Skpow!

S1E1 - "Skpow!"

by

Stephen Notley and Dwayne Martineau

#### COLD OPEN

#### EXT. SKPACE - SPIRAL GALAXY

The SKEWNIVERSE.

Unlike dull, empty space... THE SKEWNIVERSE IS CROWDED.

Zooming into the galaxy, past stars, planets, nebulae-- a technicolor soup of alien ships, laser fights and explosions.

A planet-sized caterpillar chomps on a blue dwarf star. A swarm of triple-tailed manatees overtake a smoldering frigate. Supernovae and white holes abound.

SLOW TO:

## EXT. SKPACE - PLANET AYQUA

The Bronwyn Cannonade "Charger," a bulky hexagonal skpaceship, lumbers over a pearlescent blue-green planet.

An enormous cannon, mounted on top and twice as long as the ship, pivots and FIRES.

A crackling metal cannonball snaps across skpace and SKPOWS into a rusting rat-shaped skpacecraft, knocking it spinning.

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.)

SKPOW!

(A key feature of the Skewniverse is that certain sound effects in it are NARRATED. Think of this as a role: big, booming, funny.)

## INT. BRONWYN CANNONADE "CHARGER" - BRIDGE

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL is a BRONWYN, a centaur-shaped alien with a horsey head. Two arms. Four legs. Front feet are hands.

He's dressed in crisp navy blues, his equine head trimmed with a slicked collar-length mane.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Fair shot, Jensen. Still a smidge eager on your leads. Track and reload.

He stands on a raised round platform under the gigantic transparent dome of the bridge. Bronwyn officers, including LT. JENSEN, work a ring of stations underneath.

Philomeil takes a sip from a cube-shaped cup of tea, one of his front legs holding the hexagonal saucer.

Through the dome, we see the enormous cannon swing over.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

Fire.

# EXT. SKPACE - PLANET AYQUA

The Cannonade's main cannon FIRES again. Another cannonball SKPOWS into the tumbling ratship, obliterating it.

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.)

SKPOW!

## INT. BRONWYN CANNONADE "CHARGER" - BRIDGE

Philomeil nods.

## CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

Lovely.

He plucks a discreet comb from his breast pocket and smooths back his mane. The thick pomade releases an audible SPLUB.

Lt. Jensen, fresh-faced and eager, grins in delight.

LT. JENSEN Fifty kills. That's quota.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Lieutenant, I believe you are correct.

LT. JENSEN Permission to howl and cheer enthusiastically, Cap'n?

Philomeil considers, elevates a single arch eyebrow.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Briefly.

The Bronwyn officers whoop and high-fifteen each other. A huge banner drops from the ceiling: "50!!!!"

Philomeil smiles, raises a hand, quieting the crew.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Excellent mirth, everyone. Now, let's tidy up after ourselves, shall we? (MORE) CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (CONT'D) Take us to the debris for reclamation. Ah, I see there's cake.

## EXT. SKPACE - PLANET AYQUA

Blue rays shine from one of the Cannonade's hexagonal sections. Scrap metal and debris are pulled inside the ship through enormous cargo bay doors.

One minor bit of scrap BEEPS quietly as it's drawn in.

#### INT. BRONWYN CANNONADE "CHARGER" - BRIDGE

Lt. Jensen slathers a wedge of cake in bright blue foam. He freezes when he notices a blinking light.

LT. JENSEN Cap'n. Commodore Tilley on the horn.

A hologram of COMMODORE TILLEY, a female Bronwyn officer in even crisper navy reds, appears before Philomeil.

He tosses his cake to an orderly and snaps to a proud salute.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Cannonade "Charger." Captain Junior Grade Philomeil, reporting. Quota complete. We're ready to set sail for Aloha and a bold new direction--

COMMODORE TILLEY Captain, I'm afraid I can't recommend you for promotion to Aloha sector.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL You... you can't be serious. Sir, my record is spotless. My uniform is spotless. I <u>sleep</u> in this uniform--(flustered) Not <u>this</u> uniform, obviously. I have a special sleeping--(back on track) Sir, my duty is my life.

COMMODORE TILLEY And that's the problem.

Tilley's hologram puffs her chest and gestures grandly.

COMMODORE TILLEY You run a tight ship, Philomeil, but you're a stiff. At Aloha we need visionaries. Zesty. Fun at parties. Bigger than the uniform.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Bigger? Look at me, I'm huge. This thing barely fits. Sir, I'm ready to "Be more than I ever imagined!"

## INT. BRONWYN CANNONADE "CHARGER" - CARGO BAY 4

Skpacesuited Bronwyn manage the cloud of magnetically suspended junk, including the minor bit of beeping scrap.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (O.S.) (CONT'D) These backwater Voskum pose no challenge to us. Where's the valor in sweeping up flotsam...?

The minor bit of beeping scrap beeps quicker, faster --

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (O.S.) ... or is it "jetsam"?

The beeping STOPS, then the scrap--

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.)

SK-POP!!!

--POPS like a million blinding green flashbulbs.

# INT. BRONWYN CANNONADE "CHARGER" - BRIDGE

The Tilley hologram disappears as all the lights on the bridge GO OUT. Philomeil's eyes go wide in his silhouette.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Commodore? Are you there? Jensen!

LT. JENSEN (fraying) Power's gone. Controls are dead!

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Steady, Lieutenant. Switch to backups. Put down the cake.

#### EXT. SKPACE - PLANET AYQUA

A second green ratship pings into existence-- rapidly closes on the stricken "Charger"-- opens up with its rapid-fire zappers and-- strafes explosions across the Cannonade hull.

> THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.) Sk-k-k-pow-pow-pow-pow!

