

ZAK & NATE

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Sci-Fi Short

EXT. PERFECT PLANET - DOME - NIGHT

Bionic insects swarm around the helmet of CAPTAIN ZAK, mid 40s, charming and athletic, who discards trash in a dumpster.

NATHANIEL, 18, strong and full of life, moseys from the dome and hands his superior a makeshift door stopper.

NATHANIEL

Captain, I was on my way to my quarters when I saw that you had dropped this piece of trash on your way out. I am much happy to assist.

Captain Zak snatches the metal scrap from Nathaniel's hand.

CAPTAIN ZAK

What's your name?

NATHANIEL

Nathaniel, Captain.

CAPTAIN ZAK

Are you new here, Nathaniel? You must be one of Captain Durk's.

NATHANIEL

Yes, Captain, I am. This is my first official day. During instructions, I recall you telling the cohorts to lend a helping hand whenever possible. I hope this has pleased you, Captain.

Captain Zak slams the metal scrap on the ground between him and his inferior. Nathaniel jumps back.

NATHANIEL (CONT'D)

Is there something wrong, Captain?

CAPTAIN ZAK

Look to the door then to your feet.

NATHANIEL

Captain, I afraid I'm lost.

CAPTAIN ZAK

I see. How the hell are we supposed to get back in now, you nitwit!

The Captain's volume scares away some of the bugs.

NATHANIEL

But, Captain, you have a key.

Captain Zak pictures leaving his key at home.

NATHANIEL (CONT'D)

You don't have your key, Captain?

CAPTAIN ZAK

Look, I was in a rush getting ready this morning, my alarm didn't go off when it was supposed to, I ripped my favorite space suit...

NATHANIEL

I know I may not be the smartest asteroid in the galaxy, but I do have enough sense to remember my dome key on trash day.

Nathaniel kicks the metal scrap aside.

CAPTAIN ZAK

Our of order, soldier! Let me radio Durk now.

Captain Zak reaches for a radio-less clip on his shoulder.

NATHANIEL

Wow. That too?

CAPTAIN ZAK

Nathaniel, now you are completely out of line. I am still a Captain so I deserve respect!

NATHANIEL

I also recall from instructions that you do not make excuses. For anything. And calling someone a name for making a small mistake, specifically in your position, deserves no respect.

They both stare at each other.

CAPTAIN ZAK

The only other way to get back in is walking to the front.

Nathaniel picks up the metal scrap, tosses it in the dumpster and storms off around the right side of the dome. Captain Zak sulks around the left.

FADE TO BLACK.