

The Capture

By

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Based on themes of  
K.A. Applegate's AnimorphsHope

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ACT I

SCENE 1

(Lights up on SAM, lying on his stomach in bed, headphones on, comic book in front of him. A faint knock on the door. Then a louder knock. SAM'S mother JANICE enters looking flustered. SAM pulls his headphones off and looks at her in a sarcastic way)

SAM

Wow mom, ever hear of knocking?

JANICE

I did knock, twice in fact. Loudly in the later part. What are you doing Sam? I thought we talked about Student Government, or Drama or Sports or ANYTHING extracurricular for you to be involved in. It's been two months and not a single friend, nothing. You hide in music and comic books and sure that's not the worst I could expect but really Sam, please. For me.

SAM

I don't like it here, I'm sorry that my anti social behavior is tearing you up inside. Heaven forbid that a divorce and relocation effects my life. Close the door behind you.

(Puts his headphones back on and picks a new position to read and just looks at her for a moment before going back to his comic)

(JANICE exits with a huff and walks to the kitchen/dining area. They live in a small two bedroom house. She heavily puts her purse on the dining room table and goes to the cordless phone hanging on the wall next to the refrigerator and angrily punches in some numbers.)

JANICE

Well thank you so much Phil. Well I just got the first divorce stab from him, it was great. I love seeing my child become a recluse and then bitch to me about my marriage failing. Yeah I'm sure you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JANICE (cont'd)  
have it tough. No I'm pretty sure  
that his choice of living with you  
still hasn't changed, god knows I  
can't do it what makes you think he  
can. Well I just wanted to keep you  
updated, if things continue on this  
way I swear that I'll put him in  
therapy. All he does is read those  
damn comics and it's like those ear  
phones are wired to his skull. No  
school wise nothing has really  
changed, maths a little slack but  
it always has been. Yeah, sure I'll  
let you go, don't want to keep  
Cynthia waiting.

(JANICE hangs up the phone roughly and just sits down  
holding her head in her hands holding back quiet sobs)

LIGHTS DOWN

SCENE 2

(Phone rings, lights come up we see JANICE walking over to  
it from the stove obviously cooking something. SAM is at the  
table books, where books are thrown around, pencil in mouth,  
calculator in hand with a weird look on his face. JANICE  
picks up the phone)

JANICE  
Hello. Oh, hello Principal Chapman.

(SAM shoots her a look and she gives him an even sterner  
look)

JANICE  
Yes I know that math is a problem,  
he's sitting at the table right now  
doing it. Yes I have noticed the  
lack of social interaction. Well I  
appreciate the concern but we are  
working on it. Oh really? Really?!  
That sounds great. Yes tomorrow at  
4:30 sounds great. Well I look  
forward to it, thank you so much.  
You too, have a good evening.

(JANICE walks back to the stove while SAM eyes follow her  
and she continues to cook)

(CONTINUED)

SAM

WELL?!

JANICE

Oh, you're being social now?

(Sam cocks his head and gives her that typical teenage look of content and sarcasm)

SAM

Why did Chapman call? I mean I don't stick out that bad. And a C in math is worth a phone call home?

JANICE

Well he called because they take better care of kids here than in LA. He wanted to make sure that I knew and that you weren't lying to me, not a bad policy in my eyes.

SAM

Okay so great aside from that weirdness what is happening at 4:30 tomorrow?

JANICE

Well Principal Chapman is afraid that your missing out what this town has to offer. So I guess he's involved with that group, The Sharing; and he's sending over a representative tomorrow so we can take a look around. I'm not promising that I can get work off for every event but it would give you a place to hang out and kids to talk to and what not. To me any group like that is good. Especially since it's not some weird religious thing, course now watch the guys gonna show up in a white robe telling us to drink the punch.

(SAM gives her a disgusted look)

SAM

THE SHARING?! Seriously mom, like half the school is in it and they are always so happy. Can't I just stick with comic books, being a recluse is nice, no one disagrees with me.

(CONTINUED)

JANICE

This is not up for discussion. I gave you two months to find something and you haven't. I wasn't picky and I don't care what it is. If you joined the GSA and started wearing pink I would be happy, least you were doing something. That man is coming here tomorrow, we are going on a tour and then I'll seem to act not interested to get a discount and then I will be paying for a month membership for BOTH of us. You will make friends, I'll take a C in Math if you get a friend.

