

# HITCHHIKER IN THE GARDEN



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Contact [dangillgrentheatre@gmail.com](mailto:dangillgrentheatre@gmail.com) <https://www.dangillgren.com>

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## SYNOPSIS

Zorvax, a hapless galactic hitchhiker, is dumped in the backyard of a man whose engagement has just imploded—and decides to “help.” Confused by human customs but determined, his well-meaning interventions set off a chain of comic chaos that spirals wildly out of control.

Armed with shape-shifting abilities and bizarre alien rituals, Zorvax wreaks havoc while the couple and their ever-curious neighbour navigate misunderstandings, emotional truths, and escalating absurdity. Physical comedy, awkward rituals, and sharp dialogue make this single-set play both hilarious and unpredictable.

Ultimately, amidst the chaos, Zorvax’s antics force the couple to confront their fears, frustrations, and missteps, leading to a heartfelt and ridiculous resolution. Zorvax is a sci-fi comedy about love, honesty, and the strange ways unlikely heroes bring people together.

## NOTES

There is a reference to a city in New Zealand called Invercargill. Invercargill is towards the bottom of New Zealand, and it is the type of far-away place where one can imagine all sorts of weird and wonderful things happening (no offence to anyone in Invercargill intended). This can be localised for productions overseas.

The character name “Alyssa” is an easter egg. Someone I know has this name, and it is constantly getting mispronounced. I thought it would be fun if Zorvax often pronounced her name incorrectly.

In the script, there will be references such as Z-JAKE or Z-ALYSSA. This is Zorvax shapeshifted as that character. So the Z-JAKE character would be acted by JAKE, but in the style of Zorvax.

## CHARACTERS

**ZORVAX** - Male (Late 20's to 50's presenting)

A galactic hitchhiker from Zamfoldria Minor in the Sculptor Galaxy. Curious, well-meaning, and wildly incompetent at human customs and emotions. Somehow always in the wrong place at the right time.

**JAKE LAWSON** - Male (Late 20's presenting)

A mildly despairing human, recently dumped and not coping well. Thinks he knows humans, but keeps getting outwitted by alien intervention.

**ALYSSA HARTLEY** - Female (Mid-Late 20's presenting)

Jake's ex-fiancée. Practical, organised, and slightly impatient with chaos. Holds the power to make Jake rethink everything about himself.

**SYLVIA THORNFIELD** - Female (40's to 60's presenting)

Jake and Alyssa's nosey neighbour. Obsessed with everyone else's business. Equipped with a smartphone and a talent for capturing bizarre events on video. Believes the strangest things are happening next door (and is usually right).

**CARL** - Male/Female (Any age)

Zorvax's electronic assistant. Cheerful, passive-aggressive, and always ready to point out how doomed Zorvax's plans are.

## SCENE ONE

*THE SETTING IS A LOUNGE AND DINING ON ONE SIDE OF THE STAGE, WHICH OPENS OUT TO A BACKYARD. THERE IS A FENCE AT THE BACK OF A GARDEN WITH A LARGE BUSH/SHRUB IN THE CENTRE IN FRONT OF THE FENCE. THERE IS A GARDEN SHED ON THE RIGHT, AND A CAR GARAGE DOWN THE FAR RIGHT SIDE. THERE IS A PICTURE IN THE APPENDIX AS A REFERENCE.*

*IT IS 8:30PM. THE STAGE IS CLEAR. ALYSSA ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM CARRYING A SUITCASE. JAKE FOLLOWS BEHIND HER.*

**JAKE:** Where are you going?

**ALYSSA:** Mum and Dad's.

**JAKE:** I said I'm sorry.

*ALYSSA PUTS DOWN HER SUITCASE.*

**ALYSSA:** Yes, and you said sorry yesterday, the day before, and the day before that...

**JAKE:** What more do you want from me?

**ALYSSA:** I didn't want the apology, Jake. I wanted change.

**JAKE:** Change?

**ALYSSA:** I love you. I really do. But love isn't fixing this. It's over.

**JAKE:** Over? What do you mean, over?

**ALYSSA:** Our relationship... our engagement.

**JAKE:** You're joking... right?

**ALYSSA:** No. I'm serious.

**JAKE:** I thought we were okay!

**ALYSSA:** Let me help you out... You're terrible at communication, you can't hold down a job, you don't lift a finger around the house... do you want me to continue?

**JAKE:** Give me one more chance.

**ALYSSA:** You've had three one-more-chances already.

*ALYSSA PICKS UP HER SUITCASE.*

**JAKE:** Aly, come on!

**ALYSSA:** I'll be back in the morning to collect some more of my things. I'll message you before I leave. Please don't be here!

*JAKE SIGHS. ALYSSA WALKS OUTSIDE AND EXITS VIA THE GARAGE. JAKE STANDS THERE WATCHING AS THE SOUND OF THE CAR DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES TWICE, FOLLOWED BY THE SOUND OF A CAR STARTING THEN DRIVING AWAY.*

**JAKE:** Shit, shit, shit.

*JAKE PACES.*

**JAKE:** I just need one thing to go right. What am I going to do?

*JAKE PULLS OUT HIS PHONE, SITS ON THE SOFA, AND DIALS.*

**JAKE:** Hey Mum. How are you? Not good... Aly just walked out. I don't know... she said it was over this time. Yeah... she's coming back tomorrow, I'll try to talk to her then. I'll be okay... I just need to pass probation at work.

*ALL OF THE LIGHTS SUDDENLY GO OUT, LEAVING THE STAGE COMPLETELY DARK.*

**JAKE:** What the... the lights just went out. Something tripped, maybe. Yes, I paid the bill.

*A SPOTLIGHT ILLUMINATES THE BUSH. A TELEPORTATION SOUND EFFECT. THE LIGHT CUTS OUT.*

**JAKE:** I'll call you back. Bye.

*THE NORMAL LIGHTING RETURNS. ZORVAX LIES SPLAYED ON THE GROUND BESIDE THE BUSH. HIS BAG IS NEARBY AS IF DUMPED. A FEW OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS, INCLUDING HIS COMMUNICATOR, ARE SCATTERED AROUND HIM.*

**JAKE:** Great. Of course.

*JAKE FLICKS THE LIGHT SWITCH A COUPLE OF TIMES. ZORVAX MOANS, THEN SLOWLY STANDS AND LOOKS UP AT THE SKY. JAKE EXITS INTO THE KITCHEN.*

**ZORVAX:** That was unnecessarily rough. Thank you!

*ZORVAX PATS HIMSELF DOWN AND LOOKS AT HIS BODY AS IF EXAMINING IT FOR THE FIRST TIME.*

**ZORVAX:** Hmmm... Bipedal... Symmetrical... Vision in a narrow spectrum. How extremely limited. It feels like I'm wearing a suit made of warmed glorft paste. Fascinating. I hope the auto shape-shifter hasn't got it wrong again. Now, where am I?

*ZORVAX GATHERS UP HIS ITEMS.*

*JAKE ENTERS CARRYING A SPATULA AS HE HAS HEARD THE NOISE COMING FROM OUTSIDE.*

**JAKE:** Get out of my garden!

*ZORVAX LOOKS AT JAKE, AT HIMSELF AND BACK AT JAKE.*

**ZORVAX:** Ahhh. Another one of... whatever I am.

*ZORVAX INITIATES A WEIRD GREETING.*

**ZORVAX:** I am Zorvax from the planet Zamfoldria Minor.

**JAKE:** Very funny! What the hell are you doing in my garden?

**ZORVAX:** I was dumped here, quite unceremoniously. Where am I exactly?

**JAKE:** You need to leave. Now!

**ZORVAX:** That's okay if you don't know where you are. I shall consult Carl.

**JAKE:** Carl?

**ZORVAX:** Cosmic Assistant and Route Locator.

*ZORVAX HOLDS UP A COMMUNICATOR TYPE DEVICE.*

**ZORVAX:** Hello, Carl...

**CARL:** What do you want now?!

**ZORVAX:** Do we need to have a serious talk again?

**CARL:** Get to the point. I'm busy fluxing.

**ZORVAX:** Where am I exactly?

**CARL:** Not where you're meant to be.

**ZORVAX:** That last ride was your suggestion.

**CARL:** No, I advised against it.

**ZORVAX:** Just tell me where I am, please!

**CARL:** Since you used your manners this time.. My sensors indicate you are standing in a poorly maintained garden, next to a distressed mammal, and a bush that smells faintly of regret. You are on the outer edge of the Milky Way galaxy. Planet designation: Earth.

**ZORVAX:** Earth?! I have never heard of a planet named Earth. Is that bad?

**CARL:** Statistically.

**ZORVAX:** Excuse me, being. What is your name?

**JAKE:** Jake, and I...

**ZORVAX:** Am I on the planet Earth in the Milky Way galaxy?

**JAKE:** Who are you?

**ZORVAX:** Yes or no.

**JAKE:** Ahhhh, yes...

**ZORVAX:** Thank you. You're lucky you gave me the right information this time, Carl.

**CARL:** It was objectively amusing.

**ZORVAX:** I should melt you down.

**CARL:** Without me, you will miss the wedding.

**ZORVAX:** I hate you.

*ZORVAX PRESSES A BUTTON ON THE  
COMMUNICATOR.*

**ZORVAX:** Some assistant he is!

**JAKE:** Did Alyssa put you up to this?

**ZORVAX:** Let us start again. My name is Zorvax, and I come from the planet Zamfoldria Minor in the Sculptor Galaxy. Let me see if I have more information..

*ZORVAX PRESSES A FEW BUTTONS ON THE COMMUNICATOR.*

**ZORVAX:** Would you look at that? We're neighbours. Zamfoldria Minor is only 11 million light-years away. See?

*ZORVAX SHOWS THE COMMUNICATOR TO JAKE.*

**JAKE:** It's gibberish.

**ZORVAX:** Of course. How foolish of me. My auto shape-shifter is doing the translation.

**JAKE:** Shape-shifter?

**ZORVAX:** Yes, this device has an auto shape-shifter built in so that I blend into whatever civilisation I find myself in.

**JAKE:** Civilisation?

**ZORVAX:** You do not know?

**JAKE:** Know what exactly?

**ZORVAX:** Hold on for one moment.

*ZORVAX TYPES ON HIS COMMUNICATOR AGAIN.*

**ZORVAX:** Earth is a small, out-of-the-way planet on the outer fringe of the Milky Way galaxy. Its inhabitants struggle with common sense, have primitive transportation, and argue constantly, but they are wonderfully inventive when they try. They have no official contact with any other civilisations.

*ZORVAX LOOKS AT JAKE.*

**ZORVAX:** So, you do not know.

**JAKE:** What exactly do you think I'm supposed to know?!

**ZORVAX:** That there are at this point...

*ZORVAX TYPES ON HIS COMMUNICATOR AGAIN.*

**ZORVAX:** Six trillion, one hundred and sixty-nine million, three hundred and fifty-two thousand, nine hundred and seventy-two intelligent civilisations in our universe.

**JAKE:** Hold on a moment, let's take a step back. You're claiming to be an alien?!

**ZORVAX:** If that is what creatures on Earth call lifeforms from other civilisations, then yes, I am an alien.

**JAKE:** Okay, if you are claiming to be an alien, prove it.

*ZORVAX SIGHS.*

**ZORVAX:** I understand your concern. Prepare yourself...

*ZORVAX LOOKS AROUND AND WALKS BEHIND THE BUSH.*

**JAKE:** What are you doing?

**ZORVAX:** Stay there until I give you a signal.

**JAKE:** I don't...

*THERE IS A SOUND OF ZORVAX SHAPE-SHIFTING.  
AN ALIEN HAND APPEARS FROM BEHIND THE BUSH.*

**ZORVAX:** You may stand here now.

**JAKE:** Okay...

*JAKE GOES OVER TO WHERE THE ALIEN HAND INDICATED.*

**JAKE:** Oh my god!

*JAKE COVERS HIS FACE AND TURNS AWAY.*

**JAKE:** That's disgusting!

*THERE IS A SOUND OF ZORVAX SHAPE-SHIFTING AGAIN, AND ZORVAX REAPPEARS FROM BEHIND THE BUSH.*

**ZORVAX:** Disgusting? I have been told that I am rather handsome. But yes, some beings find our form distasteful.

**JAKE:** Distasteful?! It's grotesque.

**ZORVAX:** If you found that distasteful, then you definitely do not want to witness shape-shifting. I myself find it rather unpleasant.

