

PLAY

THE MORONS

BY

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CHARACTERS

CELFON

ARGAT

SCRID

2050. OUTER SPACE. A SPACESHIP. WITH VIEW OUT TO PLANET EARTH
BURNING IN A RED GLOW

SCRID What is it Argat?

ARGAT That, my friend, is the planet "earth".

SCRID Earth?

CELFON It can't be.

SCRID Surely it's a sister planet to the sun?

ARGAT No, wrong axis.

CEFLON But it's on fire!

ARGAT Yes.

SCRID Wasn't it... the planet of life?

CEFLON The one with all the aliens?

SCRID The Morons?

ARGAT Indeed.

SCRID And all the seas... forests and icecaps?

CEFLON It was blue, green and white!

ARGAT Once upon a time.

CEFLON Now look at it.

ARGAT You shouldn't stare directly at it. You will burn your retinas.

SCRID How are they going to survive the heat?

AGAT They're not.

SCRID The Morons?

ARGAT All life forms.

CEFLON The creatures too?

ARGAT All living matter will perish.

SCRID Even the creatures in the seas?

ARGAT Nothing could withstand that heat.

CEFLON Hah! Then we'll be the only other life form left!

ARGAT Yes.

SCRID What went so wrong?

ARGAT Inevitable with the Morons in charge. They stripped their earth of all its natural resources. It was just a matter of time...

CEFLON What a fucking liability!

ARGAT Which is why we must source an alternative fuel source for the spaceship.

SCRID But what damage can it do out here?

ARGAT That thinking led to the Morons destroying their own planet. We are just passing through space. We have to leave it as we found it. As though there was no trace of us. That's how we've survived undetected all this time.

CEFLON Yes, let's keep it that way.

SCRID Alright... I was only asking!

ARGAT The jet rockets use up too much kerosene. Our natural resources will soon be running low.

SCRID But we have to travel. Our planet can't sustain us in perpetuity.

ARGAT Any bright ideas?

CEFLON He's not know for them.

SCRID Hey, I might have.

CEFLON All right- benefit of the doubt...?

SCRID What about using the heat from the sun?

ARGAT AND CEFLON Laugh

SCRID What's so funny? That's energy! You must be able to trap it and use it somehow.

ARGAT Maybe if you were an egg we could fry you from it.

SCRID If I were an egg I would hope you would incubate me?

CEFLON As opposed to smashing you in half and frying you alive, you mean?

SCRID You certainly learn who your friends are in space.

A WARNING NOISE ALARM SOUNDS

ARGAT We're getting too close to earth. We're in danger of damaging the heat sensitive skin of the fuselage. Change course.

CEFLON Affirmative Captain.

ARGAT Any hope of rescue of Moron survivors is prohibitive.

SCRID Pity. We could have captured one for dissection to find out how they work inside.

ARGAT Yes, well... you're too late for that type of butchery. We'll never know now. There'll just be a lot of charred and melted remains.

CEFLON Pity. We could have stood to learn all about an alien life force and their habitat on pre molten earth.

SCENE 2

1550 EARTH. 3 MEN ARE STARING AT A SCIENTIFIC ASTRONIMICAL PLANETARIUM MACHINE

SCRID What the big ball in the centre?

ARGAT That's the sun.

SCRID Right. And what's it doing there?

ARGAT Well, it's the centre of the universe.

CEFLON Er... no. It's moving all around us. It rises in the east and sets in the west.

ARGAT Ah, yes, that's your perception of it from earth, where we are. But actually it forms the centre of the whole planetary system.

CEFLON But if it's stuck there in the middle, how do you explain its trajection through the sky rising in the morning and setting in the evening?

ARGAT That's because the earth is in fact rotating around it.

SCRID It's what?

ARGAT Rotating around it.

SCRID Around the sun?

ARGAT Indeed.

SCRID Well, how can it do that?

ARGAT Here's the earth!

CEFLON What, that tiny ball?

ARGAT Yes.

CEFLON But its round!

ARGAT Correct.

CEFLON But the world's flat?

ARGAT Er no. It is in fact round.

CEFLON So how come we don't fall off?

ARGAT Because of the invisible force shield.

SCRID *(Laughs)* The what?

ARGAT There's a magical force pushing us all towards the surface.

CEFLON What, even when you're upside down?

SCRID Did you hear that Ceflon? It's a magic force!

CEFLON Can you feel the force?

ARGAT It's called gravity.

SCRID Gravy?

ARGAT Gravity.

SCRID Oh. Where does that come from then?

ARGAT It's a naturally occurring force that keeps everything in place.

CEFLON So if earth is this little ball revolving in space, how come the sun rises and falls?

ARGAT Ah, I can explain that with this model. You see as the earth turns on its axis it turns towards the sun in the morning

when it will look like its rising and away from the sun again in the evening when it looks like it sets.

- CEFLON Yes... I get it. But what about the moon?
- SCRID Oh don't tell me the moon is a ball as well?
- ARGAT Yes. That's why we see different phases of the moon from the earth. It is in fact because the moon is turning and so are we so that's why we see a thin crescent, then a half, then three quarters then a full moon before we come back to the start.
- CEFLON Bloody hell. Who knew?
- ARGAT Well... I did obviously.
- SCRID But you've studied all that shit and what not.
- ARGAT Indeed. Which is why I'm Captain of this ship and you're the crew.
- CEFLON And all these other balls?
- ARGAT They're the other planets.
- CEFLON Others?
- ARGAT Yes, we're just one of eight other planets.
- CEFLON Get out of here!
- ARGAT I kid you not, Sir.
- SCRID Do you reckon there's life form living on the others like ours?
- ARGAT I'd be surprised if there wasn't.
- CEFLON Cor, imagine it. I wonder what they're thinking of right now?
- ARGAT Probably the same as you Ceflon. How am I going to spend my day? What is the meaning of life? What's for supper? Those sort of mind numbing questions that lead us nowhere fast.
- SCRID So what else does your machine do?
- ARGAT Well it shows all the relative positions of the planets in the solar system in relation to the sun and the moon. It automatically calculates the date each month by the means of this pointer here, and that in turn illustrates the phases of the moon on this dial here.

CEFLON It's thrilling to say you were here when a machine was made that can automatically predict and calculate the phases of the moon in the night sky before they've even happened yet.

ARGAT We live in a technological revolution and an age of enlightenment in terms of man's understanding of the world he lives in.

SCRID Can we see it working?

ARGAT Of course. Here we go.

 ARGAT TURNS THE LEVER. ALL THE PLANETS SLOWLY REVOLVE.

CEFLON I can see a day not too far ahead in the future when man has managed to harness all the elements and resources at his disposal and used his sheer will power to increase industry on a grand scale to exploit the earth for all its natural gains to make this the greatest planet in the universe.

ARGAT Yes. That's what worries me.

SCRID I think it's going to be incredible.

CEFLON We have much to learn. All this is going to change everything.

ARGAT Just remember as long as these planets keep working in their orbits as they always have then everything will be naturally balanced. But if man goes out of his way to upset the natural order of things then things will go awry.

CEFLON You know you're problem?

ARGAT Do enlighten me, Ceflon?

CEFLON You worry too much. And let's face it, we're only on this earth such a short time, what possible difference can man make to the future of the natural world in his lifetime?

ARGAT I dread to think, my friend. I dread to think.

BLACKOUT