(SAM scowls at her and pulls out his head phones and jabs them in his ear grumbling under his breath)

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE 3

Living room area changes around for more of a group setting. Dining room table is flipped upside down into a ping pong table. A wall has blocked up the kitchen area and now there is a door there saying "FULL MEMBERS ONLY". SAM's room is now dark but with weird reflective light every now and then. Lights come up on SAM and JANICE being led by a younger man TOM.

TOM

Well as you see our common area here in the main lobby is pretty nice. Basic seating; we have a few book clubs, game nights, Fridays is DDR, Saturdays there are movies and then every Sunday we have a big barbecue from 2-6. It's really fun swimming in the lake, a bonfire, volleyball. Looks like you could have a mean spike Sam.

(JANICE and SAM look around as TOM wanders around)

JANICE

See I told you, not a cult!

In hushed whispers so TOM doesn't hear

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Ah huh and what about that door  
right there? That where they keep  
the bodies?

JANICE snorts kind of and then clears her throat

JANICE

So Tom, what's behind the door?  
That the punch room where we meet  
your leader after we empty our  
checking accounts?

(TOM laughs and come towards them)

TOM

Funny, but no. Full membership  
isn't something you buy, it's  
earned. Usually you have to be in  
The Sharing for about six months to  
get to be a full member, shows that  
your serious. But newer members can  
be sponsored. It's all about  
showing good faith to the  
community, doing something serious  
that gets our attention, rattle  
cages and shake things up for the  
good of the community. We are only  
as strong as our town, so we want  
it to be the best.

TOM gives them a big smile and JANICE looks kinda stunned

JANICE

You know that is a really awesome  
thing, I think I really like this  
club. But I gotta ask for my sake.  
Is there a comic book club? I've  
got mad cravings and would love an  
outlet?

TOM gives her a little smile and SAM looks horrified

TOM

Actually there is, meets Tuesdays  
at five. And actually our founder  
is well connected with Marvel and  
we sometimes get a batch here and  
there of stuff a week early, or  
even a visit for a survey now and  
then, really cool stuff. But sadly  
I'm a DC fan myself, Batman all the  
way.

(CONTINUED)

JANICE just smiles

JANICE

Gotta love the Bat, seriously. Well this sounds great and I was gonna try to haggle but how much would it be for two one month memberships?

JANICE takes out her check book and a pen and looks at him

TOM

Oh well there are not fee's. We take donations, but its' all free.

JANICE

Well this is an amazing group and I can't wait till Sunday for the barbecue. Sadly I can't make the comic meeting this week but I think I'll send Sam to let me know what they are up to.

TOM

Sounds like a great plan. All the buses in town swing by here too, so transport is never a problem.

JANICE

You know I really can't wait, what about you Sam.

SAM who during this whole speech was wondering around looking at things and pacing around looks up

SAM

Yeah, can't wait.

LIGHTS DOWN

SCENE 4

We hear the rustling of people leaving and the clatter of shuffling feet and hooting people.

LIGHTS UP on TOM and SAM. TOM has a stack of comics that he puts away in a bookcase.

TOM

So Sam what did you think. It's not that bad, we're all geeks here.

SAM looks around but is still really introverted and shrugs

(CONTINUED)

SAM

I guess so, but I don't know. Still seems weird to me. I mean I feel so out of place at times. And other times I feel the need to be part of something bigger, ya know?

TOM smiles and nods

TOM

I know exactly what you mean. You know I think I'm gonna bend the rules here. How would you like to see what it's like in the full member area. It's kinda like a different world.

Again SAM shrugs and TOM motions towards the door. We hear TOM

TOM V.O.

Well this is just the basic lounge, bigger TV, more comfortable sofa's all that jazz but what I wanna show you is our new Koi pond. It's a little Zen area we're building. Place where you can just sit and read. Very cool.

SAM V.O.

Yeah sounds like it, cool to do that sometimes.

We see them now in the corridor leading to where SAM bedroom would be. TOM gets to the door smiles and pulls out a key and unlocks it.

TOM

Safety. It's still under construction, but we have the pond in, still cool.

TOM opens the door and SAM looks in interested. We see a black lip of a pool and the reflective surface of water. Green lighting is in the room and we hear a faint sloshing.

TOM

Go ahead and take a look, big Koi. They are really nice though, nibble on your fingers a little even.

(CONTINUED)



SAM

You sure?

TOM

Yeah, here look.