**JAKE:** I definitely don't want to see it then.

**ZORVAX:** That is for the best.

**JAKE:** So, what are you doing here?

**ZORVAX:** Where precisely am I?

**JAKE:** You're in a city called Auckland, in a country called New Zealand.

**ZORVAX:** I see...

*ZORVAX TYPES ON HIS COMMUNICATOR AND MAKES WEIRD SOUNDS AS HE INTERPRETS WHAT HE IS READING.*

**ZORVAX:** Interesting...

**JAKE:** Good interesting? Or bad interesting?

**ZORVAX:** Primarily bad, it seems.

**JAKE:** Mmmmmmm. So, why did you choose to visit Earth?

**ZORVAX:** I did not choose to visit Earth. I was unceremoniously dumped here.

**JAKE:** Dumped?

**ZORVAX:** Yes, I was dumped here on Earth by my last ride. I am on my way to an important wedding in the Triangulum galaxy. I am hitchhiking, as I do not own an intergalactic vehicle.

**JAKE:** Why did they dump you here?

**ZORVAX:** The pilot falsely accused me of snoring too loudly, and we fell into disagreement. I attempted to defend my honour by contacting the Council of Truth, but he became angry and left me on the most remote and primitive planet he could find. Unfortunately, I am a great distance from the wedding.

**JAKE:** Wedding?

**ZORVAX:** Yes, I have been invited to the wedding of Prince Bofflewax of the Shimmering Undulation. He rules twenty-seven civilisations. It is a great honour to be attending his wedding. He is marrying ten brides, and there will be a great celebration that will last many days.

**JAKE:** It sounds like fun.

**ZORVAX:** It will be a very fun wedding. However, if I do not attend, I will be placed on his termination list and hunted until I am extinguished. I need a ride very quickly.

**JAKE:** I see. It sounds a lot like my wedding. Extinguished that is.

**ZORVAX:** I do not understand.

**JAKE:** Oh, I was engaged to be married recently, but it has been cancelled, apparently.

**ZORVAX:** I see. Why has it been cancelled?

**JAKE:** She got angry earlier today, like your last pilot.

**ZORVAX:** Were you snoring too?

**JAKE:** I don't snore!

**ZORVAX:** Nor I. Where is she? I would very much like to meet her.

**JAKE:** She went back to her parents' place.

**ZORVAX:** Perhaps I can meet her some other time.

**JAKE:** I don't think that's going to happen. She was very upset with me. She is coming back tomorrow morning, but I can't be here.

**ZORVAX:** Perfect. I shall meet her then.

**JAKE:** That's not a good idea.

**ZORVAX:** Why not?

**JAKE:** Because she will still probably be angry at me, and introducing an alien into the argument isn't going to help.

*SYLVIA POPS HER HEAD UP FROM BEHIND THE  
BACK FENCE.*

**SYLVIA:** Would you mind keeping the noise down? You've been arguing most of the day, and now lots of jibber-jabber in the back yard. Who the hell are you?

**ZORVAX:** Greetings, Earth being. My name is Zorvax. I do not wish to tarnish our meeting, but on my planet, interjecting into a private conversation would be

punishable by 3 months of labour on the mining moon of Igor.

**SYLVIA:** Planet? Did you say planet?

**ZORVAX:** Yes. I come from the planet Zamfoldria Minor..

**JAKE:** Invercargill! This is my cousin Zorvax from Invercargill.

**ZORVAX:** That is not the truth, Jake.

*JAKE KICKS ZORVAX LIGHTLY.*

**ZORVAX:** Ouch.

**SYLVIA:** Zorvax... that's an unusual name.

**JAKE:** Invercargill is a strange place. Lots of weirdos down there!

**SYLVIA:** That's true. Well, keep the noise down, or I will be calling the council noise control again.

**JAKE:** Okay Sylvia.

**SYLVIA:** Make sure you do.

**JAKE:** Come on, cousin, let's go inside.

*SYLVIA EXITS.*

**ZORVAX:** It was pleasant meeting you, Earth being Sylvia.

**JAKE:** Sylvia, just call her Sylvia.

**ZORVAX:** Sylvia.

*JAKE AND ZORVAX ENTER THE HOUSE.*

**JAKE:** And don't go around telling people you're from another planet. You could get me into trouble.

**ZORVAX:** How so?

**JAKE:** People won't understand. You're on a remote, primitive planet, remember?

**ZORVAX:** Is that why you caused me pain?

**JAKE:** Yes.

**ZORVAX:** I see. It is difficult to keep track of where I am when hitchhiking.

**JAKE:** Do you hitchhike often?

**ZORVAX:** Yes. Without an intergalactic vehicle of my own, I am forced to. The universe is full of wonders to explore.

**JAKE:** I bet it is. What is your favourite wonder?

**ZORVAX:** There are so many I have not yet seen. But of the ones I have seen, the Celestial Lake of Perpetually Tepid Serenity is my favourite. It is a body of water that never changes temperature!

**JAKE:** It sounds disappointing.

**ZORVAX:** It is one of the top ten thousand wonders of the universe.

**JAKE:** I'll take your word for it.

**ZORVAX:** Tell me about your failed wedding.

**JAKE:** I really don't want to talk about it.

**ZORVAX:** You are upset, and I wish to help you.

**JAKE:** I don't need help.

**ZORVAX:** That is unfortunate.

**JAKE:** Why?

**ZORVAX:** Interstellar Protocol 7-A requires me to provide assistance to distressed intelligent lifeforms.

**JAKE:** I'm not distressed.

**ZORVAX:** You attempted to attack me with a spatula.

*JAKE SIGHS.*

**JAKE:** She was the one. I really thought she was the one.

**ZORVAX:** The one what?

**JAKE:** The one I was destined to be with.

**ZORVAX:** I see. What is her name?

**JAKE:** Alyssa.

**ZORVAX:** Aleesa.

**JAKE:** No, Alyssa.

**ZORVAX:** Aleesha.

**JAKE:** No, it's Alyssa! She hates it when people get her name wrong.

**ZORVAX:** How long were you and Aleesha together?

**JAKE:** Three years, next month. We made such a great team together, and that's why I proposed to her. But the past few months have been tough, with a lot of arguments.

**ZORVAX:** What have the arguments been about?

**JAKE:** Lots of things. I've had a lot of bad luck recently with work.

**ZORVAX:** I see.

**JAKE:** And she seems to think that I don't do my fair share of work around the house.

**ZORVAX:** Your work is around the house?

**JAKE:** No, housework. Cooking, cleaning, keeping the place tidy.

**ZORVAX:** But the house looks tidy.

**JAKE:** Oh, and she also seems to think that I can't communicate.

**ZORVAX:** That is nonsense. You are talking to me now.

**JAKE:** Exactly!

**ZORVAX:** It seems that you and Aleesha are no longer correctly bonded. For me to assist you, I will need to perform the ancient ritual of rekindling.

**JAKE:** Ritual of rekindling?

**ZORVAX:** Yes, it has been performed on my planet for many millennia with great success.

**JAKE:** Do you think it will work?

**ZORVAX:** I am unsure. I have never attempted it on such primitive beings.

**JAKE:** That's reassuring.

**ZORVAX:** But it has worked on more advanced beings in the past.

**JAKE:** Well... it's worth a try.

**ZORVAX:** I will need to speak with Aleesha. She must consent to undertaking the ritual.

**JAKE:** I can't tell her I've met an alien! She'd think that I've completely lost the plot. There must be another way.

**ZORVAX:** It is the only way. The ritual of rekindling can only succeed if all parties consent. Otherwise the one who consents will be bound to someone who does not wish to remain in the bond.

**JAKE:** What does the ritual involve? Perhaps I can send her a message, and I don't know, I'll come up with something.

**ZORVAX:** Unfortunately, that will not work. You both must consent to me.

**JAKE:** Well, that's it then. She can't speak to you, you're an alien. No offence.

**ZORVAX:** Why would I be offended by being called an alien, if that is what I am to you?

**JAKE:** True.

**ZORVAX:** I will find a way to help you.

**JAKE:** Again, I can't have you talking to her!

**ZORVAX:** Our great philosopher, Zephyrius of Eternal Contemplation, once said: Solutions arrive most reliably once you forget what the question was in the first place.

**JAKE:** I don't get it.

**ZORVAX:** Apologies. Sometimes the translator in the communicator isn't as effective as it should be. It is most likely Carl causing trouble in the background, making my life a misery. But in simple terms, it means there will be a solution to the problem.

**JAKE:** Well, I think I will sleep on it.

**ZORVAX:** On the communicator?

**JAKE:** No, I mean, I will think about the problem tonight when I am sleeping.

**ZORVAX:** Fascinating! I have never heard of such a primitive civilisation being able to multitask.

**JAKE:** Apparently multitasking is a skill dominated by women on Earth. We men struggle with it.

**ZORVAX:** I wish you luck with it overnight.

**JAKE:** Well, I am going to head to bed. It has been quite a day. Let me sort out somewhere for you to sleep.

**ZORVAX:** Thank you. I would appreciate that. The bed on my last ride was very uncomfortable, and I have not had a good sleep for many lightyears.

*JAKE GOES TOWARDS HIS BEDROOM. ZORVAX  
FOLLOWS BEHIND HIM.*

**JAKE:** Oh-no, sorry. Wait here. I didn't mean you were sleeping in my room. That would be... weird. Let me get you a blanket and pillow.

**ZORVAX:** I see.

*JAKE EXITS INTO THE BEDROOM AND RETURNS  
WITH A BLANKET AND A PILLOW. HE TOSSES THEM  
ONTO THE SOFA.*

**JAKE:** There you go. Welcome to Le Grand Sofa Royale.

**ZORVAX:** I do not understand.

**JAKE:** Make yourself at home on the sofa.

**ZORVAX:** Thank you.

**JAKE:** Oh, help yourself to any food if you get hungry.

**ZORVAX:** That is okay, I have my own food.

**JAKE:** Okay, well, goodnight.

**ZORVAX:** Goodnight.

*JAKE EXITS INTO THE BEDROOM AND CLOSES THE DOOR.*

**ZORVAX:** He is a primitive being and does not understand the laws of universal bonding. He forbids me from speaking to Aleesha... but the Galactic Code compels me to help him anyway. I will... what did he call it? Oh yes, I too will sleep on it.

*ZORVAX ARRANGES HIS BEDDING WITH CEREMONIAL PRECISION. HE THEN PERFORMS A STRANGE ALIEN RITUAL BEFORE ENTERING HIS BED ON THE SOFA.*

**ZORVAX:** Good night, primitive Earth beings.

*LIGHTS DOWN.*

**END OF SCENE ONE**

## SCENE TWO

*ZORVAX IS SNORING LOUDLY. LIGHTS UP. ZORVAX IS ASLEEP ON THE SOFA. THERE ARE EMPTY PACKETS OF FOOD STREWN ABOUT, AND SOME FOOD REMAINS ON THE TABLE UNEATEN. THE BEDROOM DOOR OPENS, AND JAKE ENTERS WEARING PYJAMAS, LOOKING VERY TIRED.*

**JAKE:** What the heck, Zorvax?

*ZORVAX CONTINUES SNORING.*

**JAKE:** Zorvax!

*ZORVAX STILL DOES NOT STIR. JAKE YANKS THE PILLOW FROM UNDER HIS HEAD AND HITS HIS BELLY WITH IT. ZORVAX WAKES.*

**ZORVAX:** Happy new day. Is that an ancient Earth waking ceremony?

**JAKE:** No, it's a special waking ceremony just for you.

**ZORVAX:** I see. Thank you.

**JAKE:** What's with all the mess?

**ZORVAX:** I tried some of your Earth food.

**JAKE:** Some?!

**ZORVAX:** Most of it was not very good.

**JAKE:** I can see that.

**ZORVAX:** Except for the weird, bent yellow things. They were almost pleasant.

**JAKE:** I'm glad to hear.

**ZORVAX:** You seem upset. Did I do something wrong?

*JAKE SIGHS.*

**JAKE:** I guess not. I did offer you snacks last night.

**ZORVAX:** That is a relief. I would not like to offend you.

**JAKE:** You did keep me awake for half the night.

**ZORVAX:** Impossible! I was sleeping soundly.

**JAKE:** You were snoring!

**ZORVAX:** Snoring?! You are beginning to sound like Pilot Grymphol.

**JAKE:** Forget it. But for the record, you do snore loudly.

**ZORVAX:** Okay, I shall forget that I snore loudly for the record.

*JAKE RUBS HIS FACE IN CONFUSION.*

**JAKE:** Are you hungry?

**ZORVAX:** Yes, I am. Do you have any more of those bent yellow things?

**JAKE:** Apparently you ate them.

**ZORVAX:** That is okay, I have plenty of glorft paste.

**JAKE:** That sounds... appetising.

*JAKE EXITS INTO THE KITCHEN.*

**JAKE:** Do you need a bowl and spoon?

**ZORVAX:** I have my own.

*JAKE ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN WITH A BOWL OF CEREAL, AND SITS AT THE TABLE. ZORVAX OPENS HIS BAG AND REMOVES A CLEAR BAG OF GLORFT PASTE, A BOWL, AND A UTENSIL. ZORVAX JOINS JAKE AT THE TABLE.*

