

The InterGalactic Mechanic S1 E2: "The Hollow Planet"

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TEASER

INT. GOLDEN NIMBUS, BRIDGE - N/A

Selene eagerly watches a planet's dull rocky surface whiz by through the Golden Nimbus' windshield. Meanwhile, Daelus idly stands by, sanding down the bed off a 3D-printed Tupperware.

DAELUS

It's a rock.

*

SELENE

I hath not seen a planet this close
outside my home! I can't believe
it's round.

*

*

*

Selene <WINCES> in pain as Dr. Taylor sticks a syringe gun in Selene's arm. Monika is there for support.

MONIKA

You got this, Champ. Just a couple
dozen more vaccines. Look! A hole.

Monika directs Selene's attention to a porthole on the planet's surface. As the Golden Nimbus nears, the port opens, revealing a glorious sight. Selene's eyes triple in size, and her heart nearly gives out as she sees through the windshield...

*

*

*

The planet is hollow with a massive city thriving on the inner walls. It's a melting pot of various cultures with roads for horse-drawn carriages. The buildings are carved from the planet's crust in varying styles. There are neighborhoods of mobile homes, tents, and huts.

*

Selene whips out her journal and sketches each building as the ship passes it. Dr. Taylor seizes the moment to deliver the last couple dozen shots.

Daelus is not impressed by the city. He's more focused on the Tupperware.

DAELUS

It's just a hollow planet using
centripetal force to produce
artificial gravity.

SELENE

Pardon, I did not quite catch that.

*

DAELUS

It's one big motor. The inner crust is composed of a permanent ferromagnetic material, while the core is composed of a temporary ferromagnetic material that relies on electricity to generate a magnetic field. The temporary ferromagnetic attracts the...

Daelus rambles on. Definitely confused, Selene glances around for a better explanation. Monika steps in.

MONIKA

He means it's magnets playing tag.

*

SELENE

Magic?

DR. TAYLOR

Yes. Now, hold still.

*

*

Suddenly, another building captures Selene's interest. It's a HEXAGONAL building.

SELENE

How could my kind settle here with Politeia under strict isolation?

*

Daelus pauses his sanding to monitor Monika. Monika waves dismissively.

*

*

MONIKA

Pfff. That old thing? What about the new things?

*

*

Daelus glares at Monika disapprovingly.

*

EXT. PLANET CORE

The Golden Nimbus lands on the planet's stationary core. A large shaft extends from the core to the planet's North and South poles. The planet continuously rotates around this shaft and core.

INT. GOLDEN NIMBUS, BRIDGE

Selene longingly stares at the city as it lies a great distance away from the core.

Vulcarus enters the bridge.

SELENE

Could we park closer to the civilization?

VULCARUS

No can do. Death just robbed Brittney of her mother and poor Lass suddenly has to keep the rest of the world spin'in. It's too big a load to carry alone.

*
*
*

SELENE

Please gift her my condolences.

Selene continues studying the city.

Daelus finishes sanding the Tupperware and shows it to Vulcarus.

VULCARUS

It's reassur'in to see ya follow'in my advice. What kind of casserole did ya make?

*
*

DAELUS

I thought ya give griev'in people Tupperware.

*

VULCARUS

It's the thought that counts. We gotta hit the plungers.

*

Vulcarus and Daelus exit.

Selene looks out the window with Monika. Dr. Taylor extracts the last syringe and throws it in the incinerator shoot.

*

DR. TAYLOR

That's the last one. If you need me, I'll be in my lab.

MONIKA

Thanks, Granny.

Dr. Taylor leaves.

SELENE

A morning of vacsigns, and yet an excursion is not to be.

MONIKA

I wouldn't say that.

*

Monika grins mischievously. She peaks Selene's interest.

ACT 1

INT. GOLDEN NIMBUS, JUMP SHIP

Selene marvels at the janky yet advanced controls of the cockpit. Despite there being seats for five people, Monika remains in the door frame, refusing to step aboard.

MONIKA

A jump ship is safer than jumping ship.

