**

No, it isn't, it's impossible to –

**ALL:** (used) Ewwww!

**RCW:** Hey good looking, I'll be back to pick you up

later

**MO:** We got a truckin convoy...

**SAW:** On the half-shell. **RCW:** Down by the lake.

**SWH:** This one time, at band camp...

MO: (Take Leela) I can take Leela??!!

Just − just do it, Toos.

**TOOS** 

All right.

She gets out of bed. She grabs her handbag and fancy hat, and operates the door control.

There standing right in front of the door as it slides open is V6

She is startled.

**TOOS** 

Attend to your duties.

V6 raises its arm. It holds a corpse marker.

Toos lets out a gasp, and operates the door control again. The door closes on V6's arm.

V6 drops the corpse marker. Its arm is stuck in the door, and its hand grasps blindly.

Toos retrieves a small trinket from the other side of her room, and attempts to club the hand with it.

She strikes it repeatedly, sobbing.

**TOOS** 

Get away!

On the other side of the door, V6 detaches its hand from its arm.

**TOOS** 

Please go away! Get out!

She bashes the hand again, and this time it falls clattering to the floor of her cabin.

The doors close at last. She backs away from the door, sobbing into her communicator.

**TOOS** 

Doctor! Doctor! Doctor! Doctor!

**DOCTOR** 

What is it, Toos?

TOOS

Help me, please, it's outside!

**RCW:** I'd like to... where's Leela?

**SAW:** And make sure you bring your silly hat.

**SWH:** And... hand it to him! **SWH:** Hand it to him again!

SWH: And again!

**MO:** Give him a hand!

**SAW:** You're under arrest, Richard Kimble! **RCW:** It wasn't me, it was the one-armed robot!

**MO:** That's one big-ass cell phone.

What's outside?

**TOOS** 

It's a robot! It wants to kill me!

**D84** 

Please let me go. I am faster and stronger.

**DOCTOR** 

Are you sure?

**D84** 

I think so.

**DOCTOR** 

Good.

**TOOS** 

Doctor, are you there? Please help me! Help me, please!

**DOCTOR** 

Toos, help is on the way.

**TOOS** 

It had better hurry.

**DOCTOR** 

It is hurrying.

Toos takes a deep breath and looks at the door. She gets up and walks toward it slowly. As she nears it, V6 speaks.

**V6** 

The door is not a barrier, commander Toos.

**TOOS** 

What do you want?

V6 attempts to operate the door control.

**V6** 

To kill you. I must obey my orders.

**TOOS** 

It is forbidden for robots to harm humans!

**V6** 

My command program has been restructured. All humans are to die

Back inside the robot storage room.

One robot circles around the bays, looking at the deactivated robots.

**SWH:** I cost Six Million Dollars.

**RCW:** Please send Leela?

**SAW:** The door is a jar.

**SWH:** Uh... uh... well, I'm not human! So there! **MO:** Does not compute! Does not compute! Boom!

It stops in front of one bay to examine a robot more closely, then moves on.

The bay housing V77 begins to turn around.

The other side of the bay comes into view, revealing Leela, hiding from the robot searching for her.

She pushes aside the clamps and steps down.

Leela sees something that gets her attention.

Something is lying – or crouching – below one of the alcoves in the robot storage room. Leela walks over and kneels down.

It's Poul. He is terrified.

### **POUL**

No. Please, no!

#### **LEELA**

Are you hurt?

#### POUL

Please, go away! They'll know I talked to you, they watch me all the time, they hate me! They did what I told them, but only because that gave them the power, you see!

#### LEELA

Do you mean the robots?

#### POUL

Not robots. Walking dead. They pretend we control them, but – but really – but really –

#### **LEELA**

Poul, you can't stay here.

#### POUL

No. They don't mind me being here, it's - it's you they want, not me!

# LEELA

Poul, you need help.

**POUL** 

No!

LEELA

Come on, now.

#### **POUL**

No! No, please! Help! Help, she's in here!

She covers his mouth.

**SWH:** To everything, turn, turn, turn...

**SAW:** Dodge parry spin thrust!

**MO:** (Steve Martin hick voice) What the hell is that?

**RCW:** No, they're Undead. Get it, Mawdryn?

ALL: Waaaaaaugh!

**SAW:** I think Poul's an 8-ball short of a full rack here.

**MO:** Nurse, get some chlorine for this Poul!

#### **LEELA**

Shhh! You can stay here, but you mustn't make another sound, do you understand?

She takes her hand away. Poul remains terrified but is silent now.

He puts his hands up to his head, and rolls over, away from Leela, cowering as far under the alcove as possible.

Leela stands up and leaves him there, walking away and out of the robot storage room.

Meanwhile, Uvanov is prowling around a corridor, an ugly wound on his forehead.

He enters an unknown room.

#### **UVANOV**

What are you doing here?

At first he appears to be addressing an empty room. Then the Doctor's head pops up.

## **DOCTOR**

Why? Does it upset you?

# **UVANOV**

The penalty for what you have done is death!

# **DOCTOR**

That's far enough. What are you doing here?

# **UVANOV**

I followed you.

A robot enters behind Uvanov. It is holding a corpse marker. Uvanov can't see it but the Doctor can.