## INT. BRONWYN CANNONADE "CHARGER" - BRIDGE

The crew staggers as emergency backup power flickers on.

LT. JENSEN Voskum Raider on attack vector!

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Thank you, Lieutenant. We know. Shoot it, please.

Overhead, the giant Bronwyn cannon rotates to follow the ratship arcing around for another attack.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Yes, yes... smidge more... and, FIRE!

Philomeil watches the massive cannonball as it crackles toward the ratship, which...

DISAPPEARS and BLINKS FORWARD! The entire crew GASPS.

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.)

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

Balls!

Sk-MTSS!

The ratship skips out of the cannonball's path and flies straight at the "Charger," zappers blazing! Point blank!

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.) Sk-k-k-k... POW!

The dome explodes, blowing Philomeil and the crew out into skpace. Philomeil's comb spins past us as we--

SMASH TO TITLE:

SKPOW!

END OF COLD OPEN

#### ACT ONE

## INT. VOSKUM RAIDER - CARGO DUMP

The Voskum Raider's cargo dump is round and cramped, lit in shadowy greenish light. More a gut than a cargo bay.

Piles of junk, equipment and collectibles are impossible to tell from the walls, floor and ceiling.

Philomeil lies unconscious on rusty plating. He stirs.

PHILOMEIL'S POV: a VOSKUM, a rat-like <u>alien</u>, stares at him.

This is GRAMARAT. Elderly, grey-haired, waist-high to Philomeil, sporting a dirty shawl, spectacles, and a bindle sack full of tools.

## CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

GAAH!

Philomeil leaps to his feet-hands. He puts up his dukes in an old-timey boxing stance, plus an alternating third duke as his front legs hop back and forth.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL I am prepared to defend myself!

## GRAMARAT Tee-hee-heeee!

Clearly amused, Gramarat exits up a cramped rat-tunnel.

Philomeil looks around, taking in the filth for the first time. He pulls a dog-eared army comic ("Gunner Greenly") from his jacket, rubs it for luck.

He grimly approaches the rat-tunnel, humming the Bronwyn Anthem under his breath for courage:

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL "...for order justice freedom, with cannons firm, boys! Balls ho!"

## INT. VOSKUM RAIDER - DRIVING ROOM

The ratship's driving room is similarly bejunked, twisting with pipes and cables. Two enormous portholes, the "eyes" of the ship, face forward into skpace. MOMARAT, a bigger, sleeker, tank-topped brown Voskum, works jerry-rigged controls while dousing various small fires. Gramarat pops out of a cramped tunnel on the wall.

> GRAMARAT Hee-hee! Crazy plan. Never gonna work.

MOMARAT Is too gonna. Better than your flakey skitter-drive. We're half-fritzed.

GRAMARAT

Ya, ya, ya...

Gramarat dons a tattered skpacesuit as assorted BANGS and CLUNKS can be heard from the tunnel.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (O.S.) Oof! Ow! Curse it! This is--

Philomeil tries to push through the narrow opening. He squeezes out his head, arms, one leg, and gets thoroughly stuck. He tugs his jacket to resume dignity.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Voskum! May I assume you are in command of this vessel?

MOMARAT

It ain't "Voskum," mister. Name's Momarat.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL I am Captain Junior Grade Heronimous Philomeil of the Bronwyn Admiralty. You will release me at once.

MOMARAT There's the door.

She jerks a thumb at a rickety door with a screen. Next to it, Gramarat seals her skpacesuit helmet, yanks the screen back and slides the door open.

NO AIRLOCK! The air HOWLS, sucked out into empty skpace, fruit rinds and snack wrappers swirling in the tempest.

Philomeil flails, assaulted by garbage in all directions.

Gramarat crawls outside. With jerky yanks, she slams the screen, then the door, shut. The wind mostly dies down.

Momarat pulls a sci-fi horse bridle/ball gag from a cupboard.

MOMARAT It's like this, Mister Philomeil.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

<u>Captain</u>.

She measures it up to Phil's face, fiddles with the straps.

MOMARAT Scroungin' ship cores is a lotta work.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL You sound like my father.

## MOMARAT

So I'm tryin' something new. Ytano Frigateers in this sector, they got 'spensive tastebuds. Say I knew one in the market for a big juicy Bronwyn?

Philomeil recoils in horror.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL But that's an appalling violation of Declaration Twelve!

Gramarat raps on the outside of the porthole, pointing in at Philomeil. Her voice titters over the radio.

GRAMARAT (O.S.) Hee-heee! Gonna eatcha!

Philomeil thinks fast.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Listen... "Momarat." Your "plan" is madness, and entirely unnecessary.

MOMARAT Yah? Got a better idea?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

Obviously. If cores are all you need, we have dozens in surplus. I propose a gentleman's trade: me for the cores. Allow me to contact my ship and you'll have as many as you like. GRAMARAT (O.S.) Can't trust.

MOMARAT Grama's got a point, Mister Philomeil. Why should I believe a hoity sixer?

Philomeil, offended, solemnly raises his swearing-in hand.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL As Captain of the Bronwyn Admiralty, Junior Grade, I give you my word.

Momarat considers, shrugs, and hands him a dirty radio on a cord. He fusses with it a moment, then:

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Ahem... MAYDAY! General Distress! This is Captain Philomeil of the Admiralty, taken prisoner by the smelliest--

Momarat snatches the radio and raises the ball gag-bridle.

MOMARAT Alright piggy. Off to market with ya.

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.) SKPOWWW!!!

The ship lurches with a thunderous SKPOW! Momarat crashes to the deck, and squints upward to see...

Gramarat frantically pounding on the outside of the porthole, pointing at...

The Cannonade "Charger," approaching quickly. Smoking and listing badly, it cranks its cannon back for another shot.

