

LIFE AS A
PET EARTHLING

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Based on
Understanding Your Pet Earthling
by David Hundsness

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*{{This is the annotated edition with literary analysis.
See the regular version at petearthling.com/movie }}*

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FADE IN**1 INT. HOUSE - MORNING****1**

ROLO is a middle-aged man, fat and balding. He is sleeping in a round bed in pajamas. He slowly stirs, stretches, yawns, stands up, and puts on his slippers.

He trundles toward a counter. We don't see much of the room.

We hear ZIRA but do not see her. We can't place her age yet, but she sounds chipper.

ZIRA (O.S.)
Well look who's awake! G'morning,
Rolo!

ROLO
(yawns) G'morning, Zira.

ZIRA (O.S.)
Are you ready for breakfast.

ROLO
Um, yeah, sure.

He climbs onto a stool at the counter, and pulls a large bowl and weird spoon in front of him, then leans his cheek on his hand. As Zira talks we hear kitchen noises and eventually a can opener.

ZIRA (O.S.)
Oh, it was so cute. Your legs were twitching in your sleep again. I think you were having a dream. Hey, after I come home this afternoon, do you think it would be fun to go out and catch up with Yoola and Fabli? I think it's been like a week since you've seen them.

We see a can at the top of the screen with a cylinder of gray-brown goop slowly emerging with a slobbery suction sound. Rolo's eyes follow it. Then it stops. Then the can shakes up and down with rhythmic slurp sounds as the goop lowers a little more, then it free-falls into his bowl with a splat. Rolo looks at it, unmoving. Then we hear another slurp and a smaller glop falls on top.

ZIRA (O.S.)
There you go. I made it myself!
(laughs) Enjoy!

Rolo inhales through his nose to brace himself, picks up his spoon, and starts scooping small bites into his mouth.

We hear Zira pull out a large chair, sit and start eating something crunchy like bacon. Rolo sniffs and looks upward.

ROLO

Mmm, what are you eating? Can I have some?!

ZIRA (O.S.)

(half stern)

Roloooo...

ROLO

(with begging eyes)

Pleeeeeeease?

ZIRA (O.S.)

You know you can't digest antimatter. Remember what happened last time?

ROLO

Oh yeah.

Now we see ZIRA from Rolo's POV. She is an alien girl, like age 10, but 14 feet tall, green, and cute. She is a Blorxian on planet Blorx, at home sitting at a breakfast table. Everything in this world is too big for humans.

ZIRA

Aww, wook at doze sad eyes. I can't say no to you. Here, this is safe for you.

Now from her level, we see Rolo sitting at a portable mini counter on the floor -- a pet feeding station for earthlings. Zira reaches out with a spoon of some glowing jam and drops a dollop in his bowl.

He smiles at her and starts eating it, getting some on his face.

ZIRA (O.S.)

There you go, you good boy!

{{Mystery reveal of premise, ~2 min...although most viewers would already know the premise from the marketing.}}

Photos posted on an alien refrigerator. In chronological order we see Rolo and Zira growing up together, but at different rates: Rolo ages from 4 to 44 while Zira ages from 6 to 10.

{{Showing the lifelong bond in just 80 seconds, very relatable, plus jokes that don't fit elsewhere.}}

PET SHOP - 6-year-old Zira excitedly picks out out 4-year-old Rolo from a pen of several earthling children.

HUG - With a beaming smile, Zira hugs young Rolo tightly.

HORSEY - Young Rolo is riding Zira's back like a horsey.

POTTY TRAINING - Young Rolo looks guilty, standing next to his poop on the floor. Zira scolds him with a rolled up newspaper.

BABY YODA - Zira wears a Mandalorian costume for Halloween, holding young Rolo in a baby Yoda costume.

MUD PUDDLE - Young Rolo gleefully rolls in a mud puddle.

BATH - Glum young Rolo sits in bath tub as Zira sprays water on him.

GROWTH CHART - Zira is getting her height penciled on the wall corner by her parent's hand. Young Rolo stands in front of his own height markings.

STALK PREY - Teen Rolo pounces out from under a bush to attack a cute alien mouse walking by.

GIFT KILL - The alien mouse is dead on the ground in front of Zira's feet. Rolo is proudly offering it to her, like a cat.

LEASH WALK - Teen Rolo walks down the sidewalk with a big smile and a peppy step, wearing a leash harness, with Zira's legs walking behind.

TANGLED LEASH - Teen Rolo is tangled up in his leash around a sign post and Zira's legs.

BICYCLE RIDE - Zira rides her bike with teen Rolo riding in the front basket, excited with his fists in the air.

In the following Rolo gradually gets fatter and balding:

{{Now showing pet life is not all rosy.}}

TABLE SCRAPS - Under a dining table, we see many alien legs, and Zira's hand giving Rolo some food.

VACUUM CLEANER - Rolo runs away in terror from a humongous, dangerous-looking alien vacuum cleaner.

NAILS TRIMMED - Rolo relaxes on Zira's lap, in a robe, with cucumbers on his eyes, as Zira's hand clips his toenails.

CHASE - Rolo runs away terrified from Zira who is gleefully chasing him with an alien cat toy. From his level she looks huge.

BELLY RUB - Zira rubs Rolo's fat belly with her finger, making a silly face too close to him. He is uncomfortable.

DOLLY DRESS - Zira has put Rolo in a ridiculous alien dolly dress. He is annoyed, but limp and resigned.

TEA TALK - Zira and Rolo are drinking tea and talking happily. Rolo is slouched in a child's chair too big for him.

END SERIES

3 INT. HOUSE - AFTERNOON

3

Rolo is lying on his back on the carpet in a sunny spot in the family room, staring up, lazily tossing a large unraveling ball of yarn from hand to hand. The house is silent except for a clock ticking.

QUIGGLES is sleeping on a cat condo over a beanbag seat, mouth wide open, tongue hanging out, drooling. He is Rolo's pet, an alien animal about 2 feet tall, 1 eye, 2 arms, 3 legs.

Rolo fumbles the yarn and it rolls a few feet away. He looks briefly, then without getting up tries to get the ball back by slowly pulling the tail of yarn. This only makes it roll in place. He tries pulling faster; same result. He tries a sudden yank; the yarn ball hops up spinning, then rolls farther away. He stretches his arm out, but it's too far. He gives up, takes a long breath and exhales a long phhhhhhhhh.

He looks at the wall clock. Instead of numbers it has strange math-like symbols, and multiple dials and many hands moving in different directions.

We hear a key unlocking the front door. Rolo struggles to sit up quickly and looks in that direction, then stands up and walks eagerly to the front door.

Zira enters the front door and Rolo comes to her with his arms open.

ROLO

Heyyyy! You're finally home!

ZIRA
Hey Rolo Polo! Have you been a good
boy? Have you?

ROLO
Um, yeah, I guess so.

Zira picks him up and squeezes him too tight.

ROLO (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Ouch, too tight!

Rolo tries slipping out of her grip, but she won't let him
escape.

*{{Hugs are a motif. This hug shows Zira's clinginess, which
contrasts with the hug montage at the end.}}*

ZIRA
Who's a good boy? Who's a good boy?

ROLO
Haven't we already addressed that
question?

ZIRA
Oh, you're just...so...cute!

She kisses him on the cheek, smashing his face into hers. He
wipes off her saliva as she carries him into the family room.

ZIRA (CONT'D)
It's time for take off. Ready?

ROLO
(to himself)
Not this again.

ZIRA
3, 2, 1, weeeeeeee!

{{Bookends: there is a rocket launch at the end.}}

Zira swings him back and forth, then tosses him across the
room onto the giant alien beanbag seat. Rolo groans and looks
terrified. He lands facedown on the beanbag with a groan.

ZIRA (CONT'D)
Wasn't that fun?

Still face down, muffled so she can't hear him:

ROLO
(muffled)

No.

{{Zira means well but lacks empathy. Like many kids, she plays too rough and is unaware of Rolo's discomfort. And Rolo just bears it, hinting but not really standing up for himself. For Rolo the scene jumps from too quiet to too chaotic, no "just right".}}

RIFFA enters the front door. She is Zira's older sister, like age 16, in an adolescent phase of aloofness, and stylish. She walks by the family room toward the hall, looking at her phone the whole time.

ZIRA (CONT'D)
Hey, Riffa, watch Rolo fly again!

Zira approaches Rolo as he struggles to climb out of the beanbag unsuccessfully.

Riffa continues walking, giving Zira a snarky side-eye then looking back at her phone, and disappears into the hallway.

Dejected, Zira slumps into the sofa.

{{First of many times Zira will try to engage Riffa and be rejected.}}

On the cat condo, Quiggles wakes up. He sees Rolo in the beanbag below, so he stands at the edge of the cat condo like a competitive diver, and does a fancy trick dive into beanbag.

Rolo sees Quiggles diving toward him with his three-cheek butt about to land on his face.

ROLO
Quiggles!

Rolo rolls away, and Quiggles lands near his face. Zira laughs. Quiggles licks Rolo on the face and mouth:

ROLO (CONT'D)
Oh! --tphphp-- okay --tphphp--
that's enough, Quiggles --tphphp--
that's enou--tphphp.

Quiggles suddenly looks off in the distance and freezes like he heard something, then hops to the ground and very casually walks out of the room like an aloof cat.

ZIRA
C'mere Rolo Polo, up, up, up.

Zira pats the sofa cushion.

ROLO
(stalling)
Wait, gimme a sec.

Riffa reenters from the hallway, holding a sweater.

RIFFA
(to Zira)
Hey, squid squirt! Was Rolo sleeping
on my bed again?!

ROLO
I can hear you, you know.

RIFFA
Well, were you?

ROLO
Mmmaybee?

ZIRA
Rolo, why didn't you sleep in your
own bed?

ROLO
When, for like every nap? What's the
fun in that? I need variety, keep
things fresh!

Rolo snaps alternating fingers. Riffa holds up the sweater
with a sock stuck to it by static.

RIFFA
Look, he's been laying on my clothes
and shedding his electrons all over
my sweater!

ZIRA
Oh, you're sooo dramatic! Oh hey, do
you wanna play Blorgon Pong with me?

RIFFA
What? Ew, no!

Riffa goes back into the hall. Zira is dejected again.

RIFFA (O.S.)
And tell Rolo to stay out of my
room!

ROLO
I can still hear you!

ZIRA
Hey Riffa? ... Riffa!

RIFFA (O.S.)
What?!

ZIRA
Rolo has an appointment at the
V.E.T.

ROLO
I can spell, you know.

*{{They keep underestimating Rolo, as all Blorxians
underestimate all earthlings.}}*

RIFFA (O.S.)
So?

ZIRA
So you need to come with us. You're
supposed to be the responsible one
while Mom and Dad are away,
remember? ... Riffa? ... Riffa!

Riffa reenters, looking at her phone, trudging toward the
front door.

RIFFA
(resentfully)
Fine.

ZIRA
Then I wanna go to the earthling
park after.

RIFFA
Whatever.

ZIRA
Wait, I'm looking for Rolo's leash.

RIFFA
(sighs) Hurry up, squid squirt.

Zira grabs a leash and her backpack.

ZIRA
Found it. Come on, Rolo Polo!

Rolo follows Zira toward the front door.

ROLO
Come on, Quiggles!

Quiggles gallops up to Rolo and jumps on his back, riding piggy back. They all exit the front door.

{{Family life is chaotic. The next lobby scene flips again from too chaotic to too dull.}}

4 INT. VETERINARY LOBBY - LATER

4

Zira and Riffa are sitting in an alien lobby. We hear background muzak (same song as karaoke scene later) and the buzz of florescent lights. The walls have stylized paintings of adorable earthling pets.

Riffa is looking at her phone. Rolo is sitting on Zira's lap, and Quiggles is sprawled out on Rolo's legs. Another Blorxian is holding their earthling, and another has their earthling in a pet carrier. The earthlings give each other tentative looks. After what feels like an eternity, we hear a door open.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

Zira and Rolo? Doctor Zorxablorg
will see you now.

5 INT. EXAM ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

5

A large alien veterinary exam room. Rolo sits shirtless on the exam table. Zira and Riffa stand nearby. In the background, Quiggles is walking around the counter looking at, sniffing, and licking the medical equipment.

Dr. ZORXABLORG wears a white lab coat, examining Rolo. He is looking in Rolo's ears with an alien otoscope.

{{This scene reinforces that humans are treated like children, not autonomous.}}

ZORXABLORG

How's his diet been?

ZIRA

Good.

RIFFA

She gives him table scraps.

Zira shoots a look at Riffa.

ZIRA

No, only on special occasions.

RIFFA

Like, every dinner?

ZORXABLORG

Let's try to keep a limit on that,
okay? He's getting pretty heavy.

Rolo sighs with humiliation.

ZORXABLORG

Is he having regular bowel
movements? Good consistency?

Rolo drops his face into his hand.

ZIRA

Um, yeah.

Zorxablorg examines Rolo's belly, pressing on it in different
places. Rolo giggles with ticklishness. Then he farts.

ROLO

That was his fault! He made me do
it!

Zorxablorg gets a needle from the counter, then he tucks Rolo
into his arm to hold him still.

ZORXABLORG

Now we just need to give him his
shot to prevent bowel worms.

ROLO

No, no! I don't have bowel worms!

ZORXABLORG

(chuckles) Exactly, because of these
shots.

ZIRA

Rolo, be goood.

He injects Rolo in the arm as Rolo groans through gritted
teeth. Zorxablorg releases him and puts away the needle. Rolo
rubs his arm.

ZORXABLORG

Rolo, you're all done! You've been a
very good patient. Do you want a
treat?

Zorxablorg holds out a treat. Rolo stares at him with
resentment for a beat, then grabs it.

{{Food is an ongoing motif.}}

ROLO

Yes.

ZIRA

Good job, Rolo! I'm so proud of you!
Now guess what? We get to go to the
earthling park!

6 EXT. SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON - LATER

6

They are all walking down a suburban sidewalk. Rolo is finishing the last of the treat from the vet. Zira is holding Rolo's leash attached to his harness. Rolo is holding Quiggle's leash attached to his collar.

{{Stacking: her pet has a pet.}}

Zira is rambling to Riffa, who is behind her, ignoring her, looking at her phone.