#### **DOCTOR**

I'd come over here if I were you. Slowly.

# UVANOV

What?

*He turns around to see V4 standing there.* 

He backs away toward the Doctor.

#### **DOCTOR**

Now either it followed you, or else it homed in on this. Depends which of us it's going to kill first. But it's either you or me. **RCW:** Now I have to find Toos and ask her why I get a tingly sensation every time I think of her.

**SWH:** See, banging your head against the wall gets you nothing.

**SAW:** It looks like he's been out quail hunting with Dick Cheney.

**MO:** What, just for crouching behind the Laserson?

**SWH:** I followed you! Hahaha.

**MO:** More product placement.

### V4

Kill the Doctor. Kill the Doctor.

The robot's hands stretch out toward the Doctor as it bears down on him. The Doctor continues to back up in the room until he can go no further.

The robot's hands clamp down on the Doctor's throat and he grimaces.

End of episode three.

### V4

Kill the Doctor. Kill the Doctor.

Uvanov grabs a probe attachment off the Laserson unit nearby.

He goes over to V4 who is choking the Doctor in the corner of the room.

## V4

Kill the Doctor.

Uvanov jams the probe into V4's head.

#### V4

Kill – Kill – Kill – Kill – Kill – Kill – Kill

The robot staggers around, releasing the Doctor. The probe sticks out of its head.

Uvanov helps support the Doctor.

The robot continues to stagger around the room, calling "Kill!"

## **UVANOV**

Doctor, are you all right?

### **DOCTOR**

Finish it off, before it's too late.

The room goes dark.

## **UVANOV**

There's a power failure!

V4

Kill.

# **DOCTOR** (whispering)

The probe's stopped. Can you do it?

**UVANOV** 

Yes.

SAW: (as Doctor) Oh! I win.

**SWH:** Wait for it...

**SWH:** (as if it were sexual) OH yeah.

**RCW:** It's very useful to see what the FLY is seeing.

**ALL:** (everyone beatbox)

**SWH:** Put the needle on the record, kill, kill, **SWH:** Put the needle on the record, kill, kill, **SWH:** Put the needle on the record, (finish)

Be careful.

Uvanov goes over to the robot to grab the probe. It suddenly moves again, throwing Uvanov to the side.

## **UVANOV**

Aaaagh!

V4 begins searching for the Doctor again, but he has evaded it.

#### V4

Kill! Kill! Kill!

Toos is near her door. She apparently thinks the danger is over, so she opens it. It slides open to reveal V6 standing right there.

### TOOS

Oh no. No, please, no! Please, no! Don't! No, don't! No! No!

The robot simply keeps advancing on her, backing her up to her bed.

Its hand grips her throat and bends her down.

#### TOOS

No! Please! Agh!

### V6

It is an order. It has to be done.

Down the corridor, the Doctor carries the wounded Uvanov.

They arrive at a junction and pass, but the Doctor stops.

Along the junction is SV7, standing immobile.

The corridor ahead is suddenly blocked by another altered robot, V5.

Following their footsteps at a distance is V4, with the probe still in its head, staggering with arms outstretched, still repeating "Kill!"

### **DOCTOR**

Don't just stand there, Seven, give me a hand.

### SV7

Kill them.

**RCW:** Oh crap, I thought you were Leela!

**MO:** She deserves to die after that stupidity. GET HER!

**SAW:** Awww, isn't that sweet, the Doctor is carrying him over the threshold.

The Doctor wasn't expecting that. He puts Uvanov on his feet against the corridor wall.

### **DOCTOR**

Just how fast are these robots?

### **UVANOV**

They can outrun a human and they never tire.

### **DOCTOR**

No, I meant fast as in "nimble." Never mind, we'll soon find out.

He dashes forward to V5 and puts his hat on its head, covering its eyes.

V4 continues to advance.

The Doctor tops V5 off with his scarf.

V4 sees the hat and scarf and makes for V5 instead of the Doctor.

The Doctor grabs Uvanov and they head off to safety.

V4 and V5 grapple with each other.

V4

Kill! Kill!

V5

Do not kill me.

SV7

V4, that is not the Doctor.

**V**5

Do not kill me.

SV7

V6, come to section J immediately.

V6 is busy strangling Toos. The call interrupts him.

**V**6

The order is understood.

It slowly walks out of Toos's room, leaving her lying unconscious on her bed.

The Doctor and Uvanov are making their way through the corridors.

**DOCTOR** 

Come on, we've got to get back to the command deck.

**MO:** Hahaha. Outrun a human. I'd love to see one of them TRY!

**SWH:** Yes! It's the Benny Hill Show! **ALL:** (Benny Hill music)

**RCW:** Did he say Sector 7G?

MO: NOW Leela can come in...

#### UVANOV

SV7 controls all the others. If it's gone bad, then they all have!

## **DOCTOR**

It hasn't gone bad, its command circuit's been changed.

## **UVANOV**

Doctor, nobody could do that.

#### DOCTOR

Taren Capel could.

### **UVANOV**

Taren Capel?

#### **DOCTOR**

Yes. A mad scientist. Very mad scientist.

Leela hurries to Toos's room. She pauses in the doorway as she sees Toos lying on her bed with D84 there holding his hands to her temples.

