

YOUNG LEIF

Part 1: Bertiluna

By

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Young Leif

Part One: Bertiluna

THE SOUNDS OF A SPRAWLING SPACE PORT.

VOICE

Welcome to Sirius-A, now sponsored by the Ted Empire. Be sure and visit our new Ted Mall, and get outfitted for your new intergalactic adventure.

YOUNG LEIF

Holy shit...

A GIGANTIC ALIEN WALKS BY.

YOUNG LEIF (CONT'D)

Uh, hey there. Hey could you tell me-

IT GRUNTS IN AN ALIEN LANGUAGE AND CONTINUES WALKING.

YOUNG LEIF (CONT'D)

Thanks... Nice to meet you...

BERTBERT

Hey.

YOUNG LEIF

... Hi.

BERTBERT

You from Earth?

YOUNG LEIF

Yeah, how could you tell?

BERTBERT

Because you look like an Earthling and you're speaking English.

YOUNG LEIF

Yeah. Dead giveaway. I'm Leif.

BERTBERT

Bertiluna. Call me BertBert.

YOUNG LEIF

Nice to meet you BertBert.

BERTBERT

Pretty crazy, huh?

YOUNG LEIF

Yeah, this is a lot.

BERTBERT

First time off world, I'm assuming.

YOUNG LEIF

Yeah, we haven't really mastered space travel, in fact we haven't really mastered anything.

BERTBERT

Oh yeah, I know.

YOUNG LEIF

Maybe you can help me, I'm supposed to go to the Ted Mall, some place called Triad Outfitters.

BERTBERT

Oh no. Don't go there, that place is the worst. What kind of credit do you have?

YOUNG LEIF

I just have this card.

BERTBERT

Ew, TedCreds, gross.

YOUNG LEIF

Is that bad?

BERTBERT

It's fine. It's like a gift certificate for a shitty store.

YOUNG LEIF

Oh. Bummer.

BERTBERT

You know what? I think I can help you out.

YOUNG LEIF

Oh yeah?

BERTBERT

How do you feel about shady business transactions?

YOUNG LEIF

Love em.

BERTBERT

Perfect. Follow me, Leif.

YOUNG LEIF

Cool.

THEY WALK.

YOUNG LEIF (CONT'D)

You're speaking English.

BERTBERT

Yeah. A lot of us do out here.

YOUNG LEIF

Really?

BERTBERT

We really like your television. It's hard not to at least pick up a phrase or two.

YOUNG LEIF

Our television? Really? All the way out here?

BERTBERT

Oh yeah. My favorite's Murphy Brown, what's yours?

YOUNG LEIF

I actually don't watch a lot of television. I didn't have one when I was a kid, so...

BERTBERT

You don't watch television? What a waste of being an Earthling.

YOUNG LEIF

I get that a lot. Apparently I can catch up now.

BERTBERT

So where are you headed?

YOUNG LEIF

Fuck. I have no idea.

BERTBERT

That's not a bad place to be in. I kind of don't know either.

YOUNG LEIF

Why is that?

BERTBERT

Okay, stop here for a minute.

YOUNG LEIF

What are we doing?

BERTBERT

Acting casual.

YOUNG LEIF

Okay.

BERTBERT

Then we're looking to the left and to the right  
without anyone knowing that we're looking left and  
right.

YOUNG LEIF

And THEN what are we doing?

RYTHMIC KNOCKING SOUND ON METAL. DOOR SLIDING OPEN.

BERTBERT

Welcome to Trunder's Down Under. Let's go shopping.

YOUNG LEIF

Sweet.

MUSIC STARTS PLAYING. PEOPLE TALKING IN ALIEN LANGUAGES.

BERTBERT

So there's a place like this in every major station  
but you kind of have to look for it. It's like a  
trading post. You can't spend your TedCreds here  
but you can trade the card for stuff that's  
actually useful.

YOUNG LEIF

This place is awesome.