Philomeil raises a fist and a leg in triumph.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Ha! Good shot, Jensen! Or whoever! You got the old girl fighting again!

MOMARAT

Not for long.

Momarat slams a steer-stick, stomps on a taped-up throttle.

#### EXT. SKPACE - PLANET AYQUA

The engines RUMBLE as the ratship accelerates towards the stricken Cannonade. Gramarat clings to the hull.

## INT. VOSKUM RAIDER - DRIVING ROOM

Philomeil struggles to extract himself from the tunnel.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL No! I will not sit wedged idly by as you commit another cowardly attack on my ship!

With Herculean effort he turns, twists, and clatters out of the hole, spilling painfully onto some pipes.

He launches himself at Momarat, knocks her back, grabs the steer-stick and wrenches it to the side.

MOMARAT Get yer flappers off our steer-stick!

Momarat lunges, darts nimbly through Philomeil's legs and sinks her jaws into his arm. It's a chaotic ratfight!

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Oh, you rotter!

Through the portholes the Cannonade grows bigger and bigger and BIGGER...

MOMARAT Stuck-up, fancy-pantsy, lying liefaced liebaby liar--

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Promises made to Voskum carry no weight, madam, and furthermore--

## EXT. SKPACE - PLANET AYQUA

The ratship collides with the much larger Cannonade--

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.) Skkkkkkkk...

-- grinds across its hull, wedging itself under the cannon, tilting the cannon's ass-end down into the Cannonade --

POWWWW!

-- the cannon FIRES, sending the two ships flying apart --

-- the ratship tumbles off, sparking and belching smoke, towards the pearly blue planet AYQUA.

## EXT. PLANET AYQUA - DESERT ISLAND BEACH - DAY

An inside-out crab emerges from a growth of upside-down palm trees. Hears something.

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.) SkeeeeEEEEE--

It pops an eyestalk up, sees the ratship tumbling out of the sun, and scuttles for cover. A huge shadow grows over it.

The ratship SLAMS into the beach, obliterating the crab...

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.)

POW!

...AND obliterating the torso of the ratship. The ratship's head SNAPS OFF--

-- bounces like a football down the beach --

-- finally slams into a tree, flinging Philomeil, Momarat and skpacesuited Gramarat onto the blue-green sand.

They stagger to their feet, still wobbly. Philomeil's mane is a sandy shambles. He angrily retucks his uniform.

> CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL I trust you're proud of yourself, you duplicitous, greedy, lawless--

> > MOMARAT

Stop with the sweet talk, mister. Ya ain't my type. Plus, ya smell.

Philomeil claps a foot-hand to his heart, aghast.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL I? I? Let me assure you, madam, the Brownyn are famously, delightfully scented. If anyone smells, if anyone stinks, if anyone present is emanating a putrid, rank, odoriferous... A deep RUMBLE is heard. Everybody looks around.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL ...stench, it is--

A MONSTER erupts from the sand!

The monster is a GIANT NOSE. It takes a huge SNIFF. Turns on its three stumpy legs to face Philomeil.

The nose's nostrils flare open, huge and razor-jawed.

Philomeil instinctively pops up three dukes.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL I am prepared to defend--

The nose INHALES with hurricane force, sucking Philomeil off his feet and into the left nostril.

The nose CHOMPS! And trots away, chewing and CRUNCHING.

INSIDE THE NOSE'S NOSTRIL

Teeth gnash and grind. Philomeil is mangled and tossed.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Ag! Ug! Unacceptable!

MOMARAT (0.S.)

BACK OFF!

A pipe thrusts into the nostril, levers it open. Momarat clambers in after it, tugging at Philomeil's limp form.

MOMARAT

He's our score, ya honkin' brutius!

She twists, shoves her ass inward...

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL No-- stop-- what are you--

...and FARTS UP THE NOSE'S NOSE in a burst of green gas.

OUTSIDE THE NOSE'S NOSTRIL--

The nose wretches, coughs, hacks, and --

# GIANT NOSE SK-CHUAAAAH!

--sneezes them onto the sand, gooey, green and limp. Momarat lies on top of a splayed Philomeil.

Momarat gazes helplessly as the nose steps forward, blots out the sky, flares its nostrils wide to inhale them both, and...

Writhes and shakes, ARCING WITH ELECTRICITY! The nose collapses in a smoking heap, REVEALING:

Gramarat jamming it in the butt with a handful of live cables from her skpacesuit.

## GRAMARAT

Got 'em!

Momarat slides off Philomeil, who has been thoroughly mangled. He shakes a feeble fist at Momarat, wheezing...

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL How like... a rotten...

He passes out.

END OF ACT ONE

#### ACT TWO

## EXT. DESERT ISLAND BEACH - NIGHT

A campfire burns on the moonslit beach. Momarat pokes it with a stick. Gramarat roasts a chunk of nose next to a sicklooking Philomeil, who shivers under a ratty blanket.

> CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL I trust you realize your foolish act of heroism cuts no mustard. As it happens I'm done for.

MOMARAT Uh-uh, mister. You ain't dyin' on us. Live meat's worth extra.

Gramarat fingers a piece of nose into Philomeil's mouth.

GRAMARAT Keep up strength.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Uk! Ptew! Madam your nails are appalling.

He slumps back and stares into the night sky. A small dot arcs overhead in the heavens.

PHILOMEIL'S POV: Hard zoom to the dot, revealing it's the "Charger," inoperative but intact, orbiting the planet.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (CONT'D) There she is. My home. My heart. So close I could touch it, if not for you miserable creatures.

MOMARAT Never woulda happened if you'da been straight about tradin' them cores.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL If you desire cores so badly may I suggest you get a job.

GRAMARAT Job? Job he says. Oh, I had job.