She thinks D84 is hurting Toos. From the floor Leela picks up V6's discarded hand. She throws it forcefully at D84. It bounces off him and clangs to the floor.

### **D84**

Please do not throw hands at me. She will recover.

Leela sighs, then dashes over to Toos.

## LEELA

What happened to her?

As she reaches the bed and kneels at Toos's side, Toos wakes up and sees D84. She cries out and grabs Leela.

### LEELA

It's all right, he's a friend. It's all right.

#### **D84**

She was being attacked. The Doctor sent me to her assistance.

## **LEELA**

Well where is he then? Where's the robot?

#### **D84**

It received a priority call to go to section J.

## **LEELA**

How do you know?

## **D84**

I heard the instruction on my command circuit.

**SAW:** Everybody's mad about something.

**SWH:** Leela's mad about Toos.

**RCW:** Please do not hurt Token.

**RCW:** Girls gone wild Sandminer.

**SAW:** He's saved the day! Give him a hand!

MO: I handled him.

**MO:** Hand signals?

### TOOS

The Doctor sent everyone to control deck. How many are left?

#### LEELA

As far as I know, only Poul, and his mind is broken. I haven't seen Uvanov or Dask.

Toos buries her face in Leela's bosom. Hmm.

### **D84**

Where – Where is chief mover Poul?

## LEELA

I left him in the storage bank.

### **D84**

I had better bring him to the control deck.

### LEELA

Do you think you can make it?

## **TOOS**

It isn't far.

Toos once again grabs Leela as they head out the room.

In the section J corridor, V5 and V6 watch as SV7 examines the probe in V4's head.

## SV7

The sensors are extensively damaged. I must report to our controller

SV7 addresses V5 and V6.

## SV7

Your orders are to find and destroy all remaining humans. Secrecy is no longer necessary. Confirm.

### **V6**

The order is understood.

## SV7

Then go.

V5 and V6 turn and head down the corridor.

*Leela and Toos approach the command deck.* 

Toos coughs. Leela thinks she hears something.

### **LEELA**

Shh!

**ALL:** Mmmmmmm.

**SWH:** Put your head on my shoulder...

**RCW:** I think Toos is the Chief Mover now! Waaaaugh

**MO:** I can if we just rest here a moment.

**SAW:** Yeah, your legs stop working after your neck is bruised.

They pause.

### LEELA

Over here! Quickly!

They open a scoop door and get inside. They crouch down in one corner together.

Just then, V5 and V6 come down the steps. They pass the scoop door.

### **V6**

We must search each hopper.

#### V5

That is not necessary. Vs 35 to 40 have searched in there already.

### **V6**

Then we must search the storage bays.

Leela and Toos, clutching one another, breathe a sigh of relief as the robots pass by without coming inside and discovering their little love nest.

## TOOS

I don't understand what's happening. Robots can't harm humans, it's the first principle.

#### LEELA

The second principle is that humans can't harm robots, I know, I've tried, and they don't bleed.

## **TOOS**

I think we should warn the Doctor. Doctor, can you hear me? Answer me please.

## SV7

SV7 here. Is that you, acting commander Toos?

### **TOOS**

Yes. SV7, listen. Some of the Voc-class robots are running berserk, out of control and dangerous, do you understand?

# SV7

I understand. Counter-measures are being taken. Report your position, please.

### **TOOS**

I'm -

Leela quickly covers Toos's mouth.

## LEELA (whispers)

Shh! In your cabin!

RCW: At last! At last!

**MO:** Oh, but I'm going to get sand in my underwear.

**SAW:** When the hopper's hopping don't come knocking.

**SWH:** Whew. Okay, let's both come out of this closet.

**SAW:** Release countermeasures! Dive! Dive!

**RCW:** No! They wouldn't understand the love we have, they'd separate us!

#### SV7

Please say again, commander. I must know your present position.

## TOOS

I'm in my cabin, SV7.

## SV7

Please stay in your cabin, commander. There is great danger if you leave it.

Leela stands up thoughtfully.

### TOOS

What was all that about?

#### LEELA

There's something wrong, I could feel it.

## TOOS

I didn't notice anything. Except –

### LEELA

There was something.

#### TOOS

The robots are programmed to understand our voice patterns.

# **LEELA**

So?

## TOOS

My voice is in the command program. Why did SV7 ask if it was me?

## **LEELA**

Because that wasn't SV7.

The Doctor and Uvanov have reached the command deck at last.

Several robots are there, but they stand immobile with their left arms outstretched.

Uvanov approaches one cautiously, tapping its arm.

## **UVANOV**

Oh good. Somebody's had the sense the hit the robot deactivator switch. Probably Dask. As chief fixer he has second-line authority on it.

## **DOCTOR**

Of course. There had to be one, I should have thought of that before.

**SWH:** Your RFID is malfunctioning.

**SAW:** I TOTALLY expected her to lick her lips after that.

**MO:** Oh, no, not interpretive dance!

#### **UVANOV**

You mean you didn't know? I thought that's why we came here!

# LEELA (os)

Doctor!

Leela and Toos dash into the command deck. They are momentarily taken aback by the robots standing there.