TOM walks to the pool and kneels down and puts his hand in the water and then laughs a little bit, SAM smiles and then gets on his knees and puts his hand in the water. Quickly TOM hits SAM in the back of the head dazing him and the forces his head under the water. We hear sloshing and struggling and finally SAM stops and TOM lets go. We see SAM lift his head and shake the water off his head and gasp.

LIGHTS GO OUT

## SCENE 5

Lights up on SAM's bedroom, now normal and SAM lies on the bed asleep

Both roles are to be recorded and then played. SAMS facial expressions are very stern and emotionless during this. His voice is frantic and can't understand what is going on and why he can't control his body and is hearing this voice in his head.

ODRET 177

Well I have to say that you have lived an interesting little life so far. But I have never had a host faint on me.

SAM V.O.

What?! What's going on!! Oh my god, what's wrong with me? HELP!!

ODRET 177

Oh scream all you'd like, you belong to me now Sam.

SAM V.O.

What are you? What is this, this is impossible, this can't be happening.

ODRET 177

Oh it is and oh it can. You are mine now. I control you, welcome to the glorious Yeerk Empire. You wanted to be part of something bigger, well here you are.

(CONTINUED)

SAM V.O.

No. no, no, no, NO! Get out of my head you filthy thing. This is wrong, please just let me go. I promise I will just let it go, I'll leave and go far away.

ODRET 177

Oh, to who? Your worthless, loveless father? You know that would kill your mom. And you love her more anyway, you couldn't stand living with him.

SAM V.O.

What?! How do you know that.

ODRET 177

I know everything. I can look through your brain like a Rolodex. It's so easy, every secret, feeling, emotion, memory, it's all at my mercy. As is your body, you're powerless to stop me.

SAM V.O.

You Yeerk's sure are arrogant.

ODRET 177

Arrogant? Why wouldn't we be? We are the most powerful race in the galaxy. Overlords of the Taxxons. Conquerors of the Hork-Bajir and the Ssstram and the Mak. Soon to be conquerors of the humans, one at a time we take you, you're just another pawn.

SAM V.O.

But someone will notice, I mean you can't be me there are signs that things that only I do.

ODRET 177

Right we'll test that soon enough. Actually I think it shall be tested right now.

There is a light knock on the door

SAM

Come in

(CONTINUED)

SAM V.O.

What, I didn't say that.

ODRET 177

Of course you didn't puppet.

JANICE

Hey honey, sorry I'm so late, the office was a mad house I had to stay while there was a major development. I really think Peter is onto something.

SAM

No problem mom, I was with Tom late tonight anyway. Guess I was so tired I just came home and crashed.

JANICE

Well that is the good news that I have been looking forward to hearing. See they aren't a cult and you already made a friend. This is gonna change your life I'm sure.

SAM V.O.

Mom please help me, MOM!. You worthless piece of filth let me talk to my mother. LET ME OUT!

SAM

Yeah mom I'm sure it already has, I can feel it. Already I can see that there is a bright new future.

JANICE

See that's the spirit. Well I hope it's not a disappointment's but I think soup and sandwiches is as best as were gonna get tonight.

SAM

Sounds great mom, I'll be out in a little bit. Let me get out of these school clothes still.

JANICE leaves and SAM get dressed in some pajama pants and a tank top

ODRET 177

See, I can be you, it's really simple. And beyond just being you. I can be the you that everyone in

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ODRET 177 (cont'd)  
the world wants. Be the son your  
mom always wanted and the student  
every teacher has dreamed of.

SAM V.O.  
You won't get away with this. If  
it's the last thing I ever do I  
will beat you.

ODRET 177  
Oh pathetic human I look forward to  
that threat.

SAM walks to the dining room and there are two bowls on the  
table and JANICE is making sandwiches.

SAM  
So what's the big break through at  
work? Are we gonna be rich?

JANICE laughs

JANICE  
Well I guess if my team does do  
something amazing it would trickle  
down. But yeah it's a pretty big  
discovery. Peter was all in the  
rage about it saying how it'll  
revolutionize the way we  
communicate. So long broadband  
internet and hello future.

SAM  
Sound very cool. But yeah The  
Sharing wasn't as bad as I thought  
it would be. They are even bigger  
geeks then I am . And I can't wait  
for you to come Sunday and meet  
people.

JANICE  
I'm gonna go change too, you had a  
good idea kiddo. Be right back.