Gramarat tightens her kerchief.

GRAMARAT Mister Bronny. Ever seen a planet get slurped?

## INT. VOSKUM FACTORY - DAY [FLASHBACK]

A YOUNGER GRAMARAT pulls a pin from her kerchief and tools it around inside a metal orb brimming with wires.

> GRAMARAT (V.O.) Old Vosk City. Twenny wheels ago. Had job fixing ship bits. Good life. Was gaussing Loobee jammer when it hit.

Gramarat looks up as her world shakes.

OFF GRAMARAT'S GAZE, we zoom up through the building, up through the quaking RAT CITY, all the way up to reveal...

# EXT. LUMINOUS YELLOW PLANET - SKPACE [FLASHBACK]

The shimmering image of the OLD VOSKUM HOMEWORLD is eclipsed by a planet-sized ball of water. It fizzes and glubs, makes wobbly contact with the planet and steadily envelopes it.

> GRAMARAT (V.O.) (CONT'D) Biggy waterblob. Biggy as planet. Nobody know what it come from. All we can do is run...

> > ZOOM TO:

OLD VOSK CITY -- as it crumbles and floods. The water rises ten meters a second. Ships flee in all directions.

ABOVE THE CITY two skittering ratcars collide in mid-air. A tiny Voskum child (BABY MOMARAT) is hurled from the wreckage.

She falls down, down, until... two hands SNATCH her!

The hands belong to GRAMARAT. She clings to a swaying communications tower full of desperate Voskum.

GRAMARAT (V.O.) But soon, nowhere left to run...

Gramarat swaddles the child in her kerchief, snaps off a chunk of antenna and ties it like a hobo's bindle.

Bindle in hand, she bounds up the tower like a mad ape. From the tip, she LEAPS-- landing on--

A RATSHIP as it pulls to a speedy vertical ascent.

Gramarat clings to the ratship, watching as a mile-high wall of water swallows the tower, the city, her people.

> GRAMARAT (V.O.) And that was it for job.

The flooded planet dissolves to:

#### EXT. DESERT ISLAND BEACH - NIGHT

BACK TO THE PRESENT. A tear wells in Philomeil's eye.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (to himself) That... would make a proper anthem... (reels it back) Tragic, but nothing to do with me.

## GRAMARAT

In time, find new Voskball. Half a wheel ago, new waterblob. Double biggy waterblob, collision course. Seen it early. But soon planet get slurped.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL So get another. There's trillions.

Momarat hurls her poking stick into the fire and stands up.

MOMARAT Mister, we got a skazillion Voskum and like eight ships. There's no time. But Gramarat here, she built a machine. With enough cores to power it--

GRAMARAT Spin waterblob to itsy bits!

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Still no excuse for banditry. There are proper forms and proper channels and proper-- ACH!

Momarat grabs Phil by the scruff and pulls him close.

#### MOMARAT

Look, we're not arguing about this. You go in the pot, we get the cores, our planet gets saved. CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL HA! Nobody's going anywhere. Who's coming to rescue you?

He puts his thumb and pinky up to his face like a fake phone.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (CONT'D) "Hello, PanSkewniversal Transport? I'd like to schedule a pickup. What's that? You don't exist? Very good, I'll inform my captors immediately." Sorry, it seems there's no prospect of escape. She says the rescue situation is utterly, completely, hopelessly...

He trails off, hearing something. Looks up. Is it, faintly--

--"I Was Made For Lovin' You" (or some similarly rockin' ditty special-made for Skpow)?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (CONT'D) ...hopeless?

It is. It gets louder.

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.) (singing) I WUZ MADE FOR SKLOVIN YOU BAYBEE

## INT. FROGSHIP - COCKPIT - NIGHT

Way louder in here, the expansively gorgeous cockpit of the Froeg Percolator Frogship "My Trip."

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.) (singing) YOU WERE MADE FOR SKLOVIN ME

F.M. JONEZ is a FROEG, a lanky frog-like alien. He rocks his head to the music, sporting his slick 70's attire and huge orange bouffant like a champ.

F.M. JONEZ / THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.) (singing) AND I CAN'T GET SKENOUGH OF YOU BAYBEE

Beside him hovers a vertical ring (ZIZ), studded with vertical protrusions, globs of color floating in the center.

F.M. JONEZ / THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.) (singing) CAN YOU GET SKENOUGH OF ME

F.M. shifts in his fuzzy plush driver's seat, smoothly urges one of the immaculate pearl-handled grips forward.

## EXT. FROGSHIP - NIGHT

Coming in over the moonslit ocean, F.M.'s Frogship --a housesized shiny red ball with cool yellow fins and a curved funnel sticking out the front-- dips towards the island.

## EXT. DESERT ISLAND BEACH - NIGHT

The music gets louder and louder. Philomeil and the Voskum gape, dumbfounded, as the Frogship pulls up above them--

--skids a couple flashy backward donuts in the air--

--and drops smoothly to settle in the sand a few meters from the campfires.

The Voskum leap up and strike defensive poses, claws up.

The music fades as a hatch opens. F.M. and Ziz emerge, F.M. brandishing a dangerous-looking bulbous device.

F.M. JONEZ Skpow, everybody!

He sticks the back end of the bulb in his mouth, takes a long suck and exhales a cloud of bubbles.

F.M. JONEZ Vosk and Bronny, huh? You all huxley now? That's a trip.

He flashes a big disarming froggy smile and bloodshot eyes.

F.M. JONEZ (CONT'D) Name's F.M. Jonez. Saw your fire. Thought you might be... well, you ain't Froegs, that's for sure.

Gramarat and Momarat relax their fightin' stance as F.M. swaggers over to the campfire. Philomeil glares at F.M.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

Jonez.

