

YOUNG LEIF

Part 6: Escape from Moog

By

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Young Leif

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THE DIN OF A DARK BAR IN A SPACE PORT SOMEWHERE.

LEIF

You... lay eggs?

DEZ

Yeah, why is that weird?

LEIF

I don't know. Truskans don't really strike me as the egg laying type.

DEZ

What does that mean?

LEIF

On Earth, birds lay eggs.

DEZ

Yeah, and I think that's weird.

LEIF

Why?

DEZ

Something flies *and* lays eggs, how do you trust them?

LEIF

I don't know what you mean.

VERGE

Okay, I've got a buyer for the ice.

LEIF

Where?

VERGE

Festen. They're in the middle of a sunspot-induced drought and The Teds are price gouging them. We're coming in at a quarter of the price.

LEIF

Excellent.

VERGE

We could charge a lot more than that.

LEIF

But that would miss the point.

VERGE

Sorry, I keep forgetting the point when I think about the money we're not making.

LEIF

I don't like it when people make money off of desperation.

VERGE

We're not going to stop that from happening.

LEIF

No, but it feels good.

DEZ

I think they have greenroot here, are we getting food?

LEIF

Dez lays eggs.

VERGE

Yeah, I know. So what? Is he carrying? Dez do you have an egg on deck?

DEZ

Not old enough.

LEIF

Do you build a nest?

VERGE

They put them in those pits, right?

DEZ

Zigosh pits.

VERGE

Big flaming pits.

LEIF

They're flaming?

DEZ

Yeah.

LEIF

Why?

DEZ

Warmth.

LEIF

That's bizarre.

VERGE

Said the guy sleeping with an alien every night.

DEZ

Used to be we had to put the eggs by a lava flow.
Way better this way.

VERGE

This is our fifth job since the casino, I think
we're in the clear with Låfftrax.

DEZ

Helps that we set up shop on the other end of the
system.

VERGE

We should keep an eye on Låfftrax, though. I think
they're trying to control the entire Triad.

DEZ

No way. Even Emperor Bug Bug couldn't pull that off
back in the day.

VERGE

What are you reading?

LEIF

Earth news.

VERGE

How are things back home? Have they emerged from
their caves yet?

LEIF

Everyone's worried about computers switching over
from the year 1999 to 2000. They've convinced
themselves that the whole world could collapse when
the new year hits.

VERGE

So, still in the cave.

LEIF

So deep in the cave.

ALICE

Message from BertBert marked "urgent".

LEIF

Pass.

DEZ

What's she want?

LEIF

No idea.

ALICE

He's ignoring her.

LEIF

I am.

DEZ

I'm all for that. Sigians are like rust, okay? They get everywhere you don't want them to go.

VERGE

I don't think she's so bad. As Sigians go anyway.

DEZ

Yeah sure. She's okay. I mean there's four different kinds of rust. Some are dangerous and some are just annoying.

VERGE

Oh really, Dez? Please tell me about the different kinds of rust.

DEZ

Well you got your red, your yellow-

ALICE

New message from BertBert marked "Fuck you, goddamn you, answer you little shit".

VERGE

Okay, that's funny, what's the message?

LEIF

I'm sure it's skippable.

VERGE

What if she's in trouble?

ALICE

Yeah, Leif, what if she's in trouble?

LEIF

I'm deliberately ignoring her to keep her out of trouble.

VERGE

And that's adorable, but it's not like listening to the message is going to suck you into her world or something. Just listen to the message.

LEIF

Play the message.

BERTBERT

(From the tangle.)

Oh hi. Oh hi, Leif. How are you? Since you're still ignoring my messages I thought I would just leave you with my LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT since I am about to DIE! To you I leave NOTHING BUT MY SCORN.

VERGE

What the fuck is she talking about?

BERTBERT

I am a fucking prisoner awaiting fucking execution!

LEIF

Is this a metaphor for something?

BERTBERT

In case you're wondering if that's a metaphor for something: IT IS NOT.

VERGE

Oh shit.

BERTBERT

I am a fucking prisoner of the fucking Science Priests of fucking Moog!

