

INTERGALACTIC NOODLES

"One Small Step"

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EXT. OMNOMEDA - FOOD COURT - DAY

Pan across the sprawling, neon-drenched streets of Omnameda, with rows of restaurants and food stalls. A THREE-HEADED ALIEN eats three burgers simultaneously, and its three mouths <BURP IN HARMONY> like a Barbershop Quartet. A SMALL ALIEN ogles a taco; the TACO suddenly swallows the alien. A GLASS-HELMETED ALIEN eyes a plate of spaghetti and goes to take a bite, instead smearing it all over their helmet.

Finally, we settle on one stall, ran out of a fish-shaped spaceship, with a conspicuous lack of customers. A flickering sign reads: INTERGALACTIC NOODLES.

INT./EXT. INTERGALACTIC NOODLES - CONTINUOUS

PEPPER, 13, an ambitious, energetic girl of the future, prepares broth in a frenzy of shakes, stirs, and pours.

PEPPER

This is the one! The bowl that puts our shop on the galactic map. The Noodle Gods are speaking to me!

While still tending to the broth with one hand, she grabs a ball of dough and bounces it off her hip.

PEPPER (CONT'D)

Chops, do the honors!

CHOPS, a futuristic noodle-chopping robot, swallows the dough, and produces a fresh bundle of noodles.

CHOPS

Mmm. Tell the Noodle Gods I'm a fan of their work.

Pepper shoots out a tractor beam from her chopsticks, which grab the noodles and float them over to the bowl.

PEPPER

Bet that line's rockin', right Blip? A lot of customers?

BLIP, a one-eyed space blob, looks out the window.

BLIP

Yep, yep, yep, Pep!
(then)

Wait did you say "a lot" or "none at all"?

PEPPER

Huh?

Pepper runs up to the window and scans the lot in front of her. No one. A tumbleweed drifts through.

BLIP

Wow I didn't know we get
tumbleweeds out here!

Pepper puts her bowl of noodles on the window counter.

PEPPER

Don't worry, chicken curry. When
people sniff this soba they'll line
right up. Check it!

EXT. OMNOMEDA - FOOD COURT - CONTINUOUS

We follow the waft of the soup's aroma to a nearby stall. Two aliens, BUUGI and WUUGI, are scarfing down some food when they <SNIFF> the aroma. They run off in a flash.

INT./EXT. INTERGALACTIC NOODLES - CONTINUOUS

Buugi and Wuugi screech to a halt in front of the stand.

BUUGI

That smell's giving me a righteous
case of the yum-yums.

WUUGI

Gimme that chow chow now now!

PEPPER

Two bowls of the good stuff, coming
right up!

Pepper turns to see Chops eating the last of the soup.

CHOPS

Oh, was that for the customer?

PEPPER

All good, I made a dozen extra
bowls as backup!

She hits a button and part of the wall pulls back to reveal a fridge with twelve empty bowls of soup.

CHOPS

Oh, were those for the customer?

Pepper slaps her forehead.

WUUGI

Hey! There's a severe lack of snacks! Grub up my gob!

PEPPER

We'll be with you shortly my hungry homies. In the meantime, you can look over our menu!

Pepper hands them a menu. Buugi eyes it for a moment, then <MUNCHES> it down. <BURP>!

BUUGI

Not bad.

Back inside the ship, where Pepper, Blip and Chops huddle up.

PEPPER

C'mon crew. We've got empty bellies outside and empty bowls inside. Ideas?

CHOPS

We could ea--

PEPPER

We can not eat the customer.

BLIP

Oo, oo! I've been working on my own recipe: the Blip Stink Slop!

PEPPER

I've got notes on the name but let's see it buddy!

Blip floats over to some cupboards and throws a bunch of junk out until they retrieve a sickly bowl of slop, which they present with a proud smile. Pepper and Chops wince and pinch their noses.

PEPPER (CONT'D)

Blip, that smells like a nun's buns!

CHOPS

I don't even have a nose and I can tell that reeks.

PEPPER

We can't serve this, it's barely food!

WUUGI

Did you say food?! Gimme here!

Wuugi reaches out and snatches the bowl out of Pepper's hands. He eats the whole dish in one big <SLURP>! The crew watches on in tense anticipation.