JANICE Exits

SAM V.O.  
Don't you dare. You stay away from  
my mother you piece of garbage. YOU  
STAY AWAY FROM HER!

(CONTINUED)

ODRET 177

This is why your here Sam, we are interested in your mothers work, we need to see if its worth it to infest her as well.

SAM V.O.

Her job! She's a government research scientist. Why is she of such great interest, it's communication, not rocket science, please just leave her alone.

ODRET 177

See that kind of where your wrong. Your mother and her team are working on a developmental way of communication that it took even the Andalites almost a hundred year to develop. Zero-Space Transponders take a long time to develop. The scientific theory they are applying yes is basic but it is a major stepping stone. They are a calculation away from opening a new branch of Technology to your world. It would boost you into a new prosperous age of development that would advance you quickly. We are running out of time to conquer you and soon for humans it will be too late.

JANICE enters wearing a robe and socks. And they start eating.

JANICE

You know I haven't gotten out of this house in ages. Wonder if they have a singles mixer. I could use a nice drink with some single men to mingle with.

SAM

That's imagery that I didn't need to think about.

SAM V.O.

STOP IT!

JANICE

Yeah well too bad for you. Now finish up and go to bed. It's late  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JANICE (cont'd)  
and school in the morning. You  
better ace that math test.

SAM  
Oh you bet I will. Here comes an A,  
make room on the fridge.

SAM V.O.  
I love you mom

ODRET 177  
You're welcome, I didn't have to  
say that.

JANICE  
Night hun

SAM  
Night

SAM V.O.  
I'll fight you. I will.

ODRET 177  
At first the host fights, or at  
least tries. But hour after hour  
and day after day they see that  
they cannot rule their own bodies.  
The host sees that no-one even  
knows what has happened to him. No  
one knows he is lost in his own  
head. And, over time, hope dies.  
The host becomes a faint, shattered  
creature. You will be no different.

SAM puts his bowl in the sink and then walks into his room  
and lies down.

LIGHT DOWN

#### SCENE 6

Lights up as SAM lies in bed. It's early the next morning.  
During the monologues SAM is lying in the bed staring at the  
ceiling and moving his arms. Eventually he can get up and  
walk around the room.

SAM V.O.  
What are you? Why are you doing  
this to me? To us? Are you from  
Mars? Or something what's going on?

(CONTINUED)

ODRET 177

Oh simple human. There is nothing on Mars, we are from a world pretty far away actually. But don't worry, your race is so worth the trip.

SAM V.O.

So you're like body snatchers, guess it's good you're not eating us.

ODRET 177

Little more advanced then your fiction writers can dream. But yes, we are after your bodies, you are host to us.

SAM V.O.

How can you do this! I'm a person, we have rights. I'm a living independent being, this is slavery! And now I'm stuck with you in my brain for as long as I don't want to imagine, and what the hell is a Hork-Bajir?

ODRET 177

Well I guess a small history lesson wouldn't hurt you, would stop future stupid questions. Years ago we Yeerks were not the great power in the universe that we are now. We were stranded on our home world. Trapped deep within the pools of our planet that held us and fed us. To you humans our natural bodies are nothing more than slugs, about six inches long. Nothing truly to be afraid of. Our planet was sparsely populated with creatures called Gedds. Millions of us, thousands of them. At times some would get the chance to infest the Gedds and see the sky and the weakness of our natural forms in the pools.

SAM V.O.

So I guess a long time ago in a galaxy far away is kinda accurate then, huh?

(CONTINUED)

ODRET 177

Not that long ago to your Earth years really. In your year 1966 was when our fortunes changed. The Andalites came, their helpful Prince Serrow and his foolishness, his curse of kindness. He took pity on us and showed us our world, the universe. He thought we could be great allies and that together the Andalites and Yeerks could make the galaxy a wonderful place. If their ignorance and superiority didn't get in the way it might have worked. We lead a rebellion.

SAM V.O.

So you break free and then make a quick turn and hit Earth and just start infesting people with stolen technology? That's a quick evolution for a vat of slugs.

ODRET 177

Ha, no it's not that simple, monkey baby. We wondered the universe looking for suitable host to infest and destroy the Andalites. Eventually we found the Hork-Bajir. Started a mass infestation there but the Andalites got there faster than expected and ended up slaughtering a majority of the population with a virus they designed. Andalites figure better dead than in Yeerk Control.

