

*(As the audience are seated, we see two Mars children, Emmanemar and Brunomar, laying listlessly on the floor, watching television. The video screen plays the scene that just occurred in the lobby, with the TV Reporter, Myrrh Manger, interviewing Santa. As this concludes, Brunomar uses an odd-looking device to flip channels. We now see a montage of various Santa Claus TV appearances, from commercials to movie clips, TV specials, cartoons, music videos, etc. Brunomar turns off the video screen.)*

**EMMANEMAR**

Why did you turn it off?

**BRUNOMAR**

What's the point? Year after year, we experience Christmas vicariously. We watch Santa tell us to be good all year long, we watch Rudolph's nose light up, we watch the Grinch steal Christmas, we watch Scrooge on a loop, we don't pretend that snowman is Parson Brown, we WATCH people pretend the snowman is Parson Brown.

**EMMANEMAR**

We don't have Christmas here, pah rump a pum pum.

**MALLOMAR**

*(Entering. She is mom to Emmanemmar and Brunomar. She carries a tray of pill bottles.)*

Children! Emmanemar and Brunomar, time for your snack pills. What would you like today? A Pop-Tart pill, glazed doughnut tablet or a Sizzlin' Green Cheetos soft-gel?

**EMMANEMAR**

*(Glumly)* Soft-gel

**BRUNOMAR**

*(Glumly)* Glazed.

**MALLOMAR**

Speaking of glazed, I am going to have a snack too. *(She pours a bottle of pills into her mouth and looks frantically for something to wash it down with. She motions for Brunomar to bring her the coffee pot, which is in the nearby kitchen area. He brings it, Emmanemar fetches a mug, but Mallomar grabs the coffee pot and guzzles coffee directly out of it.)* Oh, dear, that was close. I forgot to pour a glass of...snack juice. Good thing we have Marbucks. Okay, children, what did you learn in school today?

**EMMANEMAR**

I learned about the history of tyrannical orange leader on the planet Covfefe, who conspired with the tiny melon-shaped underlings of the—

**BRUNOMAR**

Five, four, three, two, one...she's out.

*(Mallomar is now seated, in a sort of catatonic state, nodding and smiling, but clearly not really present.)*

**EMMANEMAR**

I learned that my teacher is wanted for embezzlement, the kid behind me can't spell at all and the lunch lady has a strange rash on her hands.

**BRUNOMAR**

A malfunction at a particle accelerator could suck the entire planet into a black hole. And Scientists found ten new commandments that will change your life forever.

**EMMANEMAR**

And I don't think she should be handling food, though I hate to throw it away because there are starving children on Neptune.

**BRUNOMAR**

I learned that criminals aren't punished on Mars, they are sent to Earth to become life coaches and thought-leaders.

**EMMANEMAR**

We swallow, on average, eight spiders per year while sleeping.

**MALLOMAR**

*(Suddenly awaking from her trance/stupor)* Say, what's in this drink?

**BRUNOMAR/EMMANEMAR**

Baby, it's cold outside.

**MALLOMAR**

I am so proud of you both.

*(The sound of a Mars vehicle is heard outside.)*

**EMMANEMAR**

Father is home.

*(Alagomar enters. He's a stern-looking Martian family man. The kids remain seated and their reaction to him is somewhat distant.)*

**BRUNOMAR**

Hello, father.

**MALLOMAR**

Alagomar, my dear.

**EMMANEMAR**

I hope you had a pleasant day, father.

**ALAGOMAR**

To what do I owe this effusive and demonstrative welcoming? Is it a special occasion?

**BRUNOMAR**

No, of course not, father. We are just happy to see you.

**EMMANEMAR**

Yes, like every day, so happy to greet you when you return home from work.

**BRUNOMAR**

No special occasion.

**EMMANEMAR**

*(Starting to cry)* No special occasion. It's just like always. No special occasions ever. **(She**

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