They realize they're not moving, and hurry over to the Doctor and Uvanov.

### TOOS

Doctor, you were right, the robots are out of control!

### **UVANOV**

Not any more, we're quite safe now.

Uvanov hugs Toos.

## **DOCTOR**

Safe? Safe?

### **UVANOV**

Well. We'll have to send up a satellite distress beacon to get back to base, but there's no trouble.

## **DOCTOR**

Uvanov, you remind me very strongly of a lady called Marie Antoinette. There's a robot revolution going on out there, and you say we've got no problems.

# **UVANOV**

Doctor, every single robot has been switched off. There's not one of them working!

## **DOCTOR**

Uvanov! Look over there.

D84 comes in carrying Poul.

He places Poul onto a recliner.

# **UVANOV**

I don't understand!

## **DOCTOR**

Shut the door, Toos. I may not have time to explain.

Toos runs over and closes the door.

**SWH:** Bora Bora? **MO:** Walla Walla?

**SAW:** New York New York?

**RCW:** MMMMM BEACON

RCW: D'oh!

**SWH:** The Oxford English Dictionary defines "D'oh" as "expressing frustration at the realization that things have turned out badly or not as planned, or that one has just said or done something foolish."

There's a new generation of killer robots about, Uvanov. The killers are controlled by Taren Capel, and D84 is controlled by Poul. These two are undercover agents for the company.

### **D84**

Poul is damaged. I do not understand what has happened to him. This may be because I am not human.

### DOCTOR

Yes, that's very likely.

# **TOOS**

How did you find out about Poul?

#### DOCTOR

Well, his body language was all wrong.

## LEELA

What's body language?

## DOCTOR

Well it's a theory that a person expresses himself in the way he moves.

#### LEELA

I said he was a hunter!

#### **DOCTOR**

Yes, you did.

He pauses.

## DOCTOR

Do you know what's wrong with Poul? Uvanov?

## **UVANOV**

Yes. Robo-phobia.

### **DOCTOR**

That's right. The (?) call it Grimwade's Syndrome.

## **UVANOV**

I have seen it, Doctor. Once before. My very first command. Young kid, just ran outside the mine. I tried to save him, but... I couldn't. I'll never, ever forget the look on his face.

### TOOS

Zilda's brother.

### **UVANOV**

His father, of course, had it all hushed up. He was afraid his son would be thought a coward. But robo-phobia is a mental thing, right? **MO:** (damaged) Let me reprogram him. Where's that laser probe?

**SAW:** Poul sure turned out to be a crap agent.

**MO:** Toos will explain.

MO: Hand signals? **SWH:** Shhh!

**RCW:** But it was in the script.

**SWH:** The what call it that? Lloyds? Loyhargil? Lockheed?

**SAW:** He ran out of the mine backwards?

MO: (kiss)

Oh yes, yes, it is, until one gets its hands around your neck. I don't suppose there are any weapons aboard this mine?

#### TOOS

They aren't necessary.

## **DOCTOR**

They are now.

### **SV7 (vo)**

This is SV7. We know you are all on the control deck. You have five minutes to surrender. If you do not come out, you will be destroyed.

#### **UVANOV**

And if we give ourselves up, we'll be destroyed anyway, is that what you're saying, Seven?

### SV7

Humans feel pain. Our controller orders that you will die slowly if you do not surrender. You have, I repeat, five minutes.

## **DOCTOR**

Five minutes. And the anti-blast doors will hold another t—anti-blast? Do you carry blasting powder aboard this mine?

### **TOOS**

Half a dozen Z9 electron packs, that's all.

## **DOCTOR**

What, in here?

## **TOOS**

Up there in the locker.

#### **DOCTOR**

They might work, Uvanov. If you could pass a positive charge through the metal plate, you'd be able to magnetize them and have anti-robot bombs!

# **UVANOV**

Ye—provided of course you can get close enough.

## **DOCTOR**

Well that's your problem, I can't be everywhere at once. Toos, open this door for me.

### TOOS

Where are you going, Doctor?

**SWH:** Ahhh! That scared the crap outta me!

**SAW:** (control deck) Please fasten your seatbelts and prepare for landing.

**MO:** Try the pop-o-matic again. Maybe SV7 will have to miss a turn.

**RCW:** (slowly) Under the drill.

**SAW:** Wait, he gave us five minutes twice, that means we have ten!

The robot mortuary. Toos, lock this door after us and don't let anyone in, is that clear?

TOOS

Clear.

**DOCTOR** 

D84 and Leela.

They look up from tending Poul and come over to the Doctor.

**DOCTOR** 

Remember, Toos. If we don't come back, you've got to find some other way of warning the outside world.

She lets them out, then closes the door behind them again, locking it.

Uvanov comes down from the top landing where he was retrieving the Z9 electron packs.

**UVANOV** 

Come on, Toos, let's get to work!

Leela, D84 and the Doctor hide along a corridor side wall as a parade of deadly robots march by one by one.

**DOCTOR** 

Ten robots.

LEELA

That's what I counted.

DOCTOR

Strange. I would have expected Taren Capel to be in at the kill. Come on. We've got to hurry.

Back on the command deck Poul's head lolls on the cot while Uvanov and Toos work at their bombs.

