

# TROUBLES FROM OUTER SPACE

## CHAPTER 1

The U-turn had been too abrupt and by inertia, the guts of Captain Bronton expanded toward the ceiling. Then the stars outside the portholes jumped in the opposite direction, the belly extended like an elastic to the floor and the captain almost slipped out of the comfortable Dromodillo leather armchair.

<<Can you take it slow!?!>> cried furiously.

The navigator Zack took off the helmet: <<What'd you say, captain?>>

In response to that reckless gesture, the entire room began to rotate, and the captain's belly cut through air, narrowly missing Thor, hyper-focused at the Sighting Station.

<<Do you want to put that helmet on?>> shouted the captain.

The Navigator Zack immediately put it on and the starship resumed its ideal course towards the blue planet. Thor looked stunned at the celestial body, with big eyes and the head a few inches from the monitor, as if this could make him gain a couple of light-years. Then he widened his eyes and moved his head an other bit forward.

<<What is that?>> asked the captain.

<<A planet!>> replied Thor, without paying too much attention.

<<I can see it, cretin!>> went furious the captain. <<And stop making me space sick!>>

Zack took off the helmet once more and the planet started to spin on the screen, along with the captain's belly.

<<Meathead!>> cried he. <<How should I tell you that the ship is under your mental control?>>

<<I know, captain. But with this stuff on my head how can I talk?>>

When Zack put on the helmet, Thor got his face away from the screen, incredulous. The blue planet, now filling the entire screen, emitted a spectral light.

<<Captain>> called the navigator, concerned. <<We cannot land here!>>

<<Why?>> said pigheadedly the Captain Bronton. <<This is an order and here I'm in charge!>>

<<According to the terminal this planet is called Earth>> continued Thor <<and it would be populated by very dangerous life forms>>.

<<I thought we'd come to find new species for our circus!>> roared the captain, that tightened up the eyebrows with wickedness. <<Zack, get ready for the procedure!>>

<<Right away, captain!>> replied the navigator, who tightened his brow with the utmost of the mental effort. The ship whizzed downward, in the direction of the blue planet.

<<I want to see these animals!>> laughed greedily the captain that, as a result of the acceleration, expanded more and more on the Dromodillo leather armchair. Then the guts recoiled and the ship seemed to be hovering in mid air.

<<What's happening?>> wanted to know Bronton.

Thor turned his head: <<It looks like we cannot land here, captain?>>

<<What the hell is it this time?>>

<<The planet is covered by water?>>

<<Water?>> was surprised the captain, tapping his long green fingers over each other. <<Do you want to tell me that a planet called Earth is made of water?>>

<<Wait>> stepped in Thor, after a search at the terminal. <<There are mountains>>.

<<Great observation!>> gasped the captain, raising a malignant smile.

Zack put on the helmet again: <<I'll do a low altitude reconnaissance fly>>.

Before you know it, the captain's belly extended like an elastic, almost slapping Thor in the face.

After a few minutes, Zack took off his helmet, exulting: <<I see something on the horizon!>>

The scene outside the portholes began to swirl fast.

Zack put on the helmet and the ship went back to normal.

Shortly after, Thor announced: <<I found a suitable area for landing>>.

<<Well done!>> giggled the captain, delighted. <<Now I really want to see these nasty animals!>>

## CHAPTER 2

The man lifted an eyelid, annoyed, then lowered his head mumbling. He rearranged himself on the armchair in a more uncomfortable position than the one he already was, and started snoring again. Shortly after, a flash lit the window in the middle of the night and the dogs began to bark. John stood up, startled, hitting his head against the mantelshelf, and began to wobble around in the darkness, in the middle of the room. He groped hastily to reach the bottle of Whisky, and stumbled on a sack of potatoes. A stack of plates fell loudly on the floor and at that point he realized he had woken up. He went back to sit on the armchair with the bottle in his hand, guzzled a few sips and dozed off for a moment. Until a second flash lit the room like in broad daylight, followed by a deafening thud.

There were a few moments of silence and then furious footsteps were heard along the corridor. The light was turned on and John covered the face with his arm not to be blinded. He uncovered himself a little by little to get used to the change and saw a giant woman in pajamas, who was staring at him with defiance from the door of the living room.

<<Could you stop making noise?>> she shouted, with smoky eyes.

<<Darling, there are lights out there! I'm going to check!>>

She gave him a stern look, hands on her broad hips. She weighed more than the pigs kept in the pigsty out there, but he had never weighed her to say it with certainty.

<<You're not going to see a thing! Rather, stop drinking!>> she shouted, making the same grunt of a pig. Then, she slammed the door and went back to sleep.

John stood up and took a sip from another bottle, staggering toward the window. Then he opened his eyes wide and brought the flashing light into focus again, from which a strange hum was coming.