VERGE

Oh no.

BERTBERT

They are about to goddamn kill me in some goddamn "cleansing ceremony".

LEIF

What?!

BERTBERT

So, if for some reason you have decided to stop being a dickhead and check your messages, this is me saying "Get. Me. The. Fuck. Out. Of. Here." I am temporarily suspending my judgement of your criminal behavior TEMPORARILY. I am temporarily suspending it so that you can, in defiance of however many laws, break into the Temple of Enlightenment on Moog and save me from whatever killing machine I am headed towards. If you have a problem doing that, try pretending I am a huge pile of money and STEAL ME, maybe that will help... I really hate that this may be the last message I ever send.

63RD ACOLYTE
(In the tangle)
Impure One! Give me that device!

BERTBERT
Fuck you, you freak!

63RD ACOLYTE
Give it to me!

BERTBERT
Leif! Fucking help me-

LEIF
...

ALICE
That sounds bad.

DEZ
So, we're not getting food then?

THE HUM OF THE NANCY SINATRA.

ALICE
The planet of Moog is a mid sized planet in
Andromeda that underwent a revolution by religious
fundamentalists calling themselves the Science
Priests.

VERGE
Boooooo.

ALICE
The Science Priests rose to power during the
movement dubbed "The Vapian Panic", where multiple
systems began to reject technological advancement
after the planet of Vapus demonstrated the dangers
of technology when they accidentally collapsed
their home world into a black hole.

VERGE
You're welcome, everyone.

ALICE
The movement died down in most corners of the
Triad, except for on the planet of Moog, where the
Science Priests maintain a vice-like grip on the
populace using the tactics of violence, fear, and
intimidation.

LEIF
They sound lovely.

DEZ
We're really doing this, huh?

VERGE
It'll be fun.

DEZ
I don't like these guys.

VERGE
You don't like anybody.

DEZ
I like all kinds of people.

VERGE
You don't show it.

DEZ
That's just how my face looks.

LEIF
If they reject technology, why do they call themselves Science Priests?

ALICE
It's a classic switcheroo. The Science Priests reject science, so they make sure the populace stays real dumb and then they say that all science comes from them. To avoid people embracing science they just say that they ARE science.

LEIF
And when someone disagrees?

ALICE
They're big fans of executions, as I'm sure BertBert is now learning.

DEZ
What the heck did she do to piss them off?

ALICE
It could be anything. The key to suppressing a populace is making justice totally random and unhinged.

LEIF
Isn't this going to create some sort of interstellar political incident or something?

ALICE
Oh sure. They don't care.

LEIF

How are they allowed to operate like this?

VERGE

Take a wild guess.

ALICE

It is rumored that the Science Priests of Moog are secretly supported by The Ted Empire.

DEZ

Oh sure, real nice.

LEIF

What do they get out of it?

ALICE

Religious fanaticism is the tiny angry dog on the lap of despotic empires. It's tradition.

LEIF

Whatever. How are we doing this?

VERGE

Let's just roll in there and start shooting people. Isn't that what Earthlings do?

LEIF

Maybe something more nuanced than that.

DEZ

If they're keeping her at that Temple of Enlightenment place? That place is real big. How do we find her?

LEIF

Alice, is there a map of this Temple of Enlightenment anywhere?

ALICE

They reject technology, there's probably a map but it's probably written on a scroll somewhere or something.

LEIF

What does it look like from the outside?

ALICE

... On the screen.

LEIF

That's a big tower.

ALICE
That thing's filled with people awaiting execution.

LEIF
You'd think their lack of technology wouldn't be a benefit, but it's kind of an amazing defense. There's no way of knowing what's in there. There's nothing to hack into.

VERGE
I've got an idea.

LEIF
What?

VERGE
We have something they want.

LEIF
What's that?

VERGE
Me.

DEZ
Yeah, that's true.

LEIF
What do you mean?

VERGE
Alice?

