



Bubbylonian Encounter

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Character Breakdown

- Betty:** Friends with Archie. Cautious of Bub initially but wants to help Bub learn in the end.
- Archie:** Friends with Betty. Curious about Bub and helps Bub learn.
- Bub:** Alien who has come to Earth to experience the sense of touch.

Props List

- Betty**
- Picnic basket
 - Sunscreen
 - Stuffed Bear
 - Aunt Petunia outfit
 - Hoodie
- Archie**
- M&M bag
 - Uncle Clarence outfit
- Bub**
- Costume

BETTY

WILDFLOWER FIELD VB

(Betty enters with picnic basket looking for Archie)

What a perfect day for a picnic--and to enjoy our five senses. Archie, hi, over here.

ARCHIE

Betty! Hi. So glad we could get together..

BETTY

Me, too. Mmmmmn, smell those lilacs . . . and roses . . . and honeysuckle.

(They both sniff and sigh happily)

ARCHIE

And listen--song birds and crickets.

BETTY

Music to my ears.

ARCHIE

And look what I brought to share.

(He takes a big bag of M&M's out of the backpack and holds them up).

BETTY

My favorite! Thanks, Archie.

ARCHIE

Wow, just look at all these flowers and those green fields . . .

BETTY

And that big blue sky..

ARCHIE

Feel that warm sun and the cool breeze...

BETTY

The solid earth...

ARCHIE

And the weeds...

BETTY

Rippling and swaying in the breeze...

(Betty raises her arms as if they are weeds rippling in the breeze.)

ARCHIE

Tickling and touching my palms and arm. Tickle...

BETTY

And touch...

ARCHIE

And...and...and... (sneezes)

BETTY

And sneeze. And itch. Looks like we're allergic to the same weeds.

ARCHIE

Yeah, they sure do make us sneeze and itch.

(they both sneeze and itch.)

Let's back up a little .

BETTY

There that's better. Should we start back, Archie?

ARCHIE

Not yet. Let's watch the first few stars of dusk come out...

(They look up and watch for a second)

BETTY

They're beautiful! Um, Hey Archie, there's a star that's not like any of the others.

ARCHIE

Yeah, it has a—I don't know—a strange color and a kind of a glow around it.

BETTY

And it looks like...it's moving.

ARCHIE

It's moving right at us.

(Both fix their gaze on the same distant point. As the point veers one way, then another, up, down, around, Archie and Betty follow every movement intently. The sound of the approaching spaceship grows louder)

BETTY

It's gonna land! Right here!

ARCHIE

Look out!

BUB

BUBBLE W/ WILDFLOWER FIELD

***Note: Bub needs to be on one side of the screen for this, so please adjust blocking accordingly.**

You ka geo, he co sum! Ka boom ka bum, Kabibbley mum.

(Betty and Archie tentatively cross back into view)

BETTY

I...beg your pardon.

BUB

Ex kooz fa vour. Yute soot translour.

(He/She punches some buttons on her chest, makes a few weird static noises, and states)

I'm afraid shaking my hand is quite impossible for the time being, Archie. You see, I'm protected.

BETTY

Archie, feel this wall.

ARCHIE

It's hard as steel. Can you see us? Because we can't see you inside the sphere.

BUB

Yes, I can see you both very well. I was graded superior in my Vision Class

BETTY

You have a Vision Class?

BUB

Certainly. On my planet, we train our senses to be more acute. It makes up for the lack of...one of our senses.

ARCHIE

You mean, there's one sense you don't have?

BUB

Yes.

ARCHIE

Which one?

BUB

Guess.

ARCHIE

(Thinking) Well, it's not sight because you see very well. And it's not hearing because you can hear us talking to you.

BETTY

We have five senses. We've already talked about two-- sight . . . and hearing.

ARCHIE

I'm going to guess the sense you don't have is "smell"!

BUB

(BUB moves to the side of Archie and sniffs)

Ha! You, sir, are wearing a cheap cologne called "Rocky Aroma."

(Betty laughs. Bub moves to the side of Betty)

And you, young woman, utterly reek of "Passion of Paris" perfume.

(Betty stops laughing. Bub points to the picnic basket, which has been left on the far side of the stage)

And I can smell that your picnic basket has tuna sandwiches, apples and peanut butter, carrot sticks, and...Oooo! M&Ms for dessert!