ZIRA

So then we were making these dioramas for quantum tunneling, and Mrs. Glaxoblat said we could decorate it with dark matter if we wanted, but I ran out because I used all mine yesterday on my report cover for antiquarks -- oh, I got an A on that! Anyway, I had neutrino glitter and plasma glue but I didn't have any more dark matter so I asked her if I could borrow some and she said...

{{This shows how smart aliens are, which explains why humans are not equals. Also 3rd time Zira fails to engage Riffa.}}

While Zira is rambling, in the trees over the sidewalk we see alien squirrels scampering about the branches. One tosses an acorn on Rolo's head. Rolo wipes his head. Another one tosses another acorn. Rolo looks up.

ROLO

Hey!

Several squirrels with evil grins toss acorns on him.

ROLO

Hey! Stop that!

Quiggles looks up and growls at the squirrels.

ZIRA

Rolo, stop yelling.

They toss another acorn. Rolo stops walking. Quiggles barks, straining on his leash to chase them.

ROLO
(to the squirrels)
Stop that! Stop!

Zira pulls on Rolo's leash.

ZIRA
Rolo, shush. Now come on.

Zira looks up. All the squirrels suddenly fluff up their tails, enlarge their eyes, and start nibbling on acorns, looking way too cute.

ROLO
But they're [throwing things
at me] --

ZIRA
Leave the poor little squirlers
alone. They're harmless.

Zira looks away, and all the squirrels revert back to evil. One tosses one more acorn and they all give him an evil eye.

Rolo grunts and resumes walking, keeping a cautious eye on them. Quiggles does the "I'm watching you" hand gesture.

Outside the earthling park they pass by an animal-rights group with a table set up, with signs like "Earthlings are Not Property", "Earthlings Have Rights Too", "End Speciesism", "End Abductions Now", "Ban Anal Probes". Rolo looks at them as they pass by.

{{Rolo's path steps up from boredom to curiosity.}}

ROLO
Hey Zira? Where do earthlings come
from?

ZIRA
Oh. Well, uh. When a mommy earthling
and a daddy earthling love each
other very much --

ROLO
No, no, no, no! I mean where were
all earthlings from originally? Like
Blorfrica? Blorntarctica?

{{Dramatic irony: audience learns they don't know Earth is a different planet.}}

ZIRA

Oh, I never thought of that. Lemme see.

Zira concentrates and her brain-chip starts flashing and glowing more. She looks perplexed, then taps her brain-chip.

ZIRA

Hmm. That's weird.

ROLO

What's the matter?

ZIRA

I'm trying to find out, but there are no answers.

ROLO

Nothing?

ZIRA

Nothing. I'm searching online all over the nebula, but there's nothing at all.

ROLO

Huh. Is your chip broken?

ZIRA

No, everything else is fine, just no results for where earthlings come from. That's really strange.

ROLO

Hm.

{{Set up a mystery element}}

7 EXT. EARTHLING PARK - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

7

Like a dog park, but for earthlings, in a suburban neighborhood. We see many aliens and earthlings, some running and playing. The park has an agility course (like a dog show) with a few earthlings running through it. A seeing-eye guide earthling is leading a blind alien.

Riffa leans against a lamppost, still looking at her phone.

ZIRA

-- His hands are out to catch it, but he's looking at something to the side. It flies by him.

-- He watches it fly too high over his head.

END SERIES

ZIRA (O.S.)
Oops! Too high!

Rolo walks to the blizbee where it landed by a tree near his earthling friends nearby.

YOOLA is a short, lively, charismatic woman, late 30s.

SMUFFINS is a large, intimidating looking man, but a gentle giant, late 30s. He is wearing a large pink bow in his hair.

YOOLA
Oh hey, Rolo!

ROLO
Hey Yoola!
(trying to be funny)
Hoola Yoola. Uvula Yoola.

YOOLA
(playing along)
Uvula?!

ROLO
Sorry, never mind.

They give a big hug.

SMUFFINS
Rolo, what up, dawg?

ROLO
Hey Smuffins, the muffin man!

SMUFFINS
Alright, that works.

They do that hand-grip-shoulder-hug.

YOOLA
Is that a new harness?

ROLO
Yeah, Zira and I want to the pet store yesterday.

YOOLA

Looks good. Do you like it?

ROLO

Well, I would have preferred the blue one.

YOOLA

Why didn't you get it?

ROLO

I dunno. She really liked this one.

SMUFFINS

Yo man, you just gotta tell her what you want.

ROLO

This advice coming from a guy with a big pink bow?

SMUFFINS

I pick my battles. Besides, I kinda like it, and it makes my girl happy. She's good to me.

Smuffins nods at his alien girl owner in the distance. She waves at him enthusiastically.

Zira jogs up. She pats Yoola and Smuffins on the head and talks to them in a sugary voice.

ZIRA

Well hello there, earthies! Found your friend, huh?
Rolo, need to go potty?

ROLO

(embarrassed)

No.

ZIRA

Okay, well I'm going to go to the restroom for just a sec.

Zira attaches Rolo's leash and ties it to a tree.

ZIRA (CONT'D)

Have fun with your little friends.
Be good.

She leaves.

YOOLA

(chuckles) You have such a cute
owner.

FABLI (*fobbly*) struts to them. He is a show earthling, a fine specimen of an earthling man in his prime, very poised with long shiny hair, and a high-brow foreign accent.

YOOLA
Yo, Fabli!

ROLO
Hey, Fabli. Bobbly...nobbly...

YOOLA
(teasing Rolo)
Just...don't.

Yoola gives Fabli a hug.

FABLI
Hey, careful of the hair! I've got a
big show tomorrow.

Smuffins and Fabli bump fists.

YOOLA
Which show is that again?

FABLI
The Blorxminster Kennel Club.

YOOLA
Oh yeah.

ROLO
(concurrently)
Wow, cool.

FABLI
Yeah, I think I've got a good shot
at Best in Show this year.

YOOLA
Well, I hope you win!

FABLI
Thank you, Yoola.

ROLO
So how have you been? What have you
been up to?

YOOLA

Let's see. On Blendsday we went on a walk. And on Blursday we went on a walk. Then on Bliday we went on a walk. Oh and I switched to a new food, which is pretty interesting. So it's been a pretty good week so far!

ROLO
(just being polite)
Nice.

Quiggles has plucked a large flower, eating the petals like food on a stick, leaning on a tree watching them talk.

SMUFFINS
And I got a new toy for my birthday. It's one of those hover drones that shoots laser pointers. It's pretty cool.

YOOLA
I dunno about that. It looks dangerous to me. I don't like going near that thing.

SMUFFINS
(smirking)
You jus' jealous.

YOOLA
Ha! You just wish you had my automatic ball launcher!

SMUFFINS
Oh please. That thing's not even close! No contest.

YOOLA
How about you, Fabli, what have you been up to?

FABLI
Did some training, getting my agility times down for the show. Got my hair groomed and conditioned. And my owners arranged for me to spend some time on a stud farm next week.

He gives a sniff of pride. They awkwardly nod with approval.

SMUFFINS
Uhh.

YOOLA

Sooo, what about you, Rolo?

ROLO

No one's ever taken me to a stud farm.

YOOLA

No, I mean what's new?

ROLO

Oh, same ol'. Naps, snacks, the usual. I guess I shouldn't complain. But, uh, can I ask you guys something? Like, don't you ever wonder if maybe there's something more?

{{Rolo's path steps up from curiosity to wanting.}}

YOOLA

More what?

ROLO

Like, like more we should be doing?

SMUFFINS

Like...car rides?

ROLO

No, I mean, I dunno, more than just being pampered and entertained?

YOOLA

What's wrong with that?

ROLO

Nothing.

FABLI

Are you on any new medications?

SMUFFINS

What else is there, buddy? We're safe, we're healthy, we're well fed, and we get cool toys, and we can chill all day. Nothing else we need, right?

YOOLA

What's the matter, Rolo. Are you having a mid-life crisis?

{{Yes, it is a mid-life crisis. His whole life has been just to please and be pleased. Now he's having an existential dilemma.}}

ROLO

Don't you ever wonder where we came from?

FABLI

I came from a championship breeder.

ROLO

No, before that, like some place earthlings lived in the wild, where we ran around hunting and taking care of ourselves?

YOOLA

Like those packs of stray street earthlings? Outside?! Ugh.

SMUFFINS

You don't hunt!

ROLO

Well, no. Bad example. But maybe I would if I had the choice.

{{Foreshadow: later Rolo is impressed with Zeffro's hunting.}}

FABLI

You could go into competitions.
(gestures to his body)
Well, not you.

ROLO

(sarcastically)
Gee, thanks!

SMUFFINS

Dawg, I don't know what you worrying about. Life has always been this good. We got it made! You should be happy with what you got.

{{Smuffins is Rolo's foil. His complacency contrasts with Rolo's growing drive.}}

ROLO

I know I should --

Rolo has unbuckled his harness to scratch an itch.

Two Animal Control robots roll up. They are about the size of adult Blorxians: T-L1 is short and squat, T-D3 is tall and thin. They are painted with insignias for Animal Control Force in a military style, with ID plaques.

{{The dog catcher is the stock bad guy in countless cartoons. Since aliens are antagonists in almost all movies, for originality I wanted the aliens to be allies, so I made these antagonists robots. T-L1=Twweedledum, T-D3=Twweedledee}}

T-L1
 (menacingly to Rolo)
 Civil code 473.7 requires all
 earthlings to wear a harness or
 collar at all times in public.

T-D3
 (to all)
 Identify your owners now.

Yoola, Smuffins, and Fabli point to their owners. (Yoola and Smuffins have the same owner.) Rolo looks around for Zira. T-D3 prods him.

T-D3
 Where is your owner, earthling?

ROLO
 (nervously)
 Um, I don't see her --

T-L1
 Civil code 314.9 requires earthlings
 to be under direct supervision of
 their owners or wranglers at all
 times in public.

T-D3
 Show me your identification tag,
 earthling.

Rolo nervously digs in his pockets and pulls out a photo ID. T-D3 scans it.

T-D3
 Scanned. Accessing records...
 Your license is expired. Your owner
 needed to renew this on Bleptember
 40th.

ROLO
 I thought she took care of that.

T-D3

And your veterinary records show you were never neutered.

ROLO
Neutered!

T-L1
Civil code 518.1 requires all mature earthlings without breeding permits to be neutered.

T-D3
That is a class 2 violation. We are going to take you in now.

T-L1 opens a hatch in its body to contain Rolo. It reaches to grab Rolo.

Quiggles pushes Rolo away and kicks dirt behind him into the Bot's hatch (the way dogs kick dirt after pooping).

{{Quiggles is an enabler (in the positive sense). Rolo is usually compliant, so he wouldn't have run away if Quiggles didn't start this fight.}}

Rolo removes his harness and runs away. The Bots chase Rolo as he leads them in a circle around the tree.

SMUFFINS
Yo Rolo dawg, I got your back!

Smuffins grabs Rolo's harness, still leashed to a tree, and hooks it onto one of the Bots.

Yoola takes her leash out of her pocket and ties the two Bots together. Then she ducks behind a bush.

Fabli stands back and watches.

Quiggles jumps on the Bots, opens their panels, and cross-wires their cables.

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles run away, dodging the crowd of other earthlings and Blorxians.

The Bots cut the leashes and pursue clumsily, disoriented by the cross-wiring. They stop and correct their cables.

Quiggles throws the blizbee and other earthlings' toys at the Bots, obscuring their vision and tripping them.

ROLO
Where's Zira? Do you see her?

SMUFFINS

No. Where we running?

From a long distance Zira sees Rolo running away and the Bots pursuing.

ZIRA

Rolo!

Rolo doesn't hear her. He and Smuffins are running out of the park. Zira runs toward Riffa.

ZIRA (CONT'D)

Riffa, we have to catch Rolo!

Riffa briefly looks up from her phone, sighs, and looks back down.

Quiggles leaps up and snatches Riffa's phone, and runs after Rolo and Smuffins.

{{Again Quiggles gets people where they need to be, knowingly or not. Riffa never would have gone on this journey if Quiggles didn't drag her in.}}

RIFFA

Quiggles! Give me back my phone!

Riffa and Zira chase after Quiggles. Quiggles runs past the Bots.

Rolo and Smuffins see a SUBWAY station just outside the park.

ROLO

Here. In here!

Rolo and Smuffins run into the subway station, followed by Quiggles, then the Bots, then Riffa and Zira.

8 INT. SUBWAY STATION - CONTINUOUS

8

Alien version of a subway station, but instead of trains, a wormhole opens every few minutes. Over the platform a sign shows a countdown like "Next wormhole in 77...76...75..."

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles run into a wormhole, followed by T-D3.

The wormhole closes just before T-L1 can enter, so it finds a different wormhole and jumps in.

Riffa and Zira catch up. They jump into a third wormhole.

9 INT. WORMHOLE - CONTINUOUS**9**

Inside the wormhole it looks like a tube of light, with graffiti that looks like crop circles. Seats float on both sides, arranged like a subway car. A floating sign shows what the next exit is, then the tube forks and individual seat-pairs and their passenger move onto that fork. Likewise other seat-pairs and passengers merge where wormholes join. (Basically like entering/exiting a highway, but seat-pairs instead of cars.) The exits have very similar confusing names, like "Blorzinton Station", "Bluxian", "Blazian", "Blorian", etc.

{{Anachronism: subway}}

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles quickly take a seat. T-D3 comes up the aisle behind them.

SMUFFINS
Quick, exit here!

They branch onto the next wormhole, and T-D3 follows.

SMUFFINS (CONT'D)
It followed us!

They branch again and the Bot follows. They quickly take the next branch and lose the Bot.

ROLO
Wait, where are we?

They try to read the signs but they are too fast and confusing. They take the next branch.

SMUFFINS
I dunno. Was that Bluxian? Blazian?
Blorian?

T-L1 merges behind them. They shout and take the next exit, losing the Bot.

But in the new wormhole they see T-D3 is waiting ahead of them. So they quickly take another exit.

Zira and Riffa merge; their seat is now across the aisle.

ZIRA
Rolo, there you are!

T-L1 merges. They shout and take two different exits. The Bot takes a third exit. (The camera stays behind on this wormhole which is now empty.)

