Fish to Mars

Libretto

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The science conference
Scene 1

Song: Outrage

Prologue on screen

Menneskene har et desperat behov for mineraler for å opprettholde det enorme konsumet av høyt teknologi. Etter å ha utarmet jorden har menneskene gått løs på planeten Mars, men arbeidsforholdene der oppe er livsfarlige og et opprør er på gang.

*People have a desperate need for minerals to maintain the enormous consumption of high technology. After depleting the Earth, humans have started on the planet Mars, but the working conditions up there are deadly and a rebellion is underway.*

SIGN: 1st Interplanetary UN Gene-Tech Summit

QUEEN BITCH DRAGON TROLL FROM HELL:
Welcome to the First Interplanetary UN Gene-Tech Summit. We have the pleasure of introducing our keynote speaker, won't you please welcome Dr Lola Larsen,

LOLA
This little lungfish is the computer of the future. In its genes we can store an unbelievable amount of digital data.

Some of you may find this disturbing.~

LOLA, JAMES, JACKIE
Long ago, before we were here, Late sleepers came spreading DNA

ARNOLDX
I'm warning you, pathetic creeps so destructible, irradiating sequences I'm protecting to survive and thrive

LOLA, JACKIE, JAMES
To thrive

ARNOLDX
To survive

LOLA, JACKIE, JAMES
To survive, Devonian age of fishes, Four hundred, Million years ago

ARNOLDX
You are not the master race, this is not the final place, A galaxy of future homes, you can build them in your bones

LOLA
We are not the master race, this is not the final place, A galaxy of future homes, you can build them in your bones

JACKIE, JAMES
Aqua vita, Aqua vita
ARNOLDX
The secrets of our universe are hidden in the Greeter's cells

LOLA
You look to me and biology to save your Martian Colony, New humans mutate adapt and relate like our pioneer ArnoldX

JESUS JOSEFSEN (loud and confident)
Wow. Wow. Wow. Why don't you give her a round of applause? I feel like I am disturbing Mary in the stable. Can I be a wiseman bringing gifts? What about a ticket, a ticket to Mars?

JAMES and JACKIE
He is a wiseman bringing you gifts? a ticket to Mars? He is a wiseman bringing you gifts? a ticket to Mars?

LOLA
Mars is a dying space, a corporate ego-place where you and your people exploit our race. Who are you anyway, coming on my stage without telling your name? Let's hear it!

JAMES and JACKIE
He is a wiseman bringing you gifts? a ticket to Mars?

JESUS
I am Jesus Josefsten, leading the M-I-S the Martian Initiative, financing the place. I have always been a fan of yours it’s people like you we need, experienced explorers. You should bring your little friend.

LOLA
This guy doesn’t travel business class, no corporate logos on his skin. He's got the world's data embedded in his genes stable in DNA. Leave my stage!

JESUS (dismayed)
The Mars colony is dying, there are deformations all over. You are right, he may hold the key to where these mutations are coming from, to where these mutations are coming from.

LOLA
If you had listened you would know what people need to survive on that planet of yours. You didn’t believe me when I sent you my report saying, THIS is your key to survival. If you had read his DNA by now the mutations would not be a threat. A biocomputer could sniff out an attack - Fish to Mars now?? What has changed?

JESUS
HE FOUND SOMETHING

LOLA
Arnold X?

JESUS
HE FOUND SOMETHING
LOLA
So the video was correct?

JESUS
HE FOUND SOMETHING

LOLA
Has he send you a test?

JESUS
He found something
When you are faced with a choice for the future of your race, you can rage with your voice
But your actions leave a trace

JACKIE, JAMES
The Martian lives on and we carry on this corporate game  The Martian lives on
and we carry on this corporate game - He found something! He found something!

