

PET EARTHLING

Written by

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Based on

Understanding Your Pet Earthling

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Concept art and more at
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FADE IN

OUTER SPACE

We see planet Blorx with purple oceans and green continents, orbited by a big pale-green moon. The moon and planet both have city lights and are tethered together by a space elevator. Two smaller moons orbit the big one.

SUPERIMPOSE: Planet Blorx

ROLO (V.O.)
Mission Log, Commander Rolo.

INT. HOUSE, PLANET BLORX - NIGHT

ROLO is 24, average looking but fit. He is playing make-believe combat in an alien home several times larger than human scale. But this scene is portrayed like sci-fi action.

He hides in a doorway, looking cautiously down the dim hallway for the enemy. He wears an ill-fitting futuristic combat helmet (action figure costume) and carries a large bright green laser rifle (toy slime pistol). He talks into an imaginary recorder on his wrist:

ROLO
This is my 23rd attempt to escape the Blorxian compound. If I can slip by the guard and crawl under the perimeter barricade, I can finally reunite with the rebel forces.

Suddenly glowing purple slime shoots past his head and splats behind him. He turns and sees ZIRA charging, a green humanoid alien, 13 feet tall but seems even taller. Their face is hidden by a massive helmet, and they carry a purple slime pistol. Rolo runs away down the hall.

ROLO
Agggghhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

Zira's thundering feet follow, as glowing purple slime splats around him. He turns the corner into another chamber (bedroom) and dodges around piles of debris (laundry).

While checking over his shoulder, he runs into the belly of a giant monster (teddy bear). The shadowy creature wiggles slowly with motorized whirring. Then it falls backward and goes still as its batteries die.

He sees the door to a warehouse is ajar (closet), so he runs inside and hides behind some machinery (shoe rack).

He hears Zira stomp into the room, and watches their feet through the door opening. Everything is quiet for a moment, except his panting.

Suddenly the door is thrust open and Zira fires slime which hits his shoulder. He screams and runs out, dodging between the alien's legs, and dives under a giant platform (bed).

He crawls deeper as Zira's feet approach. He sees the alien's leg kneel, then their hand reaches under and swipes side to side. He scrambles out the other side and doubles back down the hallway.

Zira's thundering feet follow. Rolo fires randomly behind him without looking. A huge boulder (plush toy) is hurled at him, just missing. Then another one knocks him over.

He scrambles to get up. A giant mine hits the floor just past him (ball with suction cups), then the attached cable (string) is pulled taught, tripping him as he tries to run.

He gets up and runs around the corner into another chamber (family room) matted with weeds (shag carpet). He scrambles up some big shiny blob (beanbag seat) then slides down the side and hides at the base.

As Zira enters and hops over the beanbag, Rolo pushes it upward, tripping the alien.

Rolo dashes in front of the fallen alien, leaping sideways in slow-mo, and in mid-air he rapid-fires blobs of glowing green slime. We hear the pump motor churning as he yells:

ROLO
(slow motion)
R-r-r-a-a-a-a-a-g-g-g-g-h-h-h-h-h

He lands shoulder-first on the floor, tucks and rolls under a huge platform (sofa). He crawls deeper under, then looks out the gap under the sofa skirt.

We hear Zira get up and plod around. Rolo watches their feet pacing. Zira speaks through a voice filter in their helmet:

ZIRA (O.S.)
(deep voice effect)
Come out, come out, wherever you
are...

Zira's feet plod more, then they're gone. It's eerily quiet. There's a creaking. Rolo leans toward the edge to look.

Suddenly Zira's helmeted head looks upside down at him.

ZIRA
(deep voice effect)
I seeeee youuuuu...

Zira reaches under the sofa as their helmet starts to slip off. They grab Rolo by his legs and drag him out as he tries to claw the carpet...giggling.

ROLO
(playfully)
No, no, no...

ZIRA's helmet falls off, and we see she is actually like 9 years old (if she were human), very cute, and 13 feet tall. She has shiny green skin, big eyes, antennae, and long black hair. She is wearing purple onesie pajamas, splattered with green slime which is fading and evaporating. The slime on Rolo has also evaporated.

We see more clearly this is a pleasant suburban house, mid-century modern with an alien twist, and everything is about 3x too big for humans. Zira is kneeling on the sofa, easily lifting Rolo in the air upside down. His helmet falls off.

ZIRA
(playfully)
Gotcha!

She dangles him upside-down in front of her face as he laughs. The pistol falls from his hands and makes a plastic sound on the floor.

ZIRA (cont'd)
Oh, who's a good boy? You are! Yes, you are!

Zira turns Rolo upright and smashes the side of his head against her lips, kissing him.

ZIRA (cont'd)
Mwah! Mwah! Mwah!

ROLO
(laughing)
Stop, you're getting your slobber all over me!

He wipes his face with his shoulder. She acts offended.

ZIRA
Huh, I don't slobber!

She wets her lips and wiggles them like big fish lips, slowly bringing Rolo's face closer and closer. He laughs and tries to shield his face.

ROLO

Nooooo, nooooooooooooo!

She gives him a big wet kiss. Then we hear Zira's mom.

MOM (O.S.)

Zira, bedtime! Go brush your teeth.

ZIRA

Okay, Mom!

Zira stands up, holds Rolo out in both hands and starts spinning around.

ZIRA

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

Rolo giggles, watching the room spin, then he gets nauseous.

OPENING CREDITS - SERIES OF SHOTS

TITLE: PET EARTHLING

During the opening credits song (~60 seconds?) we see the following photos on the refrigerator and around the house, showing Rolo and Zira growing up together, but at different rates (Rolo ages from 4 to 44 while Zira ages 7 to 11):

PET SHOP - 7-year-old Zira excitedly chooses 4-year-old Rolo from several other earthling children in a pen.

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

HORSEY - Young Rolo rides Zira like a horsey.

POTTY TRAINING - Young Rolo looks guilty, wearing a long shirt without pants, standing next to his diaper on the floor. Zira scolds him with a rolled up newspaper.

COSTUMES - 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 Rolo sits in a tub as Zira hoses him off.

GROWTH CHART - Zira's getting her height marked on the wall by her mom's hand. Young Rolo stands by his own height marks.

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

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

LEASH WALK - Teen Rolo walks down the sidewalk with a peppy step, wearing a leash harness. Zira's legs walk behind him.

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 grows increasingly chubby and balding:

TABLE SCRAPS - Under a dining table, we see many blorxling 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 is in a robe with cucumbers on his eyes, relaxing in Zira's lap as her hand clips his toenails.

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

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

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

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

INT. HOUSE - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 20 Years Later

Rolo is now 44, balding, stubbled, and chubby. He is sprawled on his back on the family room carpet, lazily tossing a large ball of yarn from hand to hand. The house is silent, just the ticking of a clock. He flutters his lips in boredom:

ROLO

Pppppppppppppp

QUIGGLES is sleeping on a giant cat condo, mouth wide open, tongue out, drool descending. He is Rolo's pet, an alien animal about 2 feet tall, 1 eye, 2 arms, 3 legs.

In an aquarium, alien fish stare blankly at the yarn ball volleying back and forth, pivoting slightly side to side.

Rolo fumbles the yarn and it rolls three feet away. He looks, then tries to slowly pull it back by the tail of the yarn, but it only rolls in place. He tries pulling faster; same result. He yanks suddenly; the yarn hops up spinning, then

rolls farther. He strains to reach it even though it's obviously too far. He gives up and exhales in boredom:

ROLO

Pphhhhhhhhhh

He looks at the ticking wall clock. It has strange symbols, multiple dials, and a double-pendulum swinging acrobatically.

Rolo hears a key unlocking the front door. He sprints and hides behind a potted plant near the door. Boredom breaks to bedlam as the door slams opens and Zira yells:

ZIRA

Rolo, I'm home!

Zira is now like age 11 (if she were human) and 14 feet tall, wearing a purple hoodie. Rolo waits for her to pass by, then he bolts for the open door.

ZIRA

(playfully)

No, no, no, you little sneaker!

She scoops him up just as he reaches the threshold.

ROLO

Oof! (laughs) Well, it was worth the try.

ZIRA

Oh, you'll never get away from me,
'cause you're just so cute. Look at
dat cute belly!

Zira squeezes him tight and blows a noisy, wet zerbert on his exposed belly. Rolo laughs, trying to squirm out of her grip. She carries him to the family room.

ZIRA

Have you been a good boy? Have you?

ROLO

Mmmaybee.

ZIRA

Guess whaaaaat? It's time for take
off. Ready?

Rolo groans with dread as she swings him back and forth.

ZIRA (cont'd)

3, 2, 1, weeeeeeee!

She tosses him across the room onto the giant beanbag seat. He looks terrified, then lands face down with a grunt.

ZIRA

Wasn't that fun?

ROLO

(muffled face down)

No.