SELENE

Thou art not coming with?

*

Monika steps forward, and suddenly, a red force field appears at the door, prohibiting Monika from boarding.

MONIKA

Granny doesn't trust me after last time. That doesn't mean you can't explore for the both of us.

BROCK (O.S.)

Not alone.

Brock pokes in from behind Monika. Monika blocks him from boarding.

MONIKA

Party Pooper alert! Selene hit the launch button!

Selene's extremely lost in the fields of glowing unmarked buttons and controls.

BROCK

Daelus also asked me to look after Princess. Plus, someone needs to drive.

Monika steps aside, allowing Brock to board. Selene applauds with delight.

SELENE

Is this what thou call a "girl's trip?"

*

Brock holds back a <GROWL> as he takes the captain's chair.

*

BROCK

You can just call it a trip.

MONIKA

Selene, Brock identifies as he/him.

SELENE

Then, what art these?

*

Out of curiosity, Selene attempts to grope Brock's boobs. Irrate, Brock hits the launch button, throwing Selene into a seat. Monika waves them goodbye as the ship disembarks.

*

EXT. CORE, FRONT DOOR - DAY

Vulcarus and Daelus walk up the side of the core to a door. The suction cups on their boots help them stick to the side. Daelus notices the jump ship flying away.

DAELUS

They're gonna get her exiled.

*

VULCARUS

Have faith, Boyo. They know George's warn'in and will stand by us.

*

(mumble)

Especially if they don't want to fall in the incinerator.

Vulcarus and Daelus finally reach the front door. Vulcarus goes to knock but discovers the door left ajar. They peer inside.

INT. CORE, MAIN ROOM

Darkness shrouds the room in mystery as a computer screen illuminates a SILHOUETTE playing "Arcade Paradise".

*

Vulcarus flips on the light to reveal a one-room apartment in disarray with floating laundry, dirty dishes, and old greasy food.

Living in this disgusting zero-gravity environment is BRITTNEY (18) Motor Master/Silhouette. She's a whale-gecko, and damn, she's thin. You'd think she be fat with all McDonald's and Shake Shack garbage floating around, but nope.

Upon crossing the door threshold, Daelus and Vulcarus enter the zero gravity atmosphere; their suction boots help ground them. They approach Brittney, who's more concerned about her game than strange men entering her apartment.

Vulcarus is respectful not to bump into anything while Daelus just marches through the trash.

VULCARUS

Mornin, Brittney. Sorry about your
mom's pass'in. She was a strong
Motor Master and belter friend.

*
*

DAELUS

I brought ya Tupperware.

*

Brittney points her tail to a table crowded with Tupperware.
Some are uncovered with half-eaten food. Daelus takes it over
to the table, listening in to Vulcarus' conversation.

VULCARUS

How you hold'in?

*

BRITTNEY

Fine.

VULCARUS

Whatcha playing there?

BRITTNEY

A game.

A CREAKING from the core disturbs Daelus as he sets down the
Tupperware. He notices Jell-O shaking in another container.
He's alarmed.

DAELUS

Brittney, when did ya last change
the oil?

*

BRITTNEY

I'll get to it when I can.

DAELUS

But when did ya-

*

Brittney throws off her headphones and glares at Daelus.

BRITTNEY

I just want to play my game!

Brittney and Daelus stare each other down. Vulcarus gets
between them.

VULCARUS

We got ya. We like to play games
too.

*

Vulcarus grabs a dark shirt and a yellow shirt. He makes them
into a ball and throws it at the laundry machine. It misses.

VULCARUS (CONT'D)

Twenty points!

BRITTNEY

You can't mix colors, and you missed.

VULCARUS

Close enough. Instead of play'in a video game about do'in laundry, let's make our own game around laundry.

*
*

The shirts float back towards Brittney. She grabs them, tossing the dark one into the washer and the yellow one into the hamper.

VULCARUS (CONT'D)

Ten points.

BRITTNEY

Ten?!

VULCARUS

I'm an ol' codger, and you got that youngster advantage.

