

CHAPTER NINE: "20 MINUTES OF OXYGEN"

NARRATOR. Vit-0-Pep presents the Spaceship Zero Adventure Hour!

Music

NARRATOR Chapter Nine: "20 Minutes of Oxygen!"

NARRATOR In the last chapter, Captain Stackhouse and SpaceCorp Executive Heidi Mensa were in their space suits making repairs to the hull of Spaceship Zero. Suddenly, the robot inexplicably shut down the ship's power, leaving them stranded outside the ship with only 20 minutes of oxygen left in their air tanks.

Music

GEARBOX You dumb robot, turn the power back on! If the skipper can't get back through the hatch he and Mensa will both suffocate to death!

ROBOT Banana reference, Lam-lam-lamp.

GEARBOX What? Nevermind, just move aside and let me get to the controls...

ROBOT Dinner! Dinner!

SFX/foley struggle

GEARBOX Great jumpin' space catfish! You coulda killed me! Ashton! Put a leash on your glorified tin monkey before I break out the atomic pistols and disintegrate his cast iron noggin

ASHTON Oh I say... Robot, what is all this about?

ROBOT Concerto, in-in-insurance bang. Saga milk, precision hut.

ASHTON Something must be wrong with his speech motivator. Don't worry, I'll get to the controls. It's against Robot's programming to harm me.

GEARBOX Oh but not me, huh? Well just hurry up about it. The skipper's only got 20 minutes of oxygen. Less now! Geez, If the skipper had just put me on repair detail we wouldn't be in this fix

ASHTON Well as he said, he felt it was important that Mensa better familiarize herself with ship systems, especially after what happened after the meteor incident.

GEARBOX Quit yakking!

ASHTON Alright now...

ROBOT Gender boat fragment! Nostalgia!

Sfx/foley struggle

ASHTON Now just a minute here...Oh ow! She's got my arm! EEEEEEE!

GEARBOX (laughs) Ha! Good, you keep the darn thing busy.

(continuous struggle between ashton and robot) -

ASHTON Let go! Let go I say! What in space has gotten into you?

ROBOT Pumpernickle dewclaw overhang!

GEARBOX (sotto) Good thing these ship doors have a manual release in case of power loss. Not so lucky with the outer hatch.

SFX manual door release

GEARBOX With a bit of spaceman's luck I can make it down to the reactor room and restore power manually. Hang on skipper!

MUSIC - END ACT ONE

COMMERCIAL BLOCK - VIT-O-PEP

Announcer: Space Corp to all cadets! Come in, cadets! Exploring the galaxy is hard work. Isn't it time for a VIT-O-PEP break? As part of a good breakfast or alone as a quick pick-you-up throughout the day, make VIT-O-PEP part of your regular shopping list! VIT-O-PEP is scientifically proven - four out of five doctors agree! Filled with more sugars, nutrients, and chemical molecules, VIT-O-PEP comes in two fantastic flavours; Chocolate & Vanilla! And don't throw away those tins, kids. Collect four VIT-O-PEP labels and we'll send you an official Space Corp Nuclear Science Kit! Be the envy of your school when you show off your own sample of polonium! Send your labels and one dollar shipping and handling to, Space Corp Nuclear Science Kit, care of WYVR, 1938 North Mill Road, West Windsor Township, NJ, oh eight five five oh.

MUSIC - ACT TWO

STACKHOUSE Alright, set your Magna-boots to max, on the count of three... 1-2-3

SFX of Stackhous and Mensa straining. After a few seconds they stop. Mensa makes a frustrated noise.

MENSA This is hopeless!

STACKHOUSE Easy now, don't snap your cap, Ms. Mensa. We have to stay focused and not panic. Let's rest a moment and then we'll try and jimmy this cargo door again.

MENSA It's no use, Captain. The only difference between resting and working on the door is how quickly we run out of oxygen. That cargo door is rated to withstand a lot of damage. Even if we had a 5 ³/₄ gauge reciprocating spanner, we'd never pop it's lock, and the best we've got is this tertiary antenna as a crude lever.

STACKHOUSE Well, I'd rather try everything I could than just sit here and do nothing.

MENSA But if we do nothing, we can sit here much longer and the longer we can hold out, the better chance we have of someone helping us.

STACKHOUSE That's a risky chance. For all we know the others are injured...or worse. We may be on our own.