WUUGI (CONT'D)

This feels like a mullet sliding down my gullet.

BUUGI

The good vibes have been sullied, I fear. Let's try the place that sells radioactive corn dogs.

WUUGI

Oooh!

The aliens dart away. Blip looks like he's on the verge of tears. Pepper squats down to reach his eye level.

PEPPER

So what if two beings that will literally eat anything refused to eat your food? You tried your best!

Blip dissolves into a puddle on the floor.

BLIP

My best sucked! I'm useless!

PEPPER

C'mon, don't be like that.

CHOPS

Yeah, I don't want to have to mop you up again.

PEPPER

Your recipe just needs a li'l kick in the patooty. And I know where to get one. To the ship!

Pepper takes a step forward but slips in the puddle of Blip.

BLIP

Sorry.

PEPPER

(pained)
All good.

CHOPS
I'll get the mop.

Pepper gingerly gets up and hits a button. The stall transforms into its spaceship form.

INT. SPACESHIP - CONTINUOUS

The inside of the ship looks like a space age college dorm. Empty takeout containers, posters of brightly dressed funk bands, clothes strewn about. In the front is the ship cockpit, with futuristic computers and fuzzy dice. Pepper hops into the pilot's chair and spins around.

PEPPER
Those noodles were a little "blah"
for the eyes and a little "bleh"
for the mouth.

She hits a button. A picture of a rainbow-colored onion appears on the wall behind her.

PEPPER (CONT'D)
That's where these babies come in:
Polychromatic Astro-onions.

CHOPS/BLIP
Delicious!/ Pretty!

PEPPER
They're guaranteed to kick it up
the appropriate number of notches.

CHOPS
Sounds like a top shelf idea Pep.
Where do we find them?

PEPPER
That's easy!

She hits another button. The screen changes to a dark green planet surrounded by a brown fog. As she speaks, pictures of gaseous bogs and acid fountains pop onto the screen.

PEPPER (CONT'D)
They only grow on Brakkish XIX, the
infamously stinky swamp planet.

CHOPS
Well as long as it's not--

CHOPS/PEPPER
Extremely dangerous./ It's
extremely dangerous!

Chops slaps his face. Blip sheepishly floats over to Pepper.

BLIP
You really think those pocky-
lomatic... those lopy-rochratic...
those onions will make my dish
better?

PEPPER
A good chef never wonders, they
find out. You with me?

Blip smiles and perks up.

BLIP
Yep yep yep, Pep!

They do a cool secret handshake along with Chops. Pepper hops
back into the pilot's seat and flips some switches.

PEPPER
ANI, set course for the toxic
swamps of Brakkish XIX!

ANI (Astronomical Navigation Intelligence), a disembodied
robotic voice, responds.

ANI
Why can't we ever go to a beach
planet?

<WHOOSH>! The ship takes off.

EXT. OUTER SPACE

The ship zips through the galaxy, leaving a colorful trail.
We pass bright nebulae, truck-stop space stations, and
satellites with corporate branding. The ship <SCREECHES TO A
HALT> to let some duck-shaped spaceships cross, then keeps
going until we see the gross gassy sphere of Brakkish XIX.

EXT. BRAKKISH XIX - DAY

The ship door opens.

ANI (O.S.)
P.U.! Glad I don't have a corporeal
form like you suckers!

A determined, excited Pepper hops out, followed by a much more worried Blip and Chops.

PEPPER

Take a look around, crew.

As Pepper talks, ANGLE ON: A panning shot of the Brakkish landscape, a sea of yellow, brown, and green. Pterodactyl-like birds fly across the sky, through a brown cloud, then plummet to the ground, dead. Gas bubbles out of a swamp, the bubbles turning into skull shapes in mid-air.

PEPPER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

She might be nauseating, nasty, and gnarly, but this planet is home to some of the rarest and tastiest ingredients on the planet. Kind of inspiring, isn't it?

A gas vent shoots out gas with a <FART SOUND>. Back on the trio.

CHOPS

Y'know, I am inspired. Inspired to go home.

PEPPER

Hey! We wanna become the best chefs in the universe right? Sometimes that means trekking across a fart planet for some onions. Now whaddya say we make a bowl of soup that's...outta this world?

