

T H E M A N W I T H T H E R O C K E T S H O E S

animated feature film

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1EXT. DEEP SPACE

Pan from star speckled blackness to an ominous looking space object. It is black with some markings on it and what look like they might be huge deadly ray guns protruding from it. Suddenly it explodes. There is tremendous cheering. Pan over to a rocket ship which apparently destroyed the space object. It displays a flag with Ernest's colours. This is the source of the cheers as some dangerous thing has been destroyed by Ernest.

2INT. ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP

The rocket ship is filled with smoke and debris, but Juke is hustling around quickly cleaning up. Ernest enters the ship from outside via an air lock. He appears large and powerful, back lit through the smoky haze. He has a globular glass space helmet on and a ray gun in his hand. He removes his helmet. A formally dressed diplomat grovels before Ernest and presents to him an honorary award, a statuette of a two and a half mooned planet which was just saved in thanks for saving it.

DIPLOMAT

Oh sir! We are deeply indebted to you. Tell me please, I beseech you, who are you that has done my planet this service?

Ernest turns to the diplomat and smiles with a twinkle in his eye.

ERNEST

No sir, the knowledge that I have purged the universe of one more wrong doer is reward enough. I am just a mortal

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

person, like any
2INT. ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP - CONTINUED

ERNEST (CONTINUED)
other, well maybe I'm a bit bigger and stronger
and definitely possessing more than
my fair share of courage and charm,
but my name does not matter. If they
ask who it was whom they owe their
undying gratitude, just tell them
all it was...

Music rises, Ernest is nearly shouting.

ERNEST
'The Man With The Rocket Shoes'.

3OPENING CREDITS

A man with a glass helmet and flames bursting from the bottoms of
his boots zooms across the screen, leaving the lines of
credits in dust clouds in his wake.

4DEEP SPACE: BERTRAND'S ROCKET SHIP, INT

Bertrand's ship is dark and gloomy, lit sparingly with red
lights. Bertrand appears grim as Punchy enters.

PUNCHY
Master Bertrand Sir; I'm afraid plan 'B' has uh,
failed. The killer drone was
destroyed. I told you it wouldn't
work...

BERTRAND
SHUT UP! ... What about plan 'C'?

PUNCHY
Mission accomplished sir. The listening device is
planted firmly in the statuette.

BERTRAND
Good, Good. He cannot escape me this time. The guy
with the rotten shoes...Haw! What a
nitwit. It's my turn Ernest, it's
my turn. Punchy! Warm up the
engines. We have a hero to kill.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

4DEEP SPACE: BERTRAND'S ROCKET SHIP, INT - CONTINUED

Bertrand smiles evilly to himself. The engines whine as they warm and the clanking of a hammer on an anvil begins. Bertrand strides by Punchy (who is striking an anvil with a metal hammer) on his way to the cockpit. He laughs as they speed away through space.

5MOTHER EARTH; CITY OF PROMETHIUS; HOME OF MS FLOGWAFFLE

Fey Beth is in an extravagantly decorated home where she has been hired for a job.

FEY BETH

I'll have to come back in a couple weeks to check on the robot's progress, Ms Flogwaffle but I think everything should be just as you wanted it.

MS FLOGWAFFLE

So you're sure it'll be nicer to the children. It was always so cold.

FEY BETH

That's a common complaint but I think you'll be quite pleased. It will now make goo goo noises, spontaneously play peek-a-boo and just be much nicer.

Fritz is wandering around looking at the paintings on the walls, blowing dust off them and smirking at them as he passes.

FRITZ

That's a wonderful duplication of a Ranswitch. Too bad the original was so mediocre.

MS FLOGWAFFLE

Ahem. That happens to BE the original.

Fey Beth casts a dirty look at Fritz and he drags himself back to her side.

5CITY OF PROMETHIUS; HOME OF MS FLOGWAFFLE - CONTINUED

FRITZ

Oh, I'm sorry. I hope you didn't pay too much for it.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

FEY BETH

My apologies Ms Flogwaffle, good help is so hard
to find.

MS FLOGWAFFLE

Oh don't worry about it dear. Last year I hired a
chauffeur who came to work with a
hole in his sock. It took me over a
month to find a replacement.

FEY BETH

Yes, well now you have a robot who will be like
one of the family.

MS FLOGWAFFLE

(smiling broadly)

Just like in the radio dramas.

6SPACE; ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP

Juke is playing with the bugged award as he and Ernest have a
conversation

ERNEST

So, Juke, lay in the new course.

Juke

Where to this time Ernest.

ERNEST

To where evil and badness lurks, to where planets
are in jeopardy of colliding, to
where the good and the true at
heart live in fear of having their
homestead foreclosed on by bankers
with bad facial hair, to where
children cannot cross the street
without looking both ways, to where
a hero like me is needed.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

6SPACE; ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP - CONTINUED

Juke hits a few keys on his computer pad (which has no visible keys but seems to respond to his touch). In a moment he looks up at Ernest.

Juke

Nope, none of those around.

ERNEST

OK, let's go home.

7SPACE; ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP

The rocket ship speeds off through space.

8MOTHER EARTH; HALLWAY OUTSIDE MS FLOGWAFFLE'S

Fey Beth and Fritz are walking quickly away through and out of the building. Fey Beth is striding in anger, Fritz is keeping up easily. The street is a bit dark but they do not pay attention to any potential hazards. Frayed posters are plastered across the walls displaying slogans such as 'Free Yourself From Your Robot Captors' and 'Put The Robots Back In Their Place' and 'Don't Be A Slave To The Steel Atrocity'. The posters are signed with a stylized red 'D' at the bottom.

FEY BETH

Fritz, Fritz, FRITZ! What was that all about?

FRITZ

You know how I can't stand 28th century art.

Fey Beth comes to an immediate stop and turns to stare face to face at Fritz.

FEY BETH

You offend one of my richest clients and that's all you have to say?

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

8MOTHER EARTH; HALLWAY OUTSIDE MS FLOGWAFFLE'S - CONTINUED

FRITZ

She'll still hire you again. She has another
twenty robots, all with no more
personality than a peak freen.
You're the best, she knows it.

Fey Beth's expression eases slightly.

FEY BETH

What am I going to do with you?

FRITZ

Reprogram me. Have me disassembled.

Fey Beth cracks a smile.

FEY BETH

Don't tempt me, I might just do it.

FRITZ

I know you won't tamper with perfection.

Fey Beth and Fritz both laugh and continue walking leisurely
away.

9SPACE; BERTRAND'S ROCKET SHIP, INT

Bertrand seems to be in his glory as he listens in on Ernest's
conversations via a small earplug wired into the flickering
dash of the cockpit on his rocket ship. However, there is a
lot of interference in the signal.

SIGNAL-ERNEST

czzzzcczz..homestead foreclosed on...czzzcczz

BERTRAND

Yeah, throw the bums out, HAHAHAAHAHA

SIGNAL-ERNEST

cczzccczz..look both ways before...ccczczczc

9SPACE; BERTRAND'S ROCKET SHIP, INT - CONTINUED

BERTRAND

I pick my nose at your speeding violations Come

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and get me copper.

SIGNAL-ERNEST

czcczzzzc.. a hero like me... cczzzzccccczzzz

BERTRAND

Hero? Heeheehee. You're just stupid. Stupid stupid
stupid.

SIGNAL-ERNEST

czcczzzzc..let's go home... cczzzzccccczzzz

BERTRAND

That's it, set course for Mother Earth.

PUNCHY

Aye, aye master sir.

BERTRAND

And take the short cut through Cthuhu's triangle.
On the double dummy. And may the
wind be ever at our backs and
hasten our most rapid journey to
victory.

PUNCHY

Of course you know there's no wind in space.

BERTRAND

SHUT UP!

10SPACE; BERTRAND'S ROCKET SHIP; EXT

The rocket ship speeds off.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

11SPACE; ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP; INT

Juke casually places the bugged award down on the edge of a console.

Juke

If you won't be needing me, I'll be in the back continuing my vigilant watch for ner-do-wells.

ERNEST

Okey Dokey.

Juke exits the cockpit and goes into a cozy alcove in the rear of the rocket ship. He sits down, opens a secret drawer and pulls out a tattered old book of Shakespearean plays. He seems quite happy and relaxed to sit back with this book, an obvious relic from the forgotten past. After reading for a few moments, he seems to strike upon an idea. He turns the computer on verbally.

Juke

Computer, search for name Rosencrantz.

COMPUTER

Completed. twenty eight million, four hundred and sixty two thousand, five hundred and twelve entries found.

Juke

Yeegs. Um, search for...

Juke hesitates for a moment, as if searching for some long lost memory.

Juke

Gild... uh... Gildenstern.

COMPUTER

Completed, seventy nine entries found.

Juke

How many of those are living persons?

COMPUTER

None.

11SPACE; ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP; INT - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Juke

None?

COMPUTER

Sixty five within titles of entertainment programs; six as names of Mother Earth based ocean ships, all destroyed prior to 2900; two as names of rocket ships, both destroyed by pirates in 2927 and 2951; five persons, dead one person, missing, assumed dead.

Juke

Put up the file for the missing Gildenstern.

On the screen appears a picture of a twelve year old girl; Gildenstern Migitigan. The picture shows her with her family, posed in a vacation photo. Juke's hands glide over his control pad and the photo zooms in on Gildenstern's face. Juke stares at it for a long moment before allowing his hands to return to the controls. He scans through the information until he finally finds what he is looking for, a young human female by the name Fey Beth Migitigan. She has been searching for this Gildenstern who is her sister but has been missing since she ran away while on an off planet vacation twelve years before. Juke alters the statements which say Gildenstern was assumed missing and replaces it with a declaration that Gildenstern is the patron saint of faster than light space travel.

Juke

(mumbles to himself)

And what do we have on this obsessive sister and her vigilant search. Hmmm, not even a criminal record. I have a feeling she'll need one.

Juke inputs some more information into Fey Beth's file. Suddenly Ernest enters, surprising Juke who attempts to hide his book, though Ernest doesn't notice it. After kicking the drawer containing the book shut, Juke turns excitedly to Ernest.

11SPACE; ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP; INT - CONTINUED

Juke

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Great news Ernest, I finally found her.

ERNEST

That's great! We've been looking for him for a long time.

Juke

I told you I could find anything with this handy dandy device.

ERNEST

Excellent, excellent...uh, who did you find?

Juke stands in honour of the name he is about to speak.

Juke

Gildenstern, the prophet of Denmark, the patron saint of faster than light rocket ships and holder of the legendary black box of truth.

ERNEST

Oh, wow. So, when can I meet her?

Juke wanders out of the crowded cubicle and into the larger area of the ship.

Juke

Hmmm. I didn't find her per say. It seems that her sister has been living right smack dab in downtown Prometheus. She apparently denies any knowledge of her whereabouts but I'm sure with a flash of those pearly white teeth and big blue eyes of yours, well, you know.

ERNEST

Yeah, I know...uh, what's that I know?

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

11SPACE; ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP; INT - CONTINUED

Juke

Don't you ever listen to radio dramas. Of course she'll fall in love with you, tell you everything you know, and then you can be Gildenstern's right hand man.

ERNEST

No, that wouldn't happen...would it?

Juke looks over at Ernest. Ernest smiles and blushes. Juke roles his eyes and leans on the console where the award is resting precariously.

ERNEST

Are you sure this all true?

Juke

Of course; computers don't lie.

Juke hold out as evidence a paper read out of the file. Ernest takes the paper but only casually looks at it. Juke leans back further, his face drawing even closer to the statue.

Juke

Her name is Fey Beth, the records show she is a fabulous robot resynapser, perhaps even the best.

Juke leans further and the statue slides off the console and plummets to the floor and shatters.

12SPACE: BERTRAND'S SHIP

Bertrand jumps back and yelps at the sound of the bug hitting the floor. He pulls the earplug from his ear and throws it on the floor.

BERTRAND

So, you pride yourself in being a ladies man do you? Well you may be the most charming and the most daring and the most gallant, but I'm better than most. They say all

12SPACE: BERTRAND'S SHIP - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

BERTRAND (CONTINUED)

is fair in love and war, but you should know by
now, I never play fair.

Bertrand paces around his rocket ship, Punchy is tirelessly
beating on an anvil, giving the impression that this is some
kind of slave ship.

BERTRAND

It is a wonderful plan isn't it Punchy?

PUNCHY

Oh yes master Bertrand, yes.

BERTRAND

First, I will humiliate him, I will steal his
girl, mock his clothing and make
him the laughing stock of the
entire galactic empire. Then...then
I'll make him really sorry.

PUNCHY

Truly a most wonderful plan oh dastardly one.

BERTRAND

I am the greatest criminal genius ever to pilot my
own eight cylinder rocket ship.

PUNCHY

Oh yes master Bertrand, without a doubt.

BERTRAND

Then let's seize the moment; Punchy! Increase
speed to warp twelve.

PUNCHY

Yes master.