*

Brittney <GROANS> and hurries to beat Vulcarus to the other clothes. Daelus pulls Vulcarus off to the side.

*
*

VULCARUS (CONT'D)

Come on, Daelus. Ya loved this game.

*

Vulcarus offers Daelus a dirty sock. Daelus ignores it.

DAELUS

With the motor's vibrations and whinny'in this extreme, the gravitational system is guaranteed to overheat and explode in the next hour. Ya know how to conduct the oil change?

*
*
*
*
*
*

VULCARUS

We can't. Lass fears she can not survive on her own. By do'in her job, we prove her doubts right.

*
*
*
*

DAELUS

This pigsty already proves them.

*
*

VULCARUS

Keep it down. We trust her, then
she'll trust herself to do the oil.
There's still time.

DAELUS

She had her time and she squandered
it. If you won't change the oil,
then I'll figure it out!

Daelus spots the full "Oil" reservoir tank and connecting
hose in the closet. Daelus takes the hose. Vulcarus snatches
Daelus' arm.

VULCARUS

That is not your job. There's
reasoning behind my madness and, as
my successor, your task is to learn
it. Not ruin it.

Vulcarus offers Daelus the dirty sock again.

Daelus begrudgingly drops the hose in exchange for Vulcarus'
dirty sock. Daelus throws the sock off-screen towards the
washer. Vulcarus pats Daelus on the shoulder.

VULCARUS (CONT'D)

Ten points!

BRITTNEY (O.C.)

I got fifty and counting!

VULCARUS

Not for long.

Vulcarus runs off to join in the fun. The continuous CREAKING
puts Daelus on full alert.

Daelus takes the hose and climbs through a hatch on the
ceiling. The hatch reads, "North Bearing".

EXT. JUMP SHIP - PARKING LOT - DAY

The jump ship parks beside manually pulled carts.

Selene eagerly springs out of the ship. Brock lags behind.

BROCK

Slow your roll! You don't know
where you are!

SELENE

That's the exciting part!

Selene BUZZES around the different carts. She hastily draws carts three at a time in her journal. Brock strolls up.

BROCK

You dragged me to the city for a cart.

*
*

SELENE

'Tis more than that. Monika informed me 'tis was a planet for refugees. These carts are a snapshot into their lives, their struggles, and who they are.

*
*
*
*

Selene spots HORSE PASSERSBY trot by. Selene zooms after them. Brock casually follows.

*
*

EXT. STREET

Brock watches Selene rush up to the Horse Passerby. Selene smiles and studies them.

*
*

Horse pulls their hoodie tight and gallops around the corner. That's fine for Selene because her eyes catch someone more interesting.

*

A MOTHER WHIP SCORPION crawls past with her BABIES on her back. Selene starts drawing her, checking her out from every angle. Mother scurries up a building in fear.

*

Selene spots an ELEPHANT CHICHARRONERO (STREET VENDOR), pulling a food cart. Selene rushes up from behind.

SELENE

Pardon, may I-?!

Elephant <SCREAMS> and books it down the road, spilling chips and corn from their cart. There's a loud CRASH! Selene winces at the crash site off-screen. A wild wheel comes for Selene. Brock catches the wheel.

*
*

The street is empty except for Selene and Brock.

BROCK

Great job, Princess. Keep it up and you'll earn yourself a bullet.

SELENE

(to crash site)

Do they require assistance?

*

BROCK

Not from you. The pedestrians got it. What's next? You ask for their social security number?

SELENE

(eager)

What is that?

BROCK

It's more boring than the carts. I'm saying you scared everyone off.

SELENE

My dialect was respectful. Perhaps those gentlemen were in a hurry to return home.

BROCK

Stop assuming gender and everything. Let's head back. There's nothing here anymore.

BLARING PARTY MUSIC from a nearby building catches their attention; it's the HEXAGONAL building from before. Now Selene's really intrigued. Brock rolls his eyes.

BROCK (CONT'D)

A party thrown by hexagonal freaks spells boring.

SELENE

My kind are here? How is that possible?