BERTBERT

Let's get you outfitted for life in the Three Gs,  
Leif.

YOUNG LEIF

The Three Gs?

BERTBERT

Three galaxies. Milky Way, Andromeda and  
Triangulum. You call it the uh...

YOUNG LEIF

Local group.

BERTBERT

Local group, right. That's your home now.

YOUNG LEIF

Wow.

BERTBERT

First things first: You need a Tangle. Here.

YOUNG LEIF

What is this?

BERTBERT

That's everything. It's a communicator, a personal computer, all your credits will be on there.

YOUNG LEIF

Okay, is it a good idea for so much stuff to be in one device?

BERTBERT

No, it's a terrible idea, Leif, but I think you'll find these three galaxies are full of terrible ideas. Everybody has one so you need to have one, know what I mean?

YOUNG LEIF

Okay.

BERTBERT

What else?

YOUNG LEIF

Can I buy some music here? I brought some tapes but I'd like to listen to what people listen to out here.

BERTBERT

Buy? Music?

YOUNG LEIF

Yeah.

BERTBERT

Oh right. You use tapes and discs and stuff.

YOUNG LEIF

Well, yeah.

BERTBERT

Your Tangle also does that.

YOUNG LEIF

Seriously?

BERTBERT

Yeah. Pretty much every song ever written on your planet is on there.

YOUNG LEIF

Every song? In this thing?

BERTBERT

Yes.

YOUNG LEIF

That's amazing and also kind of disappointing. Why is it disappointing?

BERTBERT

Earthlings like things. I know what you mean though, somehow every song you ever wanted to hear magically coming out of nowhere is kind of a, what's the word? Bummer?

YOUNG LEIF

It is. I guess I like the rattle of a cassette tape. Now I have to get used to... well nothing at all. Music coming out of the air.

BERTBERT

Technically all music comes out of the air.

YOUNG LEIF

Good point. Is there anything this thing can't do?

BERTBERT

Yes, which is why you need this.

YOUNG LEIF

This is... a sharp knife.

BERTBERT

Yes.

YOUNG LEIF

What will I need this for?

BERTBERT

Sometimes when you're out there among the stars you need complicated technology and sometimes you just need a pointy thing.

YOUNG LEIF

Okay. Hey, do I get a phaser or a blaster or something like that?

BERTBERT

You really trust yourself with a phaser or a blaster, Leif?

YOUNG LEIF

...No.

BERTBERT

That's right. I'm going to take your TedCreds and trade them for the Tangle, the knife and then for some currency you can actually spend anywhere you want.

YOUNG LEIF  
Okay. You're not a con artist are you?

BERTBERT  
Do I look like a con artist to you?

YOUNG LEIF  
No.

BERTBERT  
What do I look like?

YOUNG LEIF  
...You look great.

BERTBERT  
Okay. I'll be right back.

YOUNG LEIF  
... So tell me, Tangle, how do you work?

TANGLE  
Hello. Please proceed with biometric sample.

YOUNG LEIF  
Whoa.

TANGLE  
Biometric sample please.

BERTBERT  
Ooop! No. Don't do that!

YOUNG LEIF  
What is it asking for?

BERTBERT  
You need to wipe it first.

YOUNG LEIF  
What do you mean?

BERTBERT  
This has the preloaded Ted OS. You need to scrub it out

TANGLE  
Biometric sample pl-

YOUNG LEIF  
What's happening?



BERTBERT

There's a button on here that they try and hide from you. It gets rid of the bad stuff.

YOUNG LEIF

Bad stuff?

BERTBERT

Tracking ticks. Bio-sampling. Trust me.

YOUNG LEIF

Okay.

BERTBERT

Say something. Say a sentence.

YOUNG LEIF

Uh...In 1970 Dock Ellis pitched a no-hitter on LSD.

TANGLE

Language calibration: Earth. Subgroup: American English. Variation: Northern California.

YOUNG LEIF

Whoa.