RIFFA enters and slams the door closed. She is Zira's older sister, like age 16 (if she were human) and 16 feet tall. Like all blorxlings, she has shiny green skin, two antennae, black hair, and big eyes. She has a stylish haircut, and wears a bomber jacket with whimsical patches, a skirt, dark eyeliner, and a piercing in her antenna. She is in an adolescent phase, peevish and aloof. She walks toward the hall, chewing gum and staring at her phone.

Zira walks toward Rolo in the beanbag as he struggles unsuccessfully to climb out.

ZIRA

Hey, Riffa, watch Rolo fly again!

Riffa just keeps walking, giving Zira a snarky side-eye. She pops a bubble, looks back at her phone, and disappears into the hall. Dejected, Zira slumps into the sofa.

Since blorxlings are so much smarter than humans, they underestimate humans and treat them like little kids, not usually engaging in serious conversation with them. Zira pats the sofa cushion.

ZIRA

C'mere, Rolo Polo. Up up up!

ROLO

(stalling)

Wait, gimme a sec.

Rolo flips himself face up and rolls his shoulder around, feeling the pains of middle age.

ZIRA

Oh wait, it's food time! I bet you're hungry.

ROLO

Meh.

Zira springs into the kitchen. We hear kitchen noises and eventually an electric can opener.

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 the beanbag. From Rolo's POV Quiggles is falling toward his face.

ROLO

Quiggles!

Rolo rolls away just in time as Quiggles lands adjacent. Then Quiggles licks Rolo on the face and mouth:

ROLO

Oh! —tphphp— okay —tphphp—
that's enough, Quiggles —tphphp—
that's enou—tphphp.

Quiggles suddenly freezes mid-lick, tongue still out, looking at the hall like he heard something. He hops to the ground and casually walks out like an aloof cat. Rolo is amused.

ROLO

(sarcastically)

Bye.

ZIRA (O.S.)

Okay, come and get it!

We hear Zira banging a can with a spoon. Rolo rolls off the beanbag, falls on the floor, and goes to his feeding station: a portable counter and stool. He sits as she puts a dog bowl and weird spoon on his counter.

She holds the can high over his bowl, and a cylinder of gray-brown goop slowly emerges with a slobbery suction sound. Rolo's eyes follow it without anticipation. Then it stops. She shakes the can up and down with rhythmic slurp sounds as the goop lowers slightly. Then it free-falls into his bowl with a splat. Rolo stares at it jiggling. Then with another slurp sound a smaller glop falls on top.

ZIRA

There you go. I made it myself!

She laughs. Rolo braces himself, grabs the spoon, and starts scooping small bites.

Riffa re-enters from the hallway, holding a long wooly sweater. She doesn't like pets.

RIFFA

Hey, squid squirt! Your earthling
was sleeping on my bed again!

ROLO

(with food in his mouth)

I can hear you, you know.

RIFFA

Well, were you?

ROLO

Mmmaybee?

ZIRA

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

ROLO

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

Riffa holds up the sweater to show little pajama bottoms stuck to it by static.

RIFFA

Look, Zira, he left his pants on my sweater!

The pajama pants slowly peel away from the sweater with a crackle of static and fall to the ground.

ROLO

So that's where they went!

ZIRA

(to Riffa)

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

RIFFA

What? Ew.

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

RIFFA (O.S.)

And tell your pet to stay out of my room!

ROLO

I can still hear you!

ZIRA

Hey Riffa? ... Riffa!

RIFFA (O.S.)

Whaaat?!

ZIRA

Rolo has an appointment now at the V-E-T.

Rolo rolls his eyes and shakes his head.

ROLO

I can spell, you know.

RIFFA (O.S.)

So?

ZIRA

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

Riffa re-enters, looking at her phone, trudging to the door.

RIFFA

(resentfully)

Finnne.

ZIRA

Then I wanna go to the earthling park after.

RIFFA

Nkay, whatever.

ZIRA

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

Riffa leans by the door with her phone and pops a bubble. Rolo abandons his food and walks to the door, stretching his shoulders and back. Zira grabs a leash and her backpack.

ZIRA (cont'd)

Found it. Come on, Rolo!

ROLO

Come on, Quiggles!

Quiggles gallops from the hall and jumps on Rolo's back.

ROLO (cont'd)

Oof!

They all exit and slam the door.

A chunk of Rolo's food crumbles off the can-shaped edge and splats in the bowl.

INT. VET EXAM ROOM - AFTERNOON - LATER

In a veterinary exam room, Rolo sits shirtless on the exam table. Quiggles walks around the counter sniffing and licking the medical equipment. Dr. ZORXABLORG is a male blorxling, balding with a beard, wearing a white lab coat.

ZORXABLORG

Say "ah".

ROLO

Ahhhhhhggh.

Zorxablorg inserts a tongue depressor. Rolo gags.

ZORXABLORG

How's his diet been?

ZIRA

Good.

RIFFA

She gives him table scraps.

Zira shoots a look at Riffa. Zorxablorg examines Rolo's ears.

ZIRA

No, only on special occasions.

RIFFA

Like, every dinner?

ZORXABLORG

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

Rolo sighs with humiliation.

ZORXABLORG (cont'd)

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 a small fart.

ROLO

That was his fault! He made me do it!

Zorxablorg gets a needle from the counter, then he holds Rolo still under his arm.

ZORXABLORG

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

ROLO

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

ZORXABLORG

(chuckles) Exactly, because of these shots.

ZIRA

Rolo, be goood.

While Zorxablorg injects his arm, Rolo closes his eyes and groans before, during, and even after the shot. Zorxablorg releases him and puts away the needle. Rolo rubs his arm.

ZORXABLORG

(overly sweet)

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

Zorxablorg holds out a large lollipop. Rolo glares at him with resentment, then grabs it.

ROLO

Yes.

ZIRA

Good job, Rolo! Now we get to go to the earthling park!

EXT. SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON - LATER

Walking down a suburban sidewalk under the blue trees and yellow sky, Zira holds Rolo's leash attached to his harness; Rolo holds Quiggles' leash attached to his collar. Rolo is finishing his lollipop.

Zira's backpack has advanced science symbols doodled like cartoons and flowers. She is rambling to Riffa behind her, but Riffa is just looking at her phone.

ZIRA

So then in class 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! Well, an A negative. Anyway, I had neutrino glitter and plasma paste but...

During this rambling, alien squirrels scamper in the trees overhead. One tosses an acorn on Rolo's head. He wipes his head. Another squirrel tosses another acorn. Rolo looks up.

ROLO

Hey!

Several more squirrels with evil grins toss acorns on him.

ROLO (cont'd)

Hey! Stop that!

Quiggles looks up and growls.

ZIRA

Rolo, stop yelling.

One tosses another acorn. Rolo halts, and Quiggles barks, straining on his leash.

ROLO

(to the squirrels)

Stop that! Stop!

Zira yanks on Rolo's leash.

ZIRA

Rolo, shush. Now come on.

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

ROLO

But they're [throwing things at] —

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 a stink eye.

Rolo grunts and resumes walking. Quiggles gives them the "I'm watching you" hand gesture.

As they approach the earthling park, Rolo sees animal-rights ACTIVISTS across the street. They are blorxling hippies with signs like "Earthlings Have Rights Too", "Earthlings are Not Property", "End Speciesism", and "Ban Anal Probes".

ACTIVISTS

(chanting)

Cut the leash, set them free.
Earthlings are like you and me!
Cut the leash, let them be.
Earthlings need equality!

Zira and Riffa don't pay any attention, but Rolo quietly watches. His curiosity is sparked, thus lighting the fuse of his midlife existential crisis.

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? Blurope?

ZIRA

Oh, I never thought of that. Lemme see.

All blorxlings have a cybernetic brain-chip on their forehead. Zira concentrates and her chip starts flashing. She looks perplexed, then she taps it.

ZIRA

Hmm. That's weird.

ROLO

What's the matter?

ZIRA

I'm searching online all over the nebula, but there's no information.

ROLO

Huh. Is your chip broken?

ZIRA

No, everything else is fine. I just can't find anything about where earthlings are from. That's strange.

EXT. EARTHLING PARK - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Like a dog park, but for earthlings, with an agility course (like dog shows). Among the crowd on the purple grass, a seeing-eye earthling leads a blind blorxling.

Zira, Rolo, and Quiggles enter the gated area. She detaches Rolo's leash while Rolo detaches Quiggles' leash. Riffa stays outside, leaning against a lamppost, looking at her phone. Zira pulls a flying-saucer-like frisbee from her backpack.

ZIRA

Okay Rolo, here we go!

She fake-throws the frisbee and hides it behind her back, pointing in the distance, smirking. Rolo doesn't fall for it.

ZIRA (cont'd)

Go get it! There it goes!

ROLO

Ha ha. Nice try.

Rolo walks a short distance and she throws it to him.

SERIES OF SHOTS: Rapid clips of Rolo playing frisbee.

— He catches and throws it back, like a hammer throw.

— His hands are out to catch it, but it hits his belly.

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

— It flies overhead with Quiggles sitting on it spinning.

END SERIES

ZIRA (O.S.)

Oops! Too high!

Rolo walks to where the frisbee landed by a tree, which happens to be where his earthling friends are standing.