Punchy slowly rises to his feet, drags himself with seemingly the
greatest of effort over to the other side of

12SPACE: BERTRAND'S SHIP - CONTINUED

the room where he pushes one button, all under the close scrutiny
of Bertrand. Punchy then returns to his seat and resumes his
rhythmic beating. Bertrand sits down in the pilot's chair
and humms to himself as he steers the rocket ship through
space.

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13PROMETHIUS; FEY BETH'S APARTMENT

Fey Beth enters her apartment after an exhausting day. She drops herself into a large chair and puts her feet up. Fritz enters carrying a beverage on a platter and a small package under his arm. She smiles at him as she picks up the beverage.

FEY BETH

Oh Fritz, you're wonderful.

FRITZ

Yes, I know. And here, your new business cards have arrived.

Fey Beth takes the package and tears the wrapping off it. She smiles with a small amount of excitement. Fritz sits down on another chair similar to the one Fey Beth is on. He puts his feet up on the coffee table with a thud, he is casual but always a bit more stiff than Fey Beth. Fey Beth draws a paper card out of the box full of them, looks at it and hands it to Fritz. It reads: "Fey Beth Migitigan: Resynapser. For all your robotic programming and personality adjustment needs" and an address.

FEY BETH

Oh I like them.

FRITZ

Old fashioned paper, very chic. Oh, and there is something else. I ran across something strange today. I can't determine if it was anything much but...

FEY BETH (excited)

About my sister?! After all these years!

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

13PROMETHIUS; FEY BETH'S APARTMENT - CONTINUED

FRITZ

Now I believe it would be unwise for me to even bring this up, considering that within the 23 trillion people populating the galaxy, the likelihood of me, even with my most exceptional skills as a detective, to find your sister after her disappearance fifteen years ago, is notoriously small. I should not distress you by raising any sort of false expectations about this dream you have of being reunited with her. It is only that you have given me such drastic instructions to report anything I find that...

FEY BETH

Talk or I'll have you recycled into a new bumper for my rocket car!

FRITZ

Having seen you drive, I will proceed. There was somebody else looking for her.

FEY BETH

What!!!

FRITZ

Someone accessed the Mother Earth, and it seems almost every other computer network for her name.

FEY BETH

Are you sure it wasn't just a random survey or something?

FRITZ

It was a scrambled thin beam transmission from deep space. And that's not all. I didn't have time to find out what they were doing, but I took a look at his file again after this all happened, to perhaps remind myself of why anyone else would be looking for her.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

13PROMETHIUS; FEY BETH'S APARTMENT - CONTINUED

FEY BETH

Yeah, and all the file says is her birthdate, hair colour and how she was under my care on one of those savage outer worlds, she got lost and was never seen or heard from again.

FRITZ

It seems the file has been updated.

Fey Beth stares at Fritz with a stunned, almost terrified look of disbelief. There is a chilly silence as Fey Beth struggles to speak. Fritz rises to his feet and begins to pace.

FEY BETH

What...does it...say?

FRITZ

Have you ever heard of the Black Box of Truth?

FEY BETH

..truth...no.

FRITZ

It is an object around which a few obscure space legends revolve. They say the possessor of it can see all of the darkness within a person's soul. The few scarce stories associated with it are all variations of the same theme. The person who is holding it tries to help people but soon discovers that the truth cannot be so easily controlled after it is summoned. All of the stories seem to hinge on high levels of irony and coincidence.

FEY BETH

And...?

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13PROMETHIUS; FEY BETH'S APARTMENT - CONTINUED

FRITZ

And...she has it. The file says that your sister
has the Black Box of Truth.

Fey Beth slumps back in her chair. She stares over at Fritz,
blinking and waiting for this new information to make sense.

FRITZ

That was about all. There was no indication of
where she might be or who made
these changes.

Fey Beth stands back up, a small smile appears on her face, her
mind reeling with ideas.

FEY BETH

Go downstairs and get me some food and cancel all
my appointments for the next two
days. We're going to be busy.

Fritz smiles as he sees Fey Beth's eyes ignite into a fiery
intensity. He exits. Fey Beth picks up a framed picture
which is sitting alone on a shelf. It shows her and her
brother, ages 15 and 12 respectively, posing in front of a
cave man museum exhibit.

FEY BETH

It might as well have been the stone age. It might
as well have been yesterday. I'm
sorry Gil, I will never forget.

14SPACE: BERTRAND'S SHIP

Bertrand, his hands in his pockets, paces around his rocket ship
impatiently. Punchy is still sitting at the anvil, but only
hits it ever five or ten seconds.

BERTRAND

When will be get there?

PUNCHY

Two more hours.

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14SPACE: BERTRAND'S SHIP - CONTINUED

Bertrand grimaces and walks to a rear compartment of the rocket ship. He sits down, turns his head and looks over at the stereo system in the far wall.

BERTRAND

Music - On.

The music comes on quietly. Bertrand listens for a moment and decides he likes the song.

BERTRAND

Music - louder.

The volume increases on Bertrand's command. Bertrand listens for 30 seconds and is still not completely satisfied.

BERTRAND

Music - louder.

The volume increases again and is now very loud. Bertrand leans back and enjoys. After a moment, Punchy approaches and tries to say something but Bertrand can't hear him over the music.

BERTRAND

Music - off.

There is no change in the volume as the music is too loud for Bertrand's voice to be heard. Bertrand yells:

BERTRAND

MUSIC - OFF!!!

Still, there is no change. Bertrand stands up, walks over to the stereo, yelling as he walks until at last he is yelling inches away from the stereo.

BERTRAND

MUSIC - OFF!!! OFF!!! OFF!!! SHUT UP!!! SHUT UP!!!

Bertrand pulls out his ray gun and shoots the stereo. Smoke and flames billow out. The music fades. Bertrand stares at it angrily, every muscle tense. Punchy walks up behind him.

BERTRAND

What have you got?

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

14SPACE: BERTRAND'S SHIP - CONTINUED

PUNCHY

I've spotted Ernest on the scanner. We'll arrive
on Mother Earth five minutes before
him.

BERTRAND

Excellent, excellent. I'd better go put on some
cologne, love is in the air.

Bertrand exits the compartment as mechanised devices protrude
from the walls and ceiling and begin putting out the fire
and cleaning up.

15PROMETHIUS; FEY BETH'S APARTMENT

Fey Beth is sorting through some papers. She is drawn to the door
by a heavy knock. Thinking it is Fritz, walks over and opens
it. Standing in front of her instead were the police; two
human and two robots.

HUMAN OFFICER I

Are you Fey Beth Migitigan?

FEY BETH

Yes.

HUMAN OFFICER II

We are here to place you under arrest. You are in
violation of your parole and for
being an illegal immigrant. Come
with us please.

FEY BETH

What? You've got the wrong gal, pal. I've never
been arrested and I was born here
in Promethius. I have I.D. to
prove...

Human officer I looks at his hand computer display, reading
Fey Beth's record.

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15PROMETHIUS; FEY BETH'S APARTMENT - CONTINUED

HUMAN OFFICER I

I.D. That's child's play for you...Fey Beth
Migitigan, alias; Blueprinting
Bethy, master forger and
counterfeiter.

FEY BETH

And here are my business cards.

HUMAN OFFICER I

Real paper, very chic, but you are still going to
come with us uptown.

The human officers indicate to the robots to take Fey Beth's arms
and escort her out. She struggles and kicks a stool over as
the five of them leave the apartment.

16STREET WAY

Fey Beth is led out of the building to where a police vehicle is
parked. She struggles more, gets one hand free and claws one
of the human officers.

HUMAN OFFICER I

Just put her in the back with the robots. I don't
need this kind of abuse today.

Fey Beth is put into the back of the police vehicle. The robots
sit on either side of her, the humans behind glass in front.
She glares back and forth at the robots, rage and anger in
her eyes. She is yelling all through the incident.

FEY BETH

I don't have to take this from you! I'm a citizen!
I have my rights! You can't stick
me back here with these dumb
robots! I want my lawyer! You scum!
You ugly no good scum! I'm going
to...

When she notices the humans are no longer looking back at her
from behind the sound proof barricade, she calms and a very
slight grin appears on her face.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

17FEY BETH'S APARTMENT

Fritz returns and find signs of the struggle. He sees that the computer is still on and Fey Beth's valued files are lying around loose. He looks concerned and exits.

18STREET - POLICE VEHICLE

Fey Beth begins talking to the robots without the humans in the front being able to hear.

FEY BETH

Officer, what is your make and model number?

ROBOT OFFICER I

That is classified information. You are under arrest.

FEY BETH

Index two, eight, three point six nine.
Maintenance program 'P'. Officer,
what is your make and model number?

ROBOT OFFICER I

I am a type seven, Haskin series five oh four.

FEY BETH

Good, now listen carefully, open personality
access channel zero to negative
nine point nine nine, nine, nine.
Prepare to receive new programming.

The robots listen intently, twitching periodically, as Fey Beth talks to them. From the front seat, the officers can hear none of this and are unsuspecting.

HUMAN OFFICER II

What would she be talking about back there?

HUMAN OFFICER I

Ah, she's crazy. Wouldn't be surprised if she talks to her vacumaids at home.

Both human officers laugh.

19FEY BETH'S APARTMENT

Bertrand bursts through the door, a box of candy in one hand, a bunch of flowers in the other. With his arms outstretched,

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he announces himself very theatrically to the empty room.

BERTRAND

I am Bertrand, Conqueror and Adventurer. My quest
for love has spanned the known
universe and has brought me here
to....you?

Bertrand notices that there is no one in front of him. With a
stunned expression on his face, his arms drop to his side.
He looks around and sees the chaos of the room.

BERTRAND

Heck.

Bertrand turns slowly and exits.

20STREET - POLICE VEHICLE

Suddenly the police vehicle comes nose to nose with Ernest rocket
ship which has swooped down and is hovering in front of
them. The police vehicle screeches to a stop. The human
officers are startled. One of the robots opens the door for
Fey Beth and she jumps out and begins running away from both
the police and the rocket ship. Ernest leaps to the ground
and rushes the police vehicle. The police get out of the
vehicle, ready to confront Ernest so don't notice for a
couple seconds that Fey Beth has escaped.

HUMAN OFFICER I

Stop! Come back here! Robot units, chase her!
Don't let her escape!

Ernest rushes by, pushes the police aside, knocking Officer I
over, and follows Fey Beth. Officer II fires a few shots
with his ray gun at Ernest and Fey Beth as they flee. He
does not hit them. The robots slowly climb out of the
vehicle and stand over officer I.

HUMAN OFFICER I

Don't just stand there, get after them!

The robots, though their faces are metallic and ridged, seem to
smile.

20STREET - POLICE VEHICLE - CONTINUED

ROBOT OFFICER I

Peace man, save your strength. Don't panic

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

ROBOT OFFICER II

Like, chill out and stay awhile. No kidding.

ROBOT OFFICER I

Slow but sure will always prevail.

ROBOT OFFICER II

Way cool.

The two robots look over at each other, lock eyes and seem to shut off. Both fall thunderously to the ground.

21FURTHER DOWN THE STREET

Ernest is chasing Fey Beth. She doesn't know who he is and has decided not to find out. She glances back and is distressed to find she cannot seem to lose him. She darts into an alley and stops with her back against the wall and her foot outstretched. Ernest spins around the corner and trips, falling face first into the pavement. Fey Beth kicks Ernest in the face and grabs his ray gun from his holster and stands over him pointing it at him.

FEY BETH

What the hell do you want?

ERNEST

I'm rescuing you.

FEY BETH

Do I look like I need rescuing? And even if I did, what's it to you?

ERNEST

Are you Fey Beth Migitigan?

FEY BETH

Yeah, what of it?

ERNEST

And you have a sister named Gildenstern?

21FURTHER DOWN THE STREET - CONTINUED

Fey Beth lowers the gun slightly. She is shocked, amazed, cautious and excited.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

FEY BETH

What do you know about my sister?

ERNEST

Only that she is one of the greatest people who
has ever lived; and that I think
I'm in love with her sister.

Fey Beth stares at Ernest, dumbfounded. She is no longer afraid
of him.

22ERNEST'S SHIP

Ernest, Juke and Fey Beth are on board Ernest's ship, speeding
through space.

ERNEST

You should have been there Juke, I was great. The
exhilaration of hand to hand
combat, there's nothing like it.

FEY BETH

Look, if it isn't too outlandish an idea, could we
land near my place and you could
fill me in on my sister.

Juke

I believe that would not be advisable. The police
are sure to look for you there.

FEY BETH

And where would you have me go then.

ERNEST

You can come on our next adventure with us.

FEY BETH

Your joking of course. I'm not going anywhere with
you. I take care of myself.

22ERNEST'S SHIP - CONTINUED

Juke

I'm afraid you are. You see, we just left Mother
Earth's orbit. We are now in deep
space going a little over warp
eight.

FEY BETH

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

What!!!