<<I have to go to check!>> he mumbled. <<Someone is trying to take my pigs away!>>

He grabbed the rifle, hung up on the wall, and headed for the exit, but when he opened the door the light had disappeared. He then decided to walk toward a clearing in the woods, from where the light seemed to come.

At a certain point, he stopped, appalled: a large shadow wandered in the trees.

<<For Christ's sake! This is bigger than all my pigs put together!>>

John saw the shape of two other smaller figures. He wouldn't have allowed anyone to touch his pigs.

<<Stop where you are!>> he shouted, pointing the rifle.

The bigger figure's belly jumped back and the three figures stopped.

<<Hey, these animals can talk!>> said one of them, surprised.

<<These evil little devils would be pretty for our circus>> said the large figure.

<<Let's take one!>> cut short Zack.

<<Do you see more than one?>> asked sarcastically Thor.

<<Ah, no!>> grunted John, with the finger trembling on the trigger. <<My pigs can't be touched!>>

Once one of the greenish figures emerged from the dim light, John's face turned pale. He remained entranced to watch those creatures with greasy skin, long arms, nearly touching the ground, large hands and long feet, elongated heads and large lizard eyes.

<<What are these damned pigs?>> asked one of them to his companion, while John was breathing anxiously.

<<I think I need some more Whisky>> said John to himself, almost collapsing to the ground.

<<What is this damned whisky?>> asked, more and more surprised, Captain Bronton.

<<I don't know what it is, but the idea sounds good>> said another of them.

<<So you didn't come for my pigs!>> said John, surprised, lowering the rifle.

The captain thought about it for a moment and then said: <<I think Whisky is better!>>

The rancher's face lit up: <<What are you waiting then? Follow me!>>

The three figures seemed puzzled, then decided to follow him. John opened the main door wide, while the three creatures stopped marveled in front of the country house.

<<I've never seen such a big spaceship>> said Zack, surprised.

<<It's better to leave!>> changed his mind Thor. But the captain pushed him through the door, snorting. <<I don't think a form of life devoid of intelligence is capable of maneuvering it>>.

Zack followed them with inquisitive and idiotic expression, then asked: <<Where's the navigation helmet?>>

<<Maybe that's the one>> said Thor, pointing at the chandelier.

John reached them staggering, with a bottle of Whisky raised in his hand, while mumbling something unintelligible. Then he stumbled and a tremendous noise of broken dishes was heard. It wouldn't have been long before his wife would come down again. But John didn't care and guzzled half a bottle, before offering it to one of the guests, which repeated the same procedure, passing the bottle around.

<<Hey, that stuff is awesome!>> exulted Zack with hiccups. John started drinking from another bottle, and handed it over before collapsing down on the armchair. After a few minutes the three aliens dozed off, leaning on the white bear skin rug, beside the fireplace.

### CHAPTER 3

The policeman Pintus entered the tavern glibly, opening the heavy front door with a finger. Chest out, he marched with heavy military footsteps followed by the colleague, then extended his arms and slammed his hands on the counter to show his authority. The colleague Pintus Second imitated him clumsily, in the small space left.

<<Duck burger with eggs and butter as usual?>> asked the bartender.

<<Two!>> ordered Pintus, who then took a sit at the usual table. Not that he liked butter or duck, let alone eggs, to tell the truth, but this made him feel meaner and worthy of respect.

Proud of himself, he opened the newspaper and began to read. The colleague, with the newspaper crushed against his face, reclined his head on the back with a grimace. Then two, and maybe three.

<<Pintus, is that a flying saucer?>>

<<Where?>> Pintus turned to the window. Then, resented, shouted: <<Can you stop it, deficient!>>

<<But, Boss, I was speaking about the newspaper>>.

More serious than before, Pintus got back to reading, without paying him any attention.

<<Have you heard that?>> moaned the other, shortly after.

Pintus raised the ears and gave a suspicious look to the other tables. <<What's happening Now?>>

<<Boss>> continued the other man. <<I was speaking about the radio>>.

Pintus raised the ears again.

<<According to eyewitnesses>> the reporter was saying <<it was black, surrounded by a white light and traveling at a dizzying speed. The first reports came from the San Francisco Bay, then it was spotted in Las Vegas and finally in Denver. The radar station didn't report any anomaly.

According to military experts... >>

Pintus Second suddenly turned to his colleague. <<Boss, why two burgers for you and for me not even one?>>

The other guy shoved both hands into his mouth, spreading the ketchup on his muzzle, then mumbled something: <<You were distracted, so I thought you didn't want it>>.

<<But I wanted it!>>

<<And I didn't know it!>>

Pintus Second gave up with an idiotic expression in front of the empty plate, then he almost jumped on the alert when the transceiver rang.

