

Production No. 2ACV16

Futurama

"ANTHOLOGY OF INTEREST I"

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Return to Futurama  
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**AS EDITED DRAFT**(gr)

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"ANTHOLOGY OF INTEREST I"

Cast List

FRY. . . . . BILLY WEST  
LEELA. . . . . KATEY SAGAL  
BENDER/BENDER GO-KART . . . JOHN DIMAGGIO  
PROFESSOR FARNSWORTH. . . . BILLY WEST  
HERMES. . . . . PHIL LAMARR  
DR. ZOIDBERG. . . . . BILLY WEST  
AMY. . . . . LAUREN TOM  
NARRATOR. . . . . MAURICE LAMARCHE  
TERRY. . . . . DAVID HERMAN  
RANDY. . . . . JOHN DIMAGGIO  
MAYOR POOPENMEYER. . . . . DAVID HERMAN  
CROWD. . . . . WALLA  
ZAPP BRANNIGAN. . . . . BILLY WEST  
KIF KROKER. . . . . MAURICE LAMARCHE  
SOLDIERS. . . . . WALLA  
PASSENGERS. . . . . WALLA  
MANEATING ANTEATERS. . . . . FRANK WELKER  
MANEATING ANTEATER #1. . . . FRANK WELKER  
SCRUFFY. . . . . DAVID HERMAN  
CUBERT. . . . . TRESS MACNEILLE  
NIBBLER. . . . . FRANK WELKER  
MR. PANUCCI. . . . . JOHN DIMAGGIO  
STEPHEN HAWKING. . . . . STUNT CAST  
DAVID DUCHOVNY. . . . . STUNT CAST  
NICHELLE NICHOLS. . . . . STUNT CAST  
GARY GYGAX. . . . . STUNT CAST  
DEEP BLUE. . . . . TRESS MACNEILLE

FUTURAMA

"ANTHOLOGY OF INTEREST I"

ACT I

"A ROBOT RUNS THROUGH IT"

Written by  
Eric Rogers

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. PLANET EXPRESS - ESTABLISHING - DAY**

**SCENE 1**

**INT. PLANET EXPRESS - PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY**

The PROFESSOR addresses the others across his lab table.

PROFESSOR

Good news, everyone. I've invented a device which allows you to operate equipment from great distances. I call it the "finglonger". Observe.

The Professor puts on a glove which has a five-foot long rigid index finger. With some effort, he lifts it, then lifts a billiards bridge with his other hand, puts it in place, and uses it to steady his finglonger.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

And... here we go... there!

He **PRESSES** the "on" button of a futuristic-looking piece of equipment with a videoscreen on it. The machine begins flashing and **BEEPING** with psychedelic intensity.

FRY/ZOIDBERG/BENDER/AMY/LEELA/HERMES

(IMPRESSED NOISES)

PROFESSOR

So that's the finglonger. Pretty long, eh?

FRY

Yeah, it's really long! But what did you just turn on with it?

PROFESSOR

Oh, that's just the What-If Machine I invented. You pose it a "What If" question, and it generates a video simulation of what would happen.

FRY

Does it really work?

PROFESSOR

Of course it works! (GESTURES WITH FINGLONGER) It's just not very long.

BENDER

Ooh, ooh! I wanna axe it a question!

Bender approaches the machine.

BENDER (CONT'D)

As a robot living among humans, I've never really felt accepted at parties or nude beaches. So I've always secretly wondered...

Bender leans toward the machine's microphone.

BENDER (CONT'D)

What if I was 500 feet tall?

DR. ZOIDBERG

Let's watch, shall we?

We PUSH IN on the screen to...

**EXT. MYSTERIOUS FARAWAY PLANET - DAY**

CLOSE-UP on a mighty Bender robot, bending a girder with ease. WIDEN to reveal that he's one of many Bender robots bending girders. We continue to WIDEN until we see the Benders are all working on a giant, sleeping 500-foot tall BENDER surrounded by scaffolding. The other robots are the size of flies in comparison. Over the action we hear a sci-fi-movie-type NARRATOR:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

(VERY SERIOUS) No one knows why the giant robot was built, or whence he came. The information was available, but no one thought to ask.

**DRAMATIC MUSIC PLAYS.** Several robots standing on each other's shoulders move a "Frankenstein"-type switch on Bender's ankle from an eyes-closed picture of Bender's head to an eyes-open picture. Giant Bender's eye-visor rises with **GARAGE-DOOR SFX.** He **YAWNS**, scratches his ass, and burps.

BENDER

(LOUD BURP) Well, my work here is done.

The scaffolding falls away, **ROCKET FLAMES** spew from Bender's ass, and he rises majestically into the sky. The robot workers salute as he **ROCKETS** off.

**EXT. SPACE - LATER**

Bender flies through the stars, his arms extended like Superman, a look of grim determination on his face. Music: **GRAND ORCHESTRAL ARRANGEMENT OF "IRON MAN".**

**EXT. PLANET EXPRESS - ESTABLISHING - DAY****INT. PLANET EXPRESS - LOUNGE**

Fry sits at a table, sadly playing poker against himself. He picks up one hand and looks at it.

FRY

I'm in.

He shifts his chair and picks up the other hand.

FRY (CONT'D)

All right -- what do you got?

He shifts back and turns over the other hand, revealing a full house. He shifts back.

FRY (CONT'D)

Aw, crud.

He removes his shirt and puts it on a pile with his socks and pants. Nearby, Amy, Leela, and the Professor look on.

LEELA

Poor Fry. What an odd, lonely weirdo.

Fry rotates around in his chair, wearing only briefs.

FRY

(SAD) I wish I had a friend.

PROFESSOR

Oh, boo-hoo. Every day it's the same old crap. "I'm so lonely", "No one understands me", "Why is the Professor stealing my kidney?" Why don't you just go away and drink plenty of cranberry juice?

FRY

(SAD SIGH)

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - LAKE - LATER

SCENE 2

A sign reads "CENTRAL PARK LAKE - LOITERING PERMITTED, BUT BE REASONABLE". Fry leans forward to feed a slice of white bread to a duck.