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

SMUFFINS is Rolo's loyal best friend. He looks intimidating like a bulldog, but he's a gentle giant, about 40, with a big pink bow in his hair. Like Rolo, they're both chubby.

SMUFFINS & YOOLA

Hey, Rolo!

ROLO

Hey Yoola!

(trying to be funny)

Hoola Yoola. Uvula Yoola.

YOOLA

(smirking)

Uvula?!

ROLO

Sorry, never mind.

They give a big hug.

SMUFFINS

What up, dawg?

ROLO

Hey Smuffins, the muffin man!

SMUFFINS

Alright, that works, that works.

They do that hand-grip-shoulder-hug.

YOOLA

Is that a new harness?

ROLO

Yeah, Zira took me shopping at the pet store. But...I woulda preferred the blue one, though.

YOOLA

Why didn't you get it?

ROLO

I dunno. She really liked this one.

SMUFFINS

Yo man, you 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 young owner. She waves enthusiastically. Zira jogs up and pats Yoola and Smuffins on their heads.

ZIRA

(in a sugary voice)

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

ROLO

(embarrassed)

No.

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

ZIRA

Okay, I'll be back quick. Have fun with your little friends.

She leaves and shouts:

ZIRA (cont'd)

Be good!

YOOLA

(chuckles) You have such a cute
owner.

FABLI (*fobbly*) struts to them. He is a show earthling, a fine specimen in his prime, very poised with golden brown skin, long wavy dyed-blond hair, and a high-brow foreign accent.

YOOLA

Yo, Fabli!

FABLI

Hellooo.

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, the Blorxminster Kennel Club.

Fabli and Smuffins bump fists, then Rolo.

YOOLA

Oh yeah, good luck!

FABLI

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

ROLO

Wow, cool. So what else is new?

YOOLA

Let's see. On Blensday we went on a walk. And on Blursday we went on a walk. Oh and I switched to a new food, which is pretty exciting.

ROLO

(just being polite)

Nice.

SMUFFINS

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

YOOLA

I dunno, 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. Not even close!

FABLI

My owners arranged for me to go to a stud farm next week.

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

SMUFFINS

Uhh.

YOOLA

Sooo, how about you, Rolo?

ROLO

No one's ever invited 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?

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?

FABLI

Are you on any new medications?

SMUFFINS

What else is there, dawg? We're safe, we're healthy, we're well fed. And they give us cool toys.

YOOLA

What's the matter, Rolo? Are you having a midlife crisis?

ROLO

Don't you ever wonder where we came from?

FABLI

I came from a champion 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 stray street earthlings? Outside?! Ugh.

SMUFFINS

You don't hunt!

ROLO

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

SMUFFINS

Dawg, I don't know what you worrying about. We got it easy. You should be happy with what you got.

ROLO

I know I should —

Rolo has unbuckled his harness to scratch an itch. Two robots roll up: earthling catchers, the size of blorxlings, with "Animal Control Force" insignias and ID plaques: T-L1 is tall and thin, T-D3 is short and squat.

T-D3

(menacingly to Rolo)

Earthling, civil code 473.7 requires you to wear a harness at all times in public.

T-L1

All of you, identify your owners
now.

Yoola and Smuffins point to their owner; Fabli points to his.
Rolo looks around for Zira while nervously fumbling to re-
buckle his harness. T-L1 prods him.

T-L1

Where is your owner, earthling?

ROLO

Um, I don't see her —

T-D3

Civil code 314.9 requires earthlings
to be under direct supervision of
their owners at all times in public.

T-L1

Let's see your identification tag.

Rolo nervously pulls his "dog tag" out from his shirt. T-L1
scans it.

T-L1

Scanned. Accessing records...
It says here your pet license is
expired. Your owner needed to renew
this on Bleptember 40th.

ROLO

She didn't?

T-L1

And it says you were never neutered.

ROLO

Neutered!

T-D3

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

T-L1

That is a class 2 violation. Looks
like we're going to have to take you
in now.

T-D3 opens a hatch in its body — a containment cell to hold
Rolo. It reaches to grab Rolo.

Quiggles the loyal enabler pushes Rolo out of the way, then
he kicks dirt behind him (like a dog) into the Bot's hatch.

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

SMUFFINS

Yo 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.

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

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles run away, dodging the crowd.

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

Quiggles throws other earthlings' toys at the Bots.

ROLO

Where's Zira? Do you see her?

SMUFFINS

No.

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

ZIRA

Rolo!

Rolo doesn't hear her. Zira runs toward Riffa.

ZIRA

Riffa, we have to catch Rolo!

Riffa looks up, blows a bubble, and looks back down.

As another blorxling and their pet walk through the gate, Rolo and Smuffins try to escape. The blorxling tries to block them but they slip out, followed closely by the Bots.

Quiggles senses they'll need help, so he hops onto the fence, leaps toward Riffa, snatches her phone, and runs after Rolo. (The phone is almost his size but it shrinks when folded.)

RIFFA

Quiggles! I need that!

Riffa and Zira chase after Quiggles. Rolo and Smuffins see a SUBWAY station just outside the park.

SMUFFINS

Where we running?

ROLO

Here. In here!

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

INT. SUBWAY STATION - CONTINUOUS

Alien subway station, but instead of trains, a wormhole opens every few minutes. A few blorxlings are waiting on the platform. A sign shows a countdown: "Next wormhole in 3...2...1..."

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles run into a wormhole, followed by T-L1. The wormhole closes just before T-D3, so it jumps in a different wormhole.

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

INT. WORMHOLE - CONTINUOUS

The wormhole is 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 the next exit, then the tube forks and some seats follow that fork. Likewise other seats merge where wormholes join. (Like entering/exiting a highway, but seats instead of cars.) The exits have similar, confusing names, like "Blorzington Station", "Bluxian", "Blazian", "Blorian", etc.

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles quickly take a seat. T-L1 comes up the aisle behind them.

ROLO

Let's exit here!

Rolo presses a button on their seat, and they branch onto the next wormhole. T-L1 follows.

SMUFFINS

It followed us!

They branch again but the Bot follows. So they branch again and lose the Bot. Rolo tries to read the rapid signs.

ROLO

Wait, where are we? Was that Bluxian? Blazian? Blorian?

SMUFFINS

How would I know?

A wormhole merges behind them and T-D3 enters. They shout and take the next exit, losing the Bot. But in the new wormhole T-L1 is waiting ahead. They exit again.

Zira and Riffa merge; their seat is now across from Rolo.

ZIRA

Rolo, there you are!

More silliness, like: T-D3 merges. Rolo's and Zira's parties quickly take two different exits. The Bot takes a third exit. (Our POV stays in this empty wormhole.) Rolo's party re-enters, but upside down. T-L1 enters (right-side up). Rolo's party exits. As T-L1 tries to follow, T-D3 enters upside down and they crash. Then each Bot takes a separate exit. Zira and Riffa enter, then exit. Both Bots re-enter from different directions, look at each other, turn around and exit. Rolo's party enters, then Zira and Riffa enter.

In another **SUBWAY STATION**, a wormhole opens and all five run out, pursued by T-L1 and T-D3. They run across the platform into another wormhole. It closes behind them, so each Bot jumps in a different wormhole.

A 3D **MAP** shows the subway lines — a holographic globe labeled "PLANET BLORX" with wormholes criss-crossing it, not across the surface but straight through the planet. A glowing dot labeled "YOU ARE HERE" follows the party's location bouncing all over the planet, even to the moon and back.

Back in a **WORMHOLE** we see all five. They exit then crash through many barricades and caution tape that read "Do Not Enter", "Under Construction", "Wormhole Closed", "Wormhole Ends", "Caution". Their seats screech to a halt before the broken wormhole opens to a cavern with lava. A caution sign reads "Planet Core is Hot!" with a figure burning in lava.

They move in reverse and merge onto a different line, where the Bots speed forward past them, then turn around. Each party takes a different exit. The Bots stay and wait. Then both parties enter and the Bots charge.

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.

All five exit. It seems safe. Then the Bots enter in front and behind them and close in. Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles exit and watch cautiously.

ROLO

I think we lost them.

SMUFFINS

We need to get outta here.

EXT. OLD BLORGTON - AFTERNOON - MOMENTS LATER

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

A wormhole opens over the sidewalk by a bus-stop bench. Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles hop out, 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.

They step out of the alley. Quiggles curiously looks around sniffing lampposts. Smuffins visibly does not like being outside his comfort zone.

SMUFFINS

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

ROLO

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

By the bus-stop bench, a floating sign is counting down, "Next wormhole in 9426...9425...".

ROLO (cont'd)

There won't be another one here until tomorrow.

SMUFFINS

What?! How we gonna get home now?!

ROLO

Shhh, shh, shh!

A grungy alien rodent shuffles out of the alley. It growls at them as it passes by. Quiggles growls back.

SMUFFINS

Okay, we can do this. Maybe we can find another subway station to get back home, right?

ROLO

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

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

What about those earthling catchers? And our owners are gonna be so worried about us!

ROLO

(sincerely)

Oh yeah, poor Zira.