Song: *Walk on Water*
LOLA (alone with lungfish, her friend)
It’s the third time I wake this night walk to the bathroom, restless mind I need, a glass of
water. Swallow it down, check my phone, It’s the feeling of never being satisfied It’s a
turmoil that pulls me down. But like you I wake in the middle of the night wondering what, to
do with my life and what to become? and I fold my hands and pray to my god and wish
tomorrow never comes or at least wait for a day,
Cause I’ m not ready to walk on water I'm not ready for it yet I’ m not ready to walk on water
I'm not ready for it  oh walk on water yeahhh walk on water
But like you I wake in the middle of the night wondering what, to do with my life and what
to become? and I fold my hands and pray to my god and wish tomorrow never comes or at
least wait for a day,
Till I'm ready to walk on water Till I'm ready to walk Till I'm ready to walk on water Till I’m
ready to walk I Think I'm ready now.

MIS Headquarters Recruitment office

Scene 2

Song: *Sign Up*
JACKIE, JESUS, JAMES
Sign up! Sign up! Sign up for the killer tour! Sign up for the glory days! Make a place in
history! Make them scream your name! Sign up!

JAMES
Don’t bother if it’s in a dome (Sign up!) Don’t bother if it’s dark and cold (Sign up!), Come
use your PhD! Sign up for science fame!

JESUS, JACKIE, JAMES
You’ll be leaving in the evening, It’s not a short trip – how to pack your bags?
You’ll be flying live on TV. No show if we chuck our guts
You’ll never wanna come home, never be alone, On this flight to Mars

(SIGN UP flashes on screen)
ALL
Sign up for the killer tour! Sign up for the glory days! Make a place in history! Make them scream your name! Sign up for the killer tour! Sign up for the glory days! Make a place in history! Make them scream your name!

JESUS
Lola be the biggest hit, Our queen in the Martian mist

ALL
Ruling Mars Colony, Be all we want to be! Lola! Say it one more time Lola! Tell us of your find! This rock makes history, Make my engine scream!

JESUS, JACKIE, JAMES
We’ll be leaving in the evening, It’s not a short trip – how to pack our bags? We’ll be flying live on TV, No show if we chuck our guts, we’ll never wanna come home, never be alone, on a flight to Mars

Sign up for the killer tour! Sign up for the glory days! Make a place in history! Make them scream my name! Sign up!

Song: Fossil overture
FISHCORT
Dreams became reality the siren song of stars, Space X, Mars One, Virgin Interplanetary Stocks rose to the sky higher than foolishness, Vanity of humanity, melting ice caps, Terraforming, Ancient rhymes from Devonian times, a riddle in rock to unlock.

LOLA
Oh! A fossil of a lungfish!

FISHCOURT
With greetings from Arnold X!

LOLA
I thought you guys hated him for stopping you?

FISHCORT
He maybe a little weird But you know HE FOUND SOMETHING!

JESUS (singing)
You are right, it may be the key to where these mutations are coming from

FISHCORT (partly singing, pulls out pipette)
The key is CRISPR technology! and a little bit of lungfish

LOLA (holding onto her lungfish)
It won’t save you

FISHCORT
It could save ArnoldX. I read your report about the DNA- A FORTUNE FOR US ALL!

JESUS
You were right all along

JAMES, JACKIE
He’s a wiseman bringing you gifts, Your ticket to Mars!

LOLA
Arnold? He didn't tell me. HE FOUND SOMETHING!

On the R/V Gadfly spaceship

Scene 3

Music: Take-off
Everyone wakes except LOLA.

Song: Metal & Meat
JAMES
Have you done all your preparations, boy? We’re in an emergency! Emergency!

JACKIE
How would an alien greet us?

JAMES
How would an alien greet us? Shake off your dreams and join us! What if Arnold is there?

FISHCORT
Already dead!

JACKIE
See those stars - Are we on Mars?

JAMES
We’re not that far

JACKIE
Still she sleeps, What is her fate?

JAMES
It’s time to wake!

FISHCORT
There’s so much more, It’s a science war, Who will score Fish to Mars?