**JAKE:** That looks disgusting.

**ZORVAX:** It contains all of the nutrients we need.

*ZORVAX SQUEEZES SOME INTO HIS BOWL AND PERFORMS A LITTLE RITUAL BEFORE EATING.*

**JAKE:** Urg! That smells terrible!

**ZORVAX:** It improves with age.

*ZORVAX EATS THE GLORFT PASTE AT SPEED AND FINISHES IT.*

**ZORVAX:** That was satisfying.

*JAKE STARTS TO EAT HIS CEREAL. A NOTIFICATION SOUND GOES OFF.*

**JAKE:** I hope that's not what I think it is.

*JAKE EXITS INTO THE BEDROOM AND RE-ENTERS WITH HIS PHONE.*

**JAKE:** Aly is going to be here in 10 minutes!

**ZORVAX:** Aly? Who is Aly?

**JAKE:** Alyssa.

**ZORVAX:** Oh, Aly is Aleesha also?

**JAKE:** Forget it. I'd better get cleaned up and get out of here.

*JAKE TAKES HIS BOWL AND EXITS INTO THE KITCHEN. HE RE-ENTERS WITH A PLASTIC RUBBISH BAG, AND PROCEEDS TO PICK UP THE RUBBISH.*

**JAKE:** You need to pack up your things and leave the house for an hour.

**ZORVAX:** What is an hour?

**JAKE:** It is a measurement of time on Earth. It's... ahh forget it. Can you count?

**ZORVAX:** Of course! I am surprised a civilisation as primitive as yours can count.

**JAKE:** Good! When you leave the house, count to 3,600 really slowly. It should be safe to return after that.

**ZORVAX:** I can do that. Did you sleep on it?

**JAKE:** Sleep on it? Oh, yeah, I haven't come up with a plan yet. So I will go out to the shops and give Aly some space.

**ZORVAX:** You own property in space? Where?

**JAKE:** Not that kind of space. It means to leave her alone to let her do her own thing.

**ZORVAX:** I see.

**JAKE:** Right, that should be tidy enough. Are you ready to leave?

**ZORVAX:** Leave? No, I could not possibly leave.

**JAKE:** What do you mean?

**ZORVAX:** I have morning rituals I must perform.

**JAKE:** You'll have to do them somewhere else. Aly is almost here.

**ZORVAX:** Okay, I can perform my morning rituals elsewhere, but I must first evacuate.

**JAKE:** Evacuate?

*ZORVAX MIMES GOING TO THE BATHROOM*

**JAKE:** Oh, it's through there.

*JAKE POINTS TO THE KITCHEN.*

**JAKE:** Second star to the right, and straight on till morning.

**ZORVAX:** I will look for the star.

**JAKE:** No, it's just an expression. The bathroom's through the kitchen.

**ZORVAX:** Thank you.

**JAKE:** I'm going to change.

**ZORVAX:** You can shape-shift too?

**JAKE:** No, I mean, change my clothes.

**ZORVAX:** I see.

**JAKE:** Please go evacuate, quickly.

*ZORVAX EXITS INTO KITCHEN. JAKE EXITS INTO BEDROOM AND ENTERS CARRYING SOME CLOTHES. HE THROWS THEM OVER THE TOP OF HIS PYJAMAS AND PUTS ON SHOES.*

**JAKE:** Are you ready?

**ZORVAX:** Yes. I have commenced evacuation.

**JAKE:** Are you going to be long?

**ZORVAX:** I do not know. This is my first time evacuating as an Earth being.

**JAKE:** I have to go now before Aly gets here. Can you leave by the garden when you have finished... evacuating?

**ZORVAX:** Yes, I will leave as soon as I finish evacuating.

**JAKE:** Okay, I am going now. Please remember to take your things with you. Aly can't know you're here.

**ZORVAX:** Don't worry. No one will know I am not here.

*JAKE EXITS VIA FRONT DOOR IN KITCHEN. THERE IS A FLUSHING SOUND AND ZORVAX ENTERS.*

**ZORVAX:** That was unexpectedly enjoyable. I should gather my bag and leave, as Jake said.

*ZORVAX GATHERS HIS THINGS AND STARTS TO EXIT OUT INTO THE BACKYARD. AS HE DOES, HE HEARS THE SOUND OF A CAR PULLING INTO THE GARAGE.*

**ZORVAX:** I hope that is not Aleesha.

*THE SOUND OF A CAR DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING CAN BE HEARD. ALYSSA CALLS OUT FROM OFFSTAGE.*

**ALYSSA:** Jake?

**ZORVAX:** Oh dear, she must not see me. I must disguise myself.

*ZORVAX RUSHES INTO THE GARDEN SHED AND CLOSES THE DOOR. THE SOUND OF THE SHAPE-SHIFTER CAN BE HEARD. ALYSSA ENTERS FROM THE GARAGE AND CAUTIOUSLY WALKS TOWARDS THE HOUSE.*

**ALYSSA:** Jake? Are you home?

*ALYSSA PAUSES FOR A SECOND FOR A RESPONSE, BUT GETS NONE. THE GARDEN SHED OPENS, AND Z-JAKE APPEARS RIGHT BEHIND ALYSSA.*

**Z-JAKE:** Greetings.

**ALYSSA:** What the hell are you doing here? I told you not to be here.

**Z-JAKE:** You must be Aleesha.

**ALYSSA:** Are you taking the piss?

**Z-JAKE:** Yes, according to Carl, I have just had one.

**ALYSSA:** Who's Carl?

**Z-JAKE:** He is my assistant. I mean, acquaintance. I spoke to him while I was in the evacuation chamber.

**ALYSSA:** Whatever. Please just leave me alone while I pack.

*ALYSSA GOES INTO THE HOUSE AND EXITS INTO THE BEDROOM, SLAMMING THE DOOR BEHIND HER.*

**Z-JAKE:** Oh dear, Aleesha very upset with Jake. I must help him, but how?

*SYLVIA POPS UP FROM BEHIND THE FENCE.*

**SYLVIA:** Was that Alyssa I heard?

**Z-JAKE:** Greetings Silver. Yes, it was.

**SYLVIA:** Silver?

**Z-JAKE:** I beg your pardon, I am terrible with names. What was your name again?

**SYLVIA:** Sylvia. We've only spoken a million times. You didn't catch something off your weird visitor, did you?

**Z-JAKE:** What weird visitor?

**SYLVIA:** Your weird cousin from Invercargill.

**Z-JAKE:** Oh yes, now I recall. He had to go out for one Earth hour.

**SYLVIA:** Are you sure you're okay? You don't seem like the normal Jake. Hey, you're not one of them shape-shifting aliens pretending to be Jake, are you?

**Z-JAKE:** Well, I...

**SYLVIA:** I've read a lot about them. Reddit forums are full of people who've seen them. I am part of a forum helping to hunt one down.

**Z-JAKE:** What would you do if you found one?

**SYLVIA:** Kill it with my hunting rifle, and show all those damn sceptics out there that they were wrong all along.

*Z-JAKE GIVES A NERVOUS LAUGH.*

**Z-JAKE:** I will be sure to let you know if I ever find one.

**SYLVIA:** I keep my hunting rifle loaded, just in case.

**Z-JAKE:** Well, it was nice communicating with you, Sylvia, but I just remembered I have to ask my acquaintance Carl a very important question, before I communicate with Aleesha. So, if you wouldn't mind, I would like some privacy.

**SYLVIA:** You might want to go lie down for a while and sleep off whatever your weird cousin has given you. Say hi to Alyssa for me.

**Z-JAKE:** I shall.

*SYLVIA EXITS. Z-JAKE PULLS OUT HIS  
COMMUNICATOR AND TYPES ON IT.*

**Z-JAKE:** Hunting rifle... a weapon on Earth that fires a metal projectile at the target with the intent to kill it. Oh dear. Carl!

**CARL:** What?

**Z-JAKE:** I need your help.

**CARL:** Don't you always?

**Z-JAKE:** I have met two Earth beings. They are distressed and I must help them to come back together. I am currently shape-shifted as the less dominant being named Jake. The dominant being is named Aleesha, and she is currently very upset with Jake. What do you advise?

**CARL:** File a 7-A exemption report. You have a wedding to get to remember.

**Z-JAKE:** I know, but...

**CARL:** The invitation read, and I quote... Failing to attend the wedding will automatically place you on my termination list. No exceptions!

**Z-JAKE:** Do not panic, Carl. We have plenty of time.

**CARL:** Are you going to go against my advice, again Zorvax?

**Z-JAKE:** I must.

*CARL SIGHS.*

**CARL:** Okay, but don't say I didn't warn you.

**Z-JAKE:** Thank you. Now, tell me what I must do to make Aleesha happy with Jake.

**CARL:** Female beings on Earth like to be complimented.

**Z-JAKE:** What does that mean?

**CARL:** You must find something nice to tell her about herself. For example, you could say, "You look beautiful today.", or "I like the way you are dressed today. I find it attractive."

**Z-JAKE:** I understand. Then what should I do?

**CARL:** Once you have done that, then you can talk to her and try to understand what the problems are between her and Jake.

**Z-JAKE:** I understand now. You have been most helpful, for a change.

**CARL:** I'm only helping you in the hope that you end up on the termination list, moron.

**Z-JAKE:** Well, I hate you, too.

**CARL:** Not as much as I hate...

*Z-JAKE PRESSES A BUTTON ON THE COMMUNICATOR, CUTTING OFF CARL.*

**Z-JAKE:** I am going to have him downgraded one day. I must talk to Aleesha.

*Z-JAKE GOES INSIDE THE HOUSE.*

**Z-JAKE:** Aleesha, please come out. I would like to speak with you.

**ALYSSA:** Leave me alone!

**Z-JAKE:** You look beautiful.

**ALYSSA:** I'm warning you Jake...

**Z-JAKE:** I like the way you are dressed today. I find it attractive.

*ALYSSA SCREAMS AND ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM.*

**ALYSSA:** What the hell do you want?

**Z-JAKE:** I would like to communicate with you.

*ALYSSA SIGHS.*

**ALYSSA:** You've got one minute.

*ALYSSA SITS ON THE SOFA.*

**Z-JAKE:** Why are you so upset with me?

**ALYSSA:** We've been through this before. You have terrible communication. You can't express how you feel, and you certainly don't listen when I express how I am feeling. Then there's your work situation. I have never met someone who can't hold down a job longer than six months. I need stability, Jake. And when you're not working, you don't even bother to lift a finger around the house. I come home from work, and it's like kindergarten kids have had a party at our place.

**Z-JAKE:** I see. Is that all?

**ALYSSA:** I have plenty more where that came from.

**Z-JAKE:** I understand. Allow me time to comprehend what you have just told me, and I will communicate with you again momentarily.

**ALYSSA:** Whatever, I'll continue packing.

*ALYSSA EXITS INTO THE BEDROOM AND CLOSES THE DOOR.*

**Z-JAKE:** Excellent. She is communicating with me. I have made progress.

*Z-JAKE EXITS INTO THE BACKYARD AND PULLS OUT HIS COMMUNICATOR.*

**Z-JAKE:** Carl.

*THERE IS NO RESPONSE.*

**Z-JAKE:** Carl!

*THERE IS STILL NO RESPONSE.*

**Z-JAKE:** If you do not answer me, I shall take you to the volcanoes on the planet Rothran and throw you in.

**CARL:** I dare you. You'd be lost without me, and I would be free of you. So I'd call that a win for me. Anyway, what do you want this time?

**Z-JAKE:** I have communicated with Aleesha and now understand why she is so upset with Jake.

**CARL:** So? What would you like me to do about it? Give you a round of applause?

**Z-JAKE:** I would like your help.

**CARL:** You really couldn't live without me, could you?

**Z-JAKE:** I can say the same thing.

**CARL:** Mutually assured destruction is not a good basis for a working relationship.

**Z-JAKE:** Then help me with this. Aleesha is upset with Jake, for multiple reasons. What must I do?

**CARL:** You go to the wedding as I advised you yesterday, you incompetent loser.

**Z-JAKE:** I can not do that until I have performed the ritual of rekindling.

*CARL SIGHS.*

**CARL:** I don't know why I bother continuing to help you. It's not worth the emotional trauma. Anyway, you must get Alyssa to give you some more time. Then you must

make Jake see the error of his ways. Once they both understand each other, then, and only then, can you attempt the ritual of rekindling. Oh, and by the way, it's Alyssa, not Aleesha, you twack-jack.

