

MIDNIGHT BURGER

Chapter 19: Battle Without Honor or Humanity

By  
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SOUND OF A MASSIVE BATTLE IN DEEP SPACE. YES, I KNOW THERE'S  
NO SOUND IN SPACE. SHUT UP.

CASPAR

... And that's how we wound up here.

GLORIA

Robot cowboys?

ZEBULON

Bethany Elliot?

SHEL

So who are these guys?

EVERYONE ELSE

Aaah!

CASPAR

Who's the ficus?

GLORIA

What, we're not allowed to make friends?

LEIF

Wait, who were you breaking out of the Ted  
Homeworld?

CASPAR

Where is-

BERTBERT

(Inside the ship.)

I can recall several arguments about adding seat  
belts... oh. Hello everyone.

LEIF

Berts?

BERTBERT

Hey Leif. Still a fucking asshole?

AVA

Can confirm.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Listen up, folks. The gang's all here. We can get  
caught up later.

SHEL

Leif, is that your dad?

BERTBERT

No.

CASPAR

Why the hell did the diner drop you in the middle of a fire fight?

GLORIA

We don't know. Another long story.

THE EX

We're in between two ships trying to destroy each other, should we be doing this in the parking lot?

GLORIA

You are NOT coming inside.

THE EX

Gloria, come on, I'm nice now.

EFFIE

That's what Lucifer would say.

TED

(In the radio.)

Welcome to the party Nancy Sinatra. All the fish are just jumping into my boat now, aren't they?

CASPAR

How is he talking through the radio?

EFFIE

We don't know but we know it ain't right.

CASPAR

Ted, is that you?

TED

Jesus Christ.

CASPAR

Ted! You're okay!

TED

I cannot fucking believe this.

CASPAR

I know! What a world! How was the escape pod?

TED

Oh, super comfortable, thanks. You know what else will be super comfortable? The block of chemical ice I'm going to freeze you in!

CASPAR

Ted, I feel like you haven't mellowed, I feel like you've learned nothing since we last spoke, where's the growth, Ted?

TED

Let's have a nice, long conversation about it while I target your parking lot with a Void Torpedo!

EFFIE

Sir, you are not welcome in this radio!

TED

I'll decide-

STATIC CRACKLES

EFFIE

Well I'll be, I think that did it.

CASPAR

Okay, everyone inside, here we go.

DOOR CHIME.

SHEL

Are we going to be any safer inside?

CASPAR

That thing's going to freak me out the whole time, isn't it?

GLORIA

Their name is Shel.

ZEBULON

They are a tree.

CASPAR

Okay, whatever. I know that's a Ted ship, what is it fighting with?

LEIF

Låfftrax.

CASPAR

The space pirate? Seriously?

THE EX

Looks like the pirates are saving our asses at the moment, I wouldn't complain too much.

GLORIA

Can she not talk? It's freaking me out.

THE EX

Hey.

CASPAR

What does the friggin' Space Pirate want with us?

GLORIA

They want our doomsday device.

BERTBERT

Doomsday device?

CASPAR

There's a doomsday device now?

GLORIA

We may have picked up a doomsday device along the way.

CASPAR

Where in the- oh wait, don't tell me, from the secret hardened criminal.

LEIF

Listen-

CASPAR

Is this the purple thing?

GLORIA

That's the Purple Nurple.

LEIF

Nullifier!

GLORIA

There's also a doomsday device.

LEIF

How'd you know about the Purple Nullifier?

CASPAR

There's two doomsday devices?

LEIF

The Purple Nullifier isn't a doomsday device it's just a bomb.

CASPAR

Leif, I swear to God the words "Just a bomb" came out of your mouth. How does that feel?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Is this the Ted Slayer?

LEIF

Yeah.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Nice, you actually built it, huh?

CASPAR

No shop talk. What is the Ted Slayer?

GLORIA

Seriously, you called it the Ted Slayer?

LEIF

Well that's what it does.

CASPAR

What are you talking about?

LEIF

It's a computer virus, it unravels the Ted Empire from the inside out.

GLORIA

But we talked about it a lot and we decided that we shouldn't use it.

CASPAR

You shouldn't use it?

GLORIA

No.

CASPAR

Okay, I need you to focus on this next question very carefully: What?

ZEBULON

It's awful nice to have everyone back together again, isn't it dear?

EFFIE

Its real nice, Husband.

GLORIA

The negatives outweigh the positives.

CASPAR

How heavy are these negatives exactly?

GLORIA

Mass starvation. Plague.

CASPAR

Okay, that sounds bad, but there's a very big ship floating outside, Gloria.

GLORIA

I can see the ship.

CASPAR

It's the size of Sri Lanka, Gloria.

GLORIA

Caspar-

CASPAR

And let me tell you about this thing, you may have heard of it, it's called chemical ice.

GLORIA

I've heard of it.

CASPAR

Leif, you're a criminal, have you ever been frozen in Chemical Ice?

LEIF

Twice.

CASPAR

Twice!

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Six times.

CASPAR

Six times over there. Would we recommend being frozen in chemical ice?

LEIF

No.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

It's not great.

CASPAR

So we're all on the brink of being frozen in chemical ice and we have the thing that can stop that but we're not using it?

GLORIA

Yes.

CASPAR

I would like to fill out a comment card, please.

GLORIA

It wouldn't just fuck the Teds, Caspar it would fuck everybody. If the warp gates shut down, everybody suffers. We talked about it, we argued about it, this is what we decided.

CASPAR

... Okay.

GLORIA

Okay?

CASPAR

Okay. Okay, if that's the way it is, then okay. We'll figure something else out.

GLORIA

Seriously?

CASPAR

Yeah.

LÅFFTRAX

(In the radio.)

Hey Leif. Look at all the cannons I'm firing right now. I think it's all-... is it all the cannons?... Yeah, it's all of them, isn't it crazy?... Leif? Leif are you there? C'mon don't be like that, it's your old pal Låfftrax.

EFFIE

We have invited exactly zero people into this radio with us.

ZEBULON

All of a sudden it's like the town hall.

GLORIA

Leif, please talk to the Space Pirate.

LEIF

Låfftrax, I'm not giving you the Ted Slayer.

LÅFFTRAX

Are you sure? It kinda feels like you're gonna give it to me.



LEIF

I'm not.

LÅFFTRAX

But you are though.

LEIF

Nobody is getting it, Låfftrax.

LÅFFTRAX

Let me do some math. I want the boom boom device.  
I'm the only thing standing between you and the  
Teds turning you all into Otter Pops. Sounds like I  
get whatever I want right now.

LEIF

I'm not going to watch you plunge three galaxies  
into chaos, Låfftrax.

LÅFFTRAX

Okay but counterpoint: I'm going to kill all your  
friends.

LEIF

Minsky already tried that, it didn't work.

LÅFFTRAX

Right. Let's get him in here, guys where's Minsky?...  
Oh, I killed him? Apparently I killed him. How did  
I kill him?... Meat grinder? Wow. I guess I threw him  
in the meat grinder... Did I kill him first and throw  
him in there? No? Just shoved him in there alive,  
huh? Damn. Dark, guys. Dark. Okay, never mind on  
that.