SAM V.O.

Well I can slightly agree with that right now, death is better than the lack of control.

ODRET 177

After that numerous races fell into our hands, the Taxxons although great in number are weak in mind and body and other races just don't have the numbers. Congratulations, with your lush population we couldn't refuse.

(CONTINUED)



SAM V.O.

So because we are just here and you have a war to fight you enslave us to be disposable bodies. We aren't the soldiers, just their weapons. This is just sick and wrong. If anyone finds out, if this gets out we will crush you, sure we aren't advanced but nothing will persevere more then the human spirit, trust me. We will be the end of you.

ODRET 177

Wow, such confidence and from a child even. We are not going to give you up. If somehow someone did find out and we couldn't cover it up, then we would have no other choice then to start an open war. We would withdraw to the ships, power up our shields and dracon beams and simply destroy your weapons from space. Sure a few hundred thousand may die, but we would still get the prize of millions more. Acceptable losses to destroy the Andalites.

SAM V.O.

Do you hear what you are saying? You are talking about lives. Hundreds of thousands! Are you joking? Is war really that necessary that you must enslave an entire race just to fight for you. That you send us to our deaths and just kill us freely.

ODRET 177

Justification for our actions, that's what you want. You want my answer to a question that should be answered by my people. I am a soldier and you are my weapon. Well lets look at this. We all have to study Earth before we infest a human. Do you know that there is no other planet we know of that is like Earth? No planet out there has this much wildlife. No other planet has such beautiful oceans, expansive forest and jungles. Life here is wild and unique. It is

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ODRET 177 (cont'd)

almost what you would call art. Yet you massacre it. You kill your trees. You slaughter animals for consumption, train others to be your pets. You have effected this planet beyond what it should have been effected by. You are just cows to us.

SAM V.O.

We are not cows. We have thoughts, and feelings. And history and futures! Fine, let's focus on you. Do you see what you are doing to me? You are taking away the chance that I have in life. You are taking away my future. I could have been anything in this world but you are taking that from me. A cow is just a cow. I could have done anything, people are more than just bodies. You are stealing an entire civilization. Everything we could do and have done. What if we did develop and you never met us till we destroyed the Andalites and then you had to fight us. The future for us is glorious and you are destroying that. For the sake of your war.

ODRET 177

Well, now I guess you can be a philosopher. But no child. We don't care about your future, we care about ours. Our future is the only one that matters. We will rule this galaxy, the Yeerk Empire will reign supreme over everyone. With the numbers of Humans we will have the Andalites will fight but they will die and they know they will. It takes so long from them to reproduce one at a time. There are millions of you. And if wished by The Council there can be millions of us before the month is out. This is war and you are nothing more than the horses you rode upon in your great history. That is your future. You will carry the rulers of the Universe. You should be proud.

(CONTINUED)

SAM V.O.

You won't win this war. Not with  
us,  
we will be your down fall.

ODRET 177

Oh we'll see about that.

JANICE

Sam wake up, time to kick math  
butt.

SAM

Okay mom, getting up.

LIGHTS DOWN

SCENE 7

LIGHTS UP on the dining room. JANICE is on the phone.

JANICE

No Phil he's getting better.  
(pause) Well yeah math has really  
picked up, all his grades have sky  
rocketed we're talking A and B  
honor roll and then all this  
activity with The Sharing has made  
him really busy. (pause) Well it's  
been about three weeks since he  
joined and it's all he talks about  
really, feel bad that I haven't  
been to any of the events, he keeps  
telling me to come. (pause) No Phil  
I'm not ignoring him at home, I'm  
home really often I just don't feel  
like going out, and I don't see how  
it's any of your business. Well  
he's doing fine and unless there  
are anymore pressing issues I do  
have a life. Ah huh, bye

JANICE hangs up the phone and then walks back to the  
kitchen. The phone rings and she huffs and walks right back  
in.

JANICE

Yes Phil. (pause) Oh Peter, sorry I  
just got off the phone with my ex.  
Yeah it's never that pleasant.  
(Pause) Nope sorry I haven't seen  
Marco around, don't think him and

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JANICE (cont'd)

Sam really hang out together which is a shame, we should set up a time where they can. (pause) I know how about we all go to that Sharing barbecue this weekend. Just friends I promise, need to actually get out of this house and Sam has been hounding me to meet some of the sharing people. (pause) Awesome, I can't wait. Okay well lets meet here around 11ish and we can just car pool. (pause) See you Saturday, bye.