FRY

Will you be my friend?

The duck lunges forward and BITES Fry's hand.

FRY (CONT'D)

Owl

A shadow falls over Fry and the duck and grows larger. The duck looks up, gets scared, and runs away. Just then, giant Bender **SLAMS** to the ground in belly-flop position, his visor coming down directly on top of Fry.

BENDER

(PAINED MOAN)

Bender sits up and rubs his back. In a CLOSE-UP of his face, we see Fry is standing inside his visor. Fry turns and looks at the eyes, startled.

FRY

(STARTLED YELP) Who are you?

Bender's eyeballs **SWIVEL** to focus on Fry.

BENDER

I'm a big robot. And I want a big cereal.

FRY

You too? Will you be my friend?

As Bender responds, he gently holds Fry in his palm.

BENDER

Well... all right.

Bender holds out his other hand to shake.

BENDER (CONT'D)

Put 'er there, pal.

Fry smiles and holds out his tiny hand to shake.

BENDER (CONT'D)

I meant your wallet.

**MONTAGE - EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY**

**MUSIC: "MMM-BOP"**

A) CLOSE on Fry, leaning against a tree with his hands over his eyes, counting. He raises his head and searches around. REVEAL Bender trying to hide behind another tree, though it only comes up to his shins. Fry can't find him. He looks behind a bush, then under a rock. He throws up his hands in frustration. Bender jumps out from behind the tree, surprising Fry. They both laugh happily.

B) Fry and Bender are standing on the 79th Street overpass. Fry HAWKS a loogie onto a passing hovercar's windshield. Then Bender SPITS over the edge, washing several cars and a van off the road in a mini-tidal wave. Fry makes the "tsk tsk" gesture with his finger.

C) A CROWD OF THOUSANDS watch the heads of HANSON performing on a stage on the Great Lawn. Nearby, Fry and Bender are playing frisbee. Bender goes out for a pass; Fry throws the frisbee, and Bender dives for it. He catches it in mid-air, between his thumb and index finger. Then he lands, CRUSHING the stage and the entire crowd.

**NEW MUSIC: SCHMALTZY STRING ARRANGEMENT OF "MMM-BOP"**

Fry grabs Bender's hand and "helps him to his feet". They exchange a smile, then Fry hugs Bender's ankle warmly.

HEART-IRIS OUT:

**TENSE EMERGENCY NEWS BROADCAST MUSIC**

**SPINNING NEWSPAPER**

Headline reads "ROBOT RAMPAGE -- THOUSANDS DEAD". Sub-headline reads "None Injured".

**EXT. CITIHALL - FRONT STEPS (FROM 1.08) - DAY**

MAYOR POOPENMEYER stands at a podium, addressing a frightened CROWD (TERRY (from 1.01), RANDY (1.03), etc.) gathered at the base of the steps. Behind the Mayor stand GLAB (2.02), the GENERAL (1.08), WERNSTROM, the Mayor's ASSISTANT (1.08), and a couple other authority figures.

TERRY/RANDY

We're doomed! DOOMED! / The robot has  
to go!

MAYOR

People of New New York. Desperate times  
call for desperate men. Zapp Brannigan!

ZAPP BRANNIGAN approaches with KIF KROKER at his side.

CROWD

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE)

ZAPP

Thank you. You're an intelligent and  
perceptive mob.

MAYOR

Captain, can you stop this insane robot?

ZAPP

Yes I can -- using the destructive force  
of electricity.

KIF

(SOTTO) But sir, robots like  
electricity. They're electrical.

ZAPP

Precisely, Kif. (TO CROWD) Just as you  
can kill a parrot with too many  
crackers, or ruin a good song with too  
many uses of the phrase "yeah, baby,  
baby"...

KIF

(KIF SIGH)

ZAPP

...So will we defeat the robot menace by giving him exactly what he needs, and plenty of it.

CROWD/RANDY

(CHEERS) / Zapp Brannigan's back!

Kif folds his arms and looks away bitterly.

EXT. NEW NEW YORK - LATER

SCENE 3

A squadron of futuristic biplanes **SWEEP DOWN** over the city, electric arcs repeatedly **SPARKING** from their noses like Jacob's Ladders. **PAN DOWN** to see tanks with electric gun turrets, and ground troops holding weapons that resemble huge 120-volt plugs. A platoon of men in raccoon coats **RUB BALLOONS** on themselves in unison as they march grimly, hair standing on end. **DRAMATIC MILITARY MUSIC PLAYS.**

EXT. NEW NEW YORK CITY - A FEW BLOCKS AWAY

Bender stands over a factory with a sign reading "KENTUCKY SLIMS -- Chicken-Flavored Cigarettes", featuring a cartoony chicken wearing a bolo tie, smoking a cigarette. The factory has several tall white smokestacks **BELCHING** black smoke. Bender **PLUCKS** off a smokestack and starts smoking it.

BENDER

(INHALES, THEN) Oh yeah. That calms the shakes. (LOOKS DOWN) (SURPRISED NOISE)

The tanks and soldiers attack, **BLASTING** Bender's legs and body with bolts of electricity.

BENDER (CONT'D)

(TICKLISH NOISES)

Fry runs in between the army and Bender.

FRY

Stop! The robot's not your enemy! He's just a poor, misunderstood--

Fry is suddenly stunned by **ELECTRICITY-GUN FIRE**.

FRY (CONT'D)

(ELECTRIFIED SCREAM)

The planes **SWOOP IN** and **STRAFE** Bender with lightning-like **BOLTS OF ELECTRICITY**. Bender steps forward, trying to catch the bolts in his mouth.

BENDER

Mm. Mmm! Oh, I shouldn't... What the hell, I'm on vacation. -(PLEASED NOISES)

With each **BURST** of electricity, Bender grows taller. His eyes roll back in ecstasy as the attack continues.

**EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS**

Zapp and Kif peer out the turret of a tank.

ZAPP

How ironic, Kif. The one thing that robot needed most turned out to be the thing it most needed.