LEIF

Låfftrax, listen. I'm not giving you the Ted  
Slayer, but if you can get us out of this jam I  
will come back and work for you.

LÅFFTRAX

Oh yeah?

CASPAR

Whoa.

EFFIE

You most certainly will not.

GLORIA

Leif, what the fuck?

LEIF

We need some way out of this.

SHEL

Leif, I don't know what a pirate is but I'm pretty sure I don't want you to be one.

ZEBULON

I do not approve this plan.

CASPAR

Zebulon does not approve this plan, Leif.

BERTBERT

Leif, absolutely not.

LEIF

Am I the only one who knows how fucked we are right now? Two ships out there. Both of them filled with the worst of The Triad. One ship wants to kill us, the other one will if we don't meet it's demands. This is the most fucked we've ever been.

ZEBULON

Leif, I've read many a pirate story in my youth and I feel as though these pirates are not the sort to go adventuring for buried treasure.

EFFIE

All while adorned with a colorful bird of some kind.

ZEBULON

They appear to have eliminated those delightful aspects.

EFFIE

But kept all of the killin'.

GLORIA

Even Older Leif can you talk some sense into him please?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

I'd give it a shot, Gloria, but I'm not getting through to him. See, the young man has himself a little theory, don't you, Buster?

CASPAR

What is he talking about?

LEIF

... I think I'm the reason that The Teds know about the diner.

GLORIA

What do you mean?

LEIF

Way back when, right before I came here. I had just quit working for Låfftrax. I think The Teds were following me, hoping that I would lead them back to Låfftrax. All the pirates in the system were looking for me. I was on the run.

AVA

And then suddenly there was a diner.

LEIF

Yes... I think the Teds were watching me the first time I ever walked in here. Which means they saw the diner disappear and I'm sure it all started from there. Guys all of this could be my fault. All of it. It makes me sick to think I've gotten you all into this mess... I wanted to be someone else, so when I got here I just started acting like the guy that I wanted to be. But I guess that's just not how things work.

TED

(In the radio.)

And I'm back. Hey, just caught the tail end of that. Wanted to jump in here real quick guys. Leif is totally right. We know about the diner because of him. He's the only reason it's even a thing for us. That's a pretty big ouch, Leif. Does it burn?

GLORIA

Leif-

LEIF

Look, it's fine. I've worked for Låfftrax before, I can do it again. At least with the pirates I won't have to act like someone I'm not. I guess that's all I was doing around here anyway.

EFFIE

Leif, we are not letting you go.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Doesn't matter, Effie. Låfftrax isn't going to go for it anyway.

LÅFFTRAX

Yeah, Leif, I've decided, no.

LEIF

Fuck.

LÅFFTRAX

Look, Honeybear, I miss the crap out of you. We had a lot of fun. Remember that time you flooded an entire city?

AVA

Jesus, Leif.

LEIF

Goddamn it.

TED

I remember that. Wiped out several neighborhoods just to rob a bank. What a guy!

LÅFFTRAX

Good times all around. But the thing is, I'm really excited about all this chaos I'm going to create when you give me the boom boom box, it's really going to elevate my piracy game.

TED

What is this box again?

LÅFFTRAX

Hey! I'm talking here! Y'know what? Y'know what I'm going to do? Remember that beamy-downy thing you told me not to buy because it was too dangerous? Well... oops, I bought it! I'm going to beam down there.

LEIF

No, don't do that.

LÅFFTRAX

Really excited to meet your new friends.

LEIF

Låfftrax!

TED

Oh, man. This is perfect. Literally every criminal I want to capture is about to be in the same place. Did I win a sweepstakes? Do you guys have a comically large check for me?

GLORIA

Alright, everybody over to Ava's booth, I'm sick of shithead listening to us.

EFFIE

Sir. I do not appreciate you speaking out of our radio, We consider it a violation.

TED

Oh no. A violation? How many demerits?

ZEBULON

Those who impede a holy path never fair well,  
Theodore.

TED

Oh yeah? What have you got for me? Locusts? Frogs?  
None of those work in space, you hayseeds.

EFFIE

Oh we're going to come up with something, just you  
wait.

TED

Yeah, sorry, you're not going to be able to loaves  
and fishes your way out of this problem.

BEEPING

BERTBERT

This is BertBert broadcasting on The Undersignal. I  
am currently onboard Midnight Burger on the outer  
rim of Triangulum. We appear to be caught in a  
naval battle between a Ted Battle cruiser and the  
dreaded Alex P Keaton, the flagship of the pirate  
Låfftrax. Despite our precarious situation, the  
true danger lies beyond us. For as long this  
reporter can remember The Ted Empire has denied  
conducting experiments with time crystals, the same  
objects responsible for the implosion and  
destruction of Vapus 10 in Andromeda. Vapian  
refugees still to this day recall with horror the  
destruction of their planet from the volatile time  
crystals, and science councils across The Triad  
have banned their use. Despite all that, here I  
stand looking upon a gargantuan construction that  
is allegedly fueled by these dangerous objects.

CASPAR

... So, what do pirates like to eat?

THE EX

Wait, this is good, actually. When the space pirate  
gets here I can threaten them, y'know, physically.

GLORIA

You can?

CASPAR

Yeah, quick update, guys, Ex is actually incredibly  
powerful to the point that it's fucking terrifying  
but none of that matters.

THE EX

It doesn't?

CASPAR

No. What are you going to do? Kill Låfftrax?

THE EX

No, but they don't know that.

CASPAR

They're just going to call your bluff. If you killed Låfftrax then the pirate ship and the Ted ship would want to kill us.

THE EX

Being powerful should be more fun.

AVA

I think we need to start getting in a headspace where we can give the doomsday device to the Space Pirate, guys.

THE EX

I think you're right, Ava.

AVA

Don't talk to me, Uncanny Valley.

THE EX

Jeez!

GLORIA

Okay look, regardless of what's going on outside, we're about to have a customer. Can someone please tell me anything about Låfftrax?

BERTBERT

They're a mass murderer.

GLORIA

Great.

BERTBERT

The best Earth equivalent would be a cross between Tony Montana, Mama Rose, and Genghis Khan.

GLORIA

Even better.

BERTBERT

Every ounce of crime in the Triad goes through Låfftrax. They're the only thing more terrifying than The Teds.

LEIF

And don't be distracted by the laughter.

CASPAR

The laughter?

LEIF

They're obsessed with American sitcoms. They had me make them a device that plays automatic audience reactions.

DOOR CHIME.

LÅFFTRAX

What's up everybody?

THE CROWD GOES WILD.

LÅFFTRAX (CONT'D)

This looks like a fun group. What are you guys talking about? Is it me? I bet it's me. Is it me?

LAUGHTER.

LEIF

Låfftrax, listen-

LÅFFTRAX

There he is! Leif you big asshole! Come over here I'm gonna smack you on your Fanny!

LAUGHTER.

LEIF

Låfftrax we've gotta talk about this.

LÅFFTRAX

Well hang on there, schnuckums. Aren't you going to introduce me to you friends? Let's go around the room here. Who's the Begonia?

SHEL

Hi.

LÅFFTRAX

Oh, shit, it talks.