Blip and Chops brighten.

BLIP

Aw yeah, space pun!

They all high-five.

EXT. BRAKKISH XIX - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

START MONTAGE. Quick shots of travel across the planet.

- The trio skipping on skulls and bones that jut out of a bubbling pit of acid.

- They reach an impenetrable rock wall. Chops' hands retract and turn into two egg beaters, which <WHIRR> like drills. He drills the outline of a door into the rock, which falls and creates a way through.

- Pepper going to pet an adorable CAT-LIKE ALIEN that transforms into a HULKING BEAR-LIKE BEAST. It stands up on two legs and raises its claws, when it is grabbed by a GIANT HAWK-LIKE ALIEN that flies away.

EXT. BRAKKISH XIX - SWAMP

The trio wade through a murky swamp, between trees shrouded in vines.

CHOPS
How much longer? My feet hurt!

PEPPER
Chops, you can't even feel pain.

CHOPS
Wrong! I downloaded a pain program to increase my complaining efficiency.

BLIP
We've been waddling around this giant fart for a zillion space years! When are we gonna find some--

The trio <GASP>, huddle together, and point off screen.

PEPPER/CHOPS/BLIP
Polychromatic space onions!

We see a cave with a rainbow glow. Camera stays still as the crew runs through the swamp toward the cave. A vine on a tree opens its many eyes, which all watch the crew. <OMINOUS MUSIC> plays.

INT. BRAKKISH XIX - CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The gang walks into the damp cave. Bright rainbow onion stalks stick out of the ceiling.

CHOPS
There they are!

BLIP
Pretty colors!

CHOPS
And as we all know, things taste better when they're brightly colored.

PEPPER
 Lemme fire up the ol' jet pack and
 I'll snag 'em in no time.

CHOPS
 What a find, Pep!

Pepper puts her thumb on her jet pack throttle.

BLIP
 (soft)
 Yeah. Mission accomplished. Without
 my help.

Pepper looks over to Blip, who looks down and low on
 confidence. She offers a sympathetic smile.

PEPPER
 Uh-oh! Looks like I'm light on
 juice. Why don't you do the honors
 Blip?

Blip perks up.

BLIP
 Really really really?

Pepper nods. Blip salutes and slithers up to the ceiling. He
 plucks an onion and throws it down to Chops, who extends a
 compartment out of his chest and catches it.

CHOPS/BLIP/PEPPER
 Woo!

Blip giddily grabs some more onions, slithering across the
 ceiling and chucking onions down below.

BLIP
 <GIGGLES>! This is sweet! Or,
 whatever flavor onions are!

Chops runs to and fro, struggling to catch all the onions.

PEPPER
 Okay, bud... I think we got enough!

Blip continues to pull down onions, even faster than before.

CHOPS
 Blip, I can't believe I'm saying
 this, but I'm full!

PEPPER

Let's bounce, Blip! This cave smells like a rotten egg farted.

BLIP

Aw, c'mon! You can never have too many onions!

Blip yanks an onion stalk that doesn't come out. Confused, he pulls it again. It suddenly retracts into the cave ceiling.

BLIP (CONT'D)

Uh...

EXT. BRAKKISH XIX - CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Outside, we see two eye stalks (that look like the onion stalks) protrude from the top of the cave. They blink open, and look angry.

INT. BRAKKISH XIX - CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Inside, Pepper, Blip, and Chops look at each other. No one dares to move. Beat.

BLIP/PEPPER

Maybe nothing bad will happen!/
Don't say nothing bad will happen.

ONION MONSTER

<ROAR>!!!

A horrible screeching knocks Chops to the floor. Pepper falls on top of him. Blip falls from the ceiling on top of them, shaping himself so there's a Pepper-shaped hole, preventing his friends from getting sticky.

EXT. BRAKKISH XIX - CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The "cave" stands up, revealing to be a giant ONION MONSTER.

ONION MONSTER

<ROAR>!!!

It tilts its head back. Blip, Chops, and Pepper plummet toward the back of its mouth. They <SCREAM>!

CHOPS

I always knew I'd die in a giant onion monster's mouth!

PEPPER
Not today! Grab on!

Blip and Chops cling on to Pepper for dear life. She activates her jetpack and flies out of the monster's mouth, just as its jaw <SNAPS> shut.

