

SCENE FOUR: At a Spaceship Workstation

TELERAN and COSMOS are trying to get the workstation ready for the Inspectors' visit.

TELERAN: *(Worried)* Where's Alar with those connection chips?

COSMOS: Dunno. *(He looks hopefully offstage)*

TELERAN: If we don't get this finished we're going to fail the inspection.

COSMOS: I thought we were going to fail it anyway, what with Minstral being on another planet. Well, not another planet precisely, but you know what I mean.

TELERAN: This is no time to be stupid, Cosmos.

COSMOS: Okay. *(He pauses)* Will you tell me when it is time then, Teleran?

TELERAN: Oh! Give it a rest!

COSMOS sits down.

TELERAN: What are you doing?! We've got important work to do.

COSMOS: I'm giving it a rest, it's been giving me gyp all day!

TELERAN: Get up and keep working you stupid idiot! *(COSMOS stands again)* We've got to get this workstation ready in time or we won't be doing any more work, ever.

COSMOS: *(Thinks about this)* Well, in that case, wouldn't it be better if we didn't finish?

TELERAN: *(Sighing)* We won't be doing any more work because we won't exist. The Inspectors will eradicate us.

COSMOS: *(Thinking again)* Oh. *(Pause, then looking offstage again)* Where is Alar with those connection chips?

ALAR enters with a box. She's carrying it very carefully.

ALAR: I nearly dropped these! I couldn't see where I was going and my feet got all tangled up and...

She does exactly that, falls over and drops the box. She stands up.

ALAR: ...that's what I nearly did! (*Looking at the mess*) Oh! I've done it, haven't I?!

TELERAN: Nice one, Alar. And what are we supposed to do now? Is there another box?

ALAR: No.

TELERAN: No, I didn't think there would be. (*Very fed up*) That's great! Just great!

COSMOS: Couldn't we just pick out the ones that aren't damaged?

ALAR: Yeah!

TELERAN: We needed all of them. Oh, I hate this sort of stress!

COSMOS: Oh. Well, what if we took some out of the other workstations and just sort of moved them around a bit, you know, swapped them over whilst the Inspector wasn't looking?

ALAR: Yeah! Brilliant idea, Cosmos!

TELERAN: We couldn't do that because they are designed individually for each workstation, they don't work in any others.

ALAR: Yeah! Stupid idea, Cosmos!

TELERAN: Right! One of us is going to have to tell the Captain about this.

COSMOS: He's not going to be pleased, is he?

TELERAN: No.

COSMOS: Then I'm not doing it.

TELERAN: And I'm not doing it. I told him about the fuse missing from the sonic alternator. I've done my bit.

ALAR: Well, if Cosmos isn't doing it and you're not doing it, that leaves (*Slowly realising*) Oh no!!

TELERAN & COSMOS

TOGETHER: *(Pointing at ALAR)* Yes! You!!

ALAR: Oh, no! Couldn't I just write him a memo?

TELERAN: You broke them Alar, you have to face the consequences.

COSMOS: Right! Off you go and good luck.

ALAR exits unhappily.

TELERAN: I'm glad it isn't me.

COSMOS: Me, too.

They both pause.

TELERAN: Cosmos.

COSMOS: Yes, Teleran?

TELERAN: You can give it a rest now.

COSMOS: Oh, thanks, Teleran! Thanks very much. *(He sits down)*

TELERAN stands looking dejectedly at the workstation.

The lights fade to blackout.

TELERAN and COSMOS exit.