

X

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## **CHARACTERS**

Dr. Astro Teller

John Patrick Crown

Sanjay Preet

Janet Trip

## **SETTING**

Google's Moonshot Factory, Present

*Lights fade to darkness.*

*Together, in the dark we hear swelling music and the unmistakable voice of JFK.*

**We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we're willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone and one we intend to win.**

*Lights Up.*

*Two people stand center with lanyards around their necks.*

*They look around in amazement.*

**SANJAY**

Are you also here for-

**JOHN PATRICK**

The job interview? Yea.

**SANJAY**

I heard the third round is the final round before they choose.

**JOHN PATRICK**

I've heard that too.

*Janet enters, hurriedly.*

**JANET**

Are you two here for the job interview?

*They nod. Out of nowhere, a man with male patterned baldness*

*but shockingly a luxurious, low-slung ponytail*

*enters on a razor scooter.*

**ASTRO**

Hey Gang.

Astro. Astro Teller.

*Astro breaks on his scooter.*

*It's instantly cleared away by an anonymous person with balletic grace.*

**ASTRO**

Tech cliché.

But...cliché's are clichés for a reason.

Pickles?

*From somewhere totally unexpected,  
a tiny robot named Pickles enters the room.*

Did you show these guys the self-driving cars on the way in?

**PICKLES**

Yes.

**ASTRO**

Great.

Thank you very much Pickles.

**PICKLES**

It is my pleasure.

Can I help you with anything else?

**ASTRO**

Not right now.

*Pickles exits.*

**SANJAY**

The driverless cars- were those part of the Waymo project?

**ASTRO**

They were. Yes. Good.

You know about it. Good.

*Astro writes something in a little notebook.*

We're still in prototype phase but we're driving about 10,000 miles of test road a day so it's coming along faster than anyone could've imagined.

Oh God. Look at me. I'm nerding out already!

First and foremost, you've made it.

Welcome into the inner sanctum.

Of X.

Google's Moonshot Factory.

What should I tell you?

Well, the first thing everyone wants to know about is MicroKitchen.

Yes, they are amazing.

And yes, they are an exact replica of the MicroKitchens at Google HQ.

They're stocked all day with food, snacks and drinks available to our X workers for free.

**JANET**

What?

**ASTRO**

Soda, La Croix, Iced Tea, Matcha, Latte's, full espresso bar. You name it we've got it.

And we cater to every kind of dietary needs- gluten free, vegan, vegetarian, lactose-intolerant, nut allergies- we have fuel for every type of tank.

Sandwiches, salads, candy, cookies, pastries, energy bars, dried fruit, fresh fruit-

**JANET**

Ok.

**ASTRO**

-You get the idea.

These work spaces are constantly adapting to the needs of our projects.

You can see some prototypes over there for our new Smart Contact Lens project.

**SANJAY**

What's it gonna do?

**ASTRO**

Did Pickles give you an NDA when you walked in?

*They kind of look at him like...no?*

Let's just say DIABETICS...

Are going to LOVE it.

But wrapping up on the sexy stuff...

Um, nap rooms. Yes.

Ping Pong. Yes.

Happy Hour. Yes.

Casual Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Nobody cares what you wear as long as you're comfortable.

Dave wears an adult onesie most days.

*Genuinely asking.*

Is that a furry thing?

*No response.*

So what do we do here at the Moonshot Factory?

Well, It's where we shoot for the moon.

Where we solve the world's largest problems in the most radical and sustainable way we can think of.

We are looking for Invention- scientists, engineers, and technological minds that can come up with the breakthroughs we'll need to solve these problems.

We are also looking for Innovators.

People that can help find a commercial market for these inventions and connect them with the consumer.

We think you may be those people. Our people.

So...who the hell are you?

*Astro laughs.*

**JOHN PATRICK**

... I'm John Patrick.

Crown?

I'm, uh, Mack's son.

**ASTRO**

You're kidding.

Mack Crown, that's a blast from the past.

How is he?

**JANET**

Good, good.

He's thinking about retiring.

**ASTRO**

Well, it's about time.

Next-

**SANJAY**

I'm Sanjay.

Preet.

**ASTRO**

Sanjay. Great. And-

**JANET**

*(Quietly)*

janet

**ASTRO**

Janis?

**JANET**

Janet.

Like Jackson.

If you're nasty.

*The men sort of look blankly.*

**ASTRO**

Janet.

**JANET**

Yes.

**ASTRO**

Where'd you all go to school? What'd you study?

**SANJAY**

I went to Stanford

**ASTRO**

My alma Mater

**SANJAY**

I know. And I actually *also* studied computer science.

**ASTRO**

Fantastic. It's a brilliant program.

**SANJAY**

It really is.

**ASTRO**

I'm sure it's changed a lot but-

**SANJAY**

But so has the world.

**ASTRO**

Indeed.