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles reenter, but upside down.

T-D3 enters (upside up).

Rolo & co. exit. As T-D3 tries to follow, T-L1 enters upside down and they crash into each other. Then each Bot takes a separate exit.

Zira and Riffa enter. Then they exit.

Both bots reenter from different directions, look at each other, turn around and exit.

Rolo & co. enter. Then Zira and Riffa enter.

SUBWAY STATION - In another station, we see a wormhole open and all five run out, pursued by T-L1 and T-D3. They run across the platform into another wormhole that was already open. It closes behind them, so each Bot jumps in a different wormhole.

We see a MAP of the Blorxian Subway -- a 3D globe with wormholes criss-crossing it, not across the surface but straight through the planet. A glowing dot shows the location of the party bouncing randomly all over the planet, even to the moon and back. Like a mall map, it says "You Are Here" with the arrow following the moving dot.

Back in a WORMHOLE we see all five. They take an exit (camera follows). Then they crash through a series of barricades and caution tape that says, "Under Construction", "Do Not Enter", "Wormhole Closed", "Wormhole Ends", "Caution". Their seats screech to a halt before the broken end of the wormhole, through which we see a cavern with molten lava below. A caution sign reads "Planet Core is Hot!" with a graphic of a figure burning in lava. They back their seats away from the danger in reverse.

They merge onto a different line, still moving backwards. The Bots speed forward past them in the aisle, then turn around. But each party takes a different exit. The Bots stay behind and just wait.

Then both parties enter, and the Bots charge them. The parties take separate exits with each Bot pursuing.

Then both Bots enter, followed by both parties pursuing. The Bots turn around and charge them.

Quiggles tosses two banana peels in the aisle. The Bots stop before the banana peels, which then leap up hissing with teeth out and stick to the Bots' faces, giving them electric shocks. The Bots scramble to get the banana leeches off.

The camera follows both parties as they take the next branch together, leaving the Bots behind. It seems safe for a moment.

Then TD-3 enters in front and TL-1 enters from behind, and they close in. The camera follows Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles as they quickly exit. They watch cautiously as it seems safe.

 ROLO
I think we lost them.

 SMUFFINS
Where's Zira? You think they're
okay?

 ROLO
I really hope so.

Quiggle chuckles, looking at Riffa's phone (which is huge for him). Rolo looks at it. Quiggles has posted a selfie making a funny face next to Rolo looking scared with a Bot behind them.

 ROLO (CONT'D)
Very funny, Quiggles.

Rolo takes the phone and puts it in his pocket.

10 EXT. OLD BLORGTON - AFTERNOON - MOMENTS LATER

10

An old run-down part of town, sparsely populated, with graffiti on buildings like crop circles and broken windows. It feels neglected and dangerous.

A wormhole opens over the sidewalk, like a bus stop. Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles hop out of the wormhole, then it closes. They rush into a nearby alley and look to see if the Bots will pop out of another wormhole.

 SMUFFINS
Where are we?

 ROLO
I have no idea.

Quiggles is curiously looking around and sniffing lampposts.

 SMUFFINS
It's so...trashy. Do you think Zira
will find us?

 ROLO

Uh oh, look, that was the last
wormhole today.

Where the wormhole was a sign is counting down, "Next
wormhole in 9426...".

ROLO (CONT'D)

There won't be another one until
tomorrow.

SMUFFINS

What?! How we gonna get home now?!

ROLO

Shhh, shh, shh!

A grungy alien rodent shuffles down the sidewalk. It growls
at them as it passes by. Quiggles growls back.

SMUFFINS

Okay, we can do this. We'll just
find our way home, right?

ROLO

Yeah.

(excitedly)

Or...what if we don't go home?

{{Rolo's path steps up from wanting to taking action.}}

SMUFFINS

What?!

ROLO

No, I mean, maybe we can find out
where earthlings come from, and then
we go home.

SMUFFINS

You crazy?

ROLO

Mmmaybee.

SMUFFINS

Our owners are gonna be so worried
about us!

ROLO

(sincerely)

Yeah, poor Zira.

SMUFFINS

I'm worried about us. And man,
dinner is in two hours!

ROLO

Okay, but it won't take long. C'mon,
when have we ever got to just walk
around and explore on our own? It's
kind of exciting, isn't it?

An alien garbage truck hovers down the street sputtering.

SMUFFINS

That's not the word I'd use.

11 EXT. OLD BLORGTON - SAME TIME

11

A few blocks way. A wormhole opens over the sidewalk. Zira
and Riffa hop out of the wormhole, then it closes. They look
around.

ZIRA

Do you see them?

RIFFA

No.

Riffa looks at the sign where the wormhole was, counting
down.

RIFFA (CONT'D)

Wait, that was the last wormhole
today! Ugh, thanks a lot, squid
squirt!

ZIRA

What are you mad at me for?

RIFFA

Because now we're stuck here because
of you and your stupid earthling!

ZIRA

It's not my fault! They were going
to take him away!

RIFFA

You're the one who forgot to renew
his license! And now his stupid pet
took my phone. Uggh!

ZIRA

C'mon, you need to help me find him!
He's lost, and probably so scared.

If we don't find him soon the bots
will catch him and take him away!

RIFFA
How is that my problem?

ZIRA
Why are you so mean? Please, Riffa,
we need to find him. Please.

RIFFA
Fine. We know they got off at one of
these wormhole stops, so they can't
be far.

ZIRA
Oh wait, I have an idea.

Zira takes a device from her backpack and presses a few
buttons, then points it at a lamppost. A holographic "LOST"
poster appears with Rolo's picture.

{{Anachronism: posters}}

They start walking down the sidewalk. Zira yells into an
alley:

ZIRA (CONT'D)
Rolo!!!

12 INT. COMMAND CENTER - LATER

12

The Animal Control Force Command Center looks like a high-
tech military operation: a large dark room with big monitors
and consoles everywhere, and a buzz of activity. Rolo's photo
is on one of the monitors. The entire staff are robots,
including Privates T-L1 and T-D3, a CORPORAL, SERGEANT,
LIEUTENANT, and many other bots. The COLONEL has an appendage
that resembles a cigar at the side of his mouth, and his head
is shaped like an army hat.

*{{Symbolism: The bots' excessive enforcement of strict rules
is like how kids feel about all the rules on them that they
want to get away from when they grow up.}}*

SUPERIMPOSE: Animal Control Force, Command Center

COLONEL
(to T-L1 & T-D3, angry)
Now do you two bolt buckets want to
tell me how you managed to lose an
unneutered mutt in a subway?!

CORPORAL

Colonel, we are getting reports of a possible match, a feral adult male shorthair and female longhair earthlings in Old Blorgton, heading east.

COLONEL

Sergeant, get me satellite surveillance on the eastern seaboard, sector B41.

SERGEANT

Yes sir.

COLONEL

Corporal, put the surveillance camera feeds onscreen for all blocks north of Bluxenblorg.

CORPORAL

Yes sir.

COLONEL

Lieutenant, scramble the 5th drone squadron. How long till they can intercept?

LIEUTENANT

Sir, the 5th drone squadron is already engaged in sector S95, for the hippo stampede, sir.

COLONEL

Then who do we have available?

LIEUTENANT

Sir, squadron 14 is available, base sector G51, sir.

COLONEL

G51? Well, that'll have to do. Get them airborne ASAP!

LIEUTENANT

Yes sir.

COLONEL

We need boots on the ground. Who have we got in that region?

SEARGENT

The 2nd platoon is ready in sector C15, sir.

COLONEL
2nd platoon? That the best we got?
What about the 7th platoon?

SEARGENT
They're deployed to the lemming
flood in E17.

COLONEL
7th platoon?

SEARGENT
Toilet gators.

COLONEL
1st platoon?

SEARGENT
Sharknado containment.

COLONEL
Okay, then, we'll have to settle for
the 2nd platoon. Deploy them.

SEARGENT
Yes sir.

COLONEL
(gloating)
I love the smell of silicon in the
morning.

13 EXT. OLD BLORGTON - LATER

13

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles are walking down a sidewalk.
Quiggles is curiously sniffing everything.

A Blorxian walking the opposite direction looks at them
suspiciously. They lower their heads and keep walking.

They approach a PET STORE.

ROLO
Hey Smuffins, look, a pet store!

SMUFFINS
So? You need something?

ROLO
They know about pets, so they'd
probably know where earthlings come
from, right?

SMUFFINS

Oh, alright.

Rolo reaches up and struggles to pull the door open. Smuffins reaches over and easily opens the door. They all slip inside.

14 INT. PET STORE - CONTINUOUS

14

Inside the pet store we hear various alien animal noises.

They cautiously stroll down the aisle of pets. Quiggles makes faces at the animals as they pass several enclosures of alien reptiles, birds, rodents, rabbits, cats, and then... earthlings.

In the first earthling enclosure a woman is sitting on a couch with a bowl of kibble, eating it like popcorn. She looks up and nods at Rolo.

PET WOMAN

Hey.

ROLO

Hey.

The next cage has a boy sleeping on a couch.

Rolo continues past them.

A CLERK approach them. He is young and nerdy, wearing a smock. He starts to reach down for Rolo and Smuffins.

{{I feel like the clerk needs a more colorful personality; I just haven't found it yet.}}

CLERK

Whoa, how did you two get out?

Rolo and Smuffins step back out of reach. Smuffins looks nervous.

ROLO

No, no, no. We're, uh, we're here with our owner. She just went over there.

He vaguely gestures toward the back of the shop.

CLERK

Oh, aren't you a cute one!

The clerk kneels and rubs Rolo's belly.

ROLO
Hey, can I ask you a question?

CLERK
You want to ask a question?

ROLO
(nervously)
Yeah, we were wondering, do you know where we came from? I mean earthlings. Where earthlings came from.

CLERK
Oh, I did my 3rd grade dissertation on this! We actually don't know where you're from. We just know you're not native.

ROLO
What do you mean?

CLERK
I mean you're not Blorxian. Earthlings have a completely different genetic structure, just a double helix.

ROLO
So we were engineered?

CLERK
No, I mean you all came from a different planet.

ROLO
Wait, what? You mean I'm...an alien?!

CLERK
Well, yeah, you all are.

ROLO
Whoa.

CLERK
Actually earthlings are considered an invasive species.

Rolo is stunned.

SMUFFINS
Ask him which planet.

ROLO
Which planet?

CLERK
Not even from our solar system. We
don't know where.

ROLO
Oh. Why doesn't anyone know?

CLERK
That's the mystery. There's just no
records. But maybe your owner can
find out at the science museum.
That's just a couple blocks that
way.

He stands and points in a different direction than they were
walking before. He looks around the store.

CLERK (CONT'D)
Where is your owner? You really
shouldn't be wandering around off
leash.

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles sneak off to another aisle while
the clerk is looking away. They hurry toward the door.

Quiggle's sees bags of pet treats on a display. He points at
them, jumping up and down excitedly. Rolo looks around, then
grabs a bag, and they dash out the front door.

15 EXT. OLD BLORGTON - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

15

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles dash out of the pet store.

SMUFFINS
So now you're stealing too? Aren't
we already in enough trouble?

ROLO
C'mon, this way!

Energized with determination, he trots across the street.
They follow.

{{Rolo's drive accelerates the more he learns.}}

SMUFFINS
Now where you going?

ROLO
To find that museum!

He opens the bag of pet treats, tosses one to Quiggles, and offers one to Smuffins.

ROLO (CONT'D)

Want one?

Smuffins squints indecisively, then grabs the treat and starts eating it. Rolo eats one too as they walk down the sidewalk.

Smuffins brushes against a dirty stoop. Annoyed, he tries to brush off the dirt.

SMIFFINS

Aw, man!

ROLO

So we're actually aliens? Isn't that weird? Like, "Take me to your leader."

Smuffins begrudgingly chuckles.

SMUFFINS

"We come in peace."

Quiggles impersonates an alien.

ROLO

"Resistance is futile."

They laugh.

ROLO (CONT'D)

What do you think our planet is like? Do you think earthlings are still there?

SMUFFINS

That would be weird. Like living in their own little houses, going to little schools, going on walks whenever they want, taking themselves on car rides.

ROLO

(chuckles) Yeah. That kinda sounds nice, actually.

SMUFFINS

Talking in some crazy alien language, probably running around naked and dirty, covered with

parasites, and hunted by wild animals.

ROLO

Hm.

16 EXT. OLD BLORGTON - CONTINUOUS

16

A block away, Zira and Riffa are walking, looking around.

ZIRA

Rolooo.

Zira points her device at a lamppost and posts another holographic Lost poster. She starts singing to the tune of "Do You Wanna Build a Snowman":

ZIRA (CONT'D)

"Do you wanna build a wormhole?
Folding space between the stars."
Sing with me.

Riffa shrugs her off. Zira circles around Riffa, tugging on her coat, trying to engage her.

ZIRA (CONT'D)

"We could link our quantum states,
particles or waves, a time that's
only ours?"

{{Zira's need is very similar to Anna's need of Elsa.}}

Zira points her device at Riffa and zaps a poster onto her chest, laughing. Riffa is annoyed.

RIFFA

Don't!

Zira skips around Riffa, zapping several more posters on her, laughing more. Riffa tears off some of them.

RIFFA (CONT'D)

Zira, stop it!

Zira zaps a poster onto Riffa's face. Riffa yanks it, but it tears in half, so we see the top half of Rolo's face in the photo with the bottom half of Riffa's face talking.

RIFFA (CONT'D)

Stop it!

Zira laughs. Riffa tears the rest of it off her face. Zira points the device at her again, but Riffa slaps away her

hand, knocking the device onto the sidewalk.

ZIRA
Ow, you hurt me!

Riffa tears off the rest of the posters. Zira holds her own hand, waiting for an apology.

ZIRA (CONT'D)
Well?

RIFFA
(sarcastically)
Sorry!

ZIRA
(dejected)
No you're not.

Zira picks up the device. Then she sees Rolo and Smuffins a block ahead. She points.

ZIRA (CONT'D)
There they are!
Rolo!

They run toward him. We see Riffa still has one poster on her back.

17 EXT. OLD BLORGTON - CONTINUOUS

17

Rolo sees Zira and Riffa running toward them from a block away.