JAMES
I got 42 postdocs and No social perks. Who is this Lola? Who is this girl? When does she work? Born in Norway Made her way Highly educated And highly overpaid!

JACKIE
Oh my god, don’t treat her like a fool, If we want success on Mars She’s our living tool.

JACKIE
Her deep sleep is given by her genes, Engineering, gene-gineering, Just biology Toxic dreams in hydrothermal vents
Is Arnold really still the same? Is the creature safe?

   JAMES
Don’t wake the sleeping brat

   FISHCORT
She gets the glory and I get the work, I slaughter, I slaughter

   JAMES
Fish or Arnold XXXXXXXX!

   FISHCORT
Biotechnology Healing the broken shell, Our mission still on track  
But oo a little tiny bit of DNA from Mars, Synthetic secrets copied endlessly in time, It would  
look so good for me.  
But there would be no point without the creature’s cells, Seeing Jackie clinging like she has  
no friends, Or a postdoc in the same show, who cares? It’s all about the calibration…..

   JAMES
I love this cold decision from This hot lady

   FISHCORT
You definitely got a job when we get back to Earth.

   Song: High Heel Bomb
   JAMES
She’s such a lady, She’s such a baby, She’s all I need, More than a captain, She captured my  
mind, Watch me jump to my feet To this one-leg beat  
Oooh she’s such a perfect baby Ooo my favorite kind of lady  
She’s all I need, A black leather queen, Fishcort, you’re my high heel bomb

   FISHCORT
I gotta warn you I might be hot But cold as ice When I’m on top So watch your hand When  
I’m in command This steaming queen will burn you Pretty pretty boy

   JACKIE
Ooo she’s such a perfect baby Ooo my favorite kind of lady All we need Is adrenalin. This  
black leather queen Needs a high heel bomb

   ALL
Ooo she’s such a perfect baby Ooo my favorite kind of lady She’s all we need On this RV  
This black leather queen Is a high heel bomb

   JAMES
And I’m gonna serve her
RECORDED VOICE: “Landing in 30 seconds. Please secure all loose objects. Welcome to Cyano City. Enjoy your stay on Mars.”

**Cyano City**

**Scene 4**

*Song: Cyano song*

LOLA  
Look at what this fame has brought us, Dust and dirt for dreams, Ad-u-la-tion and mu-ta-tion  
Nothing’s what it seems  
Nothing so sacred nothing so real As empty destiny  
Life has taken many turns and now this turn takes me

PÅL  
Can you heal me, hold me, help me Leave this biosphere?

ALL  
You’re the last one, Fading fast one On this mining frontier

LOLA  
Nothing so tragic nothing so real As empty destiny

JAMES  
Has something happened? is something lost? There’s a smell in the air

LOLA, JACKIE, JAMES,  
Cyano cyano one-celled factory Cultured in these greenhouse walls Air for a century

FISHCORT  
Nothing so toxic nothing so old As pro-ter-o-zo-ic cells, Sym-bi-o-sis and psy-cho-sis , Together they can meld.

PÅL  
(coughs)

JAMES  
Let him breathe, carefully, He will show the discovery

ARNOLD X (from offstage)  
A Black smoker A black smoker

PÅL (scared)  
It’s where it sleeps, It’s where it feeds

LOLA  
We brought the key to unlock

ARNOLD X  
A Black Smoker A Black Smoker

JACKIE (to Pål)
Show us the way, show us the way, No time to sleep- Don’t fade away

ALL
Cyano dreams Got a hold of me, In the name of science

PÅL
You should pack up and leave

JACKIE
Leave? What do you mean by Leave?

FISHCORT
The show is just begun, The rattle and the hum, mission stage one and the coward wants to run?

PÅL
You don’t know fear, He’s hiding there, I’ve felt his stare In a dark nightmare

JAMES
Is he DEAD OR ALIVE?

ALL
In the name of science We signed up for this. We go to that Toro dome Your cradle of fear!