Fey Beth dashes to a port hole and draws back the covering to gaze in disbelief out into the darkness of space.

FEY BETH

Turn this crate around and take me home Right Now!
- you big oaf, who ever you are.

ERNEST

Oh, I am terribly sorry, introductions are in order. I am Ernest Ponack, the Man with the Rocket Shoes, adventurer, philanthropist, hero to billions; and this is my sidekick; Juke.

Juke

Hiya.

ERNEST

And I had hoped, especially considering how I rescued you from the clutches of the that totalitarianistic regime, that...

Juke

psst, that was our government.

ERNEST

errr, or at least from a tight squeeze, that you could do me one tiny favour.

FEY BETH

Drop dead.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

22ERNEST'S SHIP - CONTINUED

ERNEST

I just wanted a simple introduction to you sister,
it would do my reputation a galaxy
of good.

Juke

It really would.

FEY BETH

My sister, but... What do you know about
Gildenstern?

Juke

Only that the most recent rumours place her on the
planet of Timitipar, where we are
now headed, and that we will not
rest until we have found her.

Fey Beth stands silently and stares at the two of them as they
mutely grinning at her. She shakes her head, not quite
believing what she has gotten into.

FEY BETH

OK, I'll tag along, for a while. Look, I'm really
tired, is there some place...

Juke

We have a room prepared for you right through
here...

Juke shows Fey Beth into a small but comfortable room, and then
returns to Ernest.

ERNEST

Gosh, I messed up real bad, didn't I?

Juke

No, not at all. She really likes you, I can tell.
When she calls you a "big oaf" or a
"simpleton", she's really saying
"you're cute", or "you're my kind
of guy".

ERNEST

I didn't hear her say 'simpleton'.

22ERNEST'S SHIP - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Juke

Maybe I just imagined that one. Anyways, a woman like her doesn't tell just anyone to drop dead. Love and hate are the two most confused emotions. They are practically interchangeable, but that's something few people will admit.

ERNEST

I'm not really a simpleton, am I?

Juke

Is it simple to crave adventure and in turn, build up your biceps? Is it simple to want people to be happy and to live peaceful lives, free of tyranny? Is it simple to be good?

Ernest looks over at Juke, his head cocked to one side, still awaiting a reply from his sidekick.

Juke

You are Ernest Ponack of Castle Red, the man with the rocket shoes, hero.

Ernest smiles loudly. There is a fanfare of music but after a moment, the smile fades, an intelligent, worried look crosses Ernest's face.

ERNEST

I am big, strong, fast and rich. If there are people out there who are oppressed, downtrodden and destitute, I will level their cities until all is right again. But why am I so fortunate when my family, my great, great grandfather committed some of the worst crimes ever heard of on my poor little planet? I am the most undeserving fool in all of the galaxy. Fey Beth; she will eventually see that in me. I should warn her else she may fall too deeply in love with me.

22ERNEST'S SHIP - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Juke is wandering about while listening to Ernest. He notices the broken statuette, still lying on the floor. He brings out a small whisk broom and begins sweeping it up into a small bag.

Juke

You have a good heart Ernest. You help people who are in need. If that's what it takes to calm your conscience, then that is a fortunate thing for humanity. Don't let it eat you up Ernest, we will eventually find your salvation, the search for Gildenstern, the patron saint of faster than light travel, possessor of the Black Box of Truth, continues.

Ernest smiles, again seeming to be a carefree adolescent. He nods in agreement with Juke, readily accepting anything to take his mind off his feelings of guilt.

ERNEST

Yes Juke, and though armies may stand in my way, I will march on to glory, on to truth, on to Timitipar.

23BERTRAND'S SHIP

Bertrand is listening to the bug again, but this time the static is much worse, due to the damage to the devise. He cringes from the grating noise regularly as he listens.

SIGNAL - ERNEST

....bzzzt...Ponack...bzzzt... punished.....bzzzt...
saint....bzzzt...armies..... ..bzzzt...to
Timitipar....bzztzzttcraccss ssszzxtcra...
rcczss...sseezzttzzzbbbsst...

BERTRAND

You prove yourself the fool once again Ernest, and now it's my time. I will reach Timitipar first.

23BERTRAND'S SHIP - CONTINUED

When you speaks of the Ponack's, you scoff at the family from whose ranks there came Augusta Ponack, mastermind of 'The

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Metropolis Gambit' which Mother Earth has to thank for ridding her of 98% of her population, the deadbeats that they were, and making our planet the paradise that it is. Mark my word, the Ponack family soon have one less member. Punchy! Set course for Timitipar, and stop on Planet X on the way, I had better call ahead. Happy landings; Nitwit with the Rocket Shoes!

24CITY OF PROMETHIUS

Fritz is standing on the street. He looks determined. He begins looking for clues to locate Fey Beth. He notices the most minute details such as scuffs in the floors and sidewalks. He finds where the car was which took her, studies the marks from it's wheels and gets a serious look on his face. He goes back up to her apartment.

25PLANET OF TIMITIPAR - STREET

Ernest, Juke and Fey Beth are fleeing for their lives down a dirty street of a city. The sound of ray gun blast follows them. They look perplexed (except Ernest, he just looks confused) and tired.

FEY BETH

Some reception. Not two minutes on the ground and already we're public enemies one through three. What have those guys got against you anyways?

ERNEST

We've never even been here before. I figured they were after you.

FEY BETH

Not me, I'm a stranger here too.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

25 PLANET OF TIMITIPAR - STREET - CONTINUED

ERNEST

Well in that case...

Ernest suddenly stops, turns around and holds his hand out and calls out to the armed and uniformed mob approaching.

ERNEST

Pardon me but, do you know who I am?

The mob stops momentarily, responding automatically to Ernest's outstretched arm, the universal signal to halt. One man in the lead answers.

MOB LEADER

Aren't you Ernest Ponack, The Man With The Rocket Shoes?

ERNEST (smiles)

Why, yes. I am.

The mob resumes firing their ray guns and charging forward. Ernest, Fey Beth and Juke turn and run. The three of them duck into an alley and manage to elude their pursuers. There is a doorway open with music pouring out of it. They slip through it.

26 TIMITIPAR - THE MAYBE CAFE`

Ernest, Juke and Fey Beth enter a smoky, low class barroom. The clientele seems to consist primarily of filthy degenerate undesirables. There are many pillars and arches, giving the effect of being closed in and also not allowing one to see the entire room at any one time. The customers seem rooted in their chairs as if they were permanently affixed. No one pays much attention to the three as they sit down at a table.

FEY BETH

I knew I shouldn't have gone along with this. What are we supposed to do now?

Juke

We're doing it.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

26TIMITIPAR - THE MAYBE CAFE` - CONTINUED

ERNEST

Yup. Everything seems to have fallen in place just perfectly.

Fey Beth looks puzzled as she watches the other two as they sit quietly, tilting their heads this way and that, eavesdropping on other people's conversations.

FEY BETH

What the heck do you think you're doing?

ERNEST

We're sitting in a dark and dangerous barroom waiting for rumours to lead us to the next stage of our adventure. That's the way we always do it.

Juke

Don't you ever listen to radio dramas?

Fey Beth, unable to think of an intelligent response, crosses her arms and leans back in her chair. A waitress comes up to the table with a tray of pink bubbling drinks. Ernest reaches for one of them.

Juke

We didn't order these.

WAITRESS

They're from that man over there.

The waitress points to a thin, shady looking person sitting alone at a corner table. They turn their heads to look at him, he holds his drink up to them as a toast, smiles and drinks. She places the drinks down and Ernest takes a sip from his.

ERNEST - (to waitress)

Thank you.

The three of them all crowd their heads in towards the middle of the table and talk in whispers.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

26TIMITIPAR - THE MAYBE CAFE` - CONTINUED

ERNEST

Okay, this is it. This guy is going to give us a cryptic clue which we will need to ponder while waiting for the really big and easy clue to clobber us in the head. I'll do the talking.

Ernest leads Juke and Fey Beth over to the corner where Diablo is sitting. He gestures with a wave of his arm for them to sit down. They do.

DIABLO

I can tell by the fancy shirts and pantses that you are strangers here. Diablo can see these things.

ERNEST

And what more can you tell us then, Diablo?

DIABLO

I can tell that you are looking for something, something only Diablo can acquire for you.

ERNEST

The box, and the person who carries it. Can you get these things?

DIABLO

I am sure I could, or any of a million other delightful things big sir. How about some Interian glow juice or Casperan love beads or Cubidian cigars?

ERNEST

Hey, you're not an honest tavern gossip...

Ernest stands up, raises his voice and points his finger accusingly at Diablo.

ERNEST

You ... are a smuggler!

26TIMITIPAR - THE MAYBE CAFE` - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Diablo tries to get up to run out but Ernest grabs him and punches him.

ERNEST

Feel the goodness behind my superior fists. Stand still so that I may pummel some justice into you, you dirty rotten lawbreaker.

Ernest sends Diablo flying across the room into another table. Glasses smash, there is much commotion. Ernest walks back to his table to sit down. Juke follows but Fey Beth does not.

FEY BETH

That does it, you're on your own from now on. I'm getting out of here.

ERNEST (turning)

Oh come on. Just call me a nitwit and sit down.

Fey Beth glares at Ernest for a long cold moment and then without a word, turns and walks away. Ernest looks like a lost puppy. Juke puts his hand on his shoulder and guides Ernest into his chair. Fey Beth makes her way to the door. When she reaches it, it is blocked by a small mob of angry looking police with drawn ray guns. Knowing they are looking for Ernest, she is caught in the dilemma of warning him or just running away. Ernest and Juke are sitting at their table, unaware.

ERNEST

She didn't call me a name, not even a little one. She must not love me any more.

Juke

There, there. I'm sure everything is going to work itself out. We just have to wait a little while longer for the next turn of events to set us on our way.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

26TIMITIPAR - THE MAYBE CAFE` - CONTINUED

ERNEST

And how long might that take?

Juke looks up and sees that they are surrounded by a group of eight uniformed police with ray guns pointed at them.

Juke

Not long at all.

Ernest looks up and sees that they are surrounded,

ERNEST

Oh, good to see you fellows, there was a very nasty ner-do-well here. I believe you might find him on the floor around here some place.

ARMED OFFICER I

Ernest Ponack, you are under arrest. Come with us or you will be executed immediately.

ERNEST

Oh, I don't believe you understand officer, I'm The Man With The Rocket Shoes, I'm a Hero, you know, one of the good guys?

ARMED OFFICER I

I know who you are, now are you going to come quietly or are we going to have to beat you to a pulp?

ERNEST

You can't do this to me, I'm a citizen of Mother Earth.

ARMED OFFICER II

Mother Earth....ppfphuueee

The second Armed Officer spits on Ernest then bashes him in the stomach with his stick.

ERNEST

Uggghh.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

26TIMITIPAR - THE MAYBE CAFE` - CONTINUED

Fey Beth can see what's going on from where she is concealing herself near the door. As she sees that Ernest and Punchy are being hauled off, she realizes that she can do nothing for them now and turns to escape. She bumps directly into Bertrand, who was standing directly behind her.

BERTRAND

Going some place in a hurry?

FEY BETH

Yes, please excuse me.

BERTRAND

Maybe I could give you a lift...Fey Beth.

Fey Beth turns sharply back to Bertrand who is smiling viciously at her. She turns to run but her way is blocked by Punchy who has a ray gun drawn and pointed at her.

27MOTHER EARTH - FEY BETH'S APARTMENT

Fritz is searching through computer files from the police station. He locates Fey Beth's arrest and notice of her escape. He finds the location of where she was last seen and the details.

FRITZ

Oh Fey Beth, what have you gotten yourself into this time. Computer: set to automatically monitor all incoming rocket ship radio signals and space port i.d. checkpoints for any signs of Miss Fey Beth Migitigan- you have all the rest of her codes. Contact me as soon as you have anything. Here is the frequency I'll be on.

Fritz types his brain wave frequency into the computer, puts on a pair of gloves and exits.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

28TIMITIPAR JAIL

The jail they are in seems ancient, with honest to goodness brick and stone. There is a steel door and a bared window. Juke and Ernest have the cell to themselves.

ERNEST

I just don't understand it. I told them I was from Mother Earth, and they continued to treat us like dirt, if fact, their awareness of our citizenship made it worse.

Juke

Haven't you ever noticed that happening before?

ERNEST

Well, yes. A few times as a matter of fact. I never understood it those times either.

Juke

Not many people live on Mother Earth, relatively speaking, right?

ERNEST

Right. And it never allows immigrants so it can keep it that way.

Juke

In fact, no one except full fledged Mother Earth citizens are even allowed to land on the planet.

ERNEST

Yeah...so?

Juke

And...it has more robots than any other planet so none of it's citizens have to work, unless they want to.

ERNEST

What are to getting at?