SMUFFINS

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

ROLO

Okay, but it won't take long. C'mon, when have we ever got to just walk around wherever we want all 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.

EXT. OLD BLORGTON - SAME TIME

At a different bus stop a few blocks away, another wormhole opens. Zira and Riffa hop out, then it closes. They look around.

ZIRA

Do you see them?

RIFFA

No.

Riffa looks at the floating sign counting down.

RIFFA

Wait, that was the last wormhole!
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 earthling!

ZIRA

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

RIFFA

And his stupid pet took my phone. Ugh!

ZIRA

C'mon, Riffa, 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

(sadly)

Lazro would've helped me.

RIFFA

(sharply)

Yeah, well Lazro's gone!

This hurts Zira.

ZIRA

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

Riffa takes a breath and simmers down.

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 hi-tech label-maker from her backpack and presses a few buttons, then points it at a lamppost. A holographic "LOST" poster appears with Rolo's picture.

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

ZIRA

Rolooo!

INT. COMMAND CENTER - LATER

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 a monitor.

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 resembling a cigar at the side of his mouth, and his head is shaped like an army hat.

SUPERIMPOSE: Animal Control Force, Command Center

COLONEL

(yelling at T-L1 & T-D3)

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 earthling 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 on-screen 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 bolts on the ground. Who have we got in that region?

SERGEANT

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

COLONEL

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

SERGEANT

They're deployed to the lemming flood in E17.

COLONEL

9th platoon?

SERGEANT

Toilet gators.

COLONEL

1st platoon?

SERGEANT

Sharknado containment.

COLONEL

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

SERGEANT

Yes sir.

COLONEL

(aside, gloating)

I love the smell of silicon in the morning.

EXT. OLD BLORGTON - AFTERNOON - LATER

Rolo and Smuffins are walking down a sidewalk, with Quiggles walking ahead curiously sniffing everything. A blorxling walking the opposite direction looks at them suspiciously. They lower their heads and keep walking.

Rolo points to a PET STORE ahead. The sign reads "PET VORTEX - For the Dependents We Lovex" [sic].

ROLO

Hey Smuffins, look, a pet store!

SMUFFINS

You can read that?!

ROLO

Well, I never got the hang of trans-dimensional verb tenses, but yeah.

SMUFFINS

Oh. But whadayou need a pet store for?

ROLO

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

SMUFFINS

Oh okay.

They reach the door, but Rolo is too short to open it.

SMUFFINS

Here, hop up.

Smuffins lifts Rolo on his shoulders and they pull open the door and slip inside.

INT. PET STORE - CONTINUOUS

Inside the pet store we hear various alien animal noises.

They cautiously stroll down an aisle of pets. Quiggles taps on the glass and 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 crunchy kibble, eating it like popcorn. She and Rolo look at each other awkwardly.

PET WOMAN

Hey.

ROLO

Hey.

The next enclosure has twin boys sleeping on a couch. One boy's foot is on the other's face. He starts twitching like he's dreaming he's running, kicking the other boy's face. Rolo continues past them.

A blorxling CLERK approaches them, heavysset with glasses, like a Midwestern mom, wearing a smock. She starts to reach down for Rolo and Smuffins.

CLERK

Whoa, now how did you two rascals
get out?

Rolo and Smuffins step back out of reach. Smuffins nervously hides behind a display.

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 store.

CLERK

Oh, well aren't you a cute one!

She kneels and rubs Rolo's belly.

ROLO

Hey, um, can I ask you a question?

CLERK

You wanna ask me 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! Actually, we don't know
where you're from. We just know that
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, no, I mean earthlings aren't originally from this planet.

ROLO

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

CLERK

Well, yeah, you all are.

ROLO

Whoa.

Smuffins leans out from behind the display.

SMUFFINS (concurrently)

Whaaa'?

CLERK

Actually, earthlings are considered an invasive species.

Rolo is stunned.

SMUFFINS

(in a hushed voice)

Ask her which planet.

ROLO

Oh. Which planet?

She shrugs.

CLERK

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

ROLO

Oh. Why doesn't anyone know?

CLERK

(smiling)

Well, aren't you full of questions! That's the mystery. There's just no records. But maybe the science museum has some old historic records. It's just a couple blocks that way.

She stands and points toward a cross-street. Then she looks around the store.

CLERK (cont'd)

I could show your owner. But where are they? 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.

Quiggles sees bags of pet treats on a display. He points at them, jumping up and down excitedly. Rolo looks around, then grabs a bag. The Clerk turns the corner, sees them, and hobbles after them.

CLERK

Now where do you think you little rascals are going?

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles dash out the door, dodging around an alien who is entering. The Clerk stops at the door and watches them run.

CLERK (cont'd)

My goodness!

EXT. OLD BLORGTON - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

They dash up the sidewalk.

SMUFFINS

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

ROLO

C'mon, this way!

More determined than ever, Rolo trots across the street to where the Clerk had pointed. Quiggles trots ahead and Smuffins follows.

SMUFFINS

Now where you going?

ROLO

To find that museum!

Rolo opens the bag of pet treats and tosses one to Quiggles. He pulls out two more and offers one to Smuffins.

ROLO

Want one?

Smuffins squints indecisively, then he grabs both treats and starts eating. Rolo smirks and takes another one from the bag to eat. Smuffins brushes against a dirty stoop. Annoyed, he tries to brush off the dirt.

SMUFFINS

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 and makes noises.

ROLO

"Resistance is futile."

They laugh.

ROLO

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.

EXT. OLD BLORGTON - CONTINUOUS

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

ZIRA

Rolooo.

Zira points her label-maker at a lamppost and posts another holographic Lost poster.

ZIRA

Hey Riffa, remember when me and you hid Rolo in the laundry to scare Lazro?

RIFFA

So you know quantum physics but not grammar?

ZIRA

Fine—remember when *you and I* hid Rolo?

RIFFA

No.

ZIRA

(a pause, then singing)
"Do you wanna build a wormhole?
Folding space between the stars."
Riffa, sing with me.

Riffa shrugs her off. Zira skips around her, tugging on her jacket, trying to engage her.

ZIRA (cont'd)

(singing)
"We could link our quantum states,
particles or waves, a time that's
only ours."

Zira points her label-maker 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 with the bottom half of Riffa's face talking:

RIFFA (cont'd)

Stop it, squid squirt!

Zira laughs. Riffa tears the rest of it off her face. Zira points the label-maker at her again, but Riffa slaps away her hand, knocking the label-maker onto the sidewalk.

RIFFA

I said stop!

ZIRA

Ow, you hurt me!

Riffa tears the rest of the posters off her body. Zira holds out her "wounded" hand, waiting for an apology.

ZIRA (cont'd)

Well?

RIFFA

(sarcastically)

Sorry!

ZIRA

(dejected)

No you're not.

Zira picks up her label-maker. Then she sees Rolo and Smuffins a block ahead and points.

ZIRA

There they are!

Rolo!

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

EXT. OLD BLORGTON - CONTINUOUS

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

ROLO

Uh oh, it's Zira.

Rolo starts running away, but Smuffins stands still. Quiggles tugs on Smuffins to run.

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?

Smuffins contemplates, then chuckles.

SMUFFINS

I can't believe I'm doing this!

They run away, chased by Zira and Riffa down alleys, dodging
dumpsters and debris. Quiggles leads the way, doing parkour
stunts, with Smuffins huffing behind. They turn a corner and
hide in an abandoned WAREHOUSE.

Zira and Riffa run past.

ZIRA

Rolo! Rolo!
(frustrated)
Where did they go?! Do you see them?

Riffa shrugs no. They continue walking away.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The abandoned warehouse is mostly empty, with broken windows,
missing doors, and graffiti that looks like crop circles. A
small pile of pallets is against a column. But it is calm and
serene, with sunbeams shining through the dusty air,
illuminating the colorful graffiti, giving it a charm. Rolo
and Quiggles peek outside.

ROLO

(panting)
Okay, they're gone.

SMUFFINS

(panting)
I've never run so much my whole
life!

Smuffins sits on the pallets. Quiggles joins him.

SMUFFINS (cont'd)

You have any more of those snacks?

Rolo tosses him the bag of treats. He starts eating one.

Quiggles chuckles, looking at Riffa's phone. Rolo looks over
and sees Quiggles took a selfie on the subway — he's making
a funny face, Rolo is next to him with a scared face, and a
Bot is behind them.

ROLO
Very funny, Quiggles.

Rolo takes the phone and folds it into his pocket. (It shrinks when folded.)

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

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

Rolo goes out a back doorway.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

The alley behind the warehouse has dumpsters, garbage, boxes, and a curled up old mattress. Rolo steps out cautiously and goes a short distance to find the museum.

Suddenly we hear the gruff male earthling voice of ZEFFRO:

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

Rolo freezes, afraid of being attacked by the unseen man.

Then we see several monstrous, carnivorous alien RODENTS behind him, sightless like moles, sniffing and listening, 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 now sees the rodents, and he runs down the alley.

