

## EPISODE 4/ CHAPTER 4 “ DIRECTIVE BETA FIVE”

NARRATOR           Vite-0-pep presents the Spaceship Zero Adventure Hour.

### Music

NARRATOR           Chapter four: “Directive Beta Five”. In our last episode, the crew of Spaceship Zero was coming to terms with the accidental destruction of the universe, and the creation of a second Big Bang, caused by Professor Ashton’s Better-Than-Light Drive. After formulating a plan to search for a new Earth, mysterious and potentially deadly space particles flooded the ship. With the rest of the crew safely in the Deconstitutor Unit, Captain Stackhouse was unable to safeguard the ship, and passed out.

### Music

### SFX reconstitution sequence

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE: (coming to)  
                          Woah... robot, what’s going on?

ROBOT            Good morning Pro-pro-professor Ashton. Cap-cap-captain Stackhouse was rendered inert and I placed him into the Deconstitutor. Then I repaired the Bendall Field. The mystery particles have been purged from the vessel.

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE:  
                          Oh I feel like I’ve got the Irish flu. Wait, Robot, did you call me Professor Ashton?

ROBOT            Affirmative, Professor. As per Directive Beta Five, I have reconstituted you.

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE:  
                          Directive Beta Five? What are you talking about you stupid tin monkey? I’m Gearbox, not Ashton. Did somebody pour water on that punch card calculator you call a brain? Hey, wait a tick...what’s wrong with my hands...and my body...and my voice!? Great jumping space catfish! I AM Professor Ashton!? Or that

is...my mind is in his body!

ROBOT        This does not compute

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE:

      You said it. I had a feeling about that darn shrinkydink box but this is worse than I imagined! I can't go through life with that egghead's ancient flabby body. Next time I hit the sack I'm likely to wake up dead from old age! By the moons of Jupiter I can already feel the arthritis kicking in!

ROBOT        Perhaps I could administer a sedative,  
Pro-pro-professor

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE:

      Get your rusty clamps away from me, you brass behemoth! I'm gonna get to the bottom of this.

ROBOT        There is no need to resort to vulgarity, Suh-suh-sir.

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE:

      Ok Robot, you're right. Ol' Gearbox has got to keep his wits about him if we're gonna get through this. Let's check for errors in the deconstitution process.

SFX gearbox checks decon - Computer sounds

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE:

      Yup, my body is still in the deconstitor. With Ashton's marbles in it, no doubt. So you thought I was Ashton, eh Robot? And you deconstituted me instead of the Captain... Isn't that an interestin' turn of events? We'll deal with that soon enough, but first, let's get the Skipper out of this human jerky machine.

SFX reconstitution sequence

MENSA MIND/STACKHOUSE VOICE (confused, groggy)

      was ist los? Herr Ashton?

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE:

      Good grief. Let me guess, Miss Heidi Mensa?

MENSA MIND/STACKHOUSE VOICE

      Professor Ashton... would you fetch me my uniform

please? Hmm...I seem to have a bit of a cold in my throat. And also stubble. And man parts.

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE:

Sorry Miss Mensa, there's been a hiccup in the decon unit. Our minds have been all scrambled up in the damn thing. This is Ashton's body but you're talkin' to Gearbox. I thought I was deconstituting the Skipper.

MENSA MIND/STACKHOUSE VOICE.

Oh, I see. So I'm in Stackhouse's body now. Well then, as your commanding officer, I have a number of orders for you. The first of which is please to put some pants on.

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE:

Ok, lady, let's not get too comfy in these skins. The real Stackhouse and Ashton are still in there somewhere. Let's see who's in your body...

#### SFX reconstitution sequence

ASHTON MIND/HEIDI VOICE:

I say! What's all this then? I had the strangest dream that I was on a spaceship...

MENSA MIND/STACKHOUSE VOICE:

There's been a glitch in the deconstitutor - I assume I'm speaking to Professor Ashton?

ASHTON MIND/HEIDI VOICE:

Oh, what? Yes. Quite right Captain Stackhouse.