*

BROCK

They probably hated your monarchy and peaced out. Trust me, you don't want to go in there.

*

*

SELENE

On Politeia, we lead by example. How can thou request I halt my assumptions when thou make thine own?

*

*

*

BROCK

Fine, we'll go in for a second.

Brock irately accompanies Selene to the hex building.

INT. HEX BUILDING - DAY

Brock holds the door for Selene and leads her inside to a great surprise.

The building is hollow, with the walls made up of honeycombs, where each hexagonal pocket is an apartment. They envelop a vast lawn where a neighborhood block party is in full swing.

The PARTYGOERS' appearance shock Selene. They look like Selene's race (Politeian) but are genetically mixed with other races. They have features foreign to Selene such as wings, noses, tails, and ears. Some are missing their mandibles, antennas, and extra set of arms. They look like Politeians, but they also don't.

RAMONA (O.C.)

State your name and business.

Brock and Selene turn to a hound with four arms, RAMONA. She wears her battle scars like a badge of honor on her security uniform. Brock shields Selene from Ramona like a bodyguard.

SELENE

Greetings, may I ask where art thine antennas?

*
*

BROCK

No, you can't.

RAMONA

I saw the crash you caused. State your name and business.

*

BROCK

Brock Specks and Princess Selene Platos. We just wanted to poke in for a second.

JESSICA (O.C.)

Princess Selene?

Out from the crowd comes a feline mixed Politeian, JESSICA. She's got a nice-ass pantsuit as well as a nice ass to match. It's hard to tell if she's genuinely happy or faking it. Ramona changes to a sweeter demeanor.

RAMONA

Honey, I'm handling this.

*

Jessica brushes past Ramona to greet Selene with a hug that Selene doesn't fully consent to. Brock smirks at Selene.

*

JESSICA

You poor dear. The royal family is
not only cruel to their own kind
but also to their own kin.

RAMONA

They're not the only ones.

Jessica releases Selene to address Ramona in an awkward
lovers' spat.

JESSICA

Honey, we can't assume everyone in
the royal line is a ruthless
killer.

*

SELENE

Pardon?

RAMONA

(to Jessica)

I just want to protect you.

Ramona reaches for Jessica's hand, but Jessica dodges to
focus on Selene.

JESSICA

You're safe now. Us exiles need to
ban together.

Jessica calls out to the Partygoers against Ramona's wishes.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Fellow Politeians, meet our newest
neighbor!

*

The Partygoers flock into a <CHEERING> crowd and move closer
to greet Selene. Brock pushes Selene away from them.

BROCK

Thanks, but Princess isn't moving
in. We were just leaving.

*

SELENE

I have more questions. Did thou
join my excursion to halt my
exploration?

*

*

BROCK

You don't have to know everything.

*

SELENE

Example, please.

BROCK

I can't tell you; that's the point!
You're not gonna like what happens
if you talk to them.

*
*

Selene angrily brushes past Brock so he no longer blocks her from the crowd.

SELENE

(to crowd)

Greetings everyone. May I ask how
you proclaim thyself to be
Politeian when you art not? Look at
thyself and look at me. We art
not the same.

*
*
*

The crowd <GASPS>. All the merriment and joy of the party
flees the newly tense atmosphere.

The town elder, ESTHER, emerges.

ESTHER

He said the same thing.

The crowd parts to let Esther through. Her slow stride
emphasizes her every word with every step.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

That's the last thing you're great
great great great great great
great, uh how many greats was that?

Esther looks at the crowd, who also lost count.

SELENE

Seven.

ESTHER

Quiet. I, Elder Esther, am talking!
That was the last thing your great
ancestor, Alfordlithe Platos,
declared before launching our
families into space in a bubble to
suffocate. He thought they were
weak, but our ancestors proved him
wrong with the founding of this
colony. How dare you come into our
new home and throw yourself upon a
throne?

SELENE

That was not my-

*

ESTHER

Silence! You're worse than him.

The crowd <MUMMERS IN AGREEMENT>. They grow more hostile as they stare daggers at Selene. Selene remains brave.