ROLO
Uh oh, it's Zira.

Rolo starts running away, but Smuffins stands still.

SMUFFINS
Perfect! They can take us home!

ROLO
No, I don't wanna go home yet!

SMUFFINS
Rolo, c'mon. Think this through, man. Why's this so important?

ROLO
I just, I dunno, I just need to find out where we came from. And then we can go home, okay? Please?

{{"Home" has a double-meaning: his ancestral home, Earth.}}

SMUFFINS

(a beat)

I can't believe I'm doing this!

They run away, chased by Zira and Riffa, running down alleys, dodging dumpsters and debris. Quiggles does parkour stunts. They turn onto a street and run inside an abandoned WAREHOUSE and hide.

Zira and Riffa run past.

ZIRA

Rolo! Rolo!

(frustrated)

Where did they go?! Do you see them?

Riffa shrugs no. They continue walking away from the warehouse.

18 INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

18

The abandoned warehouse is mostly empty, dirty and dilapidated, with graffiti that looks like crop circles, broken windows, and missing doors. There is a small pile of palettes against a column. But it is calm and serene, with sunbeams shining through the windows in the dusty air. Rolo peeks outside.

ROLO

(panting)

Okay, they're gone.

SMUFFINS

(panting)

I've never run so much my whole life!

Smuffins sits on the palettes. Quiggles joins him and sprawls out.

SMUFFINS (CONT'D)

You have any more of those snacks?

Rolo tosses him the bag of treats, but Quiggles' tongue shoots out and intercepts it. He pulls a treat out, pops it in his mouth, and tosses the bag to Smuffins.

SMUFFINS (CONT'D)

Let's just rest here a bit, 'kay?

ROLO

Okay. I'll try to see where the museum is.

Rolo walks to a back doorway and slowly steps out.

19 EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

19

The alley behind the warehouse, with dumpsters, garbage, boxes, and a curled up old mattress. Rolo cautiously steps out the doorway. He goes a little distance down the alley to look for the museum.

Suddenly we hear the gruff male earthling voice of ZEFFRO:

ZEFFRO (O.S.)
Freeze! Don't...move...a muscle.

Rolo freezes, frightened the unseen man will attack him.

Then we see behind Rolo several monstrous carnivorous alien RODENTS, sightless, sniffing and listing, slowly closing in on him.

Suddenly one lunges toward Rolo, teeth out. But it is struck by an arrow and falls to the side.

ZEFFRO (O.S.)
Run!

Rolo sees the rodents behind him and runs down the alley.

Now we see Zeffro running and jumping across dumpsters and boxes behind Rolo, shooting rodents with a makeshift bow. His hair and beard are long, messy, and streaked grey. His clothes are dirty and tattered. He's a stray street earthling, a survivalist of the urban jungle.

Zeffro passes Rolo, climbs up a dumpster, and reaches down to Rolo.

ZEFFRO
Here!

Rolo grabs his hand as Zeffro helps him up. Then Zeffro pushes Rolo up a fire escape ladder.

ZEFFRO (CONT'D)
Climb!

Zeffro shoots more rodents that are climbing the dumpster.

ZEFFRO (CONT'D)

Faster!

Zeffro follows Rolo up the ladder, and they run up the fire escape steps and ladders. Rodents pursue as Zeffro shoots more of them.

20 EXT. WAREHOUSE ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

20

Rolo reaches the top of the ladder and steps onto the roof of the warehouse, winded. Nothing happens for a while, so he peers over the top of the ladder.

A rodent pops up! Rolo jumps back. Then he sees it's actually dead.

ZEFFRO (O.S.)
(straining)
Here, grab this.

Rolo hesitates. We see Zeffro beneath the rodent's heavy body, pushing it up the ladder.

ZEFFRO
Come on! It's not going to bite
you...anymore.

Rolo cautiously grabs the rodent's front claw with disgust and drags it onto the roof with much effort. Zeffro climbs onto the roof.

ZEFFRO
This way.

Zeffro grabs the tail and easily drags it across the roof. Rolo follows.

Several yards away they arrive at an open lean-to -- a roof made of scrap materials supported by poles, up against a wall. It looks like a bar, with a counter, upside-down buckets as stools, and shelves on the back wall. Somehow it has an exotic, romantic quality, with a beautiful view of the sky and city.

Zeffro stands behind the counter and heaves the rodent onto the counter.

ZEFFRO
You hungry?

ROLO
(disgusted)
Uhhh.

Zeffro lifts an oversize cleaver and starts butchering the carcass. Rolo gags and turns away.

ROLO

Oh! Ugh. What are you doing?! (gags)

ZEFFRO

Haven't you ever had granger meat before?

ROLO

Well, granger flavor earthling chow.

ZEFFRO

And where do you think that comes from?

ROLO

I know, but...I've never seen it before!

He tries looking but winces away.

ZEFFRO

Have a seat.

Rolo sits on a bucket in front of the counter, avoiding eye contact with the carcass and its head laying on the floor. Rolo notices the museum a block away.

Behind the counter is griddle, which is actually an alien clothes iron turned upside down, plugged into an extension cord. Zeffro slaps a couple steaks on the hot iron and presses it with a knife like a spatula as it sizzles.

As they talk he pulls crushed leaves, salt, seeds, and berries from the shelves. He seasons and flips the meat, and prepares a sauce in a pan.

{{Zeffro is like a mentor figure on the hero's journey. But he gives no advice; Rolo is inspired just by his example.}}

ROLO

You live up here?

ZEFFRO

Yep.

ROLO

Like, all the time?

Zeffro gives him a look.

ROLO (CONT'D)

You don't have an owner?

ZEFFRO

I did.

ROLO

Don't you miss living inside?

ZEFFRO

Nope.

ROLO

Where do you sleep?

ZEFFRO

Here. Under the stars.

ROLO

Doesn't it rain sometimes?

ZEFFRO

So?

ROLO

Hm. ... You know, I've never been to this area before.

ZEFFRO

No kiddin'.

ROLO

Actually we're kinda lost.

ZEFFRO

Yeah, I can see that.

ROLO

I've never even been off-leash this long outside before.

Zeffro puts the steaks on saucers, and like a chef he drizzles sauce on both steaks, sprinkles some spice, places a small sprig on each, and wipes the corner of the plate. He places a saucer in front of Rolo.

ZEFFRO

Here.

ROLO

Wow, this smells amazing! Uhh, do you have any silverware?

Zeffro grabs his own steak with one hand and bites off a huge piece, staring at Rolo the whole time.

So Rolo picks up his steak with two hands and takes a tentative bite.

ROLO
Oh! Oh! This is delicious! Mm!

ZEFFRO
(with food in his mouth)
It's fresh.

Rolo ravenously takes a huge bite. Then another.

{{The steak contrasts with the gross canned food in the opening. More food motif. Rolo gets a "taste" of independence, which ratchets up his drive.}}

21 INT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 21

Smuffins and Quiggles are looking around the large warehouse.

SMUFFINS
Roloooo! ... Yo, dawg!

22 EXT. WAREHOUSE ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS 22

Rolo hears Smuffins through a broken skylight.

SMUFFINS (O.S.)
Rolo-rolo-roloooo!

ROLO
Oops! I better take this to go.

He heads back to the fire escape, holding his steak and taking another bite. He turns again to Zeffro and gives a thumbs up.

ROLO
Mm!! Five star!

23 INT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 23

Quiggles is helping Smuffins look for Rolo. He yells out the door they had first entered.

SMUFFINS
Rolooo!

Rolo enters the back doorway, holding what's left of his steak, with sauce all over his face and hands.

ROLO
Smuffins, here! So sorry! I'm here.

SMUFFINS
Yo man, where did you go?! And what
are you eating?

Quiggles gallops up to Rolo, hops on his shoulder and licks
his face clean.

ROLO
(with his mouth full)
It's granger meat.

SMUFFINS
That's what granger looks like?!
Ich, gross!

ROLO
(mouth still full)
Don't knock it till you try it.

Delighted by the taste, Quiggles licks the steak in Rolo's
hand.

ROLO
Well, I guess this is yours now.

Quiggles gulps down the rest of the steak.

24 EXT. OLD BLORGTON - MOMENTS LATER

24

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles cautiously look outside the
warehouse, then walk down the sidewalk. This neighborhood is
a little more populated and better maintained. We see another
SUBWAY station ahead, and the MUSEUM beyond that.

*{{The scenery parallels Rolo's goal. They first arrived in a
very run down area as he had no idea what he really wanted.
As his goal takes shape the scenery become more pleasant.}}*

ROLO
The museum is at that next corner.

Quiggles is skipping, swinging around lampposts, etc.

An Animal Control Vehicle slowly drives up the street behind
them, scanning both sides of the street with beams of light.

SMUFFINS
Look out!

They run to the SUBWAY station entrance and hide. Quiggles presses himself flat against a wall. They cautiously watch as the Animal Control vehicle passes them and turns a corner out of sight.

One of Zira's Lost posters is posted in the entrance. Covering that is another poster in a different color, with Rolo's picture, and the text: "LOST. Considered Unneutered and Dangerous" with an Animal Control Force logo.

SMUFFINS

This is too risky, Rolo. They're going to catch us! Let's just go home, alright?

ROLO

Don't you want to find out where we come from?

SMUFFINS

Not really. I just want to go home. I'm sure there's another way you can find out later.

ROLO

No, Zira never lets me leave home or do anything on my own. This is my only chance.

SMUFFINS

We can find someone to help us figure out the subway to go home.

ROLO

No. You go ahead. I need to do this.

SMUFFINS

You sure? I hope you're okay, man. I'll see you when you get home, 'kay?

ROLO

Thanks, dawg.

They hug.

SMUFFINS

Good luck!

Smuffins enters the subway station.

Rolo and Quiggles walk to the museum.

An alien TIGER OWNER is sitting on the front steps of the museum, playing an alien harmonica. He has a large pet animal that looks like an alien TIGER, resting on the ground, wearing a studded collar and leash.

As they walk by Quiggles growls at the Tiger. It growls back. Then Quiggles charges at it. The Tiger suddenly drops its jaw open as Quiggles runs straight inside, and snaps its jaw shut.

ROLO
Quiggles!!

TIGER OWNER
Krilly! Drop iiiit. Draaaawp iiiit!

With a reluctant look, the Tiger sits up and very slowly opens its mouth as Quiggles wiggles out, limb by limb, then falls to the ground. Quiggles brushes the slobber off himself and stomps away, but slowly starts circling around back to the Tiger, speeding up, and jumps onto it and tries biting the top of its head. The Tiger rolls its eyes.

TIGER OWNER (CONT'D)
Whoa there, little fella.

ROLO
(concurrently)
Quigglllllles!

The Tiger Owner gently pushes Quiggles off as Rolo pulls him down.

ROLO
So sorry about that, sir.

Quiggles gives a final growl, then walks away with a smug sense of accomplishment, dusting off his hands.

ROLO
Quiggles, I think you're my role model.

{{Unlike Smuffins, Quiggles is fearless. He inspires Rolo.}}

Rolo gives a wry smile. They continue up the museum steps but a security GUARD stops them.

GUARD
Whoa, earthy, where do you think you're going?

ZIRA (O.S.)
Rolo!

Rolo sees Zira and Riffa half a block away rushing toward him.

ZIRA
Rolo!

ROLO
Uh oh.

Quiggles is behind the Guard, with mouth open wide about to bite his leg.

ROLO
Quiggles, no! I've got another idea.
We're gonna need Zira's help for
this.

Rolo jumps up and down, waving his arms.

ROLO (CONT'D)
Zira! Here! Over here!

Zira and Riffa reach the top of the steps.

ZIRA
(sweetly)
Rolo, there you are, you bad boy!

ROLO
(to guard)
We're with them.

Rolo and Quiggles dash inside the museum. Zira and Riffa, flummoxed, run after them.

25 INT. MUSEUM - CONTINUOUS

25

The Old Blorgton Museum of Science. It is grand and echoey, with sunbeams shining through the skylights. It is not that crowded.

Once they are well inside, Rolo turns around, runs to Zira and jumps in her arms. She hugs him.

ROLO
Zira! You found me!

ZIRA
Rolo Polo, poor thing. Were you
scared?

Rolo takes Riffa's phone out of his pocket and hands it to her.

ROLO
Here's your phone back, Riffa.

Rolo wiggles out of Zira's arms.

ROLO
Betcha can't catch me!

Rolo runs into the exhibit hall followed by Quiggles.

RIFFA
Ugh!

Zira and Riffa chase after him.

26 BEGIN MUSICAL MONTAGE:

26

Zira, Rolo, and Quiggles chase and play in the museum. Riffa is often in the background looking at her phone or rolling her eyes at them.

ZIGZAG - Quiggles jumps onto Rolo's shoulders. They zigzag around several statues as Zira pursues.

ELEVATOR - There are two elevators to the upper level, both waiting with doors open. Rolo and Quiggles go in one, Zira goes in the other.

WALKWAY - There is an elevated walkway going through a rainforest atrium. Rolo and Quiggles walk briskly, followed by Zira.

SLIDE - All three slide down a spiral-shaped tree trunk in the rainforest atrium.

PENGUINS - All three walk like penguins in front an enclosure of live alien penguins.

FLYING MACHINES - Rolo flies in a primitive spiral-copter. Quiggles flies in a pedal-powered flapping-wing plane.

CLUB - Rolo chases Zira left with a caveman club.

AXE - Zira chases him right with a stone axe.

SLING - Rolo chases her left swinging a sling.

SPEAR - Zira chases him right with a spear.

ARROW - Rolo chases her left with a bow and arrow.

SWORD - Zira chases him right with a sword.

ARMOR - Rolo chases her left in an alien suit of armor with a sword. He loses balance and falls backwards, arms and legs flailing in the air.

PLANETS - All three sit on large mobile of their star system, with multiple planets in criss-cross orbits, double planets, and moons around moons. They are each sitting and spinning on a different planet or moon.

DINOSAURS - Zira holds Rolo as they ride an animatronic alien triceratops skeleton. Quiggles rides a t-rex.

SURVEILLANCE ROOM - In a room of many video feeds, we see the back of ZANANA watching. All we know now is that she is an old woman Blorxian, dressed professionally. She looks at a video feed of Zira, Rolo, and Quiggles playing. Then she zooms in on Riffa disengaged, looking at her phone. Then we see Zanana's face, watching thoughtfully. We cannot read her yet, but she is not angry.