*Astro writes down a note again in his little notebook.*

**ASTRO**

John Patrick-

**JOHN PATRICK**

MIT

**ASTRO**

Like father, like son.

**JOHN PATRICK**



Right. I studied engineering and computer sciences but I did one up him by getting an MBA.

**ASTRO**

From?

**JOHN PATRICK**

Wharton.

So you come down on both sides of this thing, huh?

*John Patrick nods.*

Science and biz. Good. Okay.

*Astro writes down a note again in his little notebook.*

**JANET**

I also applied to MIT and Stamford.

But I chose to go to Oakton Community College.

**ASTRO**

Why's that?

**JANET**

Oh, I didn't get into those other schools.

But it wasn't for lack of trying.

I applied to different schools every year for my entire time at Oakton but in the end I was just like fuck it.

I mean- screw it.

I finished in three years at the top of my class-

**ASTRO**

What'd you study?

**JANET**

Philosophy.

But I love robotics.

I did some course work at University of Chicago-

**ASTRO**

But you didn't complete your Masters?

**JANET**

I did not.

But I did complete my pregnancy.

**ASTRO**

Oh. Okay.

**JANET**

So, in terms of robotics, I'm mostly self-taught.

**ASTRO**

Great.

*Pickles re-enters. He's sort of lost.*

Hey Pickles, what's goin on little buddy?

**PICKLES**

We're out of KIND Bars.

We need more KIND Bars.

**ASTRO**

Okay, Pal. Why don't you order some more?

**PICKLES**

Oh.

Stupid pickles.

Why didn't I think of that?

**ASTRO**

Because you don't have a brain squirt.

**PICKLES**

Alexa?

Alexa?

**ASTRO**

She's right over there little guy.

*Pickles Exits.*

Robots talkin to robots.

WHAT A WORLD!

Okay, lightning round.

Janet, we'll start with you.

What are your goals for the future?

**JANET**

To make the world a better place.

For my daughter.

Who just turned three.

So also she's in Pre-K right now, which means I have the freedom to be away from home and really- get out there- and...use technology to solve big problems.

**ASTRO**

John Patrick-

Why should we hire you?

**JOHN PATRICK**

I'm beyond qualified for the job.

Like I mentioned, I think of invention and innovation at the same time so I can be constructing a marketing campaign in my mind as I'm building.

**ASTRO**

Sanjay- Why do you want to work here?

**SANJAY**

This is my dream.

I've been building things and putting out new inventions into the world since I was a kid. I...I'm a huge fan of yours.

**ASTRO**

Flattery will get you everywhere Sanjay.

**SANJAY**

But seriously- I have both of your books.

I've followed your work since BodyMedia.

And I just...I think I'd be really good here.

I'm hard working. I'm curious. I will not give up.

I...my whole life has been leading up to this.

**ASTRO**

Okay. Thank you all for that.

And the final question I have for you before you leave is this....It's very serious.

*He laughs.*

If I want you to get a monkey on a pedestal reciting the entire Shakespearean cannon, where do you start?

Sanjay-

**SANJAY**

...um...I would start....I would start with the pedestal. I mentioned my background in engineering and it would be my natural inclination to start with the building side of things. And I guess it would be important that the monkey stays still so we'd work on balance, we'd work on a harness potentially, somehow to stabilize the monkey.

**ASTRO**

John Patrick?

**JOSH**

I think a computer or tablet is probably the best way to get all of Shakespeare's work into one place. And since we're here for technology, to solve the world's problems with technology, I think I'd start there. So I'd probably devise some kind of program that allows you to access Shakespeare's unabridged works and sift through it easily.

**ASTRO**

Janet?

**JANET**

...

I'd, um-

I would

start with

getting the monkey to read.

**ASTRO**

How?

**JANET**

Well, that's what we'd have to figure out next.

But...that's really the hardest part of the problem.

So I'd start there.

*Astro looks down and nods meaningfully.*

*He folds his hands almost as if in prayer and rocks back and forth.*

*It's silent for a moment and everyone's like- What's happening?*

*Pickles arrives.*

**PICKLES**

Kind Bars are en route.

**ASTRO**

Good work kiddo.

Pickles will collect your lanyards on your way out and we will be sure to let you all know within the week.

*They turn to leave.*

Janet?

Can I hold you back for one minute?

**JANET**

Uh, sure?

*John Patrick and Sanjay exit with Pickles.*

**ASTRO**

How soon can you start?

**JANET**

What?

**ASTRO**

How soon can you start working here?

**JANET**

*She is exstatic and bewildered.*

I-

Um-

...As soon my salary is negotiated.

**ASTRO**

Good. Good answer.

Why don't we get started on that tomorrow?

**JANET**

That sounds great.

Wow.

Wow.

*Why?*

**ASTRO**

What?

**JANET**

*Why Me?*

**ASTRO**

Anyone can build a pedestal or construct a computer program Janet.

I'm looking for the people who start with the monkey.

Welcome to X.

**BLACKOUT**