GEARBOX (staticky) Skipper? Gearbox to the Captain, Come in, Skipper. Do you read me?

STACKHOUSE On the other hand... Gearbox, this is Stackhouse. I'm here with Mensa, we read you, but you're breaking up a bit.

GEARBOX Can't be helped, skipper. I'm in The reactor room. I'm using the helmet radio of a spare suit to contact you, but I think the meteor shower may have damaged the tertiary antennae they use.

STACKHOUSE Don't blame the meteors, Gearbox, they only got it half off. We did the rest, for all the good it's done us.

MENSA Why didn't you use the ship radio?

GEARBOX Take your pick! Power is down, which you know already. I couldn't reset the system from the cockpit, so I was hoping I could do it from here, which I've done, but now I can't initiate the start-up sequence from here and have to head back to the cockpit, and use the controls there, only they're being guarded by a murderous robot.

STACKHOUSE What!?

GEARBOX I'm giving it to you straight, Skipper, no applesauce. I was hoping to get you back in by now, but the robot has gone nuts. It even attacked the Professor. How much balloon juice you got?

STACKHOUSE My gauge says I've got... 6 minutes left.

MENSA Mine too.

STACKHOUSE Looks like we're going with your plan, Ms. Mensa. Hold out as long as we can.

GEARBOX Sorry Skipper. Just hang tight. I'm headed to the cockpit as soon as I find my biggest robot-busting wrench.

MENSA That might not be needed. The robot has an override command for situations like this.

STACKHOUSE & GEARBOX It does?

MENSA When Robot hears the command she will shut down.

GEARBOX All the times that hopped up, kettle headed contraption caused us trouble and you...

STACKHOUSE 5 minutes 45 seconds, Gearbox.

GEARBOX Sorry Skip.

MENSA Gearbox, Repeat after me; "Robot Attend. Mensa Epsilon 55123."

GEARBOX Robot Attend. Mensa Epsilon 55123.

MENSA Correct.

GEARBOX Mensa Epsilon 55123. 55123. Got it. OK, try not to watch the clock. I'll get this sorted and you both back inside in no time at all.

[from the background of Gearbox's radio - "Spindle nibbles, Lam-lam-lamp! PORTFOLIO BEE MUGWUMPS!"]

GEARBOX Why you sneaky... You're quiet for a walking junkyard, I'll give you that. Robot attend! Mensa...

[his radio cuts out with a static squelch]

STACKHOUSE Gearbox? Gearbox! Do you read me?

MENSA (running out of breath) I hope he managed...

STACKHOUSE (running out of breath) If anyone can...it's him. A

secret override command, Mensa?

MENSA (running out of breath) A bit of insurance...Strictly business of course...Don't be too sour Captain...even Ashton was in the dark on this one.

STACKHOUSE (running out of breath) Lucky for you I don't have the strength for an argument right now...Air...so thin. Come on, Gearbox...2 minutes.

MENSA (running out of breath) 2 minutes and then...

STACKHOUSE (running out of breath) Try not to think about it. Besides...There are worse ways to go. I used to camp a lot back on Earth. The first one, of course. My brothers and I would lie out under the stars and fall asleep looking at them. If that's the last thing I get to do here, now, I'm OK with that. I know there's been a lot of friction between us, Heidi, but...I'm glad you're here.

MENSA (running out of breath) I...as well.

[quiet moment]

MENSA (running out of breath) Perhaps you can be my guide. I do not know the stars very well. I know the big dipper and the girdle of Orion

STACKHOUSE (running out of breath) Orion's Belt.

MENSA (out of breath) I don't know these stars. What is that bright one? Or is it a planet?

STACKHOUSE (running out of breath) I'm not sure. Hang on, let me get the helmet magnifier up. Hmm...It's moving too fast to be a star, maybe a moon or another space hobo

MENSA (running out of breath) Is it... *turning*? Towards us?

STACKHOUSE (running out of breath) Oh no...

Music sting

NARRATOR Will Gearbox defeat the mad robot and restore power to the ship? Will Captain Stackhouse and Heidi Mensa suffocate in the cold emptiness of space? And what is the mystery light bearing down on the defenseless Spaceship Zero? Find out in the next exciting episode of the Spaceship Zero Adventure Hour! Brought to you by VIT-O-PEP!

music

End of episode