Bender's giant foot comes down, **CRUSHING** the tank.

KIF (O.S.)

(BIG KIF SIGH)

**WIDE SHOT**

Bender **LUMBERS** forward, **CRUSHING** soldiers beneath his feet.

SOLDIERS

(SCREAM)

**CLOSE-UP - BENDER'S FACE**

He stops and sniffs, disturbed.

BENDER

(SNIFFS)

**BACK TO SCENE**

He checks the bottom of his foot (which we don't see).

BENDER (CONT'D)

(ANNOYED SOUND)

He **RIPS** up a telephone pole and begins using it to scrape  
mush off his foot.

**INT. PLANET EXPRESS - LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS**

Leela, Hermes, Amy, and the Professor are watching giant  
Bender's rampage out the window. He **CRUSHES** a number of  
buildings.

AMY

There goes the neighborhood. (THEN)

There goes another neighborhood.

HERMES

We're jerked. Nothing can stop a  
monster that big!

PROFESSOR

Nothing except an even equally big  
monster! This is a chance to try out my  
experimental enlarging ray. But we'll  
need a guinea pig...

**INT. PLANET EXPRESS - PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY - MOMENTS LATER**

A live guinea pig sits on a plate on the floor. **WIDEN** to see  
the gang (except Fry and Zoidberg) hiding behind a lab table.

PROFESSOR

(CALLS) Oh, Dr. Zoidberg! Yum yum!

Zoidberg passes by the doorway. He turns and sniffs the air.

DR. ZOIDBERG

(SNIFFS)

He notices the plate and scampers over.

DR. ZOIDBERG (CONT'D)

What's this? Two meals in one week?!

(GOBBLING SOUNDS)

As he **GOBBLES** the guinea pig, an octagonal glass tube **DESCENDS** over Zoidberg, sealing him in. He turns to see the crew reveal themselves.

PROFESSOR/LEELA/AMY/HERMES

Got you! / Sucker! / (AD-LIB CHEERS)

DR. ZOIDBERG

Friends, help! A guinea pig tricked me!

The Professor stands at a '50s-sci-fi-movie-type machine with intricately-coiled glass tubes and a huge ray-emitter overhead, labeled "THE SUPER-SIZER". He pulls a lever and a red **BEAM** engulfs Zoidberg, who starts to grow larger.

DR. ZOIDBERG (CONT'D)

(CONFUSED) What?

**EXT. PLANET EXPRESS - A MOMENT LATER**

**SCENE 4**

There's a deep **RUMBLING**, then Zoidberg **CRASHES THROUGH** the roof, growing to Bender's size -- now about 1500 feet tall (his clothes enlarge, too). He examines himself.

DR. ZOIDBERG

So now Zoidberg is big, eh? That's more like it! (LOOKING AROUND) Who's intimidating who now, big city?

Zoidberg walks over to a tall office building.

DR. ZOIDBERG (CONT'D)

Hello, Mr. Chase Manhattan Bank. Deny my credit card application, will you?

(MONSTER NOISES)

He **BASHES** the building angrily, then moves on to another one.

DR. ZOIDBERG (CONT'D)

And if it isn't my old friend the  
Sanitation Department. I can't root  
around in your dumpsters, is that it?  
(CRUSHING NOISES) Ah, the famed Apollo  
Theater. Boo me offstage on open mic  
night, eh? (MONSTROUS CRUSHING NOISES)

Bender approaches as Zoidberg lifts another skyscraper.

BENDER

Hey, I called this city! Quit touching  
my stuff!

Zoidberg holds up his claw.

DR. ZOIDBERG

Tell it to the claw!

Bender takes the skyscraper from Zoidberg and **CRUSHES** it  
under his armpit, producing a **BRAAAP NOISE**.

BENDER

Bite my colossal metal ass.

Zoidberg picks up a nearby train and swings the linked cars  
like nunchuks. **PASSENGERS** go flying out of the windows.

PASSENGERS

(FALLING SCREAMS)

**DRAMATIC FIGHT MUSIC PLAYS** as Zoidberg advances. Bender  
grabs a nearby transit tube, puts it to his mouth like a  
straw, and **SUCKS** a bunch of pedestrians off the ground.

BENDER

(SUCKING NOISE, THEN SPITTING SOUNDS)

He spits people like spitballs into Zoidberg's face, blinding him. Zoidberg **DROPS** the train.

DR. ZOIDBERG

(FLUSTERED NOISES)

Bender **TACKLES** Zoidberg and the two begin rolling, **FLATTENING** buildings in their path. Zoidberg **KICKS** Bender off, then **YANKS** a pointy skyscraper from the ground. He pulls the building back in the wires of the Brooklyn Bridge and **FIRES** it at Bender like a bow and arrow. Bender ducks, and the building lodges at a right angle in the Jersey Palisades, sticking out above the Hudson River. A man unfurls a banner from a window reading "LUXURY RIVER VIEW APTS".

Bender steps over to Shea Stadium (a sign reads "HOME OF 1969 & 1986 WORLD CHAMPION METS"). He **PICKS** it-up, **DIPS** it in the East River, sets it back down, and ignites the bottom like a gas stove with a flaming belch.

BENDER

(BIG BELCH)

The water begins to boil.

BENDER (CONT'D)

Who wants lobster bisque? (GRUNT)

Bender pushes Dr. Zoidberg in. Zoidberg sinks beneath the surface.

BENDER (CONT'D)

(TRIUMPHANT LAUGH)

FRY (O.S.)

Hey, Bender--

BENDER

(STARTLED) Huh?

Bender turns and looks down to see a smiling Fry at his feet, holding some plastic sheets and colored pencils. Unbeknownst to him, Zoidberg rises from the pot behind him.

FRY

Wanna make shrinky dinks?

DR. ZOIDBERG

(MONSTROUS NOISE)

Zoidberg reaches out and **CLIPS** both of Bender's legs at the ankles.

BENDER

(SCREAM, THEN, PAINED GASP)

Bender **FALLS BACKWARDS** onto his back, amid some buildings. He looks confused, then opens his chest to reveal the Empire State Building impaling him.