LAUGHTER.

LÅFFTRAX (CONT'D)

Boy, plants really do liven up the place don't they?

MORE LAUGHTER.

LÅFFTRAX (CONT'D)  
Who's next?

GLORIA  
Can we skip to the part where you threaten us  
please?

LÅFFTRAX  
Oh hey. I know you, you're the one whose been  
turning the system into a spicy fiesta.

LAUGHTER.

GLORIA  
Jesus christ.

LÅFFTRAX  
Hey since you're in charge around here how about  
you make Leif give me my boom boom box back.

TED  
Is it a jewelry box? What's in the box?

LÅFFTRAX  
Hey. Shut up you. Go win a battle.

LAUGHTER.

CASPAR  
He can't give it to you.

LÅFFTRAX  
Who are you?

CASPAR  
Caspar.

LÅFFTRAX  
What do you do around here?

CASPAR  
Never been sure exactly.

LÅFFTRAX  
Seems to me it's pretty clear, Jasper. Låfftrax  
wants box. Leif gives Låfftrax box.

CASPAR  
I understand that but unfortunately you've created  
a situation where it's in our best interest to not  
give you the box.

LÅFFTRAX  
I've what now?



CASPAR

If we give you the box then you leave, right?

LÅFFTRAX

True.

CASPAR

And if you leave then there's no one to stop the Teds from coming to get us.

LÅFFTRAX

I'm listening.

CASPAR

So then we can't give you the box because you're the only person keeping us alive. And you can't threaten it out of us because you tried that already? Is that correct?

LEIF

Yes.

CASPAR

You tried that already.

LÅFFTRAX

Huh. Are you SURE I can't threaten it out of you?

LEIF

Yes.

LÅFFTRAX

What if my threats are really REALLY terrifying?

LAUGHTER.

ZEBULON

Captain Låfftrax, we have already weathered the storm of threats upon our lives over this box you speak of. We may not be much to speak of but our position is unwavering.

TED

The suspense is killing me, guys. What's in the box, is it beanie babies?

EFFIE

WILL. YOU. GET. GONE.

STATIC BUZZ.

EFFIE (CONT'D)

I believe I've banished him again.

GLORIA

Låfftrax, you can threaten us all you want. We're not going to let other people suffer just to save our asses.

LÅFFTRAX

Huh. Well now I'm bored. Kind of regretting killing my lawyer right now.

GLORIA

No, that was the right call.

LÅFFTRAX

Alright, Låfftrax needs to have a think. Who's the old guy.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

It's me, Låfftrax.

LÅFFTRAX

Me who? Wait... no.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Yep.

LÅFFTRAX

Leif?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Yep.

LÅFFTRAX

But you're over there too.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

I am.

LÅFFTRAX

Did you go back in time?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

I'm afraid I did.

LÅFFTRAX

Leif, you adorable little dumbass!

EVEN OLDER LEIF

You always told me.

LÅFFTRAX

I did. I always did. What did I always say about time travel?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

"What's wrong with right now?"

LÅFFTRAX

What's wrong with right now. Exactly. Right now is great! I mean, not for any of you, you're probably all screwed but for me it's great! What's the point of going back in time to try and patch things up with your girlfriend?

LEIF

That's not... she wasn't my girlfriend.

BERTBERT

Wait, what?

LÅFFTRAX

Uh oh. Awkward.

BERTBERT

What are they talking about?

LÅFFTRAX

You know how when people get drunk there's that one thing they can't shut up about?

LEIF

Please stop.

LÅFFTRAX

For Leif it was his master plan to build a time machine so he could go back and patch things up with a certain someone.

OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOH.

BERTBERT

You're kidding me.

LÅFFTRAX

Låfftrax is, famously, historically, not a gossip but I can tell you that her name started with a "Bert" and ended with a "Bert".

LAUGHTER.

BERTBERT

Amazing.

LEIF

I was drunk.

EFFIE

That actually sounds a little sweet, doesn't it dear?

ZEBULON

Could he not have patched things up in the present?

BERTBERT

No, he couldn't have because that would mean taking responsibility for his actions, and I think we all know how he is with that, don't we?

LEIF

Berts come on.

BERTBERT

I'm not talking to you I'm talking to the radio people!

ZEBULON

I appear to have stepped in an anthill on this one.

EFFIE

Multiple stings upon your toes.

LÅFFTRAX

Wow, look at this old bastard. Leif, you do not age well.

LEIF

Thanks.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

There may be some chips on the paint, but the engine's running just fine.

LÅFFTRAX

Yeah, you keep telling yourself that. Mind if I sit?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Please.

LÅFFTRAX

So, you came back in time and just decided to stay huh? Relive your glory days?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Yeah, I thought I'd check in, see how things were going in this timeline. You know, I finally went to Menlor.

LÅFFTRAX

You did?

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
Yep.

LÅFFTRAX  
The robot cowboys?

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
Yep.

LÅFFTRAX  
How did it go?

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
Not the way you'd expect.

LÅFFTRAX  
Damn. That would've been a thing. Space Pirate  
Cowboys. You know I love a good cultural mashup.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
I know that you do.

LÅFFTRAX  
Well, Antique Leif. Låfftrax is in a bit of a  
pickle.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
Seems that way.

LÅFFTRAX  
He's not going to give me the box is he?

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
Nope.

LÅFFTRAX  
And he's got to say the magic words to make the box  
open, right?

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
It's true.

LÅFFTRAX  
What kind of a world are we living in where threats  
of violence don't do the trick any more?

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
It's a tragedy.

CASPAR  
(Under his breath.)  
While Låfftrax is distracted we need a plan B.

GLORIA

There was no plan A.

LEIF

Theres two battleships fighting outside our doors,  
something's going to give any second now.

CASPAR

BertBert is there anyone in the area you can  
contact? Anyone who can help us out?

BERTBERT

We're on the outer rim of Triangulum there's  
nothing out here.

SHEL

Gloria?

THE EX

Are we making secret plans?

GLORIA

Still too soon with you okay?

THE EX

I was an android obeying my programming.

GLORIA

Stand over there.

SHEL

Gloria?

GLORIA

What is it, Shel?

SHEL

If the pirate wants something that we don't want to  
give them, is there maybe something else it wants?

LEIF

I tried offering myself.

BERTBERT

Not an even trade.

LEIF

Oh, come on.

CASPAR

Can we resolve personal beefs after we escape the  
evil empire, please? Fern here has a point.

SHEL

Shel.

CASPAR

Maybe there's a third thing?

SHEL

What about the third thing outside?

CASPAR

What?

SHEL

There are the two big things outside shooting at each other and then the third thing.

CASPAR

The wind chimes.

GLORIA

Anybody know what it is?

EFFIE

I myself am feeling a certain way about that ghostly construct in the distance. Nothin about it feels right.

CASPAR

When I was captured by Ted, he told me that that thing out there is what's keeping the diner trapped in the present. Do you think there's any way we can. I don't know, knock it off line, or something? Maybe if we can destroy it we'll just zip out of here, leave them to kill each other. BertBert do you know anything about it?

BERTBERT

It's a massive secret. Something to do with time crystals.