JAWS - Quiggles stands inside alien shark jaws holding his mouth wide open. Then Rolo does the same. Then Zira does; her mouth opens surprisingly large.

FLOWER - Rolo leans over to smell a large flower. The flower snaps shut on his head and upper body, lifting him upside down. Zira springs to rescue him.

BUTTERFLIES - Zira and Rolo are looking at live alien butterflies. Quiggles shoots his tongue out to catch one floating by but accidentally hits Rolo in the head.

MAMMOTH - Zira holds Rolo as they ride an animatronic alien woolly mammoth. Quiggles sits on a tusk.

BUGS - Rolo holds Quiggles' mouth open and pulls out large insects one at a time, as Zira puts them back on an insect pin-board display.

EVOLUTION - They look at series of life-size figures of the evolutionary stages of Blorxians evolving from salamander-like creatures. Quiggles opens his mouth to eat the smallest one; Rolo shakes his head no and he stops.

JELLYFISH - Quiggles is inside a tank of alien jellyfish, swimming like them.

CATAPULT - Quiggles sits in a catapult. Rolo is about to pull the lever to launch him.

END MONTAGE

The security GUARD looks sternly at Rolo, with his arms crossed. Rolo freezes. The guard gestures with his finger to

come with him.

27 INT. CURATOR'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

27

A dark-wood-paneled office with many bookcases and artifacts. There is a large wooden desk with four chairs facing it.

Zira, Rolo, and Quiggles are each sitting in a chair, looking guilty. Riffa sits in the fourth chair, glaring at Zira.

Awkward silence.

The door opens and Madame ZANANA enters (rhymes with *banana* *{{sounds like nana}}*). She is the museum curator, the Blorxian who was watching the video feeds. She is like a wise elder.

She sits at her desk somberly and looks at each of them, mostly at Zira and Riffa, studying their faces thoughtfully, but not angry. On her desk is a name plaque: "Madame Zanana, Curator". She contemplates incisively before each question.

ZANANA
(to Riffa)
Are you responsible for her?

RIFFA
No!

ZANANA
Is she your sister?

RIFFA
Yes.

ZANANA
Why are you angry?

RIFFA
I'm not!

ZANANA
You're not?

{{Zanana is another mentor figure, but this time for Riffa. Zira has been hammering at Riffa to open up, and now Zanana tries to get through. Even if many in the audience miss this nuance, she still adds mystery and tension.}}

Riffa tries to hold her tongue, then blurts:

RIFFA

She keeps getting us in trouble!
She's such a child!

{{Like many teens, Riffa has grown apart from her pre-adolescent sister. Riffa = rift}}

ZANANA
(to Zira)
How old are you, dear?

ZIRA
72.

ZANANA
Is that all? Why, you're almost my
granddaughter's age.
(to Riffa)
Such a child? What is it you expect
her to be?

Riffa pauses, then mumbles:

RIFFA
I dunno.

ZANANA
Hm.
(to Zira)
Is this your earthling?

ZIRA
Yes.

ZANANA
Why isn't he on a leash?

ZIRA
Sorry. We lost it.

ZANANA
You lost it?

ZIRA
Well, we were in the park, and
Animal Control was going to take him
because I forgot to renew his
license, and he ran away.

ZANANA
I see.

She leans forward toward Zira and says wryly in a hushed voice:

ZANANA (CONT'D)

Those Animal Control bots are just power-hungry. They should be put on leashes.

Zira smirks.

RIFFA

Are we in trouble? Did they break anything?

ZANANA

Oh nothing is broken out there. You two just looked a little lost, is all. As long as nothing is missing, you're fine.

(looking at Zira)

Is anything missing?

{{Foreshadow: She senses their relationship is broken, and we learn soon their brother is missing.}}

Quiggles shifts his eye for a beat, then opens his mouth, takes a large insect out (a dead one from the display) and puts it on her desk.

Zanana looks at it, then at Quiggles, then smirks.

ZANANA

(to Zira)

What's your earthling's name?

ROLO

Rolo.

ZANANA

Well, aren't you adorable, Rolo. You remind me of my dear Groogy, right over there.

In the corner they see a glass case containing a taxidermy earthling man with fake looking eyes, somewhat similar to Rolo, sitting on a large cushion.

ZANANA

He was just a chubby ball of dreams, like you.

Rolo looks embarrassed for a moment. Then he sees his opportunity:

ROLO

Can I ask you, do you know what planet earthlings come from?

ZANANA
Your planet?

ZIRA
Oh yeah, I tried looking online but I couldn't find anything.

ZANANA
No, of course not. That's because it was deleted.

ZIRA & ROLO
Deleted?

ZANANA
Come with me.

28 INT. MUSEUM HALL - MOMENTS LATER

28

A dim hall toward the back wing.

Zanana explains as they walk:

ZANANA
The Big Delete of 8449. Planet Blorx had accumulated so much knowledge that they were running out of data storage in the nebula. This was quite a global crisis, and no one could agree what to do. So one day a data clerk hacked into the data core and simply deleted all the old useless information. Most of it was cat videos. But sadly, we lost all the earthling history too.

ROLO
Oh no.

ZIRA
Didn't anyone remember anything?

ZANANA
Most people just offloaded their memories to the nebula, so they all forgot. But...

29 INT. MUSEUM GALLERY - CONTINUOUS

29

They enter a small gallery with ancient Blorxian hieroglyph murals. One shows a large UFO saucer with several humanoids levitating up to it. Below them it looks like grazing cows. Zanana points to it.

ZANANA

We do have some clues in these ancient hieroglyphs. This mural here shows earthlings being abducted from their planet by spacecraft.

ROLO

What planet is it?

ZANANA

The ancients named it: Planet Earth.

ROLO

Earth? Earthlings from Earth? Not very creative, but easy to remember, I guess. Where is it?

ZANANA

They said it's the third planet around a star named Sol, but we have nothing that says where it is.

ZIRA

So there's no other information?

Zanana pulls a large book from a bookshelf.

ZANANA

Well, there is one other source here that says something.

She lays the old book on a table. The title is barely visible: "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy". She turns the pages looking for the entry.

ZANANA

Let's see...it's right...here it is.
"Earth: mostly harmless".

ROLO

(waiting for more)
That's it?

ZANANA

Yes, I'm afraid so, dear.

ROLO

Hm.

ZANANA

Now there have been other stories,
not written in any book though. But
I know just the person who would
know. Go to The Black Hole Tavern
and look for Captain Blarzenhook.
Tell him Zanana sent you.

30 EXT. OLD BLORGTON - DUSK - MOMENTS LATER

30

They exit the museum and walk along a sidewalk. Rolo is ridding piggy-back on Zira. The neighborhood is quaint and well maintained.

RIFFA

(pointing ahead)

Okay, there's a subway station this way, near the boardwalk. That'll get us home.

ZIRA

It looks like the evening eclipse is starting. This is always my favorite time.

ROLO

Mine too.

During this scene, darkness gradually moves across the sky like a curtain closing -- a daily eclipse from a large planetary body.

ROLO (CONT'D)

Hey Zira, how did you get me?

ZIRA

What do you mean?

ROLO

I mean when you first got me from the pet store, when I was little.

ZIRA

Oh yeah, you were just a little kid. I guess we both were. What made you think of that?

ROLO

I dunno. I've just been thinking about things. All I can remember my whole life is living with you. But I never thought to ask before, why did you pick me?

ZIRA

Well, I always wanted to get my own pet earthie for as long as I could remember. I begged my mom and dad all the time for years, but they always said I was "too young" to handle such a "big responsibility". But then on my 40th birthday, they took me to the pet store as a surprise, and said I could pick any pet. There was this pen thing with a bunch of little earthies, and you just looked up at me with this smile, and I knew you were the one, my little Rolo Polo.

ROLO

Hmm.

Rolo is touched and squeezes her a little tighter.

An Animal Control Force vehicle slowly comes rolling up the street behind them, scanning both sides of the street with beams of light.

Zira sees it and pushes Riffa through some bushes.

ZIRA

Hide!

RIFFA

Why?

ZIRA

It's Animal Control!

They fall to the ground and hold still.

From the other side of the bushes they see the vehicle slowly pass. Then it stops and backs up a bit, scanning nearby. Then it continues forward out of sight.

ZIRA

Okay, they're gone.

Zira's backpack is on the ground. Riffa sees something inside through the opening and grabs her backpack.

RIFFA

Wait a minute!

Riffa stands up and pulls out a small palm-sized model ROCKET. She holds it out toward Zira.

RIFFA

(angry)

Where did you get this? Is this
Lazro's rocket? Did you take this
from the attic?

Zira remains sitting, looking defensive.

RIFFA (CONT'D)

Zira, answer me! You can't take
this. You're not allowed to touch
Lazro's stuff!

ZIRA

Yes I am! He was my brother too!
(a beat)
Give it to me!

*{{All other family films have dead/missing parents because it
creates great internal conflict. I made their brother missing
to be original.}}*

Zira leans over and grabs the rocket, holds it close.

RIFFA

Zira, you're going to break it! --

ZIRA

No I'm not!

RIFFA

You're going to get into sooo much
trouble with Mom and Dad. We need to
save all of Lazro's things. And why
do you even have it in your
backpack?!

Zira stares at the rocket, sadly, turning it slowly in her
hands. A beat.

ZIRA

I like to hold it. It reminds me of
him. He always used to take me with
him stargazing, and to go crater
sledding and watch the rockets
flying. He made this for his science
fair project, and he let me help him
with it. That was right before we
lost him, that night he was abducted
by aliens.

{{Stacking: aliens abducted by aliens}}

RIFFA

Well he wouldn't have been abducted
if you didn't make him take you to
that swamp!

Zira looks up at Riffa.

ZIRA
It wasn't my fault, Riffa!

They glare at each other confrontationally for a beat, till
Riffa backs down.

*{{Riffa unfairly blames Zira for their loss. Unlike Riffa,
Zira has an admirably healthy attitude for her age, though
she still is hurting from losing both siblings in a way.}}*

RIFFA
Pfffh. Just...don't break it. And
put it back when we get home!

Zira looks back at the rocket. A moment passes.

ROLO
Um, I don't know if this is a good
time to mention this, but I haven't
snacked in like two hours.

Zira stands up and puts on her backpack, and they go back to
the sidewalk and continue walking. The sisters have a silent
tension.

Rolo sees a sign ahead for The Black Hole Tavern, with an
arrow pointing down a side road by a HARBOR.

ROLO
(hushed, to Quiggles)
The Black Hole Tavern. Hey, that's
where that captain knows about
Earth. Can you distract them for a
bit?

Quiggles gives a thumbs up. He walks in front of Zira and
Riffa and starts doing a mime routine. Rolo falls back, then
starts jogging down the side road.

From overhead we see the view from a surveillance camera,
following them walking. It zooms in on Rolo, with the words
"Suspect Identified".

31 INT. COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT - SAME TIME

31

We see that same video feed on one of the large wall
monitors. Other monitors show maps and the positions of bot

forces and camera feeds. The bots chatter intensely.

{{comic relief & external tension}}

CORPORAL

Colonel, we've got a location on the target, on Blearial Avenue heading north.

SERGEANT

Sir, the 2nd platoon is delayed in sector C30.

COLONEL

What's the hold up?

SERGEANT

Their wormhole transport slipped into Möbius time-loop, sir.

COLONEL

Why, that platoon couldn't navigate their way out of a paper bag with a compass! Now where is that drone squadron?

LIEUTENANT

They are airborne and en route, sir.

COLONEL

Still? We're gonna need more. No meat bag is going to escape under my watch. Lieutenant, let's get an attack sub out there in case they try to flee by water.

LIEUTENANT

Yes sir.

COLONEL

(intensely)

We shall be victorious!

{{I want a better line there, some spoof quote from a war movie, like the first one from Apocalypse Now.}}

32 EXT. HARBOR ROAD - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

32

A small road alongside a harbor. The road is rustic, and dimly lit with street lights, no traffic. The moon is large and beautiful. We hear the water lapping against the docks, creaking of the undulating launchpads, a distant bell

clanging with the rolling waves, and night insects. An alien seal on barks on a dock.

The docks are like sailing docks, but instead of boats there are spaceships of various designs. They sit on launchpads floating on the water, with gangways to the docks. The launchpads and spaceships gently sway with the water.

Rolo is running down the road to the TAVERN, with Quiggles close behind. Then we see Zira running after them.

ZIRA

Rolo!

33 EXT. TAVERN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

33

Zira catches up with Rolo in front of the tavern -- a rustic drinking hole overlooking the harbor. The sign flickers "The Black Hole Tavern". We hear muffled activity from within.

Rolo runs around a garbage can so that she cannot reach him.

ZIRA

Rolo, why do you keep running away?!
Don't you wanna go home?

ROLO

Don't get mad, Zira.

ZIRA

Why?

ROLO

This is where Zanana said we could
find Captain Blarzenhook, and he
knows where Earth is!

ZIRA

She said he might know.

ROLO

Well I really wanna find out. Aren't
you curious?

ZIRA

Kinda, but we need to get home.

ROLO

What's the rush? We're already here.
Can't we just go in and check,
please?

Rolo gives his best sad-eye face.

ZIRA

This isn't fair, Rolo. You know I
can't say no to that face.

Rolo hugs Zira's legs, then runs to the front door of the tavern. Zira waves to Riffa in the distance, then she pushes through the heavy, creaky door followed by Rolo and Quiggles.

34 INT. TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

34

The tavern interior is dark and cozy with astro-nautical decor. Plasma candles flicker at each table and from sconces.

The BAR PATRONS are rugged and haggard Blorxian star sailors, quietly drinking and murmuring. In the corner someone is playing a languid tune on an alien CONCERTINA (accordion).

Captain BLARZENHOOK is sitting alone at a table, sipping a large mug of ale. He is the Blorxian archetype of an old sea captain pirate: beard, pipe, eye patch, weathered face, dark coat, and a grumbly pirate accent. He is always thirsty for a willing ear to hear his tales of misfortune.

ROLO

Which one is Captain Blarzenhook?