ARCHIE

Wow!

BUB

So when it comes to the sense of smell, my nose can smell circles around your noses!

BETTY

So it isn't sight, hearing, or smell.

ARCHIE

Is it the sense of taste you don't have?

BUB

Nope. The tip of my tongue can distinguish between 17 different kinds of apples. One sip tells me if it's skim or whole milk. And I can tell the color of an M&M just by taste –

BETTY

So it must be touch. You can't feel anything with your skin?

BUB

Yes, that's it.

(Archie and Betty High Five because they got the right answer—then the mood changes)

BETTY

Oh. How awful...not to be able to touch, to feel things.

BUB

I can **see**...velvet, spring rains, summer breezes, soft hands, fuzzy kittens...I can see...but I can't **feel**. I can't feel.

ARCHIE

Why?

BUB

On my world, we are all this way. We live in these spheres sealed off from the environment and each other.

BETTY

Do you have to live in this big bubble?

BUB

I don't think so. That's why I'm here on your planet. To learn something about this sense of touch you have so much of. Oh the elders say I'm foolish. Diseases! They say. Pain! They say. Injury, infection, danger! They say. But Discovery! I say. Wonder! I say. Tenderness, warmth, excitement! I say. Who is right? I must find out.

BETTY

You're right Bub. But so are they, I suppose.

BUB

I must find out for myself. Will you help me?

BETTY

Yes, of course we will! What do you want us to do?

BUB

Well, first of all, get me out of this bubble.

ARCHIE

If we get you out of the bubble, will you have a sense of touch?

BUB

I don't know. I've never been out. But I must try it.

BETTY

You want us to break the bubble?

BUB

Yes.

ARCHIE

How? It's hard as steel.

BUB

Well, just roll me against some trees.

ARCHIE

OK, We'll do our best.

BETTY

It's too heavy. We need some help.

ARCHIE

Yeah, will you help us? Ok, everybody, let's think really hard all at the same time and say "Move, Spaceship!" Let's practice--one two three, "move spaceship." Alright, ready? I'll count to three and then we'll all say, "MOVE SPACESHIP!"

(They are not successful in freeing Bub)

BUB

(Sadly) Oh, great helpers and wonderful trees but it didn't work. Thanks for trying. Hmmnn, I know, roll me against that rock over there.

ARCHIE

OK everybody, ready? One, two, three--Move Spaceship! Oh no. Super helpers but it still didn't work.

BETTY

Now what?

BUB

We'll have to use drastic measures. Archie and Betty, can the two of you bounce the bubble up and down until it cracks down the seams?

(Betty and Archie bounce the bubble and Bub moves up and down with it)

BUB

I can touch the ground.

(She does, then picks up hand props of some grass and a rock)

This rock—it's hard and solid and rough. And the grass is not only green. It's soft and tickly. And over here---tall grass. Weeds.

ARCHIE

Up, weeds, up!

BUB

(BUB mimes feeling the weeds)

They feel like grass, only bigger and heavier and...and...*(She sneezes)*

ARCHIE

And you're allergic to them, too.

BETTY

Yes, Bub, you'll have to learn what to be careful of.

BUB

Diseases! They say. Pain! They say. Injury, infection, danger they say.

ARCHIE

Yes, but also discovery. Also wonder.

BETTY

Excitement, tenderness, warmth...

BUB

Nobody said anything about allergies.

ARCHIE

Well, there's just a lot to learn about the sense of touch.

BUB

Yes, take me to your Touch Class.

ARCHIE

Uh, we don't have a Touch Class.

BUB

Then how do you learn to use the sense of touch?

BETTY

I guess just by experience.

ARCHIE

And things your parents tell you.

BETTY

Or show you.

ARCHIE

And teachers and friends and television and books and movies and the internet.

BUB

All that, huh?

ARCHIE

Yes.

BUB

Well, I have to decide by tomorrow whether I'm going to stay here on Earth or go back to Bubbylonia.

BETTY

Alright. We'll just speed up the process.

ARCHIE

But we'll have to start from the beginning. You begin learning about touch from the time you're a baby.

BUB

A baby? You want me to be a baby? Alright. Presenting: Baby Bub!

PINK WALL VB

(Bub begins crying loudly, then tapers off but continues to appear to be crying.)