SAM enters throwing his backpack in the corner heads to the kitchen.

SAM

Hey mom, how are you?

JANICE

I'm good honey, I actually just made some fun plans.

SAM

Oh really, and that would be?

SAM walks to the kitchen and we see him entering with a coke can which he starts drinking. SAM grabs his backpack and starts to pile out books onto the dining room table and sits down.

JANICE

Yeah I just got off the phone with Peter, and he and Marco are coming over Saturday, because we are all going to The Sharing barbecue. Told you I just needed a little time to work stuff around. I'm sorry it took this long honey but see, I'm trying.

SAM jumps up and gives JANICE a hug

SAM V.O.

NO. NO! Okay stop, please stop, I've been good, I've stopped nagging I helped you pick out people, I've talked to you about this, you can't take my mom.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

That's awesome mom, I knew you could and bringing Peter and Marco is even better, more the merrier!

ODRET 177

And I told you puppet I may put it off but seriously TWO of the scientist I need are walking into camp, Visser Three will reward me handsomely for this. I may even be promoted to a full Visser, stopping this development will stop all your science in it's tracks.

SAM V.O.

DAMMIT!

The soda in SAMS hand suddenly is jerked out of his hand and onto the floor, SAMS face is pure shock for a moment.

SAM

I'm so sorry mom, guess my grip gave out I'll get some paper towel.

SAM darts to the kitchen and returns with a huge bundle of peper towels and cleans up soda.

ODRET 177

Well, that was exciting. But I assure you it won't happen again. Go ahead and fight, FIGHT ME! Struggle all you like human, it won't matter. In the end I am in your head, wrapped around your brain like a blanket. No one has ever beaten a Yeerk, and you won't be the first.

SAM V.O.

Don't count on that promotion yet, your confidence is your weakness, the Yeerk weakness, you will all lose. If it's the last thing I do.

JANICE moves around SAM and puts her hands on his shoulder. SAMS hand touches her.

SAM

I love you mom.

(CONTINUED)

JANICE

I love you too honey, now stop doing homework and go watch some TV like a normal person for a little bit.

ODRET 177

What was that? How did you touch her, let alone speak. Guess I'll have to keep a much closer eye on you. This will never happen again, so don't try.

SAM V.O.

If you say so.

SAM points his remote towards the audience and we hear a news caster.

REPORTER V.O.

And once again we are happy to announce that young Karen Harper daughter of the UniBank President Thomas Harper has been found alive and well in the middle of the forest preservation. Young Karen although dirty and sporting a broken ankle has been chosen as the guest of honor for a barbecue being hosted by The Sharing at lakefront park on Saturday at noon. In other news we may have rain in our near future.

LIGHT OUT

SCENE 8

The sound of rain is heard loudly pouring and the lights slowly fade up. We find JANICE sitting at the table with SAM.

JANICE

Really sorry the weather canceled the barbecue hun, was going to be a lot of fun, but next week we'll go, I promise.

SAM

Yeah I know, it's a bummer. Well I think I'm gonna go read my new comic book and just relax. I'll see you around.

(CONTINUED)

SAM goes and enters his room and drops onto his bed.

SAM V.O.

Aww no promotion this weekend it seems.

ODRET 177

I believe I can wait a week to turn your mother over to Visser Three. And that fool Peter and who ever else I have to. You're not going to be able to stop me.

SAM V.O.

Of course not, I am a weak human meat puppet, forgive me for taking up mental space.

ODRET 177

We will call it an even trade, you can share the mental space while I am here, that is until of course my promotion. I'm going on to a resting cycle, you'll be awake but unable to move. Stay quiet so I can rest.

SAM V.O.

Guess I'll just power down too then Threepeo.

A few moments pass with Sam just lying on his bed when suddenly we see him blink, and then slowly move his head around and sit up gradually. And then he smiles. He walks over to his English book and opens it and a slip of paper falls out.

SAM

"There's always hope, fight it Sam, people notice that can see. Call us if you can. Ask for Kathy. Sam 1, Yeerk 0

With that SAM gets up and walks over to his phone on the dresser and dials a number.

SAM

Hello, I'd like to speak to Kathy please. Thank you. (pause) Hello, is this Kathy? (pause) Good, this is Odret 177, I'd like to speak with you. My host name is Sam, I'd like to invite you over for dinner.