<<Pintus!>> said a voice on the other end.

<<It's not Pintus, I'm Pintus Second>> answered the policeman, passing the transceiver to the

colleague.

<<What?>> said the other man. <<Pintus Second?>>

The first one took back the transceiver: <<No, It's not Pintus. That is, I'm it, but... >>

The voice got mad: <<Can you both stop it! You're driving me crazy! Did you go to the farm?>>

<<Not yet, sir>>.

<<Then you'd better go there now! It seems tonight the rancher has disappeared>>.

## CHAPTER 4

The car bumped and Pintus Second hit his big head on the dashboard. Then Pintus steered on one side to avoid a potole, and Pintus Second hit his head against the side window.

<<Hey, can you slow down?>>

The colleague was speaking with one hand on the steering wheel, paying no heed to the dirt road:

<<Relax and admire the view. We are almost there>>.

Pintus Second looked out of the window, the endless lands under the harsh sunlight. A long fence and a moat followed the dirt road.

<<Where is this ranch?>> he moaned, still massaging his head, as the car was bumping to the right and to the left.

<<We're in it, cretin!>> snapped Pintus. <<What do you expect to find in a ranch!?!>>

The other guy smiled silently and looked out once again. Then he became serious in the face and opened his eyes wide to focus.

<<Hey, boss... I certainly wouldn't expect to find a flying saucer!>>

Pintus turned his head, enraged: <<What in the heck are you talking about?>>

Pintus Second put on an idiotic expression: <<I think I have just seen a flying saucer at the top of the hill, before the last bend>>.

The boss got annoyed: <<Maybe also many green little men that were greeting from the portholes>>.

The other guy frowned. <<Then, you saw it too?>>

<<The radio was saying that, cretin! Don't you remember? However it's all nonsense!>>

Pintus Second plunged into silence, thoughtful, with a more idiotic expression than before.

At some point, the car stopped abruptly and he hit the big empty head on the dashboard, turning back to reality.

<<We arrived!>> announced Pintus, proud of himself, after parking in front of a large wooden house and a fence, the hills on one side and grain fields on the other.

<<This place is abandoned!>> protested the colleague, as he stepped out of the car and closed the door.

A rooster jumped down from the garage on the roof of the old Ford, and then on the head of Pintus Second, which began to throw punches in the air against the bird, that at the end hid behind a hay bale.

<<Have you seen that it isn't abandoned?>> laughed Pintus, though he didn't feel so secure. There wasn't a living soul, except the pigs that were making ferocious sounds, as if they wanted to tell them to leave. They walked cautiously to the main entrance and knocked a couple of times, but no one came to open for the next ten minutes.

<<There seems to be nobody>> thought Pintus Second aloud.

<<Of course>> replied Pintus. <<The owner has disappeared: isn't that the reason we are here?>>

The pigs behind the fence made strange sounds, as to say "exactly!".

At some point, one of the windows at the first floor opened wide and a big woman's head popped out.

<<Go away! Fucking animals, go away!>>

<<Fucking animals?>> repeated Pintus Second, in whispers. <<Are you telling us or the pigs?>>

<<I don't think the pigs are in the condition to leave, if they are in the corral>> noted Pintus. <<So, I think she's it in for us>>.

The big woman disappeared for a few seconds and reappeared on the door, with a rifle in her hand. <<Go away! You will not be able to take my pigs!>>

Pintus remembered to have the gun in the car and raised his hands. <<Madam, calm down! We wouldn't know what to do with the pigs!>>

The woman fired two shots, enraged. Pintus Second squatted down behind Pintus, using him as a shield.

<<Deficient!>> shouted the other one. <<Quick! Let's get in the car!>>

The woman began to run, continuing to shoot. Then she stopped two feet from the car, turned pale and lowered the rifle.

<<So you're the police!>> said the woman, surprised. <<Why didn't you say that at the beginning?>>

<<Well, we tried>> murmured Pintus, timidly getting out of the car.

<<Come in!>> she said. <<I'll make a coffee>>.

The two cops walked into what looked like a tavern at two in the morning, with bottles of Whisky on the floor, used tissues and dirty dishes everywhere.

The woman began to grind the coffee, then said: <<So you are here for the pig thieves?>>

<<Actually...>> muttered Pintus.

<<It is a fortune from heaven that you have come: they are taking all of them!>>

<<And last night they would have taken away your husband as well>> noted Pintus.

<<That stupid idiot!>> grunted the wife, interrupting what she was doing. <<But it's a good thing that this time they didn't touch the pigs!>>

But for what reason they should have raped that woman's husband, that she was the closest thing you could possibly imagine to a pig? The gigantic head and her crushed face, she was speaking making the most awful grunts from the large nose. The legs like those of an elephant had torn the trousers in different points, and if she'd ventured up the hills around the farm with that fat, she would certainly roll down like a ball.