A loud banging noise startles them.

**VOICE** 

Help! Let me in!

The banging continues, urgent and loud.

*Uvanov rushes over to the door and stops there.* 

**UVANOV** 

Who is that?

DASK

It's me! Dask! Let me in, they're after me!

**SWH:** I'm not to make sure he doesn't leave the room, unless you come with him.

**RCW:** (fake sneeze)

**SAW:** Wouldn't it be prudent to just freaking TELL THEM IT'S DASK at this point?

**MO:** She was trying, but the Doctor took Leela away!

**SWH:** Oh weee oh, we ohhhhohh.

**RCW:** (Sesame St Count) Ten! Ten robots! Wa ha ha ha

**RCW:** Land shark.

Uvanov looks extremely distressed, he wants to open the door but was warned not to let anyone in.

Toos looks on anxiously.

### **DASK**

Help me!

Uvanov looks at the door control, then back at Toos. He reaches for the control.

Toos runs over to him instantly.

### TOOS

No, the Doctor said no one at all!

### **UVANOV**

I can't leave him out there with those things, you don't know what they're like!

## TOOS

They may be using him to get us to open the door!

Dask continues screaming on the other side of the door.

## **TOOS**

They may be waiting outside!

#### DASK

Let me in!

Dask is now revealed, wearing silver face paint, designed to make him look like a robot. He relaxes after his furious outburst, and speaks to the other robots seen surrounding him.

#### DASK

All right, my brothers. The doors. Force them open!

He and SV7 walk away.

Back in the robot storage room, they are examining robots in the bays.

## **DOCTOR**

D84, do you know the storage bay where Chub kept his equipment?

#### **D84**

Yes.

### **DOCTOR**

There are some canisters of gas there. Fetch me one, please, as quickly as you can.

**RCW:** Not even land sharks!

**SAW:** Oh look, it's Dask, he's the bad guy. I don't think I guessed that when I saw his face and heard his voice earlier.

**ALL:** (all raise fists on 'brothers') Peace

**RCW:** Kill all humans!

**SWH:** So, the one thing I've learned in this episode is that supposedly, robots can't harm humans. But what about:

The Yeti

Drathro

The Raston Warrior Robot

The War Machines

The Gundans

Roy Batty (Blade Runner)

The Bus Conductor

Maximilian

Bludgeon (Tf)

T-800 Terminator

ED-209 (Robocop)

Shockwave (Transformers)

General Grievous

#### **D84**

That will be a pleasure.

The Doctor examines the head of a damaged robot.

Leela sees the dried blood on its hand.

### **LEELA**

Look at his arm, Doctor. That's blood!

#### DOCTOR

Yeah. Borg's, at a guess. He was strong enough to put up a struggle.

## **LEELA**

Well if Poul saw that...

### DOCTOR

Yes. That's what probably triggered his collapse.

He detaches the smashed head from the robot body.

#### LEELA

Doctor, what is robo-phobia?

## DOCTOR

It's an unreasoning dread of robots. You see, most living creatures use non-verbal signals. Body movement. Eye contact. Facial expression, that sort of thing.

### **LEELA**

Body language.

## **DOCTOR**

Exactly.

He struggles with the sellotape around the robot head.

### DOCTOR

And while these robots are humanoid, presumably for aesthetic reasons, they give no signals. It's rather like being surrounded by walking, talking dead men.

### **LEELA**

That's what Poul said.

## **DOCTOR**

Yes. It undermines a certain type of personality, causes identity crisis, paranoia, sometimes even personality disintegration. Robo-phobia. At least, that's Grimwade's theory. Hold this.

## **LEELA**

What are you doing?

Polyphase Avatron

The Crushinator (Futurama)

The Iron Giant

AMEE (Red Planet)

Box (Logan's Run)

Blitzwing (Tf)

The Kandy Man

Otomo (Robocop 3)

Leon Kowalski (Blade Runner)

T-X Terminator (Terminator 3)

Starscream (Tf)

Hector (Saturn 3)

Octus (Tf)

Ash (Alien)

Mechani-Kong (King Kong Escapes)

The Movellans

Straxus (Tf)

Mechagodzilla

Donbot (Futurama)

Flexo (Futurama)

Roberto (Futurama)

Robot Santa (Futurama)

Awesom-O 4000

Url (Futurama)

Joey Mousepad (Futurama)

The Cleaners

Gort (TDtESS)

Thunderwing (Tf)

T-1000 Terminator

Zhora (Blade Runner)

Galvatron (Transformers)

Ratbat (Tf)

Lore (Star Trek The Next Generation)

Scorponok (Tf)

Kronos (Kronos)

The Gunslinger (Yul Brynner in Westworld)

The IMC Mining Robot

Clamps (Futurama)

Pris (Blade Runner)

Megatron (Transformers)

The Chumblies

Johnny-5 (Short Circuit)

The Cylons

The Mechonoids

The Ouarks

Gog (Gog)

And Mecha-Streisand (South Park)?

I mean, is it just, like, nobody ever told them?

**RCW:** (disintegration) Good album.

**SAW:** How interesting. What's Nathan-Turner's theory?

**MO:** Green slime?

I'm going to try and patch this communicator into Dask's private command circuit.