TANGLE

What's up? I'm your Tangle.

YOUNG LEIF

Hi.

TANGLE

This is when you tell me your name.

YOUNG LEIF

Oh. I'm Leif.

TANGLE

Hey Leif. So you can call me Tangle or you can customize my name.

YOUNG LEIF

Oh, cool. Uh...

TANGLE

I know, it's hard, right?

YOUNG LEIF

Yeah.

TANGLE

If it helps you can customize my voice, too.

YOUNG LEIF

No, this one's good. How about Alice?

ALICE

Cool. I'll answer to the name Alice from now on.

YOUNG LEIF

Ok. Are you... always listening?

ALICE

I am.

YOUNG LEIF

Any way I can turn that off?

ALICE

Nope. You'll get used to it.

YOUNG LEIF

Okay.

BERTBERT

You now have a Tangle.

ALICE

Is this someone I should know?

BERTBERT

Hi, Alice. Can you put me down as BertBert,  
subcategory "Leif's First Space Friend".

ALICE

Nice to meet you, BertBert.

BERTBERT

Okay, you've got your tangle, a knife, and I just  
got you some money.

ALICE

You just received 10,000 sills from Trunder's Down  
Under at Sirius-A.

YOUNG LEIF

What did I just get 10,000 of?

BERTBERT

Sills. It's money from my planet, you can spend it  
pretty much anywhere.

YOUNG LEIF

Am I rich?

BERTBERT

No. But you do have what Earthlings would call  
"Fuck You Money".

YOUNG LEIF

What does that mean?

BERTBERT

It means you're good for a while.

YOUNG LEIF

Alright. Thanks so much for doing this, BertBert.

BERTBERT

It's no problem. How about you use some of that  
fuck you money and buy me a drink?

YOUNG LEIF

Sure.

THE SCENE SHIFTS TO INSIDE AN INTERGALACTIC BAR WITH STRANGE  
MUSIC PLAYING.

YOUNG LEIF (CONT'D)

This is pretty amazing.

BERTBERT

Honestly, this place kind of sucks now. See, the  
Ted Empire took over control of this station a  
while back and they sucked all the life out of it,  
it's no fun anymore.

YOUNG LEIF

This is a pretty serious fantasy of a lot of  
Earthlings. "The bar in space".

BERTBERT

Oh, right. Since that movie, right?

YOUNG LEIF

"That movie"? Star Wars.

BERTBERT

Yeah. Didn't like it.

YOUNG LEIF

Wow...

BERTBERT

What?

YOUNG LEIF

I'm not on Earth anymore.

BERTBERT

No, you're not.

YOUNG LEIF

Which means I feel comfortable saying this: I didn't like Star Wars either.

BERTBERT

Really? Why not?

YOUNG LEIF

It's problematic.

BERTBERT

Because of the Ewoks?

YOUNG LEIF

No. The robots.

BERTBERT

What about them?

YOUNG LEIF

They're sentient.

BERTBERT

Sure.

YOUNG LEIF

But they're forced to do jobs.

BERTBERT

...Sure.

YOUNG LEIF

That's not okay.

BERTBERT

Huh... You're right.

YOUNG LEIF

They're slaves.

BERTBERT

I feel like that's an extreme interpretation on your planet.

YOUNG LEIF

This is why I can finally say it. Why don't you like it?

BERTBERT

Well, I bet if I made a movie about living on Earth, you'd probably hate it right?

YOUNG LEIF

You don't know anything about living on Earth.

BERTBERT

Exactly.

YOUNG LEIF

What are you drinking?

BERTBERT

Hippon. It's from my planet, it's kind of like wine.

YOUNG LEIF

And what am I drinking?

BERTBERT

Dreg. It's like beer. It's from a planet called Trusk.

YOUNG LEIF

So you know a lot about my planet. What about yours?

BERTBERT

Sigius. You should visit some time, it's nice.

YOUNG LEIF

What's it like?