<<Weren't you scared to be raped as well?>> asked suddenly Pintus Second, taking all by surprise.

The fat lady, who was pouring the coffee into the cups, stopped with the expression of a savage beast. Pintus gave a grim look to the colleague, which cringed on the chair he was sit on.

The big woman made a face, that hold only for a moment. Then the face became red like a bell pepper and almost exploded, before erupting into a loud laugh.

The two agents sighed, as the woman continued to laugh, roaming the room without a direction. Until she stumbled on an empty bottle and a heavy thud was heard.

Pintus sprang up and bent down toward the lifeless body on the floor.

<<She hit the head!>> noticed Pintus Second.

<<Quick!>> urged the other one. <<Help me to move her on the couch!>>

When the two guys grabbed the woman, arms and legs stretched out as big elastic bands, and as they let go their hold, returned to the initial length.

<<We'll never be able to do that>> gave up Pintus Second.

<<Let's get her some water!>>

The colleague rushed with a bottle in his hands and poured it onto her face.

<<Deficient!>> shouted the other one. <<Not like that! Give it to her to drink!>>

The other guy neared the neck of the bottle to the woman's mouth and in a few seconds the bottle was emptied.

Pintus ripped it out of his hands: <<Cretin! This is whisky!>>

The woman thrashed around with convulsions, sat on the pavement and sobbed a couple of times. Then she fell to the floor again.

<<Let's call an ambulance!>> suggested Pintus Second.

The boss paused to think for a moment, to establish if the colleague really said something intelligent. Then he shook his head. <<Do you really think they would find this place before she is dead? Let's rather find some paracetamol!>>

They started opening one by one cabinets and pantries. At one point, Pintus noticed the colleague

with his head in a earthenware jug.

<<Hey, where the hell do you think to find the medicines?>>

<<Actually>> he explained, messing about with a metallic device. <<I think I've found something>>.

<<Let me see>> said the other guy, grabbing what looked like a silver-colored gun out of a science fiction movie. It had a trumpet-shaped barrel and shades that changed depending on the light.

<<It doesn't look from this world>> said Pintus Second, worried.

<<Stop it, cretin! Now we have overwhelming evidence on these damned pig thieves!>>

## CHAPTER 5

A resounding bzzz was heard, a scarlet ray illuminated the room, and the four bodies were immobilized instantly. A tremendous burning stench saturated the air, and the green hand lowered the trumpet-shaped gun.

<<Well done, Thor!>> said a voice.

One of the four men had been immortalized with the gun in his hand, ready to shoot. Two of them were holding tight the last one's arms, which was holding a bottle of Whisky.

Brnton felt the troubles were not over yet. <<We have to find our flying saucer!>>

<<First we have to get out of this damn place>> pointed out Thor.

<<This should open the passage>> explained Zack, near the door. He pressed the switch on the wall to open it, but instead the light went off.

<<What the hell is going on?>> swore the captain.

Zack pressed the switch again and the light came back.

<<It is not opened in that way>> protested Thor, grabbing the handle and opening the door.

They walked up a staircase and reached a very busy road. They kept watching open-mouthed, then tried to approach the road, but they jumped back immediately when the cars speeded near them.

<<What are these damned tin boxes?>> asked Zack.

<<They aren't tin boxes>> explained Thor. <<They are robots, don't you see?>>

Brnton had never seen a robot with wheels, but he thought it was an acceptable explanation. So he started to walk making his way with the huge belly, which jumped from side to side of the sidewalk, while bystanders tried to dodge it.

<<Hey!>> shouted a guy, turning around with his fist raised. <<Watch your step!>>

Zack watched him surprised, then commented: <<All these little talking animals get on my nerves!>>

<<Don't pay attention>> played down Thor. <<They may seem aggressive, but they say meaningless words>>.

<<Yeah>> smiled Brnton. <<Fortunately, we didn't find any traces of intelligent life on this planet, that could compromise our mission. By the way, do you have any idea on how to get back to the flying saucer?>>

Thor brought the wrist in front of him, typed a sequence, and a map was projected at his feet. He looked around a couple of times, then said: <<In that way!>>

The other two aliens followed him to the middle of the road, where they continued walking along the centre line, without paying attention to the traffic. A couple of cars tried to avoid them at the last second, while the drivers kept honking the horns.

<<These zooming cars are annoying me out of proportions>> moaned Thor.

<<Shut up and walk!>> urged Brnton behind him.

At some point a braking was heard and then a crash. The cars began to form a long queue and in the middle of the road there was a pile of scrap metal, toward which a lot of people were rushing.

<<Those damned!>> cried a driver, fists off the window.

<<Are they after us?>> asked Zack.