ARCHIE

Oh, Mother, our Baby Bub is crying.

BETTY

She must be hungry. I'll feed her.

(She reaches into her picnic basket and pulls out a bottle of sunscreen and mimes handing it over.)

BUB

Sun screen? You feed your babies sunscreen?

BETTY

Do we feed our babies sunscreen? *(Kids in the audience answer "No")* Well, I don't have a "baby bottle" in my picnic basket, so maybe you could just pretend it's a baby bottle?

BUB

Ok. Good milk, Mom.

BETTY

Now go to sleep, little Baby Bub.

BUB

Whatever you say, Mom.

(She pretends to go to sleep, snores loudly)

BETTY

Oh, our little Baby Bub is asleep.

ARCHIE

Isn't he/she sweet?

(Suddenly Bub begins to cry loudly like a baby.)

ARCHIE

Maybe he/she just needs to be sung to.

(Archie invites the audience to join them in humming Rock a Bye Baby, very quietly)

BETTY

(Stage whispering) Oh, our Baby Bub is asleep.

ARCHIE

Isn't he/she sweet?

(Suddenly, Bub cries loudly.)

Now what?

BETTY

I think he/she needs her stuffed bear.

(She takes a stuffed bear out of the picnic basket and hands it to Bub. He/she cuddles it and falls back to sleep.)

ARCHIE

That did it.

BETTY

Oh, our little Baby Bub is asleep. Whew!

BETTY

Good, Bub; you're getting the idea of this very well.

(Bub's snoring continues between lines.)

Bub. Uh, Bub, I said you're...

ARCHIE

He's/She's really asleep.

BETTY

Sure is.

ARCHIE

Hey, will you help us wake him/her up? Okay, on the count of three, we're all going to say "Wake up Bub!" Ready? One, two, three, "Wake up Bub!"

WILDFLOWER FIELD VB

BUB

(Startled and sitting up) Good morning, hello, did I miss anything? It just felt so nice—the bottle and the lullaby and my cuddly little bear. I completely relaxed and fell asleep.

BETTY

Very good, Bub. You learned something about touch. It can be nice and comforting and make you feel safe and warm and relaxed.

BUB

It sure can. I like it. I like the sense of touch. This world is for me, and I'm ready for it.

(Bub starts to bolts offstage)

ARCHIE

But, wait. You're not ready. You need to know more.

BETTY

We can't send you out into our world without giving you the whole truth about touching and being touched.

BUB

The whole truth?

ARCHIE

Yes, not all touching feels nice.

BUB

Oh, I know: you can't touch weeds you're allergic to, or sharp thorns, or hot stoves. I'll be careful of those. But all the rest, that's for me. I don't know how I ever lived without it.

ARCHIE

But its not just thorns and hot stoves that can hurt you with touch, Bub. Let's pretend you're a little bigger now—not a baby anymore—but a kid about 7 or 8. And you've got a sister now.

GRANITE GRAY/BLUE VB

BETTY

(Betty takes on the role of a little sister)

Hi-ya Sis!

BUB

Hello!

ARCHIE

(Bub and Betty act out the story as Archie narrates)

Now, one day, Big Sister Bub and Little Sister Betty were playing nicely in the living room, when suddenly, Sister Betty stole Sister Bub's stuffed bear.

(A Tug of War ensues until Betty wins and hits Bub over the head with the bear.)

BETTY

Bonk!

BUB

(Stunned) She touched me—hard. It hurt. I didn't like that kind of touching. I don't want it to happen again.

ARCHIE

Why don't you tell her that, Bub.

BUB

I didn't like it when you hit me.

(Recreating the BONK sequence)

Ow! Please stop! Don't touch me like that.

BETTY

I'm sorry Bub.

ARCHIE

Good job Bub!

WILDFLOWER FIELD VB

BUB

It's so strange how it changes. One time, cuddling the stuffed bear made me happy and warm--but when Sister Betty hit me with it, it made me sad, and a little angry too. How does it change like that?

ARCHIE

Just like your spaceship protected you, Bub, everybody on earth has a kind of bubble that surrounds them. It's invisible, but we know it's there. It's your personal space, a place of safety. But sometimes people ignore the bubble and they get too close, get too angry, tickle or hit too hard. It can make you upset or unhappy.

