

SPACE BABY
by Caleb Stenzinger & Arij Mikati
2-18-16 (Version 6)

CAST
Captain Kate Sperry - 30
Lt. Henry Davidson - 30

(Capt. KATE stands center of the ship's
bridge. Lt. HENRY enters.)

HENRY
Captain. It's day 696 of our journey through space. Here is
today's spaceship protocol.

(He sits at his controls.)

KATE
The Shield, The Wire, Wings, Quantum Leap. What is this?

HENRY
It's a list of TV shows that sound like spaceship protocol.

KATE
Stop. I was fine with Disney songs week. I even tolerated
Broadway songs month.

HENRY
Ha! I knew you loved it.

KATE
But I will not be subjected to cheesy catchphrases right now.

HENRY
You got it, dude.

KATE
How a goofball like you ever got to be lieutenant, I'll never
know. But it probably has something to do with male privilege.

HENRY
Why do you say that every day? I'm the best pilot in the
universe! Watch me fly around that asteroid!

(He turns left, right, down, and up.
Kate sways with the ship.)

HENRY (cont.)
See? How cool was that? Plus, I'm second in command!

KATE
Out of two...So, as your one and only superior officer, I
command you to refrain from quoting 90s sitcoms today.

HENRY

But Captain...Have mercy.

KATE

Lieutenant! I'm serious. I'm having a hard enough time with the mood swings and morning sickness.

HENRY

From what?

KATE

What do you mean? I've reached Phase 2 of Operation 432 B.

HENRY

Which is...

KATE

Didn't you read the manuals?

HENRY

Of course! I read the popcorn maker manual. I definitely read the toilet manual. And I read the ship manual.

KATE

Any chance you read the mission manual?

HENRY

Oh yeah. I skimmed it.

KATE

You have no idea why we're up here??

HENRY

Sure I do! Space...the final frontier.

KATE

Lieutenant! Operation 432 B is meant to test the growth of a human in space for ten years.

HENRY

Right, that's what I knew it was. We're testing the effects of long-term space travel on the human body. So we're in space, growing older for ten years. That's our mission.

KATE

I mean a baby, Lieutenant! I'm growing a baby.

HENRY

Aw. Congrats! Two astronauts and a baby! That's a sitcom waiting to happen! When were you gonna tell-- Waaait. No. Whose baby is that?!

KATE

If you'd read 432 B--

HENRY

I don't read! I watch TV! Get to the episode summary. Next time on Space Baby...

KATE

It's yours.

HENRY

(long beat, thinks)

Wait. No. Whatchu talkin' bout, Capn? I may not be a biologist, but I know how babies are made. And we haven't--

KATE

No. No we haven't. But do you recall when NASA took DNA and fluid samples before you left?

HENRY

(crosses, thinking)

Yeah. Fluid samples. I remember. I made a rhyme. Sperm and spit and piss and sh--waaaaait a minute. Are you telling me that my...in your?!

KATE

That is our mission, Lieutenant.

HENRY

I've been offering to put my sperm in you for two years!

KATE

Just because I need your sperm does not mean I want to engage in coitus.

HENRY

Bazinga! That's what she said. Hgh Hgh Hgh!

KATE

Get. Out.

HENRY

Okay okay I'm done with the catchphrases. You're a terrible audience anyway. But listen, I have one more that I have to use right now, and it's so perfect. Please!

KATE

Fine. Last one!

HENRY

(like Ricky Ricardo)

Captain, you got some 'splaining to do!

(She's not having it. He sits.)

KATE

I'm going to the sleep chamber.

(He steers the ship hard. She falls back on his lap.)

HENRY

Looks like you're ready to talk now, huh, Cap?

(She jumps up and crosses.)

Cause I'm ready to talk. Why'd you wait two years to do this?

KATE

It took a few attempts. The specimen wasn't exactly potent.

HENRY

Well, maybe my boys needed a little extra momentum!

KATE

You're gross.

HENRY

(he crosses)

I just wish I'd been clued in a little. That is my baby in there.

KATE

You've served your purpose.

HENRY

Then why am I even here?

KATE

Cause genius, I can't fly the ship and nurse a baby at the same time.

(She starts to sit, taking her time. He tries to help. She pushes him away.)

HENRY

So you do need me!

KATE

Need is a strong word. Thank you for your service. When we return, I'll be sure you get an outstanding unit medal.

