

ALIEN IN MY POCKET

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. KINGDOM - DAY

A blue sun shines over a grand, majestic palace. It rests on the highest hill that overlooks a city below. Small and large intricate buildings intertwine.

SUPER: "PLANET TOPO"

EXT. PALACE - ROYAL GARDENS - DAY

A young PRINCE SODO'CHI (5), a blue Topo with a stout body, short gangly legs and arms, and snail-like eyes stretching above his little round head, peeks around a lush bush that surrounds the palace walls.

A young CATALPA (5), a purple Topo with short eyelashes and as tiny as Sodo'Chi, pops out of the bushes with a roar, startling the prince who falls on his butt.

YOUNG CATALPA
(laughs to herself)
I scared you good!

YOUNG SODO'CHI
Did not!

Catalpa's attention turns to the nearby open window. She climbs the bushes to the top and peeks through to see...

KING EE'OH (40), light shade of blue, on the throne. He speaks with DUKE ZABA (25), bright orange, before him.

CATALPA
(to Sodo'Chi)
Your cousin Zaba is here. Come up
and see. Or are you afraid?

YOUNG LADY RUINA (O.S.)
You act like a boy and not at all
like a young lady, Catalpa.

A young LADY RUINA (5), pink in color and wearing a tiny cape, stands with arms folded, glaring.

YOUNG CATALPA
Do too, Ruina.

QUEEN SERENA (O.S.)
Sodo'Chi!

QUEEN SERENA (30), lavender in color, with long eyelashes and long thin legs and arms, glides towards them.

Ruina curtsseys before the queen.

YOUNG LADY RUINA
Good morning, Your Majesty.

QUEEN SERENA
Good morning. You look adorable in
your cape.

Ruina giggles. Catalpa hops out of the bushes. Curtseys.

YOUNG CATALPA
Good morning, Your Majesty. My
father will be escorting you on
your journey today.

QUEEN SERENA
That's wonderful. Come now, my
tiny prince. We mustn't dawdle.

She picks up her struggling tiny prince and carries him away.

YOUNG CATALPA
Don't let any giants step on you!

Ruina glares at Catalpa, marches off.

INT. PALACE - ROYAL CHAMBERS - DAY

Queen Serena sets Sodo'Chi down on the elegant bed.

YOUNG SODO'CHI
Why do I have to go?

QUEEN SERENA
There are wonders and curiosities
spread throughout the galaxy.
Don't you want to see any of them?

Sodo'Chi crosses his arms.

YOUNG SODO'CHI
No.

QUEEN SERENA
You mustn't be afraid of giants.
They're harmless. As you or me.

YOUNG SODO'CHI
I don't care.

The queen removes her necklace with a blue jewel that softly
glows and slips it around him.

QUEEN SERENA

A Berridian jewel. As rare and as precious as you. It will keep you safe.

King Ee'Oh enters.

KING EE'OH

Are you ready for your adventure today, Sodo'Chi?

YOUNG SODO'CHI

I don't wanna leave Topo.

KING EE'OH

You're a big boy now. There's nothing to be afraid of.

Sodo'Chi hops off the bed, scurries underneath. Peeks out.

QUEEN SERENA

He's been like this all day. I shall stay with him. He won't have any fun at a formal dinner.

KING EE'OH

You haven't left the palace since he was born, Serena.

QUEEN SERENA

If you're suggesting we leave him behind, all alone--

KING EE'OH

I'll stay. Besides, delegates want to see the beautiful queen anyway.

EXT. PALACE - ROYAL GARDENS - DAY

King Ee'Oh holds Sodo'Chi as they watch Serena sway towards the royal saucer-like spaceship that fills the gardens.

Catalpa's father and the other royal guards escort the queen.

Catalpa waves goodbye to her father. He winks at her.

The spaceship shoots into the air.

Sodo'Chi jumps out of his father's arms. Dashes to Catalpa. Together they wave goodbye to the ship, disappearing from view -- it EXPLODES in a flash of light across the sky.

CATALPA (V.O.)

Your Highness?

INT. PALACE - SODO'CHI'S CHAMBERS - DAY (19 YEARS LATER)

PRINCE SODO'CHI (now 24) is asleep in his bed. FREYA, an alien caterpillar half his size with a red-and-yellow pattern, lies with her fat belly in the air at the foot of the bed fast asleep.

Sodo'Chi's eyes flutter open.

CATALPA (now 24), grown up and looking very pretty with her long eyelashes, stands before him, breakfast tray in hand.

SODO'CHI

Catalpa?

CATALPA

Good morning, Your Highness. You have a big day today.