BETTY

You have to trust your own feelings, Bub. If you don't like a touch, or if it makes you feel unsafe, or even if you don't know for sure, it's okay to tell someone to stop it, or you may need to get someone to help you stop it.

BUB

But how do I make them stop?

ARCHIE

Well, you figured it out on your own, didn't you?

BUB

Oh yeah, I said, "Please stop! Don't touch me like that." And just like that, she stopped!

BETTY

Yup, Little Sister Betty didn't realize she hurt you. But when you said, "Please stop! Don't touch me like that," she understood how you felt and stopped.

BUB

What were those words again? I want to make sure I remember them in case I need them again.

ARCHIE

Let's all practice saying them. Ready? One, two, three. "Please stop! Don't touch me like that."

BUB

That's great. I'll remember that in case someone hits me with a stuffed bear again.

BETTY

But you can use it at other times too, Bub.

BUB

Like when?

ARCHIE

Suppose you're having a tickling fight with your two friends, Archie and Betty.

(They begin to tickle Bub, who begins to giggle.)

At first it's fun. Everybody's laughing. Then they begin to tickle harder. The laughing stops—it's too hard. It hurts.

BUB

Please stop! Don't touch me like that.

BETTY

Alright Bub. We won't.

ARCHIE

And we're sorry it bothered you.

BUB

Thank you. The tickling got uncomfortable and it did bother me.

ARCHIE

We're glad you asked us to stop, Bub.

BETTY

Ready to try another example of a touch that might make you feel uncomfortable, Bub?

BUB

I guess so.

BETTY

Suppose Old Uncle Clarence and Perky Aunt Petunia come to visit you.

GREY WALL W/ PLANTS VB

(Archie and Betty take appropriate hats and glasses out of the picnic basket and the backpack to assume their roles.)

BUB

Hi Uncle Clarence! Hi Aunt Petunia

BETTY

Now, Old Uncle Clarence, he's happy to see you, so he asks if he can give you a hug.

ARCHIE

Is it alright if I give you a hug, Bub? *(Bub shakes her head in the affirmative)*

But along comes Perky Aunt Petunia.

(Betty puts her hat back on and resumes her character of Aunt Petunia.)

She doesn't ask permission. She gives you a big bear hug.

(Betty does this to Bub.)

Then, she tousles your hair like she was stirring up potato salad.

(Betty tousles Bub's hair.)

And, to top it all off, she gives you her famous-Perky-Aunt-Petunia-Pinch-on-the-Cheek.

BUB

Ouch! Hey everyone, help me say the words that will tell her to stop! Please stop! Don't touch me like that.

AUNT PETUNIA

Gosh, I'm sorry darlin', I didn't realize these fingers had such pinchin' power. How 'bout this Bub? From now on I'll be sure to ask your permission first, and be more gentle when I give you a hug. No more pinchin', for sure.

WILDFLOWER FIELD VB

BUB

Thanks, Aunt Petunia. Boy, this touching business can get out of hand if you're not careful.

Now I know I don't like hitting and pinching or tickling too hard. And I know how to say "Please stop. Don't touch me like that," to make them quit.

ARCHIE

That's it.

BUB

Great! I think I'm ready for your world now.

(Zooms offstage)

BETTY

No, Bub, not yet. There's more.

ARCHIE

There are other kinds of touch that you should know about before you take on the Earth.

BETTY

You see, Bub, your body is the way that you experience touch in this world. You can use all the parts of your body to feel things.

ARCHIE

You can touch a warm mug of hot cocoa with your hands

BETTY

You can feel the cold water in a stream with your toes

ARCHIE

You can feel a soft, fluffy blanket with your cheek

BETTY

Or you can feel the cool grass with your back.

BUB

This is great. My body is fantastic! And it's all mine.

BETTY

That's right, Bub. It's your body.

BUB

Now what if I want to touch something?

ARCHIE

OK—like what?

BUB

I'm curious about hair—what does it feel like? (*Bub indicates a student*) Oo, Can I touch their hair?

ARCHIE

Well, hair is a part of their body and it belongs to them, just like the parts of your body belong to you. So we have to ask their permission first.

BUB

So what would I say? “May I touch your hair?”

BETTY

That's right, Bub. And maybe they'll say yes. But if they don't want you to, it's alright for them to say NO, and then we wouldn't touch their hair. It's OK to compliment them and say you like their hair!