BERTBERT

We don't have any huge land masses like you do. We're a bunch of tiny islands. Lots of water, lots of volcanoes.

YOUNG LEIF

Why'd you leave?

BERTBERT

I wanted to travel. See what's out there. I'll go back soon.

LEIF LAUGHS.

BERTBERT (CONT'D)

What?

YOUNG LEIF

I'm talking to an alien.

BERTBERT

I'M talking to an alien.

YOUNG LEIF

I'm sitting at a bar having a drink with an alien.

BERTBERT

So are most people at this bar, Leif. There's no aliens anymore, just a big mess.

YOUNG LEIF

I'm in way over my head.

BERTBERT

I know. You'll get used to it.

YOUNG LEIF

On earth I was an engineer. A really good one.

BERTBERT

See, you're a smart guy, you'll adjust. If you don't mind me asking, how'd you get here, Leif? There's no way you got here on an Earth ship, Earth barely even has ships. You showed up at Sirius A with a pocket full of TedCreds so I'm assuming the Teds were involved somehow. Kinda weird.

YOUNG LEIF

I made a deal.

BERTBERT

What was the deal?

YOUNG LEIF

Apparently I'm not supposed to talk about it.

BERTBERT

Top secret, huh?

YOUNG LEIF

I don't know if it's TOP secret, but it was part of the deal.

BERTBERT

I'm intrigued.

YOUNG LEIF

I can't tell you.

BERTBERT

Not even a little?

YOUNG LEIF

No.

BERTBERT

Why not?

YOUNG LEIF

Because I made a deal.

BERTBERT

But we've been through so much together.

YOUNG LEIF

I made a deal.

BERTBERT

Fine. Sorry, you were talking about how you feel like an idiot.

YOUNG LEIF

You know what I've seen so far?

BERTBERT

Tell me.

YOUNG LEIF

I've been on a ship that was going... I don't even know how fast it was going and I felt nothing. No inertia. I'm sitting in a chair right now being pulled down by gravity. There shouldn't be any gravity right now because I'm on a space station. I came here through a stable wormhole. I don't know how any of this works.

BERTBERT

Neither do I.

YOUNG LEIF

But I'm an engineer. And I don't design car engines, I'm a physics engineer. I solve incredibly complicated problems by building things. I was one of the smartest guys on my planet.

BERTBERT

Look at you.

YOUNG LEIF

And I feel like an idiot now. I feel like I know nothing.

BERTBERT

Well, if you're such a smart guy then you're still a smart guy, you just need to play catch up for a while.

YOUNG LEIF

Yeah, I guess so. You said you didn't know where you were headed either?

BERTBERT

No. I'm on a Sinder.

YOUNG LEIF

What is that?

BERTBERT

When people on my planet reach a certain age sometimes they go on a Sinder. We travel around for a while.

YOUNG LEIF

So backpacking through Europe is a thing even in space, huh?

BERTBERT

Backpacking through Europe... American Werewolf in London?

YOUNG LEIF

That's right.

BERTBERT

Yeah, it's a thing. No werewolves though... There aren't actually any werewolves on Earth, right?

YOUNG LEIF

No.

BERTBERT

I didn't think so.

YOUNG LEIF

...So you saw me and just decided to take me under your wing, huh?

BERTBERT

You did look pretty out of sorts. You know what? I'm going to go order us some food.

YOUNG LEIF

You're going to surprise me, aren't you?

BERTBERT

I am.

YOUNG LEIF

And you're going to deliberately get me something weird. Something that's still alive.

BERTBERT

No. Don't be ridiculous. It will probably be made from some sort of fungus though.



YOUNG LEIF

Great.

BERTBERT

Be right back.

YOUNG LEIF

Okay...

YOUNG LEIF (CONT'D)

... Hey Alice?

ALICE

Hi there.

YOUNG LEIF

So, I can ask you things and then you just tell me the answer?

ALICE

Yeah, sure. Within reason. Don't ask me top secret things, I'm not allowed to know those.