<<Don't talk nonsense!>> urged the captain, leading the group across the street. A driver jumped in front of the group, waiting for them with a crick, that was repeatedly pounding on the palm of the

hand.

<<Where do you think you're going?>>

When the three aliens turned around, they saw other big guys moving toward them. The first one dived headfirst into Brnton and threw a punch into his belly, that like a spring, snapped back and kicked the guy to the ground. But that was not enough to stop him, and he was getting up more furious than before.

<<Immobilize him!>> ordered the captain, without understanding what was happening.

Thor drew the gun and a bzzz sound was heard. The scarlet beam struck the man in the face, immobilizing him instantly. Thor was ready for a second charge, but the other men stopped in time, watching stunned the green beings that were moving away quietly.

The aliens continued to walk in silence for a few minutes, until they heard the tyres of a car squeeling, while a black Mercedes parked abruptly on the opposite side of the road. The driver with sunglasses followed the three aliens with the head, so as not to lose sight of them. Then he brought the transceiver to his mouth.

<<It was a laser gun, correct... One of them is terribly fat ... exactly>>.

Brnton stopped, looking around, lost, without knowing of being watched. At one point he pronounced: <<These animals are too dangerous and insolent: it will be better to find a shelter for the night!>>

Zack pointed to a huge building. <<Maybe we can stay there>>.

The captain looked at the mall, thinking it could be a space station. But then he banished that stupid idea. <<Well said! There won't be stupid intruders there!>>

The man on the car lowered the binoculars, anxious. <<Damn! I'm going out of their sight!>>

Shortly after, the car peeled out.

## CHAPTER 6

The big head bumped in response to the rough road. At the next bend, she fell for the umpteenth time on the shoulder of Pintus Second.

<<Can you go slow with the bends to the left? How should I tell you?!>>

Pintus didn't pay him any attention and took another bend to the left and then another one, like if on that road they had taken away all the bends to the right.

The big woman occupied three-quarters of the rear seats and Pintus Second couldn't even scratch his head.

<<Why didn't you sit on the front seat, idiot?>> asked the boss.

<<Do you want her to hit the head again?>> protested the other one. <<I don't want to get to the hospital with a dead body!>>

Without warning, the car jammed on the brakes at the red light and the woman hit the head against the front seat. At that point she shook her head and opened her eyes.

<<What happened?>> she asked.

<<Hey, boss, she speaks!>>

<<Of course I speak, I'm not stupid!>> said the giant woman. <<But who are you?>>

She looked around, surprised, then added: <<Where am I?>>

<<You hit your head>> explained Pintus Second.

<<Now I remember>> she grunted. <<You are the pigs thieves!>>

<<What?>> said Pintus Second, surprised. She jumped on him, grabbing him by the throat.

<<Booosss!>>

Pintus braked suddenly to stop the car and the big head of the woman bounced on the front seat and then dozed off on the backrest. Pintus Second was breathing heavily, getting his colour back.

<<We're not pig thieves!>> explained Pintus Second. <<We are cops!>>

<<Oh>> said the woman, surprised. <<Now I remember. You are the ones who tried to kill me!>>

She jumped on Pintus Second again, grabbing him by the throat.

Pintus switched off the engine, unperturbed, then he burst out: <<Stop making trouble, both of

you! We will stop to eat something and you'll see your memories get back>>.

The woman seemed to settle, thoughtful. The cops stepped out of the car one at a time and then, pulled by an arm, the whale dropped down from the Ford, which raised ten centimeters from the ground.

Pintus led the way into the tavern and sat down at one of the tables. The waiter approached them and asked: <<Duck burgers with eggs and butter as usual?>>

<<Three>> said Pintus.

They remained in silence for a few minutes, then Pintus Second exclaimed: <<Boss, an alien!>>

<<What?>> started Pintus, turning his head to the window.

<<No>> corrected Pintus Second. <<I was speaking about the TV>>.

The two heads turned to the screen, astonished. Three greenish naked beings walked, undisturbed, down the streets of the city.

<<...according to another eyewitness, they would've crossed a street in Denver, causing a multiple car pile-up. According to the police there would be a link with the four petrified bodies found this morning...>>

<<Hey!>> exclaimed Pintus Second. <<That's the rancher!>>

<<Along with the pigs thieves!>> said the woman, surprised.

When Pintus Second looked away from the screen, the boss bit a big burger.

<<Hey, why they didn't bring one to me?>> complained Pintus Second.

The boss spilled the ketchup all over his mouth, then said: <<You were not eating it, so I thought you didn't want it>>.

<<We have to catch those bloody thieves!>> burst out the big woman, bright red with anger.

<<Actually we should capture the aliens>> said Pintus Second.