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

Zeffro grabs a rope and swings past Rolo, shooting another rodent. He lands on top of a dumpster, and tosses the end of the rope down to Rolo.

ZEFFRO
Here, grab on!

Rolo grabs the rope and climbs onto the dumpster with Zeffro's help. Then Zeffro yanks a dangling rope and a fire escape ladder slides down.

ZEFFRO

Climb!

Zeffro shoots more rodents that are climbing the dumpster.

ZEFFRO (cont'd)

Faster!

Zeffro follows behind Rolo as they scramble up the fire escape. Rodents pursue as Zeffro shoots more of them.

EXT. WAREHOUSE ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Rolo reaches the top of the ladder and steps onto the roof of the warehouse, panting.

Nothing happens for a while, so he peers down 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 can't bite you now.

Rolo cautiously grabs the rodent's front claw with disgust and drags it onto the roof with all his strength. Zeffro climbs onto the roof and looks over the edge.

ZEFFRO

They won't be back.

ROLO

(still panting)

Thanks!

Zeffro nods, grabs the tail, and easily drags the rodent across the roof.

ZEFFRO

This way.

Rolo follows him to an open lean-to: against a wall a roof made of scrap materials supported by poles. It looks like a bar counter, with upside-down buckets as stools, and shelves

on the back wall. Somehow it has an exotic, romantic quality, with a beautiful view of the city under the yellow sky.

Zeffro goes 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 grangler meat before?

ROLO

Well, grangler flavor earthling chow.

ZEFFRO

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. He turns away from the carcass, only to see its severed head on the floor staring at him. He turns the other way.

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

Rolo notices the museum a block away.

As Rolo asks questions, Zeffro pulls crushed leaves, salt, seeds, and berries from the shelves. He seasons and flips the meat, and prepares a sauce in a pan.

ROLO
Hey, thanks for saving me down
there. I'm Rolo.

Zeffro seems not to hear, then, without eye contact:

ZEFFRO
Zeffro.

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 with a cloth. 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 mouthful, staring at Rolo the whole time.

So Rolo picks up his steak with two hands and takes a tentative bite. Way better than his canned food or table scraps, Rolo gets a "taste" of independence.

ROLO

Oh! Oh! This is delicious! Mm!

ZEFFRO

(with food in his mouth)

It's fresh.

Rolo ravenously takes a huge bite. Then another.

INT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Smuffins and Quiggles are looking around the large warehouse. Quiggles sniffs upward toward a broken skylight.

SMUFFINS

Roloooo! ... Rolo!

EXT. WAREHOUSE ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Rolo hears Smuffins through the broken skylight.

SMUFFINS (O.S.)

Rolo-rolo-rolooooo!

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 (cont'd)
Mm!! Five stars!

INT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Smuffins yells out the door they had first entered.

SMUFFINS
Rolo!!!

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

ROLO
Smuffins, here! Sorry! I'm here.

SMUFFINS
Yo man, where did you go?! I was scared half to death the earthling catchers caught you!

ROLO
No, no, I'm fine.

SMUFFINS
What the heck are you eating?

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

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

SMUFFINS
That's what grangler 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.

EXT. OLD BLORGTON - MOMENTS LATER

Rolo, Smuffins, and Quiggles cautiously look outside the warehouse, then walk down the sidewalk. This neighborhood is

a little more populated and better maintained. (Each scene looks more pleasant as Rolo's ambition grows.) We see another SUBWAY station ahead, and the MUSEUM beyond that.

ROLO

The museum is at that next corner.

Quiggles is skipping ahead, swinging around lampposts, etc.

An Animal Control tank slowly hovers up the street behind them, with a scanning beam sweeping side to side. Smuffins sees it.

SMUFFINS

Look out!

He pulls Rolo into a doorway, and Quiggles hides with them. One of Zira's Lost posters is on a lamppost. Covering that is another poster in a different color, with Rolo's picture, and the text: "WANTED. Considered Unneutered and Dangerous", with an Animal Control Force logo.

Smuffins sees the SUBWAY station across the street.

SMUFFINS

This is too risky, man. Look, there's a subway station. We can make a break for it and get back home!

ROLO

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

SMUFFINS

Naw, I just wanna go home. There's gotta be another way you can find out later.

ROLO

No, Zira never lets me out on my own. This is my only chance.

The Animal Control tank slows down as it nears their position.

SMUFFINS

But why does it matter where we're from? It doesn't make any difference, right?

ROLO

I jus... I dunno. It just matters to me, okay?

SMUFFINS

Okay then. I got your back, dawg.

He winks at Rolo, then dashes out in the street in front of the Animal Control tank. He waves and yells at the tank.

SMUFFINS

Hey! Hey! Oh no, don't catch me!

He runs around the tank then down the street away from Rolo. The tank lights up its sirens, turns 180 and pursues him.

ROLO

Wow! Well, it's you and me now,
Quiggles.

Further down the street Smuffins is running away. The tank soon catches him in a large net — a long articulated pole hoop with a net of glowing energy strings. Smuffins immediately yields. He looks back to see Rolo running away to the museum, and smiles.

SMUFFINS

Run, Rolo. Run.

EXT. MUSEUM - MOMENTS LATER

A large building with a sign: "Old Blorgton Museum of Science". Broad steps at the street corner lead to the entry.

Rolo and Quiggles jog to the corner and climb the steps.

A blorxling male BUSKER (street musician) is sitting atop the steps playing a 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 reach the top, the Tiger gives a snort. Quiggles growls, and it growls back louder. Then Quiggles charges at it. The Tiger suddenly drops its jaw open as Quiggles runs straight inside, then it snaps its jaw shut.

ROLO

Quiggles!!

BUSKER

Kiffy! Drop iiiit. Draaaaawp 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.

BUSKER

Whoa there, little fella.

ROLO (concurrently)

Quigglllllles!

The Busker gently pushes Quiggles off as Rolo pulls him down.

ROLO

So sorry about that, sir.

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

ROLO

Quiggles, I think you're my role model.

Rolo gives a wry smile. They continue toward the entrance but a stocky blorxling security GUARD stops them.

GUARD

Whoa, earthie, where do you think you're going? No strays allowed.

ZIRA (O.S.)

Rolo!

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

ZIRA (cont'd)

Rolo!

ROLO

Uh oh.

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

ROLO

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

Rolo jumps up and down, waving his arms.

ROLO

Zira! Zira!

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. Flummoxed, Zira and Riffa run after them.

INT. MUSEUM - CONTINUOUS

The Old Blorgton Museum of Science is grand with sunbeams shining through the skylights.

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

ROLO
Zira! You found me!

ZIRA
Rolo, you poor thing. Were you scared?

ROLO
No. Here, Riffa.

He takes Riffa's phone out of his pocket and hands it to her. Riffa lights up.

RIFFA
Finally!

Rolo wiggles out of Zira's arms.

ROLO
Betcha can't catch me!

Rolo runs into the exhibit hall followed by Quiggles.

RIFFA
Ugh!

BEGIN MUSICAL MONTAGE: (~60 seconds?)

Zira chases Rolo and Quiggles around the museum, which soon turns into play. 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.

WEAPONS - Rolo chases Zira left with a caveman club. Then she chases him right with a stone axe. Then he chases left with a sling, she with spear, he with arrow, she with sword, then he chases her wearing an alien suit of armor with a sword. He loses balance and falls backwards, arms and legs flailing.

PLANETS - All three sit on a 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 Madame ZANANNA watching. All we know now is that she is an old blorxling, dressed professionally. She looks at a video feed of Zira, Rolo, and Quiggles playing. Then she zooms in on Riffa, who is disengaged. We see Zananna's face watching thoughtfully, but poker-faced.

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

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 a series of life-size figures of the evolutionary stages of blorxlings evolving from salamander-

like creatures. Quiggles opens his mouth to eat the smallest one; Rolo shakes his head no.

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 MUSICAL MONTAGE

The security GUARD looks sternly at Rolo with their arms crossed. Rolo freezes. The guard gestures with their finger to come with them.

INT. CURATOR'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

In 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 in a chair, looking guilty. The chairs are way too big for Rolo and Quiggles. Riffa sits in the fourth chair, glaring at Zira.

Awkward silence.

The door opens and Madame ZANANNA enters, the blorxling who was watching the video feeds. She sits at her desk, which has a name plaque: "Madame Zananna, Curator". She somberly studies each of their faces, and senses Riffa's resentment toward Zira. Like a wise elder, she contemplates before each question. She starts with Riffa:

ZANANNA

Are you responsible for her?

RIFFA

No!

ZANANNA

Is she your sister?

RIFFA

Yes.

ZANANNA

Why are you angry?

RIFFA

I'm not!

ZANANNA

You're not?

Riffa tries to hold her tongue, then blurts:

RIFFA

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

ZANANNA

(to Zira)

How old are you, dear?

ZIRA

110.

(Blorxlings live much longer and grow 10× slower.)

ZANANNA

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 stews for a moment, then just mumbles:

RIFFA

I dunno.

ZANANNA

Hm.

(to Zira)

Is this your earthling?

ZIRA

Yes.