GLORIA

What kind of Masters of the Universe bullshit?

LEIF

It's a theoretical thing, I don't do theoretical things.

AVA

Waiting patiently over here at my booth.

GLORIA

What the hell is it?

AVA

It's not a crystal, first of all.

GLORIA

Crystal is right there in the title.

AVA

A crystal, like the kind idiots wear around their neck, that's an organized arrangement of atoms. A time crystal is an organized arrangement of time.

GLORIA

Okay, the universe is just making shit up now.

AVA

Imagine a rocking chair. You push it and it rocks back and forth and then stops. If that rocking chair were a time crystal it's natural state would be rocking back and forth.

GLORIA

How?

AVA

You really want me to-

GLORIA

Never mind. Any chance we can get Låfftrax interested in that instead of the doomsday device? Is it dangerous? Can it kill people? That might be a good sell.

BERTBERT

It's incredibly dangerous, it could be catastrophic.

GLORIA

That's great.

CASPAR

Yeah, that might work actually.

BERTBERT

Did you hear what I just said?

LEIF

Låfftrax isn't going to go for it, they've been obsessed with the Ted Slayer ever since I left.

CASPAR

Of course they are, plunging three galaxies into total chaos, that's like Space Pirate Coachella.



GLORIA

We need to get Låfftrax off of the doomsday device and onto the time crystal thing. We need to convince them to destroy it.

CASPAR

How do we do that?

GLORIA

The Ted Slayer is great for Space Pirates. What we need is someone who is really good at taking a good thing and turning it into something bad..

CASPAR

...

CASPAR (CONT'D)

Everyone appears to be looking at me.

THE EX

Oh yeah, Buddy.

ZEBULON

You do have a tendency to turn a wedding into a wake, Caspar.

CASPAR

Okay, okay everyone, harsh but fair. Here I go. Pardon me, Låfftrax?

LÅFFTRAX

Jasper!

LAUGHTER.

CASPAR

So, this doomsday device?

LÅFFTRAX

Oh? Has there been a change of heart?

CASPAR

No. But you're going to have one.

LÅFFTRAX

Oh yeah? This sounds like a waste of time, I'm into it.

CASPAR

Just to make sure we're on the same page, if someone uses this device then the entire Ted Empire unravels.

LÅFFTRAX

Sounds great right?

CASPAR

It really does, but then also, when the Teds unravel, so does The Triad, right?

LÅFFTRAX

Oh yeah.

CASPAR

Three galaxies full of chaos.

LÅFFTRAX

Just talking about it gets me excited.

CASPAR

Yeah, I don't think you want that.

LÅFFTRAX

I don't?

CASPAR

No. See, there was this guy on Earth. His name was Al Capone.

LÅFFTRAX

Okay.

CASPAR

He was a murderous psychopath who was riddled with syphilis.

LÅFFTRAX

Ooh. Swipe right.

LAUGHTER.

CASPAR

He became incredibly powerful when America decided that it would be a great idea to ban alcohol. Did that stop people from drinking? No. All it did was create a lot of work for people who were good at skirting the law. With alcohol being illegal, Al Capone was able to create a criminal empire larger than anything anyone had ever seen.

LÅFFTRAX

You watch a lot of history shows right?

CASPAR

It's true. See, Al Capone was only able to become Al Capone because he had laws to break.

(MORE)

CASPAR (CONT'D)

If you use this doomsday device then you win. No more Teds. You'd be the ruler of the triad.

LÅFFTRAX

I love this story.

CASPAR

What are you going to do with all the starving people?

LÅFFTRAX

What do you mean what am I going to do?

CASPAR

The Teds are pretty smart, Låfftrax. They suck, they're the worst, everybody hates them. But they've insinuated themselves into people's lives so deeply, that people can no longer function without them. So now, the way anyone feels about them is totally pointless. People are forced to just sit there and take it, because they have no other choice.

LÅFFTRAX

And this is an argument AGAINST destroying them?

CASPAR

It is. Because I say again, what are you going to do with all the starving people?

LÅFFTRAX

The fuck do I care?

CASPAR

Let 'em starve, right?

LÅFFTRAX

Sure!

CASPAR

And there you are, you're they ruler of an empire where everyone is dying. Does that sound like any fun to you?

LÅFFTRAX

No.

CASPAR

This is what I'm talking about.

LÅFFTRAX

Okay, fine. Uh... I turn on the warp gate for the planets that have the food and I let them sell it to me for a jacked up price. Now if you want to eat, you go through me.

CASPAR

Great. Let's look at one of those planets as an example.

LÅFFTRAX

This is boring.

CASPAR

Stick with me. What's that planet with all the fields?

LEIF

Menite?

CASPAR

Menite! A planet full of rolling fields of grain. Planet gluten, we used to call it. You turn on their warp gate so they can get you all the grain you want and then you turn around and sell it for, I'm thinking, a 500% price increase. In an effort to provide you with all the food that you demand, now everybody on Menite is a farmer. And when everybody's a farmer, nobody does anything else. When people get sick there's no doctors, when children are born, they're born idiots because there are no more schools because everyone is out in the fields all day. You have now created a planet full of sick idiots in charge of feeding millions. When their machines break down, nobody can fix them, when plagues hit, there's no one to heal them.

LÅFFTRAX

Fine, I'll put some schools there or whatever and I'll send them some doctors.

CASPAR

Great. Fantastic. Are you hiring the teachers?

LÅFFTRAX

No.

CASPAR

Right. Best to delegate. Ooof, that's a big planet though, you're going to need a lot of teachers and those teachers are going to need some organizational support so you're going to have to create some sort of department of education. You're cool with that, right?

LÅFFTRAX

Whatever.

CASPAR

Lot of people to take care of too. I mean we're not talking about a handful of doctors we're talking about thousands.

LÅFFTRAX

Okay.

CASPAR

I'm assuming you're not going to hire them either which means you'll have to delegate the responsibility of hiring the farmers, the doctors, and the teachers. But you know what? Who hires the person that hires the doctors and the teachers, is that you?

LÅFFTRAX

Still no.

CASPAR

Okay, then there's going to need to be someone above the teachers and the doctors and the people who hire the teachers and the doctors.

LÅFFTRAX

Who the hell is that guy?

CASPAR

I'm thinking a prime minister. Someone to be in charge of the whole planet, someone who answers directly to you.

LÅFFTRAX

Fine. There, it's handled.

CASPAR

One problem.

LÅFFTRAX

One, huh?

CASPAR

You see, what you don't know is that on Menite, there's a small faction of isolationists. They hated the Teds when they were in charge and now they hate you too. They work against you in the background, trying to convince people that you, a murderous Space Pirate, have no business taking the fruits of their hard work and leaving them with nothing. They hold late night meetings, then protests, then walkouts, then they are burning straw effigies of you in the town square! What do they call themselves, Leif?

LEIF

The Brotherhood of the Scythe.

CASPAR

The Brotherhood of the Scythe. I think we can both agree that a name like that is a marketing slam dunk, can't we?

LÅFFTRAX

Then I have them killed.

CASPAR

How? You can't find them. You don't know anyone on this planet, they all look the same to you. You really want to spend your time rooting out rebellion on the wheat fields?