SELENE

My family rescued Politeia from impure beings who ought to tarnish our society's bloodline and bring about its destruction. He saved many lives.

PARTYGOER #1

He destroyed ours!

PARTYGOER #1 breaks from the crowd and swings a punch at Selene. Selene *protracts her stinger in fear*. Brock catches Partygoer #1's fist; he defends Selene from the angry mob as they surround them.

SELENE

I am certain you misunderstand!

A thought raises Esther's brow. She sneaks through the mob and gets close to Selene.

ESTHER

It is you who misunderstands.

Startled, Selene accidentally stings Esther.

Esther <YELLS> and collapses. The fighting stops as the Partygoers hurry to assist Esther.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

The royal family's "heroic" identity descends from a false narrative. And now you cling to it so tightly that you can't imagine yourself anything less than.

Selene retracts her stinger; her hands cover her mouth in regret. Her eyes widen with an epiphany.

RAMONA

You are banned indefinitely. How does exile taste, Princess?

Ramona firmly grabs Selene and Brock to escort them out. Seeing Selene's tears, Jessica intervenes.

JESSICA

As the HOA President, I command you
let me handle this.

RAMONA

Please don't pull rank on me. Are
we not partners?

Jessica averts her gaze from Ramona. Heartbroken, Ramona lets
go of Selene and Brock. Jessica gently guides them out.

Remorseful, Selene willingly leaves. Brock comforts her.

INT. NORTH BEARING - DAY

With the hose on his back, Daelus finishes climbing up the
central shaft and enters the North bearing chamber. *

Daelus inserts the hose into a plug marked "INSERT OIL".
Daelus releases the hose nozzle for the oil to flow out. The oil
flow is stronger than Daelus expected, knocking him back. *

The hose comes loose, wildly spraying streams of oil
everywhere. The hose starts retreating back down the shaft. *
Daelus frantically chases after it. He grabs it, but the hose
drags him down the shaft. *

INT. CORE, MAIN ROOM - DAY

The clothes are all sorted with the lights in the hamper and
the darks in the washer. Brittney throws the last dark shirt
into the washer. Vulcarus tallies the points.

VULCARUS

Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle. *
Nice hustle, Kiddo. *

The washing machine starts filling with a dark liquid.
Brittney smugly handles the detergent. As she pours, she
hears Daelus <SCREAM>.

Suddenly, Daelus and the hose fly out the shaft and flail
around the room. Daelus holds on tight. Oil goes everywhere
in streams and bubbles.

Brittney drops the detergent into the washing machine and
chases after the hose. The lid of the washing machine SLAMS
shut. *

Vulcarus and Brittney chase after the hose. The hose quickly
loses strength as the oil flow runs low.

Vulcarus catches Daelus and the hose. Brittney takes the hose and grieves the last few leaking oil drops. The flow has run dry.

An intense CREAKING strains the air. The SCREECHING of rubbing metal pains everyone's ears.<BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAMS> from outside draw Daelus, Vulcarus, and Brittney to the window. They see...

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Back at the crash site, the Elephant floats up into the air. Their cart flies away. OTHER PASSERSBY scream as they kick themselves high into the air as if they were walking on the moon. Objects fly with them.

INT. HEX BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Floating up, Brock holds on tightly to the exit door handle. He reaches for Selene, but she's too far.

Selene rapidly floats towards the ceiling, catches herself, pushes off the ceiling, and gently lands back on the floor. *

Jessica hurries back, but her first step sends her smashing into the ceiling. She's unconscious. *

RAMONA (O.C.)
Jessica! *

Selene looks back to see Ramona attempt to dash for Jessica but instead kicks herself up into a light strand. The neighborhood block party erupts in terror.

The COOK tries to cling to the burning grill but sends it flying. The grill flies aimlessly, igniting the decorations. *

The Partygoers flail about as they accidentally kick themselves into the air and towards the burning decorations. *

BROCK
Grab my hand!

Selene glances between Brock and the Partygoers. She stresses at the decision.