

CATCH!
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28 Plays Later 2019

Day 9

February 9, 2019

ACT I

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP - A BLACK STAGE SPRINKLED WITH STARS

IN THE CENTER OF THE STAGE SITS THE SUN, THE ONLY SOURCE OF LIGHT. AROUND THE SUN, ON NESTED TURNTABLES ARE PEOPLE REPRESENTING THE NINE PLANETS, AND A BEVY OF CHILDREN SERVING AS THE ASTEROID BELT. THE TURNTABLES ROTATE EVERYTHING AROUND THE SUN AT THE APPROPRIATE(ISH) SPEED.

EARTH: But no, it's actually kind of cool. They are sort of like pets, I guess? And they are EVERYWHERE, it turns out. I really only just noticed a little while ago.

VENUS: I dunno... sounds kinda creepy. They're crawling all over you?

EARTH: Yup! I've named them dinosaurs.

VENUS: Whatever floats your clouds, I guess.

EARTH AND VENUS BOTH START TO ROUND BEHIND THE SUN AS MARS AND JUPITER COME INTO VIEW.

MARS: Come onnnnnn, please??

JUPITER: Dude, seriously. I don't feel like playing right now.

MARS: You are such a spoilsport.

JUPITER: FINE.

JUPITER REACHES OUT AND PUSHES ONE OF THE CHILDREN/ASTEROIDS. IT MAKES A LONG RUNNING ARC, AND JUMPS INTO MARS' ARMS GIGGLING.

ASTEROID: WHEEEEEE!!

MARS: YAY!!!!

MARS, JUPITER AND ASTEROID ROUND BEHIND THE SUN AS EARTH, VENUS AND MERCURY REAPPEAR.

EARTH: Sure, it was kinda weird at first, but they're adorable. I think I'm going to keep them. Watching them run and play and occasionally eat each other is delightful.

MERCURY: (speeding past) GROSS!

VENUS: I agree. You really should reconsider your enthusiasm for these parasites.

EARTH: If you had your own, you'd know...

VENUS: Nope. Nope. No thank you. Nope! Ain't gonna happen.

EARTH: Some of them can fly.

MERCURY: (speeding past) WHAT?!?!

VENUS: Don't get too close to me, I don't want them flying over here.

EARTH: They can't fly THAT high. They are definitely stuck here. Super not contagious.

VENUS: Somehow I don't believe you...

THEY ARC BACK AROUND BEHIND THE SUN. BY THIS POINT, MARS AND JUPITER HAVE RETURNED.

MARS: More! More!!

JUPITER: Why are you so needy?!?

MARS: MOREEEEE!

A COMET ENTERS AND COMES STREAKING BY. IT GETS CLOSE TO JUPITER, WHO PUSHES IT TOWARDS MARS.

JUPITER: Here, play with this.

THE COMET RUNS AND JUMPS INTO MARS' ARMS,
AND PLACES A WHITE TOQUE ON ITS HEAD.

MARS: Ooooh! Ice hat! Very fashionable.

JUPITER AND MARS ARC AROUND BEHIND THE SUN
AS EARTH AND VENUS EMERGE. MERCURY SCOOTS
PAST RELATIVELY FREQUENTLY.

VENUS: Okay, I guess I could see the appeal from an
entertainment perspective.

EARTH: Right?! It's thousands of years of fun all wrapped up
in scaly little beasts that roar and kill each other.

VENUS: (shaking her head) Aren't there friendly ones?

EARTH: Some just eat my grass.

VENUS: I thought you looked like you had a trim. Nice!

THEY ROTATE OUT, AND MARS AND JUPITER
RETURN.

MARS: AGAINNNNNNN!

JUPITER: Fine. Last one, though. After this, you have to leave
me alone.

JUPITER REACHES OUT AND PUSHES A RATHER
LARGE CHILD OUT OF THE ASTEROID BELT. IT
ARCS AWAY AND BENDS BACK TOWARDS MARS,
SLOWLY PICKING UP SPEED. IT BEGINS TO RUN,
BUT INSTEAD OF RUNNING AND JUMPING INTO
MARS' ARMS, IT GRABS AHOOLD OF THEM AND
SWINGS AROUND, LETTING GO INTO ANOTHER ARC
THAT SWINGS IT AROUND BEHIND THE SUN AHEAD
OF THE OTHER TWO.

JUPITER: You missed!

MARS: No! No fair!

JUPITER: Existence isn't fair, princess.

MARS: AWWWW!

MARS BEGINS TO CRY AS THEY FOLLOW THE ASTEROID BEHIND THE SUN. EARTH AND VENUS RE-EMERGE.

VENUS: Okay, you sold me. They're actually pretty cool. And yeah, maybe I am a little jealous. But I can just watch from here...

EARTH: I have never been this happy...

AS THEY SPEAK, THE ASTEROID HAS RE-EMERGED AS WELL, AND RUNS FULL SPEED IN AN ARC THAT TAKES IT DIRECTLY TOWARDS EARTH. AS EARTH SAYS "HAPPY" THE ASTEROID JUMPS, LANDING ON EARTH'S BACK. THEY BOTH TUMBLE, AND EARTH SPILLS DOZENS OF TINY PLASTIC DINOSAURS ONTO THE FLOOR. EARTH SHOUTS AS THEY MOVE BACK BEHIND THE SUN.

EARTH: Noooooooooooooo!

MARS AND JUPITER RE-EMERGE.

JUPITER: What was that?

MARS: Dunno.

EARTH AND VENUS RE-EMERGE. EARTH IS ON ITS KNEES SOBBING AT THE PLASTIC DINOSAURS SPILLED EVERYWHERE.

VENUS: What did you two do??

JUPITER: What?

VENUS: Your little game of catch just wiped out all of Earth's new pets.

MERCURY STREAKS BY.

MERCURY: Not cool!

JUPITER: Wow. I didn't think--

VENUS: That's right. You didn't think.

JUPITER: But--

VENUS: No. You two have been tossing things willy nilly around this solar system for eons without even considering how that might impact the rest of us.

MARS: Heh. Impact.

VENUS & JUPITER: Shut up, Mars!

MARS: Sorry.

MERCURY STREAKS BY.

MERCURY: Yeah! Shut up, Mars!

VENUS: Think before you act. The things you do can have repercussions way beyond your little part of the neighborhood.

JUPITER: It was just a game...

VENUS: A game that cost Earth a lot of pets. Now they will have to grow more. And odds are that these will be much more annoying than the dinosaurs were.

MERCURY STREAKS BY.

MERCURY: And probably more contagious!

VENUS: Oh, great...

THEY ALL BEGIN TO ROTATE BACK BEHIND THE SUN AS THE LIGHTS COME DOWN.