ZANANNA

Why isn't he on a leash?

ZIRA

Sorry. We lost it.

ZANANNA

You lost it?

ZIRA

Well, we were in the park, and the
earthling catchers were trying to
take him and he ran away.

ZANANNA

I see.

She leans forward and says wryly in a hushed voice:

ZANANNA (cont'd)

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

Zira smirks.

RIFFA

Are we in trouble? Did they break anything?

ZANANNA

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

(looking at Zira)

Is anything missing?

Zira doesn't understand the depth of her question. Quiggles shifts his eye back and forth, then takes a large insect out of his mouth (a dead one from the display) and puts it on his armrest.

Zananna looks at it, then at Quiggles, then she smirks.

ZANANNA

(to Zira)

What's your earthling's name?

Rolo feels the courage to speak for himself.

ROLO

Rolo.

ZANANNA

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

She looks in the corner, where they see a taxidermy earthling man with fake looking eyes, somewhat like Rolo, in a glass case sitting on a large cushion.

ZANANNA (cont'd)

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?

ZANANNA

Your planet?

ZIRA

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

ZANANNA

No, of course not. That is because
it was deleted.

ZIRA & ROLO

Deleted?

ZANANNA

Come with me.

INT. MUSEUM HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Zananna explains as they walk down a dim hall:

ZANANNA

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

ROLO

Oh no.

ZIRA

Didn't anyone remember anything?

ZANANNA

Nearly everyone had offloaded their
memories to the nebula, so their
memories were lost too.

She taps her brain-chip.

ZANANNA (cont'd)

But...

INT. MUSEUM GALLERY - CONTINUOUS

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.
Zananna points to it.

ZANANNA (cont'd)

We do have clues in these ancient
hieroglyphs. This mural here shows

earthlings leaving their planet in
an ancient spacecraft.

ROLO
What planet is it?

ZANANNA
The ancients named it: Planet Earth.

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

ZANANNA
They said it's the third planet
around a star named Sol, but none of
the artifacts say where that is.

ZIRA
So there's no other information?

Zananna pulls a large book from a bookshelf.

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

She lays the old book on a table. She turns the pages looking
for the entry.

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

ROLO
(waiting for more)
That's it?

ZANANNA
Yes, I'm afraid so, dear.

ROLO
Hm.

ZANANNA
But there is someone else who might
know more, tales of Earth not found
in any book here. His name is
Captain Blarzenhook. You can
probably find him at The Black Hole
Tavern. Tell him Zananna sent you.

EXT. OLD BLORGTON - SUNSET - MOMENTS LATER

They exit the museum and walk along a sidewalk. Rolo is riding piggyback on Zira. The neighborhood is increasingly residential and well maintained (parallel to Rolo's growing ambition). Riffa points ahead.

RIFFA

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

During this scene, the sun is gradually eclipsed by a huge planet. We see the planet's edge as the sky slowly fades to amber, orange, then magenta. Zira looks at the "sunset" overhead.

ZIRA

Ooh, the evening eclipse is starting. This is always my favorite time.

ROLO

Mine too.... Hey Zira, why did you pick me?

ZIRA

What do you mean?

ROLO

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

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 being 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 Mom all the time for years, but she always said I was "too young" to handle such a "big responsibility". But then on my 70th birthday, as a surprise, she took me to the pet store and she 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 cute smile, and I knew you were the one, my little Rolo Polo.

ROLO

Hmm.

Rolo is moved and hugs her a little tighter.

An Animal Control tank slowly comes hovering up the street behind them, with a scanning beam sweeping side to side. Zira sees it and pushes Riffa through some bushes.

ZIRA

Hide!

RIFFA

Why?

ZIRA

It's the earthling catchers!

They fall to the ground and hold still.

Peering through the bushes, they see the tank 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 the backpack and grabs it.

RIFFA

Wait a minute!

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

RIFFA (cont'd)

(angry)

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

Zira remains sitting, 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!

Zira grabs the rocket and holds it close.

RIFFA
Zira, you're going to break it! —

ZIRA
No I'm not!

RIFFA
Mom's going to be so mad at you! We need to save all of Lazro's things. Why do you even have it in your backpack?!

Zira looks at the rocket sadly, slowly turning it in her hands. After a moment:

ZIRA
I like to hold it. It reminds me of him. He always used to take me with him stargazing, and we'd 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 the aliens took him.

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

Zira looks up at Riffa sharply.

ZIRA
(angry)
It wasn't my fault, Riffa!

They glare at each other confrontationally, till Riffa eventually backs down.

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. Zira and Riffa 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)

Hey, The Black Hole Tavern. 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. They look puzzled. Rolo falls back, then jogs down the side road.

From overhead we see the POV from a surveillance camera watching them. It zooms in on Rolo, flashing the words "Suspect Identified".

INT. COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT - SAME TIME

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.

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 going to need more.
Lieutenant, let's get an attack sub
out there in case they try to flee
by water.

LIEUTENANT

Yes sir.

Colonel looks intently at Rolo's photo on the wall display.

COLONEL

Go ahead, you mangy mutt, make my
day!

EXT. HARBOR ROAD - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

A small rustic road alongside a harbor, with dim street
lamps, no traffic. The moons are large and beautiful. We hear
the water lapping against the docks, creaking wood, a distant
buoy bell, and night insects. An alien seal on barks on a
dock.

Instead of boats, the harbor has tall spaceships of various
designs, standing on floating launchpads with gangways to the
docks. The spaceships sway gently with the water.

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

ZIRA

Rolooo!

EXT. TAVERN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

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 bench 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 Zananna 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?

RIFFA

(yelling from afar)

Zira, come on! I wanna get home!

ZIRA

(to spite Riffa)

Fine, let's go in.

Rolo smiles and skips to the entrance. Zira pushes the heavy, creaky door open and they enter.

INT. TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

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, haggard blorxling 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's a blorxling archetype of an old sea captain pirate: beard, pipe, eye patch, weathered face, dark peacoat, 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 is impressed it was that easy.

ROLO

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.

ROLO

Oookaay.

BLARZENHOOK

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

He sips his ale.

ZIRA

Zananna from the museum said you might be able to help us.

ROLO

Sir, have you ever heard of the planet...Earth?

Blarzenhook raises his eyebrow.

BLARZENHOOK

Earth, eh?

To build dramatic suspense he lifts his pipe and ignites a plasma match. A SAILOR mocks him and slaps him on the shoulder as he walks by.

SAILOR

Oh no, don't get him started on Earth again!

Blarzenhook scowls and grunts at the sailor. Then he resumes his performance.

BLARZENHOOK

Earth, you said.

He lights his pipe, leans back and exhales a long, wafting swirl of fire sparks.

BLARZENHOOK (cont'd)

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 (not sings).

BLARZENHOOK (cont'd)

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

EXT. DOCK - DAY - (FANTASY)

A small spaceship named Minnow is sitting at the dock. Then we see the first mate, then the skipper, both blorxling versions of the Gilligan's Island characters. Then we see five more blorxlings 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 he grunts.

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

OUTER SPACE - (FANTASY)

We see a star with large solar flares blowing asteroids off their orbits, and the spaceship 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. The CONCERTINA deflates abruptly and they shut up.

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

FANTASY SERIES OF SHOTS - EXT. EARTH - DAY

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.

A blorxling holds up their cell phone trying to get a signal. Another blorxling 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 blorxlings and offer them corn.

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

The blorxlings look skeptically at the little corncobs in their much larger hands, then they give each other a knowing look.

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

Blorxlings are roasting a human on a spit.

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

Blorxlings are eating cooked humans. They are chewy and taste awful.

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

Blorxlings are hunting dinosaurs violently, then barbecuing a huge dinosaur leg.

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

Generations later in an ice age, humans are keeping company with blorxlings 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.

A blorxling shepherd watches over a flock of primitive humans.

So they raised them and protected them.

A blorxling who looks like a shop teacher shows humans 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 a blorxling 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 fireball emerges an ark-like spaceship, with a wake
of aurora lights.

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

The blorxlings 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 and exhales with satisfaction.

ROLO

They ate them?! ... That was not the
story I was expecting.

BLARZENHOOK

Then careful what ya' be wishin'
for.

ROLO

How do we get there?

Raising his pipe to his mouth, Blarzenhook 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 reflects.

ROLO

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...in the vast expanse of
one's emptiness and meaningless
existence —

EXT. HARBOR ROAD - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Zira, Rolo, and Quiggles exit the tavern. Riffa is sitting on the bench outside, looking at her phone. They all walk back on the road out of the harbor under the dark purple sky.

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, trying to catch flying bugs in his mouth.

RIFFA

Well, hurry up. If we catch the next
wormhole, we can make it home before
29 o'clock.

Rolo's smile drops. He halts as the others continue.

ZIRA

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

She notices Rolo is far behind.

ZIRA

Rolo, c'mon.

ROLO

(heavy sigh) Zira, I—

Zira walks back toward Rolo.

ZIRA

What's the matter? 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's journey home has taken a new meaning. He looks at Zira sympathetically, then he works up his courage, but stammers:

ROLO

I want to...to find Earth.