LÅFFTRAX

No.

CASPAR

Then what do you do, Låfftrax?

LÅFFTRAX

... Form a police force.

CASPAR

That's right. Låfftrax the Pirate, career criminal, is hiring cops.

LÅFFTRAX

But I don't want to hire cops.

CASPAR

Nobody does! But you don't have a choice because there are people out there starving, and nobody wants to rule over a starving empire.

LÅFFTRAX

Fine. I'll hire some cops.

CASPAR

Unfortunately they've just formed a union.

LÅFFTRAX

Already?!

CASPAR

Oh yes. Because they're risking their lives every day and they feel that they deserve more pay than your giving them. Uh-oh, the teachers just found out about the police union. Now they're unionizing too. They insist that their job is as important as the police.

LÅFFTRAX

It's not though!

CASPAR

Try telling them that, Låfftrax, the children are the future!

LÅFFTRAX

No, they're not!

CASPAR

Now the teachers aren't teaching, the police aren't policing, now the FARMERS have heard about the teachers and the police and now THEY'VE decided to get in on the action, and you know what they say about farmers, Låfftrax, they're ALLLLLLL fucking communists! Nobody's teaching, nobody's policing, nobody's farming, and WHO in this time of chaos emerges from the wheat field, Låfftrax?

LEIF

The Brotherhood of the Scythe.

CASPAR

The Brotherhood of the Scythe! They've announced that they're forming a legitimate political party!

LÅFFTRAX

How the hell did we get political parties?!

CASPAR

How the hell do we ever get political parties, Låfftrax!? They're asking for free and fair elections.

LÅFFTRAX

Oh, gross.

CASPAR

They're asking for a neutral third party to observe the free and fair elections!

LÅFFTRAX

No, dude!

CASPAR

They are asking... for paid vacation.

LÅFFTRAX

Oh God!

CASPAR

That's right. A planet that you thought was going to be a cash cow has now become a cow that you can't eat and can't milk. You know what you call a cow that you can't eat and can't milk?

LÅFFTRAX

Nothing?

CASPAR

Nothing at all, Låfftrax. Just a big thing sitting there mooing. Annoying the shit out of you. You get all this from one planet. And you've just inherited millions of them. Millions of planets have gone from fearing you, to hating you. You used to be the most feared person in three galaxies and now? Now you're just the boss, telling everyone you can't afford Christmas bonuses this year. And you got all of this... because you won.

BERTBERT

Amazing.

GLORIA

It's like he's an artist and his canvas is misery.

LÅFFTRAX

Winning sucks.

CASPAR

It really does.

LÅFFTRAX

This restaurant is terrible.

CASPAR

Zero stars, for sure.

LÅFFTRAX

Well now what am I supposed to do?



CASPAR

Hear me out. See that big thing way out there?

LÅFFTRAX

It looks like wind chimes.

CASPAR

Yes. The Teds love that thing, Låfftrax. It's their baby. It's a top secret project that they've been working on for years. Let's blow it up.

LÅFFTRAX

I like blowing things up.

CASPAR

Who doesn't? I say you aim one of your big guns at that thing and really give The Teds a bad day.

LEIF

80 ton rail gun would do the trick.

CASPAR

80 ton rail gun? That sounds like a hum dinger.

LÅFFTRAX

Oooh. I never get to use the rail gun.

CASPAR

I'm getting excited just talking about it.

LÅFFTRAX

So if I blow that thing up, The Teds will hate it?

CASPAR

Oh yes.

LÅFFTRAX

Like, a LOT, hate it?

CASPAR

Absolutely.

LÅFFTRAX

... Look at you.

CASPAR

Me?

LÅFFTRAX

Let me tell you my favorite joke.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Aw, fuck.

LÅFFTRAX

Three beekeepers walk into a bar. The first beekeeper says, "I have one hundred thousand bees and ten hives." The second bee keeper says, "That's impressive, but I have five hundred thousand bees, and twenty hives." They turn to the third beekeeper and ask "How many bees do you have?". "Oh, me?", he says. "Well I have one million bees." "One million bees?" They say. "That is very impressive. How many hives do you have?" And the third beekeeper says to them. "I have one hive." "One hive?!" They say. "You have one million bees but only one hive?" And the third beekeeper says, "Yeah... fuck 'em."

LAUGHTER.

CASPAR

I don't-

LÅFFTRAX

I appreciate you trying to appeal to my common sense or whatever. That was fun. But here's the deal... I'm a Space Pirate, cupcake. And I don't give a shit. Leif gives me the boom boom box. This is not a negotiation.

RADIO BUZZING.

TED

And I'm back. FYI I can keep doing this, Effie.

EFFIE

Aw snails!

CASPAR

Ted, you can't keep this up forever.

TED

You're right, how about I speed things up with a boarding party!

TED BOTS CRASH DOWN IN THE DINER PARKING LOT.

TED (CONT'D)

You're being evicted, dickwads!

GLORIA

Oh shit!

LÅFFTRAX

That's cheating!

LEIF

Lock the doors!

CASPAR  
Ex?

THE EX  
Yeah, I got it, hang on.

DOOR CHIME.

THE EX (CONT'D)  
(Outside.)  
Aloha!

TEDBOT  
Do not move.

THE EX GOES TO TOWN ON THE BOTS, RIPPING THEM TO SHREDS.

GLORIA  
Whoa.

LEIF  
Oh my God.

AVA  
Heh. She's got that one in a headlock.

EFFIE  
This is very enjoyable.

ZEBULON  
She's using the leg of one to beat the other ones.

SHEL  
I like and am also scared of her.

DOOR CHIME.

THE EX  
Okay, we're good.

TED  
Wh... What the fuck was that? What the fuck just happened?

CASPAR  
It's kind of hard to explain, Ted. Suffice to say, it's important to always end your relationships responsibly so that everyone gets the closure they need.

TED  
What?

THE EX

You. Space Pirate. Enough is enough.

PLASMA GUN POWERING UP.

LÅFFTRAX

Whoa whoa whoa whoa, there.

GLORIA

Gun!

ZEBULON

Oh my!

LÅFFTRAX

Back it up, Lizzie Borden-bot.

THE EX

You know, whatever you're pointing at me probably can't kill me.

LÅFFTRAX

You come at me and I start killing your friends. Leif's the only one I need alive. Leif, am I a pretty good shot with this thing?

LEIF

You're the best.

LÅFFTRAX

That's right. I can even do those fancy no-look trick shots. Wanna see?

GLORIA

Nobody wants to see. We all believe you.

CASPAR

Ex, stand down.

LÅFFTRAX

I'm keeping my eye on you.

THE EX

Caspar, somebody has to do something.

CASPAR

I know. But nobody can. Ted, we've got a problem.

TED

I'm sorry, we? I don't actually have a problem.

CASPAR

Yes you do, Ted. You saw what just happened to your boarding party.

(MORE)

CASPAR (CONT'D)

That's going to happen to anyone who tries to get in here, because we have a secret weapon, hey Boo.

THE EX

Hey.