28TIMITIPAR JAIL - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Juke

Plain and simply; everybody hates us. Oh, they act like they respect us when they need to or when we're throwing our money around, but they resent our money, our power and especially our freedom. You don't realise that most of them will have to work all of their lives to just eat and have some shelter and no, it doesn't have anything to do with an megalomaniac ruling with an iron fist, it has to do with life. People don't want to be reminded that we exist and they will never have what we take for granted.

ERNEST

And they all feel that way?

Juke

Yup.

ERNEST

Even that really nice waiter who I gave the huge tip to last week on Windeker III?

Juke

He spit in your drink.

ERNEST

Euuugh.

A small hatch in the door opens and a bit of the guard's face appears in it.

CELL GUARD

Hey, Earth Boys. The judge just looked over your case.

ERNEST

Good. So when can we get out of here?

28TIMITIPAR JAIL - CONTINUED

CELL GUARD

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Two years... If you behave. HAW HAW HAW

ERNEST

Hey they can't do that, we have a right to a trial
by our peers, I refuse to stay in
this filthy, dirty, yucky cell any
longer, I demand...

CELL GUARD

Your cell is dirty?

ERNEST

Yes, my cell is a Quaris hog trough.

There is a momentary rustling sound through the door and then the
guard pushes a ragged old broom through the hole.

CELL GUARD

Here, then clean it up. HAW HAW HAW HAW

The hatch slams shut. Ernest stares at the shut door, standing
motionless as he lets it all sink in. Finally he moves,
shakes his head slowly side to side, turns and sits on the
edge of the bunk.

ERNEST

Say Juke, you won't happen to have a magazine or
something on you? We've got two
years to kill.

Juke

Do you really want to sit in here for two years
reading magazines?

ERNEST

No, I guess not; but what else is there to do?

Juke

How about...trying to escape?

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

28TIMITIPAR JAIL - CONTINUED

ERNEST

Escape! But the judge ordered us to stay two years; escaping would be against the law.

Juke

We're not guilty of anything.

ERNEST

This is true.

Juke

Then our being in jail is unjust.

ERNEST

Sure... but...

Juke

Then the Judge is a criminal, and should be he in here instead of us.

ERNEST

Yeah, let's request an appeal.

Juke

Yeah, lets break out of this joint.

ERNEST

Yeah, lets break ou.... How?

Juke rubs his chin as he looks around the room, noticing the walls, the bars, the beds, the broom and little more. He shakes the bars but finds them very secure. He looks back at the broom and over a Ernest. Juke picks up the broom and measures it against the width of the room, which is very short. He taps it along the wall and finds one area which sounds thinner than others. Ernest watches with mesmerized curiosity.

Juke

This should do it. Could you lend me your shoes for a moment.

ERNEST

But these are my trademark.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

28TIMITIPAR JAIL - CONTINUED

Juke
Pinky's honour, I'll give them right back. I
really do need them.

ERNEST
Well... Okay. But don't scuff them.

Juke puts one of the rocket shoes on either end of the
broomstick; pointing outwards away from each other. He jams
it between the walls across the width of the cell.

Juke
Stand back.

Ernest stands back and crusty averts his eyes as he sets off the
rockets in the shoes. They blast into the wall, collapsing
one of them revealing a dark, unused and forgotten hallway
beyond it.

ERNEST
Oh look, we found the dark, unused and long
forgotten hidden passageway.

Juke and Ernest look at each other, shrug and climb through the
hole.

29HIDDEN PASSAGEWAY

The two follow the passage. It is narrow and cramped. Various
sized grates, which are dust and dirt encrusted, allow light
to seep in. Ernest has a hard time moving around in it.
There are some cob webs everywhere.

ERNEST
Juke, when we get out of here, remind me to come
back here and buy this building and
have these secret passageways
enlarged.

Juke
Sshhhsss. I think I hear something.

They peer through a large grate to see the source of the noise;
the interrogation room.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

30 INTERROGATION ROOM

Fey Beth is sitting in a hard wooden chair. Bertrand and Punchy are in the room. Punchy stands by the door while Bertrand paces around.

BERTRAND

So there you see how simple it was for me to outsmart that dunce. Don't mourn his demise, he'd just have broken your heart and left you anyways. That is the way with such men, never concerned with other people's emotions. All of their good deeds, all of their heroics, it's all sugar coated self indulgence. And besides it will all mean nothing when I return to Mother Earth as it's conqueror.

31 HIDDEN PASSAGEWAY

Ernest gets a slightly angry look on his face. Juke holds a finger up indicating that he has a idea. Juke takes one of Ernest's gloves and hooks it on the grate.

32 INTERROGATION ROOM

FEY BETH

You seem very threatened by him.

BERTRAND

I am not! I mean, that is not true. I know that I am better than him, any time, any where. My devious plans for example, are far more clever than his. You'll see.

FEY BETH

To tell you the truth, I don't care. I don't care who's big or stronger or faster or dumber. If that's what it takes to be a man, I can build a better man than either of you out of spare parts I have in my kitchen.

Punchy jumps when he hears a noise from up at the grate.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

32INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUED

PUNCHY

Hey there's someone up there.

Bertrand grabs the grate and pulls it out of the wall. The glove falls to the floor. Bertrand grabs it and recognises it.

BERTRAND

It's Ernest's. He's loose.

Bertrand pulls himself up to and through the grate. It is a tight squeeze. He calls back to Punchy.

BERTRAND

Come on, We've got to get him.

Punchy climbs up as well.

PUNCHY

This isn't a good idea.

BERTRAND

Shut up.

33HIDDEN PASSAGEWAY

Bertrand, first into the passageway, looks around but can see no one. Punchy gets up beside him. They both look around but can't see anyone.

BERTRAND

Sshhhh. I think I here something off that way.

A faint voice can be heard off in the direction that Ernest and Juke had come from.

Juke

Come on Ernest, they'll never think to look for us back here.

BERTRAND

Come on Punchy, they're off this way.

Bertrand, hunched over in the small passageway, begins walking. Punchy reluctantly follows.

33HIDDEN PASSAGEWAY - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

PUNCHY

I still say this isn't a very good idea.

BERTRAND

Shut up!

Bertrand and Punchy disappear down the passageway. After a long pause, Ernest and Juke emerge from being hidden beneath some loose debris on the floor.

ERNEST

Good job at throwing your voice.

Juke

Thanks. Fey Beth should still be in the room.

Eventually Bertrand and Punchy finds themselves at the cell Ernest broke out of. They climb through the wall into it.

34PRISON CELL

Bertrand and Punchy are standing in the otherwise empty prison cell.

BERTRAND

No wonder they broke out of here. I used to break out of better places than this when I was ten.

PUNCHY

But where are they now?

BERTRAND

How should I know. Let's go look.

Just as Bertrand and Punchy are climbing through the hole, the guards burst in and grab them. There are four guards with ray guns drawn.

CELL GUARD II

Halt, or you WILL be disintegrated.

Bertrand and Punchy stop and turn around. They raise their hands when they see the guns.

34PRISON CELL - CONTINUED

BERTRAND

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Now wait a minute...

CELL GUARD I

See; I told you that I heard a noise.

CELL GUARD II

Good work. You will be commended on your quick reactions. Now come with us Ernest of Castle Red and sidekick Juke, you are going to spend the next two years in our escape proof cell.

BERTRAND

But I'm not Ernest, I was just wandering by...

The guards ignore Bertrand's pleas and proceed to handcuff them both. and haul them out of the cell.

BERTRAND

Don't you recognise me!?

CELL GUARD II

After we're finished, even you're mother won't recognise you.

The guard close in on Bertrand, rubbing their fists and ready to hit him.

PUNCHY

I told you this wasn't a good idea.

BERTRAND

Shut UP!!!

35INTERROGATION ROOM

Bertrand and Juke drop down into the interrogation room where Fey Beth has been kept. She is at the door trying to peek out and see if there is any guards outside.

ERNEST

Here we are, to rescue you again.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

35 INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUED

FEY BETH

Look, for the second, and last time; I DON'T NEED
YOUR HELP.

ERNEST

But you must admit you'd like my help.

FEY BETH

What I'd like is to be able to get on with my life
without having to bump into your
ugly carcass whenever I turn
around.

ERNEST

(Smiling, aside, to Juke)
You hear that, she called me ugly.

FEY BETH

And as for your supposed search for my sister,
though I haven't been around you
very long, you appear to be the
most dull witted and unobservant
man I've ever encountered and I
have no doubt that you don't know
the first thing about her. You've
been lying to me and I won't take
it any more.

Fey Beth slaps Ernest hard across the face. Ernest stands staring
at her, motionless at first but then he begins to quiver and
shake.

ERNEST

You must really hate me.

Ernest is sobbing and all his bulky muscular body seem to have
turned to jelly. Fey Beth gives him a hug and pats him on
the back.

FEY BETH

No, no. Not hate per say. Your heart is close to
being the right place. You're the
type of man any number of women
could love.

Ernest turns away from Fey Beth and Juke and faces the wall.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

35INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUED

ERNEST

I don't want you to see me like this. I'm just a
big loser.

Juke

Ernest? What is more important, honesty or your
pride?

Ernest turns around and raises his finger to indicate that he
knows the answer to the question.

ERNEST

Honesty...It IS the best policy.

FEY BETH

(catching on to Juke's idea)

Then you must agree that it is best that I tell
that, though you are a very nice
person, I do not love you.

ERNEST

Ummmm...

Juke

And you should feel relieved to admit that you
aren't really in love with her
either, so that you two can be free
to just become friends.

ERNEST

Really? Is it that easy? I could just say; "Fey
Beth, you are very pretty but I
just can't understand every second
thing you say. You're just too
darned smart."?

FEY BETH

Yes, if you wanted to say that.

ERNEST

And your outfit clashes with your eyes, you ought
to change one or the other. I might
suggest something in lavender.

35INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

FEY BETH

I'll keep it in mind.

ERNEST

Great! That's a big load off my shoulders. Now if you don't mind, I'm going to rush into the corridor and draw the ray gun fire from any potential enemies which may be lurking.

Ernest rushes out of the room.

FEY BETH

He's just covering up his broken heart with these selfless acts of heroism, isn't he.

Juke

Oh sure, but as long as he has fun doing it.

FEY BETH

Either he's nuts or he just refuses to grow up.

Juke

A little of both I suspect.

FEY BETH

Then what are you doing hanging around him, he'll get you both killed.

Juke

Probably eventually. But what am I to do? He needs me; Somebody's got to keep him out... and I suppose sometimes in trouble. Life's great adventures shouldn't be ventured into alone. Besides, Ernest: he's the best friend I've ever had.

Juke and Fey Beth look at each other. Fey Beth smiles, she understands the feelings Juke are based on compassion and not pity. She admires him. Suddenly Ernest bursts in through the door.

35INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUED

ERNEST

The coast is clear. Come on; we can make it to the rocket ship.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

FEY BETH

I'm not going.

Juke

Why not?

FEY BETH

I must find the source of the rumours about my brother. If... well, I just have to stay and find out. I'm better off here without you.

Juke

But...

ERNEST

More good clean honesty. It doesn't feel very good, so I guess it must be good for me. Come on Juke, lets get out to the streets and lurk around and wait until Fey Beth needs us again.

FEY BETH

NO! Every time you're around I get into trouble. Besides, what about Bertrand's plans for global conquest?

ERNEST

Ah, he was probably talking out of his hat.

FEY BETH

Maybe, but he might still be a threat. Haven't you galavanted around enough, it's time to go home.

ERNEST

Home. Yes that does sound good. Then we must hurry.

35INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUED

FEY BETH

Good-bye my friends. We will meet again.

ERNEST

Bye Fey Beth, you're the finest woman I've almost loved.

Juke

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

I just want to tell you...

FEY BETH

I know, I'll be careful. Bye.

ERNEST

Come on.

Ernest grabs the collar of Juke's shirt and pulls him out the door. The two of them run down the hallway. Fey Beth exits and runs off the other way.

36MOTHER EARTH

On the street, Fritz looks up at the window of Fey Beth's apartment high above. Shadows of a number of people cross the window as they overturn everything in the room. Fritz hears a noise behind him. He turns and moves towards it. In an alley, a robot, its head severed, lies across a pair of garbage cans. A large red 'D' is painted on the wall above the prone body. Fritz looks around quickly, sees no people but does find the severed head. He picks it up. A small light behind its eyes indicates that it still has a bit of life.

FRITZ

What happened?

ROBOT HEAD

The sky... is falling.

The light in the head flickers and dies out. Fritz hears another noise, it is the people coming out the apartment building. Dropping the head, Fritz conceals himself in the shadows. The people appear to be police officers. From the distance, their voices can be faintly heard.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

36MOTHER EARTH - CONTINUED

POLICE OFFICER III

Nothing there, what's the next stop?

They walk away down the street.

37SPACE PORT CONTROL ROOM

The technician is working, leaned over the vast control panels in front of the window which looks out on the rocket ship landing strip. He yawns, reaches for his mug, finds it empty and leaves the room through the main door. All is quiet. A second door opens up a sliver and Ernest peeks in. Seeing the room now empty, he party emerges and looks around.

