

28 Plays Later – Challenge #5

Use the following first line:

*Take off the girdle, Gertl, and tell me everything about Onun's onions,
or else little Dicklberg here will get it with this!*

"All About the Onions"

By

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ACT I – Scene 1

TIME: The 7th Day of the 4th Cycle of Kaznovar

PLACE: Outside the hull of the crashed Spaceship *Groiklebas*

GERTL and SHANLE are outside the hull of their spaceship attempting repair on the outboard thruster pack. Behind them, is a spacescape/starscape that looks completely unlike anything you might see from Earth. (All the stars are in the wrong places)

The ground is rocky, with some large boulders in the general vicinity. They're wearing ultra-thin spacesuits with re-breathers and tanks, but they're easy to move in. Think unitards with helmets.

Their voices are filtered because of the breathing apparatus

SHANLE

(brandishing a tool of some kind):

Take off the girde, Gertl, and tell me everything about Onun's onions, or else little Dicklberg here will get it with this!

GERTL

(patiently, as she's removing a hatch cover)

You know the girde can't come off until the spatula's undone. Besides, Onun's onions have worked perfectly well at boosting the paving stone drive for this whole journey. We're lucky to have an engineer like it working with us.

SHANLE

Alright, I'll give you that, it is quite talented. Easy to be what with the savrin digits on each proge, and the opposable gumbles. But the onions were too volatile to survive atmospheric decompression and it knew that when it installed them.

GERTL

(waving the hatch cover triumphantly)

I got it! The spatula has been removed. If you'd stop threatening to attack the drive shaft – why *did* you name it Dicklberg, anyway? – with that lug wrench and bring it over here, we could get the girde off and access the onions. (beat) You know, this would be going much faster if you hadn't punched Onun in the snookem and knocked it unconscious.

SHANLE

(defensive and a bit sheepish)

I did it for you, Gertl. It was paying way too much attention to the way your blargens bounced around when you exercised in zero gee. It was even salivating over your pitooger when you bent over.

GERTL

(snarky)

Aww, Shanle, I didn't know you cared.

SHANLE joins GERTL on her side of the hull, and uses his wrench to remove a couple of lug nuts – basically, they take something that looks like a wheel out of the hatch in the side of their ship. Colored wires snake from it's reverse side.

SHANLE

I think I see the problem. (beat) No. I'm wrong. All I see is mass of horpified wiring.

GERTL

(explaining patiently)

The onions became disconnected from the paving stone drive at the fourth intersection, and when contact was lost the latent energy caused a spark. If we restore the contact and secure the connection between the paving stone and the onions and then ground it with the nerf ball, we should be good to go.

SHANLE

(impressed)

How... how did you know all that? I thought Onun was the only one who truly understood how the onions functioned.

GERTL

(talking as she puts everything back together)

Oh, Shanle. What did you think Onun and I were doing on alpha shift while you were noodling during beta? Deruffing? If I've told you once I've told you savrin jarbulon times: Onun's species isn't biologically compatible with ours. It's fun to hang out with, but dating it would be pointless. (beat) Okay, I've got everything reconnected, but I'm sore from bending over so long. Can you reinstall the girdle and secure the spatula? I'm going to stretch and then I'll make sure the Dicklberg is good to go.

GERTL walks to the side of the hull where SHANLE had started, and starts fiddling with chains and gears. After a bit, SHANLE joins her.

SHANLE

(sighing)

I got it all back together. You ready to fire this baby up?

(he reaches across her for the big red button, but she stops him)

GERTL

Not before you tell me why you call it Dicklberg.

SHANLE

That's the name of the first person we met from Onun's species. The one who almost wiped us out with that spudding disease. The drive shaft is always breaking, so it seemed appropriate.

GERTL

You named a piece of our ship after the being who almost annihilated our people with Terran Rhinovirus? Is that the real reason you're so hostile to Onun, also?

SHANLE

(embarrassed)

Well, that, and... I was afraid it was taking you away from me. (beat) Um, what happens if we didn't get the connections right?

GERTL

(honestly)

Worst case? I press the restart button and we all go KABLOOOIE.

Together, GERTL and SHANLE press the button. There's a soft ignition sound, and then a fiery roar and then...

BLACKOUT