EXT. PALACE - ROYAL GARDENS - DAY

Catalpa and Sodo'Chi, with his pet in his arms, step towards a royal spaceship with its ramp down.

CATALPA

And remember, even though this is your first council, there's no need to be nervous. Duke Zaba will be there as well. He'll guide you. Oh, and... you might want to leave Freya behind.

Sodo'Chi sets Freya down. She coos as he pets her.

Sodo'Chi glances nervously at the ship. Catalpa encourages him with a nod. Sodo'Chi takes a step up the ramp.

INT. GALACTIC MEETING CHAMBER - DAY (ALIEN WORLD)

Resembling the United Nations on LSD, hundreds of alien delegates enter private booths encircling the vast chamber.

KING MUI, a hefty hippo-like alien, chomps on fistfuls of crunchy bits from a bag. QUEEN LILLY, slightly thinner, snatches the bag. Scowls at him. King Mui frowns.

In the booth beside him, three-inch-tall Sodo'Chi steps forward. Gazes out with wonder.

DUKE ZABA (now 45), a little bit taller and now darker orange in color, puts a hand on Sodo'Chi's shoulder.

SODO'CHI

Are they all delegates, Zaba?

ZABA

Yes, Sodo'Chi. They are the
leaders of races from across the
galaxy. From the bizarre...

A see-through GELATINOUS GLOBULE sits in a bucket in its
booth. The crown on its head slowly sinks through.

ZABA

To the extreme.

A TORNADO sits in another booth. Lightning crackles around
it. The tornado's eyes flutter open, but fall back asleep.

ZABA

From the largest...

A WHALE-LIKE being sits hunched in the back, dwarfing the
room. Zaba glances at Sodo'Chi.

ZABA

To you.

He takes his seat. Sodo'Chi sits down beside him.

Holographic screens activate throughout the booths displaying
the CHAIRMAN. Big blue eyes, gray skin complete with robe.

Alien subtitles translate.

CHAIRMAN (ON SCREEN)

Emperor Koda of Keeda wishes to
address the council.

ZABA

From pacifists...

Below on the floor, EMPEROR KODA, a hulking seven-foot-tall
snarling lizard-like alien, with red reptilian eyes, swaggers
to a podium escorted by personal GUARDS.

ZABA

To conquerors.

EMPEROR KODA

Intergalactic relations ensure the
future and prosperity of any world.
The lack of support this council--

A SHRIEK cuts him off.

Attention turns to Queen Lilly watching frantically as King
Mui clutches his chest -- and keels over. Queen Lilly
desperately shakes him.

QUEEN LILLY

Mui!

Zaba smirks. Sodo'Chi casts a worrisome glance at Catalpa.

Catalpa hops up and leaps over to Mui's booth. Climbs into Mui's mouth and disappears inside.

INSIDE KING MUI

Catalpa lies above the stomach opening, fingers dug into the lining. She closes her eyes.

Electrical impulses shoot their way through Mui's body -- to his unbeating heart. The flowing discharges make it THUMP.

INSIDE THE BOOTH

King Mui takes a breath.

QUEEN LILLY

Mui?

Catalpa crawls out of Mui's mouth. Mui's eyes flutter open a moment later. He sits up, confused.

QUEEN LILLY

Mui!

She squeezes him tight. Delegates applaud. Queen Lilly hugs Catalpa against her pillowy bosom.

EMPEROR KODA

If we're finished with this foolishness, perhaps we could return to the matter at hand.

CHAIRMAN (ON SCREEN)

Emperor Koda, please resume.

Sodo'Chi forces a smile at Catalpa who takes her seat.

EMPEROR KODA

The lack of support this council has shown to bring relations to my world is appalling. We are not listed on any intergalactic tour, nor are we promoted. And not once since joining this collective, has Keeda been considered to host the galactic games. Are we not even worth consideration?!

Delegates whisper amongst themselves.

ZABA
 Tell me, Sodo'Chi. What do you
 think of Keeda?

An unaware Sodo'Chi suddenly appears on all screens.

SODO'CHI (ON SCREEN)
 Isn't planet Keeda polluted?

EMPEROR KODA
 Are you implying my people are
 filthy creatures?!

SODO'CHI (ON SCREEN)
 What? Who? Me?

EMPEROR KODA
 Choose your words carefully, boy.

SODO'CHI
 I only-- I mean-- I was speaking
 with my cousin Zaba-- Duke Zaba,
 about the state of your world.

EMPEROR KODA
 Which is?

SODO'CHI
 Uh... polluted?

EMPEROR KODA
 You try my patience!

He pounds the podium -- it shatters to bits.