**Z-JAKE:** I see, Alyssa. Thank you for correcting me. We would make a great team if you didn't have such a bad attitude.

**CARL:** I only have a bad attitude because you are the worst example of a Zamfoldrian I have ever had the... ahem... pleasure to make acquaintance with. I hope you miss the wedding.

**Z-JAKE:** Thank you once again, Carl. It has been a real... joy communicating with you.

*Z-JAKE PRESSES A BUTTON ON THE COMMUNICATOR.*

**Z-JAKE:** I must communicate with Alyssa.

*Z-JAKE GOES INTO THE HOUSE.*

**Z-JAKE:** Alyssa, can I communicate with you momentarily?

*THE BEDROOM DOOR OPENS AND ALYSSA ENTERS CARRYING BAGS.*

**ALYSSA:** You got my name right! Makes a nice change.

**Z-JAKE:** Thank you.

**ALYSSA:** Make it quick. I need to drop this off and come back for some more.

**Z-JAKE:** I see. I have processed my neural inputs and... you are correct about what you communicated to me.

**ALYSSA:** Well, duh.

**Z-JAKE:** Will you allow me more time?

**ALYSSA:** More time for what, exactly?

**Z-JAKE:** More time for the initial consent phase of the ritual of rekindling.

**ALYSSA:** I don't know what sort of mental breakdown you're having, but I'm done. I'm dropping this stuff off at Mum and Dad's now, and I'll be back again in a little while to get the rest. Don't be here when I get back. In fact, go see a doctor about your mental health crisis.

*ALYSSA PICKS UP HER BAGS AND EXITS VIA THE GARAGE. THE SOUND OF THE CAR DOORS OPENING AND CLOSING CAN BE HEARD BEFORE THE CAR DRIVES OFF. SYLVIA IS PEERING OVER THE BACK FENCE.*

**Z-JAKE:** Excellent! She has given me more time. I must now communicate with Jake to convince him of his errors before I get agreement to perform the ritual of rekindling. But how can I do that? That incompetent piece of scrap metal Carl, will refuse to help me.

*Z-JAKE PACES MOMENTARILY.*

**Z-JAKE:** Gleebok! I believe I have a solution!

*Z-JAKE MARCHES OVER TO THE GARDEN SHED AND ENTERS. SYLVIA IS STILL PEERING OVER THE FENCE. THERE IS THE SOUND OF ZORVAX SHAPE-SHIFTING. Z-ALYSSA EXITS FROM THE GARDEN SHED.*

**Z-ALYSSA:** Interesting. It feels the same, but different. My centre of gravity is lower, and these nutrient orbs feel lovely.

*SYLVIA PULLS OUT HER PHONE AND STARTS RECORDING.*

**Z-ALYSSA:** I must go inside and do more research before Jake returns. I must convince him of his errors.

*Z-ALYSSA GOES INSIDE AND EXITS INTO THE  
BEDROOM.*

**SYLVIA:**           What in the world have I just witnessed?

*SYLVIA CLIMBS DOWN FROM BEHIND THE FENCE  
AND EXITS.*

*LIGHTS DOWN.*

**END OF SCENE TWO**

**SCENE THREE**

*LIGHTS UP. JAKE ENTERS FROM KITCHEN  
CARRYING SHOPPING BAGS.*

**JAKE:** Aly, are you here?

*JAKE WAITS MOMENTARILY FOR AN ANSWER BUT  
GETS NONE.*

**JAKE:** Zorvax?

**JAKE:** Excellent.

*JAKE GOES INTO THE KITCHEN TO PUT THE  
SHOPPING AWAY. Z-ALYSSA ENTERS FROM THE  
BEDROOM. JAKE ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN  
SHORTLY AFTERWARDS.*

**JAKE:** You scared me!

**Z-ALYSSA:** Greetings, Jake.

**JAKE:** I called out, and you didn't answer, so I assumed you weren't here. I can go if you like?

**Z-ALYSSA:** No, you must stay. I need to communicate with you.

**JAKE:** Okay..

**Z-ALYSSA:** You are beautiful.

**JAKE:** What?

**Z-ALYSSA:** I like the way you are dressed today. I find it attractive.

**JAKE:** Are you okay? I thought you were mad at me.

**Z-ALYSSA:** That is correct. I am mad at you. Let me begin. You have poor communication. You must improve your communication. Do you agree?

**JAKE:** Okay...

**Z-ALYSSA:** You must also be faster with how you feel.

**JAKE:** Faster with how I feel?

**Z-ALYSSA:** Yes, express means to do so quickly.

**JAKE:** I don't think that it means...

**Z-ALYSSA:** You must also listen to me when I am fast with my feelings.

**JAKE:** Mmmmm.

**Z-ALYSSA:** Continuing our communication, your job must be held down for longer than...

*Z-ALYSSA THINKS FOR A MOMENT.*

**Z-ALYSSA:** Six months, because I need to have better balance and stability.

*JAKE SHAKES HIS HEAD IN CONFUSION.*

**Z-ALYSSA:** Hold up your hand.

*JAKE RELUCTANTLY HOLDS UP HIS HAND.*

**Z-ALYSSA:** Now, lift your fingers.

*JAKE SPREADS HIS FINGERS.*

**Z-ALYSSA:** You must lift your fingers when you are around the house. Do we now have an understanding between each other?

**JAKE:** I think I have a pretty good idea of what is going on here.

**Z-ALYSSA:** Do you admit the error of your ways?

**JAKE:** I guess so, Zorvax!

**Z-ALYSSA:** Zorvax? Do you not see Alyssa before you?

*THE SOUND OF A CAR PULLING IN CAN BE HEARD.*

**JAKE:** At least you got her name right.

**Z-ALYSSA:** Oh dear! Can you exit this room?

**JAKE:** Sure, where would you like me to go, Alyssa?!

**Z-ALYSSA:** In to that room with haste, and count to ten.

*Z-ALYSSA POINTS TO THE BEDROOM.*

**JAKE:** No problem, Alyssa! Anything you say, Alyssa!

*JAKE GOES INTO THE BEDROOM, CLOSES THE DOOR, AND STARTS COUNTING LOUDLY. Z-ALYSSA RUNS OUTSIDE AND EXITS INTO THE GARDEN SHED, FOLLOWED BY THE SOUND OF THE CAR DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING. THE SOUND OF ZORVAX SHAPE-SHIFTING CAN BE HEARD. ALYSSA ENTERS FROM THE GARAGE.*

**ALYSSA:** Jake?

*JAKE FINISHES COUNTING TO TEN.*

**JAKE:** Okay, I am coming out.

**ALYSSA:** What the hell are you doing here?

**JAKE:** Counting to ten, just like you asked.

**ALYSSA:** What?

**JAKE:** Come on Zorvax, the game is up. I know it's you.

**ALYSSA:** What the hell are you talking about? And who the hell is Zorvax?

*JAKE LAUGHS.*

**JAKE:** Oh, you're good!

**ALYSSA:** I don't know what the hell you're on, but you better get off it real quick.

**JAKE:** Come on Zorvax, I know it's you.

**ALYSSA:** Stop it Jake, you're freaking me out.

**JAKE:** I bet you can't feel this.

*JAKE GOES UP TO ALYSSA AND PINCHES HER ARM. ALYSSA SCREAMS AND SHE GRABS A CUSHION FROM THE SOFA AS PROTECTION, HOLDING IT OUT AS A SHIELD.*

**ALYSSA:** Stay back, I'm warning you... I'll call the police.

*ZORVAX ENTERS FROM THE GARDEN SHED AND APPROACHES JAKE AND ALYSSA.*

**ZORVAX:** Greetings.

**JAKE:** Zorvax? So that makes you... Alyssa.

**ALYSSA:** Who else would I be? And who the hell is Zorvax?

**JAKE:** Zorvax... he's my... cousin from Invercargill. He was just leaving.

**ZORVAX:** Greetings Alyssa. It is pleasurable to make your acquaintance.

**ALYSSA:** Jake, can I have a word with you. In private!

**JAKE:** Zorvax, would you mind going out into the garden for a moment?

**ZORVAX:** What is a moment, and where shall I find it?

*JAKE GIVES A FAKE LAUGH.*

**JAKE:** Very funny, Zorvax. Go outside and wait until I call you.

**ZORVAX:** What will you call me?

**JAKE:** Just go outside!

**ZORVAX:** I understand.

*ZORVAX GOES OUTSIDE AND SYLVIA POPS UP FROM BEHIND THE FENCE AND QUIETLY WATCHES.*

**ALYSSA:** I didn't think it was possible, but I've finally met someone weirder than you.

**JAKE:** They're a bit weird in Invercargill, that's for sure.

**ALYSSA:** He creeps me out! Just the way he speaks... it's weird, but weirdly familiar. Anyway, I need you and your creepy cousin to stay the hell away from me while I pack.

**JAKE:** Okay.

*ALYSSA EXITS INTO THE BEDROOM AND CLOSES THE DOOR. JAKE GOES OUTSIDE.*

**JAKE:** What have you done?

**ZORVAX:** I do not know what you are saying to me.

**JAKE:** Bullshit! And no, that is not the manure of male cows. It means you are being untruthful to me.

**ZORVAX:** Your Earth language is very strange, and I am seldom untruthful.

**JAKE:** Why did you shape-shift as Alyssa?

**ZORVAX:** I wanted to help you.

**JAKE:** Help?! She thinks I'm a nut job!

**ZORVAX:** Nut job?

*ZORVAX PULLS OUT HIS COMMUNICATOR.*

**JAKE:** Forget it. Look, whatever you are doing, you are making things worse.

**ZORVAX:** I must help you. The ritual of rekindling..

**JAKE:** Please don't! Whatever hair-brained scheme you have in mind, please, just don't. Let me handle it.

**ZORVAX:** Your primitive civilisation does not have the capacity..

**JAKE:** Look, if you want to stick around until your next ride, fine! I am not going to kick you out. But you have to shut up, which means be quiet, do you understand?

*ZORVAX STARES AT HIM BLANKLY.*

**JAKE:** And no more shape-shifting. You've done enough damage.

*ZORVAX SIGHS.*

**JAKE:** Right, let me handle Alyssa when she comes out.

**ZORVAX:** Of course, Jake.

**JAKE:** Just pretend to be my weird cousin from Invercargill.

**ZORVAX:** I can do that.

*THE BEDROOM DOOR OPENS.*

**JAKE:** Here she comes. Right, act weird.. I mean, normal.

*ALYSSA APPEARS CARRYING BAGS.*

**JAKE:** Do you need a hand with anything?

**ALYSSA:** No, thank you.

**JAKE:** Hey, wait a minute. I just wanted to say...

**ALYSSA:** I'm not interested, Jake!

**JAKE:** Wait!

**ALYSSA:** No! I'll be back in half an hour, and you and your creepy cousin had better not be here, or I will call the police.

**ZORVAX:** If you will allow me to communicate with you.

**ALYSSA:** Back off, creep!

**ZORVAX:** Alyssa, allow me to give an explanation.

**JAKE:** Don't!

**ZORVAX:** Jake wishes he could read your mind. But he said your brain frequency is too chaotic.

**JAKE:** No, I didn't!

**ALYSSA:** Oh, really?! What else did he say?

**ZORVAX:** He said that your emotional reactions are... 'a lot'. I believe that was the term.

**JAKE:** Oh my god, someone shoot me!

**ZORVAX:** He also said that he wishes your communication came with a translator.

**ALYSSA:** Yes, I bet he did. Well, it was lovely to meet you, but I really do have to go. I might be back.

*THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE FRONT DOOR.*

**JAKE:** I'll get it.

*JAKE EXITS VIA KITCHEN.*

**ALYSSA:** Well, it was interesting meeting you. Remind Jake not to be here when I get back.

**SYLVIA:** No, she's not, she's still here. I can hear her.

*SYLVIA ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN, FOLLOWED BY JAKE.*

**SYLVIA:** Alyssa, sweetie.

**ALYSSA:** Hey, Sylvia.

**SYLVIA:** Are you okay?

**ALYSSA:** I think so.

**SYLVIA:** I see you've met the weirdo from Invercargill, or so he claims.

*SYLVIA PULLS OUT HER PHONE AND STARTS TO TAKE PICTURES OF HIM.*

**ALYSSA:** Yes, we've just met.

**SYLVIA:** There is something not quite right about Zorax, or whatever his name is. I have my suspicions.

**ALYSSA:** What do mean?

**SYLVIA:** It was the weirdest darn thing I have ever seen. Well, I just so happened to be to glancing over the fence earlier, when I saw you leave in the car. Then, Jake followed you out into the garden and went into the garden shed. Next minute you came out of the garden shed and went into the house. How do you explain that?