MENSA MIND/STACKHOUSE VOICE:

It's Heidi Mensa, actually. Here, put this on.

ASHTON MIND/HEIDI VOICE:

What did you say? Excuse me, this is a woman's uniform.

#### SFX reconstitution sequence

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE (groggily)

Unh! The space particles! The Bendall Field!

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE

It's okay, Skipper. The danger's passed. You passed out and Robot put you in the deconstitutor. The Bendall field is up and running.

MENSA MIND/STACKHOUSE VOICE:

Except now we have a new problem..

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

I assume it has something to do with the fact that I'm having a conversation with myself.

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE.

Deconstitutor accident. As you can see you've wearing my body. Miss Mensa is in your body and Ashton is in Mensa's body. My brain is Gearbox but I'm stuck with Ashton's withered husk.

ROBOT

Your uniforms, Suh-suh-sirs.

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

Thanks, Robot. What is ship's status?

ROBOT

All systems operational. Currently on estimated course to future Milky Way Galaxy, Muh-muh-mister Gearbox sir.

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

Well this is confusing. Which of you is Professor Ashton?

ASHTON MIND/HEIDI VOICE

Here, Captain

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

What's your take on this?

ASHTON MIND/HEIDI VOICE

Well now, let's see. The most feasible hypothesis is that the mysterious particles that permeated the vessel adversely affected the conversion matrix while we were being deconstituted. If I had been permitted to study the particles rather than being physically assaulted we wouldn't be in this

predicament.

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE

Ashton there's nothing I'd like better than another chance at popping your ventilator...but Mama Gearbox taught me better than hitting a broad.

ASHTON MIND/HEIDI VOICE            I say!

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

Until we get this thing sorted we'll just have to adapt. Ashton, I want you to check the decon...

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE (interrupting)

Uh Skipper, I need to see you and Robot right away. In private.

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

Very well, into the hallway here...

Sfx ship door opening, footsteps

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

What's this about, Ashton?

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE

Gearbox sir

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

Right, of course.

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE

Robot...

ROBOT            Yes Pro-pro-professor Ashton, sir.

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE

Please explain to us Directive Beta Five...

ROBOT            Directive Beta Five states that in the event of total crew deconstitution, this unit will make priority the reconstitution of Professor Cornelius Ashton when safe to do so.

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

What? That's counter to SpaceCorp protocol

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE

Exactly, sir. You should have been the first one that the robot reconstituted, but he thawed me out instead, thinking I was Ashton.

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

I see. Robot, what is the source of Directive Beta Five?

ROBOT

My apologies, Gearbox Suh-suh-sir, but you are not cleared for that data.

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE Let me try, Skipper. Robot, what is the source of Directive Beta Five?

ROBOT

Directive Beta Five was programmed by you, Pro-pro-professor.

GEARBOX MIND/ASHTON VOICE Well that's a cinch

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

Come on Ashton, er, Gearbox, let's find out what's going on with the real Ashton.

SFX door open

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

Professor Ashton! I need to talk with you

ASHTON MIND/MENSA VOICE

Ah just the man I wanted to see. I found something very interesting, come and take a look in the deconstitutor

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

Step away from the device, Mensa, er, I mean Ashton

MENSA MIND/STACKHOUSE VOICE

Captain, we've found another person deep in the matrix of the deconstitutor machine!

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

Another crew member?

ASHTON MIND/MENSA VOICE

Unknown, I can't unlock the personnel file for the subject. We'll have to deconstitute him to find out!

STACKHOUSE MIND/GEARBOX VOICE

Heidi! I mean Ashton! Don't press that button!

SFX reconstitution cycle

ASHTON MIND/MENSA VOICE

Whoops! Too late!

MUSIC Dramatic Music

NARRATOR

Who or what is the mystery being that's been suspended in the deconstitutor all this time? And how will the crew return their minds back into their original bodies? Tune in to next week's episode "Chapter 5: Which Who is What?", brought to you by VIT-O-PEP!