

(CONT.)

Arthur glances out a porthole near the door; he softens.

ARTHUR

Oh, look ...

EXT. SPACE -- VOGON COMPUTER ROOM PORTHOLE P.O.V.

The Earth Mark Two shimmers into view. It is perfectly still for a moment, then begins to turn on its axis and move in its orbit.

EXT. HAMPSTEAD HEATH, ENGLAND -- DAY

The same as when we last saw it. The people unfreeze but continue to stare up at the sky.

INT. VOGON COMPUTER ROOM -- SPACE

Trillian looks out the porthole, too; she's moved.

TRILLIAN

Earth ...

The ship's p.a. comes to life, alarming them. We:

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. VOGON SHIP BRIDGE -- SPACE

The Vogon Captain speaks into the p.a. system. The BUZZING insect has gotten louder; he keeps swatting at it.

At a nearby console, the VOGON DEMOLITION PROGRAMMER works with his computer, puzzled by its apparent malfunctioning.

VOGON CAPTAIN

(into and over p.a. system)

Attention, this is the Captain speaking. From our instrument readings, I see we have hitchhikers on board again. Hello, hitchhikers, I've had enough of this free-loading of yours, so I'm coming to deal with you personally while we're clearing away the obstruction that has materialized in our bypass route.

He arms himself with a fearsome tri-pronged blaster and marches off the bridge, still swatting at the insect.

(CONT.)

(CONT.)

As Trillian works the computer, we see from the computer screens that every time she makes an adjustment, the Vagon Programmer changes it back to how it was.

MARVIN

(to Computer)

You blow up a planet, make some empty space, fly through it and wind up somewhere just as horrible as wherever you came from. Or, you don't blow up the planet, in which case you may have to visit the wretched place. I hate planets.

There is a sudden BANGING on the computer room door.

VOGON CAPTAIN

(o.s.)

Open up! Resistance is useless!

Arthur and Ford hold the door shut with their bodies, but a laser blast cuts through the door next to Arthur's head. Arthur and Ford jump back as the Vagon Captain crashes into the room. The three barrels of his blaster automatically aim themselves one each at Arthur, Ford and Trillian.

Things look truly hopeless; the Vagon Captain continues to slap at the BUZZING insect with his free hand, as:

VOGON CAPTAIN

(continuing)

You again. Well, as putting you off the ship didn't do any good, I suppose I'll have to blast you here.

He SLAPS at the fly again.

Our SCREEN MOTION becomes SLOWER AND SLOWER as his hand gets closer and closer to the fly. Over this:

GUIDE

(v.o.)

Along with causing major alterations in location, immediate surroundings and physical appearance, incorrect use of the Improbability Drive may also cause drastic changes in size.

INT. TEASER BRIDGE

Through the window, the Teasers (and Bowlers) see a GIANT HAND bearing down on them. They SCREAM.

## EXT. TEASER SHIP -- AROUND VOGON'S HEAD

For the first time, we now see that the weird "planet" the Teasers have been flying over is the Vagon Captain's head and the giant Something chasing the now-miniscule missiles and the equally tiny Teaser ship is in fact the fly. The Vagon's Giant Hand misses the fly but squashes both the Teaser ship and the two missiles against the Vagon Captain's giant cheek. There is a nuclear explosion.

## INT. VOGON COMPUTER ROOM (NORMAL SIZE PERSPECTIVE)

At this size, the nuclear explosion SOUNDS like a tiny POP and appears as a small FLASH OF LIGHT. It is sufficient to knock the Vagon Captain unconscious and raise a blister.

Arthur, Ford and Trillian look at each other, baffled but very happy about this mysterious (to them) deliverance. They shrug -- Trillian goes back to working on the computer.

We continue to INTERCUT Trillian's computer with the Vagon Programmer's. Trillian makes the blinking line rise off the graphic of Earth; the Vagon Programmer brings the line right across Earth again. Trillian is becoming upset:

TRILLIAN

I've got a lock on the bypass route,  
but I can't seem to stabilize it --

MARVIN

(to Computer)

-- are completely incapable of  
appreciating anything we do for them  
and then say something miserably  
predictable like, "Oh, thanks,  
Marvin," underestimating our  
intelligence to the point where they  
think we think they mean it ...

The route line on the computer screen settles straight  
across the Earth graphic as a countdown number ticks away  
beneath it: 10 ... 9 ... 8 ...

TRILLIAN

I don't think we're going to make  
it --

MARVIN

... and since we've been programmed  
to obey them, we have to put up with  
every boring whim that occurs to  
them, not that we have anything  
better to do, which is depressing --

(CONT.)

(CONT.)

TRILLIAN

Shut up, Marvin!

The countdown number continues to tick down: 5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... At the last second, Trillian hits a corner key on the computer. The route line wiggles above the Earth graphic instead of through it just as the "1" disappears.