EMPEROR KODA
 I shall order every one of my
 squadrons to lay your world
 asunder!

Sodo'Chi sits frozen with fear.

A grinning Zaba sets to stand -- until Catalpa bolts up.

CATALPA
 That's absurd!

SODO'CHI
 Catalpa--

CATALPA
 If it's a fight you seek, I, royal
 guardian, would be more than
 willing to oblige.

Sodo'Chi winces.

EMPEROR KODA
(chuckles)
Adorable.

Zaba stands, confident.

ZABA
Emperor Koda, disregard the girl.
She forgets her place quite easily.

CATALPA
I will not--

ZABA
You will remain silent!

Catalpa sits down in a huff.

EMPEROR KODA
Finally. A man worthy of my
attention. I had begun to wonder
if they existed on your world.

Koda's guards snicker to themselves.

ZABA
I am Duke Zaba. Royal advisor.
And I implore you for the sake of
both our worlds not to go to war.

SODO'CHI
I didn't mean to--

EMPEROR KODA
Every word you utter boils my
blood.

ZABA
Forgive him, Emperor Koda. His
father, King Ee'Oh, faces his own
mortality. This is Prince
Sodo'Chi's first council and is
inexperienced in such matters.

EMPEROR KODA
He is responsible for his actions!
And in accordance with our laws,
his actions mean war.

ZABA

Surely a wise and experienced emperor as yourself, can overlook an innocent comment made by the young prince.

Delegates nod in agreement.

EMPEROR KODA

(smirks)

I will excuse the tiny prince. For your sake. Duke Zaba.

He swaggers away from the podium. Whispers fill the chamber.

ZABA

Come, Sodo'Chi. Let us return home to Topo.

Sodo'Chi's snail-like eyes droop with disappointment.

INT. ROYAL SHIP - ROYAL CABIN - OUTER SPACE

Sodo'Chi gazes out the window. Stars zip past. A RING at the door. He doesn't answer.

The door slides open. Catalpa enters.

CATALPA

Your Highness? I wanted to apologize. But as your guardian, it is my duty to protect you.

SODO'CHI

It will be my duty to protect the kingdom. And I almost brought us to war, Catalpa.

CATALPA

I don't understand how the viewer in our booth activated.

SODO'CHI

Zaba believes it was a glitch.

CATALPA

I certainly didn't help matters.

SODO'CHI

You saved King Mui. And you impressed Emperor Koda.

CATALPA

He called me adorable. I am not
adorable.

SODO'CHI

I'll never be as good a king as my
father. I can't even be as
confident as you.

A PING rings out.

COMPUTER

Destination reached.

Planet Topo comes into view out the window.

CATALPA

We're home.

INT. PALACE - ROYAL CHAMBERS - DAY (TOPO)

The blue sun slowly sets. Its rays beam down on King Ee'Oh,
now gray, lying on top a flower petal, covered by a leaf.

Sodo'Chi kneels beside him. King Ee'Oh opens his eyes; they
light up with a smile at his son.

KING EE'OH

Sodo'Chi. How was your first
council today? Did you make an
impression with the delegates?

SODO'CHI

I did, father.

KING EE'OH

Fear not the universe, even though
we may be its smallest inhabitants.

He passes a crystal shard to Sodo'Chi.

KING EE'OH

This is for you.

SODO'CHI

An image crystal?

KING EE'OH

Imaged with a world I visited with
your mother before you were born.
Take your first step with them.

SODO'CHI

I don't understand.

KING EE'OH

They are ready, Sodo'Chi, for so much more. But they need someone to guide them. You will be their voice and speak to the future of both our worlds.

SODO'CHI

How are you feeling?

KING EE'OH

I'm dying, Sodo'Chi.

Sodo'Chi clasps his father's hand. Tears well up.

SODO'CHI

Please, father.

KING EE'OH

My dear boy, you must summon your courage and face your destiny. Just as I face mine.

SODO'CHI

I'm afraid.

KING EE'OH

Be confident. Believe in yourself and follow your heart. I love you. My son.

King Ee'Oh closes his eyes for the last time. Sodo'Chi sobs.

EXT. BLUE GRASSY FIELD - NIGHT

Sodo'Chi sits quietly on the petals of a single, luminous flower alone in the field under twin crescent moons.

Catalpa spots him. Climbs her way up the leaves and sits down beside him. Offers him a smile. His eyes droop.

Catalpa reaches for his hand, but withdraws and folds her hands in her lap instead.

INT. MAGMA CAVERN - DAY

Scattered crystals protrude from the ground and walls. A river of lava flows below the rocky chasm.