LIGHT OUT

SCENE 9

LLIGHTS UP of SAM lying in bed, eyes open and suddenly as if in a trance his head jerks up and again he goes into a slight trace but in a bewildered look he rises and stands in front of a mirror.

ODRET 177  
HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?

SAM  
Suddenly you're not so tough when the puppet cuts a few strings. It wasn't easy and I'm not going to let you know how it is I am doing this, but I am. I have a deal for you.

ODRET 177  
Guess I have no other choice but to listen. Go on.

SAM  
I turn in who ever wrote this note in my English book and is coming to meet us. Then while Visser Three ask where my mom is we lie and say they aren't even close to Zero-Space technology, but my father is in politics in LA. we go to him and start The Sharing there, allowing more access to the capital.

ODRET 177  
You would sell your father for your mother? And betray your life and race for her?

SAM  
well I can't do much to stop you, not from what I understand. Why not, LA is evil enough maybe they won't even notice.

ODRET 177  
You make a decent offer actually. Fine we shall meet and betray these guest. But you shall give me control, if you want control for a  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



ODRET 177 (cont'd)  
reason ask and I will allow you to  
have it.

SAM  
Fine, but nothing funny.

SAM exits his bedroom and goes to the table where JANICE is  
is sitting quietly reading a thick packet of papers and a  
manilla envelope, she seems in shock.

SAM  
Everything okay mom?

JANICE jerks in surprise.

JANICE  
Yeah things are.... No, things  
aren't fine. seems your father is  
now sueing for full custody and  
it's going to be a long fight.

SAM  
WHAT?! Why would he doe that, we  
don't even talk. Would it make a  
difference if I asked him to let it  
go?

JANICE  
No honey, I'm sorry but I know him,  
it really wouldn't. Nothing short  
of death would stop your father  
when he has it eyes on something.  
But trust me, your opinion will  
matter in court and we'll win this.

SAM gives her a big hug and they embrace for a moment.

SAM  
Well good news, I have a friend  
coming over to study. Her names  
Kathy so she'll be here soon.

JANICE  
Kathy huh. Well okay, just keep the  
door open.

SAM  
MOM!

Knocking comes from the door and SAM rushes to open it.  
KATHY is standing there with he backpack and smiles at him.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Well mom, this is Kathy. Kathy this is my mom Janice. We're going now, everything will be fine.

SAM and KATHY hurry to SAMS room and he closes the door a bit but not all the way.

SAM

Nice to meet you. Sorry I have to keep appearances up, my host mother is not one of us, yet. So what is it I can help you with?

KATHY

Well I saw the change in you over the last few weeks. And before we dive in to deep know that I cannot be tracked, I don't live with a family and Chapman doesn't have the ability to follow me that well. If you're going to try and turn me in I will get away and you will look foolish. I'm a member of the Yeerk Peace Movement, we've just recently formed. We are looking to start a way of thinking that allows Yeerks and their host to work together to stop Yeerks from hostily taking ove the universe and are planning development for a synthetic host that we can use insted of biological. Are you interested?

SAM

The Yeerk Peace Movement.... well it sounds like you have a good plan, a cheap sybiot would infact replace the need to enslave. This human has tought me the strength of their humanity. I don't think we'll be able to win honestly. So let's do it. I'll join.

KATHY

Great. There is a meeting at The Sharing, the enlightenment club, it's very safe. I look forward to seeing you there. I'll see myself out.

KATHY leaves SAMS room and then the EXITS. JANICE walks in carrying a little tray with soda cans on it and a bowl of chips and enters the rooms and sighs.

(CONTINUED)

JANICE

Great I pulla Joan Cleaver to snoop  
and she's not even here. What did  
you do?

SAM laughs

SAM

I did nothing, she unlike some kids  
has a cell phone. Her dad called so  
she had to go, we're meeting up at  
The Sharing later. Speaking of  
which I did some digging and there  
is a singles mixer that they host  
at a cafe downtown on Thursday  
nights. Starts at 9 and I think you  
should go, I can feed myself.

JANICE stares at SAM for a moment and smiles.

JANICE

Fine, I'm going to do it! Thanks  
honey, you really are the best son.

ODRET 177

Go ahead, hug her and let her know  
you love her.

ODRET 177 says this in a nice tone, almost friendly. SAM  
lunges at her and gives her a big hug.