YOUNG LEIF

She said she was from Sigius. Tell me about Sigius.

ALICE

Sigius. A habitable planet in the Galaxy Andromeda. Known throughout The Triad as innovators in geothermal energy and staunch defenders of journalistic integrity.

YOUNG LEIF

That's an odd combo. What's going on there?

ALICE

Sigius is one of six planets known as "The Original Coalition". At the dawning of the intergalactic age six planets established contact with each other. Sigius, Greedon-4, Septsu, Urt, Vapus-10, and Garrion. They didn't have the technology to travel to each other but did have the technology to talk to one another. It began a period of unparalleled scientific and cultural exchange. To this day, these planets are regarded as... kind of snobs.

YOUNG LEIF

Oh really?

ALICE

Well, I'm dumbing it down a little bit. My protocols don't have much on humans but what I do know is that you're kind of dummies and I should keep it simple.

YOUNG LEIF

Your protocols are correct.

ALICE

The Original Coalition are a center of intellectual prowess without much political power. One of those areas of intellectual prowess is journalism.

YOUNG LEIF

So she comes from "Planet Journalism"?

ALICE

More like she comes from "Planet Geothermal Energy" and journalism is what they do with all the free time that unlimited energy affords them.

YOUNG LEIF

Got it...

ALICE

What's wrong, Leif?

YOUNG LEIF

Sticking with the "Backpacking through Europe" analogy... If I was in a foreign country and an attractive woman came up to me and expressed sudden interest out of the blue, I should maybe beware.

ALICE

Oh, okay. You think she's a pickpocket or something?

YOUNG LEIF

I don't know what she is. She said she was on a Sinder, what is that?

ALICE

Well, it's interesting. To someone from Sigius, a Sinder is a period in young adulthood when one leaves the home planet and travels throughout The Triad to build character.

YOUNG LEIF

And what is it to everyone else?

ALICE

To everyone else it's the Sigians being nosey. Many people think that a Sinder is actually a long fact-finding mission. When a young Sigian is done with a Sinder, they report their findings to the Sigian Council of Truth and Understanding.

YOUNG LEIF

She's on the job right now.

ALICE

Maybe? After spending time on a Sinder, Sigians will then transition into being full-fledged journalists who then depend on information brought to them by those on a Sinder.

YOUNG LEIF

She's an intern at the Washington Post is what you're telling me.

ALICE

Possibly?

YOUNG LEIF

So there's always young people from Sigius crawling all over the galaxies, collecting information for their home planet?

ALICE

It is quite common.

YOUNG LEIF

What does she want with me?

ALICE

Hey, don't ask me, I'm just an algorithm.

BERTBERT

Okay, food's on the way and you're going to think it's gross.

YOUNG LEIF

Great.

BERTBERT

So... we still haven't solved the problem of what planet you're going to first.

YOUNG LEIF

I thought I would go to your home planet of Sigius and report my findings to the Sigian Council of Truth and Understanding.

BERTBERT

...

YOUNG LEIF

...

BERTBERT

Shit.

YOUNG LEIF

Yeah.

BERTBERT

I figured you'd find out eventually but I figured I had all kinds of time.

YOUNG LEIF

This is good. You almost convinced me that outer space was a nice place full of nice people.

BERTBERT

I'm sorry.

YOUNG LEIF

See you later, BertBert.

BERTBERT

No, Leif, come on.

LEIF STARTS WALKING THROUGH THE SPACE STATION. BERTBERT FOLLOWS.

BERTBERT (CONT'D)

Leif, let me apologize.

YOUNG LEIF

I'm good. Thanks for the knife and the device. I guess I know why I need the knife now.

BERTBERT

Leif, you're an Earthling. It's weird that you're off world, I had to look into it.

YOUNG LEIF

You gave it your best shot.

BERTBERT

C'mon, Leif give me something.

YOUNG LEIF

Why in the world would I do that?