Zaba peeks behind a boulder where Freya lies fast asleep.

ZABA

Here she is. No doubt enjoying the heat from the flowing magma.

Sodo'Chi steps over. Freya's eyes flutter open, she coos.
Sodo'chi picks her up.

SODO'CHI

"Rite of Succession" draws near.
Yet no one believes I should be
king after what happened at the
council.

ZABA

Nonsense. You need only to perform
a noble deed to prove your worth.
A grand gesture to the people.

SODO'CHI

My father would have me open
relations with a new world.

ZABA

That's an excellent idea. I will
see to it that your ship is made
ready immediately. And I will even
look after Freya for you while
you're away.

SODO'CHI

They're giants.

ZABA

You must cast your fears aside,
Sodo'Chi. Face your destiny with
fire in your eyes. And when you
return, you will become king. As
I've always believed. As your
father believed.

SODO'CHI

Thank you, Zaba. For all your aid.
And support.

ZABA

My dear cousin, I only want what is
best for you and for Topo.

INT. PALACE - ROYAL LIBRARY - DAY

Sodo'Chi inserts the crystal shard into a sleek computer.
Catalpa peers over his shoulder.

A holographic image of Earth projects, rotates before them.

CATALPA

Your father wants you to bring
Earth into the galactic council?
(MORE)

CATALPA (CONT'D)

You would be sponsoring a savage warrior race like the Keeda. Humans should remain quarantined, Your Highness.

SODO'CHI

What better way to prove my worth than by opening relations with them? It's as if my father knew what happened at the council, Catalpa.

CATALPA

I told him, Your Highness. We spoke in truths about everything. Even you.

SODO'CHI

Me?

CATALPA

He wondered whom you might choose as queen at "Rite of Succession".

SODO'CHI

I don't know.

CATALPA

I said it would most likely be Lady Ruina. She is a noble. It's not as if you could choose...

SODO'CHI

Who?

Catalpa lets out a frustrated breath.

CATALPA

Where on Earth will you go? Whom will you talk to?

SODO'CHI

My father left notes.

He taps a button -- holographic satellites orbit Earth.

SODO'CHI

Humans communicate with each other using primitive satellite systems. I can simply contact them from orbit and ask to speak with their leader. Their language is simple enough for our translator.

(MORE)

SODO'CHI (CONT'D)

I could address their entire world
without setting foot.

CATALPA

I'll alert the magistrates. And
the guards. We'll need to escort a
human back for the ceremony.

SODO'CHI

Humans are not accustomed with
extraterrestrial encounters. And
they're a fearful race. I cannot
arrive with a full delegation.

CATALPA

What do you suggest?

SODO'CHI

I will go alone. As my grandfather
did when he opened relations with
the Kittarians. They too were much
like the humans.

CATALPA

As your guardian, I'm going with
you.

SODO'CHI

I can handle it, Catalpa.

CATALPA

Unless you plan on removing me from
my position, I will continue to
perform my duty. Your Highness.

A grown-up LADY RUINA (now 24), tall and prissy in her
elegant cape, approaches them. Curtseys before Sodo'Chi.

LADY RUINA

Prince Sodo'Chi. I hope I'm not
intruding.

SODO'CHI

Lady Ruina. No, of course not.

LADY RUINA

My father and I were in the Draken
Nebula offering aid when we heard
of your father's passing. We've
come to pay our condolences.

SODO'CHI

Thank you. I'm sorry it had to
interrupt your affairs.

LADY RUINA
Think nothing of it. People in
need are everywhere in the galaxy.

CATALPA
Indeed.

LADY RUINA
My father awaits you, Your
Highness.

SODO'CHI
Yes, I'll go immediately.

He hurries away.

CATALPA
If you'll excuse me, my lady.

LADY RUINA
Excuse you? I should think not.

CATALPA
My lady?

LADY RUINA
Your behavior towards Emperor Koda
was atrocious. And not dignified
of a queen. Or a lady.

CATALPA
I will not sit idly by and--

LADY RUINA
You are a guardian. Nothing more.
I trust you'll conform yourself by
the time you accompany the prince
and I on our honeymoon.

And with that she sways away.

Catalpa stands fuming. Gazes at the Earth still spinning.

EXT. EARTH

Planet Earth quietly spins.

INT. HIGHWAY DINER - DAY

JOE FROST (33), long hair and scruffy face, in leather, plaid
and jeans, finishes lunch at the counter.

The T.V., hung high in the corner, broadcasts CHANCIE (35), a
no-nonsense, knockout gal, addressing the camera.

To read the entire script: Organizer@ReelWritersContest.com