MOMARAT You know this guy?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Bronwyn Most Wanted, number fourforty-one. Distribution of Nefarious Ingestibles.

Philomeil coughs one of his smaller lungs out onto the sand.

F.M. JONEZ Your Bronny's looking a tad howard, there, ladies.

MOMARAT

He's fine.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Just let me die in peace.

MOMARAT Yer not dying, ya big baby. Critically injured, absolute worst.

F.M. JONEZ That's no way to skparty. Ziz, come take a le guin at this guy.

Ziz floats closer, extensions lengthening and contracting.

F.M. JONEZ This here's Ziz. Ziz, tell the nice skpeople what you require.

ZIZ I require information! Would you like to complete a short survey?

F.M. JONEZ Ziz can patch him up, if you don't mind a little ellison.

MOMARAT How much ellison?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Don't you dare.

Momarat looks to Gramarat.

MOMARAT (to Ziz) Do it.

ZIZ I require 17 liters of blood plasma!

## MOMARAT

Wait, what--

Ziz spears a dozen protrusions into Momarat!

MOMARAT OH SHE MAMA NO LIKEY WHOAAAA

More protrusions lance into Gramarat, F.M. and Philomeil.

F.M. JONEZ No worries it's allll good--

Held fast, the blood donors and recipient twitch and grimace as the protrusions gulp and slurp.

Philomeil jerks and twists as the protrusions lift him, unbreaking his shattered bones--

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL OH THAT IS JUST THE LIMIT GLAKK--

-- scooping the lung from the sand and jamming it back down his throat.

The protrusions finish their grisly work and retract with a--

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.)

Skpop!

-- dumping Philomeil, Voskum and F.M. to the sand.

GRAMARAT Hee-heeee! That's new! Do it again!

## ΖIΖ

Thank you for your response!

They all stagger to their feet. Philomeil pats himself suspiciously, fingering the many new holes in his uniform. CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL What have you done?

MOMARAT That's two ya owe me, mister.

F.M. JONEZ We all gibson? Good as new?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL F.M. Jonez, in the name of the Bronwyn Admiralty, I order you to return me to my ship at once.

MOMARAT Nuh-uh, I order you to take us to Voskball. It's an emergency.

F.M. JONEZ Order this, otter that. Niven, you guys are an uptight twosome.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL/MOMARAT (together) TWOSOME?

Momarat takes a big step away from Philomeil, who brushes the remnants of that thought from his shoulders.

F.M. JONEZ And more alike than you care to admit. Looks like another episode of "F.M. Jonez gets here just in time."

F.M. winks and finger-guns at Ziz.

Floodlights and music blast from the Frogship. A dozen sexy holographic Froegs flicker on and gyrate vigorously.

A huge projection appears above the Frogship, a t-shirt design: F.M. Jonez double-fisting bulbs, words underneath:

SKPARTY ANIMAL!

F.M. sashays his tremendous self to his signature throbbing bassline as sexy male and female holo Froegs drape arms around him and pull him into the party.

F.M. JONEZ Unh! Unh! Oh yeah--

# EXT. DESERT ISLAND BEACH - NIGHT (LATER)

Philomeil and Momarat, arms folded, stew at the edge of the dance floor as Gramarat and F.M. cut rugs amid the holofrogs.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Ridiculous.

MOMARAT Try sharing a skpaceship with her.

He takes an unhappy pull on one of F.M.'s bubble-bulbs and exhales. Reaches to steady himself, finds nothing, stumbles.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL This is the worst day of my life. I don't even drink.

MOMARAT You do now. Ya got Voskum blood in ya, mister.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL I don't have to listen to this profane vulgarity. And, indeed, will not.

He stomps unsteadily off into the shadows under the trees as a sweaty F.M. staggers from the dance floor over to Momarat.

> F.M. JONEZ He ain't a bad guy. He just got orwelled. Raised in a lousy system. He don't see it, yet, cuz he dumb.

MOMARAT We almost done here? Ya gonna give us a lift or not?

F.M. JONEZ You ever been lonely? Like, cosmically?

Momarat rolls her eyes. F.M. takes a thick pull on his bulb.

F.M. JONEZ (CONT'D) A skparty's a beautiful thing.

An apple-sized tear drips from one of his froggy eyes.

F.M. JONEZ (CONT'D) Nothing sadder than a skparty foul.

## EXT. DESERT ISLAND BEACH - TREES - NIGHT

The party murmurs in the distance. Philomeil stumble-paces in the shadow of a tree, pounding bulb and talking to himself.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Shut up, Dad! You'd never understand what they took from me. My flawless record, skpowed to oblivion. My favorite uniform, totalled...

He falls flat into a puddle.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL And my hair...?

He bursts into sudden tears, clawing at his hair. The army comic flops out of his jacket. He picks the comic out of the puddle and stops crying, bravely thumbing away his tears.

> CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Chin up, Captain. What would Gunner Greenly do? "Whatever it takes to save the day."

A burst of laughter from the party catches his attention. His eyes widen, then narrow. He's got an idea.

## EXT. DESERT ISLAND BEACH - NIGHT

Gramarat titters as Ziz does party tricks. Momarat frowns as F.M. fills a bulb from a tap on the Frogship.

F.M. JONEZ Thing is, Moma, you might be talking to the last Froeg in the skewniverse.

#### MOMARAT

Look, no offense, but I ain't interested in yer life story.

F.M. presses a bulb into her reluctant claws.

## F.M. JONEZ

This was my home. Weren't always this wet. More beach, less ocean, y'know. Had a nice little operation. Ziz, she was one of my disciples. Strange girl. (MORE) F.M. JONEZ (CONT'D) Don't super know her pratchett, to be honest. But everything changed when the Bronwyn waterball hit.