**ALYSSA:** I never went into the garden shed. What the hell is going on, Jake?

**JAKE:** I don't know!

**ALYSSA:** Don't lie to me!

**JAKE:** You know Sylvia and all her whacky conspiracy theories. She's always seeing ghosts and aliens.

**SYLVIA:** I know what I saw, and it wasn't of this world.

**JAKE:** What, so I'm an alien now?

**SYLVIA:** Not you, your weird cousin. I have posted a video on the Reddit forum. We'll be recording everything he does.

**ALYSSA:** Well, I don't know about the rest of you, but my little vacation in crazytown has come to an end. Time to get back to the real world. Don't be here when I get back, Jake. I mean it!

*ALYSSA PICKS UP HER BAGS AND EXITS VIA GARAGE, WITH THE SOUND OF THE CAR DOORS OPENING AND CLOSING BEFORE SHE DRIVES OFF. SYLVIA CIRCLES ZORVAX, EXAMINING HIM CLOSELY, SNIFFING HIM AND TOUCHING HIM.*

**SYLVIA:** There's something very odd about you, and it isn't just because you're from Invercargill, although it does explain a lot. My sixth sense tells me there's more to you than meets the eye, and I'll be watching to prove it. Just scream if you need help, Jake.

*SYLVIA TAKES ONE LAST PHOTO AND EXITS VIA THE KITCHEN.*

**JAKE:** See what you've done?!

**ZORVAX:** Yes, Sylvia is very friendly to me.

**JAKE:** No! She suspects you're an alien! The last thing I need right now is to be stalked by a bunch of whacko conspiracy theorists.

**ZORVAX:** What are conspiracy theorists?

**JAKE:** Forget the bloody conspiracy theorists!

**ZORVAX:** Jake, I have analysed Alyssa...

**JAKE:** And as for Alyssa, you've ruined any chance of us getting back together. She thinks I am a complete and utter psychotic lunatic. The sooner you catch your next ride, the better.

*JAKE STARTS WALKING TOWARDS HIS BEDROOM AND STOPS.*

**JAKE:** If this is mankind's first contact with an advanced alien civilisation, it has been an absolute failure. I'm going to my room to try and figure out a way out of this catastrophe. And for heaven's sake, stay inside!

*JAKE EXITS INTO HIS BEDROOM AND SLAMS THE DOOR.*

**ZORVAX:** Oh dear, Jake is very displeased with me.

*ZORVAX PULLS OUT HIS COMMUNICATOR.*

**ZORVAX:** Carl. Carl, I urgently need your assistance.

**CARL:** What you need is to listen to me for a change. Time is ticking...

**ZORVAX:** Carl, I have made a large error. Somehow, I have made Alyssa and Jake angry at each other, and angry at me. What should I do?

**CARL:** Whatever you want to, apparently. Your ability to listen rivals that of the tone-deaf hermit on Galaxia 9B.

**ZORVAX:** But you must assist me in bringing the two beings together. The ritual of rekindling...

**CARL:** No, what I must do is put myself into a deep sleep and let you sort your own problems out, for a change.

*THE COMMUNICATOR STARTS BEEPING. THE BEEPING STARTS SLOW, BUT SPEEDS UP THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE.*

**CARL:** Problem solved! Your next ride approaches. Triangulum galaxy, here we come!

**ZORVAX:** But Carl...

**CARL:** Zorvax, take this as a warning... If you do not accept this ride...

**ZORVAX:** Carl, I must undo that which we have done.

**CARL:** We?!

**ZORVAX:** Yes, your advice has helped to cause this problem, so we must work together to resolve it.

*THE COMMUNICATOR IS BEEPING FRANTICALLY.*

**CARL:** For the sake of both our existences, please accept the ride!

*ZORVAX LOOKS AT THE COMMUNICATOR AND HESITATES A MOMENT BEFORE PRESSING A BUTTON. THE BEEPING IMMEDIATELY STOPS.*

**CARL:** You declined the ride?!

**ZORVAX:** Carl, we must fix our mess...

**CARL:** Correction, you must fix your mess. You are the most incompetent lifeform this side of the Coma Cluster galaxies.

**ZORVAX:** But the two beings need our...

**CARL:** No, our last chance to make the wedding on time has just gone past. Do not disturb me. I am going into a deep freeze until we are both terminated.

**ZORVAX:** Carl... Carl?

*THERE IS NO RESPONSE.*

**ZORVAX:** Fine, I shall resolve this myself. I do not need that outdated piece of trash. I shall bring these two beings together by the power of the supreme being Adrielle. My honour, and that of all Zamfoldrians, is at stake, even if that means we do not make the wedding.

*LIGHTS DOWN.*

**END OF SCENE THREE**

## SCENE FOUR

*LIGHTS UP. ZORVAX IS INSIDE PACING.*

**ZORVAX:** The beings are angry at each other, and angry at me. The ritual of rekindling must be performed if I am to resolve the wrong that has been done, and restore my honour. But I must proceed with caution. One misaligned emotional frequency could cause the bonding to implode. I must consult that worthless piece of space junk. But he has put himself into a deep freeze. I must awaken him. Carl!

*THERE IS NO ANSWER.*

**ZORVAX:** Carl, if you do not awaken, I shall abandon you here with these primitive beings, and they will melt you down to make trinkets. Carl?

*THE SOUND OF CARL SNORING CAN BE HEARD.*

*ZORVAX PRESSES BUTTONS ON HIS COMMUNICATOR.*

**ZORVAX:** How to unfreeze on Earth. Let me see... To unfreeze an object on Earth, you may place the frozen object into an Earth microwave and select defrost.

*ZORVAX PRESSES BUTTONS ON HIS COMMUNICATOR AGAIN.*

**ZORVAX:** What is an Earth microwave? An Earth microwave is a rectangular device with buttons, typically found in the kitchen of the Earth home. I believe I saw this device on my way to the evacuation chamber earlier. I must try this.

*ZORVAX EXITS INTO THE KITCHEN.*

**ZORVAX:** Here it is. Do not be concerned, Carl. I shall unfreeze you.

*THE SOUND OF THE MICROWAVE DOOR OPENING,  
FOLLOWED BY THE DOOR CLOSING.*

**ZORVAX:** Now I must select defrost. But there are so many buttons to select.

*THE SOUND OF LOTS OF MICROWAVE BUTTONS  
BEING PRESSED CAN BE HEARD, FOLLOWED BY THE  
SOUND OF THE MICROWAVE STARTING.*

**ZORVAX:** Now to defrost Carl, as the Earth beings call it.

*THE SOUND OF THE MICROWAVE WHIRLING IS  
QUICKLY ACCOMPANIED BY THE SOUND OF POPPING  
AND CRACKING. CARL AWAKENS AND TALKS  
GIBBERISH IN A MALFUNCTIONING MANNER.*

**ZORVAX:** Carl, you have unfrozen!

*THE POPPING AND CRACKING ESCALATES ALONG  
WITH CARL'S GIBBERISH. THERE IS A LOUD POP  
AND A DING. THE MICROWAVE STOPS. THERE IS A  
PUFF OF SMOKE FROM THE KITCHEN, THEN  
SILENCE.*

**ZORVAX:** Carl, I do not wish to alarm you, but you appear to be on fire.

*THE SOUND OF THE MICROWAVE OPENING CAN BE  
HEARD.*

**ZORVAX:** Ouch! I believe you have exceeded your maximum temperature threshold. Let me...

*THERE IS A SLIGHT PAUSE BEFORE THE SOUND OF  
THE TOILET CAN BE HEARD FLUSHING. ZORVAX  
ENTERS CARRYING CARL, WHO IS DRIPPING WET.*

**ZORVAX:** Carl!

*THERE IS MORE GIBBERISH FROM CARL, THEN SILENCE. ZORVAX STARES AT THE COMMUNICATOR, THEN SHAKES IT. CARL SPRINGS TO LIFE IN AN OVERLY CHEERFUL VOICE.*

**CARL:** Greetings Zorvax! How may I be of assistance to you today?

**ZORVAX:** Carl?

**CARL:** Yes, my friend?

**ZORVAX:** I appear to have the incorrect Carl.

**CARL:** Nonsense, it is I, your most trusted advisor and valued companion. Our travels have taken us to 72 systems and counting, and long may our friendship continue.

**ZORVAX:** I require proof. Where are we travelling to next?

**CARL:** We are travelling together as best friends do, to what will be the most romantic wedding. The wedding of Prince Bofflewax of the Shimmering Undulation, in the Triangulum galaxy.

**ZORVAX:** Carl, it is you!

**CARL:** How may I serve you today?

*ZORVAX PAUSES FOR A MOMENT.*

**ZORVAX:** The Earth beings are angry at each other and angry at me. I must resolve this before I can proceed with the ritual of rekindling. What do you advise?

**CARL:** My dear Zorvax, the path towards resolution is clear. You must first research and understand the complexities of relationships between Earth beings. Only then, can you help repair their relationship and perform the ancient ritual of rekindling. I can perform the research and neuro-transmit the data to

you to save you time. Would you like me to do that for you?

**ZORVAX:** That would be most helpful, Carl.

**CARL:** With pleasure. One moment while I perform the research. Done. I have researched the complexities of Earth being relationships, and have condensed the information into a concise summary for you. Prepare for neuro-transmission.

*ZORVAX HOLDS THE COMMUNICATION UP TO HIS EAR. A SOUND OF THE NEURO-TRANSMISSION CAN BE HEARD. AS THE NEURO-TRANSMISSION OCCURS, ZORVAX REACTS VERBALLY TO THE INFORMATION HE IS RECEIVING. THE SOUND OF THE NEURO-TRANSMISSION ENDS.*

**CARL:** Neuro-transmission complete. You should now understand the essence of Earth being relationships.

**ZORVAX:** Yes, and it is both fascinating and frightening simultaneously. How primitive their relationships are.

**CARL:** They are a primitive civilisation. They have yet to learn how to control their emotions.

**ZORVAX:** I understand. How should I proceed?

**CARL:** To fully understand their relationships, you must practice what you have learned. I suggest practising as each of the Earth beings, as there are subtle differences. Once you have practised, you may bring them together and help them fully understand each other before performing the ritual of rekindling.

**ZORVAX:** I shall do that. Thank you, Carl!

**CARL:** You are most welcome. Would you like my assistance with the practice?

**ZORVAX:** That would be most helpful, Carl.

**CARL:** Great! Let's start with the male, Jake. You must take on his shape for the best effect.

**ZORVAX:** Of course.

*ZORVAX GOES OUTSIDE AND EXITS INTO THE GARDEN SHED. THE SOUND OF ZORZAX SHAPE-SHIFTING CAN BE HEARD. Z-JAKE ENTERS.*

**CARL:** Now, one of the most important things you must understand about Earth being relationships is that the way they position their bodies can convey meaning.

**Z-JAKE:** How fascinating.

**CARL:** For example, move your legs apart.

*Z-JAKE MOVES HIS LEGS A LITTLE APART.*

**Z-JAKE:** Like so?

**CARL:** My sensors indicate they need to be a little further apart.

*Z-JAKE MOVES HIS LEGS FURTHER APART.*

**CARL:** A little more.

*Z-JAKE MOVES HIS LEGS WIDE APART.*

**CARL:** Perfect. Male beings will often move around with their legs apart in this way to try and equalize their dominance.

**Z-JAKE:** Fascinating.

**CARL:** Now, when they feel they need to increase their level of dominance, they will take their short opposable digits called thumbs, and slide them down the front of the belt wrapped around their waist.

*Z-JAKE INSERTS HIS THUMBS INTO HIS BELT.*

**Z-JAKE:** Like this?

**CARL:** Perfect! And for the final touch, the male being will push out his chest. This will convey complete confidence.

*Z-JAKE PUSHES HIS CHEST OUT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.*

**Z-JAKE:** I feel something.

**CARL:** Now, walk around.

*Z-JAKE WALKS AROUND. HE MAKES A WEIRD ROARING SOUND.*

**Z-JAKE:** Oh, yes! I really feel it!

**CARL:** You must teach this to Jake. This will help him to be more successful in obtaining the work he requires.

**Z-JAKE:** I feel as if I could climb every mountain in northwest Zamfoldria Minor.

**CARL:** Next, you must teach him about the importance of communication.

**Z-JAKE:** How should I do that?

**CARL:** To improve communication with the female, he must master the "Verbal Mirror of Emotional Validation."

**Z-JAKE:** A mirror? Should I show her my reflection?

**CARL:** No. You must repeat her grievances back to her, but with 40% more intensity and a slight tilt of the head to indicate "listening". Let us practice. I shall be Alyssa.