ALICE
The Science Priests believe the collapsing of Vapus 10 by the Vapians was the original sin of The Triad. They allege the Vapians' arrogance and love affair with technology caused the Vapian Collapse. Because of that, they see Vapians as a scourge, an affront to all things holy. Desperate bounty hunters will sometimes attempt to abduct Vapians and bring them to Moog for a high price.

LEIF
That's terrible.

VERGE
In their defense, I also see myself as an affront to all things holy, but in a good way.

DEZ
That gets us in the front door. We just need to know what to do after.

LEIF
Hmmm... How many explosives do we have?

DEZ
I haven't done an inventory but I'm gonna guess,
rough estimate, a lot.

LEIF
Um hum, um hm, um hm... I've got an idea.

WE HEAR THE SOUND OF MONKS CHANTING.

78TH ACOLYTE
(In the PA system.)
We wish a glorious day to the righteous. Begin your
day as the Nth Anomaly intended: untouched,
unchanged, and full of his ancient light. Praise
the great simplicity of the mystery.

WE HEAR A MASSIVE CARGO KART BEING PUSHED ALONG THE GROUND
AND COMING TO A STOP.

DEZ
Uh... Hey there?

96TH ACOLYTE
Hello? What is all this?

DEZ
I got a shipment here for you.

96TH ACOLYTE
What is it?

DEZ
Looks like... Looks like some crates.

96TH ACOLYTE
Yes, I can see that, what is in them?

DEZ
You know, I don't ask a lot of questions.

96TH ACOLYTE
What does it say on your manifest?

DEZ
Let me see... No, that's last week, give me a
minute here. You know the home office always screws
me with this stuff, I got a ticking clock on me
every time I'm out here. Do they send me out here
with the right materials? No.

(MORE)

DEZ (CONT'D)

They send me out here with last week's workups and I'm sitting here saying, "put all the clocks on me you want, it's not going to give me the right materials to do the job, am I right?"

96TH ACOLYTE
I don't...

DEZ
What am I looking for?

96TH ACOLYTE
What is in the crates?

DEZ
Oh yeah. Yeah sure. Here we go... Okay, gruel. Bovian gruel. Yeesh. This stuff's bad, you ever had this stuff?

96TH ACOLYTE
It's a staple of our diet.

DEZ
You know, I hear it's more nutritious to eat the crate this stuff comes in than the thing itself.

96TH ACOLYTE
I don't expect technology slaves like you Truskans to understand our ways.

DEZ
Fair enough. How much sauce you got to put on this stuff to make it taste like something?

96TH ACOLYTE
I don't have time for this, we just received a shipment of gruel yesterday, why are we getting another one?

DEZ
Look pal, they don't give me the right workup for these boxes and you think they're going to tell me why they're here?

96TH ACOLYTE
Send them back, this was obviously a mistake.

DEZ
Yeah, see there, this is a one way arrangement, I bring stuff, I don't take away stuff. You got to pay extra for the takeaway.

96TH ACOLYTE
Even if we didn't order it?

DEZ
Look, if you didn't order it... y'know... free
gruel.

96TH ACOLYTE
For the love of the Anomaly. Very well. Go to the
cargo lift, then down two floors to grain storage.

DEZ
You got it.

THE CARGO CART MOVES INTO A LIFT AND BEGIN TO TRAVEL DOWN.

DEZ (CONT'D)
Okay, I'm in. How about you?

THE CHANTING OF THE MONKS GROWS LOUDER AS LEIF AND VERGE MOVE
THROUGH THE MAIN HALL OF THE TEMPLE.

LEIF
We're in the main hall and it's... An experience.

VERGE
Religious fanatics always get the best architects.

LEIF
Hopefully when I try and turn in Verge they'll lead
us to wherever they keep the prisoners. That's when
you push the button, so let us know when you're in
position.

DEZ
(In earpiece.)
Yeah, will do.

LEIF
This place is insane.

VERGE
I know, it makes me nauseous.

LEIF
So you can just walk in here with a Vapian and they
give you money?

VERGE
You can.

LEIF
How are there any of you left?

VERGE
It's not easy money. You can wind up dead hunting a
Vapian. You know that tattoo on my shoulder?

LEIF
The one with the four lines?