Momarat triple-takes and squeezes her bulb so hard it bursts.

MOMARAT Bronwyn WHATball?

## EXT. DESERT ISLAND BEACH - BEHIND FROGSHIP - NIGHT

The side of the Frogship facing the ocean is dim, shadowed from the partying. Moonslight glitters on the water.

Philomeil's ears emerge from the water, followed by the rest of him. Garbed only in his underwear, he sloshes ashore as quietly as he can and tiptoes up to the Frogship.

He was right: there's a hatch on this side, with a keypad.

He taps -- DEET DEET DEET -- on the keypad. It BUZZES.

He cracks his knuckles, tries again. DEET-DEET-DEET, fingers flying over the keypad.

The keypad BLEEPS. The hatch slides open.

Philomeil grins in the moonslight.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (softly) Skpow.

A banana-shaped coconut BOUNCES OFF Philomeil's head. He turns and sees Momarat in the moonslight hucking another one.

MOMARAT You! <u>You did it to us</u>!

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL What are you blithering about?

MOMARAT

The floodballs! Aloha ring a bell? Yer stupid tea cup megamall condo project?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Our watershed achievement, you mean? Our great civilizing work, our grand monument to our unwavering standards? (MORE) CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (CONT'D) Yes, I have heard of it.

MOMARAT The WASTE from it is killin' everybody for sixty parsecs!

Philomeil rears up on his hind legs in a furious huff, crossing his upper arms AND his front legs.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL That is a lie! Aloha waste products are perfectly harmless and properly disposed of!

Momarat whips out a compass-like gadget that pops up a hologram of waterblobs enveloping planets.

MOMARAT Does this look proper to you?

Philomeil stares in horror at the hologram as planet after planet gets slurped. He gulps. Plops back down to his normal stance. Looks away in sudden shame.

> CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL I didn't know.

They stand in the silence for a beat.

MOMARAT So what are you gonna do about it?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Oh, that's easy.

He dives into the open Frogship hatch.

MOMARAT Son of a--!

## INT. FROGSHIP AIRLOCK - NIGHT

The Frogship airlock is slick and spacious, which Philomeil completely ignores as he leaps to the inner door controls--

--too late, as Momarat piles into him, slamming him into the control panel, which BREEPS--

## EXT. DESERT ISLAND BEACH - NIGHT

As F.M., Gramarat, Ziz, the other Voskum and the Froeg holograms dance, the Frogship abruptly LEAPS FROM THE SAND, tumbling over the sea, taking music and holograms with it.

The campfires flicker in the sudden silence. F.M. drops his bulb.

F.M. JONEZ Bummer. Skparty foul.

## EXT. FROGSHIP - NIGHT

The Frogship spirals out over the moonslit ocean like a cluelessly thrown football. The holographic party rages on.

# INT./EXT. FROGSHIP AIRLOCK - NIGHT

Centrifugal force flings Philomeil out of the hatch. He barely clings on to the ship with one leg-hand.

Momarat maintains a deathgrip on the interior control panel, fighting against the spinning force pulling her outward.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL You fool woman, you've killed us both!

#### MOMARAT

Yer blamin' me? This is the third ship ya wrecked today!

Momarat loses her grip and is flung out.

Instinctively Philomeil reaches and <u>snags her arm</u>. Now they're face to face, dangling perilously from the hatch.

MOMARAT Why'd ya catch me?

He stares in disbelief at his grip on her arm.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL <u>I don't know!</u>

MOMARAT Then I'll tell ya! It's because ya feel guilty!

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL I do not! You want to sell me as meat! MOMARAT Okay I do feel a little bad about that. That was wrong. Are ya gonna drop me cuz of it?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

No!

MOMARAT Well then make up your mind! Lemme go or admit I'm skpeople!

He looks everywhere but at her eyes. Until he does.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Fine! You're skpeople!

## MOMARAT

Breakthrough! And what are you gonna do about it?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Get me back to my ship and I'll get you the cores.

MOMARAT

No "gentleman's trade?" A real one this time?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Ugh! Yes!

MOMARAT That's mighty generous. I accept.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL But right now you need to climb up me and hit the stabilizer!

MOMARAT Well, if yer gonna ask nicely...

Momarat clambers up over him, more intimate than either of them would like.

MOMARAT What's a stabilizer?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL The magenta one!

She spins her ass and smacks her tail on a big magenta button.

# EXT. FROGSHIP - NIGHT

The Frogship's erratic spin tapers off.

## INT. FROGSHIP AIRLOCK - NIGHT

Philomeil and Momarat clamber back into the airlock, panting.

MOMARAT Now what, mister Junior Captain grade?

ZIZ (O.S.) I require information!

They turn and see Ziz keeping pace outside the hatch, extensions fully extending and contracting.

ZIZ Would you like to complete a short survey? Or...

Ziz glows RED and lurches in towards them, extensions twirling...

ZIZ Would you like to complete an <u>expanded</u> survey?

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

## EXT. DESERT ISLAND BEACH - DAY

The Frogship's back on the beach. Dawn oozes over the horizon, long shadows finding Philomeil back in his uniform, seated by the water, Ziz floating beside him.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL ...he yanked the plug and I never saw how it ended. And ever since, there's been this unbridgeable gap between my father and me.

F.M. wanders up to them, yawning.

ZIZ Thank you for your response! Question two: In ascending order--

F.M. JONEZ All right, Ziz, that's plenty. Let's finish up.

ZIZ Thank you for your response!

The Voskum drop the last of the junk they'd recovered from the wreck into the Frogship's cargo hold.

MOMARAT We ready or what?

## EXT. SKPACE - PLANET AYQUA

The island falls rapidly behind the curve of the planet as the Frogship boosts into orbit.

