

XENO-CONTROL

"Pilot"

by Cody Pearce

TEASER

EXT. ALIEN PLANET OF PHOOM - SPACE

Orbiting a green, multi-ringed planet.

EXT. PHOOM - DAY

SUPER TITLE: *Planet Phoom, 25 Light Years from Earth.*

CLOSE ON: A leering, many-tentacled alien, trapped behind bars. It doesn't move, only a picture. The words XENO-CONTROL written underneath.

Pull out to reveal this is a logo on the side of:

THE TERRIER

A cross between a space ship and a delivery truck. The ship flies through the planet's humid atmosphere above a thick alien jungle.

INT. TERRIER, CARGO BAY - DAY

Inside is a cluttered mess of mechanical junk, various metal CAGES and odd makeshift WEAPONS (net launchers, bear traps, ect).

REX, 50s, grizzled, wearing a beat-to-hell bomber jacket and military pants, stares at a holo-vid (a 3-D holographic TV).

ON HOLO-VID: A FRIGHTENED COLONIST in a bulky space suit runs through the alien jungle.

FRIGHTENED COLONIST

(on holo-vid)

It's broken our outer defenses...
And it... it's only getting
hungrier.

REX

Don't worry. It'll lose that
appetite fast.

Rex holds up a futuristic CATTLE PROD, brimming with electricity.

ON HOLO-VID: Frightened colonist smiles just as a large, blurry FIGURE pulls him off screen. There's a deep guttural GROWL mixed with HUMAN SCREAMS. The holo-vid turns to STATIC.

REX (CONT'D)
 Jones? *Jones?*

Rex presses a COM-LINK in his ear, activating a HEADS-UP DISPLAY.

 REX (CONT'D)
 Trixie!

INT. TERRIER, COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

TRIXIE, 18, a mixed-race girl wearing a T-shirt proclaiming "Save the Aliens," works a series of touch screens in the ship's cockpit.

Rex's holographic head appears before her.

 REX HOLOGRAM
 You got a lock on the grizzle yet?

Trixie checks one of the screens. It SHOWS satellite footage of a BLURRY CREATURE running through dense foliage.

 TRIXIE
 Yes, but...

Rex groans. He knows what's coming.

 TRIXIE (CONT'D)
 I don't think it's safe to drop in on it like this. The grizzle is already frightened. We may harm it if we--

 REX HOLOGRAM
 Harm "IT"? What about the people it's *harming*?

 TRIXIE
 Our mission is to *capture*, not *kill*, the aliens.

 REX HOLOGRAM
 Forget this. I'm droppin' in.

 TRIXIE
 What? Rex. No.

Rex's hologram winks out.

INT. TERRIER, CARGO BAY - CONTINUOUS

Rex grabs his cattle prod and straps on a large JET PACK. He stands at the hangar door as a warning klaxon BLARES.

REX

It's Alien Wranglin' Time.

The hangar door OPENS. Torrential WIND whips through the ship. Rex leaps out of the open doorway, plummeting...

EXT. ATMOSPHERE OF PHOOM - DAY

...30,000 feet over the planet's surface. Rex's heavy body falls like a ton of bricks. He's headed right for...

EXT. ALIEN JUNGLE OF PHOOM - DAY

A series of SPIKY CRYSTAL TREES. Rex is about to impale himself on one when he activates his JET PACK at the last second, pulling himself up from certain death.

REX

Whew! Close call.

SPARK! SPARK!

Rex looks down. He DID IMPALE HIMSELF. One of the spiky trees stabbed straight through his leg, causing it to spew...

Sparks?

Rex pulls the spike out. His leg jerks. It's made of rusted old *robot parts*. An AD on the leg reads: INDESTRUCTIBLE.

REX (CONT'D)

Ha!

But Rex doesn't have time to dwell on his injuries as...

SOMETHING MASSIVE moves just beneath him, carrying the Frightened Colonist.

Rex flies after it on his jet pack.

INT. ALIEN JUNGLE OF PHOOM - DAY

Rex weaves through the jungle, finally catching up to...

The GRIZZLE. It's a bear-like alien with six legs and four arms. Two arms hold the FRIGHTENED COLONIST, who shrieks like a girl.

Rex flies in front of the grizzle, blocking its path.

The grizzle stops. GROWLS at Rex.

Rex jabs the grizzle with his cattle prod.

