

(Surprise Planet)

by
(Bill Boushka)

(Based on, If Any)

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INT. SOLAR FLARE DISCO - NIGHT

BILL, 58 but somewhat oriental-looking and younger after an extreme makeover, walks onto the dance floor. About thirty couples dance to unfamiliar music, although one of the songs reminds him of the "rendez-vous" from THE TRIPLETTS OF BELLEVILLE. Bill spots TOBEY, 28 black hair and medium height, break dancing with with SHEILA, 28, in levis. Maybe three of the couples on the floor are same-sex, and some of them are of various races.

Bill stares at them, as the SHEILA unbuttons Tobey's shirt, rubbing his chest as she goes. The SHEILA walks over to him. She stays in the way so that Bill cannot see Tobey clearly.

SHEILA

Can I help you?

BILL

Um, golly, I think I know your partner.

SHEILA

And you want to be his corner?

BILL

I don't see any country and western here. Or allemandes.

SHEILA

Would be out of place on this planet.

BILL

Oh, yes, I forgot.

Tobey walks over, his hand across his chest.

TOBEY

Bill?

BILL

It is you.

TOBEY

Of course it's me. Sheila will give my keys.

Sheila hunts in her pockets.

TOBEY

There's no rent cars to worry about here. No Avis wizards. Look, it's a block away. Just keep moving.

BILL

I need my face mask to go outside.

TOBEY

No you don't. Not if I say so.
Remember, most of this place isn't
really here. It's missing, like
Baltimore. Now git!

Bill takes the keys and ambles out of the club onto the street and looks at the facades that look like matte paintings from an animated movie.

BILL

(muttering)
This place is fake.

He walks two blocks, barely breathing, his face freezing. It's raining oil from the sky as he runs, looking up into a dusky brown dawn.

He kicks open the door into a one-floor hotel, and walks into a well furnished room that looks like a waiting room in a Mormon temple.

He sits on the bed, turns over, and comforts himself. The door knocks. He looks up. For a second, he sees Tobey, with a beard, and then his new Asian self. He stares at the wall, expecting to discern a mirror.

BILL

What? If this is my day in court,
I've really looked at myself in the
mirror.

The Asian golem walks over to him and quickly undresses him, and Bill notices he has the body of a young man. Bill approaches the bathroom, filled with feminine accoutrements. Now, he makes out the glass mirror of the boudoir. He looks at himself in the mirror and sees Tobey.

TOBEY

You know what this means. You can
keep my body for the week-long trip
to Tau Ceti, but you have to stay
in your suite.

BILL

So this is the telestial kingdom.

TOBEY

Kind of. If you're religious. I'm,
not.

(MORE)

TOBEY (cont'd)
 But you need to be, because you've
 gotta live when you get there. Take
 care of your genes.

BILL
 I know what this means.

TOVINA, 50, knocks and walks in. But she kisses Tobey
 (looking like previous Bill) rather than Bill.

TOBEY
 That's how you want it.

BILL
 I'm no angel.

TOBEY
 No, you remain mortal. That's the
 deal.

TOVINA
 Bill, Tobey's done it, sowed his
 seed, before he became a
 substitute angel. I know you grieve
 the death.

BILL
 They say I killed somebody. Matt. I
 won't believe it. But this is my
 escape.

Bill looks out the window. The lights on the set go out,
 leaving only the beacon for the Tower of Ned in the
 background.

Bill flips on his computer monitor. It plays the Windows XP
 music and comes up with the screen "WELCOME TO TITAN."