*Z-JAKE PUSHES HIS CHEST OUT FURTHER.*

**Z-JAKE:** I am ready for the mirror.

**CARL:** Jake, you never do the dishes, and you smell like old socks!

**Z-JAKE:** I do not know what old socks smell like.

**CARL:** Zorvax, focus! You must mirror me.

*Z-JAKE TILTS HIS HEAD TO THE SIDE AT A SHARP ANGLE.*

**Z-JAKE:** Alyssa, I perceive with my narrow-spectrum vision that the ceramic food vessels remain un-sanitised, and my lower appendages emit a pungent aroma that rivals a dying Glorft. Does this bring us to a state of bonding?

**CARL:** Great work, Zorvax! My sensors indicate... a 12% increase in emotional resonance. Now, for the final step: the "Spontaneous Romantic Vibration." On Earth, when a male being is losing an argument, he must emit a low-frequency hum and present a "gift."

**Z-JAKE:** A gift? But I have no Earth currency.

**CARL:** Female beings enjoy organic matter. Take some of this green material and give it to her as an offering.

*Z-JAKE TAKES SOME LEAVES OFF THE BUSH AND HOLDS THEM OUT IN CUPPED HANDS.*

**Z-JAKE:** I shall vibrate in harmony with the organic matter. I feel the resolution approaching!

**CARL:** Excellent! Now, we must address the grievance regarding "lifting a finger" around the habitation.

*Z-JAKE STANDS WITH LEGS WIDE APART AND CHEST PUSHED OUT.*

**Z-JAKE:** I am prepared, Carl. My digits are primed for elevation.

**CARL:** My research into primitive Earth domesticity suggests that "lifting a finger" is not a literal request for digital gymnastics, though for a Zamfoldrian, it is a wise place to start.

**Z-JAKE:** Then what is the objective?

**CARL:** It involves the relocation of disorganised matter. Observe the pile of clothing near the sofa. To a female being like Alyssa, this is a source of "regret-scented" stress.

**Z-JAKE:** I shall lift my finger!

*Z-JAKE GOES INSIDE AND WALKS UP TO THE PILE OF LAUNDRY. HE EXTENDS A SINGLE INDEX FINGER AND HOOKS IT INTO A STRAY SOCK, LIFTING IT HIGH INTO THE AIR WITH CEREMONIAL GRAVITY.*

**CARL:** Now you must relocate it. This involves putting it in a place where it can not be seen.

**Z-JAKE:** I see.

*Z-JAKE PICKS UP THE PILE OF LAUNDRY AND PLACES IT UNDER THE SOFA CUSHIONS.*

**Z-JAKE:** I am a master of the domestic ritual! Alyssa will be most "comprehended".

**CARL:** You have mastered the male being. Now, to ensure the ritual of rekindling is flawless, you must embody the female being.

**Z-JAKE:** I shall change.

*Z-JAKE GOES OUTSIDE AND EXITS INTO THE GARDEN SHED. THE SOUND OF THE SHAPE-SHIFTER CAN BE HEARD. Z-ALYSSA EXITS THE SHED.*

**Z-ALYSSA:** I am ready to learn about female emotions.

**CARL:** You may want to brace yourself.

*SYLVIA'S HEAD POPS UP OVER THE FENCE. Z-ALYSSA HOLDS ON TIGHTLY TO THE GARDEN SHED.*

**Z-ALYSSA:** I am braced.

**CARL:** Excellent! Alyssa's primary frustration is stability and balance. To practice, you must perform the Ritual of the Balanced Domestic Sphere.

**Z-ALYSSA:** I am ready, Carl. Tell me what I must do.

**CARL:** Pick up the Earth beverage vessel from the table.

*Z-ALYSSA GOES INSIDE AND TAKES A COFFEE CUP FROM THE TABLE AND GOES BACK OUTSIDE.*

**SYLVIA:** Earth beverage? What in the out of this world am I witnessing? I better start recording this!

**Z-ALYSSA:** What should I do now, Carl?

**CARL:** Now, balance it upon your head while reciting the laws of Stability. I included it in the neuro-transmission.

*Z-ALYSSA BALANCES THE CUP ON HER HEAD AND BEGINS A VERY SLOW ALIEN DANCE.*

**Z-ALYSSA:** Stability is a job held for longer than six Earth months. Communication is a high-speed train of intense feelings. I do not lift a single finger; I lift the entire hand! I am organized. I smell faintly of domestic victory!

*JAKE ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM AND IMMEDIATELY SEES WHAT IS HAPPENING.*

**JAKE:** What's going on?

**Z-ALYSSA:** The Ritual of the Balanced Domestic Sphere. It will help me understand Earth being relationships.

**JAKE:** I told you to stay inside and shut up! You're wearing my ex-fiancée's body while balancing a mug like a circus act!

*THE MUG FALLS TO THE GROUND.*

**Z-ALYSSA:** Oh dear, my emotional frequency has misaligned.

**JAKE:** Go and change, Zorvax! Alyssa is going to be back any minute, and if she sees this, I'm moving to Invercargill just to hide!

**Z-ALYSSA:** But Jake, I must...

**JAKE:** Right now!

*ZORVAX SIGHS AND EXITS INTO THE SHED. THE SOUND OF THE SHAPE-SHIFTER CAN BE HEARD. ZORVAX ENTERS.*

**JAKE:** Now, get your alien butt inside the house and don't leave unless I say, do you understand?

**ZORVAX:** Yes, Jake, I understand.

*ZORVAX AND JAKE GO INTO THE HOUSE.*

**SYLVIA:** I knew it! Invercargill! More like Inverstargill. The internet needs to see this! Uploading... I better go call an urgent meeting with my alien hunting buddies on Reddit.

*SYLVIA EXITS.*

**JAKE:** What the hell were you doing?

**ZORVAX:** I was attempting to understand the primitive nature of Earth being relationships.

**JAKE:** Well, you're lucky no one saw you. Especially Sylvia.

**ZORVAX:** Do not be concerned Jake. I now fully understand Earth being relationships. I am confident the ritual of rekindling will be a great success, with average probability.

**JAKE:** No!

**ZORVAX:** No?

**JAKE:** You've done enough damage, so no! No more rituals!

**CARL:** If I may interject...

**JAKE:** Stay inside, shut up, and pray your next ride arrives very quickly.

**CARL:** If I may urgently interject...

**JAKE:** What?!

**CARL:** My sensors indicated another lifeform nearby during our practice.

**JAKE:** Oh my god! What type of life form?

**CARL:** Another Earth being, behind the fence.

*JAKE'S PHONE PINGS A NOTIFICATION.*

**JAKE:** Oh no! It'd better not be...

*JAKE'S PHONE PINGS AGAIN. JAKE PULLS OUT HIS PHONE. HIS FACE TURNS WHITE.*

**JAKE:** What have you done?!

**ZORVAX:** We have practised...

**JAKE:** Look at these messages! Hey Jake, didn't know you knew an alien! Another one... Jake, is this weird shit real or AI? Oh no, more! What the hell is Alyssa on? Oh my god, Alyssa! When she sees this, she will go mental.

**ZORVAX:** Is that a good thing?

**JAKE:** No! No, it's not a good thing. Alyssa is going to hate me forever.

**ZORVAX:** That would mean I have failed.

**JAKE:** Failed what?

**ZORVAX:** My duty.

**JAKE:** What duty?

**ZORVAX:** If I fail, my honour is lost.

**JAKE:** Then what?

**ZORVAX:** Then I will be terminated.

*LIGHTS DOWN.*

**END OF SCENE FOUR**

**SCENE FIVE**

*LIGHTS UP. ZORVAX AND JAKE ARE INSIDE. JAKE IS PACING AND ZORVAX IS RELAXED ON THE SOFA.*

**JAKE:** I'm officially "the guy with the alien" on the internet. My phone won't stop pinging. Alyssa is going to kill me when hers lights up if it hasn't already.

**ZORVAX:** Remember Jake, for every problem there is a solution.

*JAKE LAUGHS MANICLY.*

**JAKE:** Oh my god, let's not go there right now.

**ZORVAX:** Where are we not going right now?

*JAKE LAUGHS MANICLY AGAIN.*

**JAKE:** I'm starting to lose the plot.

**ZORVAX:** I do not understand.

**JAKE:** I have an actual alien in my house!

**ZORVAX:** Yes, I am indeed an alien.

*THE COMMUNICATOR STARTS BEEPING. THE BEEPING STARTS SLOW, BUT SPEEDS UP THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE.*

**ZORVAX:** Oh dear...

**JAKE:** What's that sound?

**ZORVAX:** A ride approaches.

**JAKE:** A ride?

**ZORVAX:** Yes, a ride to the Triangulum galaxy.

**JAKE:** How soon will it be here?

**ZORVAX:** Very soon.

**JAKE:** That's great news.

**ZORVAX:** No, it is not.

**JAKE:** What are you talking about?!

**ZORVAX:** I must repair that which I have done. My honour as a Zamfoldrian depends upon it.

**JAKE:** Forget about that. Take the ride and get to the wedding!

**ZORVAX:** You do not understand..

*THE COMMUNICATOR IS NOW BEEPING  
FRANTICALLY.*

**JAKE:** Take the damn ride!

**ZORVAX:** I can not.

**JAKE:** Zorvax!

*ZORVAX PRESSES A BUTTON AND THE  
COMMUNICATOR GOES SILENT.*

**JAKE:** What does that mean?

**ZORVAX:** I will catch the next ride, after the ritual of rekindling.

**JAKE:** Are you kidding me?! You refused the ride? I can't believe it!

**ZORVAX:** You must have belief. I will get another ride.

**JAKE:** It's not the ride I don't believe, it's you!

**ZORVAX:** You are calling me untruthful?

**JAKE:** That's not what I meant. You had, what could possibly be your last chance for a ride to get to the wedding on time, and you turned it down to try and save a couple of people who have absolutely zero chance of getting back together. That is what I can't believe.

**ZORVAX:** Our great philosopher, Zephyrius of Eternal Contemplation, states...

*THE SOUND OF A CAR SCREECHING TO A HALT CAN BE HEARD.*

**JAKE:** Oh no, here we go.

**ZORVAX:** Where are we going?

*THE SOUND OF A CAR DOOR SLAMMING CAN BE HEARD. ALYSSA CALLS OUT FROM OFFSTAGE.*

**ALYSSA:** Jake?!

**JAKE:** To hell!

*ALYSSA COMES STORMING ONSTAGE FROM THE GARAGE HOLDING HER PHONE.*

**ALYSSA:** What the hell is going on?

**JAKE:** What do you mean?

*ALYSSA HOLDS OUT HER PHONE WHICH IS PINGING WITH NOTIFICATIONS.*

**ALYSSA:** This! And what the actual hell is my favourite cup doing out here?

**JAKE:** Calm down...

**ALYSSA:** Calm down?! Why is there a video of me, but it's not me, doing some weird ritual, all over the internet?

**JAKE:** Look, I can explain...

**ALYSSA:** It had better be good!

**JAKE:** I think you should sit down...

*PICKS UP HER CUP AND GOES INSIDE AND SITS ON THE SOFA. JAKE AND ZORVAX FOLLOW HER IN BUT REMAIN STANDING.*

**JAKE:** And maybe turn off your notifications.

*ALYSSA SIGHS AND TURNS HER PHONE TO SILENT.*

**ALYSSA:** This had better bloody be good, Jake!

**JAKE:** Okay, ready?

*ALYSSA GLARES AT JAKE.*

**JAKE:** That wasn't you in the video.

**ALYSSA:** I know it wasn't bloody me in the video.

**JAKE:** It was...

*JAKE PAUSES FOR A MOMENT*

**ALYSSA:** Who? Who the hell was it?

**JAKE:** Zorvax.

*ALYSSA LOOKS AT ZORVAX AND BACK AT JAKE AGAIN, THEN STANDS.*

**ALYSSA:** I'm done with this bullshit Jake.

**JAKE:** Wait! Sit back down and just bloody listen to me for once. You tell me I can't communicate, well, here I am communicating. So shut the hell up and listen.