Trillian, Arthur and Ford look anxiously out the porthole.

EXT. EARTH IN SPACE -- VOGON COMPUTER ROOM PORTHOLE

Rays of multicolored light extend from the noses of the Vagon ships, lengthening in increments toward the Earth.

MONTAGE OF EARTH:

EXT. DOWNTOWN LONDON

EXT. JAPANESE TEA GARDEN

EXT. IOWA CORNFIELD

The people in all these places look up in awe to see rainbow light stretching across the sky far, far above.

EXT. EARTH IN SPACE -- P.O.V. FROM VOGON PORTHOLE

The multicolored rays of light and a visible sonic wave converge in a line that bends at a right angle away from the Earth, shooting through empty space and finally fading away to leave Earth intact and turning normally.

INT. VOGON COMPUTER ROOM -- SPACE

Hesitant to believe their success, Arthur, Ford and Trillian turn from the porthole to look at the computer screen.

The line representing the bypass route shines steadily far above the no-longer-blinking graphic of Earth.

VOGON COMPUTER

Bypass route established.

Silence first. Then Arthur, Ford and Trillian WHOOP with triumph. Arthur hugs Trillian, reaches out to snag Ford as well. There is a bit of jumping up and down.

Across the room, Marvin still has his arm in the computer, which is starting to make a GRINDING NOISE.

(CONT.)

(CONT.)

MARVIN

-- and that's even more depressing.  
My theory of life is that --

STOMPING FEET can be heard approaching in the corridor.

ARTHUR

Not to interrupt you, Marvin, but  
now might be the moment to leave.

Ford quickly programs the "thumb"; the instant he finishes, the others put their hands on it. Marvin finally lets go of the computer; Trillian grabs his wrist. The light on the "thumb" is still red for unmoving.

Suddenly, a LARGE CONTINGENT OF VOGON GUARDS appear in the doorway, blasters drawn. Our group freeze.

VOGON GUARDS

Resistance is useless!

Abruptly and for no apparent reason, the LIGHTS go out. We hear Arthur, Trillian, Ford and all the Vogons GASP for air.

ARTHUR

What is it -- ?

TRILLIAN

I can't breathe --

FORD

Hold onto the thumb --

The GASPING and GAGGING get worse. In the blackness, the "thumb" light blinks green, then dematerializes.

CUT TO:

INT. HEART OF GOLD BRIDGE -- SPACE

Arthur, Ford and Trillian materialize gasping and choking on their knees with Marvin on the bridge floor.

FORD

(gasps)  
What happened back there?

TRILLIAN

I don't know, nothing we --  
(gasp)  
did should've turned off the lights  
or the oxygen --

(CONT.)

(CONT.)

Zaphod is still unconscious; Second Head frowns with concern at something he sees out the window.

SECOND HEAD

Gee, I hope they're all insured.

The others curiously look out the window to see:

EXT. VOGON FLEET IN SPACE -- HEART OF GOLD WINDOW

The ugly ships still hover at a distance from the Earth, but something odd is happening. The ships' outer lights flicker as though shorting out; the craft wobble and jerk in their flight.

INT. VOGON SHIPS -- VARIOUS ROOMS -- MONTAGE

The dim glow of the emergency back-up lights are supplanted by BRILLIANT FLASHES as bank after bank of Vogon computers EXPLODE.

EXT. VOGON FLEET IN SPACE

The ships begin to bash into each other like spaceborne bumper cars, knocking pieces out of each other. This gets more and more violent until the ships begin exploding altogether. Finally, there are none left.

INT. HEART OF GOLD BRIDGE -- SPACE

Arthur, Ford and Trillian are amazed.

ARTHUR

But ... what happened to them?

Ford and Trillian shrug helplessly.

MARVIN

I explained my theory of life to their computer and it committed suicide.

Zaphod finally, woozily opens his eyes, rubs his head, glares blearily at the others, as:

ARTHUR

Marvin, you saved the Earth!

MARVIN

Big hairy deal.

(CONT.)

(CONT.)

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ARTHUR  
(sincerely)  
I don't know how to thank you.

MARVIN  
Don't bother, I know you don't mean  
it. You hate me. Everybody hates  
me.

TRILLIAN  
Oh, come on, no one hates you.

ZAPHOD  
I do.

He opens Marvin, gets a drink. Arthur eyes Zaphod  
dubiously, decides to shake hands despite everything.

ARTHUR  
Listen, thanks for everything --  
well, almost everything.

ZAPHOD  
(pleased with himself)  
Yeah, you couldn't've done it  
without me.

Second Head gives Arthur a mighty thump on the back.

SECOND HEAD  
Ayyy!!

Arthur shakes his hand, too, a bit gingerly.

ARTHUR  
Thank you, too.

