

(Kimar, Voldar and Dropo have entered the spaceship.)

KIMAR

Earth? They are sending us to Earth?

DROPO

We have to bring back the big man!

KIMAR

We're going to bring back the big man? Really?

VOLDAR

Why would we want him?

DROPO

That's what they told me.

KIMAR

We're bringing him to Mars? The big man...the big orange man? That large, glowing mass in the lithosphere, Florida?

DROPO

No, the big red man in the cold place with the pole.

ZADORABLE

(Entering) Kimar, Voldar, greetings. ***(she hands them an iPad-type device.)*** Your map. ***(Opens the fuel container)*** Your fuel. ***(Kimar starts to take the container from her)*** Just a small amount. The rest will be stored. ***(She pours a small amount into a testtube, hands it to Kimar)*** Dropo, remember that thing I promised to return to you? Come with me.

(They step downstage to another part of the spaceship. She sets the fuel container down then removes a similar container, marked "Dropo's Brain" from her purse and sets it down.)

ZADORABLE

Dropo, lie down. Now, just relax and count backwards from...two. Uh, relax and count backwards from two ten times.

DROPO

Two, one, forty-seven, eight, 1-800 flowers, 976-hott...

VOLMAR

Zadorable, should the magnoscope be tuned to the third or fourth power?

ZADORABLE

No interruptions! I am not to be disturbed.

KIMAR

Yes, Zadorable, apolgies.

(She removes a hypodermic needle from her purse and readies it.)

VOLMAR

(Stepping into Zadorable's area) I know you do not wish to be interrupted. Perhaps I am out of line saying this, but there was a time when we wouldn't just gaze at the stars and moon, but we would swing from a star, dance on the moon.

ZADORABLE

I said no interruptions, and I meant it.

VOLMAR

Fair enough. This is a risky mission and there's a chance I won't come back. Please think about this while I am gone. *(He kisses her passionately.)*

KIMAR

One minute to takeoff.

(Voldar tears himself away from their embrace. Zadorable, who has been hiding the hypodermic needle behind her back, collects herself and prepares to treat Dropo.)

VOLMAR

One small step for Martians, one giant step for Martiankind. *(He exits, then steps right back in.)* Thirty seconds. You better go.

(As he speaks, Zadorable is completely distracted. In a rush, not thinking clearly and keeping an eye on Voldar, she dips the hypodermic into the container marked "Rocket Fuel." She checks Dropo's pulse then injects her in the head with the needle. Dropo immediately bolts upright, like the Frankenstein monster and lets out a strange loud sound. Zadorable starts to exit, sees the fuel container open and the brain container closed, screams and exits. We now hear the sound of the rocket in flight. Blackout, with rocket sounds continuing and some cheesy light effects added. After about ten seconds, the lights are restored, and Dropo is now with Kimar and Volar, who are seated at the control panel.)

KIMAR

Approaching projected Earth orbit. Fire portside rockets number one and number two.

VOLDAR

Portside rockets number one and number two, fire!

KIMAR

All this to make the children of Mars...happy.

DROPO

(Now, at times, very smart) We have no children on Mars. They have children's bodies, but with adult minds. They do not have a childhood. I've seen this coming for centuries. They are born - our electronic teaching machines are attached to their brains while they are in their cradles. Information is fed into their minds in a constant stream. And by the time they can

walk - they are adults! They've never played! They've never learned to have fun! And now, now they are rebelling!

VOLDAR

Dropo, maybe you should get some rest. You haven't been yourself since Pluto.

KIMAR

Entering Earth orbit. Magnascope to four. Alright, Voldar, now to find Santa Claus.

VOLDAR

We're over a city of some kind.

KIMAR

You call that a city? We could destroy it with one blast of our Q ray.

DROPO

We did not come here to destroy anyone. Our only purpose is to bring Santa Claus back to Mars. Turn to fifth power. Let's see if we can locate...the big man. He wears a red suit trimmed with white fur and he has a long white beard.

VOLDAR

But there are millions of people down there! It's like looking for a speck of space dust in a comet's tail. Wait a minute - I see him! I see Santa Claus!

KIMAR

I see him too!

VOLDAR

He's standing on the corner ringing a bell!

KIMAR

No he's not! He's standing near the entrance to a tall building next to a large black kettle.

VOLDAR

There's another one, riding on a display in some sort of parade.

KIMAR

There are hundreds of Santa Clauses down there, and we're going to bring them all back with us to Mars?

DROPO

No, we will bring back only one, as there is only one.

KIMAR

But—

DROPO

Only one is the real Santa. We shall concern ourselves with he alone.