

THE PLANTED 3: SPINACH MEN

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FADE IN:

INT LOUR'S WORLD- NIGHT

BRIAN, and RICK work alongside JOI. They are all in their mid to late 20s. All four wear professional business attire.

They are in a store: cases of health and beauty products,

The two guys lean over a counter of earrings and jewelry. Joi, on the other side of the counter, does a quick inventory.

RICK

Come on, it's getting late.

Joi types on her computer as fast as she can.

JOI

Almost done.

Brian looks at his watch. Rick lightly shoves his shoulder in a private joke.

BRIAN

I want to get drunk.

RICK

You are drunk.

BRIAN

I want to get more drunk.

RICK

Holding everyone up, Joi.

Joi signs off, puts her computer to sleep.

JOI

Where's the fire?

RICK

You could have wrapped it five minutes ago.

JOI

You guys can cut corners all you like, but I don't.

RICK
One time one night isn't going
to kill you.

JOI
Yeah. Like the last time. Who
saved your ass?

RICK
Did you save it again?

Joi flips him the bird.

BRIAN
Pretty finger.

Joi waves the finger at Brian.

BRIAN
Is that for both of -

A massive light overwhelms them. They turn to face it.
Whiteout.

INT. SPACE SHIP - DAY

Joi asleep next to Brian and Rick. On metal tables.

Plastic clear sheets over their clothes.

The room they are in: sterile white with three corners.

A MAN-SIZE SPACE ALIEN whose head is a mess of vegetable
that holds together two partial upside down HUMAN SKULLS
approaches. Thorns hang from his arms.

Plant-Alien observes the three bodies before him. His
mouth drools. Carrot root-like fingers tap along the
plastic sheets.

A low growl.

Joi's eyes open.

Plant-Alien cranks his head down, howls. Dribbles spit
on her forehead.

Joi squirms. She can't get off the table.

Plant-Alien grasps a phallic syringe.

Giant bee stinger of a needle.

INT. SECTION B GREENHOUSE - DAY

Under the cover of giant mushrooms, a man decomposes into a leaf vegetation. The Spinach Man does not have an upside down double skull.

Cracks of small light between mushrooms.

Low illumination.

About two yards away:

Joi wakes up next to TED (30s). Both are battered, clothes torn and dirty.

Joi glances to the Spinach Man off in the distance.

JOI
He hasn't moved.

TED
Good.

JOI
We haven't moved

TED
Needed the rest. As long as we
don't touch those things above-

JOI
That plant-man over there. I
think he's an alien. I just
remembered what happened before
I got in here. That's an alien.

TED
Alright. We're not going back
to ask him.

JOI

No, I'm not suggesting that.
But what I remember, bits and
pieces. That thing over there
helped jog my memory. Only-

TED

What?

JOI

It's different. It the thing I
remember. It had these skulls-

SYD (O.S.)

(calls out)

Whatever you do, don't go back
there and don't stand up!

JOI

Someone there?

(loud)

Who's out there? Where are you?

SYD (O.S.)

Keep moving forward, towards my
voice. Don't touch the spinach
men. Don't stand up.

ALEX (O.S.)

Do as he says! Please!

Ted and Joi crawl to the source of the voices.

JOI

Is that him up there? I see
someone.

(loud)

I see you!

Far ahead: a man crouched low.

SYD (O.S.)

That's not me. Stay away from
him.

As Ted and Joi get closer, the person before them is
another Spinach Man.

TED
He's in the way!

SYD (O.S.)
Get around him!

JOI
How far ahead are you!

ALEX (O.S.)
When you get past the second
spinach guy, keep moving! Me or
Syd will let you know when we
see you! We'll be at your
right!
(beat)
I'm Alex!

The Second Spinach Man, eyeless holes stare back at Joi and Ted.

Ted lets Joi go first.

Joi carefully moves around the Spinach Man. The thing does not react to her.

Joi looks up. Dark umbrella over them all.

INSERT

Her right foot drags forward.

Inches away from the Spinach Man.

BACK TO SCENE

Ted advances.

Joi watches him. Her gaze falls on the back of the Spinach Man.

Merged with the thing: RICK, His face frozen in fear.