Zira points blatantly at Blarzenhook.

ZIRA

He looks like a captain.

ROLO

Do you really think it's that obvious?

Zira approaches Blarzenhook.

ZIRA

Sir, are you Captain Blarzenhook?

Blarzenhook sharpens his gaze and scrutinizes them.

BLARZENHOOK

If you be askin', I am.

ROLO

(impressed it was that easy)
Huh.

BLARZENHOOK

Blarzenhook do be my name, but I haven't been called by that rank since my fated ship was torn asunder

by the curs-ed kraken's tentacles
 coiling out from under the
 Scalorrean stratosphere, with death
 in its wake and wave, my hapless
 vessel's crush-ed corpse, sunk into
 a gas-e-ous grave.

*{{Nerdy science humor: Some planets' atmosphere is so dense
 it could have things swim in it and float on it, thus boat-
 like spacecraft.}}*

ROLO

Ooookaay.

BLARZENHOOK

Now how is it the likes of you be
 knowin' my name, and where I dwell
 to imbibe my bitter ends?

*{{Blarzenhook is an English teacher's delight, very poetic,
 e.g.: "dwell" = live & obsess; "bitter ends" = sad ending &
 bitters in ale & the end of the anchor rope.}}*

He sips his ale.

ZIRA

Zanana from the museum said you
 might be able to help us. Do you
 know her?

BLARZENHOOK

Aye, I do...and yet for all world I
 wish I didn't. It's been many a moon
 and tides and years since that
 tender name has landed on my
 lonesome ears. And now that you have
 spoken it, an ashen memory is now
 relit, of a time when--

ROLO

Excuse me--

BLARZENHOOK

--my beating heart was in flame--

ROLO

Captain--

BLARZENHOOK

--by the smoldering heartache--

ROLO

Sir!

BLARZENHOOK
--within that name.

ROLO
Have you ever heard of the
planet...Earth? Do you know what
it's like?

Blarzenhook raises his eyebrows.

BLARZENHOOK
Earth, eh?

For dramatic suspense he hooks his pipe in his mouth, ignites a plasma lighter, and draws it in to light the pipe. He sips a few puffs from the pipe, leans back and slowly exhales a wafting swirl of fire sparks.

BLARZENHOOK
I've heard many a yarn, stories spun
by salty star farers o'er
generations of ages and eons of
yore. Legends of wayward worlds and
exotic beasts, chronicles of lore
from every corner of the ever-
capricious cosmos. Whether these
apocryphal tales be true or not, I
cannot accredit nor counter. So,
with that bein' said, and with my
ration of ale --

He raises his mug, and gestures for them to sit. The CONCERTINA segues to the chords of the *Gilligan's Island* theme song as Blarzenhook speaks.

BLARZENHOOK
-- just sit right back, and you'll
hear this tale, a tale of a fateful
trip --

{{Storyboard with music at petearthling.com/movie}}

35 EXT. DOCK - DAY - (FANTASY)

35

A small spaceship named Minnow is sitting at the dock. Then we see the first mate, then the skipper, both Blorxian versions of the *Gilligan's Island* characters. Then we see five more Blorxians boarding the ship.

BLARZENHOOK (V.O.)
-- that started from this lonely
port, aboard a humble ship. The mate
was a mighty farin' man, the skipper

brave and sure. Five passengers set
aloft that day for a three hour
tour.

END FANTASY

The Bar Patrons, having heard Blarzenhook's story countless times, mock him:

BAR PATRONS
(singing, laughing)
A three hour tour!

Blarzenhook aims an icy stare at the Bar Patrons, waiting until they are quiet, then grunts.

As Blarzenhook resumes his story, the CONCERTINA accompanies again and the Bar Patrons resume murmuring.

36 OUTER SPACE - (FANTASY)

36

We see a star with large solar flares blowing asteroids off their orbits, and the space ship Minnow flying away, battered by the flares and asteroids. The stellar dust swirls into a wormhole vortex, sucking the ship inside.

BLARZENHOOK (V.O.)
The stellar winds were flarin' up;
the tiny ship was tossed. If not for
the courage of the fearless crew the
Minnow would be lost.

END FANTASY

Quiggles has joined the Bar Patrons and "sings"/squawks with them.

BAR PATRONS & QUIGGLES
(singing, laughing louder)
The Minnow would be lost!

Angered, Blarzenhook throws his mug at the feet of the Bar Patrons. They CONCERTINA deflates abruptly and they shut up.

After a stern stare, Blarzenhook resumes his story, and the CONCERTINA accompanies.

37 FANTASY SERIES OF SHOTS - EXT. EARTH - DAY

37

We see planet Earth and zoom in to a shore of San Salvador (where Columbus first landed) where the Minnow is battered and broken, with the crew standing on the beach.

BLARZENHOOK (V.O.)

The ship set ground on the shore of
this uncharted blue-green isle, with
seven stranded castaways, now livin'
in exile.

An alien holds up their cell phone trying to get a signal.
Another one holds their tablet and cord looking for an outlet
to charge it.

No cell phone bars, no motorcars,
not a single luxury. No place to
charge their tablets. T'was
primitive as can be.

Primitive humans curiously approach the aliens and offer them
corn.

The next day the natives welcomed
them, with curiosity. These simple
docile bipeds, not unlike our
domestic breed.

The aliens look skeptically at the tiny corncobs in their
much larger hands, then give each other a knowing look.

But this hungerin' crew had rumblin'
bellies needin' of some meat.

Aliens roasting a human on a spit.

The natives were so plentiful, and
such easy catch to eat.

Aliens eating cooked humans that are chewy and taste bad.

But their flesh had such a gamy
taste, and gristly to chew.

Aliens hunting dinosaurs violently, then barbecuing a huge
dinosaur part.

So they turned their teeth to giant
beasts as slaughtered bar-becue.

In an ice age, humans are keeping company with aliens around
a campfire.

Now as time went by the natives came
to warm up by their side, and all
grew fond of the companionship those
critters did provide.

{{Natural history humor: this is how wolves were domesticated into dogs.}}

An alien shepherd watches over a flock of primitive humans.

So they raised them and protected
them.

An alien looking like a shop teacher shows humans to how to
use stone-cutting tools.

And taught them some new tricks.

We see Stonehenge, then Maya pyramids, then Egyptian pyramids
and the Sphinx with an alien face.

Then as tribute they, with
gratitude, built great shapes with
giant bricks.

In the black night sky something large comes burning brightly
through the atmosphere like a meteor.

Then one new moon, 'twas from the
sky, a galleon cut the dark.

From the plasma emerges an ark-like spaceship, with a wake of
aurora lights.

Three hundred cubits bow to stern,
i'twas the Blorxian Ark.

{{Biblical humor: Noah's Ark is 300 cubits long.}}

The aliens are joyous.

It rained on them deliverance and
tears of joyful mirth.

The spaceship uses tractor beams to lift dozens of humans
into the ship.

So with two of every human pet, they
left the planet...Earth.

The spaceship zooms away from Earth.

END FANTASY

Rolo, shocked and horrified, stares at Blarzenhook.

Awkward silence.

Blarzenhook nonchalantly slurps the last drop of ale from his (new) mug loudly, gulps it down, and exhales with satisfaction.

ROLO

That...was not...the story I was expecting.

BLARZENHOOK

Then careful what ya' be wishin' for.

ROLO

How do we get there?

Blarzenhook, raising his pipe to his mouth, halts midway and raises an eyebrow.

BLARZENHOOK

Ho, you think it's all real, do ya'?

Blarzenhook sips a couple puffs from his pipe.

ROLO

(a beat, then determined)
I need to find out.

Blarzenhook nods and exhales fire sparks. They swirl into star constellations with illustrations of alien figures. With the stem of his pipe he points to the tail end of a constellation shaped like a creature.

BLARZENHOOK

They say the planet Earth roams about these here parts, orbitin' the last star of the constellation Kronarnious --

He points to a fist-shaped constellation next to it.

BLARZENHOOK

-- just past the Cold Grip of Despair.

ROLO

(frightened)
What?!

BLARZENHOOK

It's just a name, matey, born from the idle minds of souls lost adrift,
(pause, then abruptly)
in the vast expanse of one's emptiness and meaningless

existence --

38 EXT. HARBOR ROAD - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

38

Zira, Rolo, and Quiggles exit the tavern. Riffa is waiting outside. They all walk back on the road out of the harbor.

RIFFA
Finally! What took you so long?

ROLO
(chuckling)
I thought he would never stop talking!

ZIRA
He was funny. I like him!

Quiggles is zigzagging about, sniffing sign posts and trying to catch flying bugs in his mouth.

RIFFA
Okay, so if we hurry up we can make it home before 29 o'clock.

Rolo's smile fades. He stops walking as the others continue.

ZIRA
Ooh, can we stop for frozen squallers at the subway station? Remember we used to eat those after visiting the zoo?

She notices Rolo is far behind.

ZIRA (CONT'D)
Rolo, c'mon.

ROLO
(heavy sigh) Zira, I--

Zira walks back toward Rolo.

ZIRA
C'mon. Do you want me to carry you?

ROLO
No. It's not that. I just...I don't want to go home.

ZIRA
What do you mean?

Rolo looks at Zira sympathetically, then works up his courage, but struggles to get the words out:

ROLO
I want to, to find Earth.

{{Rolo's path now escalates to defiance. Their relationship is like a mom trying to keep her teen from leaving home.}}

ZIRA
What? Don't be silly!

ROLO
I'm serious, Zira. Please don't be angry, but I really want this.

ZIRA
No, that's ridiculous! Let's go home.

ROLO
Zira --

ZIRA
Rolo, I said no. C'mon!

She reaches her hand out. Rolo loses his temper and lashes out.

ROLO
You just don't understand. You never understood, and you never will!

He stomps toward the harbor. Zira chases him so he runs. Quiggles runs past Zira.

ZIRA
Rolo!

RIFFA
(yelling the distance)
Ugh! See? This is why you're supposed to keep his leash on!

ZIRA
Rolo!

Rolo slips between the fence bars outside the harbor, followed by Quiggles and keep running. Zira grabs onto the fence; she cannot fit through.

ZIRA
Rolo! Come back here! ... Rolo!

Riffa rolls her eyes, tilts her head back and groans:

RIFFA

Ugggggh

39 EXT. DOCK - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

39

In the starry sky we see a large moon. It is colonized, so we see vast city lights across its surface. A space elevator tether connects the moon to the planet, with lights traveling up and down it. Two small moons orbit the large moon.

{{Stacking: moon has moons}}

Rolo is sitting on a dock, with his feet dangling over the water, looking at the moon over the mouth of the harbor.

We hear water lapping, the dock creaking, and alien crickets, frogs, and flying insects. The alien ocean glows blue with every ripple and wave, like an underwater aurora, and crashing brightly against the breakers in the distance. It casts a rippled light on Rolo and the dock pylons. An alien seal barks on the dock, then dives in the water.

Quiggles is swimming a backstroke, squirting water out of his mouth, and doing synchronized-swimming tricks with glowing splashes.

Zira enters, slightly winded.

{{Rolo's goal has never been more clear, and this scenery is the most beautiful. This contrasts with their most intense fight.}}

ZIRA

There you are!

She leans down to pat his head.

Rolo huffs through his nose and leans away from her. Hurt, Zira pauses, then sits down near him with her legs over the dock.

ZIRA

(choking up)

What's the matter Rolo? Why are you mad at me?

ROLO

You just don't understand. I just... I want to find something... more. I want to go find Earth.

ZIRA

But why? This is your home. This is your home, with me.

ROLO

I know, but --

ZIRA

Don't you like me anymore?

ROLO

Of course I do! I love you, Zira. But something just feels... empty. I feel like there's something more for me out there.

ZIRA

(teary)

But why? You have me! And Quiggles and Riffa. Aren't we enough, Rolo? You're my pet. Isn't that enough?

ROLO

I thought it was. I love being your pet. But...it's always the same thing, everyday. I eat, I take naps, we play.

ZIRA

But you love playing: belly rubs, and playing chase, and flying into the bean bag.

ROLO

No. I don't really like that.

ZIRA

Yes you do.

ROLO

I wanna make you happy, Zira, but it scares me. It's just too much.

ZIRA

But what about today? That was different. That was fun, wasn't it?

ROLO

Yeah, actually it was. It was a lot of fun. But still... I want more than fun. I want to, like, make something, or do something important. I dunno.

ZIRA

Then I'll get you more toys! And we
can get you another pet!

ROLO

No --

ZIRA

(crying)

But why! Why?!

ROLO

Zira --

ZIRA

No! You're my pet! You're mine! And
we're going home!

She reaches over to grab him.

ROLO

No!

He dodges her and stands back at a distance while she gets
up.

ROLO

Zira, if you love me, then please
understand! This is important to me.
I want to find Earth!

ZIRA

You can't go to Earth! It's, it's
not even real! And you couldn't even
get there! Who would feed you? And
keep you warm? And where would you
sleep? You'd be lost, Rolo! Who
would take care of you?

ROLO

(angry)

Maybe I don't need anyone to take
care of me!

ZIRA

Yes you do! You're just a little
earthling. You need me!

ROLO

(choking up)

Maybe if you didn't take care of me
I could be more! You never let me
just do my own thing. You never let
me try anything or go anywhere on my

own. Maybe I can do more, I want to,
but I'll never know if you keep
holding me back! Zira, please
understand --

ZIRA
There's nothing to understand!
You're my pet and we're going home!
Now!

She stands firm and points at her feet, commanding him to
heel. He takes a ragged breath.

ROLO
I'm sorry.

He looks at her sympathetically. Then turns and walks away.

ZIRA
Rolooooo!

Quiggles jumps out of the water and follows Rolo.

At a distance in the water we see a robotic periscope rise
up. From the periscope POV we see it pan left and right, then
lock onto Rolo and zoom in, flashing crosshairs with the
words "Target Identified".

40 INT. COMMAND CENTER - SAME TIME

40

We see that same periscope video feed on one of the large
wall monitors.

{{comic relief & external tension}}

CORPORAL
Colonel, we've identified the target
at the harbor!

COLONEL
Good! Sergeant, how long till ground
troops intercept?

SERGEANT
Sir, no ETA yet. Now their transport
slipped into a time dilation drain-
hole.