VERGE
Yeah, those four lines are dead bounty hunters.

LEIF
Really?

VERGE
Poor babies.

83RD ACOLYTE
Glorious day to the righteous. Glorious day to the
Nth Anomaly. Welcome to the Temple of
Enlightenment. Oh my-

VERGE
Hi there.

83RD ACOLYTE
You have brought us a Vapian.

LEIF
I have. Because I'm a bounty hunter.

VERGE
Yes he is.

83RD ACOLYTE
I trust the arm restraints are properly secured.
It's a very dangerous creature.

LEIF
Oh yes. Very secure.

VERGE
I'm not going anywhere.

83RD ACOLYTE
Praise to the Nth Anomaly.

LEIF
Yes. Agreed.

83RD ACOLYTE
Look at it, it's disgusting.

VERGE
I bet you say that to all the scourges.

LEIF
So, this is my first time at the temple, how does
this work?

83RD ACOLYTE

Take it down the far hall to the chamber of redemption. The Acolyte will take you to the appropriate area.

LEIF

Great. Praise to the whatever.

THEY WALK ACROSS THE GREAT HALL.

LEIF (CONT'D)

I'm getting the sense that there's going to be some harsh words said about you during this transaction.

VERGE

Are you worried I'm going to get my feelings hurt?

LEIF

I never worry about that... Alice, what is this Nth Anomaly?

ALICE

The Science Priests believe the universe should be shrouded in mystery to maintain it's pure state. The Nth Anomaly is a personification of the mysteries of the universe that science violates with its curiosity.

52ND ACOLYTE

Glorious day to the righteous, how can I...

VERGE

Hi there.

52ND ACOLYTE

Praise the Anomaly.

LEIF

Didn't we just talk to you?

VERGE

No. Different guy.

LEIF

Okay. Well, I have a Vapian. What do I do now?

52ND ACOLYTE

Thank you, stranger. What a beautiful offering to The Anomaly.

VERGE

Thank you, I think so too.

LEIF
I hear I can get paid pretty well for a Vapian.

52ND ACOLYTE
Of course. One moment please.

LEIF
... He looks exactly like the last guy I talked to.

VERGE
They're all clones.

LEIF
What?

VERGE
Alice?

ALICE
The original high priest of Moog thought the most effective way to create a congregation was to just clone himself. So now you have one high priest and a hundred acolytes, all the same guy.

LEIF
I imagine that took a lot of... technology.

ALICE
Sure.

LEIF
Which they reject.

ALICE
Wait, are you saying that this fascist theocratic empire is somehow hypocritical? Get the fuck out of here.

LEIF
I guess I was hoping for a little intellectual consistency.

VERGE
I'm sorry the religious zealots are letting you down, honey.

52ND ACOLYTE
Please right this way.

THEY STEP INTO AN ELEVATOR AS THE DOORS CLOSE.

LEIF
... So, just out of curiosity. This elevator we're in is a form of technology, right?

52ND ACOLYTE
That's correct.

LEIF
But you guys are the anti-technology guys.

52ND ACOLYTE
Yes, but this elevator has been sanctified by the
Nth Anomaly.

LEIF
How does that work?

52ND ACOLYTE
When the high priest deems it necessary, a piece of
technology may be cleansed in the light of The
Anomaly so that it may be freely used by us here at
the temple.

LEIF
So, when you really want to use something, the high
priest waves his hands over it and then you can use
it.

52ND ACOLYTE
Yes, because it has been cleansed.

LEIF
That's convenient.

52ND ACOLYTE
Oh, it's very convenient. Trust me you do not want
to climb the stairs all the way up to the High
Priest's chamber.

VERGE
I'm sorry, the what?

52ND ACOLYTE
The High Priest's chamber. In the rare instance
that a Vapian is brought to us, the High Priest
insists he inspect them personally.

LEIF
Inspect them?

VERGE
This'll be a fun meeting.

LEIF
You're taking us to meet the High Priest of Moog
right now?

52ND ACOLYTE
Oh yes. It's quite an honor, isn't it?