CASPAR

So you can't get in here, Låfftrax won't leave and your two ships are just sitting out there shooting at each other. Here we all are, Ted. Locked up in each other's bullshit. Nobody giving an inch, all of us getting nowhere. And we'll grind away like this, convincing ourselves that we're making progress but we'll always just be right here. Until we all stop caring all at the same time.

TED

Are you making a personal appeal right now?

CASPAR

Yes.

TED

To whom? Me? Do you think I have any choice in what's going on right now? Nobody makes choices in my world Buddy. The directives come through and we just do what we're told.

CASPAR

Ted if this goes on long enough, we're just going to jump away again. Then it starts again. You chasing us, us narrowly escaping. It could go on forever.

TED

No, it won't go on forever. It'll go like this: you keep running and we are always there, around every corner, slowly grinding you down. I don't care what kind of secret weapon you have, you'll all fuck up eventually. And we will pick you off one by one, until it's down to just you again, Caspar. And then we'll grab you too. And then it will just be an empty diner criss crossing the triad. And nobody will care. It won't be dramatic. It'll just be another thing decided for us. That's how this ends.

CASPAR

Even your malevolence is boring, Ted.

TED

Boring but effective. That's how we rule the cosmos. What'd you think? That this was some sort of final showdown? No such thing in my world. It all just keeps grinding on.

CASPAR

... These guys are the fucking worst.

GLORIA

Anybody have any other ideas?

LÅFFTRAX

Excuse me, waiter. Looks like we're going to be a while. I'd like to order.

THE EX

Leif, can your ship get me over to the Ted Ship.

LEIF

They'd see you coming.

THE EX

But there's a cloaking device right?

LEIF

The cloaking device is optical. They can still pick you up on scanners. You'd get blown out of the sky.

THE EX

I really don't like feeling helpless.

CASPAR

You wanted to learn about being human. Helplessness is really the first lesson.

LÅFFTRAX

Hello?

SHEL

Gloria, I'm going to go take Låfftrax's order.

GLORIA

Why?

SHEL

Nothing is working, maybe being nice will work.

GLORIA

Sure. Sure, okay.

CASPAR

We should try anything at this point.

SHEL

Okay.

BERTBERT

This is not a bad situation to be in, right? We're essentially in a stalemate with everyone. It beats the alternative.

CASPAR

The thought of having to run from the Teds for the rest of our lives sounds miserable.

BERTBERT

Yeah, well, welcome to The Triad, Buddy.

SHEL

Excuse me, Låfftrax, what would you like?

LÅFFTRAX

Hey, look at this, Baby Swamp Thing's trying to take my order.

LAUGHTER.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Every restaurant needs a gimmick.

LÅFFTRAX

Do they have to prune you back in the winter time?

SHEL

I don't know what that means.

LÅFFTRAX

"I don't know what that means." It's adorable! Look at you, I want to wrap a string of popcorn around you and put an angel on your head.

SHEL

Can I please take your order?

LÅFFTRAX

Alright, calm down there, you little Kebler Tree, what's good here?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Can't go wrong with the Monte Cristo.

LÅFFTRAX

Ooh. Sounds good. Two Monte Cristos please.

SHEL

Would you like coffee?

LÅFFTRAX

Well, sure. I hear the coffee is great here.

SHEL

Coming right up.

LÅFFTRAX

Should I not have ordered you a Monte Cristo? It's not going to be too hard on your arteries, is it old timer?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Would've been. Most of my arteries are gortex grafts at this point.

LÅFFTRAX

You know, I thought you'd had some work done. Where did you go?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Zakynat.

LÅFFTRAX

I hear they're great. I thought about getting a little nip and tuck here and there but I'm already such a Supertramp, right? How do you improve on perfection?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

So true.

LÅFFTRAX

We used to get around, you and I. You remember.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

I remember.

LÅFFTRAX

There was that bird lady. What was her name?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

B'jolanth.

LÅFFTRAX

She was a lot.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

I know.

LÅFFTRAX

You were with two Keets, at the same time, and didn't know it.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

They all look alike.



LÅFFTRAX

Then the one with the poofy tail.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Emma the Neko Queen.

BERTBERT

This is disgusting.

LEIF

I'm in hell.

LÅFFTRAX

She almost killed you, didn't she? With a lamp?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Yeah, but you can't blame her. She was a good person we just couldn't get on the same... frequency...

LÅFFTRAX

Uh oh. Did we lose him? Grampaw is the dementia kicking in?

LAUGHTER.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Excuse me for just one second boss.

LÅFFTRAX

Okay, come back soon, when I get bored I kill things.

COFFEE POURING.

EFFIE

Shel?

SHEL

Yes?

EFFIE

Why am I smelling a scheme on you right now?

SHEL

It's going to be fine.

THE EX

Are you having a good time yucking it up with the pirate holding us all hostage?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Sorry, am I impeding the incredible progress you're all making in our predicament?

CASPAR

You're not wrong.

SHEL

Here's you're coffee, Låfftrax.

LÅFFTRAX

Thanks, O, Tannenbaum.

LAUGHTER.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Hey, Doc. Mind if I have a seat?

AVA

Sure.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Good to see you again.

AVA

Are you making small talk with me while we're caught in the middle of a deep space naval battle?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

I'm shopping around for a theory.

CASPAR

Is it a theory that can get us out of this mess?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

I'm talking to my friend, here.

CASPAR

Jesus Christ.

AVA

Don't try and talk physics with me, Leif. You always embarrass yourself.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Time crystals. They can't be the power source for that thing out there.

AVA

No, they can't. Why is that Leif?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Because you can't gain any new energy from a time crystal.

AVA

That's right. And why is that?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Because then you would be creating new energy. And you can't create new energy in the universe, you can only move it from one place to another.

AVA

In a universe set to infinity, you can't add to infinity.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Making infinity, in its way, finite.

AVA

Well, look who's still sucking in oxygen. Why are we talking about this?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

I think I have, unfortunately, figured it out.

SHEL

Låfftrax?

LÅFFTRAX

You're hovering, there, Miracle Grow, I don't like it when people hover.

SHEL

Låfftrax, that big gun that Leif was talking about, I need you to point it at the other big thing out there, just like Caspar said.

LÅFFTRAX

Oh, is that what you need?

SHEL

Yes.

LÅFFTRAX

And what makes you think I'm going to-

SHEL

BECAUSEIJUSTPOISONEDYOU.

GHASPS.

GLORIA

...

LEIF

...

CASPAR

...

GLORIA  
What?

LEIF  
What?

AVA  
What?

LÅFFTRAX  
What the fuck did you just say to me?

SHEL  
I just... poisoned you. Your coffee was poisoned.

GLORIA  
Oh my god.

LÅFFTRAX  
Poisoned. With. What?

SHEL  
With me. I'm poisonous.

AVA  
What?

GLORIA  
What?

CASPAR  
Seriously?

SHEL  
At the bottom of your coffee cup you'll see a small  
piece of my outer carapace. It's poisonous.

COFFEE CUP BEING TURNED OVER.

LÅFFTRAX  
I feel fine.

SHEL  
Are you sure, you're sweating a lot.

LÅFFTRAX  
Shut up, I am not.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
You actually are, Boss.

LÅFFTRAX  
EVERYBODY SHUT UP.