ARCHIE

This reminds me of something important, Bub. There are some other parts of your body that are private. In fact, that's what they're called -- your private parts. They are the parts of your body that you cover up when you wear a bathing suit.

BUB

We don't wear bathing suits on Bubbylonia. If Bubbylonians want to go swimming, they just fly their bubbles into the water and float and bob and bob and float on top.

BETTY

Well, if you go swimming on Earth, you'll definitely want to wear a bathing suit.

(Betty demonstrates by indicating the private places on her own body)

(Joanna's script change)

Betty: **People who identify as** women and girls **like me** wear bathing suits that cover us here, here, and here.

ARCHIE

(Archie demonstrates on his own body)

People who identify as Boys and men like me wear bathing suits that cover them up, here and here.

BETTY

People can identify in all sorts of different ways . If you're not sure about how to best cover your private parts, you could go to your counselor for help figuring out which style of bathing suit is most comfortable for you.)

BUB

So if I go to the pool, and I don't take my bubble with me, I'll want to wear a bathing suit that covers me here, here, and here.

BETTY

That's right, Bub. Those are **your** private parts.

BUB

The parts of my body that are mine and only mine.

ARCHIE

Sometimes people can touch your body accidentally—like if someone steps on your toe without meaning to. But no one should touch your private parts.

BETTY

The only time it's okay for someone to touch your private parts is when an adult you trust is helping you to keep your private parts clean and healthy – a trusted adult is someone like your mom or dad or guardian, or your doctor if your mom or dad or guardian are there.

ARCHIE

No one should look at your private parts either. And they shouldn't ask you to look at theirs. Those are their private parts.

BETTY

But what if someone did touch the parts of your body that you cover with a bathing suit – and touched them without your permission?

BUB

Someone could do that?

ARCHIE

They could

BUB

Gosh. I don't know what I'd do.

ARCHIE

Well then, let's pretend again

BUB

Okay.

PLAYGROUND VB

ARCHIE

Let's pretend you're playing in the park...

Suddenly, one of your big brother's friends walks up to you. You know her, so you stop to talk to her. But then she begins touching you. She touches parts of your body that are private to you.

(Betty demonstrates by indicating those parts on her own body)

Then she has you touch parts of her body that are private to her. It might make you feel things inside. It might make you feel scared or sad or embarrassed or confused or angry or mad. What could you do if someone touched you?

BUB

(Thinking about it) Well, first I would say what we've been practicing. Remember? Say it with me... **"Please stop. Don't touch me like that."**

WILDFLOWER FIELD VB

BETTY

That's good Bub. And then what would you do?

BUB

I'd find someone I trust – someone who makes me feel safe – and tell them just what happened.

BETTY

Good Bub. If a person touches your private parts, you should tell someone you trust.

ARCHIE

But who could you tell? Where would you go for help?

BUB

Gosh, I don't know. Let me close my eyes and think. You can do it too! Let's close our eyes and

imagine one person who we trust. One person we could tell.

(Bub closes her eyes – making a thinking gesture and a thinking sound)

ARCHIE

Do you have an idea of someone in mind, Bub?

BUB

(Opening her eyes)

I do! I could tell my parents.

BETTY

TWO someones! Good Bub. They could definitely help you if you were touched in a way that made you confused or scared.

BUB

Let's close our eyes and see if we can imagine another person who we trust. Another person we could tell... well I don't know.

BETTY

Who are some people you see all the time or almost every day? (She gives school examples-your teacher, your counselor, the Maintenance Man, the lunch lady, the policeman)

SCHOOL VB

BUB

Let's think of one more. *(Bub closes her eyes and begins to make thinking gesture/sound, then peeks out at the audience)* How 'bout grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors?

NEIGHBORHOOD VB

BETTY

Those are great ideas! How can we remember them, Bub?

BUB

I know we can remember them because we can close our eyes and imagine them. That will help us remember.

BETTY

Now Bub, there's something else you should know...a person who could touch your private parts in a way you don't feel comfortable with, well, sometimes it could be someone that you know very well.

BUB

Like a friend? Someone in my own family? Is that possible?

BETTY

Yes, it is.