#### INT. FROGSHIP - COCKPIT

The Frogship cockpit is a swank bachelor pad, now littered with piles of Voskum junk.

Philomeil and Momarat lurk on either side of F.M. who basks in the glorious pilot chair.

Behind them, Gramarat digs into a sparking, dripping chunk of machinery, using one of Ziz's arms as a screwdriver.

F.M. JONEZ Bringin' skpeople together. It's what I do best. Gettin' this guy back to his old life, saving a world over here...

#### MOMARAT

Drop us off at the nearest Voskum ship with them cores and we'll be outta your hair in no time.

F.M. JONEZ Hey, no asimov. I dig the company.

#### CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

If it's all the same, I'll be happy never seeing any of you ever again. Ever. No offense.

## EXT. SKPACE - PLANET AYQUA

The Frogship comes up underneath the slowly tumbling Cannonade "Charger," drifts to a stop.

## INT. FROGSHIP - COCKPIT

Momarat hands Philomeil the radio box.

MOMARAT Take it away, starshine.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Cannonade "Charger," come in. This is your captain speaking.

Pause. Then scratchy static, then:

LT. JENSEN (O.S.) ...Cap'n? Is that really you?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Jensen! Good show. You see now why I insist on hourly decompression drills?

## INT. BRONWYN CANNONADE "CHARGER" - BRIDGE

Jensen and other skpacesuited Bronwyn crewmen repair the shattered dome amid floating fragments of party cake.

LT. JENSEN Yessir. Saved my life, sir. Sir, where have you been? Is that a Froeg ship? We thought you'd--

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (O.S.) My report will be required reading, Jensen, in good time. First, I need you to pull the spare cores from storage and prepare them for transfer.

LT. JENSEN

Cap'n?

## EXT. SKPACE - PLANET AYQUA

Lt. Jensen and another skpacesuited Bronwyn jetpack towards the Frogship with an enormous pallet groaning with dozens of dark crystal ship cores lashed together.

From the Frogship, Philomeil and Momarat, skpacesuited, drift towards the pallet. Philomeil's suit is filthy, dug out of the Voskum junk.

> F.M. JONEZ (O.S.) How's it going out there? You folks skparty?

Thudding FROG ROCK starts playing over the radio.

## EXT. PALLET OF CORES

The two pairs of skpacewalkers meet. Momarat hooks a cable from the Frogship to the pallet, which is easily half the size of the Frogship.

RADIO CONVERSATION:

LT. JENSEN Cap'n, I can't help noticing that's a Voskum?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Lieutenant?

LT. JENSEN Yes, Cap'n?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Shut up.

## SKPOW!

A massive cannonball SLAMS into the Frogship, blasting one of its fins to smithereens.

The impact sends the still-tethered pallet and the Frogship spinning like a cheerleader's baton.

Jensen and the other crewman are flung away as Momarat and Philomeil cling to the cores.

High above, the Heavy Cannonade "Avenging", three times the size of the "Charger," sweeps across Philomeil's view.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL CEASE BALLS!

## INT. BRONWYN CANNONADE "AVENGING" - BRIDGE

Commodore Tilly on the "Avenging" is taken aback.

COMMODORE TILLEY This is a restricted frequency. Who is this? Identify yourself at once!

## EXT. PALLET OF CORES

Philomeil and Momarat barely hold on.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL You are currently firing on Captain Heronimous Philomeil, Junior Grade, and I am very tired of clinging to rapidly rotating objects!

COMMODORE TILLEY (O.S.) Impossible. Philomeil was lost in battle.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL It turns out there's a funny story about that and JONEZ WOULD YOU KINDLY TURN OFF THAT BLOODY MUSIC?

# INT. FROGSHIP - COCKPIT

F.M. grimaces and fights with the controls.

F.M. JONEZ It's busted!

## INT. BRONWYN CANNONADE "AVENGING" - BRIDGE

Commodore Tilley views a holographic tactical schematic of the situation with distaste.

COMMODORE TILLEY Philomeil, our sensors show you in proximity to a Voskum female.

MOMARAT (O.S.) That's Momarat, ya sixy bungus!

# EXT. PALLET OF CORES

Philomeil and Momarat still cling desperately to the cores.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Commodore, I grant that the spectacle of myself clad in reeking garbage while clinging to our surplus cores in the company of an avowed enemy in clear violation of regulations might create doubt regarding my character. However, I have a entirely rational explanation.

COMMODORE TILLEY (O.S.) Oh? Proceed.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL I... oh, right now? I thought perhaps a shower, a cube of tea...?

# INT. BRONWYN CANNONADE "AVENGING" - BRIDGE

Commodore Tilley smirks.

#### COMMODORE TILLEY

Finally a sense of humor, eh, Philomeil? I'm impressed. Dying in the line of the duty was the most interesting thing about you, but coming back? That's zesty. Aloha material. Now let go of the cores so we can blast these aliens and discuss your future.

# EXT. PALLET OF CORES

Phil considers. It would be so easy to just let go. He considers the damaged Frogship. Locks eyes with Momarat.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Sorry, sir. I can't do that.

Momarat smiles.

## CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

I know it sounds absurd, but I've seen a side of our foe I'd never imagined. They seek cores to protect their dying world. We have many and helping them does no harm to us. Their calamity is of our making, Commodore. The truth is, we owe them. And, regardless of their motives, they... they have <u>valor</u>. This one risked her life to save mine.

#### MOMARAT

Twice!

COMMODORE TILLEY (O.S.) I see. Very well.

## INT. BRONWYN CANNONADE "AVENGING" - BRIDGE

Commodore Tilley reads from her display.