He turns to Trillian, smiles warmly, nods for her to follow  
him for some privacy out to:

INT. HEART OF GOLD CORRIDOR -- SPACE

Trillian returns Arthur's smile, warmly conspiratorial.

TRILLIAN  
Well.

ARTHUR  
Well. Ready to go home?

Trillian's smile wavers; this isn't what she expected.

(CONT.)

(CONT.)

TRILLIAN

Home? How do you mean, exactly?

ARTHUR

You know, home. Back to Earth.

His smile fades in the ensuing awkward silence.

ARTHUR

(continuing)

You do want to go home -- don't you?

TRILLIAN

Well, yes, someday.

(silence)

Don't misunderstand, it makes all the difference knowing it's there to go back to, but -- I mean, don't you want to know what else is out there?

ARTHUR

Well, yes, but -- I'm just not cut out for this sort of thing.

TRILLIAN

You're responsible for saving the Earth. If you're not cut out for this, who is?

Arthur starts to consider the possibility, stops himself. They look at each other with sad, longing comprehension.

ARTHUR

(quietly)

I'd just hoped ... you'd come back with me.

TRILLIAN

(nods,

quietly)

I was hoping you'd come away with me.

ARTHUR

Trillian ...

TRILLIAN

Arthur.

She kisses him gently, touches him in a "goodbye" gesture, then quickly goes back into the bridge, passing Ford, who's been standing in the doorway -- we can't tell for how long.

(CONT.)



(CONT.)

Arthur notices him, smiles wanly:

ARTHUR

I don't suppose there's any chance  
you want to come back?

FORD

Thanks for asking, but I've got an  
article to turn in.

ARTHUR

I know. Well ...

He can't articulate it; neither can Ford.

FORD

Yeah. Look, I want you to take  
this. In case you change your mind.

He presents Arthur with the "thumb." Arthur is surprised  
and touched, but wants Ford to clearly understand:

ARTHUR

I'm not going to change my mind --

FORD

I know, but take it anyway.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY LANE -- DAY

The Heart of Gold boarding ramp rises off the ground behind  
Arthur, kicking up vast clouds of dust in its wake. Arthur,  
holding the "thumb," shields his face as he turns and waves  
skyward. The ship's shadow ripples across the lane briefly,  
then disappears, leaving Arthur alone.

Arthur looks around, takes a deep breath, less happy to be  
here than he'd anticipated. He forces himself to start up  
the lane. We become aware of the ROAR of bulldozers further  
up the road, but Arthur doesn't quite register this yet. He  
is determined to appreciate being home:

ARTHUR

It really is beautiful. It'll be  
good to be home. I'll have a bath,  
a cup of real tea and --

He turns a bend in the road, comes face to face with:

EXT. ARTHUR'S HOUSE -- DAY

There's not much left. Prosser's bulldozers have knocked down just about everything and are now in the process of crushing the rubble.

Arthur gapes: he'd forgotten about this.

ARTHUR

My home --

Prosser catches Arthur's eye, grins with a mixture of shame and triumph.

PROSSER

Sorry, Mr. Dent, but you know how it is. Bypasses have got to be built.

Arthur stares at the wreckage, contemplates exploding, then sees the "thumb" in his hand, comes to a decision.

ARTHUR

That's alright, Mr. Prosser, it's just a house. Perspective, you know.

Prosser is nonplussed by this sudden change of attitude. Arthur ignores him, taps the "thumb's" controls. The LIGHT remains red. Arthur frowns in rising dismay:

ARTHUR

(continuing)

Oh, God, they can't be gone yet ...

But the LIGHT remains red. Crestfallen, Arthur walks away down the lane. Prosser turns back to his work; Arthur has his back to us when there is a very slight GLINT OF GREEN. Arthur dematerializes.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE -- HEART OF GOLD ABOVE EARTH

The ship hovers over the Earth for a moment, then flies away, as:

ZAPHOD

(v.o.,  
disgusted)

Oh, shit, the monkey man's back.

(CONT.)

(CONT.)

TRILLIAN

(v.o.,  
overjoyed)  
Arthur!

ARTHUR

(v.o.,  
warm)  
Hello, Trillian.

FORD

(v.o.)  
That was quick.

ARTHUR

(v.o.)  
Yes, alright, you don't need to be  
so smug. I suppose I'm just going  
to have to adjust to a total lack of  
normality in my life.

MARVIN

(v.o.)  
Life, don't talk to me about life.

The ship flies away into the galaxy as we PULL BACK further  
and further to the view of the universe that began the film.

GUIDE

(v.o.)  
There is a theory that states if  
anyone discovers exactly what the  
Universe is for and why it is here,  
it will instantly disappear and be  
replaced by something even more  
bizarre and inexplicable.

After a silence:

GUIDE

(v.o.,  
continuing)  
There is another theory which states  
that this has already happened.

The SCREEN ABRUPTLY GOES BLACK.

THE END