GREY WALL W/ PLANT VB

ARCHIE

You know Uncle Clarence has a twin brother, Uncle Eustace. Suppose Uncle Eustace is not the good, kind relative Uncle Clarence is.

BUB

Is that possible?

BETTY

It's possible. It doesn't happen all the time, but it's something you should know about.

ARCHIE

Suppose Old Uncle Eustace is alone with you and asks you to sit on his lap.

BUB

That might be alright.

BETTY

It might be. But what if he touches you in places that are private to you – the places that your bathing suit covers?

(Betty indicates the parts of the body that are private)

And then he says...

ARCHIE/EUSTACE

This is a secret...between you and me...a secret.

BUB

A secret? What kind of secret?

ARCHIE/EUSTACE

A secret you can't tell anyone. Not even your mom or dad or best friend... Not anyone.

BUB

I wouldn't like that I wouldn't like that kind of secret. That's a secret that shouldn't be a secret.

(Bub looks around, searching)

I'd tell someone.

BETTY

Good Bub.

BUB

I wouldn't like what he was doing to me. But what if I did? What if he was very kind and gentle, and made it seem like a game?

(Archie and Betty look at Bub while she works through the answer for herself)

I would still say "Please stop. Don't touch me like that," then I would tell a different person that I trust.

BETTY

That's good Bub

WILDFLOWER FIELD VB

BUB

But if I liked it even a little bit, then I'm wrong too, and I wouldn't want anyone to know how bad I was.

ARCHIE

But you're not bad, Bub. You might have some mixed-up feelings, that's all. Remember, Bub, he's the one doing something to you. You're not to blame.

BETTY

That's right. It's not your fault. You're not bad.

BUB

And I still need to tell someone.

TOGETHER

Yes.

BUB

But who would I tell? Who could I really trust?

BETTY

Bub, remember all those ideas we came up with?

BUB

Let me think.

(Bub makes the Thinking Gesture)

Oh yeah--I could tell my parents, my teacher, my counselor, the school nurse, Officer Beasely, my grandparents . . .

BETTY

See, there are lots of people you can trust to help make you feel safe if you first trust your own feelings.

BUB

I don't know--maybe I just don't belong in this world.

SPLIT BUBBLE VB

Look—the two halves of my bubble--I could put it back together with me in it--safe, untouched and undamaged.

BETTY

But a life without touching isn't a real life. You need touching to feel loved, to feel a part of the world. You need to touch, and be touched---by the right people in the right ways. And now you know some things about your sense of touch that will keep you safe.

BUB

That's right, I do! I learned that I need to be kind to everybody. I learned that touch can feel nice, like soft hands or fuzzy kittens, but it can also feel not so nice, like tickling too hard and pinching – or getting hit with a stuffed bear.

BETTY

That's right.

BUB

I learned that my private parts – the parts of my body that are mine and only mine – are here, here, here, and here. They are the parts that my bathing suit covers. And I know that **no one** should touch those parts unless it's a trusted adult like my mom, dad, guardian or doctor helping me to stay clean and healthy.

BETTY

Good, Bub.

BUB

And I know what to say if someone is touching me in a way that makes me feel scared or mad or confused. Do you remember? Let's say it together: **"Please stop. Don't touch me like that."**

ARCHIE

And, if someone touches you or does something that makes you feel scared or mad or confused, what should you do?

BUB

I should tell an adult I trust.

BETTY

What if someone asks you to keep a secret?

BUB

If keeping it is scary or makes me feel nervous or sad, it is not an okay secret to keep.

ARCHIE

You're ready Bub!

BUB

I am? I am! Thank you for your help, Archie. Can I hug you?

ARCHIE

Of course, Bub! (They hug)

BUB

Betty, can I hug you?

BETTY

You bet you can, Bub (*They hug*)

BUB

Thank you, Betty. I've decided I like the sense of touch and I want to stay on Earth. I'm going to send my bubble back to Bubbylonia and stay here forever! (*To audience*) Will you help me send it back--on three?

WILDFLOWER FIELD VB

(*They mime getting it into the air*)

BUB, ARCHIE, BETTY (*Not in unison*)

BETTY

“Goodbye Bubble!”

ARCHIE

“Have a good trip”

BUB

Thanks for getting me here

(*They watch for a few seconds as it rises*)

BETTY

C'mon, let's go explore (*They adlib exit lines*)