BENDER (CONT'D)

(PAINED MOAN) Who put this in here?--

Bender slips down all the way to the ground, causing the building to protrude further through him.

BENDER (CONT'D)

(MOANS AND RASPING THROUGHOUT SCENE)

A crowd gathers (Planet Express gang, Mayor, Randy, etc.). Fry pushes his way through. **SAD MUSIC SWELLS.**

FRY

(HEARTBROKEN) Nooooooo!

Fry climbs atop Bender's body to address the crowd.

FRY (CONT'D)

Are you people satisfied? This gentle visitor is dying. And we'll never even know why he came!

BENDER

(WEAK) I'll tell you... with my final breath.

CROWD

(SURPRISED MURMURING)

NARRATOR (V.O.)

(VERY SERIOUS) We will now find out why  
the robot came.

BENDER

(DEEP BREATH) I came here with a simple  
dream -- a dream of killing all humans.  
And this is how it must end? Who's the  
real seven billion ton robot monster  
here? Not I. (FADING) Not I...

Bender **POWERS DOWN** and dies.

FRY

Good night, sweet prince.

We slowly **PULL BACK** as more **SAD MUSIC PLAYS**.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

(VERY SERIOUS) Well, that answers all of  
my questions. Stay tuned for more (BIG  
AND CORNY) Tales of Interest.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT I

ACT II

"MURDER ON THE PLANET EXPRESS"

Written by  
Ken Keeler

**FADE IN:**

**INT. PLANET EXPRESS - PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY - DAY**

**SCENE 5**

The gang is still gathered around the "What If" machine.

PROFESSOR

Well, Leela? Care to give the What-If  
Machine a whirl?

LEELA

Maybe later. I mean, I don't know what  
to ask about.

HERMES

Come on, woman, just pick something!

FRY

Yeah, be more impulsive! Like this!

Fry pours cereal from a box (of "Admiral Crunch") onto his  
head, then pours milk on the cereal.

BENDER

Go, man, go!

Fry eats the cereal and milk off his head with a spoon.

FRY

(EATING NOISES)

LEELA

I can be really impulsive. It just  
takes me a while.

FRY (O.S.)

(HAPPY HUMMING)

Leela turns to see Fry slicing a banana onto his head. A determined look comes over her.

LEELA

(FIRM) All right, Professor, let's do it. Make that machine show me what would happen if I was a little more impulsive. (THEN) Just a little.

The Professor **FLICKS** a switch on the machine, using the finglonger. Leela looks nervous.

LEELA (CONT'D)

(WORRIED) Not too much.

We DRIFT IN on the screen to see:

**INT. PLANET EXPRESS - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY**

Fry, Bender, and Amy are at the table. Bender **SIPS** a bottle of Olde Fortran. Leela enters excitedly.

LEELA

Hey, guys! Look what I bought on a wild impulse! New boots!

She shows off her boots, which are like her old ones, but with a green stripe.

LEELA (CONT'D)

They're like my old ones, but with a crazy green stripe. Whoo! Never know what I'm going to do next!

FRY (O.S.)

(HAPPY HUMMING)

We see Fry has a roast turkey on his head. He ~~POURS~~ a ladle full of gravy on it.

LEELA

(ANNOYED SIGH)

The Professor enters from his laboratory.

PROFESSOR

Leela, could you come in here a moment?

I have something important to tell you.

**INT. PLANET EXPRESS - PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY - A MINUTE LATER**

The Professor removes a plate of raw meat from the fridge.

PROFESSOR

Leela, I can't live forever, and I need an heir. Someone to spend my vast riches and take care of my maneating anteaters when I'm gone.

He leans over a big round pit in the floor and tosses a steak in.

MANEATING ANTEATERS (O.S.)

(BARKING SNORTS AND SCARY GOBBLING)

PROFESSOR

The others simply aren't level-headed enough. They're too impulsive. Not like you. Not like old predictable dull-as-dishwater Leela.

LEELA

(POINTING) Hello?! New boots?!

PROFESSOR

That's why I've made you my sole heir.  
The day I die, you'll be a very wealthy  
woman.

He turns away to face the pit, hovering on the edge.

**CLOSE ON LEELA'S FACE**

**SCENE 6**

PROFESSOR (O.S., CONT'D)

Oh my yes. Incredibly wealthy. The day  
I die. Because you're so unimpulsive.

Leela's eye narrows.

LEELA

(KICKING NOISE)

**BACK TO SCENE**

Leela kicks the Professor into the pit, where a pack of giant  
anteaters converges, tongues flicking. Leela looks  
horrified.

MANEATING ANTEATERS

(TONGUES FLICKING, GOBBLING NOISES)

PROFESSOR (O.S.)

(DYING AWAY) You've killed me! You've  
killed me!

LEELA

(HORRIFIED) Oh God! What have I done?

PROFESSOR (O.S.)

I just told you! You've killed me!

The anteaters clear away, leaving a bare skeleton in a lab  
coat. One of the anteaters **COUGHS** up the Professor's  
glasses, which fall back neatly into position.

INT. PLANET EXPRESS - LOUNGE - A MINUTE LATER

Leela enters, dazed and shaken, to find Zoidberg knitting.

LEELA

(NERVOUS, TO SELF) Okay, just try to be  
nonchalant. (FORCED CASUAL WHISTLING)

She tries to stroll casually by.

DR. ZOIDBERG

All right, so you're nonchalant. Quit  
rubbing our noses in it.

Hermes rushes in.

HERMES

Sweet giant anteater of Santa Anita!  
The Professor's been eaten by giant  
anteaters!

LEELA/ZOIDBERG

(SCARED NOISE) / What?!

HERMES

If you ask me, it's mighty suspicious.  
I'm going to call the police, right  
after I flush some things.

DR. ZOIDBERG

Police -- bah! Nosy meddlers. It so  
happens I have mail-order degrees in  
murderology and murderonomy.

Zoidberg puts on a checked deerstalker cap.

DR. ZOIDBERG (CONT'D)

Zoidberg is afoot!