The grizzle drops the Frightened Colonist, who runs away without looking back.

REX
(to frightened colonist)
Yer welcome.

The grizzle slashes at Rex with its huge claws, but Rex dodges the attack on his jet pack.

REX (CONT'D)
How 'bout a little juice fer that
caboose.

Rex shocks the grizzle in its hairy behind.

The grizzle runs in response. Rex SHOCKS it again, herding the alien in a particular direction.

EXT. CAVE-MOUTH - DAY

JONAH, 23, fresh-faced and wearing a silvery space suit, paces back and forth outside of a cave.

He holds a bushel of crystalline blue flowers.

JONAH
*Trixie, I know we barely know each
other and all but from the first
moment I saw you--*

REVEAL: Jonah is talking to an oddly-shaped cactus with Trixie's picture on it.

JONAH (CONT'D)
(sotto)
No. That's not it.
(to cactus)
*Trixie, I picked these flowers,
because... Uh, the blue matches the
color of your--*

Suddenly, Rex appears on Jonah's heads-up display (from now on HUD). Jonah quickly hides the flowers behind his back and stands in front of the Trixie-cactus.

REX
(via holoivid)
Jonah! Quit lollygagging and get
that trap ready.

JONAH
It, uh, yes sir. Right away.

Rex winks out as Jonah runs to the cave mouth. He finishes setting a trip wire across the cave's entrance.

Jonah touches the wire with his foot and a metal cage door starts to come down from the top of the cave mouth. It's a trap.

Jonah resets the tripwire just as...

ROAR! The grizzle bursts from the jungle with Rex in pursuit.

REX shocks the grizzle, leading it towards the cave.

JONAH jumps into some bushes nearby as...

The grizzle runs through the trip wire at the cave mouth, activating...

NOTHING!!! The trip wire didn't work.

JONAH (CONT'D)
Oh fuzznugget!

INSIDE THE CAVE

The grizzle reaches the back of the cave. Turns around to face its pursuers. It ROARS at Jonah, revealing row upon row of SERRATED TEETH like the mouth of a shark.

OUTSIDE THE CAVE

Rex looks to Jonah.

REX
Do something.

But Jonah is frozen in fear, shaking.

JONAH
Do what?

Meanwhile, the grizzle sprints towards Jonah, about to leave the cave...

OUTSIDE THE CAVE

Rex shakes his head.

REX
Step aside, boy.

Rex runs headlong at the grizzle, yelling.

Just before the alien would rip him to shreds, Rex grabs the cage door at the top of the cave mouth and pulls it down, trapping the grizzle inside.

REX (CONT'D)
Human buffet is closed, buster.

The grizzle ROARS from behind the bars.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE**EXT. JUNGLE SPACE COLONY - DAY**

The Terrier is parked outside a SPACE COLONY floating over the jungle.

Jonah and Rex stand outside the ship. They talk with the Frightened Colonist whom Rex saved earlier.

FRIGHTENED COLONIST
I can't thank you enough.

Frightened Colonist holds out a huge wad of silvery CASH.

REX
(taking the cash)
Don't worry. That'll do just fine.

Frightened Colonist hands the cash to Jonah, but Rex grabs it instead.

Rex separates a TINY AMOUNT of cash and gives that to Jonah instead.

JONAH
But this is just 20 credits?

REX
Shoulda thought of that when you still had a chance to capture the grizzle.

INT. TERRIER, CARGO BAY - CONTINUOUS

Rex and Jonah pass the grizzle, still trapped in its cage. The alien reaches out at Jonah. Trying to slash at him.

Jonah, nervous, gives the cage a wide berth.

INT. TERRIER, COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Trixie feeds apples to FIGARO, an alien rabble-runt (basically a parrot mixed with a dragon) Figaro chops up the apples with his razor sharp beak. BURPS.

FIGARO
<Squawk> <Squawk>
(subtitle)
An Apple a Day keeps my human-eating urges at bay.

Jonah and Rex join her in the cockpit.

TRIXIE

That was a close one. I had to give
the grizzle something to calm down.

Rex scoffs. He sits down on a chair, pulls up his pant legs and sleeves, revealing... Robotic limbs. He's half-machine. A cyborg. Rex oils his joints with a can of WD-40.

Jonah turns to Trixie. Behind his back, he holds the crystalline blue flowers.