ZIRA

What? Don't be silly!

ROLO

I'm serious, Zira. Please don't be mad.

ZIRA

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

ROLO

Zira —

ZIRA

Rolo, I said no. C'mon!

ROLO

(quietly to himself)

No.

ZIRA

Rolo, we have to go, now!

She reaches her hand out. Rolo loses his temper, like a teenager lashing out against his mom.

ROLO

No! You just don't understand me!
You never even tried to understand
me!

He marches toward the harbor. Zira chases him so he runs. Quiggles follows.

ZIRA

Rolo!

RIFFA

(yelling the distance)

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 they keep running. Zira grabs onto the fence; she cannot fit through.

ZIRA

Rolo! Come back here! ... Rolo!

Riffa tilts her head back and groans:

RIFFA

Ugggggh

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

In the deep purple sky, stars shimmer and the pale-green moon hangs over the mouth of the harbor, orbited by two smaller moons. City lights sprawl across the moon, and lights travel up and down the space elevator tethering the moon and planet.

Rolo is sitting on a dock with his toes in the water, his shoes beside him. He gazes up at a bright star, imagining it is Earth. His ambition has never been more clear, and the scene has never been more beautiful.

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

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

Zira reaches the dock, slightly winded.

ZIRA

There you are!

She leans down to pat his head. Rolo huffs through his nose and leans away. Hurt, Zira pauses, then sits beside him a few feet away.

ZIRA (con't)

(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 beanbag.

ROLO

No. I don't really like that.

ZIRA

Yes you do.

ROLO

I wanna make you happy, Zira, but sometimes...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 a distance. She gets up.

ROLO (cont'd)

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 beside 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

Roloooo!

Zira stomps. Quiggles jumps out of the water and follows Rolo. Zira sees he forgot his shoes, so she takes them.

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

INT. COMMAND CENTER - SAME TIME

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

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 you 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

(aside)

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

INT. GENERAL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

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 Kiffy".

GLIRK is a blorxling, 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.

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

General, when should I surprise you?

Glirk rolls her eyes.

GLIRK

What? No. Never mind. Just...do the first one, okay? And get out of my office!

COLONEL

Yes, General!

GLIRK

And close my door!

The Colonel turns 180 and exits without closing her door.

INT. COMMAND CENTER - CONTINUOUS

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.

EXT. HARBOR ROAD - NIGHT - LATER

Riffa is sitting on a roadside bench, slowly scrolling through photos on her phone — pictures of herself and Zira together with their brother Lazro from years ago — fishing, smiling, laughing.

We see the glowing photos reflected in Riffa's glossy eyes.

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 on the front seat facing the stern, turning Lazro's model rocket slowly in her hands, staring at it.

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

RIFFA
Where's Rolo?

Zira takes a ragged breath.

ZIRA
He ran away...to go find Earth. He
left 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 Mom's
always working. 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 she thinks that.

RIFFA

I love you.

ZIRA

(angry)

No you don't! You're always mean to
me! And you never wanna play or hang
out with me. And you never lemme
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 left
and I'm gonna be all alone!

Zira cries. Riffa is moved, but she doesn't know what to say.
Then she has an idea.

RIFFA

Hang on.

Riffa walks to a vending machine down the road.

Across the street, Rolo and Quiggles are walking out of the
harbor. He sees Zira had placed his shoes by the gate. Then
he sees Riffa and tries 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 to Zira.

Rolo watches her leave. His ambition has collapsed under its own weight. He looks at Quiggles, who gestures back toward the tavern.

Riffa reaches Zira and hands her 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
treats?

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

Riffa smirks. Without turning, Zira smiles bigger.

INT. COMMAND CENTER - LATER

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

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.

COLONEL

Gah!

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.

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".

EXT. BOARDWALK - NIGHT - LATER

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

Zira, Riffa, Rolo, and Quiggles are walking on the sidewalk outside the boardwalk. They are silent. 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.

Rolo notices a big ride shaped like an upright rocket. He gazes above it at a bright star and sighs wistfully.

ZIRA

Rolo, did you really mean what you said?

ROLO

Hm?

ZIRA

About playing chase, and me tossing you into the beanbag? You really don't like that?

ROLO

No. It's kinda scary.

ZIRA

Sorry... I'll try to be more gentle. I promise, okay?

Rolo smiles.

ROLO

Thanks.

RIFFA

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

ZIRA

Hey 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, and
you got sick and threw up all over
my white pants.

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 stops and looks at Zira.

They are passing in front of an ARCADE which has a karaoke
machine in the center. Zira stops and turns to Riffa.

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 whiny)
Zira, we're almost home.

ZIRA

Pleeeeeease, Riffa?

RIFFA

(almost warm)
Okay.

Zira runs ahead to the arcade. The rest follow.

INT. ARCADE - CONTINUOUS

Video games, air hockey, skee-ball, whac-a-mole, a 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, and sings into the
mic. We see the lyrics on the karaoke monitors.

SONG: YOU FILL THE VOID (under 3 minutes)
Ballad intro:

ZIRA

When the weight of the world
is a mass of 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 joins her in harmony. Zira smiles big.

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.

It kicks into an upbeat dance beat:

ZIRA

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 help 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

You fill the void.

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

QUIGGLES

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 (not in movie):

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 a toy 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 Spock's evil twin.

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 —

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

Quiggles jumps up and slides across the air-hockey table (like a car hood). He grabs prizes from the wall and chucks them at the Bots' wheels.

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

EXT. BOARDWALK - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

They run through the thin crowd and by the water-gun game. Quiggles wraps his arms around two water-guns (almost as big as he is) and squirts the Bots' faces.

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

When the Bots exit the maze, they don't see Rolo or the others. We see Rolo in the background, hiding among life-size plush earthlings. He runs out when they're not looking, then they pursue.

Quiggles tips over the duck-fishing game. The Bots slip on the squeaky, wet ducks.

They run around the bumper cars. The Bots spark and jitter on the electric floor.

Rolo dives into a ball pit and hides. The Bots circle around, looking. Rolo escapes the opposite direction.

They run to the Sky Lift and jump into a chair just as it's leaving, escaping the Bots. But then the Bots get in the next chair behind them. It's a slow, uneventful "chase".

After the Sky Lift, at a game Quiggles pops 3 balloons with 3 darts all at once. He grabs a prize bag of FIREWORKS.

At an AIRBOARD rental stand (round 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-D3 launches a flying NET from its body: a rocket-propelled hoop with a net of glowing strings of energy.

They all fly around the boardwalk to evade the Net, doing acrobatic twists and turns through the ferris wheel and under the roller coaster. Quiggles does amazing tricks.

As the Net closes in on Rolo and Riffa, Quiggles gets between them and moons the Net's camera eye. We see the camera POV of Quiggles' three-cheek butt close up; T-D3 reacts with disgust.

The Net catches up again, but 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's actually a plushy earthling. The Net ejects the plushy 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 for the ride "SKY WALKER" arching over the boardwalk. From her airboard above, Riffa sees Zira is about to crash into the sign.

RIFFA

Zira!

Riffa dives off her airboard, landing on Zira's airboard. Her momentum knocks them safely under the sign, but she slips off the airboard and hangs onto the edge.

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

Riffa's weight causes the airboard to flip over, knocking Zira off. Zira screams, but she grabs onto Riffa's waist. Riffa climbs back onto the airboard with Zira.

ZIRA

You saved me!

RIFFA

Of course, Squid Squirt. You're my sister.

Riffa holds Zira in front of her endearingly, as they kneel on their airboard. Rolo rides solo on his airboard unsteadily. 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, who weave their way around them and swatting them away.

Quiggles takes out many drones with a few fireworks.

Then Quiggles hops from drone to drone, kicking and throwing them into each other. While surfing on two drones, he grabs a third with both hands and bites it in half with a maniacal nom-nom.

They jump off their airboards in front of the subway station. A small crowd is exiting, including General GLIRK commuting home. Rolo and friends press past her. At first she doesn't recognize him, then she turns for a double-take, then shrugs with an eye-roll and continues walking.

The surviving Drones have halted outside the station, hovering with sparks, smoke, and loose wires.

EXT. EARTHLING PARK - NIGHT - LATER

Riffa, Zira, Rolo, and Quiggles exit 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, Riffa. I'm sorry I took
Lazro's rocket.

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

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.

Bot #1 swings a large hoop down with a net of glowing energy strings. Zira rushes to push Rolo out of the way, but the net traps them both.

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

RIFFA

Let them go! 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.

Bot #2 opens a hatch in its body — a containment cell.

In nearby trees squirrels point and laugh maniacally.

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 Bots (but not Rolo yet).

YOOLA

(teasing)

Oh look, it's your buddies the earthling catchers! Better not run away again.

She points to a large blinking tracking device strapped around Smuffins' neck.

SMUFFINS

(sarcastically)

Ha ha.

They now see Rolo and Zira in the net.

YOOLA

That's Rolo! 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; we hear it pressurize.