Joi kicks herself away.

Ted avoids the Rick-Spinach Man. Loose dirt spits on the body. Rick-Spinach Man comes alive. The heads turns around, the blank face zeroes on Joi.

The mouth opens. Alien high pitched howl.

ALEX (O.S.)

Move!

From above: a half decomposed body, half human, half plant falls behind Joi. She almost backs into it. She screams.

Joi And Ted scramble fast past the third Spinach corpse.

The Third Spinach Man shoots upright, vines and thorns dangle around him.

A human skeletal hand protrudes out of the Third Spinach Man's face as it delivers the same primal scream as the other.

ALEX

Right!

Between giant mushrooms: ALEX (20s) grabs Joi, pulls her in.

Ted follows.

MUSHROOM PATH

Alex and Joi keep low, as they zig-zag ahead of Ted.

SYD (20s) joins Ted, leads him forward.

SYD

Keep your head low, man!

Below them: a trail of candy and granola bar wrappers.

SYD

Just you two?!

TED

Yeah!

SYD

Crap!

JOI

We're going to lose them!

ALEX

No we won't! Follow the trail!

They head towards a bloody X over a vagina-like cave hole.

JOI

I'm not going in there!

ALEX

We all are!

He ducks in the opening.

INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

It's five foot high and twenty feet wide.. A small fire in the center.

A collection of cell phones, knick-knacks.

Syd and Ted enter. Alex lunges, hits Ted with a left hook.

Ted falls.

ALEX

Dumb son of a bitch! Nearly got us all killed!

JOI

It's my fault! One of those things. It had the face of someone I knew.

ALEX

Twitch just once on those guys, they'll snatch you up, take what they want and throw you back in Section A.

TED

How do you know that's where it starts?

ALEX

We don't. It's what we call it.
Mushroom section is section B.
We're on the edge of section C.

TED

Didn't need to hit me.

ALEX

Yeah I did.

JOI

Will they follow us?

ALEX

No.

SYD

They don't need to. You said
you knew someone?

JOI

His name was Rick. I worked
with him.

SYD

Rick. Know a Brian?

JOI

Yes.

Syd slaps a cell phone in her hand.

SYD

So I guess that makes you Joi
with an I. This phone's
Brian's. Battery's low, but
it's informative.

JOI

He's alive?

ALEX

I don't think so.

JOI

Do you know what's going on?

ALEX

Not everything.

TED

What do you know?

ALEX

Alright. Whole bunch of people,
different parts of the world,
abducted by aliens all about
the same time.

SYD

Not random either, as you
noticed with your co-workers.

ALEX

But separated. Me and Syd, took
us a day, I think. Two days to
find each other.

TED

What do you mean?

ALEX

And that was over two days ago.
But less than a week, that's
for sure.

Syd nods.

SYD

Anyway, you can look at that
video if you want, but I can
tell you that the Spinach Guys
are the aliens. Scavengers.

JOI

Scavengers?

SYD

We're fed to their pet plants
here. After a period of time...

Picks up a dirty broken human femur.

TED

Seen bones all over. Sharpened
up one, used it for walking
around.

SYD

Good man. The aliens use them too. They just put them into themselves. The ones you saw? New arrivals, created by the mushrooms.

ALEX

Created?

SYD

Hey, I'm not a rocket scientist, I only know what I know.

(to Ted)

Sound like a fella who's been around.

TED

I was collecting phones, cameras.

SYD

Was?

JOI

He lost them.

ALEX

Nice going.

TED

Hey-

ALEX

Nevermind> I won't ask you go back to get them. Besides, if anyone else makes it this far, they might find your stash.

TED

You two pretty much stayed in this spot.

ALEX

We're a couple of trolls, pay the fine, cross over. At your own risk, of course.

JOI

Pay the toll to the troll.
Nice.

SYD

Fee is small. Spare granola
bars, snacks. Even had one guy
had Cherry frosted pop tarts.
Any bones you collected will
work too.

ALEX

Tattered clothes make good for
the fires, sleeping.

TED

You're scavengers too.

SYD

No, we are survivors. Big
difference.

INSERT: TITLE CARD

TO BE CONTINUED

FADE OUT.