SHEL  
Numbness will start in your extremities and slowly  
move to your heart, or hearts depending.

LÅFFTRAX  
Bullshit.

SHEL  
How are your hands feeling?

LÅFFTRAX  
...

LÅFFTRAX (CONT'D)  
You little mulch pellet!

TABLES KNOCKED OVER AS LÅFFTRAX LUNGES FOR SHEL.

SHEL  
Don't over exert yourself, your just going to speed  
up the poison!

LÅFFTRAX  
There's no way this hurts me MY LIVER IS THE SIZE  
OF A HAVALINA!

SHEL  
It can kill something the size of that ship in the  
parking lot... you don't have a lot of time, you have  
to do what I say.

AVA  
Dark fucking horse.

PLASMA GUN POWERING UP.

LÅFFTRAX  
I'm gonna kill you!

LEIF  
Oh fuck!

GLORIA  
Shel get behind me!

LÅFFTRAX  
Everybody out of the way, it's time for some  
herbicide!

SHEL  
If you shoot me you won't get the antidote!

GLORIA  
Shel, what the fuck!?

SHEL

I'm sorry, somebody had to do something!

LÅFFTRAX

Okay FINE! Everybody dies, then!

CASPAR

Ex!

SHOTS RING OUT, EVERYONE DUCKS FOR COVER.

THE EX

C'MERE!

LÅFFTRAX

WHOA! OOF!

A THUD AS THE EX PINS LÅFFTRAX TO THE GROUND.

THE EX

Now you stay down!

LÅFFTRAX

Get off me you TITANIUM HOOKER!

THE EX

Don't test me, I'll pop off your arms like a Ken Doll!

LÅFFTRAX

WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU PEOPLE!

AVA

We run a diner.

GLORIA

Shel!?

SHEL

Just trust me, okay?... Only a couple of minutes left, Låfftrax.

LÅFFTRAX

I hope you get eaten by beavers you little shrub demon!

SHEL

Leif, what is it called?

LEIF

80 ton rail gun.

SHEL  
Point your 80 ton rail gun at the big thing out there. It's the only way you live.

LÅFFTRAX  
... Fine. Antidote first!

SHEL  
Nope.

LÅFFTRAX  
Rrrrrrrrrrrrrfine!

SHEL  
How do they talk to the ship?

LEIF  
Communicator. Right front pocket.

SHEL  
Okay. Låfftrax, do I have permission to reach into your pocket?

LÅFFTRAX  
I'm going chop you up and put you in my closet to repel moths!

SHEL  
Taking that as a yes... okay.

COMMUNICATOR BEEPS.

SHEL (CONT'D)  
Talk.

LÅFFTRAX  
...Ryanabbi...

RYANABBI  
(In communicator.)  
Hey boss.

LÅFFTRAX  
Point the rail gun at that big thing out there and fire...

RYANABBI  
Gonna take a minute.

LÅFFTRAX  
I don't care, just do it!

RYANABBI  
Targeting now.

LÅFFTRAX

There. Now give me the fucking antidote.

SHEL

Okay. Don't let them up, okay?

THE EX

They're not going anywhere.

SHEL

I'm Shel, by the way.

THE EX

I'm Ex, it's nice to meet you.

SHEL

I'm sorry everyone was so rude to you earlier.

THE EX

You know, it's a lot of old business-

GLORIA

Shel!

SHEL

Sorry, Gloria I need your help making the antidote.

GLORIA

Fine.

EFFIE

I am rearranging my opinion of this strange lady,  
Dear.

ZEBULON

I do feel much safer.

THE EX

Thanks, Guys.

EFFIE

Don't push it, though.

THE EX

Oh, whatever.

SHEL

Get a really sharp knife.

LÅFFTRAX

Hurry up!

GLORIA

What am I doing with it?



SHEL  
Just get it.

GLORIA  
Okay.

RUMMAGING THROUGH KITCHEN KNIVES.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
Seriously, Shel? Poisonous?

SHEL  
Sorry. I wanted you all to like me.

GLORIA  
We all like Caspar, he's emotionally poisonous.

CASPAR  
Okay.

GLORIA  
I have a knife, what now?

SHEL  
I need you to cut into me a little bit.

GLORIA  
I don't want to do that.

SHEL  
It's okay.

GLORIA  
Isn't that going to hurt you?

SHEL  
Of course it's going to hurt me, you're cutting into me.

GLORIA  
I don't want to hurt you.

SHEL  
Not too deep, see on my side here, the skin is like bark, right? I need you to pry it open a little.

GLORIA  
Oh god.

SHEL  
It'll heal. It's like Proverbs 27, right Zeb?  
"Wounds from a sincere friend are better than kisses from an enemy."

ZEBULON

That's right, Shel.

GLORIA

Okay. Okay. Oh god oh god oh god okay.

SHEL'S SKIN CRACKS LIKE THE BARK OF A TREE.

SHEL

Owowowowowowowow-

GLORIA

I'm sorry!

SHEL

It's okay, it's okay-

GLORIA

What do I do now?

SHEL

See that white fuzzy stuff?

GLORIA

Yeah.

SHEL

That's it. Grab a little bit.

GLORIA

Okay, I've got it.

SHEL

Okay, you can take the knife out.

GLORIA

Okay, I'm taking it out.

SHEL

OW!

GLORIA

I'm sorry again!

SHEL

It's okay.

GLORIA

What now?

SHEL

Låfftrax has to eat it.

LÅFFTRAX

Gimmie it!

GLORIA

Okay. Don't let them up yet.

THE EX

I won't.

GLORIA

Open your mouth.

LÅFFTRAX

Ahhhhhhh. Ooof! Oh that tastes like ashtray water!

GLORIA

Keep chewing! Leif, make sure the pirate ship is doing what it's supposed to.

LEIF

Let's watch some fucking fireworks, y'all. Everyone outside.

DOOR CHIME.

GLORIA

Bring the pirate outside.

THE EX

Up we go!

LÅFFTRAX

Ow! Hey! Can I have my gun back?

THE EX

Absolutely not.

SHEL

C'mon Mucklewains. We might actually be out of the woods.

ZEBULON

That was quite a brave thing you did, Shel.

SHEL

I know, right? It was kind of biblical, huh? A wound in my side and everything.

DOOR CHIME THEN SILENCE.

AVA

You don't look happy.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
No.

AVA  
Tell me.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
The reason it looks like wind chimes is because it's constantly borrowing and giving back energy from different vibrational states. It creates a current from energy flowing back and forth between several universes at once.

AVA  
And that energy flows through the time crystals. Creating a field across three galaxies.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
Somehow. But here's the kicker-

AVA  
If your particles aren't vibrating at the same frequency as the wind chimes, you can't interact with it.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
It'll be like a ghost. Nothing can touch it.

AVA  
The rail gun is going to shoot straight through it like it's not even there.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
Correct.

AVA  
Why didn't you say anything?

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
What if I'm wrong?

AVA  
You're not wrong.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
No. I'm not.

AVA  
... So we're screwed.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
It's good to see you again, Doc. You know, I've seen a lot of things.

(MORE)

EVEN OLDER LEIF (CONT'D)

Never saw a man crawl across three galaxies just to say he's sorry. For what it's worth.