#### COMMODORE TILLEY

Captain Heronimous Philomeil, the automated court-martial finds you guilty in the first order of consorting with alienkind. You are stripped of rank, command and ship, and hereby sentenced to death...

She circles a finger at one of her lieutenants.

COMMODORE TILLEY In addition, due to the severity and perversity of your offense, your crew are forfeit. "Better to burn the orchard than suffer a rot to spread."

## EXT. PALLET OF CORES

Philomeil's eyes widen in horror as the "Avenging"'s cannon pivots and FIRES.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

No!

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.) SKPOWWWWW!!!!!

The cannonball strikes the heart of the "Charger," SHATTERING the ship into exploding fragments.

Reflected in his helmet, Philomeil's old world disintegrates.

His expression shifts from horror to a look of hardened determination.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Jonez. Pivot one-half radian starboard and accelerate... now!

WIDE ON THE FROGSHIP

as it HITS ITS ENGINES, flinging them towards the "Avenging."

BACK TO THE PALLET

MOMARAT We got a plan here?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Heavy cruiser Cannonades have a weak spot. Jonez, target the secondary trunnion and when I say fire you fire.

F.M. JONEZ (O.S.) OK, but--

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

Fire!

WIDE ON THE FROGSHIP

as it shoots a stream of BUBBLES at the "Avenging." They spatter harmlessly against its hull.

F.M. JONEZ (O.S.) Underwater, though, those are really something.

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.) SKPOW!!

The "Avenging" blasts the Frogship's other fin off.

BACK TO THE PALLET

COMMODORE TILLEY (O.S.) You're pathetic, Philomeil.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Hold that thought, Commodore. (to Momarat) Any ideas?

She's already attaching an auto-zipliner to the cable.

MOMARAT Ever play tetherball?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL

<u>YES</u>!

The zipliner zooms them up and into the Frogship airlock.

## INT. FROGSHIP - COCKPIT

Gramarat connects the dripping, sparking skitter-drive device to Ziz with ratty jumper cables.

MOMARAT (0.S.) Grama, how's the skitter-drive?

GRAMARAT

Ready!

## INT. FROGSHIP - AIRLOCK

Philomeil gauges the scene from the hatch.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Quarter-radian to port. A smidge more thrust. Can you handle it, Jonez?

F.M. JONEZ (O.S.) Lucky for you, you got a once in a lifetime pilot on your hands.

They rocket toward the "Avenging," straight at its cannon.

## INT. BRONWYN CANNONADE "AVENGING" - BRIDGE

Alarms blare! Commodore Tilley looks around bewildered.

COMMODORE TILLEY Philomeil, take your punishment like a good Bronwyn. CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (O.S.) That's just it, Commodore. We're not the good guys. We never were.

## EXT. SKPACE - PLANET AYQUA

The cable CATCHES on the "Avenging"'s cannon, Frogship and the pallet <u>TWISTING</u> around it like two demented tetherballs.

## INT. FROGSHIP - COCKPIT

Philomeil and Momarat burst onto the bridge.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL/MOMARAT

HIT IT!

Gramarat pounds a big red button on the skitter-drive.

## EXT. SKPACE - PLANET AYQUA

The Frogship BLINKS FORWARD and reappears twenty ship-lengths away --

-- TIGHTENING the cable to IMPOSSIBLE TENSION, which snaps --

-- RIPPING the "Avenging"'s cannon clean off!

The cannon spins off into skpace and FIRES --

-- hits the pallet of cores, which explode like nukes.

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.) SKPOWWWWWwwwwoooooooo!!

-- the shuddering "Avenging" hurls towards the planet, as the Frogship is catapulted away into deep skpace.

COMMODORE TILLEY (O.S.) So help me Philomeil you'll pay for this if it's the last thing I doooo...

END OF ACT THREE

## <u>TAG</u>

#### EXT. SKPACE - WORMHOLE

The Frogship spirals through a colorful 2001-esque wormhole, its broken fins taped on and rattling.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (V.O.) Captain's... no. Personal log. Heronimous Philomeil, Bronwyn... outlaw, recording. My future came to an end today, as did my faith in the Admiralty and all I've ever known...

# INT. FROGSHIP - COCKPIT

F.M. blows bubble rings and eyes a holographic map as Momarat paces. Gramarat prods at buttons, Ziz swats her hand away.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (V.O.) All I have left is my word, which I have given to strange, confusing people...

## INT. FROGSHIP - GALLEY

Philomeil sits at a diner-style booth, holding a dictaphone.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL I am bonded to them in a desperate mission to right a terrible wrong...

A door slides open as Momarat enters.

MOMARAT Phaybian Trading Post dead ahead. No Bronny activity on scanners.

Philomeil tries to hide the dictaphone.

MOMARAT Recordin' yer memoirs, Cap'n? Mention me yet?

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL I'm no captain. Not anymore.

MOMARAT Coulda fooled me, Cap'n.

She sits beside him.

## MOMARAT

Look... you did good out there. And we got more scrapes comin' before this is over. We're gonna need every one of them pricey navy school moves.

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL Ah! Then I suggest we set course for--

She fake-punches at him. Despite himself, he flinches.

MOMARAT You wish! I'm still boss of this operation. Come on, tuck your shirt in, we're almost--

The ship lurches! The engines groan and sputter!

OUTSIDE: a swarm of SHUGGS, skpace mushrooms with button eyes and eerily huge smiles, envelops the ship. Tendrils of mold and fungus spread exponentially, rotting the metal.

INSIDE: green mold and fungus erupt from the floor and walls, rapidly engulfing our heroes!

CAPTAIN PHILOMEIL (disappearing beneath fungus) Oh, that's just lovely--

THE SKEWNIVERSE (V.O.)

SKPOW!

END OF TAG

END OF SHOW