LEIF
Is it?

52ND ACOLYTE
Very few of us have been allowed to converse directly with the High Priest. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity.

LEIF
Look, I really don't need all that, I'm just trying to get paid and get out of here. Can you just take me to wherever I drop off the prisoners?

52ND ACOLYTE
Oh, I'm sorry, it's required.

LEIF
Great. Let's go meet the High Priest.

52ND ACOLYTE
I suggest this creature be on its best behavior.

VERGE
I would just like both of you to know, I'm in these arm restraints right now and... I'm into it.

52ND ACOLYTE
Disgusting.

LEIF
Noted.

IN THE GRAIN STORAGE SUB-BASEMENT.

DEZ
You got your Red Rust, AKA Hydrated oxide. That's the most common type out there. You got an even layer of corrosion across the material. That means you've got too much oxygen and water exposure. Then you got Yellow Rust. Iron oxide-hydroxide. You got standing water. It's by the sink it's by the bathtub. Are you in a submersible? Not for long if you got yellow rust.

46TH ACOLYTE
Why are you telling me this-

DEZ
Brown Rust, brown rust is the opposite. You got a high oxygen/low moisture combo. Not a uniform rust, it shows up in spots, okay?

(MORE)

DEZ (CONT'D)

Brown rust you look for when you think you've got contaminants in the metal. "If the rust is brown, your quality is down." That's what you say. THEN we got black rust-

46TH ACOLYTE
Excuse me!

DEZ
Yeah?

46TH ACOLYTE
Who are you? What are you doing here?

DEZ
I got a shipment of gruel here.

46TH ACOLYTE
How does this relate to different types of rust?

DEZ
I was just making conversation.

46TH ACOLYTE
We just received a shipment of gruel. Why is this here?

DEZ
I tried to tell this to the other guy, nothing I can do about someone else's screw up. I don't do returns.

46TH ACOLYTE
So I have to stock all of this gruel and there's nothing I can do about it?

DEZ
Organized society is real convenient except for one guy a day. You're that guy today. Welcome to it.

46TH ACOLYTE
Very well.

DEZ
There we go. Now we move on to the next part. That's me getting paid. How does that happen?

46TH ACOLYTE
This is infuriating. Follow me.

IN THE CHAMBER OF THE HIGH PRIEST. RELIGIOUS MUSIC IS PLAYING.

DEZ

(In earpiece.)
Okay, the stuff's in place. Waiting for you.

LEIF

I'm afraid we're experiencing a little setback. We need some time.

DEZ

What kind of setback?

52ND ACOLYTE

Oh great High Priest, we bring a great boon to you today! A bounty hunter has brought you one of the scourge! A Vapian!

A MASSIVE THRONE ROTATES AND THEN STOPS.

HIGH PRIEST

Leave us.

52ND ACOLYTE

Of course. Glory to the Nth Anomaly!

A HUGE DOOR CLOSSES.

LEIF

... Hi there... Nice tower you have here... Real brutalist aesthetic. Lots of concrete...

HIGH PRIEST

How did you catch it?

LEIF

Oh... uh... just got lucky really.

HIGH PRIEST

Lucky?

LEIF

Yes. They uh... Had fallen in a hole.

VERGE

Fallen in a hole?

LEI

It's always the simple things isn't it? I was trying to catch a bear.

VERGE

What are you talking about?

LEIF

I don't know.

HIGH PRIEST
... Is he gone?

LEIF
Who?

HIGH PRIEST
Number 52, is he gone?

LEIF
The guy who brought us up here?

HIGH PRIEST
Yes.

LEIF
Uh, yes he's gone.

HIGH PRIEST
Good. Come closer.

LEIF
... Okay... What?

HIGH PRIEST
You have to get me out of here.

LEIF
I'm sorry?

HIGH PRIEST
You have to get me out of here!

LEIF
What are you talking about?

HIGH PRIEST
Do you have a ship? Can you get me out of here?

LEIF
I... Yes, I have a ship.

HIGH PRIEST
This is a nightmare. You have to get me out of here.

LEIF
I don't understand.