JACKIE
To see if Arnold is there!

JAMES
You should not fear Coz I am here Brave to the bone Not a science clown Dig me down I’ll find you a town With traffic lights In neon nights

LOLA
Is he Dead or alive?

ALL
DEAD OR ALIVE?
In the name of science We signed up for this Let’s go to the Toro dome You lead us down Down down down down

The Walk of Extremophiles
Scene 5

PÅL
This is it....!

LOLA
This looks like the source of a fossil Your fossil is fake

FISHCORT
WHAT? Nonsense
LOLA
You will regret this. Let’s find Arnold X

FISHCORT
Stop! I am in command here.

LOLA
Listen, you fool, He broke your rules he ran to the cave to survive and thrive

FISHCORT
You are not the master race, this is not the final place A galaxy of future life, I will build them with your bones

LOLA
The secrets of our universe are hidden in the creature’s cells
That’s why you want the lungfish? You don’t care about ArnoldX?

LOLA (to Pål)
Thank you, I’ll take it from here. James! Jackie! Let’s go!

LOLA, JAMES, JACKIE
Blood red star, The warring god of Mars Elements and molecules buried underground, Grim and cold Hostile to your soul But melted like a human heart May come to be your home Vastitas borealis Vastitas borealis

LOLA
Turn off your lights

JACKIE
WOW! How can this be?

LOLA
Bioluminescence! Light from a living source. Take out the lungfish, Jackie!

JACKIE
Ok

LOLA
Let’s start the conversation!

JAMES
Whoops!

LOLA
Keep calm. Everybody keep calm.

JAMES
HE FOUND SOMETHING...

ARNOLDX
I told you not to come!
**Song: The Walk of Extremophiles**

**ARNOLDX**

Knowing the secret
Crushing my spirit
Feeling the tug of mutations in blood
It crawls in my mind, makes me divine,
We crossed a line, Eternal in time,
A gathering storm
People hold on, Revolt, revolt
We walk as Exiles through worlds of Extremophiles, Revolt! Revolt!

A decade ago I came to this dome
I signed up like you on the MIS show
Lies and deceit, We flew with the fleet, Trusted in Jesus and mining machines. REVOLT! REVOLT!

**JAMES**

We're overwhelmed by the story you tell
We signed up like you Not knowing the truth
Our guide is gone the lungfish went on, Me, Jackie and Lola Under Fishcort's command

**ARNOLDX**

Fishcort?
I obey The Greeter Lord of water,
Bites in the night, I obey the Late Sleeper,
More than a fossil It’s still alive

**JACKIE**

Alive?

**LOLA**

You found something?

**ARNOLDX (sung)**

A hydrothermal vent where all life begins

**LOLA (pushes away James)**

In the name of science I signed up for this I will go to the Toro dome and lower me down
Down down down down

**Song: Toro Dome**

**FISHCORT**

Is it new, is it old? Is it full of gold? Toro toro loco quorom quorom loco deos vitam vita
Gloria, Aurum, ferum, serum, jorum,forum solum habemus spectare Tartarus
A goldmine to exploit, fortune for us all

**JAMES**

A fortune for us all

**FISHCORT**

I may fall in love But you fell for it all one day you’ll get old Immortals need no soul

**ARNOLDX**

This is the devil’s call Turn turn, while there’s time to turn just the creature’s touch may doom the Earth

**FISHCORT**

Toxic, toxic talking nonsense nonsense, we are standing on the riches of humankind
ARNOLDX
Listen to yourself, you are under the Martian spell

FISHCORT
A fortune for us all! I may fall in love But you fell for it all One day you’ll get old Immortals need no soul

ARNOLD X
JESUS, CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

THE FINAL FISH
Scene 6

Song: When the vault opens

JESUS
When you stand over the cave you must know deep down inside there is a place there is a space where the science has no name you must greet what you meet though this cave can be your grave

FISHCORT, JAMES, JACKIE
The Martians live on! We carry on this corporate game, The Martians live on! We carry on this corporate game

JESUS
When the vault opens

FISHCORT, JACKIE, JAMES
When the vault opens

JESUS
When the vault opens

FISHCORT, JACKIE, JAMES
When the vault opens

ARNOLD X
When the vault opens!