<<What aliens?>> protested the boss. <<There are no aliens! I'm telling you what we will do now: we will go to Denver and see where the rancher has been>>.

## CHAPTER 7

The captain stopped without warning to look inside the shop window, the other two aliens walked into him.

<<What the hell is that?>> asked Thor.

Zack was about to grab the cake, but hit his head on the glass. Then he massaged his head very well. <<They must have put a wall of force>>.

<<Don't say nonsense!>> said Bronton, enraged, pulling out his trumpet-shaped gun. The scarlet ray struck the glass, which in an instant crumbled to the ground.

<<Hey, you guys!>> shouted right away one of the shop assistants.

A security guard ran to the entrance, furious. <<Stop them!>> shouted the shop assistant.

The aliens looked around, lost, without any easy getaway, when they saw a child running toward them and jumping to the captain's neck.

<<Mom, Mom... can I take a picture with them?>>

The security guard in the meantime had grabbed two of the aliens by the arms, and began to yank them away. <<Now you'll come with me!>> he said, without desire of jokes.

Before he could finish saying it, the flash of a camera caught all of them by surprise. The captain covered his face, beginning to sway and wave his immense fat, ending to step on the security guard's foot, who immediately left his grip and started to shout.

<<Quick! Inside there!>> said Thor, leaping toward an electronics store.

Once sure to be safely away and after a preliminary inspection of the area, Zack took a camera from the shelf, similar to the one he saw before. <<Hey, what's that stuff?>>

<<I wouldn't know>> said Thor. <<But it seems interesting>>.

<<Yeah, then we'll get one>> said the captain, without asking the others for their opinion.

When they went through the exit, the sirens went off immediately. A security guard suddenly turned around and jumped in front of them, blocking the way. <<Where do you think you're going, without



paying?>>

<<Paying?>> repeated Brnton, who had never heard that word.

The three aliens looked at each other, surprised. Then Thor noticed other customers paying with banknotes, so he walked toward a cashier and pointed the trumpet-shaped gun to a stack of paper, which turned into stacks of \$100 bills. <<Are these enough?>>

The cashier rotated her eyes and fell to the ground. The aliens walked out of the shop quietly and proud of themselves, as the security guard was trying to revive the cashier.

Zack pointed the finger toward the cinema. <<What's that?>>

<<I don't know, but it seems interesting for our mission>> said Brnton, headed toward the emergency exit, followed by the others. They crossed a dark room, while the screen was showing a spaceship sailing the immensity of the space. They sat silently and looked at the giant screen, incredulous.

The Captain Kirk approached the control panel and said: <<They are Sirians>>.

<<They are closing in on us>> said an officer, who was wearing a ridiculous space suit. <<Let's turn our ship around!>>

<<Hey>> protested Zack, incredulous. <<That manoeuvre is impossible!>>

<<And the Sirians are yellow!>> complained Brnton.

Thor pulled out the camera and began to take pictures to the other viewers, with the flash

Someone turned around: <<Could you stop it, please!?!>>

## CHAPTER 8

The black car kept going for two more blocks at engine idle speed. When the three figures on the sidewalk stopped, the car stopped and the engine switched off.

<<Boss, it's not them!>> said a bad guy with black glasses, so short he couldn't even see out of the window.

<<Certainly they are!>> continued the othe one, so long that the hair brushed the roof of the car. He read the description again from the crumpled piece of paper: <<Non-human appearance... remarkable size of one of the specimens... big belly... >>

<<But the fat one is a woman>> replied the other one.

<<Does it look human to you?>> grunted the boss. <<It seems more like a pig to me!>>

<<Yeah>> said the other one, surprised. <<You are always right, boss!>>

The long one felt satisfied, then grimaced: <<They entered a candy store>>. He hastily pulled out the piece of paper again and read: <<Broken window in a candy store>>.

<<This is a confirmation!>> hurried up the boss. <<Let's get out, quick!>>

The two guys closed the doors and ran to the shop, but the short one took a lot longer to arrive.

After the three suspects got out, the tall guy showed the badge and pointed the gun. <<Stop where you are!>>

<<Damn!>> exclaimed Pintus, his hands raised. <<The secret services!>>

The two men in black handcuffed the woman's wrists, that shouted: <<Arrest the pigs thieves, not me!>>

<<Hey>> protested Pintus Second. <<We're the cops!>>

<<You'd better to cooperate!>> grunted the short guy, grabbing the big woman by the leg and trying to drag her, without success.

Pintus took advantage of a moment of distraction to extract the trumped-shaped gun. The tall agent struck him at the back, Pintus pressed the trigger too late and a scarlet ray hit the big woman, that stiffened like a chunk of ice.

The tall guy ripped it out of his hand, but the two cops cut and run toward the mall.