BERTBERT

I don't know, because you're nice?

LEIF STOPS.

YOUNG LEIF

Look, no harm no foul. You're just out here doing your thing. You go out into space, you collect information and you bring it back home. It's what you do. I mean, it's weird. It's kind of mormon-ish but whatever, it's your thing. But it's not my thing. So I'm going to hop on the next ship to wherever and probably stop trusting people.

BERTBERT

Leif, you're not going to last ten seconds out there.

YOUNG LEIF

Oh yeah? Why is that?

BERTBERT

You don't know what it's like. I promise you you're not ready for it.

YOUNG LEIF

What makes you so sure?

BERTBERT

I looked up where you're from when I was ordering the food. Northern California? Leif. It's trees and the ocean and small towns... It's nice. But it's nothing like up here. You're going to get eaten alive up here, Leif. Trust me. You need a friend.

YOUNG LEIF

Friends don't lie to each other.

BERTBERT

Yes they do, Leif. All the time... I think maybe you come from a place that's really nice, so you're probably expecting everywhere to be nice. And I think you might get hurt because of it... Look, was I investigating you a little bit? Yes. But it's not because I want you to get hurt it's because that's what I do. Where I come from you don't leave well enough alone. You go in. You investigate. It's me. Just like this trusting attitude of yours is what you're all about. It's you.

YOUNG LEIF

It's me?

BERTBERT

Yes.

YOUNG LEIF

... Is there anywhere I can smoke weed around here?

BERTBERT

Weed. This is... Marijuana?

YOUNG LEIF

Yes.

BERTBERT

You brought Marijuana with you to space?

YOUNG LEIF

Of course I brought Marijuana with me to space.

BERTBERT

Um...

YOUNG LEIF

C'mon, you want me to trust you.

BERTBERT

Okay... okay follow me.

SCENE SHIFTS TO AN AIR TRANSFER STATION. THE LOW RUSHING OF OXYGEN. A METAL DOOR OPENS.

YOUNG LEIF

What is this place?

BERTBERT

Oxygen viaduct. If you smoke in here it will scrub the air before it gets into the main cabins.

YOUNG LEIF

Nice. What are you doing?

BERTBERT

I'm looking up how Marijuana will effect me.

YOUNG LEIF

You're smoking with me?

BERTBERT

Yes, I am. Unless you're going to be rude and not share your weird plant with me.

YOUNG LEIF

Can't you just ask?

BERTBERT

Yes, yes I can but... I guess I was embarrassed about asking in front of you.

YOUNG LEIF

Alice, how will marijuana effect someone from Sigius?

ALICE

Sorry, no studies available.

YOUNG LEIF

Well, I guess we're about to conduct one. There's some information you can take back with you to the mother brain.

ALICE  
Council of Truth and Understanding.

YOUNG LEIF  
Sure.

LEIF LIGHTS A JOINT AND INHALES.

YOUNG LEIF (CONT'D)  
Hold it in your lungs for a second like this. Do  
you have lungs?

BERTBERT  
Yes, Leif.

YOUNG LEIF  
Here you go.

BERTBERT INHALES AND HOLDS.

BERTBERT  
How long?

YOUNG LEIF  
For you? Who knows?

BERTBERT EXHALES.

BERTBERT  
Now what happens?

YOUNG LEIF  
You turn green.

BERTBERT  
Seriously, though.

YOUNG LEIF  
How would I know?

BERTBERT  
...

YOUNG LEIF  
The design on this place isn't great. I've been  
looking around. I have notes.

BERTBERT  
It's a relic. This station is a hundred years old,  
The Teds will probably replace it soon now that  
they run the place.

YOUNG LEIF

A hundred years. A hundred years ago humans were calling cars horseless carriages.

BERTBERT

You're a little behind.

YOUNG LEIF

A bit.

BERTBERT

...Leif, I really am sorry.

YOUNG LEIF

Sorry you got caught or sorry your were being nose  
liar?