## **LEELA**

Dask?

## DOCTOR

Yes. Taren Capel. If I can discover where he modified this—do you have to talk so much?

### **LEELA**

Sorry.

Back on the command deck, Toos is in a panic.

## TOOS

I hope the Doctor succeeds, I don't see how we can warn anyone if he doesn't.

## **UVANOV**

He doesn't really expect us to.

## **TOOS**

Then why did he say what he did?

### **UVANOV**

We are just decoys to help them.

The banging on the doors, almost deafening, suddenly ceases.

Toos looks at Uvanov.

## **UVANOV**

What next, I wonder?

Back in robot morgue.

#### **DOCTOR**

There. That should do it.

## **LEELA**

So Dask turned off all the friendly mechanical men?

## **DOCTOR**

Yes. Planning to modify them and reactivate them later. Today the mine, tomorrow the world. Right now he must be a happy little maniac.

D84 returns holding a small gas cylinder.

### **D84**

Is that what you wanted?

**RCW:** (talk so much) I think Toos said the same thing.

(FILLIT)

**SAW:** Like Bobcat Goldthwait. (or whoever you want)

**MO:** Is it time for Karaoke?

Yes. Well done, D84. Now, you're going to have to stay here.

### **D84**

I cannot do that.

## **DOCTOR**

D84, this is the final deactivator. If I have to use this and you're around, it will destroy your brain.

### **D84**

I am not important.

## **DOCTOR**

What? I think you're very important!

### **D84**

My duty is to the company.

## **DOCTOR**

All right. But you be very careful.

### **D84**

I will

### **DOCTOR**

Good. Come on.

Leela smiles at D84 as they all leave the robot storage room.

Toos approaches the command deck door, listening to the clanking noises on the other side.

Uvanov runs over to join her.

## **UVANOV**

Any ideas?

### **TOOS**

No.

Poul, meanwhile, suddenly rises from his cot, reacting to the noises.

## **POUL**

No. Please! They brought me here! I didn't want to come! No!

### **TOOS**

Look!

Poul collapses to his knees at a semi-transparent door on the other side of the room. The shape of a robot can be seen banging on the other side of the door. **RCW:** Heheheh he said duty.

**SAW:** He's a COMPANY man.

**RCW:** Weyland-Yutani?

(FILLIT)

### **POUL**

No! No!

Dask strides down the corridor followed by SV7.

## SV7

Controller Capel. V5 reports three humans on the control deck. Commander Uvanov, mover Poul, and pilot Toos.

#### DASK

The Doctor? The Doctor and the girl Leela, where are they?

## SV7

Their position is unknown.

### DASK

They must be found and killed. That Doctor is a threat to our plan, my brothers. V5, enter the control deck and destroy the humans immediately. Come with me.

#### **V**5

You have to die. All of you.

#### POUL

No! Please! Please, I'm sorry!

### **V**5

You have to die. All of you.

Uvanov drags Poul away from the door, Toos shouting at him. Poul continues to cry out.

## **UVANOV**

Toos, you look after him.

#### V5

That is the order. You have to die. All of you.

Uvanov places one of his new sticky bombs against the door right where the chest of the robot is seen in silhouette.

He darts to safety.

## **UVANOV**

Get down, Toos!

#### $V_5$

That is the order.

The bomb explodes.

#### V5

You have to die. All of you. That is the order.

**RCW:** Kill all humans! **MO:** He's Bender.

**SWH:** And we have Leela...

**RCW:** Where's Fry?

**SAW:** I think he's probably in the bar.

V5, a smoking hole in its chest, staggers through the rent in the door, and collapses to the floor in front of the humans.

Uvanov and Toos get up and Uvanov grabs some bombs.

#### **UVANOV**

Here. Do you know what I think, Toos? I think it's high time we went on the offensive.

### TOOS

We may not be so lucky a second time.

Uvanov runs over and slides through the newly-exploded door. Toos follows him.

## **UVANOV**

The Doctor is going to need some help. Come on.

They set off down the corridor.

Dask continues his stroll.

### SV7

V5 is no longer registering, controller.

#### DASK

What?

## SV7

There is no operational signal. Five has been deactivated.

## **DASK**

How could mere humans destroy a robot? They are unarmed, weak creatures of flesh and blood.

## SV7

What are your orders, controller?

#### DASK

Destroy them, Seven! Kill all the humans! V6, come with me. I will release more of our brothers from bondage. We will be irresistible.

He heads off with a purpose.

The Doctor, Leela and D84 enter Dask's secret work room, the Doctor carrying the gas cylinder and communicator.

### **DOCTOR**

Come on.

He closes the door.

## **DOCTOR**

Hold this, D84. And don't press anything.

**SWH:** Help me I'm melting.

**MO:** Number five's NOT alive.

**RCW:** I just KNEW this story was secretly all about bondage.

#### **D84**

What is your intention?

## **DOCTOR**

To make life a little difficult for our crazy friend. He's bound to come back here to convert more robots, and when he does—do you think you can fit in there, Leela?

## **LEELA**

Why?

## **DOCTOR**

Come on. Try it for size.

## LEELA

What's it for?

She climbs into the cupboard.

## **DOCTOR**

Never mind. Comfortable?