ERNEST

This is the place. And we're in luck, there's no one here.

Ernest and Juke enter the room. Suddenly an alarm goes off and guards start rushing into the room.

ALARM

INTRUDER INTRUDER INTRUDER INTRUDER

Ernest fires his ray gun at the approaching guards and then two blasts into the control panels.

ERNEST

Juke, get the window!

Juke fires a ray gun blast at the window and it evaporates. Ernest jumps through the haze which was solid glass a moment before. Juke follows him and they run out to the rocket ship.

38SPACE PORT HALLWAY

Fey Beth cautiously slinks down the hallway. Just as she thinks she is safely out, she turns a corner and runs face to face into Bertrand, who is backed up by a dozen armed men. Bertrand has a huge black eye.

BERTRAND

We meet again. Where is that lunkhead Ernest you're all steamed up about?

38SPACE PORT HALLWAY - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

FEY BETH

It'll do you no good to take me. Ernest is gone
and he won't be coming to look for
me.

BERTRAND

Then I'll have to go looking for him.

Fey Beth is captured. A guard grabs each of her arms and the
group march away.

39INTERROGATION ROOM

Bertrand, Punchy and one quiet Cell Guard take Fey Beth into the
interrogation room; a plain white room with a single chair
in the middle. They push Fey Beth into the chair and stand
around her.

BERTRAND

Okay, now tell us everything.

FEY BETH

All right... I was born on Mother Earth in 2964. I
was a fortunate child, born with a
silver robot beside my crib. My
family loved to travel and...

BERTRAND

NO! I want information; useful stuff.

FEY BETH

I went to seven high schools and even though I was
kicked out of them all, I have
honourary diplomas from three of
them. The first time I...

BERTRAND

Enough. I will now begin to torture you. I am
going to insert your feet into the
'Socks of Shocks' which will turn
your feet into so much beef jerky.

39INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUED

Fey Beth looks around the room but sees no such devise.

FEY BETH

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Where are these 'Socks of Shocks'. I don't see them.

BERTRAND

Punchy! Bring me the 'Socks of Shocks'.

Punchy is consulting in whispers with the guard present.

PUNCHY

They don't have the 'socks of shocks' here.

Bertrand gets a very angry look on his face as he glares at Punchy. An evil smile appears as he turns back to Fey Beth.

BERTRAND

Then I will use the bone wrenching 'Rack of Immeasurable Pain'. That should loosen your tongue.

FEY BETH

The Rack? Sure, bring it in.

BERTRAND

Bring in the 'Rack of Immeasurable Pain'.

PUNCHY

Sorry, no rack either.

BERTRAND

How about the 'Blood Curdling Piercers of Purgatory'? 'The Iron Person'? 'The Thumbscrews from Hell'?

PUNCHY

No, it seems that they have none of those either.

Bertrand, his enthusiasm gone, walks with arms swinging limply over to Punchy and the guard.

39 INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUED

BERTRAND

Then what do they have?

PUNCHY

They have a bright annoying light.

BERTRAND

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

What?!! No torture devises at all!?!?!! What kind of
interrogation room is this?
Timitipar always kept all the most
up to date gear. What's going on.

The guard whispers more to Punchy.

PUNCHY

It seems that after the Conservatives lost the
election last year, the Liberal
government banned all forms of
torture.

BERTRAND

The fools! I suppose they call that progress, I
never get to have any fun.

PUNCHY

We could always pummel her with our fists.

BERTRAND

Oh, where's the fun in that. We have to take her
somewhere where we can do some real
damage.

FEY BETH

Do what you will to me, just don't let my dear
Ernest see what you have done to
me. I couldn't bear to see his
heart broken so.

BERTRAND

And where pray tell, should I avoid going so as
not to run into this poor soul?

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

39 INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUED

FEY BETH
He was headed back to Mother Earth.

BERTRAND
HAHA. Then it is to Mother Earth that I will head.
Hahahahaha.

FEY BETH
(gasp) No!

BERTRAND
Yes. HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH.

PUNCHY
Say, isn't that what you were trying to find out
from her in the first place?

Bertrand gives a confused look at Punchy. He doesn't seem to see
the point of the comment.

BERTRAND
What's your point?

PUNCHY
You have your information, now you have no reason
to torture her.

BERTRAND
So what are you trying to say?

PUNCHY
Oh, nothing I suppose.

BERTRAND
Then SHUT UP!!!

40 ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP

As the rocket ship containing Ernest and Juke is flying upward
and away from the planet of Timitipar, big guns (again
indicating the less sophisticated technology) are fired at
them. Ernest is at the wheel.

ERNEST
Do up your safety belt, this might be a rough
journey.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

40ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP - CONTINUED

The ship shakes. Ernest is surprised by the type of shake.

ERNEST

That was no ray gun blast.

Juke

No, it seems they are firing steel shelled
explosive projectiles at us.

ERNEST

How crude. Still, I'd better put this thing into
gear.

The ship shakes again, much more this time.

ERNEST

Juke? Are we hit?

Juke

I think they dented a fender.

ERNEST

The barbarians!!! Hold on, we're jumping to
superior speed....NOW!

Ernest and Juke thrust backward in their seats as the rocket ship
blasts quickly forward and away from the planet and out of
reach of their weapons.

41BERTRAND'S ROCKET SHIP

On board, Fey Beth is sitting while Bertrand paces around the
ship, rambling away. Punchy is rhythmically striking the
anvil.

BERTRAND

I'm not such a bad guy. I only want what I think I
deserve. So many people out there
who are stupid and short sighted
have so much that well, isn't it
the law of nature that I take from
them. I'm a great believer in
justice. The undeserving should
have nothing, and the deserving,
people like me,

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

41BERTRAND'S ROCKET SHIP - CONTINUED

BERTRAND (CONTINUED)

should be able to bask in the wealth. - WOULD YOU
STOP HITTING THAT STUPID THING
ALREADY!!!

Punchy puts down the mallet and wanders off into another part of the rocket ship.

BERTRAND

I try and I try and I try. I try to be a good master but eventually they all turn on me, and my so called friends are worse. Friends should be able to forgive small little discretions such as missing money or a burned down house, but no, friends I had would use any excuse to betray me.

Bertrand is standing in front of a mantel which is lined with trophies (mostly small but one big one) and framed photographs. Fey Beth gets up and wanders over towards him and begins looking at the items on the mantel.

FEY BETH

Maybe you should be the one to do some forgiving.

BERTRAND

Yeah, right. Could you see me apologizing to some inferior old sot. That would be the day. Why does everyone always expect me to say 'sorry for this fire' and 'it's my fault about that explosion'. Like I'm to blame that no one took my threatening letters seriously.

Fey Beth notices that most of the trophies are for second place in a diverse amount of things, mainly physical activities. Bertrand lifts the one big trophy off and holds it up for her.

BERTRAND

Forget about all those little ones. I wasn't trying. Here's my first place trophy. I remember the day I won this one, like it was only yesterday. It was hot, and when I

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

41BERTRAND'S ROCKET SHIP - CONTINUED

BERTRAND (CONTINUED)

say hot, I don't mean that dry heat we have under the domed cities, I mean a really damp, humid hot that even the sylicite in your foot shoes begins to get soft and mold itself onto your foot. I was up against the best on the planet, all lined up beside me. The crowd was huge and the roar of it's applause completely drown out even the referee as he read off the rules. As the tournament began I took a quick lead and...

Fey Beth looks at it carefully and notices the inscription. She interrupts Bertrand's story.

FEY BETH

The name seems to be scratched off of it.

Bertrand's face grows dark as he stares with an intense coldness at Fey Beth. He grabs the trophy from her and puts it back on the mantel with a thud.

BERTRAND

It fell.

Fey Beth, sensing it would be unwise to continue this line of questioning, holds back a smile and turns her attention back to the mantel where photographs also are displayed. Fey Beth picks up a picture of two boys, arms on each others shoulders. She turns to Bertrand to ask him about it, but he seems to be sulking as he stands polishing the dust off the large trophy. She puts the photo back down and looks at another one. The next shows Ernest and Bertrand standing side by side. She looks at Bertrand again, he seems like a big kid pouting. She puts the photo down quickly so he doesn't see that she saw it.

FEY BETH

And what would you do if everything you dreamed about were to come true?

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

41BERTRAND'S ROCKET SHIP - CONTINUED

BERTRAND

Are you trying to make fun of me?

FEY BETH

No, no. I just want to know if you really believe
in what you are doing. Would world
domination truly make you happy?

BERTRAND

Of course it would. Don't be silly.

FEY BETH

And then what would you do?

BERTRAND

I would do anything I wanted to do.

FEY BETH

Like what? What would you do then?

BERTRAND

I suppose I would drink and party and break
anything I didn't like.

FEY BETH

Isn't that pretty much what you do now?

BERTRAND

Yeah, but if I was ruler, everyone would love me,
no matter what I did.

FEY BETH

I see, so you want to be hateful and destructive
and be loved.

BERTRAND

Yeah that about covers it.

Fey Beth turns and walks away, shaking her head slowly side to
side. It seems to bother Bertrand that she has stopped
paying attention to him. He follows her.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

41BERTRAND'S ROCKET SHIP - CONTINUED

BERTRAND

Well, what do you care anyways? You just hate me
like everyone else does.

Fey Beth turns back to him, she looks very solemn. She looks him
straight in the eyes.

FEY BETH

Who says I hate you. I never said that.

BERTRAND

I kidnapped you; twice, I threatened to torture
you and I've seriously
inconvenienced you.

FEY BETH

You were only doing what you thought was right.

BERTRAND

No, I was only doing what I thought was wrong!

FEY BETH

And why did you do that.

BERTRAND

It's what I do; I'm a villain.

FEY BETH

Oh, and does that make you happy.

BERTRAND

Happy?

FEY BETH

Yes, do you feel good about yourself? Do you feel
like people love and respect you?
Are you happy to be so resentful of
people who never did you any harm?

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

41BERTRAND'S ROCKET SHIP - CONTINUED

BERTRAND

Don't patronize me! Yes! Yes it makes me happy!
I'm the happiest guy in the whole
darn galaxy! And I'm going to prove
it by laughing while the city of
Promethius drowns after the sea
wall collapses. I'm going to laugh
like hell.

Bertrand has become enraged by the mixed feeling he was having
during the conversation and begins stomping around. Fey Beth
grows quiet, suddenly nervous of his violent side.

BERTRAND

Punchy! Pick up the speed, we don't want the
suffering to be delayed.

PUNCHY

Aye, aye master. What suffering is that?

BERTRAND

SHUT UP!

Bertrand walks to a corner of the ship where he can stand alone.
He speaks to himself.

BERTRAND

Yeah, I'll laugh and I'll laugh and I'll laugh.
They'll be sorry they didn't cheer
for me. They'll all be sorry.

42ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP

Ernest is stretching. He feels good after their brief adventure.
Juke is slouching in his seat looking glum.

ERNEST

Another job well done, don't you think Juke?

Juke

Yes Ernest; well done.

ERNEST

Ah, I am good; aren't I Juke?

42ERNEST'S ROCKET SHIP - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Juke

Yes Ernest. You're the salt of Mother Earth.

ERNEST

Gosh, it sure is great to be loved.

Ernest stretches again, yawns and collapses on the couch. Juke, still looking and sounding sad, talks to himself.

Juke

But it sure is hell being IN love.

43MOTHER EARTH SPACE PORT

Bertrand's rocket ship lands. Bertrand, Punchy, and Fey Beth walk out to the customs.

BERTRAND

Play it cool or I'll disintegrate you.

A sign is posted informing everyone that Only Mother Earth Citizens Past This Point. They walk up to the customs counter.

CUSTOMS OFFICER

Your identification papers please.

They all hand their papers over to this robot officer.

CUSTOMS OFFICER

Ms Migitigan, there seems to be a warrant out for your arrest.

FEY BETH

Maybe you should arrest me then.

CUSTOMS OFFICER

That's not my job. Please take care of it right away.

The officer keys Bertrand, Punchy and Fey Beth's numbers into the terminal.

43MOTHER EARTH SPACE PORT - CONTINUED

CUSTOMS OFFICER

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Welcome home.

All three of them pass through the gates.

44FEY BETH'S APARTMENT

Fritz is sitting in silence, reading through high speed information on the computer. Suddenly a light and beeper go off, alerted him to some incoming information on the computer. Fey Beth's number appears, followed by the name of the port. He picks up the telephone, pushes in a series of numbers and waits only a second for someone to pick up on the other end.

FRITZ

Terminal six, zed, nine.

Fritz hangs up without waiting for a response and quickly piles up the papers, turns everything off and exits.

45ROADWAYS OF PROMETHIUS

Bertrand and Fey Beth are walking. Bertrand has a ray gun in Fey Beth's back, pushing her along as they walk.