**INT. PLANET EXPRESS - CONFERENCE ROOM - A LITTLE LATER**

Leela is sitting at the table, head in hands, as Hermes goes through a stack of papers.

HERMES

Perhaps the Professor's files can clear things up. Citation for public nudity... Conspiracy to commit public nudity... Aha! A new will! Naming-- (GASPS) you as his sole heir!

LEELA

That doesn't prove I killed him!

HERMES

It's a video-will! It shows you killing him!

He holds up a flat screen display with a scrolled border around it reading "LAST WILL". On the screen, we see Leela kicking the Professor into the pit. Leela's eye narrows. Hermes' eyes widen in horror.

**INT. PLANET EXPRESS - PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS**

Zoidberg interrogates the anteaters, unaware of the offscreen THUDS we hear.

HERMES/LEELA (O.S.)

(UNDER SCENE) (SCREAMS) / (GRUNTS)

DR. ZOIDBERG

All right, Anteater Number One, who are you protecting? Is it Anteater Number Two?

In the background, Hermes tries to crawl frantically into the lab, but he's pulled back out the door. Zoidberg is oblivious. Leela pops in, grabs an axe from the corner, and pops out again. Zoidberg gestures angrily into the pit.

DR. ZOIDBERG (CONT'D)

Don't stick out your tongue at me! I  
need a name!

MANEATING ANTEATER #1

(SNORT)

DR. ZOIDBERG

What? How do you spell that?  
Offscreen we hear the noise of an **AXE**.

HERMES (O.S.)

What are you hacking off? Is it my  
torso? It is!. My precious torso!

DR. ZOIDBERG

(CALLING O.S.) Hermes, quiet! I'm  
deducing things!

**INT. PLANET EXPRESS - KITCHEN - LATER**

**SCENE 7**

Leela **GRUNTS** as she jams something down the **GARBAGE DISPOSAL**  
with a stick. She spins around guiltily as Bender enters.

BENDER

DisposAll trouble?

LEELA

No, everything's--

Bender shoves her aside and reaches down into the sink; we  
hear **PLUMBER'S SNAKE** noises.

BENDER

Sure is shocking about the Professor,  
huh? And now Hermes is mysteriously  
missing. Anyhow, it doesn't affect me,  
Bender. Hey, what's this?

He pulls his arm out, holding Hermes' dreadlocks.

BENDER (CONT'D)

Hermes' dreadlocks? And his arm?

Leela, I'm shocked! Food goes in the  
DisposAll, hair and flesh go in the  
trash!

LEELA

I'm sorry! I couldn't stop-- wait.  
Don't you care that I murdered Hermes?

BENDER

Not even a little. There's nothing  
wrong with murder. Just as long as you  
let Bender wet his beak.

LEELA

You're blackmailing me?

BENDER

Blackmail is such an ugly word. I  
prefer "extortion". The "x" makes it  
sound cool.

Leela's eye narrows. She grabs a cleaver and raises it  
menacingly.

BENDER (CONT'D)

Please, honey, I'm made of metal. Like  
you're really gonna hurt me with a hey,  
what are you doing with that microwave?

Leela **SMASHES** the microwave glass with the cleaver, turns it  
on, and aims it at Bender. He begins slowly rotating like a  
microwave platter, vibrating, coruscating, and **SPARKING**.

BENDER (CONT'D)

(VIBRATING ELECTRIC PAINED NOISES)

The microwave **BELL DINGS** and Bender's body **COLLAPSES** into a million pieces. Leela tries to compose herself.

LEELA

Okay, that's it. No more killing. Next time you feel like killing, just have a stick of gum. (HARD EXHALE) Now, young lady, you've got a body to dispose of.

**INT. PLANET EXPRESS - LOUNGE - A LITTLE LATER**

Amy is there. Leela rides in in a little go-kart made from Bender's remains. His squashed head forms the hood, his eyes the headlights, his bent arms and legs the wheels, and his body the tiny chassis. She hits the horn a couple of times.

BENDER GO-KART

(BENDER VOICE) Honk honk!

AMY

Wow, sporty go-kart, Leela. So hip and sexy. Not like you at all.

Leela's eye narrows.

LEELA

Do you have any gum?

AMY

No.

A shadow falls over Amy. Her eyes widen in horror as we **PUSH IN** for an **EXTREME CLOSE-UP**.

AMY (CONT'D)

(SCREAM)

EXT. PLANET EXPRESS - MIDNIGHT - ESTABLISHING

SCENE 8

It's RAINING, and there's a burst of THUNDER.

INT. PARLOR

The old-timey room has a grandfather clock TOLLING midnight and a long sword hanging prominently over the fire. Fry and Leela are in armchairs; CUBERT and NIBBLER are on a sofa. Zoidberg fills his pipe with tobacco, carefully TAMPs it, then EATS the whole thing. SCRUFFY (the curmudgeonly janitor) enters and sits down next to Leela.

DR. ZOIDBERG

Ah, the gang's all here.

LEELA

Who are you?

SCRUFFY

Scruffy, the janitor.

LEELA

I've never seen you before.

SCRUFFY

I never seen you before, neither.

DR. ZOIDBERG

Quiet, please. I've called you all here to the parlor to watch as I gradually solve the crime. One of the people in this room is a big murderer.

CUBERT/SCRUFFY/FRY/DR. ZOIDBERG

(SHOCKED GASP)

LEELA

(AFTER A BEAT, PHONY TOO-LONG GASP)

DR. ZOIDBERG

You see, the killer left one fatal clue  
-- this footprint on the Professor's lab  
coat.

He lifts a lab coat with a distinct boot mark on it. Leela looks down at her feet nervously.

LEELA

Uh, couldn't be me. I never wear boots.

She leans over and fiddles with something behind the coffee table. We hear a number of **ZIPPERS** and **VELCRO STRAPS**, then she lifts her bare feet onto the table and wiggles her toes.

LEELA (CONT'D)

See?

FRY

("EW" NOISE) What smells like boot feet?

CUBERT

(CUBERT SNORT) This is preposterous.

Leela's eye narrows.

CUBERT (CONT'D)

Obviously, the murderer is--

The lights go out. We hear **SCUFFLING**, a **WHOOSH** and a **THUNK**. The lights come back on. Cubert is dead, skewered to the couch with the sword. Zoidberg does not notice.

DR. ZOIDBERG

My next clue came at 4:15, when the clock stopped, and another came two hours later, at 4:15, when I discovered the murdered body of Amy's dead deceased corpse.

Zoidberg dramatically opens the grandfather clock, and Amy's body **THUDS** to the floor. We **ZOOM** in on a clump of purple hair gripped in Amy's fist. **MUSIC STING.**

SCRUFFY

Scruffy knows who killed them people!

Leela's eye narrows.

SCRUFFY (CONT'D)

In Scruffy's opinion, it were--

The lights go out again. We hear another **WHOOSH** and **THUNK**. When the lights come back on, Scruffy is dead, sitting on Cubert's corpse with the sword through both of them. Zoidberg's back is still turned.

DR. ZOIDBERG

Only one thing puzzles me, Leela.

(POINTS) This clump of purple hair in  
Amy's hand!

LEELA

Did it just get stupid in here?

Obviously, she was making me a hairpiece  
for this embarrassing bald patch.

She points at a small bald patch on the side of her head.

DR. ZOIDBERG

Then it's just as I suspected all along.

The crime is unsolvable.

Nibbler stands up and points at Leela.

NIBBLER

(EXCITED YAPPING)

Leela's eye narrows. She reaches over and **FLIPS** a switch. Lights out; **WHOOSH, THUNK**. Lights back on. Nibbler is skewered between Scruffy and Cubert like a tomato on a shish kebab. Just then, a letter **FALLS** through the mail slot; Zoidberg picks it up and opens it. Leela looks nervous.

DR. ZOIDBERG

A letter from Bender, my good friend!

(READS) "Dear Dr. Jerkberg, if you're reading this, I'm already dead. The person who killed me was... was..."

Zoidberg's eyes widen in shock. Leela glares at him.

DR. ZOIDBERG (CONT'D)

My God! It can't be! The murderer...  
it was--

Fry stretches, then gets up and heads for the door.

FRY

(YAWNS) I'm bored. You're boring,  
Zoidberg. I'm gonna go watch TV.

LEELA

Could you get the lights on your way  
out?

INT. PLANET EXPRESS - KITCHEN - NEXT DAY

SCENE 9

Fry enters to find Leela at the table.

FRY

Whatcha eating?

LEELA

(MOUTH FULL) Lobster. Want some?

FRY

Sure.

He takes a Zoidberg-sized claw and dips it in butter.

FRY (CONT'D)

You know, I think I finally figured out what's behind all these mysterious deaths.

LEELA

(NERVOUS) Really?

Fry confidently puts his feet up onto the table.

FRY

Was Planet Express built on an Indian graveyard?

LEELA

No.

FRY

(TAKEN ABACK) No?

LEELA

No.

FRY

(GASP) Then -- then -- it was you!

Fry starts backing away, terrified.

LEELA

(BREAKING DOWN) It's true! I don't know what came over me! I killed one person on impulse, then I had to kill another, and another!

FRY

Well, that covers the first three  
killings.

Leela rises and advances menacingly towards Fry, who ends up  
with his back against the wall.

LEELA

(THREATENING) And now, to make sure you  
won't talk, I'm going to have to do  
something really impulsive.

Her eye narrows. Fry looks worried. --

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Fry and Leela are in bed, nude, the sheets pulled over them.

LEELA

(SATISFIED SIGH) So, Fry, what do you  
think of the spontaneous new me?

FRY

I like it!

LEELA

Good. Now let me just get the lights.

She reaches for the switch. At the last moment, a terrified  
look crosses Fry's face.

CUT TO BLACK:

We hear THUDS and STRUGGLING NOISES.

FRY (V.O.)

(LOUD SCREAM, THEN, AFTER A BEAT) I  
really like it!

END OF ACT II

ACT III

"BACK TO THE PRESENT"

Written by  
David X. Cohen

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET EXPRESS - DAY - ESTABLISHING

SCENE 10

INT. PLANET EXPRESS - PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY

The gang stands around the What-If Machine.

PROFESSOR

Who else has a question for the What-If  
Machine? Scruffy? Fry?

FRY

I have a question. What if Bender was  
really giant?

LEELA

You idiot. We already saw that.

FRY

I know. I liked it. I wanna see it  
again.

PROFESSOR

We're not seeing it again. Ask  
something less stupid.

FRY

All right. How 'bout this. What if I  
never fell into that freezer-doodle and  
came to the future-jiggy?

PROFESSOR

Well, that question is less stupid,  
though you asked it in a profoundly  
stupid way. Let's try it. (INTO  
MICROPHONE, STILTED) What would happen  
if Fry never came to the future?

The Professor starts turning a **CRANK**, using the hand with the  
finglonger on it (though it is of no help).

**ONSCREEN**

**PILOT FOOTAGE**

**CHYRON: "DECEMBER 31, 1999"**

**INT. PANUCCI'S PIZZA PARLOR**

Fry is playing the videogame, as seen in the Pilot.

MR. PANUCCI (O.S.)

Hey, Fry. Pizza goin' out. Come on!

**EXT. NEW YORK CITY - STREET - NIGHT**

Fry rides past New Year's eve revelers on his **SQUEAKY**  
bicycle, the pizza and a six-pack strapped to the back.

**INT. OFFICE BUILDING - 16TH FLOOR - A MOMENT LATER**

Fry **KNOCKS** on a door of "Applied Cryogenics, Inc." No one  
answers. He pushes the door open.

**INT. CRYOGENIC LAB - CONTINUOUS**

Fry enters, and the door **SEALS** behind him. He steps up to a  
cryogenic tube and wipes some frost off it, revealing a  
frozen form within. (The face now has glasses.) Fry peers  
in, then turns back to the empty room.

FRY

(CALLING) Hello? Pizza delivery for...

Fry pulls a slip of paper from his pocket and sees the  
name... "I.C. Weiner".

FRY (CONT'D)

"Icy Weiner?" (ANNOYED GROAN) Crud.

He drops the pizza on a desk and sits down wearily. He **POPS** a can of beer open and raises it for a toast. (NEW FOOTAGE: We see numbers counting down on the screen behind Fry, timed so that he blows his noisemaker at "0". Except instead of "0", it says "2000!")

FRY (CONT'D)

Here's to another lousy millennium.

Fry places a noisemaker in his mouth (NEW FOOTAGE), then leans back in his chair and blows it. It unfurls with a **CRINKLY PAPER SOUND** and a pathetic **BRAAAP**. The recoil tilts his chair backwards, and he flips head-over-heels...

**NEW FOOTAGE**

Instead of falling in the tube, Fry bumps his head on the outside of it.

FRY (CONT'D)

Ow!

The tube door slams shut and the dial **CLICKS** to "1000 YEARS" (without Fry in it). Fry stands up, rubbing his head. He holds up the noisemaker and looks at it.

FRY (CONT'D)

(ANNOYED SOUND) That noise was so not worth it.

**WIDE SHOT**

Behind Fry, the walls start to undulate and shimmer. There's a **HISS**, then a sudden **RIPPING SOUND** as the very fabric of space-time rips open. Through the opening, we see outer space, with stars and galaxies. Blinding light explodes from the tear with a **RUSHING SOUND**.

FRY (CONT'D)

(STARTLED NOISE)

**FRY'S POV**

Within the beams of light, ghostly figures materialize -- Bender, Leela, Zoidberg, and the Professor. They peer out through the rift, straining to see into our universe.

LEELA

What is it?

PROFESSOR

It appears that the very fabric of space-time has ripped. That's union workmanship for you.

Bender points at Fry.

BENDER

Look, an ugly scared guy! Boo!

(CHUCKLES) BOOOOOOO!

**WIDE SHOT INCLUDING FRY AND THE RIFT**

**SCENE 11**

Fry backs off, terrified.

FRY

(TERRIFIED) Who are you monsters? Is one of you Icy Weiner?

DR. ZOIDBERG

If that's his pizza, then I'm Icy Whatever.

The room begins **SHAKING**, as in an earthquake. Fry braces himself against the table. There's a tremendous **WHOOSH**, and the light beams are sucked back into the rift, which **SEALS** itself off and disappears, leaving everything just as it was.

FRY

Dude.

**EXT. PANUCCI'S - NEXT DAY**

A sign reads "PANUCCI'S PIZZA". A smaller sign reads "Try Our Millennium Pizza -- 2000 Kinds of Meat!"

**INT. PANUCCI'S**

Fry is kneading dough. Mr. Panucci is scratching his own back with a long pepperoni.

FRY

You believe me about the monsters,  
right, Mr. Panucci?

MR. PANUCCI

You're nuts, kid. There's only three  
monsters -- you got your Dracula, your  
Frankenstein, and your Mummy. Now quit  
pickin' your nose and knead that dough.

FRY

(SIGH)

Fry resumes kneading dough. We hear the BELLS on the door as  
it opens. Physicist STEPHEN HAWKING enters.

MR. PANUCCI

The usual, Professor Hawking?

HAWKING

No. Today I'd like something good.

MR. PANUCCI

(CHUCKLES) Hawking, you're all right.

I'll make you the usual.

FRY

Hey, aren't you that physicist that  
invented gravity?

HAWKING

Sure. Why not.

FRY

Let me ask you something. Has anyone ever discovered a hole in nothing, with monsters in it?

Hawking stares at him, alarmed.

FRY (CONT'D)

'Cause if I'm the first, I want them to call it a Fry Hole.

HAWKING

There is nothing to be concerned about.

I must go. There is much to do.

He rotates and heads for the exit. DRAMATIC MUSIC PLAYS.

MR. PANUCCI

Hey Hawking, your pizza's ready!

HAWKING

Toss it in the toilet.

**EXT. PANUCCI'S - LATE THAT NIGHT**

Fry LOCKS UP, then turns and walks off down a dark alley.

**EXT. DARK ALLEY**

Fry walks down the alley.

HAWKING (O.S.)

There he is. Seize him.

FRY

(LOOKS AROUND, PANICKED) Who said that?!

Two shadowy figures leap out and start PUMMELING Fry with tennis rackets.

FRY (CONT'D)

(PAINED NOISES)

Fry goes down.

INT. HIGH-TECH VEHICLE - LATER

SCENE 12

Lights pass by outside the dark windows. An unconscious Fry is strapped into a high-tech chair. He opens his eyes.

FRY.

(WOOZY NOISES)

FRY'S POV

We see numerous shadowy figures.

FRY (CONT'D)

Who are you people?

DAVID DUCHOVNY steps forward.

DUCHOVNY

We're a secret quasi-government agency -- a group of top nerds from the fields of science and science fiction, whose sole duty is to prevent disruptions in the space-time continuum.

FRY

Then you'll want to see my Fry Hole.

DUCHOVNY

Very much so. I'm Commander David Duchovny. You've already met Stephen Hawking. Also with us are Nichelle Nichols, A.K.A. Commander Uhura...

She rotates around in a swiveling chair, a radio receiver in her ear.

NICHOLS

Commander -- incoming transmission from MCI one-rate department. It sounds like a limited time offer.

DUCHOVNY

Hang up on them! (TURNS TO FRY) To my right, you'll recognize Gary Gygax, inventor of Dungeons and Dragons...

GYGAX

Greetings. It's a...

He **ROLLS** two dice (6-sided and 20-sided) and looks at them.

GYGAX (CONT'D)

...Pleasure (LOOKS UP) to meet you.

DUCHOVNY

...and our summer intern, Deep Blue, the world's foremost chess-playing computer.

DEEP BLUE

(ROBOTIC) Bishop to knight four.

Duchovny pats Deep Blue affectionately.

DUCHOVNY

Not all missions can be solved with chess, Deep Blue. Someday you'll understand that.

FRY

Where am I, anyway?

NICHOLS

You're traveling in a specially equipped  
terrestrial transport module.

GYGAX

A school bus.

**EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS**

We see a slightly beat-up school bus **RACING** down the city street. (Lettering on the side reads "GRAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT".)

**INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS**

FRY

So what do you nerds want? If you're  
just trying to hang out with me 'cause  
I'm cool, forget it.

DUCHOVNY

It's about that rip in space-time that  
you saw.

HAWKING

I call it a Hawking Hole.

FRY

No fair! I saw it first!

HAWKING

Who is the Journal of Quantum Physics  
going to believe?

The bus turns, causing everyone to sway to one side.

DUCHOVNY

Mr. Fry, the time disruption indicates that some event was supposed to happen, but didn't, due to a quantum fluctuation.

NICHOLS

That's why we had to beat you with tennis rackets.

DUCHOVNY

If we don't go back there and make the event happen, the entire universe will be destroyed.

**DRAMATIC STING.**

FRY

Dude.

The bus **SCREECHES** to a stop.

**EXT. OFFICE BUILDING (AS SEEN IN THE PILOT)**

**SCENE 13**

**INT. CRYOGENIC LAB**

Fry and the Gang of Five gather around the cryogenic tube. Fry indicates the items as he discusses them.

FRY

...so then my chair tilted back, and I almost fell into this freezer thingy--

HAWKING

I call it a Hawking Chamber.

FRY

...but instead of falling in and getting frozen, I missed and wanged my head.

DUCHOVNY

Well, it's obvious what should have happened. Clearly, a wang to the head like that should have killed you.

FRY

(WORRIED) Whuh?

NICHOLS

Let's finish the job.

HAWKING

Hold him down.

DEEP BLUE

Check.

Deep Blue, Gygax, Duchovny and Nichols pin Fry to the ground as Hawking repeatedly **ROLLS** forwards and backwards, **CRUSHING** Fry under his motorized chair.

FRY

(STRUGGLING SOUNDS) Ow! Ow! Ow!

Just then, the rift begins to re-open with a **RUMBLING** and a **WHOOSH** of light.

DUCHOVNY/NICHOLS/GYGAX/FRY

(SCARED YELPS)

DUCHOVNY

Something's wrong! Murder isn't working, and that's all we're good at!

GYGAX

Let's try something else. Maybe we  
should...

He **ROLLS** his dice.

DUCHOVNY

Put the dice away before I take them  
away.

NICHOLS

Wait! I'm getting an idea!

She puts her hand to her ear transceiver.

NICHOLS (CONT'D)

What if Fry was supposed to get frozen?

HAWKING

Yes, shove him in the tube. It was my  
idea.

The rift starts enlarging with a **RIPPING NOISE**. Bender looks  
out, holding a bottle of Olde Fortran.

BENDER

Hey, there he is again. And he brought  
nerds! Take this!

Bender hurls his bottle, which **SMASHES** on the floor.

FRY

(SCREAMS)

DUCHOVNY

(TO FRY) Get in the tube, dummy! We  
only have a few seconds before the  
universe is destroyed!

They surround Fry and back him toward the tube. The rift continues to grow larger and scarier. Strong winds **BLOW**. Everything starts to distort near the rift.

FRY

All right! I'll get in! But I need a  
weapon to fight off drunken robots when  
I wake up!

GYGAX

Here. Take my plus-one mace.

Gygax hands Fry a mace. Fry turns to face the open tube. The time storm **INTENSIFIES**.

FRY

Okay. Here I go. (DEEP BREATH)

Fry bravely steps forward, then suddenly raises the mace and **SMASHES** the glass of the tube.

FRY (CONT'D)

(TRIUMPHANT LAUGH)

DUCHOVNY

You fool! You foolish fool!

FRY

Eh. What's the worst thing that can  
happen?

Just then, the entire universe is **SUCKED** into the rift in a shocking cataclysm.

DUCHOVNY/GYGAX/NICHOLS/DEEP BLUE/  
HAWKING/FRY

(TERRIFIED SCREAMS)

The building disappears into the hole, then the earth, then some planets, stars, and galaxies, leaving only a...

EXT. WHITE VOID - CONTINUOUS

SCENE 14

Fry, Hawking, Nichols, Gygax, Deep Blue and Duchovny float against a bright white background.

HAWKING

Great, the entire universe was destroyed.

FRY

Destroyed? Then where are we now?

DUCHOVNY

I don't know, but I can damn well tell you where we're not -- the universe.

NICHOLS

Great, eternity with nerds. It's the Pasadena Star Trek Convention all over again.

GYGAX

Anyone want to play Dungeons and Dragons for the next quadrillion years?

DUCHOVNY/NICHOLS/HAWKING/FRY/DEEP BLUE

Sure. / Okay. / Yes, please. / I guess so. / Pawn to Rook Eight.

The camera DRIFTS BACK SLOWLY. We hear DICE ROLLING.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And so ends another interesting chapter in our (CORNY) Tales of Interest--

PULL BACK TO:

**INT. PLANET EXPRESS - PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY**

We see the gang watching the preceding onscreen. The Professor **CLICKS OFF** the picture with the finglonger.

PROFESSOR

That story was preposterous. (SCOFFING)  
Stephen Hawking in a pizzeria. This  
thing isn't worth the gold it's made of.

He **DROPS** the machine in the trash.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

Anyway, the finglonger seems to be a  
rousing success.

FRY/ZOIDBERG/LEELA/HERMES/AMY/BENDER

Good work, Professor. / (AD-LIB  
CONGRATULATIONS)

PULL BACK TO:

**INT. PLANET EXPRESS - PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY**

The Professor sits alone, watching the preceding on the screen of the real What-If Machine.

PROFESSOR

So that's what things would be like if  
I'd invented the finglonger. (SIGH) A  
man can dream, though...

The Professor gestures with his (ordinary) index finger, then stops to look at it thoughtfully.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

A man can dream.

CUT TO BLACK:

THE END