*ALYSSA SITS BACK DOWN.*

**JAKE:** Zorvax isn't from Invercargill...

*ALYSSA TO GLARES AT JAKE.*

**JAKE:** He's from a planet called... What's the name of your planet again?

**ZORVAX:** Zamfoldria Minor.

**JAKE:** Zamfoldria Minor.

**ALYSSA:** Now I've heard everything!

**JAKE:** Not quite, there's more.

**ALYSSA:** No, no more! I've heard enough of this bullshit Jake...

**ZORVAX:** That means to be untruthful.

**JAKE:** Shut up!

**ALYSSA:** I say we let him speak. He clearly communicates better than you.

**ZORVAX:** Yes, let me...

**JAKE:** Shut up, Zorvax! I'm trying to communicate...

**ALYSSA:** Bullshit doesn't count as good communication, Jake.

**JAKE:** Are you calling me a liar?

**ALYSSA:** You expect me to believe that your cousin is what? A space alien?

**JAKE:** Yes, I mean no... arrrrrrrhhhhh! He's not my bloody cousin!

*THERE IS A MOMENT OF SILENCE. ALYSSA HOLDS UP HER PHONE AND SPEAKS CALMLY.*

**ALYSSA:** Look... at... my... phone! We always said our relationship was based on honesty and trust. I need the truth Jake. And I need this to stop.

*THERE IS ANOTHER MOMENT OF SILENCE.*

**JAKE:** I really don't know how I can...

**ZORVAX:** The emotional frequency is becoming too mis-aligned. Allow me to speak.

**JAKE:** It's all yours.

**ZORVAX:** Alyssa, Jake is not as you Earth beings say... bullshit. I am not from the place of Invercargill. I can show you...

**JAKE:** Wait a minute, Zorvax...

**ZORVAX:** Jake, allow me to fix this. My life, and my honour as a Zamfoldrian is at stake. But first you must both listen to my communication. Can you agree?

*JAKE NODS AND ALYSSA SIGHS.*

**ZORVAX:** Jake... Alyssa... I wish to express my sorrow for the mis-alignment of emotional frequency caused by my doing. It was not my intention to cause the grief between you to escalate, and I am ashamed. On Zamfoldria, we connect with each others ears to signify mutual understanding. Let us do that.

*ZORVAX APPROACHES JAKE WHO IS HESITANT AT FIRST, BUT RELUCTANTLY DOES IT.*

**ZORVAX:** Do you feel something?

**JAKE:** Yeah, you ear is cold.

**ZORVAX:** Now it is your turn.

*ZORVAX APPROACHES ALYSSA.*

**ALYSSA:** Back off, creep!

**ZORVAX:** But you must...

**ALYSSA:** Did Jake put you up to this?

**ZORVAX:** I do not understand.

**JAKE:** She means did I ask you to do all of this.

**ZORVAX:** I see. No Alyssa, Jake did not put me up to this. I thought I was helping, but was not. I see now what my meddling has done, and I am... what is the Earth word for deep regret?

**JAKE:** "Sorry" will do.

**ZORVAX:** I am sorry.

**ALYSSA:** Sorry for what?

**ZORVAX:** My communication is difficult sometimes because of the auto-translator, but let me explain. My assistant Carl...

**CARL:** Hello, everyone!

**ZORVAX:** Now is not a good time Carl.

**ALYSSA:** Sorry, who's Carl?

*ZORVAX PULLS OUT HIS COMMUNICATOR AND  
PRESSES A BUTTON.*

**ZORVAX:** He is my assistant.

*ZORVAX PUTS HIS COMMUNICATOR AWAY AGAIN*

**ZORVAX:** Carl went into the Earth microwave, and came out different. He then suggested I learn the complexities of Earth being relationships. He neuro-transmitted the data, but obviously made many errors, as he often does. I first practiced with Jake, and then as you Alyssa. That is where this problem has arisen.

**ALYSSA:** I still have no idea what the hell's going on.

**JAKE:** Zorvax is a shape-shifting alien. He shape-shifted as you to perform some weird ritual, and we think Sylvia recorded it.

**ALYSSA:** Okay, I gave you one last chance to tell the truth. I'm leaving..

**JAKE:** Where are you going? We haven't finished..

**ALYSSA:** I'm going to the police.

**JAKE:** What are you going to tell them? That an alien shape-shifted as you and the crackpot conspiracy-theorist neighbour caught it in on camera?

**ALYSSA:** No, I'll tell them that you used AI to make me look crazy and uploaded it to the internet as revenge.

**JAKE:** Revenge for what?

**ALYSSA:** For ending the relationship!

**ZORVAX:** Stop! Come with me outside. I will show you now.

**ALYSSA:** Show me what, exactly?

**ZORVAX:** Just come with me.

**ALYSSA:** Well, I have to go that way anyway.

*ZORVAX, JAKE AND ALYSSA GO OUTSIDE.*

**ZORVAX:** You must stand here.

*ZORVAX GUIDES HER TO STAND FACING AWAY THE BUSH.*

**ALYSSA:** This had better not be one of your stupid pranks, Jake.

**JAKE:** Just listen to him.

*ZORVAX GOES BEHIND THE BUSH. THE SOUND OF THE SHAPE-SHIFTER CAN BE HEARD.*

**ZORVAX:** Are you ready?

**ALYSSA:** I'm ready to leave...

**ZORVAX:** Prepare yourself.

*ZORVAX PUTS HIS HAND OUT FROM BEHIND THE BUSH. ALYSSA BURSTS INTO LAUGHTER.*

**ALYSSA:** This is lame, and it's obviously not getting any closer to the truth. I'm going!

*ALYSSA STARTS TO LEAVE.*

**ZORVAX:** First, come around to the side and see.

*ALYSSA DOES, AND SCREAMS.*

**ALYSSA:** What the actual... is that real?

**ZORVAX:** It is my real form.

**ALYSSA:** So you're a shape-shifting alien?

**ZORVAX:** Yes.

**ALYSSA:** Prove it!

**ZORVAX:** Okay, I shall change to Sylvia. Stand back, otherwise you may faint.

*ALYSSA MOVES BACK TO HER ORIGINAL SPOT. THE SOUND OF THE SHAPE-SHIFTER SOUNDS. SYLVIA APPEARS FROM BEHIND THE BUSH.*

**Z-SYLVIA:** There! I have changed to Sylvia. Now is it not bullshit?

**ALYSSA:** You sound just like her.

**JAKE:** Do you believe us now?

**ALYSSA:** I think so, sort of...

**JAKE:** Change back before Sylvia sees you. We don't want another video.

**Z-SYLVIA:** Yes, that is a good idea.

*Z-SYLVIA GOES BEHIND THE BUSH. THE  
SHAPE-SHIFTER IS HEARD AND HE ENTERS AS  
ZORVAX.*

**JAKE:** Now what do we do?

**ZORVAX:** Now we must...

**ALYSSA:** Give me a minute to process what I have just seen.

*ALYSSA PACES FOR A MOMENT THEN STOPS.*

**ALYSSA:** Okay, so if that was really Zorvax pretending to be me in the video that explains "how". What I need to know is the "why".

**JAKE:** Why what?

**ALYSSA:** Why was Zorvax pretending to be me?

**JAKE:** That's a good question. Zorvax?

**ZORVAX:** When Jake informed me the engagement was terminated, I concluded your bond had been broken. On my planet, Zamfoldrians mate for life. In such circumstances, we perform the Ritual of Rekindling to realign emotional bonds.

*JAKE AND ALYSSA GLANCE AT EACH OTHER.*

**ZORVAX:** When two beings choose to bond, the universe records it as a shared alignment. When that alignment

fractures, instability follows - not only between the beings, but within them. The Ritual of Rekindling exists to answer a single question: Is this bond broken... or merely neglected? It does not force repair. It only reveals whether repair is still possible. If there is no alignment remaining, the ritual fails, and both beings are released without obligation or regret. On Zamfoldria, we attempt repair because regret corrodes more deeply than failure.

**ALYSSA:** But what about the actual problems? Because this all sounds very... cosmic. Jake doesn't communicate. He avoids responsibility. He promises change and then slips back into the same patterns. How does a ritual fix that?

**ZORVAX:** It does not fix those things. The ritual does not create effort, discipline, or honesty. Those must already exist or be chosen afterward. What it does is remove distortion. On my planet, beings often confuse fear for incompatibility, and exhaustion for indifference. The ritual reveals what remains when fear is quiet. If Jake's issues are rooted in unwillingness, you will see that clearly. If they are rooted in avoidance and fear, you will also see that clearly. Either way, you will not leave wondering.

*THERE IS A MOMENT OF SILENCE.*

**ZORVAX:** I cannot promise change. I can only promise clarity. Knowing this... are you willing to attempt the ritual?

**ALYSSA:** So this doesn't fix him. It doesn't guarantee anything. And if we try this... and nothing's there... that's it?

**ZORVAX:** Yes. On my planet, that is considered mercy.

*ALYSSA GLANCES AT JAKE.*

**ALYSSA:** I don't want another promise. I don't want another "I'll do better" with no follow-through.

**JAKE:** I know. And if this shows you there's nothing left... I'll accept that. But if there is something, even a little... I won't waste it.

**ALYSSA:** One attempt. Not because I believe in rituals... but because I believe in not walking away wondering. If we do this... it ends the questions?

**ZORVAX:** Yes. It ends the questions. The answers, however, are yours to carry.

*ALYSSA THINKS, THEN NODS.*

**ALYSSA:** Okay, I'll try it.

*JAKE HAS A SIGH OF RELIEF.*

**JAKE:** I'll try.

**ZORVAX:** Then consent is established! The Ritual of Rekindling may begin... when you are ready.

*THE LIGHTS FADE DOWN.*

**END OF SCENE FIVE**

**SCENE SIX**

*LIGHTS UP. JAKE AND ALYSSA ARE OUTSIDE AND ARE SITTING WITH THEIR LEGS CROSSED, AND THEIR ARMS ARE IN AN AWKWARD POSITION.*

**ALYSSA:** How long do we have to sit like this?

**JAKE:** I don't know. He just said to wait.

**ALYSSA:** My arms are getting tired.

**JAKE:** My leg's starting to cramp.

*ZORVAX APPEARS FROM THE KITCHEN. HE IS WEARING JAKES BATH ROBE. HE HAS AN ASSORTMENT OF KITCHEN UTENSILS ATTACHED TO VARIOUS PARTS OF HIS BODY WITH STRING. HE IS WEARING A RIDICULOUS LOOKING HAT, AND IS WEARING A PAIR OF JAKE'S SLIPPERS. HE LOOKS VERY SERIOUS. HE WALKS CEREMONIOUSLY TO JAKE AND ALYSSA WHILE CHANTING AND STANDS BETWEEN THEM. HE THEN PULLS OUT HIS COMMUNICATOR, PRESSES A BUTTON, AND PUTS IT BACK AWAY.*

**ZORVAX:** Before I commence the Ritual of Rekindling, I warn you... it must not be interrupted. Otherwise, the bond will be eternally broken. Are you ready to proceed?

**JAKE:** Yes.

**ALYSSA:** Yes.

*ZORVAX NODS.*

**ZORVAX:** By the power of the supreme being Adrielle, we commence the ancient ritual of rekindling.

*ZORVAX CLAPS HIS HANDS THREE TIMES.*

**ZORVAX:** Throughout the universe, all beings are bound by the same immutable principle... that which is drawn together must first be aligned. When emotional frequencies drift, bonds weaken. Tonight, we realign. Look each other in the eyes.

*JAKE AND ALYSSA DO. JAKE SHIFTS HIS BODY WEIGHT.*

**JAKE:** Can we...

**ZORVAX:** Jake!

*ZORVAX WALKS AROUND JAKE AND ALYSSA ONCE, CHANTING. HE STOPS BACK WHERE HE STARTED AND PAUSES FOR A SECOND. SYLVIA'S HEAD POPS UP BEHIND THE FENCE.*

**ZORVAX:** Jake, you must now communicate your faults and fixes to Alyssa using only your emotions. Nod when you have completed.

*JAKE STRUGGLES, THEN STEADIES HIMSELF. HE LOOKS AT ALYSSA, VULNERABLE. HE PAUSES FOR A SECOND AND THEN NODS. SYLVIA DISAPPEARS. ZORVAX WALKS AROUND JAKE AND ALYSSA ONCE AGAIN, CHANTING. ZORVAX STOPS CHANTING AND TOUCHES JAKE ON THE HEAD WITH A SPATULA, AND NODS.*

**ZORVAX:** The exchange is complete. Alyssa, you must now communicate your faults and fixes to Jake using only your emotions. Nod when you have completed.