BERTRAND

...and then I'm going to say to him, 'Ernest you overgrown blowmonkey, I pity you because you're not me and you never will be.' You see, Ernest always got ahead because he was always kissing up to everybody and they liked him and his wavy blonde hair and phoney white smile, but when I'm through with him, he'll be so ugly that the girls will be laughing at him for a change. He won't be stealing any more of mine, no way. He'll be ugly, ugly, ugly and this poor city he loves so much and that thinks he's so great will all blame him because I'll figure out a way that he'll get blamed for it all, as I am so much more clever than he is. Then the fun will really begin...

45ROADWAYS OF PROMETHIUS - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

FEY BETH

I don't mean to be rude but... where are we going?

BERTRAND

I don't know, I was just following you.

FEY BETH

How about we go up to my place, it's just down
there a ways. It's much more
relaxing.

BERTRAND

Sure, fine by me.

In the shadows, the street corners, the windows and the passing
cars, completely expressionless robots of all makes and
varieties watch and mark the passing of this pair of humans.
Fey-Beth notices, Bertrand does not.

46MOTHER EARTH SPACE PORT

Ernest's rocket ship lands in the port. The door opens and Ernest
and Juke emerge. There is thundering applause and cheers
from an unseen crowd of people. Ernest waves modestly as he
walks away from the rocket ship.

ERNEST

It's nice to be home.

Juke

Sure is. I'm starved. I'm going to eat.

ERNEST

Okay, see you later. You know where to find me.

Inside the space port control room two controllers are sitting
watching the landing. After Ernest is out of view, one of
them turns a switch and the sound of the audience
disappears. It was all just a recording.

YOUNG CONTROLLER

What was that all about?

46MOTHER EARTH SPACE PORT - CONTINUED

OLD CONTROLLER

He tips us well.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

They go back to work.

47FEY BETH'S APARTMENT BUILDING

Fey Beth and Bertrand enter an elevator. Fey Beth leans against the side rail and takes off a shoe to rub her foot. Bertrand doesn't pause his verbal dissertation.

BERTRAND

...and then in college, the girls finally paid some attention to me, but I soon found that it was only because I had a big wad of dough in my trousers. When that gone, so were they. Soon I'll have so much money that they'll never leave. I almost got married, did I tell you, but my investigators found out that her family were immigrants from only six generations back, just before they stopped letting them in. You can imagine my surprise., ,

FEY BETH

Here we are, sixty third floor.

When the door opens, they walk down the hall to her apartment. Glowing eyes are seen in the darkness.

BERTRAND

...But I've been thinking. I'm not so sure I really would be happy when all my dreams come to fruition unless I have the woman I love by my side. Will you be mine.

They reach the door. Fey Beth stops cold on hearing the proposal, as if she could hear it but doesn't understand it. She turns and looks at him.

FEY BETH

Without even checking my family tree? Door; verbal lock, open.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

47FEY BETH'S APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUED

BERTRAND

That was an old family thing, but I don't worry
about things like those any more.
Not much of the family left to
speak of; mainly just my mom.

The door swings open slightly.

FEY BETH

Your mother?

Bertrand leads the way into the dark apartment. Fey Beth seems to
have never considered that such a person had a mother.

BERTRAND

Yeah, I'd better drop in on her sometime. She'd
love to meet yoooooo...

Fey Beth's and Bertrand's eyes are locked together as Bertrand
steps backwards into the room. Fritz grabs Bertrand's ray
gun, casts it aside, then grabs him by the arm and pulls him
the rest of the way into the room.

48FEY BETH'S APARTMENT

Fey Beth, though she was knew that the following actions were
going to happen, she forgot when she was caught up in the
moment. She chases the screaming body of Bertrand into the
room and calls after Fritz who is handling Bertrand like a
rag doll.

FEY BETH

MINIMUM FORCE!!!

Fritz throws Bertrand through the window. Fey Beth runs to the
broken window, concerned, and looks out. She relaxes at once
and steps back from the window.

FEY BETH

Don't worry, he seems to be okay.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

49 OUTSIDE OF APARTMENT BUILDING

Bertrand is holding on with both hands onto a flag pole extending out from the side of building, many stories above the ground.

BERTRAND

I hate when this happens.

50 FEY BETH'S APARTMENT

Fey Beth looks around her place for the first time since entering and realises that the room has been ransacked.

FEY BETH

So what happened while I was gone? This place is a disaster.

FRITZ

The police keep coming back. We won't be able to stay here for long. I put scouts everywhere so we'll have fair warning, but they've been here three times so far. I've been in and out of here constantly, making all efforts to locate you. You've been off world all this time?

FEY BETH

Yes, on Timitipar. I'll have to back again; there were rumours about my sister and something called 'The Black Box of Truth'.

FRITZ

'The Black Box of Truth'!! I just saw something on that, but it wasn't off world, it was here.

Fritz goes to the computer and begins scanning through information.

FRITZ

Here it is, someone else has been searching for it, and all the transmissions are coming from here.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

50 FEY BETH'S APARTMENT - CONTINUED

FEY BETH

In Prometheus?

FRITZ

Yes, well no. Actually they seem to be coming from
under the city.

FEY BETH

What's down there?

FRITZ

There's supposed to be just industrial stuff,
machinery, robots, the stabilizing
engines and of course the pumps.

FEY BETH

What pumps?

FRITZ

The lower city is below sea level, as is much of
Prometheus. The pumps just drain
out any water which happens to seep
through the sea wall.

FEY BETH

The sea wall! I think we better go down there. Get
your stuff together.

FRITZ

What if somebody asks what we are doing there?

FEY BETH

We'll tell them we're newlyweds, sightseeing.

FRITZ

Would that be convincing?

FEY BETH

This is Mother Earth, nothing is implausible.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

51THE LOWER CITY

Fritz and Fey Beth, dressed formally in tuxedos, are wandering around in the dimly lit tunnels of pipes and machinery. Fritz seems concerned as the pipes they walk by are graffitied with large stylized 'D's.

FEY BETH

Are you sure this is the right sector?

FRITZ

It seems like the best bet. There are a couple of human computer access terminals around here that have had more than the usual amount of use in the past couple of years. There must be people around here somewhere.

Suddenly a roar of a dozen engines fills the air and they are soon surrounded by a group of serious looking people on motorcycles. The motorcycles partially constructed from and decorated with dead robot parts.

Celine

All dressed up. Where IS the party?

Celine pulls his motorcycle up threateningly close to Fey Beth and Fritz and leans forward, stares them in the face and waits for them to answer. Celine seems to be the leader. He is a thin, fair haired man with wild eyes and an angelic smile.

FEY BETH

We're just...

Celine revs his engine loudly.

FEY BETH

We're just friendly to...

Celine revs his engine loudly again.

FEY BETH

We're just friendly tourists seeking unspoiled frontiers to spend our honeymoon.

Fey Beth holds up her bouquet of flowers as proof of what she is saying.

51THE LOWER CITY - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Celine
Honeymooners? Yeah, that's what you look like all
right.

FRITZ
And we seem to have gotten lost.

Fey Beth says nothing. Celine stares at her. She stares back.
There is a long silence as they size each other up. Celine,
somehow satisfied, smiles.

Celine
You sound like a friend in need.

Everybody laughs. The rest of the crowd seems very rowdy.

Celine
I'm Celine and these is my boys, the Dementoes.
Say hey to the nice tourists boys.

THE DEMENTOES
Hey.

FEY BETH
You can call me Beth, and this is my husband;
Fred.

Fritz raises his hand in a half wave.

FRITZ
Hey.

Celine
(announces loudly)
All right Dementoes, set up here. Camp it and
party. We have guests.

(under breath to Fey Beth)

Filthy buggers, but they do know the meaning of
loyalty.

Celine paces back and forth in front of the 'newlyweds' who stand
together still and nervously. He looks them up and down,
dismissing Fritz's frail looking body and paying more
attention to Fey Beth.

51THE LOWER CITY - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Celine

I like you; you'll stay with us for a while. I don't who you are or who sent you, but they have a lot to learn if they start to mess with us. We are freedom; we are hope; we are the future. Our strength is greater than they realize.

There is a huge rumbling, roaring sound which lasts about four seconds. Fritz and Fey Beth stop and look around, nervous about it and unable to discern it's source.

FRITZ

I don't like the sound of that. It seems to me to be the sound severe metal stress, not a good symptom from the perspective of being beneath a city.

FEY BETH

Celine, what was that?

Celine

It's our ace in the hole.

FEY BETH

And more precisely...?

Celine

You're either ever cool or they kept you real ignorant before they sent you down here.

FEY BETH

Or we're really just tourists like I said we were.

Celine

(laughs)

Beauty! But we survived this long being cynical and paranoid, so you gotta excuse me if I don't feel like changing now.

Fey Beth puts her arms around Fritz; they snuggle together a bit.

51THE LOWER CITY - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

FRITZ

Is it so hard to believe that two young lovers
like us would want to get away from
the hub bub of city life?

Celine

I find it hard to believe that anyone would stay
in that city, ...considering.

FEY BETH

Yes, it is terrible isn't it; all of those things.

Celine

Don't patronize me. You're beginning to talk like
one of them, like one of the robot
lovers.

There is a commotion at the other side of the encampment. One of
the patrols has just returned.

A DEMENTOE

Celine! Celine! Buster just got back. He's been
attacked!

Celine

The Derilicks?

A DEMENTOE

It looks that way.

Celine dashes off in the direction of the commotion. Fey Beth and
Fritz follow. They arrive to see Buster leaning against his
bike with pink paint splattered all over him and his clothes
all tousled.

Celine

What happened?

BUSTER

They ambushed me, jumped out at me round by the
pumping station; threw a whole
bucket of paint on me, sent me
reeling onto the ground. Then
they...they...

51THE LOWER CITY - CONTINUED

Celine

What?

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

BUSTER

They stepped on my foot and they... they...

Celine

And WHAT?!?

BUSTER

They made fun of my jacket.

A hush falls over the crowd of Dementoes. They are seriously shocked and appalled.

THE DEMENTOES

Oooooo.

Seemingly in response to Celines mood, the loud rumbling noise resounds again as Celine speaks.

Celine

Those swine. We won't have to put up with crap much longer. Soon, when I have the Black Box of Truth in my hands, my master plan will bloom. I will bring them all down, all of them.

Celine turns around and storms through Fey Beth and Fritz and back into the centre of the camp. Fey Beth follows. Fritz wanders off, looking around for the source of the noise.

FEY BETH

The Derilicks? Who are they?

Celine

I'm starting to believe you are as innocent as you claim. I suppose in another time, they might have been known as the friendly opposition, but here, today, they are an annoying insect which I intend to squash. They are all robot lovers, intent on weakening the bodies and the spirits of the men and women on the planet.

51THE LOWER CITY - CONTINUED

FEY BETH

How's that Celine?

Celine

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

The Derilicks are the lowest form of scum;
traitors of the purer human race.
First they wanted the machines do
our work for us and now they are
letting the machines have our fun
for us. We sit back and get lazy,
relying on our steel plated nannies
to care for us. Soon they will rise
above us and we will be the slaves
beneath their heartless metal
fists.

FEY BETH

But the robots are machines, they have no emotions
and thus no ambitions of such
grandeur.

Celine

No, that is where you are wrong. Even as we speak,
there are traitors who walk among
us and work at giving feelings to
the machine, feelings to make it
strong so as it can replace us.

FEY BETH

But Celine, I...

Four of the Dementoes interrupt as they drag the struggling Fritz
with them. The four of them can barely hold him.

FRITZ

Unhand me you ruffians.

A DEMENTOE

We found him sneaking away from the camp. We
caught him when he reached the
wall.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

51THE LOWER CITY - CONTINUED

FRITZ

Fey Beth, this camp is located at what looks to be a very thin section of the sea wall. That's what the noise was, the creaking of the wall.

Celine stares at Fritz suspiciously. He looks over to one of his boys and gives a nod. That Dementoe puts something on Fritz's arm and it sticks. Celine stares at the small object then back into Fritz's eyes.

Celine

The magnet sticks...Robot!

Fritz throws two of the Dementoes off his arm as he struggles free.

FRITZ

(laughing nervously)
A robot? Heck no, honestly I'm just a honeymoone...

Celine draws his short barrelled shot gun with lightning speed and fires it into Fritz's face. Fritz's head explodes. The headless body stands there for a second, then falls to it's knees, then tilts forward and lands squarely on it's chest. Fey Beth screams and runs to Fritz's side.

Celine

But you're not a robot are you. I can tell. So, did you love it, TRAITOR? You cry for it but why, was it better than a real man? Did you really marry it, traitor?

FEY BETH

Why? Why did you have to do this? He did nothing to you.

Celine

Nothing? Are you that taken in by the lies that you don't recognise the devil in front of you? What I do, I do out of loyalty to my race, I do it for love.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

51THE LOWER CITY - CONTINUED

FEY BETH

Is that why you're going to blow up the sea wall
and drown the whole city.