HIGH PRIEST
It's all a sham!

LEIF
What is?

HIGH PRIEST
This! Being High Priest! It's all pointless!

LEIF
What's all pointless?

HIGH PRIEST
The temple, the acolytes, the entire movement!

LEIF
But... there's a bunch of acolytes in this tower
who listen to you. They all look like you and they
all listen to you.

HIGH PRIEST
And it's the worst!

LEIF
I'm confused.

HIGH PRIEST
I began here as the 100th acolyte. I was fresh out
of the test tube. I was ambitious. I had zeal. Now
look at me.

LEIF
Now you're the High Priest. Sounds like it worked.

HIGH PRIEST
Nobody told me it would be like this!

LEIF
Like what?

HIGH PRIEST
Boring! Miserable! It's like prison! All I do is
sit on this throne all day!

LEIF
What were you expecting?

HIGH PRIEST
I don't know! The ways of the High Priest must be
shrouded in mystery, they tell us. But there's
nothing to it. I just sit here!

LEIF
You... don't do anything?

HIGH PRIEST
Nothing!

VERGE
You've got to be fucking kidding me.

HIGH PRIEST

I'm not! Can you believe it! You've got to get me out of here.

LEIF

Uh...

HIGH PRIEST

Look, I can see that it may be confusing. Look at this throne room, look at the throne, it really does look like important things happen here, doesn't it?

LEIF

It does.

HIGH PRIEST

Nope! For years I would imagine all of the secret and important things that the High Priest would do all day. Communing with the Anomaly, learning great secrets, writing great tomes of knowledge. Guess what?

LEIF

No?

HIGH PRIEST

No! I'm just a figurehead. I'm here to be aspired to. I'm here to convince everyone that they could be me one day. But actually BEING me... Sucks real bad.

LEIF

Then why were we brought to see you?

HIGH PRIEST

Aha! That was part of my plan! My escape plan!

LEIF

We're a part of your escape plan?

HIGH PRIEST

Yes! I can't just pick up and leave, if the High Priest left because it was a crappy gig, all of the Acolytes would lose their minds. They need to feel like they're working toward something. THEY ARE NOT WORKING TOWARD SOMETHING.

VERGE

This is insane. Take these fucking restraints off of me.

LEIF

One second.

HIGH PRIEST

Don't let it free! It'll kill me!

LEIF

Don't worry about it. What was this plan?

HIGH PRIEST

I demanded to speak with the next bounty hunter who brought in a Vapian. If they brought in a Vapian then they certainly would be able to escape with me! Right? That makes sense, right? You could escape with me if you want?

LEIF

I... guess?

HIGH PRIEST

Good!

LEIF

Here's the thing, High Priest. We actually had a plan to break someone else out of here.

HIGH PRIEST

Really? You're in cahoots with this Vapian?

VERGE

Hurry up with the restraints.

LEIF

They're very complicated.

HIGH PRIEST

Wait. I can help with that! Look.

THE SOUND OF A KEY ON A CHAIN.

HIGH PRIEST (CONT'D)

I wear this key around my neck, it opens every door in the tower. We can get them out with this.

LEIF

Okay, that's helpful.

VERGE

Leif!

LEIF

Okay, you're free.

VERGE

Thank you! Where's my gun?

LEIF

Here.

VERGE

So, you help us get our friend out with that key and we help you get out of this tower so you can live the life you want to live, is that the deal?

HIGH PRIEST

That's the deal, what do you say?

VERGE

No.

VERGE FIRES SEVERAL SHOTS FROM THEIR PLASMA PISTOL. THE HIGH PRIEST DROPS TO THE GROUND.

LEIF

Oh shit.

HIGH PRIEST

Well... that's one way... of escaping...

LEIF

... Honey, you just killed the High Priest of Moog.

VERGE

I did.

LEIF

That's going to add a bit of urgency to our plan.

VERGE

Sorry. I can respect the Science Priests for being evil shitheads, but you don't get to be an evil shithead and then back out of being an evil shithead. Commit to the bit, people. Besides, all we needed was his key.