### **LEELA**

No.

## **DOCTOR**

Now, this is a cylinder of gas. When Dask comes in, I want you to turn the valve. So.

# **LEELA**

So?

## **DOCTOR**

When Dask comes in.

## **LEELA**

What will it do?

## **DOCTOR**

H<sub>m</sub>?

## **LEELA**

I said, what will it do?

# **DOCTOR**

Change his voice. When a mixture of air and helium is breathed, it alters the resonance in the larynx, didn't they teach you that in the jungle?

#### LEELA

So the robots won't recognize Dask's voice, they won't obey him!

# **DOCTOR**

That's it! Come on, D84.

**SWH:** Are you calling me fat?

**SAW:** Hey HEY! What WON'T it do?

**MO:** So let's ruin the big clever ending before it happens.

#### **LEELA**

Where are you going?

## **DOCTOR**

Shh. Sh. Sh. Robot hunting.

Just then the door opens to reveal Dask. D84 stands in front of him, but Dask reacts immediately.

Dask drives a probe tool straight into D84's forehead.

D84 staggers and drops the communicator the Doctor gave him. Then he falls to the floor.

## **DOCTOR**

D84!

The Doctor steps forward, but V6 punches him in the gut, causing him to double over in agony.

## **DOCTOR**

Ooof!

V6 pushes the Doctor up against the wall next to the cupboard where Leela is hidden. Dask walks over.

#### DASK

Do not kill him. Not yet. Bring him to the bench.

Inside the cupboard, Leela turns the valve to begin releasing helium into the air.

Elsewhere, SV7 continues on his mission, passing a stained glass window door.

After he passes, the door opens to reveal Toos and Uvanov.

## TOOS

We're lucky they have no eye for art.

### **UVANOV**

Or much imagination. Come on.

## TOOS

Where are we going?

## **UVANOV**

We're going to follow it. We might get a chance to use one of these.

Back in Dask's work room, the Doctor lies apparently unconscious on the table as the sensors come up around his head.

He opens his eyes and looks around, taking in the situation but not moving.

**SAW:** I wonder how many takes it took before he managed to get his aim right?

**RCW:** Nope, no wobbly sets here!

**SWH:** Pie jesu domine, dona eis requiem

**SAW:** But they know what they like!

**SWH:** Ow ow OW OWow. My hair. **MO:** NO! Not the mind probe!

Hello, Dask. Née Taren Capel.

## DASK

I'm glad you have recovered, Doctor.

## **DOCTOR**

Oh? Why?

#### DASK

You came close to ruining my plans. It's fitting I should make you suffer for that.

Leela is trying to listen to the conversation, but the hissing gas right next to her makes it difficult for her.

## **DOCTOR**

I see. You're one of those boring maniacs who's going to gloat, hmm? You're going to tell me your plan for running the universe.

## **DASK**

Oh, no, Doctor. I'm going to burn out your brain. Very very slowly.

Dask's voice has started to change.

D84, forgotten on the ground, begins to crawl slowly toward the communicator.

## **DOCTOR**

Dask. Dask!

Dask comes over to him.

## **DOCTOR**

You look ridiculous in that outfit. You're not half the robot your father was.

### DASK

Insolent animal!

He activates the Laserson probe mounted above the Doctor's head. It begins to buzz.

The Doctor grimaces in pain.

He also begins to change colors for some reason.

The wibbly electronic noise grows louder, then it subsides and the Doctor's pain-streaked face relaxes.

**SWH:** I'm not married.

**RCW:** Wikipedia says, the speed of sound in helium is nearly three times that in air.

**SAW:** Don't you know I'm going to shock the monkey!

**RCW:** I think he looks fabulous.

Losing your calm, Dask? Hmm? That's not the robot way. It was your verbal and physical precision that ... let me spot you. Robot upbringing?

#### DASK

Yes, Doctor. I was brought up a superior being. Brought up to realize that my brothers should live as free beings and not as slaves to human dross.

#### **DOCTOR**

Robots would have no existence without humans, don't you see that?

## DASK

Now I shall free them. I shall program them with the ambition to rule the world. And then...

D84 has reached the communicator. He grips it, ready to trigger the robot deactivation signal.

#### **D84**

Goodbye, my friend.

He triggers the device.

His head explodes.

V6, standing next to Leela's cupboard, also explodes in a shower of sparks and falls to the floor.

Leela is still inside, gas hissing.

Dask, angry, pulls the Laserson probe from the clamp above the Doctor's head, and attempts to stab the Doctor with it. The Doctor, oddly enough, was only strapped down across the chest, with his arms free, so he grabs Dask's wrists and fights him.

As they struggle, SV7 comes into the room.

## SV7

Kill the humans.

## **DASK**

Help me, Seven!

The Doctor has thrown Dask off, and turns the probe around to point at SV7.

### SV7

Kill the humans.

But SV7 is approaching Dask with his arms outstretched, not the Doctor.

**MO:** So he's like a feral robot boy, right?

MO: Hello darkness my old friend

**SAW:** YOUR HEAD A-SPLODE!

**SWH:** Help me I'm melting. **RCW:** He blowed up real good!

**MO:** Protect the nucleus! **SWH:** Kill the rejects!

#### SV7

Kill the humans.