Pepper flies above the swamp, zig-zagging as more ONION MONSTERS leap out of the murky water, trying to eat our heroes. Pepper spots the Hawk-like Alien, still carrying the Bear-like Beast up ahead.

PEPPER (CONT'D)
Chops! Spice blast!

Chops' hand attachment retracts, and turns into a pepper mill. He blasts a puff of red spice powder at the Hawk.

CHOPS
Bam!

The Hawk <SNEEZES>, releasing the Bear. It lands in one of the Giant Onion Monster's mouth. <GULP>! The Monster <BURPS> satisfied. Two Giant Onion Monsters are still in pursuit.

PEPPER
Blip! Make 'em slip!

Blip lets go of Pepper and forms a puddle on the ground. One of the Onion Monsters slips and slides toward a ramp-shaped rock. It's launched high into the sky and disappears with a <TWINKLE>. Blip flies back to Pepper, who spots the ship.

PEPPER (CONT'D)
There's the ship, dead ahead!

Her jet pack <SPUTTERS>. Pepper hangs in the air, barely able to move.

CHOPS
Speaking of dead...

<THWAP>! The Onion Monster grabs Pepper and Chops. Blip squeezes through its grasp and flies to the ship, then looks back at his friends.

PEPPER
(strained)
Blip...help!

Blip, frozen in panic, looks back at the ship, then at Pepper, then at the ship. He darts inside the ship.

PEPPER (CONT'D)

Great.

The Onion Monster holds Pepper and Chops close, licking its lips. It puts on a bib as it starts salivating.

PEPPER (CONT'D)

Chops, it's been an honor working with you.

CHOPS

Maybe I shouldn't have downloaded that pain program.

Pepper and Chops close their eyes, accepting their fate. The Onion Monster leans its head back and holds them over its open mouth.

BLIP (O.S.)

ORDER UP!

Everyone looks over to see Blip flying in, carrying a big bowl of soup.

PEPPER/CHOPS/ONION MONSTER

Huh?/<HUH?>

BLIP

Presenting the Blip Stink Slop!

He tilts the bowl to reveal the rainbow onions.

BLIP (CONT'D)

Now with Polychromatic Astro-Onions! Waaay tastier than humans and robots!

PEPPER

Are you sure this will work?!

Blip flies close to Pepper.

BLIP

A good chef never wonders, they find out.

Pepper smiles. Blip pours the soup into the Onion Monster's mouth.

BLIP (CONT'D)

Bon appetit!

The Onion Monster <GULPS> the soup, then <SMACKS ITS LIPS> pensively. Pepper, Blip, and Chops look on for a beat.

ONION MONSTER

Mmmmm!

Satisfied, the Onion Monster puts Pepper and Chops down.

PEPPER/BLIP/CHOPS
Hooray for not getting eaten!

They all hug!

PEPPER
You did it, Blip! Your cooking
saved the day!

Blip whips out another bowl of soup.

BLIP
Care to try?

Pepper and Chops <SLURP> a spoonful. They light up.

PEPPER
That's some super soup!

Chops has already finished the bowl.

CHOPS
Got any more?

BLIP
No, but luckily I have a couple of
buds to help make a new batch!

CHOPS
Who?

Pepper elbows him.

EXT. OMNOMEDA - FOOD COURT

Back on Omnameda, Buugi and Wuugi are waiting at the counter.
Pepper hands them two bowls of soup.

PEPPER
Sorry for the wait, friends. Just
had this recipe improved by a true
noodle master.

Buugi and Wuugi scarf down the soup.

BUUGI
I sense a higher force in this bowl
of soup.

WUUGI

Hey everyone! This nom-nom's the
bomb bomb!

A LARGE CROWD gathers around, holding up money.

LARGE CROWD

(walla)

Hey I want some!/ Gimme gimme!/
I'll take ten! No! Twenty!

Pepper turns to Blip.

PEPPER

Intergalactic Noodles is on the
map! And it's all thanks to...

PEPPER/BLIP/CHOPS

The Blip Stink Slop!

They all high five. Beat.

PEPPER

We gotta think of a new name.

BLIP/CHOPS

Yeah, not my best./ Oh absolutely.

END.