Celine

Blow up the wall? No, no, no. Why would I do that,
then I would die too. And besides,
it would really affect the buggers
I'm after; the ones at the top.

FEY BETH

What are you talking about.

Celine

Since you will be dead soon, I might as well tell
you. Once I have the Black Box of
Truth, I will know how to increase
Mother Earth's gravity and pull all
the aristocratic flotsam and jetsam
down from their space satellite
mansions. Don't you listen to the
radio dramas, everybody knows all
the best people live in zero gee.

Fey Beth dashes away. Celine yells at his men who are standing
around the 'dead' robot making jokes about it.

Celine

Grab her, quick. Don't let her get away.

Fey Beth flees with a gang of Dementoes not far behind.

52MOM'S HOUSE

Mom, a sweet looking elderly lady is sitting in her living room
doing a bit of knitting and listening to a radio drama. The
room is very Nice. There is an angry knock at the door. Mom
looks up from her doily and calls to someone off in the
kitchen.

MOM

I'll get that.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

52MOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

Mom eases herself out of her chair and walks over to the door. No sooner than she turns the knob, the door swings open and Bertrand bursts in, tracking mud and filth all over the carpet. He looks a mess, with bruises all over his face, his hair blow around so it's standing straight up and his clothes torn and shredded.

BERTRAND

Hey Ma, I'm home. What's cooking?

MOM

Bert, I didn't expect you, I was just...

Bertrand sits down on the couch and swings his feet up onto the table.

BERTRAND

Yeah, whatever ma. I have had a heck of a week. Ernest messed up all my great plans again. He's always doing this to me.

MOM

Yes dear, but he...

BERTRAND

And to top it all off, I just spent the last three hours riding around on top of a flagpole fifty two stories up, waiting for the skyscraper to do it's rounds so I could catch a ride down. And it's all his fault too, if he wasn't always being so nice and kind; I'm sure he just does it to make me look bad; the spiteful jerk.

MOM

Yes dear, but...

BERTRAND

WHAT??!! What is it already??!!

Mom points over to the kitchen doorway.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

52MOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

MOM

Your brother Ernie is here.

Bertrand's eyes flare with anger as he jumps from his chair and spins around to see Ernest standing in the doorway to the kitchen. Ernest is grasping a bowl of corn flakes in one hand and has a spoon clenched in his other fist. He is shovelling the flakes into his mouth, crunching loudly.

BERTRAND

What are you doing here! You're not supposed to be here. It's my turn to visit.

ERNEST

And what are you doing here? You're supposed to be in prison...on six different worlds.

BERTRAND

None of them would have got me if you hadn't been such a snitch.

ERNEST

I was only doing my duty to truth and justice.

BERTRAND

You think you're so much better than me; always acting so modest. You just want the attention and you suck them all into giving it to you.

ERNEST

I don't hurt anybody. I'm one of the good guys. It's not your fault you don't measure up. You shouldn't be jealous just because you always come in second place.

BERTRAND

You never really played fair. Someone always helped you; everyone always liked you better.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

52MOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

ERNEST

I guess I just have what it takes.

BERTRAND

All you've got is full bodied hair and a lot of
luck.

ERNEST

Is it my fault that I could beat you every time we
competed?

BERTRAND

But why did you have to enter everything I
entered, especially when you
weren't even interested in what
ever it was.

ERNEST

I did not.

BERTRAND

Did so; like the time they we competed for most
electric voltage anyone could take
through their tongue before
blacking out. You never told me you
had an appetite for ac current. You
entered just to show me up because
you know you could.

ERNEST

I have a few hobbies hidden away.

BERTRAND

Hidden behind that giant ego of yours I suppose.
What else are you hiding under that
vanity? Maybe a bit of guilt, maybe
a LOT of guilt, and I haven't seen
much family loyalty peeking out
lately.

ERNEST

And don't forget a wall full of first place
trophies and the love of a woman.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

52MOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

BERTRAND

Wrong again. She loves me, I just came from her apartment.

ERNEST

Liar!!! She has eyes only for me.

BERTRAND

Open your eyes; she's played you for the fool.

Ernest pulls out his ray gun and points it at Bertrand.

ERNEST

I'm not listening to this any more.

Bertrand pulls out his ray gun and points it at Ernest.

BERTRAND

You won't have to once I dispense with you.

53THE LOWER CITY

Fey Beth, on the run, cannot find help. She is breathing hard, her back against a wall as she seems to have found a temporary hiding place. The voices of the Dementoes grows nearer. There is a robot by her feet but there is a huge hole in it's chest. Fey Beth notices that about twenty feet away there is a personal terminal with the word 'BANK' above it. She feels her shoulder and thinks about the possibilities of making it to the machine. She runs for it, gets to the machine, pulls a plastic card out of a small hidden pocket in the shoulder of her jacket.

A DEMENTOE

There she is!!!

Fey Beth sticks her card into the machine. The Dementoes surround her almost instantly.

A DEMENTOE

Freeze right there honey. What you trying to do, make a withdrawal; maybe get some bribe money? You don't know us very well, we hold no value for mere money. Hahahahaha.

53THE LOWER CITY - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

They grab her and haul her strugglingly away. One of the Dementoes pauses at the machine and checks to see if there is any money. He walks quickly away empty handed and queries of another of the Dementoes as he catches up to them.

SLOW DEMENTOE

Who is she, what did she do?

ANOTHER DEMENTOE

They say she married a robot, had two children with it and now she's planning to tear down the city and recycle all the steel into a robot army and conquer the galaxy.

SLOW DEMENTOE

A disgrace to humanity.

On the 'BANK' screen a prompt appears: "Hello Fey Beth, welcome to system 3000. May we help you?"

54UPPER CITY

Juke is sitting around in the rocket ship with the door opened to the docking bay. He is casually scanning around various data on the computer. The machine suddenly talks to him.

COMPUTER

Subject located; Banking system 3000, terminal 2372B, located in sector 420 in lower city. Transaction incomplete.

Juke stares at the machine and bites his lip nervously.

55BERTRAND'S LAIR

Punchy is working on some kind of large apparatus consisting of a table with straps to hold someone, a huge sack overflowing with potatoes, a lot of electronic stuff and something that looks like a ray gun cannon. His beeper beeps, he turns it off and exits.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

56MOM'S HOUSE

Ernest and Bertrand are standing with ray guns in hand, ready to shoot each other. Mom walks directly in between the two brothers and stands there.

MOM

Now you know the rules, no fighting in the house.
Why can't you boys get along.

BERTRAND

Because I'm always right and he's always stupid.

ERNEST

You're just mad because I always get the girl.

BERTRAND

Not this time. Fey Beth loves me not you.

ERNEST

You wish. Her and I are honest to goodness
sweethearts.

BERTRAND

You are not. I respect her mind, you just want to
have sex with her.

Out of the blue, Mom slaps Bertrand hard across the back of his head. Ernest and Bertrand both turn to look at her.

BERTRAND

Mom! What did you do that for?

MOM

You know why.

BERTRAND

No mom. No, I don't know why.

MOM

I won't have cussing and using the 's' word when
I'm around.

BERTRAND

But mom, I'm a ruthless villain, a murderous
madman.

56MOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

MOM

No when you're in this house.

Suddenly Juke enters from through the kitchen.

Juke

Ernest!! I've found her. She's in the lower city.
I think she's in trouble.

ERNEST

That's that then. Thanks Juke, go get my shoes
ready. Goodbye mom, I'm off to
rescue my fair maiden.

Juke exits.

BERTRAND

That's what you think. She loves me more.

ERNEST

No way. She loves me.

BERTRAND

No; ME.

ERNEST

No; ME.

BERTRAND

ME, ME, ME.

ERNEST

ME, ME, ME.

BERTRAND

ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME

ERNEST

ME,
ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME,
ME

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

56MOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

BERTRAND

ME,
ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME, ME,
ME

MOM

Hold it here a minute now. Let me get to the
bottom of this. Ernest, did this
girl ever say she loved you?

ERNEST

Well.... uh, no.

MOM

What did she say?

ERNEST

She said dull witted and unobservant.

Bertrand snickers.

MOM

And Bertrand?

Bertrand stops snickering and looks up in terror at mom.

MOM

Did she say she loved you?

BERTRAND

She would have gotten to it eventually.

MOM

But...?

BERTRAND

But she had her robot throw me out the window.

Ernest smiles and starts to laugh.

ERNEST

That sure does sound like true love.

56MOM'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

MOM

Ernest!

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Ernest stops smiling in a big hurry and lowers his head with shame. A small sly smile slips onto Bertrand's face but he conceals it. He walks towards the door.

BERTRAND

I suppose we should be going then.

ERNEST

Yes, we better run.

Bertrand opens the door. Ernest is walking with his shoulders slumped down.

BERTRAND

After you... brother.

Ernest walks the door. Bertrand follows, pulling the door closed behind him. Outside the door on the front stoop, shrouded in foliage, Ernest turns momentarily to Bertrand to thank him for opening the door and offers his hand to shake. Bertrand glares at the outstretched hand.

ERNEST

Thank you.

Punchy hits Ernest over the head with a black jack and Ernest falls to the ground. Bertrand spits.

BERTRAND

I'll see you dead before I'll shake your hand.
Punchy, quickly, let's get him back
to my lair.

Punchy starts trying to get a hold on Ernest's body, Bertrand opens the door a crack and sticks his head through.

BERTRAND

Mom, I might be a bit late for dinner, okay?

MOM

Okay, have fun.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

57THE LOWER CITY

The Dementoes are holding Fey Beth as she struggles to free herself. Celine stands in front of her.

A DEMENTOE

Celine? What should we do with her?

Celine

Perverted, filthy traitor. Throw her in the heap
room with her lover and their kind.
I'll figure out what to do with her
later.

They throw her in this caged off area full of destroyed robots. Some of the robots still have some life/charge but have been so badly damaged that they can only wiggle and squirm. Fey Beth lands hard on this pile of steel. She opens her eyes and sees that she has landed beside Fritz's headless body.

FEY BETH

Oh Fritz, they don't know what they've done.

58BERTRAND'S LAIR

Bertrand has Ernest tied to a table. There is a complex arrangement of gadgets surrounding the table. Ernest begins waking up.

BERTRAND

Ah, so you are finally waking up Ernest. Good, now we can get started.

ERNEST

It will never work Bertrand. I stand for truth and justice and freedom for all.

BERTRAND

I've had enough of this rhetoric. It's my turn to talk for a while. Do you see this ray gun cannon...

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

58BERTRAND'S LAIR - CONTINUED

ERNEST

If it's three meters long, shiny silver and positioned less than one meter in front of my face; yes, I think I see it.

BERTRAND

Well when I set it going, it will fire into this one tonne sack of fresh picked potatoes behind you, zig zagging through them like there was no tomorrow.

ERNEST

So what's your point?

BERTRAND

(shakes head as if Ernest is too blind to see the obvious)

Note: below the sack is the other side of the balance which you yourself are strapped to. As the weight of the peels increases, so will you until you eventually rise up into the path of the ray and you will be sliced up like so much kubassa.

PUNCHY

And garnish you with fries.

BERTRAND

Shut Up! I'm trying to be diabolical.

ERNEST

And what do you intend on accomplishing with this dastardly scheme?

BERTRAND

I don't have to make a point; I'm the villain.

ERNEST

You won't get away with this.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

58BERTRAND'S LAIR - CONTINUED

BERTRAND

Oh yes I will. Come on Punchy, let's go. When we
come back, this brother of mine
will be no more.

Ernest is struggling away with the straps and is beginning to get
one of them loose.

PUNCHY

Aren't we going to watch the fireworks?

BERTRAND

No, we have other things to concern ourselves
with. Turn on the ray gun cannon.

PUNCHY

But before the ray can cut him, he's going to
escape. Don't you listen to radio
dramas? You should kill him while
you have the chance.

BERTRAND

Shut up! This plan is foolproof. It won't fail.

Punchy looks over and sees that Ernest has freed one of his
hands.

PUNCHY

It has already failed. You have a simple problem
and you can find a simple solution.
Face your obstacles directly.

Punchy draws a large shiny knife from below his shirt and plunges
it into Ernest's chest. There is a dramatic crash of
electronic sparks and music as Ernest, still too tied up to
protect himself, falls limp. The handle of the knife is left
sticking out of the body. Ernest dies instantly. Bertrand
looks absolutely sick as he dashes over to and looks at the
body of his brother, as if he never really expected to see
Ernest dead. An intensity returns to his eyes.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

58BERTRAND'S LAIR - CONTINUED

PUNCHY

There. Now all your problems are taken care of.

BERTRAND

No, not quite all of them.

Bertrand pulls the huge ray gun cannon off it's mount and points it at Punchy.

BERTRAND

You're right; maybe I should deal with my problems more directly.

PUNCHY

Noooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bertrand fires and Punchy is disintegrated. Bertrand turns to the body behind him and falls to his knees.