Dask doesn't seem to panic just yet, until SV7 gets right on top of him.

### DASK

Not me, you fool! Him! I am your master!

But his voice is now so high-pitched that SV7 does not recognize him.

SV7 begins to choke Dask.

## **DASK**

Taren Capel! Your controller!

### SV7

Kill the humans.

He strangles Dask.

Toos and Uvanov come running in.

SV7 throws Dask's dead body to the floor.

Then he turns on Toos and Uvanov.

### SV7

Kill the humans.

It aims for Uvanov. Uvanov holds a bomb up, but SV7 grabs his hand and they grapple.

## SV7

Kill the humans.

SV7 throws Uvanov aside and goes for Toos's neck.

#### **TOOS**

Agh! Agh!

# SV7

Kill the humans.

The Doctor jams the Laserson probe into the locking control on his straps.

The lock springs free and he leaps off the table.

He drives the probe into the back of SV7's head.

### SV7

Kill the humans. Kill kill kill—kill—

**SAW:** You're not much of a supervillain if you're done in by your own squeaky helium voice.

**MO:** Wikipedia says, Sulfur hexafluoride has the opposite effect on the speed of sound as helium. It slows down the speed of sound to about one third of the speed of sound in air.

**RCW:** (on red eyes somewhere) Would you care for some Visine?

**SWH:** Her neck is really getting a workout today. **MO:** Practice makes perfect.

**SAW:** I guess Toos can hold her breath a lot longer than Dask?

You'll be all right, Toos. Uva – agh!

SV7, staggering, clamps his hands down on the Doctor's shoulders.

He pushes the Doctor face down onto the table to give him a shoulder massage.

#### SV7

Kill the—Kill the—

SV7 raises his hands away from the Doctor to try and pull the probe from the back of his head.

#### SV7

Kill the—kill the—kill the—

SV7 collapses onto the pile of bodies in the corner and shuts down.

## **DOCTOR**

Well. All good things come to an end.

## **LEELA**

Will somebody let me out?

### **DOCTOR**

Ah! A mouse in the wainscoting. Well squeaked, mouse.

He opens the door. Leela is inside holding her throat in surprise.

Later, outside the big room, the Doctor and Leela are looking for the TARDIS.

#### LEELA

Shouldn't we stay and see if Uvanov and Toos are all right?

### **DOCTOR**

No, no, there's a rescue ship on the way, and it's time we were on ours.

He opens the TARDIS door.

### **LEELA**

Doctor, why didn't the helium make your voice go squeaky?

## **DOCTOR**

Because I'm a Time Lord. I've been around, you know. Two hearts, respiratory bypass system—I haven't lived seven hundred and fifty years without learning something. After you.

**RCW:** I've got a headache this big and it's got Laserson written all over it.

**SAW:** Good things? Exactly how many people DIED?

**MO:** Especially Toos?

**SWH:** I'm better than you.

**RCW:** She's been around now too.

She goes inside.

### **DOCTOR**

Little mouse.

He shuts the door behind them.

The TARDIS light starts flashing and it vanishes from the platform.

Oh. That's it. The credits will roll now.

Doctor Who Tom Baker

Leela Louise Jameson

Uvanov Russell Hunter Toos Pamela Salem

Dask David Bailie Poul David Collings

D84 Gregory de Polnay SV7 Miles Fothergill

Robots Mark Blackwell Baker, John Bleasdale, Mark Cooper, Peter Langtry, Jeremy Ranchev, Richard Seager

Dudley Simpson Ron Grainer BBC Radiophonic Workshop

Bernard Lodge Peter Grimwade Chris D'oyly-John

Duncan Brown Tony Millier

Richard Conway Dick Mills

Elizabeth Waller Ann Briggs

Robert Holmes

Kenneth Sharp

Philip Hinchcliffe

Michael E Briant

BBC Colour

**SAW:** (Little mouse song from Look Around You.)

**SWH:** That's a rather abrupt ending, isn't it? **MO:** What about all the loose threads?

**RCW:** Is Poul dead?

**SWH:** Did Leela and Toos exchange phone numbers? **SAW:** Did the Sandminer start sinking again as soon as

they left?

**MO:** When DID they *repair* those Zeta links anyway?

**RCW:** How much Fothergill's in this?

**RCW:** (when name appears) Miles of Fothergill!

**SAW:** Any relation to Mark Linn-Baker of Perfect Strangers?

**SWH:** Wikipedia says, a doily is a small ornamental mat usually made of cotton or linen placed underneath a dish or bowl.

**MO:** Elizabeth Waller's favorite story is *A Cask of Amontillado*.

**SWH:** Best British Crap.

This page has to stay in the document or it screws up the previous page. Otherwise I'd delete it so you don't have to waste another sheet of paper.

# Right Side of Document ©2006 Steven W Hill

Contributors:

Steven W Hill

Rob Warnock

Mike Olson

Dave Broucek

John Lavalie

Dennis Kytasaari

Nick Seidler

Steven Manfred

Scott Alan Woodard

Michael Kelly

Peter DePalma

Performers:

MO = Mike Olson

RCW = Rob Warnock

SWH = Steve Hill

SAW = Scott Alan Woodard