After a couple of blocks, they stopped to catch their breath and Pintus Second came up with an idea:

<<Boss, do you think here they have cream cakes?>>

## CHAPTER 9

<<Mission almost accomplished!>> exulted Pintus, sinking his teeth into the burger, while driving with only one hand. <<First we'll find the rancher, then we'll catch those damned pigs thieves!>> In saying that, the car swerved and almost fell down into the ditch, then returned on the roadway and kept going.

<<Boss>> said Pintus Second, ecstatic, as if he had just seen the Virgin Mary. <<Boss... the aliens!>>

<<Where?>> replied him, swerving several times as he was trying to bite the burger. But his brain completely understood those words only a few seconds later.

<<You big fool!>> he burst out. <<How should I tell you that there are no aliens! This whole thing is driving me crazy!>>

Before he could finish saying that, three green beings turned up in the middle of the street, in front of him. He braked abruptly and the tyres were heard screeching.

<<All the damned misfortune of this world!>> exclaimed Pintus. <<So these are pigs thieves?>> The tyres were heard screeching again and the car launched itself on the other side of the road with a spin. Pintus stepped out of the car with the gun pointed at the aliens, without letting them out of his sight. He didn't even noticed that Pintus Second had been locked in the car, and he was trying to get out slamming the door against a pole.

<<On the other side, meathead!>> shouted the boss.

At that point, the aliens stopped and began to look at them, surprised. One of them showed a sign of astonishment, that turned into an amazed smile. So he pointed his finger: <<Look how cute these blue little animals are>>.

<<Yeah>> grunted Bronton, drooling.

<<Let's take them for the intergalactic circus!>> suggested Thor.

<<First we have to find our flying saucer>> noted Zack.

<<They got out of the robot with the wheels>> said Thor. <<Maybe they can help us to find the flying saucer>>.

In the distance, the two cops were moving with deliberate pace toward them.

<<Are they talking about us?>> wondered Pintus second.

<<What do you think the thieves talk about, when they see the police?>> replied Pintus, short of breath. <<They are probably discussing how to cut and run>>.

But Pintus Second kept seeing the aliens marching with determination toward them.

<<Boss, are you really sure about that?>>

He thought about that carefully, then added: <<Sure! I'm always sure of what I say!>>

Cops and aliens kept walking until they were just a few metres away. Then Pintus ordered: <<Catch them!>>

At the same time, Bronton ordered: <<Catch them!>>

The two smaller aliens moved toward Pintus Second, who then got stuck, letting them grab his arms.

Pintus cried from behind: <<What are you doing, you fool! They are the ones you have to catch!>>

Pintus pointed the gun toward the potbellied alien and a resounding shot was heard. The fat was compressed and stretched a couple of times, then returned to the initial size. But the alien kept moving, unperturbed.

<<Boss, I have been captured!>> shouted Pintus Second.

<<Cretin, I have seen it!>> burst out Pintus, feeling his arm being grabbed from the giant alien.

<<You are not alone!>>

The green alien looked at him, surprised and amused at the same time. <<These talking animals will be perfect for our circus>>.

<<Yes>> acknowledged Zack. <<But does any of us know how to drive these four-wheeled robots?>>

The car bumped and Pintus Second hit his head on the roof of the car, then the car steered to the left and the Brnton's belly crushed Pintus Second, finally the car steered to the right, but as a result of inertia the fat remained on the face of Pintus Second.

Nothing happened for the next few minutes, until Pintus braked for no reason, and Pintus Second hit his head against the seat in front of him.

<<Can you slow down?>> he shouted.

Pintus turned his head around without looking at the road: <<Instead of complaining about my driving, why don't you take care of the thieves we arrested?>>

<<Arrested?>> said Pintus Second, surprised. <<They are the ones that captured us! But... they aren't thieves! Look, a Flying saucer!>>.

A metallic disc appeared for a brief moment, and disappeared behind the hill, at the next bend.

<<There are no aliens, if that's what you are saying>> laughed Pintus, driving with his elbow outside the window. The alien on the front seat near him yawned, looked around, a little stunned, then exulted: <<I know this place! The flying saucer is not far!>>

Pintus started, he believed to have heard the word "flying saucer" once again, but he didn't care much about that.

The other two aliens woke up yawning, and the car went through the last stretch of dirt road, before reaching the farm, where it was arrested.

They stepped down one by one, Brnton last, and the old Ford raised ten centimeters from the ground.

Pintus walked with a nasty smile toward the three aliens, then said: <<You are under arrest!>>

<<Arrest?>> repeated Zack. <<What the hell does that mean?>>

The slimy hand of Brnton grabbed Pintus's arm with a firm and tight grip.

<<Let's go! Soon we're leaving!>> he said, dragging him on the ground.