JONAH

Uh, Trixie...

Jonah holds out the flowers.

JONAH (CONT'D)

I, uh, picked these flowers for--

Trixie's eyes widen. She grabs the flowers. As she does this Figaro eats one of the flower buds.

TRIXIE

Figaro, NO!

Trixie throws the rest of flowers into a ship INCINERATOR. They disintegrate immediately.

JONAH

What'd you do that for?

TRIXIE

Those are Vomitoria Flowers.

Suddenly, Figaro turns a bright shade of blue, flies to a corner of the ship and COUGHS violently.

Trixie tends to Figaro as if the alien were dying.

TRIXIE (CONT'D)

They may look pretty, but those
flowers are highly dangerous. Most
alien species will become violently
ill if they ingest even a small
portion.

Jonah hangs his head low.

JONAH

Sorry. I...

TRIXIE

It's okay. I know you didn't mean it. It's just, try to be a little more thoughtful next time when you bring something in for decoration.

JONAH

Oh those weren't for...

But he stops himself before telling her the truth.

JONAH (CONT'D)

I mean, yeah. They were for decoration.

Rex walks over to Figaro and smacks the alien on its back, causing it to COUGH up the Vomitoria flower bud. The alien's color returns to normal.

REX

There. All better.

Trixie glares at Rex.

EXT. EARTH - ESTABLISHING

SUPER TITLE: *Earth*.

The planet is spider-webbed with cities.

We zoom in on one in particular...

EXT. GREEN SUN ARCOLOGY - DAY

The city looks like a giant metal oak tree with buildings coming off of its branches.

The Terrier flies into its Byzantine interior.

EXT. GREEN SUN ARCOLOGY, THE ALIEN QUARTER - DAY

The Terrier flies through a rundown section of Green Sun, full of weird novelty shops and shady businesses like *Trevor's X-Ray Eyeball Emporium* and *The Android Warehouse*.

One business is most prominent, with holographic advertisements everywhere. This is OZGOOD'S BEST OFFENSE WEAPON DEPOT.

The Terrier flies past a holographic billboard showing OZGOOD, 40s, super wealthy, with a golden cyborg body and expensive tailored suit. He stands amidst piles of expensive weaponry, smiling at passing shuttles.

EXT. CRITTER CAGE - DAY

The Terrier lands at THE CRITTER CAGE, a small garage nestled in the alien quarter.

A sign outside states: *"Xeno-Control! Aliens crowding your colony? Hassle-Free Removal or Money back Guaranteed... Maybe."*

INT. CRITTER CAGE - DAY

The place is a mess, full of mechanical junk.

ELMORE, 50s, slicked back hair with a beer belly, sits behind a large wooden desk. Eyes glued to a holo-vid showing ROBOT HORSE RACING.

ELMORE
(at the screen)
Come on, Seabiscuit-9000! Just one more lap.

ON THE HOLO-VID: SEABISCUIT-9000 falls behind at the LAST SECOND. Gets TRAMPLED TO PIECES by other machine horses.

ELMORE (CONT'D)
NOOOO!

Elmore slams his heavy fist on the desk, knocking over a series of old GAMBLING TICKETS.

Jonah, Rex, Trixie and Figaro enter the shop.

REX
Grizzie's in the cargo hold.

Rex hands a wad of the silvery space cash to Elmore.

Elmore kisses the cash. Then he kisses a severed ALIEN CLAW hanging around his neck.

ELMORE
Sweet Luck Lizard. Now I can finally pay off my...

He stops, noticing the others listening to him.

ELMORE (CONT'D)

Hey, you four still have a job to do. We've got ourselves a buyer for that grizzle you captured.

TRIXIE

Really? He can afford a permit for a grizzle?

ELMORE

Oh, he can afford just about anything.

Elmore changes the holo-vid display to show a picture of: COLIN WENTWORTH, 28, handsome, rich, snooty-looking.

ELMORE (CONT'D)

Name's Colin Wentworth. Owns an algae farm out on Krakoam. Apparently, Colin wants the alien for his private zoo.

REX

Definitely a spoiled brat.

TRIXIE

At least he's cute.

JONAH

He's not that cute.

ELMORE

Well cute or not, I want you three to bring him the grizzle. And while you're there, check out his collection. I've received reports that he may be harboring a Class-four illegal species. Odds are, he is.

Elmore turns off the holo-vid.