BERTBERT

... Sorry I was being a nose liar.

YOUNG LEIF

It's fine.

BERTBERT

But my concern is genuine, okay? It's not a movie out here. It's dangerous. It's no place for a kid from some forest wonderland.

YOUNG LEIF

It's funny what people assume.

BERTBERT

What do you mean?

YOUNG LEIF

You looked up where I'm from. Forests? Ocean? Small towns?

BERTBERT

Yeah.

YOUNG LEIF

Let me tell you where I'm really from. I'm from Humboldt County, California. It's four thousand square miles of dense forests that are filled. And I mean FILLED with illegal, paranoid, violent, pot farmers.

BERTBERT

Seriously?

YOUNG LEIF

I found a dead body when I was thirteen.



BERTBERT  
Fuck!

YOUNG LEIF  
Seriously. In the middle of the woods. I ran back to tell my parents about it and they said "Don't tell anyone. It may come back on us."

BERTBERT  
No way.

YOUNG LEIF  
My parents weren't pot farmers. They were just old hippies. But they knew where they lived. And they knew there were some people you just didn't talk to. I never learned that lesson. I got into some trouble here and there. It's a lawless place, where I grew up. There's police, but they know where they live, too. My childhood was spent streamlining the pot drying systems of weird dudes who always had a gun on them. Even when they slept.

BERTBERT  
Okay. Well I made some assumptions, didn't I?

YOUNG LEIF  
It's okay. Everyone on Earth who doesn't live there makes the same assumption about where I'm from. They just see the trees. Anyway, you've been trying to warn me about where I find myself for the last few minutes and all you've told me... is that I've come home... A lawless place full of weirdos.

BERTBERT  
Why am I more worried about you now?

YOUNG LEIF  
Don't be. I'm excited. Let's go find me a ship.

BERTBERT  
Ooooookay.

TRANSITION TO TRANSPORT TERMINAL THREE. SHIPS DOCKING AND DISEMBARKING.

BERTBERT (CONT'D)  
Turns out marijuana doesn't affect me.

YOUNG LEIF  
Probably for the best. That was the last of it.

BERTBERT  
So, what did you decide?

YOUNG LEIF

I like that beer you gave me. So I decided to go there. Trusk.

BERTBERT

Hoo boy.

YOUNG LEIF

What are Truskans like?

BERTBERT

Um. Huge. And intimidating. They're herbivores though, so they wont eat you.

YOUNG LEIF

Great.

BERTBERT

Y'know, a lot of them, deep down, total sweeties.

YOUNG LEIF

Okay.

BERTBERT

Just don't ever insult their mother, because then they have to kill you.

YOUNG LEIF

Wow. Okay... What are you reading?

BERTBERT

Breaking news from Earth.

YOUNG LEIF

What's going on?

BERTBERT

Uh... Somebody named Kurt Cobain just killed himself... why is that breaking news?

YOUNG LEIF

...Fuck.

BERTBERT

I'm sorry. Did you know him?

YOUNG LEIF

No... Nobody did.

BERTBERT

There's candlelight vigils in a bunch of cities.

YOUNG LEIF

Damn, Kurt... Well, it's official. There's nobody cool left on Earth.

BERTBERT

... Hey, you have my ID on your Tangle. If I'm nearby we can talk in real time. If not you can leave me a message and I'll get it.

YOUNG LEIF

Okay.

BERTBERT

Can I check in on you sometimes? Are we at that level?

YOUNG LEIF

We can be at that level. Sure.

BERTBERT

Good... I really am sorry about the lying, Leif.

YOUNG LEIF

Don't be. You were just doing your thing. I'm going to go do my thing for a while.

BERTBERT

Don't do it too hard.

YOUNG LEIF

It's good to meet you, BertBert. I won't be a stranger.

BERTBERT

Goodbye, leif.

LEIF WALKS OFF INTO THE CHAOS.

END OF PART ONE.