COLONEL
Those brainless bots would lose
their heads if it wasn't bolted on!
(to T-L1 & T-D3)

Privates, I can't believe I'm about to do this, but I'm sending you out to the field again. Do you think two bolt buckets can manage to keep your nuts screwed on this time?!

T-L1 & T-D3

Sir, yes, sir!

They exit. The Colonel turns and rolls toward an office door labeled "General Glirk" on an elevated level overlooking the bullpen.

COLONEL

I've got about as much confidence in those two as a plastic worm gear!
We're gonna need backup.

41 INT. GENERAL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

41

From inside the office we see the door open and the Colonel enter.

COLONEL

General Glirk, Sir!

From the Colonel's POV we see the office. Unlike the command center, this is an outdated bureaucratic office, with an old desk, old wall paneling, filing cabinets, stacks of papers, a potted plant that's wilting, a dirty coffee maker, a mug on the desk, an alien wall calendar, and a poster of an alien kitten that says "Hang in There Krilly".

GLIRK is a Blorxian, not a robot. All we see is her feet on the desk and her hands holding a large holographic newspaper blocking the rest of her. Glirk is apathetic; animal control is just a civil desk job to her. She is wearing a typical animal-control uniform and cap, ill-fitting.

{{Anachronism: newspaper}}

She lowers one corner of the newspaper and peers around.

GLIRK

(sighs) What is it now, Colonel?

COLONEL

General, we have an unlicensed earthling running feral in sector B41, considered unneutered and dangerous, abetted by two minors traveling north. The 2nd platoon has been delayed. Requesting backups.

GLIRK
(consenting)
Whatever.

COLONEL
General, should we deploy the 1st
Cavalry or the Special Strike Force?

GLIRK
For one earthling?

COLONEL
Yes, General.

GLIRK
(sighs) I don't care. Surprise me.

She raises her newspaper back up and resumes reading.

The Colonel stands motionless staring at her.

She lowers the corner of her paper again and peers at the
Colonel with a head-shake and shoulder-shrug as if to say
what are you still doing here.

COLONEL
Boo!

Glirk rolls her eyes.

GLIRK
No, I mean...just...do the first
one, okay? And get out of my office!

COLONEL
Yes, General!

The Colonel turns 180 and exits.

42 INT. COMMAND CENTER - CONTINUOUS

42

The Colonel rolls out the office door a few feet and
announces loudly:

COLONEL
Code Red! Sector B41. Code Red! This
is not a drill!

Alarms sound and flash, as the robots run to their consoles
and work faster.

43 EXT. HARBOR ROAD - NIGHT - LATER

43

Riffa is sitting bored on a roadside bench, looking at her phone.

Zira returns from the harbor, upset, and plops down in an old weathered rowboat resting on the ground between the road and harbor under a street lamp. She is in the front seat facing the stern, looking at Lazro's model rocket while turning it in her hands.

Riffa sees her, puts away her phone, and walks to Zira.

RIFFA
Where's Rolo?

ZIRA
He ran away, to go find Earth. He's leaving me.

RIFFA
Oh.

Trying to be comforting, Riffa steps into the rowboat and sits on the rear seat.

RIFFA (CONT'D)
(trying to sound cheery)
Well, we can get you another pet.

ZIRA
You know you really suck at this!

RIFFA
(agreeing)
Okay.... But why are you always so clingy with Rolo?

ZIRA
What does it matter? He's my pet, not yours.

RIFFA
I know. But you hardly ever let him out of your sight. Why can't you just let him go?

ZIRA
(a beat)
Because Lazro is gone. And you're always mopey and you just ignore me. Rolo is the only one who loves me.

Zira starts to weep. Riffa is surprised.

RIFFA

I love you.

ZIRA

(angry)

No you don't! You're always mean to me! And you never want to play or hang out with me. And you never let me borrow your clothes or come in your room. (a beat)

We used to be a family, you, me and Lazro. We used to watch movies together under the blanket, and we'd put on costumes and make silly skits together, and we'd have splash fights in the swimming pool and whack each other with pool noodles. But not anymore. And now Rolo is leaving me and I'm going to be all alone!

Zira cries. Riffa sits unmoving, not knowing what to say. Then she has an idea.

RIFFA

Hang on.

{{Riffa's shell finally starts to crack.}}

Riffa walks to a vending machine down the road.

Across the street Rolo and Quiggles are walking out of the harbor. He sees Riffa so he stops, trying to hide in the dark.

Riffa gets two ice cream treats from the vending machine. As she turns she sees Rolo hiding, so she walks toward him.

RIFFA

Rolo, I see you there.

He steps out of hiding.

ROLO

Hey.

RIFFA

You're not coming home with us?

ROLO

No.

RIFFA

She really loves you, you know.

ROLO

I know.

RIFFA

Where are you going to stay tonight?

ROLO

I don't know.

RIFFA

How are you going to find Earth?

Overwhelmed, he sighs and shakes his head.

ROLO

I don't know.

RIFFA

Well, if you change your mind --

She gestures in Zira's direction. Then she walks back toward Zira.

Rolo watches Riffa walk off, then looks at Quiggles.

Riffa reaches Zira and hands an ice cream treat.

RIFFA

Here.

Zira looks up, smiles a little, and takes the ice cream.
After a moment:

ROLO (O.S.)

Do you have any more of those ice
creams?

Rolo and Quiggles have returned, standing behind Zira's view.

Riffa smirks. Zira smiles bigger, without looking.

{{Rolo's path has reached a cliff. He got everything he wanted so far, but he has no idea how to go forward from here, and it seems like all hope is lost.}}

44 INT. COMMAND CENTER - LATER

44

The monitors show surveillance and satellite video feeds of Rolo and company walking. Other maps show positions of bot forces. The bots chatter intensely.

{{comic relief & external tension}}

CORPORAL

Sir, Privates T-L1 and T-D3 are closing in.

SERGEANT

Squadron 14 is about to intercept, sir.

CORPORAL

Sir, 2nd Platoon has now fallen into a temporal cause-effect loop.

LIEUTENANT

1st Cavalry is almost in position, sir.

CORPORAL

Sir, the targets are entering the boardwalk recreational district. High civilian density, sir.

COLONEL

What are the weather conditions there? Get me a report ASAP!

LIEUTENANT

Colonel, should we recall the attack sub?

During this dialog, General Glirk leaves her office with her coat over her arm. She trudges to the elevators, presses a button and waits, watching the busy bots below. The elevator dings and doors open.

GLIRK

Okay, g'night everyone.

She gives a lazy wave. No one notices her. She enters the elevator and the doors close.

{{Glirk is a comedic foil to the intensity of the bots.}}

SERGEANT

(reading)

Sir, the weather is "calm and balmy, perfect for an idyllic stroll on the beach with the sand between your toes in the ethereal moonlight".

45 EXT. BOARDWALK - NIGHT - LATER

45

A beachside amusement park, with rides, carnival games, food stands, arcades, etc.

Zira, Riffa, Rolo, and Quiggles are walking on the sidewalk along the outside of the boardwalk. We hear the distant rides, games, and people from the park.

Zira and Riffa are finishing their ice creams. Zira is ahead of Riffa, looking down at a small stone she keeps kicking ahead every few steps. Rolo is carrying Quiggles piggyback, and they are taking turns licking Rolo's oversized ice cream.

RIFFA

(pointing ahead)

The subway station is just past the boardwalk here, then we'll be home soon.

ZIRA

Riffa, remember we used to come here every summer for Blormorial Day? And we had contests to see who could eat the most cornblogs?

RIFFA

That's not the way I remember it.

ZIRA

What do you mean?

RIFFA

I remember you eating too many cornblogs and candy and soda, getting sick, and throwing up all over my white skirt.

ZIRA

(still looking down)

(laughs) Oh yeah. And I remember you took me to the bathroom to puke it all out... But you made me feel better.

This hits Riffa in the heart. She pauses and looks at Zira thoughtfully.

{{Riffa's shell is finally cracking open.}}

They pass in front of an ARCADE. In the center is a karaoke machine.

ZIRA

(excited)

Oh, Riffa, you remember this arcade? This was always my favorite. And look, they still have that song machine! Can we go?

RIFFA
 (a little annoyed)
 Zira, we're almost home.

ZIRA
 Pleeeeeese, Riffa?

RIFFA
 (almost warm)
 Okay.

Zira runs ahead to the arcade. The rest follow.

46 INT. ARCADE - CONTINUOUS

46

Alien versions of video games, air hockey, claw machine, etc., and the karaoke machine in the middle. Prize toys hang on the wall. The backside of the arcade is open to the street, and the front side is open to the boardwalk. No one is inside.

Zira runs in, starts the karaoke machine, grabs the mic and sings.

{{Song is at petearthling.com/movie }}

ZIRA
 (ballad intro)
 When the weight of the world
 is filled with insincerity,
 it crushes me down
 a black hole singularity.
 When I'm out of luck,
 and trouble's irreversible,
 the answer's unclear,
 uncertainty's a principle.

Riffa picks up a mic and joins her in harmony. Zira smiles big. We see the lyrics on the monitor behind them.

ZIRA & RIFFA
 When loneliness intrudes,
 a collision of seclusion,
 alone with my thoughts,
 a fission of confusion.
 And fate will collide,
 like a globalcidal asteroid.
 It craters my world,
 sinking me into a darkened void.

{{Every 4-line stanza is a very nerdy science metaphor, a humorously odd juxtaposition representing Zira's uncertainty,

loneliness, the fate of losing her brother, and the empty void inside.}}

ZIRA

(dance beat)

But you shine in my heart,
like photons in my arteries.
I feel more alive,
like licking 9-volt batteries.

Quiggles is sitting on the air-hockey table spinning. Rolo does dorky backup dancing.

ZIRA

You lighten my load,
giving me such levity,
and raise up my hope
with your anti-gravity.

ZIRA & RIFFA

You fill the void.
You fill the void.

ZIRA

The dark matter clears, yeah 'cause

ZIRA & RIFFA

You fill the void.
You fill the void.
You fill the void.

ZIRA

(holds her heart)

This space is never empty 'cause

ZIRA & RIFFA

You fill the void.

ZIRA

When I'm stuck in the mud,
and I leave it unresolved,
you helped me grow a spine,
'cause it's time to evolve.

RIFFA

When my patience explodes,
a Big Banging of frustration,
you help me cool my temper
and find my constellation.

Quiggles is somehow inside the claw machine, acting out mime-in-a-box. Rolo is wearing silly costuming he found.

ZIRA & RIFFA

Life is a struggle,
I'm inert and unprepared, but
you charge me with your energy --

ZIRA & RIFFA & ROLO
(Rolo raps)
like MC squared.

ZIRA & RIFFA
The matter is real,
but time's an illusion. You
help me think things back and forth
to start the right conclusion.

Rolo gestures blow-my-mind.

ZIRA & RIFFA
(giggling)
You fill the void.
You fill the void.

RIFFA
The dark matter clears, yeah 'cause

ALL
(Rolo sings off pitch.)
(Quiggles squawks.)
You fill the void.

ZIRA & RIFFA
you fill the void.
You fill the void.

RIFFA
This space is never empty 'cause

ZIRA & RIFFA & ROLO
You fill the void.

Quiggles lip-syncs the rap-break holding a mic. He's dressed like an 80's rapper with sunglasses.

QUIGGLES
(rap lip-sync)
Life can be unpredictably
a nebulous pressure of intensity,
a paradoxical cosmic entropy,
a murky Milky Way of instability.

Alone is a singularity,
a hole that's black and boringly
an emptiness, inescapably,
a vacuum nature fills abhorringly.

Atomically the bond that we
connect is no anomaly.
Elementally, with empathy,
it's the nucleus of family.

(extended cut)

We're falling through time
deterministically,
a perspective of relativity,
effecting a loop of causality.
It's gravely in our gravity.

Kinetically, momentarily, you're
building up a sense of identity,
potentially the energy of
who it is that you're meant to be.

Quiggles does a mic drop.

GUITAR SOLO: Rolo plays air guitar on an alien broom. Zira
and Riffa do synchronized dance moves. Quiggles does amazing
hip hop dancing through the rest of the song.

ZIRA & RIFFA

When my mind is entangled
with every possibility,
you help me see it clear
from a different locality.
I can't make up my mind,
I'm trapped in a duality,
like Schrödinger's cat,
you settle my reality.
When I think I've no choice
and I box myself in --

Rolo wears a masquerade mask like evil Spock.

ZIRA & RIFFA & ROLO

You push me through the multiverse
to beat my evil twin.
Yeah! (giggling)

ZIRA & RIFFA

You fill the void.
You fill the void.
The dark matter clears, yeah 'cause

ALL

You fill the void.

ZIRA & RIFFA

You fill the void.
You fill the void.
This space is never empty 'cause

ALL
You fill the --

The T-L1 and T-D3 Bots crash in to grab Rolo.

Quiggles jumps up and slides across the air-hockey table in a slide-across-car-hood fashion. He grabs prizes from the prize wall and throws them at the Bots.

Riffa picks up Rolo and with Zira they run out to the boardwalk, followed by Quiggles and the Bots.

47 EXT. BOARDWALK - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

47

They run through the thin crowd and by the water-gun game. Quiggles grabs a gun in each hand and squirts the Bots' faces.

Then Quiggles tips over the duck-fishing game, spilling water and rubber alien-ducks at the Bots' feet. They trip on the squeaky ducks.

They run through a fun-house maze of spatial distortions.

When the Bots come out of the maze, they do not see Rolo or the others. We see Rolo in the background, holding still hiding among a prize display of life-size plush-toy earthlings. He runs out when they are not looking, then they pursue.

Rolo jumps across a ring-the-bell game just as a Blorxian swings the mallet right behind him.

Quiggles grabs a bunch of helium balloons and releases them in front of the Bots.

Rolo dives into a ball pit and hides. The Bots circle around looking for him. Rolo jumps out and runs the opposite direction.

The Bots pursue and bump into the milk bottle game. A pyramid of milk Bottles wobble and almost topple, but somehow right themselves into a perfect pyramid.

At the balloon dart game, Quiggles grabs three darts in one hand and throws them at once, popping three balloons. He jumps up and grabs a prize bag of FIREWORKS.