The other two aliens grabbed Pintus Second's arms, and dragged him by force in the same direction. They followed the external side of the fence and walked up the hill, then stopped disturbed by a distant noise. A black car was running along the dirt road, raising a cloud of dust. At one point the car launched itself off the road, pointing toward them. This was the only opportunity to run away, thought Pintus, that took advantage of the distraction to flung himself and break free. But it was too late, the car stopped near the fence and the rancher stepped down from the back seat.

<<Stop!>> cried the old man, running toward them.

<<Hey>> grunted Brnton. <<Should we also take that one?>>

The other two aliens nodded, satisfied.

<<No, take them!>> cried Pintus, pointing to the pigs beyond the fence.

The rancher stopped, very serious. <<What? You will never touch my pigs!>> Then he charged Pintus like a running bull, who dodged him by a hair.

Meanwhile a woman as big as a wild boar ran awkwardly toward them.

<<Take her!>> said the rancher.

Brnton thought about it and loosened his grip. After all she was as chubby as the pigs, but she could also talk. But he changed his mind right after.

<<We'll take all of you!>> he concluded, proud of himself.

<<Also the pigs!>> added Zack.

<<You will never touch my pigs!>> shouted the big woman, catching her breath. <<Take them instead!>> she said, pointing to two men in black, who arrived by running.

<<Hey>> said Brnton, surprised. <<The black ones are better than the blue ones>>.

<<Yeah>> confirmed the other two aliens, leaving the cops behind him.

<<Hold them!>> shouted one of the black men at the colleague, who grabbed the Brnton's arm.

But without any effort the alien lifted him from the ground, throwing him three meters away. When he approached the alien again, Brnton grabbed him by the arm without letting him go, while the other aliens captured the second man in black.

The two preys shouted as they were dragged up the hill.

When they were sufficiently distant, Pintus Second exclaimed: <<Apparently the pigs are safe!>>

## CHAPTER 11

John staggered with the bottle in his hand, then let himself fall on the armchair.

<<As soon as the secret services understood who I was>> said the big woman, busy with the coffee machine, <<we rushed to the den of the pigs thieves. Fortunately we had the alien gun, which allowed us to unblock my husband and the thieves... >>

<<Where are the thieves?>> started Pintus.

<<We don't know>> said the woman, pouring the hot coffee into the cups. <<They run away>>.

<<Damn!>> grunted Pintus.

At that point the transceiver rang.

<<Hello>> said Pintus.

<<Did you go to the farm?>> asked a voice in a rough tone.

<<Sure>> confirmed Pintus, <<and we found the rancher>>.

<<Great job... >>

The voice was interrupted by a terrible rumble, which shook walls and windows. A flashlight illuminated the courtyard like in broad daylight and a second rumble lifted the cops from the ground. A light leaped in an instant to the horizon, then disappeared.

<<Are you ok, guys?>> asked the voice.

<<Everything is under control>> said Pintus, straightening his uniform.

<<It will be better for you>> continued the voice, with an unfriendly tone. <<I want a detailed report on what happened and I want you to catch those damned pigs thieves. Do I make myself clear?>>

<<Perfectly clear>> nodded Pintus, swallowing. But the other one had already hang up.

<<Do we have to write a report on the aliens?>> asked Pintus Second.

<<You've got to stop with these aliens!>> burst out Pintus. <<Have you perhaps seen them?>>

<<Yes>> muttered John from the armchair, waking up from some sort of dream state. <<And they tried to take away my poor pigs!>>

<<Let's end it!>> said Pintus, annoyed. <<Somebody has to show me a flying saucer, before I start to believe in such nonsense!>>

At that point, some voices were heard outside and the dogs began to bark.

The rancher's eyes glowed red, and his hand stretched to grab the rifle.

<<The pigs thieves!>> he cried, staggering toward the door.

<<Damn!>> grunted the whale. <<Catch them!>>

The cops ran after the old man, but when they reached the Ford, Pintus stopped taken by an idea.

<<Quick, get on board!>>

<<What?>> said the colleague, surprised.

Pintus got the car started and opened the door to the colleague: <<Better to run away!>>

<<But...>> mumbled the other one. <<What will we say at the police headquarter?>>

<<We will simply tell them the truth, that the rancher suffers from hallucinations and there is no pigs thief>>.

The car accelerated squealing the tyres and the door, still open, closed at the first bend.

The fat woman run out yelling, then raised the rifle and aimed at the tyres.

The car turned into the road and run along the pigs fence, while the shootings were heard from behind.

Pintus turned pale, as he looked out of the window. <<Boss, there are three strange figures in the corral?>>

With the eyes glued on the asphalt, Pintus went on a rampage: <<Do you suffer from hallucinations as well?>>

<<But, boss...>> said the other one, <<and if the secret agents were the only one to get on board of the flying saucer?>>