HENRY

(under his breath)

I'll give you a standing unit.

KATE

What was that?

HENRY

Nothing. Uh, how far along are you?

KATE

16 weeks.

HENRY

16 weeks! That's like--I don't know how long. But how do we prepare? I don't know how to Lamaze. Do you know how to Lamaze?

KATE

I can deliver it myself. Our ship is equipped.

HENRY

With what? It's not like we have a Rosie the robot.

(off her confused look)

The Jetsons!!! Ugh! You're the worst! But! We're having a baby together, Kate.

KATE

(stands)

That's Captain Kate. Listen, you think this is how I wanted things to happen for me? I had dreams about bringing life into this world. I always thought I'd have a doula.

HENRY

I always thought I'd have sex!

KATE

I always thought I'd have a baby shower and my mom would be there.

HENRY

I always thought I'd have a little foreplay, and then a little sex!

KATE

I always thought I'd be with someone that I actually like.

HENRY

I always thought I'd have that too. But with some seeeex! We're both making compromises. But I'm gonna be involved in my child's life.

KATE

This is a ten year objective observation. We are to have no emotional attachment to this boy.

HENRY

It's a boy?!!!

(He gets a huge smile on his face, and wipes tears from his eyes.)

KATE

Don't do that.

HENRY

Don't do what?

KATE

Don't get attached.

HENRY

Of course I'm going to get attached. That's my boy!

(He drops to his knees and puts a hand on her belly. She slaps it.)

HENRY (cont.)

That's--That's my boy. I'm gonna be a dad. What if I mess up? What if I drop it? Anti-gravity! We're never turning that off. But what if I can't provide for my little space invader? What happens to the mission?

KATE

(long beat)

We abort?

HENRY

(falling to his knees)

Noooooooooo! That's my little Lieutenant, Jr. in there!

(Kate's face changes, she moves to him, puts her hand on his shoulder.)

KATE

Ok. I didn't mean it. We're out of dehydrated ice cream, and it's making me salty.

HENRY

That's no excuse for an abortion joke! You can't say stuff like that. He probably has ears already. That's our bouncing baby boy in there!

KATE

Don't say our. We're not together.

HENRY

Well we're gonna be together up here for ten years, and he needs his father for those formative years. Who's gonna teach him how to spit, or BBQ, or shoot a gun?

KATE

On a space ship?!

HENRY

Ok. Throw a punch.

KATE

(she starts pacing, worried)

We will not be teaching this boy to resort to violence.

HENRY
What if he gets picked on?

KATE
By whom?!

HENRY
Aliens? Alf was a jerk!

KATE
Ok. Executive decision. You will have nothing to do with his education--

HENRY
Hey! I'm an astronaut, aren't I?

KATE
You're just a pilot.

HENRY
How rude! Fine, you educate him, but I need to baptize him.

KATE
I'm not wasting our precious water supply on that.

HENRY
Then at least let me circumcise him.

KATE
Ok, new rule on the ship. Nobody touches any penises.

HENRY
Pretty sure that was the old rule, too.

KATE
Will you let that die?

HENRY
Ok, no circumcision, you party pooper. But this is the most important thing of all. I have to be in charge of bedtime stories. He needs to hear the love story of Rachel and Ross.

KATE
The only love story he'll hear will be about the bond between two hydrogen molecules.

HENRY
Come on. Jim and Pam?

KATE
Ok, they were so in love.

HENRY
Yes! Cory and Topanga!

KATE

I'll allow it.

HENRY

And he has to know about the adventures of Arthur Fonzarelli!

KATE

What?

HENRY

The Fonz! Someone's gotta teach him how to be cool! When we get back, he's gonna be the most famous kid in the galaxy!

KATE

(starting to freak out)

Oh, yeah. Wow.

HENRY

(starring into the distance)

Our boy! The people will bow down to our boy like he's the Fresh Prince of Bel Air.

KATE

Oh my god!

HENRY

The paparazzi will swarm our boy like he's all three Lawrence brothers. Combined!

KATE

Joey, Matthew, and Andy?!

HENRY

Yes! And don't get me started about the women--beautiful women will flock to our boy like he's Jonathan Taylor Thomas.

KATE

No no no!

HENRY

Can you see it now? The fame, the fortune! He's gonna be on TV!

KATE

Lieutenant!...We are never going back.

HENRY

D'oh!

(Blackout.)