As they run by an AIRBOARD rental stand (flying boogie-boards), Riffa, Zira, and Quiggles each grab one and start flying. Rolo rides with Riffa.

The Bots stop and watch them escape. Then T-L1 launches a flying NET from its body: a rocket-propelled hoop with a net of glowing strings of energy.

They all fly around the rides and signs, doing acrobatic twists and turns to evade the Net. Quiggles does amazing surfboard tricks. We see the ocean in the background, beneath the moon and stars.

As the Net closes in on Rolo and Riffa, Quiggles gets between them and moons the Net's camera eye. We see the camera view of Quiggles' butt close up, and T-L1 reacts with disgust.

As the Net closes in on Riffa and Rolo, Riffa tosses Rolo to Zira midair. They toss him back and forth as they dodge signs and towers. Rolo is terrified.

They fly low around the games. After several quick dodges, the Net seems to catch Rolo. From the Bots' POV the monitor says "Target Captured". Then we see it is actually a plush toy earthling in the Net, not Rolo. It ejects the plush toy, launching it high into the sky.

Quiggles throws fireworks and smoke-bombs from his prize bag at the Net.

The Net bumps Zira's airboard, knocking her toward a large sign arching over the boardwalk. The sign is for the ride "Sky Walker". From her airboard above, Riffa sees Zira is about to crash into the sign.

RIFFA

Zira!

Without thinking, Riffa dives off her airboard, landing on Zira's airboard. Her momentum knocks them safely under the sign.

The Net crashes into the sign, and falls to the ground damaged. Zira sees the crash behind them.

ZIRA

You saved me!

RIFFA

Of course, squid squirt. You're my sister.

{{A test of love. And "Squid squirt" was always an insult until now.}}

Riffa holds Zira in front of her endearingly on their airboard. Rolo rides solo on his airboard, wobbly. Quiggles

joins them. They see the subway station ahead, and all seems safe.

Then the squadron of airborne DRONES arrive. They are small, but numerous. They swarm around everyone.

The four weave their way through the Drones, swatting them away.

They jump off their airboards in front of the subway station entrance and run inside. The Drones halt outside.

48 EXT. EARTHLING PARK - NIGHT - LATER

48

Riffa, Zira, Rolo, and Quiggles are exiting the subway station outside the earthling park. It is quiet.

Zira stops and takes Lazro's ROCKET out of her backpack and offers it to Riffa.

ZIRA

Here. I'm sorry I took Lazro's
rocket.

Riffa looks at the rocket, then closes Zira's hand around the rocket.

RIFFA

No. You keep it. I miss him too.

They have a moment.

ROLO

Um, I don't know if this is a good
time to mention this, but we're not
alone.

They look up and see the 1st Cavalry waiting there: 5 huge Bots 50-feet tall surrounding the subway station.

One of the Bots swings a large hoop down with a net of glowing energy strings. Zira rushes to protect Rolo but the net traps them both.

Riffa grabs the net handle and tries lifting it in vein.

RIFFA

Let them go! That's my sister! You
can't do this! Let them go!

Quiggles has one large firework left. He throws it at the CAPTAIN Bot in the center. It hits the Captain's face with a

ding, and falls to the ground. Then it goes off with a pathetic amount of sparks and smoke. The Bots are unfazed.

One of the Bots opens a hatch in its body -- a containment cell.

Quiggles tips over a nearby garbage can. He sees a banana peel and throws it at the Captain Bot's face. It sticks for a moment, then flops to the ground.

Across the street from the park, Smuffins and Yoola are at home sitting on their front porch. They see the commotion.

SMUFFINS

Yo, Rolo's back!

YOOLA

Oh no, it's the Animal Control Force! We need to help him!

Close up on Smuffins' face, intense expression.

SMUFFINS

Let's get...the toys!

Yoola holds her ball launcher, which looks like a bazooka. She cocks it like a shotgun.

Smuffins wears a heads-up display and powers up his hover drone, which makes an ominous hum, as the laser pointers converge on the same spot.

The Bot with the net lifts Rolo and Zira off the ground in the net.

Smuffins and Yoola pass in front of Fabli's home. Fabli is inside looking out the window.

YOOLA

Fabli, come help us. We need to save Rolo!

FABLI

But my show is tomorrow!

The net with Rola and Zira is slowly moving toward the containment cell in the other Bot.

Quiggles is throwing garbage from the can at the Bots, one piece at a time: paper cups, soda cans, water bottles, a chewed up blizbee, a bag of fast food, etc.

The net is almost in the containment cell.

Smuffins' drone suddenly flies around the Bots, pointing laser beams at the eyes of all five Bots. From the Bots' POV we see the lasers obscuring their vision.

We see Smuffins nearby piloting the drone.

SMUFFINS

(intensely)

Now let's see if you can catch the red dot!

Yoola charges in with her ball launcher, firing at the Bots' heads. Some balls go inside holes on the sides of the Bots' heads, like ear holes. With each ball she yells:

YOOLA

Fetch this! Fetch! Fetch! Fetch!

The Bots are disoriented. The Bot with the net turns, knocking the net into another Bot. The net falls.

Rolo and Zira escape the net. With Riffa and Quiggles they run under the Bots and into the park.

The Bots turn and pursue, but then they stop and shake the balls out, turning their head sideways and bouncing up and down, like getting water out of your ear.

Smuffins and Yoola join Rolo & co., running across the park. The Bots resume their pursuit.

Then Fabli dashes in like a speed runner.

FABLI

Split up!

Everyone runs in different directions. The Bots' have lost track of which earthling is which, so they each pursue a different earthling, with two following Fabli.

As the two Bots close in on Fabli, he reaches the agility course and runs through the tunnel, hoop, ramp, high jump. The course turns around and Fabli weaves around the poles heading directly toward the Bots. The Bots look at him puzzled.

Smuffins and Yoola run by.

YOOLA

Fabli, focus!

Fabli looks up at the Bots watching him.

FABLI

Oh yeah.

Fabli runs off. Everyone crosses paths. Mud splashes on Fabli.

FABLI

My hair!

Riffa, Zira, Rolo, and Quiggles are running out of the park.

ZIRA

We can make it home!

RIFFA

No, this way!

Riffa leads them in a different direction.

ZIRA

Riffa, where are we going?!

RIFFA

You'll see.

All five Bots pursue and close in, leaving Smuffins, Yoola, and Fabli behind. Then Riffa and the others enter a forest bordering the park. The Bots halt, unable to pass through the dense, tall trees. These giant bots have deep voices.

BOT

Captain, what do we do now?

CAPTAIN

Hmm, we did not think through this contingency.

49 INT. COMMAND CENTER - CONTINUOUS

49

Monitors show the action from the cavalry's POV. The Colonel smashes his fist down on the console. But then he's impressed to be outwitted.

COLONEL

Scrap metal!
Hm. You magnificent mongrel.

50 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

50

Zira and others stand several yards into the forest. They see the Bots have stopped and are just standing there, shining their lights on them, watching with menacing eyes.

RIFFA

See, they can't get us here.

ZIRA

Pretty sneaky, Sis.

ROLO

What are we going to do? They're just going to wait there and catch me when we finally go home.

RIFFA

About that...Zira...

Riffa sits on a log and pats the space next to her. Zira sits with her.

RIFFA (CONT'D)

Every night since those aliens abducted Lazro, we've been hoping they'll let him come back home. Now we're the aliens, and Rolo wants to go home.

ZIRA

We are going home.

RIFFA

Not our home, his home.

ZIRA

(realizing, sad)
Oh. Ohhh.

RIFFA

So what do you think?

Zira contemplates and takes a decisive breath.

ZIRA

I know what to do.

She stands up.

ZIRA (CONT'D)

C'mon, this way.

Zira leads the others on a path through the forest, rising uphill. It is quiet and still. Glowing seeds occasionally drop from the trees, spinning like helicopter seeds.

ROLO

I don't understand. What do you mean, my home?

ZIRA
You'll see.

ROLO
Wait, tell me now. I wanna know.

ZIRA
I know how you can go find Earth.

ROLO
Earth? Really? How?

ZIRA
You'll see.

{{For the first time, Riffa takes a nurturing role, helping to guide Zira. Now that Zira feels reconnected with Riffa, Rolo is no longer "the only one who loves me", so she is finally ready to let him go.}}

51 EXT. FOREST PEAK - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

51

They follow the path to a clearing at a peak in the middle of the forest. The stars and moons shine brightly in the clear sky, illuminating the trees.

Zira takes off her backpack, pulls out the model ROCKET, and hands it to Rolo.

ZIRA
Here.

ROLO
Lazro's rocket?

ZIRA
You can take this to find Earth.

Rolo looks at the small rocket in his hand, then looks confused at Zira then Riffa.

ROLO
(to Riffa)
Did she get enough snacks to eat?

ZIRA
No, silly. It gets bigger. Just soak it in water.

Rolo looks around.

ROLO
Oh. But we don't have any water.

Quiggles struts by confidently, humming, grabs the rocket from Rolo's hand, then places it on the ground. We see Quiggle's back, standing with both hands on his hips. He cocks two of his legs like a dog, then we hear urinating.

From ground level we see the rocket grow huge, towering into the night sky.

Then we see Rolo towering above like a giant, leaning closer to look at the rocket. Then from eye level we see the rocket is actually only seven feet tall.

ROLO

Uh. I still don't see how this helps.

ZIRA

Look inside.

The hatch door opens. Rolo steps up and leans inside. His voice echos inside:

ROLO

Whoa! It's huge in here! Is that a foosball table? And a hot tub?!

ZIRA

Yeah, Lazro let me help him make it. But I want you to have it.

ROLO

Zira, I don't... I... Really?

Zira smiles and nods.

ZIRA

It's got everything you'll need.

ROLO

Wow. I...

Rolo looks back and forth between the rocket and Zira, overwhelmed and sad, shaking his head.

ROLO (CONT'D)

I don't think I can do this.

ZIRA

Yes you can.

She sits on her knees, tearing up.

ZIRA (CONT'D)

You're the bestest pet ever, Rolo Polo. We kinda grew up together, and you were always there for me, as long as I can remember. You played with me, and you stayed with me when I was sick, and when it was stormy and I was afraid of the thunder. But you're more than just my pet. And I want you to be happy, even if that's without me.

Rolo hugs her and she hugs him. We see each of their faces as they embrace.

52 BEGIN FLASHBACKS

52

{{Hugs are a motif. Some of these hugs are like what we saw in the title montage.}}

FIRST HUG - In a Pet Store, 6-year old Zira sees 4-year old Rolo in a pen of other children. He looks at her and smiles. She picks him up, then hugs him tight with a huge grin. Rolo nestles under her chin.

SLEEPING HUG - At Home at night, 8-year old Rolo is asleep curled up in a sofa chair. 6-year old Zira gently lifts him like a baby to her chest. Still asleep, he wraps his arms around her neck and shoulder.

HOME FROM SCHOOL HUG - On a Sidewalk in front of her home, 7-year old Zira steps out of a school bus. 12-year old Rolo comes running toward her. She lifts him up and they hug.

BIKE HUG - 8-year old Zira is riding her bike. 20-year old Rolo is riding piggyback with his arms on her shoulders. She leans forward to pedal faster. Rolo is thrilled and hugs her neck for a better grip.

CRYING HUG - The night Lazro was taken, 9-year old Zira is curled up on her bed, crying. 30-year old Rolo leans on her and hugs her. She puts her arm over him.

END FLASHBACKS

They finish their hug and hold hands.

ROLO

Are you going to be alright?

Zira looks up at Riffa, and back to Rolo.

ZIRA

Yeah, I'll be okay. (a beat)

I hope you find what you're looking for.

Quiggles struts up to the rocket and hops in. He grabs a captain's hat from inside and puts it on.

{{Bookends: Quiggles enabled Rolo to run away, setting everything in motion, and now he enables Rolo on his journey beyond.}}

Rolo goes to the rocket and climbs inside.

Zira stands up, and Riffa stands behind her with her hands on Zira's shoulders.

ROLO
Thank you, too, Riffa.

Riffa smiles and nods.

RIFFA
(to Zira)
What are we going to tell Mom and Dad?

ROLO
(smiling)
Just tell them I went to a nice farm upstate where I could run around and chase squirlers.

A laugh escapes from Zira and Riffa. Rolo waves goodbye.

ROLO (CONT'D)
(to Zira)
Be good.

The hatch slowly closes as Rolo descends inside the rocket.

The engine ignites, and the rocket gently ascends into the sky. The thrust blows glowing tree seeds swirling into air.

We see Zira looking up at the glowing light, smiling tearfully, with her hand over Riffa's hand on her chest.

The rocket disappears into the stars.

{{This scene is an homage to the ending of E.T., but everything is reversed.}}

Coda montage interspersed into the credits:

GAME - Zira and Riffa play Blorgon Pong video game together very competitively.

DRIVE THRU - Rolo and Quiggles are in their rocket, ordering food at a space drive-thru.

BAKING - Riffa is icing a tray of cupcakes. Zira stealthily eats one.

HIGHWAY - Rolo and Quiggles approach the entrance to three wormholes with signs that look like highway signs: I405 to Betelgeuse, T70 to Degobah System, and DS9 to Vulcan.

CALL - Rolo and Zira talk to each other over a video call, happy to see each other.

MAKEUP - Riffa is letting Zira put makeup on her...badly. Riffa looks in the mirror, shocked, not sure if Zira was serious or not. Zira snickers.

FOOSBALL - Rolo and Quiggles are playing foosball in the ship. Quiggles plays expertly using both hands and all three feet.

HOSE - Riffa and Zira are washing the car in their driveway. Riffa squirts Zira with a hose, laughing.

TOURIST TRAP - Rolo and Quiggles see a space billboard saying "Galaxy's Largest Ball of Superstring - 12 parsecs". Rolo points it out to Quiggles excitedly.

PRANK - Riffa walks through a doorway and hits her face on cellophane. Zira is nearby, laughing hysterically.

GREEN HAND - Rolo and Quiggles see a giant glowing green hand in space trying to grab their ship. (*Star Trek TOS ref*)

SELFIE - Riffa holds her phone to take a selfie with Zira as they make duck lips.

EARTH - Rolo and Quiggles see Earth in front of them! They are in awe.