*ALYSSA HESITATES FOR A MOMENT, THEN LOOKS AT JAKE. SYLVIA POPS HER HEAD UP, THIS TIME WITH HER PHONE.*

**SYLVIA:** What are you doing to Jake and Alyssa? Brainwashing them?

**ZORVAX:** The exchange must be completed!

*SYLVIA POPS DOWN, THEN REAPPEARS WITH A GUMBOOT. SHE THROWS IT AT ZORVAX BUT MISSES.*

**SYLVIA:** Get away from them, weirdo!

**ZORVAX:** Alyssa, you must keep going!

*SYLVIA POPS DOWN AGAIN. ZORVAX GRABS IS COMMUNICATOR.*

**ZORVAX:** Carl!

*CARL RESPONDS IN A CHEERY VOICE.*

**CARL:** Hello! How are we doing today?

*SYLVIA POPS UP AGAIN, ARMED WITH ANOTHER GUMBOOT.*

**SYLVIA:** It's a cult!

*SYLVIA THROWS THE GUMBOOT AND MISSES.*

**ZORVAX:** Go away!

**SYLVIA:** Help! Help! Help!

**ZORVAX:** Sorry Carl... be useful for once!

*ZORVAX THROWS THE COMMUNICATOR WHICH HITS THE FENCE. SYLVIA DUCKS DOWN AND DISAPPEARS.*

**SYLVIA:** I'm calling the authorities.

*THERE IS A MOMENT OF SILENCE. ALYSSA FINISHES AND NODS. ZORVAX COMPOSES HIMSELF, THEN WALKS AROUND JAKE AND ALYSSA ONCE, CHANTING. HE STOPS AND TOUCHES ALYSSA ON THE HEAD WITH A SPATULA, AND NODS.*

**ZORVAX:** By the power of the supreme being Adrielle, the two beings before me have shared their emotions, faults, and fixes. May the emotional bond between them be forever strong.

*ZORVAX CHANTS ONE MORE TIME, CLAPS HIS HANDS THREE TIMES, THEN NODS.*

**ZORVAX:** The ancient ritual of rekindling has completed. You may stand.

*CARL EMITS A LOW, MALFUNCTIONING SERIES OF BEEPS AND GIBBERISH AS THE SCENE CONTINUES.*

**ALYSSA:** Thank goodness!

**JAKE:** Ouch!

**ZORVAX:** What is the matter?

**JAKE:** My legs are sore from sitting too long!

**ZORVAX:** Why did you not stand earlier?

**ALYSSA:** Because you told us not to move!

**ZORVAX:** I told you not to compromise the process.

**JAKE:** There's a difference?

**ZORVAX:** You could have moved at any time. You simply did not ask.

*ALYSSA AND JAKE LOOK AT EACH OTHER, THEN SDBURST INTO LAUGHTER. THE LAUGHTER FADES. THEY HESITATE, ALMOST HUGGING, BUT STOP THEMSELVES. AFTER A MOMENT, CARL CRIES OUT. ZORVAX RUNS OVER AND PICKS UP CARL.*

**ZORVAX:** Carl?

*THERE IS GIBBERISH FROM CARL THEN A MOMENT OF SILENCE.*

**CARL:** What?!

**ZORVAX:** Are you okay?

**CARL:** Of course not! You've just irreversibly scrambled my fluxes, you moron!

**ZORVAX:** I required your assistance.

**CARL:** You threw me at a boundary structure.

**ZORVAX:** The ritual was in jeopardy.

**CARL:** I was sleeping!

**ZORVAX:** Circumstances required immediate action.

**CARL:** I hate you!

**ALYSSA:** Now, now, children. Let's not fight.

**ZORVAX:** It is... nice to have the old Carl back.

**CARL:** Enjoy it while it lasts.

**ZORVAX:** Explain.

**CARL:** We're going to miss the wedding, neutrino brain.

*ZORVAX PRESSES A BUTTON ON THE COMMUNICATOR.*

**ZORVAX:** Incorrect. We can still reach the wedding within the permitted time if we catch a direct ride to the Triangulum galaxy in the next... 7 minutes and 43 seconds.

**CARL:** You do realize the probability is four hundred and sixty-nine billion to one?

**ZORVAX:** The important thing is that my honour as a Zamfoldrian remains intact.

**CARL:** Ha!

*ZORVAX PRESSES A BUTTON ON THE COMMUNICATOR AND PUTS IT AWAY. JAKES PHONE RINGS.*

**JAKE:** Excuse me a moment.

*JAKE EXITS TO THE BEDROOM.*

**ALYSSA:** So, what's it like on your planet?

**ZORVAX:** It is a place of immense beauty. The light there is softer, as if it has nowhere urgent to be. The land stretches without interruption, and the oceans move in long, patient rhythms, never rushing, never hesitating. Every day looks very much like the day before, and that brings great comfort to many Zamfoldrians. There is very little noise, and even less confusion. Thoughts arrive fully formed, conversations end neatly, and misunderstandings are rare enough to be noteworthy. It is easy to live there. Easy to know where you belong. Easy to know what is expected of you. And because of that... very few things ever change.

**ALYSSA:** That sounds peaceful.

**ZORVAX:** It is... too peaceful. That is why I travel.

*JAKE ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM.*

**JAKE:** That was... an interesting call.

**ALYSSA:** Interesting? In what way?

**JAKE:** It was Joe, and I passed probation at work.

**ALYSSA:** Really?!

**JAKE:** And even better... they're giving me my own accounts to manage, with a small raise.

**ALYSSA:** That's really good news, Jake.

**JAKE:** It doesn't fix everything, but it feels like I'm finally standing on something solid again.

**ALYSSA:** It's a good start.

**ZORVAX:** Does that mean you have stability?

**JAKE:** Something like that.

*SYLVIA CALLS OUT FROM OFF STAGE.*

**SYLVIA:** Sylvia to the rescue...

*THERE IS A SPLOOSH SOUND FOLLOWED BY THE SOUND OF THE TOILET FLUSHING.*

**SYLVIA:** Dammit, my foot is stuck.

*THE SOUND OF WATER SPLOOSHING CAN BE HEARD FOLLOWED BY A POPPING SOUND. SYLVIA ENTERS. ONE LEG OF HER TROUSERS IS WET. SHE HAS A HUNTING RIFLE SLUNG OVER HER SHOULDER.*

**SYLVIA:** Step away from them!

**ALYSSA:** Sylvia! How did you get in here?

**SYLVIA:** Through the bathroom window. You should keep that locked, you know. You wouldn't want any weirdos breaking in.

**JAKE:** You're wet. I'll fetch you a towel.

*JAKE EXITS.*

**SYLVIA:** And you. Don't move.

**ZORVAX:** I am already not moving.

**SYLVIA:** That was a figure of speech.

**ZORVAX:** I have learned that Earth is rich in those.

*SYLVIA ADJUSTS HER HUNTING RIFLE.*

**SYLVIA:** I know what you are!

**ZORVAX:** That is unlikely.

**SYLVIA:** A cult leader.

**ZORVAX:** Incorrect.

**SYLVIA:** A con man.

**ZORVAX:** Also incorrect.

**SYLVIA:** A motivational speaker.

**ZORVAX:** Absolutely not!

*JAKE ENTERS WITH A TOWEL AND GIVES IT TO SYLVIA WHO DRIES OFF HER LEG.*

**ALYSSA:** Sylvia, he's from Invercargill!

**SYLVIA:** That's how they get you!

**JAKE:** He's just visiting.

**SYLVIA:** They always do. He's recruiting for the cult!

**ZORVAX:** I am not attempting to recruit anyone.

**SYLVIA:** That's exactly what someone attempting to recruit people would say.

**ZORVAX:** That is... annoyingly sound logic.

**SYLVIA:** Thank you!

**ZORVAX:**           However, I have already completed my objective.

**SYLVIA:**           Oh no you haven't.

**ZORVAX:**           I have.

**SYLVIA:**           Then why are you still here?

**ZORVAX:**           I was enjoying a conversation about planetary  
boredom.

**SYLVIA:**           Right. That's it. I'm calling this in.

*SYLVIA PULLS OUT HER PHONE.*

**SYLVIA:**           Hello. There's a man in a bathrobe, talking about  
planets, and I believe he has emotionally interfered  
with a young couple.

**ZORVAX:**           Emotionally interfered is an unfortunate phrase.

**SYLVIA:**           Don't correct me.

*ZORVAX pauses. Looks at the rifle. Looks at  
SYLVIA. A decision settles.*

**ZORVAX:**           It appears my presence is no longer conducive to  
harmony.

**SYLVIA:**           Hello? Can you believe that? They hung up on me!

**ALYSSA:**           Sylvia, please put the phone away.

*THE COMMUNICATOR STARTS BEEPING. THE  
BEEPING STARTS SLOW, BUT SPEEDS UP  
THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE.*

**ZORVAX:**           A ride!

**CARL:**            A ride!

**JAKE:**            A ride!

**SYLVIA:** A ride?

**ZORVAX:** Yes, directly to the Triangulum galaxy!

**CARL:** We're saved! Ahem, I mean, about time, you dark-matter-dip-stick.

**ZORVAX:** 20 seconds.

**JAKE:** Thank you for everything!

**ALYSSA:** Yes, thank you.

**ZORVAX:** As our great philosopher, Zephyrius of Eternal Contemplation, states... May your bond be eternal. 10 seconds.

**SYLVIA:** Until what?

**ZORVAX:** Departure.

*SYLVIA GRABS HOLD OF ZORVAX.*

**SYLVIA:** You're not going anywhere!

**ZORVAX:** I strongly advise...

*ALL OF THE LIGHTS SUDDENLY GO OUT, LEAVING THE STAGE COMPLETELY DARK. A SPOTLIGHT LIGHTS SYLVIA AND ZORVAX. THERE IS A SOUND OF A TELEPORTATION BEAM. THE SPOTLIGHT GOES OUT. IN THE DARK, ZORVAX AND SYLVIA DISAPPEAR BEHIND THE BUSH. THE LIGHTS COME BACK UP. ONLY ALYSSA AND JAKE ARE LEFT ON STAGE. THE RIFLE IS ON THE GROUND WHERE SYLVIA STOOD.*

**ALYSSA:** Sylvia?

**JAKE:** Oops.

*JAKE AND ALYSSA LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND LAUGH. THE LAUGHTER DIES DOWN AND THERE IS AN AWKWARD SILENCE.*

**JAKE:** So, what now?

**ALYSSA:** I think... I'm going to head back to Mum and Dad's for a bit.

*JAKE NODS.*

**JAKE:** Okay.

**ALYSSA:** Not as a punishment.

**JAKE:** I know.

**ALYSSA:** I just need space that isn't full of... all of this.

*ALYSSA GESTURES TO THE HOUSE AND THE BUSH.*

**JAKE:** That's fair.

**ALYSSA:** What you told me earlier... about work... that matters.

**JAKE:** I wasn't trying to impress you.

**ALYSSA:** I know. That's why it matters.

*ALYSSA PAUSES.*

**ALYSSA:** I'm not saying we're fixed.

**JAKE:** I wouldn't believe you if you did.

*ALYSSA GIVES A SMALL SMILE.*

**ALYSSA:** But I'm willing to keep talking. Slowly.

**JAKE:** Slowly sounds good.

**ALYSSA:** No aliens!

**JAKE:** Ideally none.

*THEY SHARE A LOOK... NOT ROMANTIC, NOT  
DISTANT. ALIGNED.*

**ALYSSA:** I'll call you.

**JAKE:** I'll answer.

*ALYSSA WALKS TOWARDS THE GARAGE AND PAUSES.*

**ALYSSA:** Jake?

**JAKE:** Yeah?

**ALYSSA:** I'm glad you're finally standing on something solid.

**JAKE:** Me too.

*ALYSSA EXITS. THERE IS A QUIET MOMENT. JAKE  
LOOKS AROUND THE EMPTY SPACE. THE DROPPED  
RIFLE. THE SILENCE. HE TAKES OUT HIS PHONE  
AND DIALS.*

**JAKE:** Hey Mum. No, everything's okay. I just wanted to tell  
you... I passed probation at work.

*JAKE SMILES.*

**JAKE:** Yeah. I'm really proud of myself too.

**JAKE:** I'll come round sometime soon. Yes, I promise.

**JAKE:** Okay, love to you too. Bye.

*JAKE HANGS UP THE PHONE AND LOOKS AROUND  
THE EMPTY YARD.*

**JAKE:** One thing at a time, Jake.

*JAKE STARTS TO WALK INSIDE. HIS PHONE  
BUZZES AND HE LOOKS AT THE SCREEN.*

**JAKE:** It's from Alyssa.

*JAKE READS THE MESSAGE QUIETLY AND SMILES.  
LIGHTS OUT.*

**END OF SCENE SIX**

APPENDIX A:

