

VOLUPTUA, ELLEN

QUEEN'S THRONE ROOM

(VOLUPTUA is waiting.
ZEMA and PANDA lead ELLEN
in)

VOLUPTUA

Please come in, Dr. Chambers.

(ELLEN bows and approaches)

ELLEN

Please call me Ellen, Your Majesty.

VOLUPTUA

As you wish, Ellen. Have a seat.

(She indicates a bench
next to a table on which
are two goblets. ELLEN
sits)

VOLUPTUA

Would you like something to drink? I have water, and...
nourishment.

ELLEN

I am thirsty.

(looks into one of the
goblets)

Tomato juice?

VOLUPTUA

Is that what you call it?

(ELLEN take as mouthful,
freezes, tries to smile,
finally can't take it any
longer and spits it back
into the goblet, coughing.
She puts the goblet back
on the table)

ELLEN

It's not tomato juice.

VOLUPTUA

It's what we take for nourishment. When we can get it. Would
you like some more?

ELLEN

No, thank you. It's probably an acquired taste.
(reaches for 2nd goblet)

If I could have some water.
(looks in the goblet)

This is water?

VOLUPTUA

Yes.

(ELLEN drinks the water,
trying to wash the taste
away)

VOLUPTUA (CONT'D)

Ellen, I wanted you here alone because we must discuss your men.

ELLEN

(surprised)

My men?

VOLUPTUA

Are Earth men healthy? Strong? Are they good breeders?

ELLEN

Oh, well... yes... I believe so.

VOLUPTUA

Our men were weak.

ELLEN

Where are your men?

(indicates DORK)

I've only seen this one... That is a man, isn't it?

VOLUPTUA

Yes. That is a man. The men are our slave class. Good only for
breeding, feeding and making machines work, but when allowed to
rule they always ruin things. Do they ruin things on your planet
as well?

ELLEN

Sometimes, I'm afraid.

VOLUPTUA

So it's universal.

ELLEN

But not all of them.

VOLUPTUA

Are your rulers male?

ELLEN

Most of them.

VOLUPTUA

Ah, you see. Be careful of the men. We treated them well but
they revolted, joined the enemy.

ELLEN

The Deros?

VOLUPTUA

Yes. The revolt failed, of course. Most of the men died. Some were executed. The remainder had all been been exposed to cosmic rays, which made them unable to breed. They withered and died. But our men had always been weak, not healthy and strong -- like your Commander Garrison.

ELLEN

How many men do you have left?

VOLUPTUA

Just Dork. He's our last.

ELLEN

That's your last man?

VOLUPTUA

Sad, isn't it? And he's not in good shape. His essence is almost drained. Is Commander Garrison your man?

ELLEN

(surprised)

My man? Well, we dated a few times, but we put any romance on hold for the duration of this expedition.

VOLUPTUA

Romance?

ELLEN

I mean, we're not really a couple. We haven't even -- you know. So it's not like we're in a relationship -- but we do have an understanding.

VOLUPTUA

Relationship... Romance... I have much to learn about you humans.

ELLEN

You brought us here -- your signals. Your race is dying? How can we help?

VOLUPTUA

You must take us back to Earth with you.

ELLEN

(beat)

I'm not sure that would be possible. The added weight. It affects the fuel ratio.

VOLUPTUA

Are you not serious about wanting to help?

ELLEN

Yes, Your Majesty. That's why we're here. But we don't have enough fuel to take you with us. I'll tell you what we will do -- what Earth will do --. Once we tell them about you, they will send more rockets to rescue you.

VOLUPTUA

How long would that take?

ELLEN

Well, first they'd have to build the rocket, and figure out the right launch window, and then the flight takes four months. All together, maybe... two, three years?

VOLUPTUA

I see... Perhaps you could take just myself, the high priestess and Aphrodisia. The others can wait to be rescued.

ELLEN

I don't know. I'll have to consult --

VOLUPTUA

Perhaps just myself and one other -- Aphrodisia. The high priestess can rule in my absence.

ELLEN

It would endanger the whole mission.

VOLUPTUA

Just me then. Me alone.

ELLEN

I will consult with Commander Garrison and Professor Zander. I promise you we will find a way to help you.

VOLUPTUA

Very well. Thank you, Ellen. Talk with your men.

(ELLEN bows awkwardly as
she backs out)

ELLEN

I will, Your Majesty. Thank you.

VOLUPTUA

But be careful. Don't trust them.