AVA

Leif, where are you going?

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Showtime.

DOOR CHIME. SOUND OF THE SPACE BATTLE INTENSIFIES.

RYANABBI

Targeting engaged. Loading R1.

LEIF

See it there. You can see it turning.

CASPAR

Jesus, its the size of the Brooklyn Bridge.

GLORIA

That's going to shoot something?

LEIF

Super-heated plasma, void torpedos, Purple Nullifiers, they're all great. But in the end nothing comes close to a huge rail launching a 80 ton hunk of metal at something else.

BERTBERT

Shouldn't they be shooting that at The Teds?

LEIF

Too slow. You can't shoot it at something that can get out of the way. It's a city killer.

BERTBERT

You've really kept the worst company, you know that?

GLORIA

Hey. He's gotten better.

RYANABBI

Target locked.

LEIF

Here we go. Eat shit, Teds.

RYANABBI

Launching in 3, 2, 1, projectile away.

LEIF

C'mon, c'mon, c'mon...

LEIF (CONT'D)

...

CASPAR

...

GLORIA

...

BERTBERT

Why isn't anything happening?

LÅFFTRAX

Did you fucking idiots miss?

RYANABBI

No, boss. Targeting was right on. Projectile passed right through it.

LÅFFTRAX

Passed through it?

LEIF

How's that possible?

AVA

We can't touch it.

GLORIA

What? Why?

TED

(In the radio.)

Hey guys. whatcha up to? Did you somehow get Låfftrax to fire their rail gun at my wind chimes? how'd it go? Are you winning the battle?

AVA

It cycles between vibrational states. We can't touch it because it only exists in our universe in random intervals.

LEIF

Thats impossible.

AVA

That's how it generates energy. Do the math, Leif.

LÅFFTRAX

This place sucks. Fuck you people and your math. Ryanabbi, beam me the fuck up and let's get out of here. I hate this place. Let's go pillage something.

BOOOOOOOOOOOOO.

LÄFFTRAX BEAMS UP.

GLORIA

Were you going to tell us this?

AVA

I didn't know. Even Older Leif just told me.

CASPAR

The pirate ship is leaving. There goes our cover.

TED

Hey Caspar, quick question. Was trying to work with pirates your WORST idea yet, or was it just maybe top five?

CASPAR

Well at least we'll be reunited once again old pal.

TED

I'm going to freeze you in a block of ice and put you in my quarters like a taxidermied elk you fucking chimp. Prepare to be boarded, Midnight Burger.

THE EX

I'm going to eat all your bots alive, Ted.

TED

Yeah, I don't know who you are lady, but there's one of you and I've got 500 bots. Let's see what happens.

LEIF

Where's Leif?

THRUSTERS OF THE NANCY SINATRA FIRE UP AND TAKE OFF.

GLORIA

Where's he going?

THE EX

Is he leaving us?

AVA

No.

TED

Hey, hey, hey. Who's trying to escape? Are you kidding me? Would you prefer I shoot you down or hit you with the tractor beam? I'm on the fence.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
(On the radio.)  
Hell, why not both?

TED  
Who is this?

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
This is Leif.

LEIF  
Leif, what are you doing?

TED  
Well then who the fuck is that?

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
That's also Leif.

TED  
Oh whatever, I'm so sick of this shit. Whoever you  
are surrender your vessel or be destroyed.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
Sorry, pal. I've got a date with your contraption  
out there.

TED  
Oh, this is heroism? That's adorable. Buddy, didn't  
you just watch an 80 ton projectile pass through my  
contraption.

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
Nothing's untouchable, Tediots. Especially not to a  
guy who knows how to get his drive core to mimic a  
vibrational pattern.

TED  
Wait, what?

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
Let's pause while I analyze your vibrational  
oscillations and you slowly realize how I'm about  
to blow your shit up.

LEIF  
Leif, what are you doing?

EVEN OLDER LEIF  
You know what I'm doing, kiddo.

LEIF  
Oscillations like that are going to irradiate your  
entire ship.



EVEN OLDER LEIF

Not really thinking in the long term right now.

CASPAR

What is he doing?

LEIF

Leif, this isn't the way, we can figure something else out.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Hey, relax. If I'm being honest, all I've been doing these days is looking for a fancy exit. This one's as good as they come.

TED

Shoot him down. SHOOT HIM DOWN RIGHT NOW.

THE TEDNOUGHT OPENS FIRE ON THE NANCY SINATRA.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Not very good at shooting small targets are you?

TED

Fire everything! Are we firing everything?

SEVERAL EXPLOSIONS ARE HEARD OVER THE RADIO.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Sure could use a prayer right now Mucklewains.

EFFIE

Ephesians, dear.

ZEBULON

Take my hand... Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness in this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places!

STATIC CRACKLES IN THE RADIO AND THE TEDNOUGHT STOPS FIRING.

SONG: WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS BY THE CRITERION QUARTET.

TED

What the hells happening? What is that music? WHY AREN'T WE FIRING!?!

EVEN OLDER LEIF

Well would you look at that.

EFFIE

The path is clear, old man. Godspeed.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

I'll be damned. Saved by the power of Jesus. How's that for some fucking irony.

CASPAR

Leif, what is he doing?

LEIF

He's going to ram it.

CASPAR

I thought we couldn't touch it.

LEIF

He's overcharging his core and using the excess energy to alter his vibrational pattern. If he matches the vibrational pattern of the wind chimes then it's just as vulnerable as anything else.

AVA

It's brilliant.

LEIF

Leif, we could've talked about this.

EVEN OLDER LEIF

No time, Buster. Listen close... this is going to be your speech someday... I am Leif... I live forever in every moment I've existed... I swear to every star in the cosmos... I never forgot it was a gift... not for one second...

EVEN OLDER LEIF CUTS OUT. ALARMS BLARING ON THE TEDNOUGHT. A MASSIVE EXPLOSION RUSHES OUTWARD.

TED

Oh fuck. Oh FUCK! ALL POWER TO THE SHEILDS RIGHT-

THE TEDNOUGHT CUTS OUT.

CASPAR

He saved us.

GLORIA

We're free.

BERTBERT

Leif. Are you okay?

LEIF

...Debris field.

BERTBERT  
What?

LEIF  
Debris field. There's going to be a debris field.  
Everybody needs to get inside right now.

CASPAR  
Okay, let's go everybody, inside.

DOOR CHIME.

SHEL  
What's happening?

GLORIA  
We need to get to a safe place.

SHEL  
We'll be safe in here?

LEIF  
I know the diner's been through a lot, but  
everybody get under a booth, just to be safe, I  
don't know what's coming at us right now.

GLORIA  
Shel, under here.

SHEL  
Okay.

LEIF  
We'll be fine... we'll be fine...

BERTBERT  
Leif, you too. Get down.

LEIF  
Yeah, okay.

ATOMIZED DEBRIS BEGINS TO HIT THE DINER LIKE LARGER AND  
LARGER HAILSTONES.

CASPAR  
...Hi.

AVA  
...Hi.

THE HAIL OF DEBRIS IS DEAFENING AND THEN FADES OUT.

THE END.