LEIF

Okay, sure... Dez are you there?

DEZ

(In earpiece.)
Yeah.

LEIF

Alice, are you ready?

ALICE

Sure, lets make a map.

LEIF

Blow it, Dez.

DEZ
Fire in the hole.

WE HEAR THE SOUND OF SEVERAL DISTANT EXPLOSIONS.

DEZ (CONT'D)
Kind of a shame, I wanted to try that gruel.

LEIF
Alice, is it working?

ALICE
Analyzing the seismic data from the explosions in the sub-basement... Bingo. I now have a sonar wire-frame map of the Tower of Enlightenment.

LEIF
Who's the smartest guy?

VERGE
You are.

ALICE
I mean, I made the map.

LEIF
Which floor looks like jail cells?

ALICE
Probably about ten floors down.

VERGE
I've got the key. Let's go save the princess.

INSIDE BERTBERT'S JAIL CELL.

BERTBERT
Hello?... Hello?... What was that sound, it sounded like an explosion?

33RD ACOLYTE
(Outside the door.)
Be quiet in there!

BERTBERT
It sounded pretty serious, are you sure you don't want to check it out? Maybe you should call someone on your communicator, oh wait you don't have one because technology is evil.

33RD ACOLYTE
Don't your kind ever shut up?

BERTBERT

Historically, no.

33RD ACOLYTE

I am going to be there personally when they walk you to the neutralization chamber and I am going to love-... Who are you?

LEIF

(Outside the door.)

Hi. Could you hold this for a second?

33RD ACOLYTE

What is it?

WE HEAR A SIERES OF ELECTRIC SHOCKS.

33RD ACOLYTE (CONT'D)

Hfhjiwdkljkopfkodpksakmpppppppp

THE 33RD ACOLYTE FALLS TO THE GROUND.

BERTBERT

Hello?

THE PRISON DOOR IS UNLOCKED AND SWINGS OPEN.

LEIF

Did someone order some criminals?

BERTBERT

Holy shit. Thank God.

VERGE

I'm assuming you've got some sort of martyrdom thing going on, sorry to ruin that for you.

BERTBERT

Get me the fuck out of here.

VERGE

Right this way M'lady.

LEIF

Okay, here's the plan. We open all the jail cells, the prisoners run down to the bottom floor to escape and in doing so, distract the rest of the acolytes, then we head up to the roof where Dez picks us up in the Nancy Sinatra.

BERTBERT

Fine, whatever, let's go.

LEIF

You two handle the freeing of the prisoners, I'll meet you on the roof.

VERGE

Where are you going?

LEIF

There's something I'd like to do before we go.

BERTBERT

What, hit the gift shop?

LEIF

Don't worry about it. I'll see you two on the roof.

VERGE

You're insane.

LEIF

I know.

BERTBERT

Okay, well, what do I do?

VERGE

Keep watch around the corner while I unlock these doors. Take this.

BERTBERT

That's a gun.

VERGE

Yes.

BERTBERT

Why am I taking it?

VERGE

To heat up a burrito, BertBert, why do you think?

BERTBERT

I've never shot a gun before.

VERGE

And I've never broken a Sigian out of prison, look at how we're growing.

VERGE STARTS UNLOCKING PRISON CELLS.

VERGE (CONT'D)

Okay, people. Closing time. Please exit certain doom through the ground floor.

THE PRISONERS START TO RUSH FOR THE EXITS.

VERGE (CONT'D)

In case you're wondering, yes, this is a Vapian freeing you from execution, please remember that the next time you're saying racist shit about us. Probably too much to ask.

34TH ACOLYTE

There they are!

BERTBERT

Verge, they're coming what do I do?

VERGE

What do you think I gave you the gun for?

BERTBERT

Fuck. Shit. Okay. Fuuuuuuuuck....

BERTBERT FIRES SEVERAL SHOTS.

34TH ACOLYTE

She's got a gun!!!

BERTBERT FIRES SEVERAL MORE SHOTS.

BERTBERT

Am I doing this right?

VERGE

Probably not, but they don't know that.

ONE OF THE ACOLYTES SCREAMS.