JESUS
This is why I gave her a ticket to Mars and believed in her science all the time This is why I gave her an expedition This is the image I dreamed of seeing my Martian Madonna. I have loved Lola all my life! Maybe now she will understand me and my corporation, we mean no harm

FISHCORT
Make acquaintance with me I was your leather queen I made you believe in the Martian Dream. You may be richest on Earth But I am queen of this world If you want some returns Madonna must burn

JESUS
Ancient rhymes From Devonian times a riddle in rock to unlock
ARNOLDX
If you want to Meet the Greeter Genetic keeper Say hello to my little friend

JACKIE, JESUS, JAMES
If you want to Meet the Greeter Genetic keeper Say hello to my little friend

JAMES, JACKIE
Shut up shut up shut up you crazy Fishcort Shut up shut up shut up you crazy Fishcort

ARNOLDX
I was here first I taste your thirst The ego state of mind I know your kind
This ecoworld has its own terms It’s the end of the line for your fossil mind

JESUS
Your ancient rhymes and Devonian times Your riddle in rock

ARNOLD X
It was faked and fucked

ALL
If you want to Meet the Greeter Genetic keeper Say hello to my little friend
If you want to Meet the Greeter Genetic keeper

ARNOLD X
Say hello to my little friend

*music: Outrage*

ARNOLD X
Outrage! Outrage!

*Song: Have I sinned?*

FISHCORT
And yet I have this feeling Unsure and slowly creeping My measure of success May leave an awful mess

JESUS
You made a riddle in rock to unlock Ancient rhymes from Devonian times
You made a riddle in rock to unlock Ancient rhymes from Devonian times

JAMES, ARNOLD X, JESUS
You made a riddle in rock

FISHCORT
Have I sinned? Have I failed Have I broken your grail? Have I sinned? Have I failed? Have I sinned? Have I failed?

JESUS
In retrospect I see it My wish to own the Greeter his DNA would be our way to greater fame
And yet I have this feeling Unsure and slowly creeping My measure of success May leave an awful mess

FISHCORT
Have I sinned? Have I failed? Have I broken the grail?

ALL
You made a riddle in rock to unlock Ancient rhymes from Devonian times

FISHCORT & JESUS
Have I sinned? Have I failed? Have I sinned? Have I failed?

*Song: The Late Sleepers*

LOLA
Late long sleepers Heroes in the dark Like the ancient sailors on crusade to Mars
Somewhere on their Path to knowledge Millenia of time Changed an ancient shore
Long before Mankind.
Will they wake when we arrive? Will they rise and will they hide? Will we fight and will they die? The late long sleepers
Will they wake when we arrive? Will they rise and will they hide? Will we fight and will they die? The late long sleepers

FISHCORT
la la la la Lungfish gone on before us Lalala Lungfish gone on before us

LOLA
They left Greeters Sleep until we’re nigh, Left to find among us A future brighter light.
Somewhere on their path to knowledge Millennia of time Changed an ancient shore
Long before mankind
Will they wake when we arrive? Will they rise and will we hide? Will they sleep or will they die? The sleeping Greeter?

ALL
Will they wake when we arrive? Will they rise and will we hide? Will they sleep or will they die? The sleeping Greeter! And drop by drop the ice caps melting underground Gamma radiation chases life to caves unfound. Will they wake when we arrive? Will they rise and will we hide? Will they fight or will they die? The late long sleeper

ALL
There is no way out Feeling there’s no doubt
Life must adore us Like no one before us Time will defend us
Cause we are the Martians We are the Martians NOW!
There’s so much more, It’s a science war! Who will score Fish to

FISHCORT
Mars?

THE END