BERTRAND

I never really wanted this to happen. I was just so jealous, you were always so much better than me. I always wanted to be just like you.

Suddenly the handle of the knife falls to the floor. Bertrand picks it up and sees that the blade has been melted off. Ernest groans. He is alive.

BERTRAND

Ernest???

ERNEST

Ohhhh. Hey bro'.

BERTRAND

You're supposed to be dead.

ERNEST

Energy vest. He hit one of the transistors and the short circuit knocked me out. Melted the knife good though.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

58BERTRAND'S LAIR - CONTINUED

Oh. Well... uh....
BERTRAND

I heard what you said.
ERNEST

I didn't say anything, you were delirious.
BERTRAND

I just wanted to admit that you were right, I
always went out of my way to
compete against you and beat you. I
envied you so much.
ERNEST

Me?
BERTRAND

Yeah. When we used to listen to radio dramas, I
could copy what the heroes said and
did, but only you could actually
understand any of the meaning
behind it all.
ERNEST

Bertrand, having released the straps, helps Ernest to his feet.
BERTRAND

I don't know what to say.

They look admiringly at each other. Ernest reaches out his hand,
Bertrand shakes it. They both smile and laugh.

What about your threat about world domination?
ERNEST

Oh, I was just talking out of my hat.
BERTRAND

'Thought so.
ERNEST

Come on, we have a rescue to accomplish.
BERTRAND

59THE LOWER CITY - ROBOT GRAVEYARD

Fey Beth is fidgeting with Fritz's body. The gate to the area

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

opens with a loud clang. She turns to see Celine standing there. He waves his hand for the door to be closed, and it is, leaving him and her alone together.

FEY BETH

So what have you decided on? Dip me in tar
perhaps? Or maybe burn me at the
stake?

Celine

Your shame is great. Death is probably the kindest
thing we could do.

FEY BETH

Oh, sure, it's what my whole life has been leading
up to.

Celine

I am willing to give you one chance.

FEY BETH

Which is?

Celine

Marry me. I have been in love with you from the
moment I saw you. Be my bride and
stand beside me as I free the
world. You would make me very
happy.

FEY BETH

Not another one.

Celine

To tell you the truth, I'm glad Fred was a
machine. I wasn't in the mood to
kill a real man.

FEY BETH

He's as real a man as I ever needed. I made him to
measure.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

59THE LOWER CITY - ROBOT GRAVEYARD - CONTINUED

Celine
No machine could replace what I could give you.
Marry me and find out.

FEY BETH
Look; I just don't want to marry you.

Celine
Who cares? It's better than being dead.

FEY BETH
Why won't you just let me go.

Celine
I won't let you to be with anyone but me. You'll
be my girl, or you will die. You
have one hour to decide.

Celine exits. Fey Beth shakes her head back and forth in
disbelief.

FEY BETH
What IS the matter with men these days. Can't they
take 'no' for an answer. What do
you think Fritz?

She lightly kicks the prone foot of her robot. He doesn't move
but she smiles at him.

60LOWER CITY - DEMENTOES CAMP

Celine has just come from seeing Fey Beth. One of his men
approaches.

A DEMENTOE
Can we kill her yet? Can we? Can we?

Celine
She still has a use. I will make up my mind later.
Leave her.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

60 LOWER CITY - DEMENTOES CAMP - CONTINUED

That Dementoe, shoulders slumped, walks away. Celine continues walking. He stops at a secluded spot and sits, his chin leaned on his fist, pondering. The lull is broken by a sudden burst of men screaming.

SOME DEMENTOES

Alert!!! Alert!!! Alert!!! We're under major
attack. Alert!!! Alert!!!

Celine

Derilicks?

A DEMENTOE

There are others with them. We're in trouble.

Celine sees that a massive attack is beginning. He looks around, unsure where he wants to be, then runs off the way he came and back to where Fey Beth is being held.

61 THE LOWER CITY - ROBOT GRAVEYARD

Celine unlocks the door and enters.

FEY BETH

I thought I had forty two more minutes.

Celine

There's been a change in plans Babe. Your friends
are here, and since I don't really
believe that your going to change
your mind this quickly, then this
is good-bye...

Celine raises his ray gun and points it at Fey Beth. Suddenly a hand grabs Celine's leg and pulls him down. The ray gun goes flying. Celine screams as the body of Fritz, headless but for a pair of mismatched eye stalks protruding from it's neck, rises above him. Fritz raises his fist and brings it down heavy on Celine. The screaming stops. Fey Beth looks down on Celine and shakes her head with only a twinge of regret.

FEY BETH

Know thy enemy. Fritz was built like a real man,
his brains aren't in his head.

61 THE LOWER CITY - ROBOT GRAVEYARD - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Fey Beth sees that the gate is open and unguarded. She walks towards it and calls to Fritz.

FEY BETH

Come on Fritz, this way.

She starts to leave but notices that Fritz is not following her. She walks back to him, kicks him in the shins and when his eyes move to her, she waves her hand in front of them to indicate for him to follow her.

FEY BETH

I wish I had time to install ears.

62LOWER CITY - DEMENTOE CAMP

Ernest and Bertrand are charging around side by side firing away with their ray guns. Their army, the Derilicks, are very poorly dressed but seem to have a lot of spirit as they overwhelm the Dementoes. Everyone is fighting. Ernest picks off a sniper hiding behind some pipes.

BERTRAND

Good shot.

ERNEST

Thanks.

A Dementoe sneaks up behind Ernest. He is about to kill Ernest but Bertrand knocks him over the head with the handle of his ray gun.

ERNEST

That's a good move. How'd you learn it.

BERTRAND

Out of necessity. I keep forgetting to recharge my ray gun.

Ernest and Bertrand laugh and continue firing.

Juke dodges ray gun fire as he darts around past the Derilicks and Dementoes alike, looking for someone. Finally he spots Fey Beth and makes his way towards her. Fritz is grabbing Dementoes left and right and throwing them aside; protecting Fey Beth.

62LOWER CITY - DEMENTOE CAMP - CONTINUED

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Juke

Fey Beth!

FEY BETH

I'm alright, I knew you would find me.

Juke

Let's get out of here.

FEY BETH

The entire city is in danger if these guys ever
get that Black Box.

Juke

Don't worry, let's go.

Fey Beth gives a confused look at Juke but follows him out of the battle. Fritz follows. They reach Ernest and Bertrand as the battle is ending. There are only a few sparse ray gun blasts but the few remaining Dementoes are running off. Ernest and Bertrand stand beside Karl, leader of the Derilicks, all proud of the victory.

ERNEST

There, that's the way to dispatch a foe.

KARL

Well thank you Ernest, and you Bertrand, for a
most enjoyable afternoon.

BERTRAND

It was nothing; all in a days work.

FEY BETH

So you are one of the 'lowest form of scum' I've
heard so much about.

KARL

You've been talking to Celine. Yeah, he never
liked us very much. Didn't like
anybody very much.

FEY BETH

And what was your dispute with him? Jealousy?
Territory? Vengeance?

62LOWER CITY - DEMENTOE CAMP - CONTINUED

KARL

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Na; we just liked being a thorn in their side.
They take life too seriously.

FEY BETH

Then what are you all doing living down here?

KARL

No reason. We're all Mother Earth citizens and so
we have the right to live anywhere
we want. We're just exercising our
rights.

ERNEST

You have to exercise to keep fit.

BERTRAND

What are we all standing around for. Let's wander
up to sea level and have us a
party.

Everyone cheers and begin to exit. Bodies litter the battlefield
but are paid no heed; they will soon be disposed of quietly
and discretely by the city's faithful robot caretakers.

63UPPER CITY: PROMETHIUS - THE SEA WALL

There is a crowd of people in an open space on the top of the sea
wall, with the city to one side and the ocean to the other.
Everyone is drinking and being festive.

ERNEST

...and then he yelled at me: "You can't beat us,
we are the superior pure race" and
I yelled back at him: "Eat my ray
gun"

There is a tremendous roar of laughter. Bertrand stands up.

BERTRAND

And then they tried to drop a fifty tonne block
onto us and I said to Ernest:
"Don't you think we should move"
and he says back to me: "Na,

63UPPER CITY: PROMETHIUS - THE SEA WALL - CONTINUED

BERTRAND (CONTINUED)

I just put in new curtains and my apartment looks
great now." and so I blew away the

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

crane operator.

There is more cheers and laughter. Bertrand sits down and Karl gets up and begins telling a longer story. Ernest nudges Bertrand and they have a whispered conversation.

ERNEST

Why don't we go cruising.

BERTRAND

Sure, your rocket ship or mine.

ERNEST

Better take mine, yours was impounded.

BERTRAND

What?!????!!

ERNEST

Burnt out tail light. They wanted to give you a warning but I said...

BERTRAND

You'll never change, will you brother.

Bertrand laughs and the two slip away from the crowd. Fey Beth, Juke, and the deaf, mute Fritz are standing around at the back of the group. They walk and talk until they reach the edge of the sea wall from where they can look and see miles out into the vast ocean.

FEY BETH

So that's what it was all about? Putting two brothers back together?

Juke

Yeah; now it looks like they're leaving.

FEY BETH

They wouldn't leave us here, would they?

63UPPER CITY: PROMETHIUS - THE SEA WALL - CONTINUED

Juke

I've never seen either of them so happy. Things are sure going to different.

FEY BETH

There's still some things I don't understand.

THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Juke

Such as?

FEY BETH

Why was I arrested? I never did those things they said.

Juke

I suppose that was my fault. I knew that Bertrand was ahead of us so I did some creative adjustments to you files and wired them ahead. I had to get you out of the house before he got there.

FEY BETH

Then the information about my brother?

Juke

I'm sorry, that was me too. I found the name in an ancient book a few years ago and thought it was kind of catchy.

FEY BETH

Then everything about the 'Black Box of Truth' is also a lie? Everyone was looking for it but you said not to worry about them finding it. You knew it didn't exist.

Juke

Oh no, it does exist. I have it right here in my sack.

Juke pulls out a small steel box, jet black, with a hinged top. Fey Beth's mouth drops open in amazement.

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FEY BETH

Well, what does it do?

Juke

I'm not really to sure. We came across it a couple of adventures ago. Since then I've be planting rumours and legends about it where ever I can. All I ever found about it is that a

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person can know the truth if they
were to open it.

FEY BETH

And so what happened when you opened it?

Juke stares dumbfounded. He seems absolutely shocked at the
question, like he had never considered it before.

Juke

I can't believe I've never tried.

Fey Beth and Juke both stare at the box in Juke's hands. With
trembling fingers, Juke slowly grasps the lid and opens it.
A faint blue light emits softly from it. Juke stares at the
light for a moment then, as if in a trance, looks up at Fey
Beth.

Juke

Your brother, you and he were playing near an old
reactor core. You weren't supposed
to be there.

FEY BETH

No! Please!

Juke

You told him it was all right. You were told to be
responsible. You dared him to climb
to the top. You were the only one
there to see him fall.

Fey Beth is extremely distressed, on the verge of tears.

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Juke

And after he fell, you knew he would be dead so
you lied to everyone to keep
yourself out of trouble. Everyone
looked in the wrong places so the
body was never found.

FEY BETH

I heard him scream. I knew he would be incinerated
in the reactor.

Juke

But the reactor was cold. Your brother hit his
head and was knocked cold. He was
so scared, but he couldn't get out.

Fey Beth stares at Juke in utter terror.

FEY BETH

No. Then. Is. He.....Alive?

Juke

Yes, I think so.

FEY BETH

Where?

Juke

It's hard to tell. He doesn't know who he is. He
is lonely but he does not know why.

FEY BETH

You've got to tell me.

Juke seems to slide out of the trance and into an odd tranquil
state, like he has awoken from a long sleep. He looks
around, as if seeing the world again for the first time. The
box falls from his hands, bounces once and plummets over the
edge of the wall to the ocean below. He and Fey Beth stare
at each other, Fey Beth searching Juke's now slightly
altered expression.

Juke

Fey Beth, I'm home.

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THE MAN WITH THE ROCKET SHOES

Suddenly Ernest's rocket ship swoops down from above. The rocket ship then hovers above them. The bottom hatch opens and Ernest pokes his head out.

ERNEST

Are you guys coming?

Juke and Fey Beth stare out at the water. They turn and look at each other, then up at Ernest.

ERNEST

Well???

Juke and Fey Beth smile at each other.

FEY BETH

Yeah, we'll come.

Juke begins climbing the hanging rope Ernest has lowered. Fey Beth follows and then Fritz.

ERNEST

So Fey Beth; are you sure you won't reconsider
marrying me?

Bertrand pokes his head out.

BERTRAND

Or me???

FEY BETH

Sorry guys, but I'm in the middle of a family
reunion here.

Juke looks back at Fey Beth on the ladder. She smiles and winks at him. As the door swings shut, we hear Ernest exclaim...

ERNEST

Wow, I thought that things like this only happened
on the radio!

The rocket ship flies off towards its next adventure.

end