BERTBERT

Oh God, I hit one of them. Verge, I hit one of them.

VERGE

That is kind of the point.

BERTBERT

I just murdered someone. Oh, God I just murdered someone.

VERGE

If you murder a murderer it doesn't count as murder.

BERTBERT

Where is that written?

VERGE

On my left ass cheek. Let's head for the roof.

WE MOVE TO THE ROOF. THE ENGINES OF THE NANCY SINATRA ARE IDLING. DEZ STANDS WITH HIS BIG FOOT ON ONE OF THE ACOLYTES.

29TH ACOLYTE

(Hard to understand with his face smushed into the ground.)

You'll live to regret this techno-slave.

DEZ

I'm having a hard time understanding you there, pal. I'm going to regret this, is that the deal?

29TH ACOLYTE

Yes!

DEZ

Regret's not really a problem for my people. See for Truskans there's "What you do" and then there's... well that's really it. The stuff you don't do doesn't exist, and I can't talk to you about something that doesn't exist. Know what I mean?

29TH ACOLYTE

No!

DEZ

What's that?

29TH ACOLYTE

No!

DEZ

That's a shame. Way easier to live life that way.

BERTBERT

Dez!

DEZ

Hey there.

VERGE

Where's Leif?

DEZ

I thought he was with you?

VERGE

He took a detour for some reason.

DEZ
I'm sure he'll be along. I met this guy. Say hello,
Guy.

29TH ACOLYTE
Hello.

DEZ
Berts, you got yourself in a bit of a spot there.

BERTBERT
Just a bit of a spot, Dez. Yes.

LEIF
Are we ready to go?

VERGE
Where did you go?

LEIF
Don't worry about it.

DEZ
All aboard. You can go now, Guy.

29TH ACOLYTE
You heathens! You will all die in the light of the
anomaly!

VERGE
Oh, get the fuck-

VERGE STARTS SHOOTING AT HIS FEET.

29TH ACOLYTE
Ahhh! Ahhhhhh!

VERGE
Get the fuck out of here!

DOORS CLOSE ON THE NANCY SINATRA.

DEZ
Warming up the engines. Hey, Berts, you
reconsidering a life in the nosey business there?

BERTBERT
Dez, what the hell are you doing here? You didn't
seem like the criminal type.

DEZ
What, you never got a Truskan Reminder before?

BERTBERT

What?

DEZ

Truskan Reminder. You know, suddenly your ship disappears from a docking station without a trace.

BERTBERT

What does that have to do with anything?

DEZ

On Trusk we figure, y'know, we built these ships, we can pretty much take them back any time we want.

BERTBERT

That's wildly illegal.

DEZ

Yeah sure, YOU call it crime, but that's a classification issue, if you catch my meaning.

LEIF

I got you something.

VERGE

What's that?

LEIF

Here.

VERGE

It's a remote.

LEIF

Yeah, press the button.

VERGE

What is it?

LEIF

It's a present, press the button.

VERGE

... Okay.

REMOTE BEEPS. WE HEAR A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS AND THE TEMPLE OF ENLIGHTENMENT BEGINNING TO COLLAPSE.

BERTBERT

Oh my God. Is the building collapsing?!

LEIF

Dez, you better get us in the air.

DEZ

Here we go.

ENGINES BEGIN TO FIRE ON THE NANCY SINATRA AND THE SOUND OF
THE BUILDING'S COLLAPSE GROWS LOUDER AND LOUDER.

LEIF

There it goes.

VERGE

What did you do?

LEIF

I saw the wire-frame and I thought, "Really would only take four explosions in the right place to bring it down." So...

VERGE

And this is... a gift?

LEIF

Yeah.

VERGE

Leif... That's the sweetest thing anyone's ever done for me.

LEIF

Aw, stop.

BERTBERT

Did... you just kill every single one of the Science Priests?

LEIF

I mean... they were all clones... Technically I only killed one guy.

VERGE

They'll make more.

DEZ

Building wasn't structurally sound anyways.

BERTBERT

... Where is the booze on this ship?

THE END