SAM

No problem mom, I love you, more  
than happy to let you have the  
night off, just don't get used to  
it.

JANICE exits to the dining room where she stops and pops  
back into his room.

JANICE

You should order some pizza's and  
invite Tom over, maybe you guys  
could hang out more. I'd be happy  
to cover it.

SAM

You know what that's a great idea,  
I think I will.

JANICE exits and SAM goes to his phone and picks it up and  
dials.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Hi Tom, it's Sam. Yeah my mother is going to that mixer thing in town tonight and I was wondering if you'd like to hang and have some pizza, give us a chance to talk about Sharing stuff. Sounds great, I'll see you around nine then? Cool, later.

SAM puts the phone back and lies on his bed.

ODRET 177

You made the right choice Sam, life's going to change for you tonight, just as it did a few weeks ago.

SAM V.O.

Yeah well at least I know she's safe at the mixer, not even a Yeerk would be caught dead there. Just leave her alone and I'll do what ever I have to.

ODRET 177

Don't worry Sam, you've done more than you know already.

LIGHTS DOWN

SCENE 10

TOM and SAM are sitting on the floor watching the TV (audience). There is an empty pizza box on the floor.

TOM

You know I must admit, humans can be utterly worthless, but taste and pizza are amazing things.

SAM

You can say that again. But there was a reason why I called you here tonight, I have found some information that I want to investigate deeply.

TOM

And that would be?

(CONTINUED)

SAM

I have found an in to the Yeerk Peace Movement. And I'd like permission to infiltrate them as much as I can.

TOM cocks his head to one side and looks at him.

TOM

Well Chapman and I were just talking about how to deal with them. Even Visser Three doesn't know about them yet, we're trying to gather more information first. (Pause) Sure, go ahead and go in and see what they are doing, get numbers and names and we'll put out traces and track them, do this well and you might even be a Sub-Visser very soon. I'll tell Chapman and you will be put under the orders of Taylor. She's a bit crazy but both her and her Yeerk and blood thirsty and want to get the job done. Fail her and you fail the Visser, you will die.

SAM

Thank you, I won't fail.

They both look back at the TV

SAM V.O.

Well this seems to be going over pretty smoothly actually, what do we get if we're promoted enough?

ODRET 177

What ever we want, and a group of people that follow us around doing as we wish. Trust me Sam, you should learn to enjoy the Yeerk Empire, minor miscomforts are nothing in comparison to the things you will see. Aliens, strange worlds, space and science you never dreamed of.

The door opens and JANICE walks in and smiles at them.

JANICE

Well that wasn't nearly as bad as I thought it would be.

(CONTINUED)

ODRET 177  
Have at it she's all yours.

SAM goes to her and get a peck on the cheek.

SAM  
See I told you those Sharing goons  
aren't that bad.

JANICE looks at SAM and cocks her head and laughs.

JANICE  
And why would they be, don't have  
to worry about me and them. Oh and  
I took care of that situation with  
your father tonight too. Did you  
two have a good evening? Get a lot  
of Sharing stuff planned?

SAM looks a little taken back.

SAM  
Really, how'd you manage that?

TOM  
Yes a very eventful night, I'm  
going to be introducing Sam to  
Taylor, a friend of mine.

JANICE smiles sweetly at them.

JANICE  
Good, I'm glad you guys are  
becoming friends. Now I'd like to  
discuss some plans with you both.

ODRET laughs lightly in SAMS head.

SAM V.O.  
What are you laughing at?

ODRET 177  
You and your foolishness, I'll be  
tkaing the body back now thank you.

SAM V.O.  
What are you doing. Mom! Let me  
speak, we had a deal.

TOM looks at JANICE

TOM

And that would be?

JANICE

Well Sam of course I sent out an order to have him and Cynthia infested. That will end everything. And I was wondering if the Visser would be coming himself to the lab to see the advancement the humans have made. It's much more than what we originally anticipated.

SAM V.O.

YEERK FILTH! You infested her, why. We had a deal, why can't I move, I can beat you!.

ODRET laughs a long cold laugh

ODRET 177

You didn't beat anything, I lulled you into false security, I let you have control and then I organized all of this while you were sleeping. Remember Sam your body is my home now. Mine. Body and mind, under my control. Forget resistance. It is futile. No host has ever overpowered a Yeerk. It is impossible, so fight all you'd like, you belong to me now.

LIGHTS OUT

END