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

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

Smuffins and Yoola run in front of Fabli's home. Smuffins' tracking device is now flashing red. Fabli is inside looking out the window.

YOOLA

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

FABLI

But my show is tomorrow!

Bot #1 slowly moves the net with Rolo and Zira toward the containment cell in Bot #2.

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

The net starts to enter the containment cell.

Smuffins' drone suddenly flies around the Bots, pointing red lasers at the eyes of all five Bots. From the Bots' POV we see the lasers flaring in their vision.

We see Smuffins nearby piloting the drone.

SMUFFINS

(intensely)

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

Bot #3 swats the laser dot on Bot #1's face. Bot #1 looks back derisively. Bot #3 looks away, pretending nothing happened.

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

YOOLA

Fetch this! Fetch! Fetch! Fetch!

Squirrels join in the fray as agents of chaos, climbing up and inside the Bots.

The Bots are frazzled. They turn and knock into each other, dropping the net. Rolo and Zira escape. With Riffa and Quiggles, they run under the Bots and into the park.

The Bots turn and pursue with rattling sounds. They stop, cock their heads sideways, jump and hit their heads to get the balls out, like getting water out of your ears.

Smuffins and Yoola join Rolo & co., running across the park. The Bots pursue.

Then Fabli hurdles over the fence and 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, and high jump. He's so focused on the course, he follows it back toward the Bots, weaving around the poles. The Bots look at him puzzled.

Yoola runs 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. Squirrels sit on the Bots, cheering for everyone to fail. Riffa picks up Rolo and hops the human-sized fence. Zira and Quiggles follow, and they all run into the FOREST bordering the park.

The Bots float over the fence and halt at the trees. Since they are 50-feet tall, they cannot pass through the dense forest. They talk in deep voices:

BOT

Captain, what do we do now?

CAPTAIN

What we've got here is...failure to anticipate.

INT. COMMAND CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Monitors show the action from the cavalry's POV. The Colonel smashes his fist down on the console.

COLONEL

Scrap metal!

But then he's impressed to be outwitted. With a slight chuckle:

COLONEL (cont'd)

Hm. You magnificent mongrel.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Zira and the others stand several yards into the forest. They see the Bots have stopped and are watching them with menacing eyes, shining lights through the trees. Riffa puts Rolo down.

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 has accepted the mantle of being a big sister. She sits on a log and pats the space next to her. Zira sits with her.

RIFFA (cont'd)

Every night since those aliens took Lazro, we've been hoping he's still alive, and wishing they'll let him come back to us, home. That's what Rolo wants, to go home.

ZIRA
We are going home.

RIFFA
Not our home...his home.

ZIRA
(realizing, sad)
Oh. Ohhh.

RIFFA
Do you understand?

Zira says nothing. Her eyes turn misty.

RIFFA (cont'd)
Zira?

She sniffles.

ZIRA
Okay.

She stands up and wipes her nose.

ZIRA (cont'd)
I know what to do. Follow me.

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

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

ZIRA
You'll see.

ROLO
Wait, tell me now. I wanna know.

Zira stops and looks at Rolo.

ZIRA
I know how you can go find Earth.

ROLO
Earth? Really? How?

She smiles.

ZIRA
You'll see.

EXT. FOREST PEAK - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

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 deep purple 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 rocket in his hand, then he gives her a confused look, then to Riffa:

ROLO

Did she get enough snacks to eat?

ZIRA

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

ROLO

(looking around)

Oh. But we don't have any water.

Quiggles struts by confidently, humming, grabs the rocket from Rolo's hand and tosses it in his mouth.

ROLO

Quiggles, no!

Quiggles swishes the rocket around in his mouth, then spits it in his palm and places it on the ground. 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. 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 in. His voice echoes 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, Rolo Polo.

She sits on her knees, tearing up.

ZIRA (cont'd)

You're the bestest pet ever, Rolo. 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. You deserve more, and I want you to be happy.

They hug. We see each of their faces as they embrace.

BEGIN FLASHBACKS

FIRST HUG - In a Pet Store, 7-year-old Zira sees 4-year-old Rolo in a pen of other children. He looks up 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. 7½-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, 8-year-old Zira steps out of a school bus. 12-year-old Rolo comes running toward her. She lifts him up and they hug.

MOURNING HUG - 9½-year-old Zira is curled up on her bed at night, crying (about Lazro missing). 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. She knows she is not alone anymore.

ZIRA

Yeah, I'll be okay.

She squeezes his hands, then releases him.

ZIRA (cont'd)

I hope you find everything you're looking for.

Quiggles, the loyal enabler, struts up to the rocket and hops in. He grabs a captain's hat from inside and puts it on.

Rolo takes off his "dog tag" and hands it to Zira.

ROLO

I guess I won't be needing this anymore.

She smiles and grips it tightly. Rolo goes to the rocket and climbs inside. Zira stands up, and Riffa puts 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?

ROLO

(with his wry smile)

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.

TRAILER

(Rough idea for inspiration and to help sell the story)

In a parody of sci-fi action movies, we see an amateurish comic-book style drawing of Rolo, very muscular and heroic. He looks up at a gargantuan evil blorxling with an army of robots at her feet, and he raises his glowing sword. The real Rolo narrates, imitating a movie trailer voice:

ROLO (V.O.)

In a world where earthlings are
locked up as pets, one hero will
rise up to defy the evil empress
Glaxablort and lead all of
earthling-kind to a new... a new...

44-year-old Rolo is on the floor at home, leaning on his elbows, sketching this scene with an oversize pencil on oversize papers. He switches to his regular voice.

ROLO

To a new world of freedom? Freedom
from the... no...

ZIRA (O.S.)

Rolo...

ROLO

(movie trailer voice)

...to a new world where earthling-
kind can be free.

Zira appears in the doorway.

ZIRA

There you are! Wanna go for a walk?

ROLO

Oh, yeah!

Rolo drops the pencil and trots toward Zira enthusiastically.

On a sidewalk we see Rolo walking happily, and Zira walking behind him holding his leash. He's holding Quiggles' leash who is walking in front of him.

ROLO (V.O.)

That's me, Rolo. And that's my
owner, Zira. She adopted me from the
pet store when I was just a little
kid. And this is my pet Quiggles.
He's a...well, I don't know what he
is.

Quiggles shoots his tongue out and eats a bug.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- At the earthling park Rolo plays blizbee with Zira.
- Under the dining table, Zira gives Rolo table scraps.
- Rolo is eating an ice cream treat. Quiggles is riding piggyback, also licking Rolo's ice cream.

ROLO (V.O.)

Life is pretty good. Lots of play.
Lots of treats.

- Several shots of canned food splatting in Rolo's bowl, with Rolo looking unenthusiastic.

ROLO (V.O.)

Although it does get a
little...routine.

- Zira clips Rolo's toenails as he lays in her lap wearing a robe and cucumbers on his eyes.
- Rolo is napping and drooling.

ROLO (V.O.)

But life is easy. Maybe too easy.

- Rolo talks to Smuffins and friends in the park.

ROLO

Don't you ever want to do more than
just go on walks and play?

SMUFFINS

More? Like...car rides?

- Rolo is sitting on the dock, looking up at the moon and stars over the ocean.

ROLO (V.O.)

Sometimes I just wonder if there's
something more for me out there.

- Zira is walking Rolo on a leash down a sidewalk.

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!

- Zira has put Rolo in a ridiculous alien dolly dress. He is annoyed, but limp and resigned.
- Rolo winces as the vet gives him a shot.
- Rolo is running away from Zira as she yells "Rolo!"
- Bots chase Rolo and Smuffins in the subway wormholes.
- A "Lost" poster of Rolo. Zira says to Riffa, "You need to help me find Rolo! He's lost, and probably so scared."
- Rolo runs from the giant alien rodents in the alley.
- Rolo smells a large flower in the museum, but it snaps shut on him and lifts him upside down.
- An Animal Control tank hovers down the street, scanning the sidewalks. Rolo and Smuffins hide.
- A monitor at Animal Control shows surveillance of Rolo.
- The Animal Control colonel slams his fist into the console.
- Rolo asks Smuffins, "What do you think our planet is like? Do you think earthlings are still there?"
- The Blorxian Ark flies away from planet Earth.
- The pet store clerk says, "Actually earthlings are considered an invasive species."
- The giant bots trap Rolo and Zira in a net.
- Yoola fires her automatic ball launcher at the giant bots, yelling, "Fetch this! Fetch! Fetch! Fetch!"
- Zira, Rolo, Quiggles, and Riffa ride airboards around the boardwalk.
- Rolo does dorky dancing in the arcade.
- Quiggles licks Rolo's face.
- Rolo rides piggyback on Zira's shoulders and hugs her.
- Zira and Rolo ride an animatronic dinosaur in the museum.
- Fabli runs through the agility course at the park.
- Quiggles bites a drone in half maniacally.

Zira is walking Rolo on a leash as they pass blorxling hippie activists protesting and chanting:

ACTIVISTS

Cut the leash, set them free.
Earthlings need equality!

Rolo looks up at Zira curiously.